



Guardian PROPERTY WATCH
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TANZANIAN ENGINEERING COMPANY EXCLUDED FROM WORLD BANK'S PROJECTS

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NEW New Column... DUE PROCESS Only in The Guardian Every Friday from March 3, 2023. Today: Page 9 What to do when retrenchment of workers remains the only choice A MUST-READ PIECE

Samia phase: Stakeholders laud energy sector record



A health officer (R) administers a measles vaccination to one of 12 children at Ikulwe in Melele District, Katavi Region, yesterday following a massive Health ministry public sensitisation campaign. Photo: Correspondent Faustine Gimu

By Guardian Reporter AS President Samia Suluhu Hassan readies to mark two years in office, stakeholders in the energy sector express satisfaction with investments aimed at making Tanzania power sufficient. Former top public officials said in separate interviews that the generation and distribution of electricity has taken great strides...

Inflation in slight drop for February

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma ANNUAL headline inflation for February 2023 slightly decreased to 4.8 percent from 4.9 percent earlier in January, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said yesterday. It said in a statement that the overall index went up from 106.20 recorded in February 2022 to 111.28 in February 2023...

Board gets machines to restore basin rivers

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa "We were earlier borrowing plants for various activities like conserving the environment and water sources, so with plants of our own, we will be able to restore several rivers altered by sand deposition and various other human activities," he said. The Rufiji River Basin was the second to be established, connected to Ruaha, Luwegu, Kilombero and Rufiji rivers,

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON COMPLETION OF TWO YEARS UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP OF HER EXCELLENCY DR. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN The Guardian Limited will publish a special supplement with 'The Guardian' and 'Nipashe' Newspapers, with a special report focusing on the achievements of the Government under the leadership of President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan 20th March 2023

Morocco women showcase handicrafts in IWD outing

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale A MARKET fair for handicrafts and other products made by Tanzanian and Moroccan women entrepreneurs excited enthusiasts as part of events to mark the International Women's Day (IWD) at midweek. Zakaria El Goumiri, the Moroccan ambassador, hosted the innovative event, urging concerted stakeholders' efforts to eliminate barriers facing women, thus enabling them to achieve their dreams...





Dr Tijo Xavier of Regency Medical Centre examines the blood of Haider Hakim (R) at a free annual kidney screening camp the hospital hosted in Dar es Salaam yesterday in marking World Kidney Day (March 9). Left is Prisha Lalit Kanabar, a student of the Dar es Salaam-based International School of Tanganyika interested in pursuing a career in medicine. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Bayport donates 15m/- to help meet children's treatment costs at MNH

By Guardian Reporter

BAYPORT Financial Services has engaged in providing loans to public employees has donated 15m/- to meet medical costs of 300 children being treated at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH).

The assistance has come simultaneously with the celebrations to mark International Women's Day on Wednesday (March 8) the event attended by MNH Managing director, Prof Mohamed Janabi and Bayport Financial Services Ltd staff.

Speaking at the event for handing out the assistance, Bayport's Head of Administration, Suzan Komba said their institution was touched by challenges facing children, hence they decided to assist.

She said since 2006 when the firm entered the loans sector serving public employees, they have

been providing various assistance as corporate responsibility for Tanzanians who had selected to be served by Bayport.

"Bayport is the first institution that established digital loans in 2019 without filling any paperwork, whereby for a customer to access to the service he is to call 0800782700 toll free or visit www.kopabayport.co.tz and given instant loan," Suzan said.

Meanwhile, MNH executive director Prof Janabi thanked Bayport for the assistance to cover treatment cost to the 300 children and called upon them to continue assisting the community for the nation's interest.

"Parents and guardians of these children will be relieved of the treatment costs because you have come up to assist them," added Prof Janabi.

Dar hospital in free kidney screening camp

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DAR ES SALAAM-based Regency Medical Center (RMC) yesterday conducted free kidney screening camp to commemorate World Kidney Day which is commemorated today on March 9 all over the world.

The screening camp was held yesterday at Regency Specialized Polyclinic, Zanaki Street in Dar es Salaam City Center whereby various kidney specialist provided free consultations to the general public.

Regency hospital, RMC Specialist, Dr Sudakshnina Ghosh who is a Nephrologist, said they have been doing such camp every second week of March to commemorate World Kidney Day.

She said the free screening included diabetes, hypertension, weight, urinalysis, height to know exactly if someone has kidney problem.

"For the whole day we will screen kidney diseases then give free consultations for people who have any symptoms of kidney problem and dieticians will be there to advise on the best way to eat because food also play an important role in preventing kidney diseases," she said.

Dr Ghosh said people can live well with kidney diseases and during the camp they will educate people about kidney problems because it is increasing all over the world.

She said according to World Health Organisation (WHO), it is estimated that

one out of ten people have some sort of kidney diseases and those at the age of 65 and above one in every five have kidney diseases which is real alarming.

She said during the day they will raise awareness among the public about kidney disease and the importance for people to know their health status by doing regular check up.

She said most of the time kidney diseases has no symptoms and by the time patient attend to hospital the kidney has already failed by 90 percent and need a long term treatment called Dialysis or transplant which is very expensive.

"The cost of transplant sometimes is not affordable so the best way to combat

this problem is screen whether you have the disease. Who can get kidney problem? Anybody, any race, any age, male or female can get kidney diseases, but who are at more risk are those with diabetes, hypertension and those who use pain killers for a very long time," she said

She noted that the best thing to do is to build the culture of doing kidney check up every year especially for people at the age of 35 and above.

"You must check if you have diabetes, hypertension or if you have kidney problem and a basic test like urine and blood taste can tell you if your kidney is health or not and to prevent it you have to do regular exercise, drink enough water and avoid

junk food, avoid smoking and alcohol," she said.

"Make sure your blood pressure and diabetes is under control and by doing so you can prevent kidney diseases and if you have any symptoms like swelling over the legs or your urine output is reduced please see your doctor immediately," she said.

She said it is the vision of the founder and chairman of Regency Medical Center, the late Dr Rajni Kanabar that they should focus on kidney diseases.

"As we all know that Africans are more prone to this diseases compared with other race that is why we give priority to prevent kidney diseases and focus on it," she said.



PUBLIC NOTICE

UPDATING TAXPAYER'S IDENTIFICATION NUMBER(TIN) WITH NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (NIN) INFORMATION

Dar es salaam, 10th March, 2023

Following the, budgetary changes through the Finance Act 2022, Section 22 of the Tax Administration Act, (CAP 438) empowers the Commissioner General of TRA to register and issue Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) to every Tanzanian citizen aged 18 years and above, who has been registered and issued with National Identification Number (NIN) issued by National Identification Authority (NIDA). In addition to this, the provision of the Law requires every person who has been issued with TIN to ensure the information are updated accordingly with NIN information. The implementation of this legal requirement come into effect from 1st January 2023.

In view of that TRA would like to inform the General Public that, TIN registration will be done using NIDA information. Furthermore, for every Tanzania citizen who previously acquired TIN using identities other than NIDA Identity is required to update his or her TIN with NIDA information.

For convenient implementation of this requirement, it is advised that every eligible person who has not updated their TIN to visit nearby TRA office with his or her NIDA Identity/ NIN to update their TIN. For persons with NIN without TIN, can apply TIN online through TRA website.

It should be noted that all TIN services are provided free of charge and are accessible. For further information, please visit your nearest TRA office or through the following contacts.

Website : www.tra.go.tz
Toll Free : 0800 750 075 or 0800 780 078 or 0800 110016
WhatsApp : 0744 23 33 33
E-mail : huduma@tra.go.tz or services@tra.go.tz

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**TAXPAYER SERVICE AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
 TRA HEADQUARTERS**

What to do when retrenchment of workers remains only choice

SOMETIMES businesses go astray for some reasons be it economic hardship, advancement of technology or structural changes which render employers incapable of maintaining employees.

In such circumstances, some employers resort to terminating some employees which often times comes with labour disputes. This article is meant to assist employers and employees understand important issues to consider and the dos and don'ts.

However, this is not a comprehensive article to cover all issues and exhaustive one, thus you will (basically, must) contact your lawyer when conducting termination by way of retrenchment.

The Law that governs termination by way of operation requirement is mostly the Employment Labour Relation Act number 6

of 2004 together with the Employment and Labour Relations (Code of Good Practices) Rules and Government Notice number 42 of 2007 Rules. All these laws provide for the kind of reasons that can be accepted as fair for retrenchment and procedures to undertake as well as remedies.

Section 38 of the ELRA and rule 24 of the Rules provides for necessary steps to be taken before retrenchment and the same are mandatory to be adhered to and waiving of any shall amount to unfair termination.

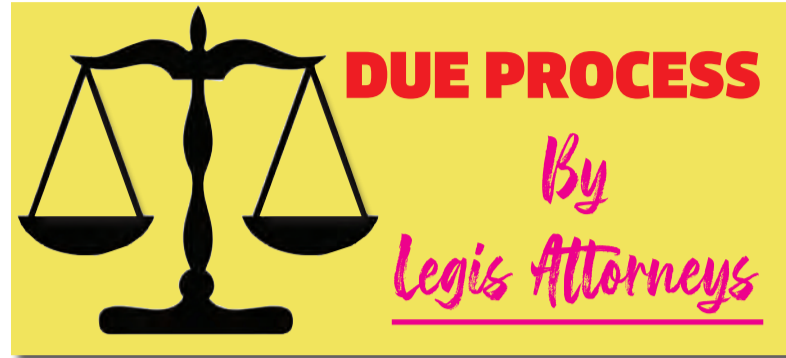
The first stage is issuing notice of intention to retrench. In this stage, the employer issues notice that they intend to retrench the employees and that notice should be placed in a place where employees can see it and be informed of the intention. Further, if there is a trade union, then it's safe to serve the union with the

notice and involve it in the process.

The second stage is to disclose all relevant information on why retrenchment for the purpose of proper consultation. It is important to state the reasons for termination of employment. The Court in the case of EFC Tanzania Ltd vs Anitha David Labour Revision number 184 of 2021 emphasized this.

The third stage is consultation. In this stage, more contact between the two happens and the reasons for retrenchment are explained as well as measures taken to avoid or minimize the intended retrenchment, timing of the intended retrenchment, payment in respect of retrenchment and method of selection of employees to retrench.

On method, trade unions have been given powers to identify proper mode but this does not re-



move the power of the employer to select. The most important thing is that the method should not be discriminatory. For example, the method of selecting pregnant women, only men or women and people of certain religion and ethnic groups can be seen as discriminatory. The Court in the case of Jhpiego vs Joseph Mwami and Another Lab Rev. number 72 of 2020 emphasized this.

In all these stages, documenta-

tion key should any dispute arises. The same comes in handy if a Commission or Court is to determine rights of both parties.

After following the aforementioned processes, it is important to have a retrenchment agreement between the two parties with participation of the trade union whose role is to assist in determining the rights of those who could not attend meetings or were not informed of the re-

trenchment.

If no agreement is reached, then the matter can proceed for mediation in the Labour Court or Commission. It is important to remember that previously there had been a heated legal debate on whether these retrenchment processes should be followed in the event of closure of business.

This debate ended recently in a ruling by the Court of Appeal in the case of Haider Minima and 99 others vs FBME Bank Ltd, Civil Appeal number 250 of 2018 whereby the Court held that in closure of business, it is not mandatory to conduct retrenchment. Rather, normal ways of termination can be used.

Note, the material and information contained in this article are for general information purposes only. You should not rely upon the same as the basis of making legal decision. Anyone considering legal action should consult an experienced lawyer to understand current laws and how they may affect a case.

Send your questions by email to info@legisattorneys.co.tz or postal address Managing Partner, Legis Attorneys, P. O. Box 3750, DSM. Our website is www.legisattorneys.co.tz.

By Dr Ananilea Nkya

AS the world marks the International Women's day 2023, it is time to recognise and celebrate individuals—men and women—as well as organisations whose contributions improve standards of living in this planet earth.

Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFTT), the first and the only feminist women's rights fund in the country, took the opportunity to celebrate its remarkable achievements since it was established in 2008.

The successes include established and sustained institutional and governance structures to facilitate growth and sustainability of both human and financial resources as well as the fund's feminist agenda.

The fund's feminist agenda is led by the theory of change which believes that supporting feminist and women rights organizations, groups and movements, is the most effective and lasting solution to ending the structural inequality and injustices experienced by millions of women, girls and children around the world.

The Chairperson of the fund's Board of Trustee Prof Ruth Meena says in the period of 15 years, WFTT grants have increased from just three in 2011 to 67 in 2021 and that 60 per cent of its funding is directed to the community-based women's rights organisations to undertake works meant to better the lives of women, girls and children.

Several representatives of organisations advocating and promoting women, girls and children rights at community level through interviews acknowledged having effected change in their respective communities using WFTT grants.

Estomihi Henry, Coordinator of journalists in Shinyanga District Council, said through grants from WFTT, journalists working for 30 media outlets, including community radios, mainstream television and radio stations, blogs, social media platforms and newspapers were trained between 2021 and 2022 on how best to report on development issues from feminist perspective and their journalistic works have started making a difference in the district.

"The training enabled the journalist to understand the importance of reporting development issues using rights-based approach and the impact of their news reporting has been great", he said.

Some of the journalists conducted investigative news reporting, following the initial training conducted in early 2021 which exposed the problem that children especially girls in Luhumbo Ward faced because of trekking long distances to and from Didia secondary school in Didia ward.

According to Henry, the investigative news reporting revealed that because there weren't any secondary school at Luhumbo Ward,



Pupils wave outside one of the classrooms of the recently-built Luhumbo Secondary School. The facility has saved learners in Luhumbo Ward, Shinyanga District, from trekking for eight kilometres to attend Kidia Secondary School in Kidia Ward. Photo courtesy of WFTT

International Women's Day: It is time to celebrate change makers

children from this area were forced to travel more than eight kilometres from Luhumbo ward to Bukumbi village in Kidia ward to attend secondary school

He said as a result, many children from Luhumbo ward especially girls would be forced to abandon secondary education for fear of being raped or attacked by wild animals while on their way to and from Kidia secondary school.

However, Henry said, through investigative news reporting, in 2021 residents of Luhumbo ward agreed with ward leaders to allocate eight acres of land for building Luhumbo secondary school, and contributed 15mn/- which was used for building 12 school latrines.

"Shinyanga District Council allocated 80mn/- for construction of four classes that enabled Luhumbo secondary school become operational from January 2023, enrolling 136 pupils, out of whom 60 are girls," he said.

Additionally, Shinyanga journalists' news reporting on women, girls and children rights has also impacted positively in solving the problem of lack of water in Mwamala ward, also making it possible for a police post to be built at Mwakitoria ward, an area with 38,000 residents, including small scale miners.

Henry said miners both women and men face varied issues of violence on the mining sites but to pursue a case, one had to travel 14 kilometres and pay not

less than 6,000/- from Mwakitoria ward to Sarawe ward to get to a police post.

The availability of a police post in Mwakitoria ward means that many cases, including gender-based violence involving poor women and men, which occur within Mwakitoria mining sites, are now being reported to the newly built police station for the law to take its course.

Importantly, all these achievements suggest that feminist activists engaging journalists in development issues by training them on how to report development issues effectively can make media a powerful agent of change in the communities.

According to Prof Meena, the achievements by journalists were possible because WFTT partnered with Shinyanga regional government in supporting Shinyanga District Council to incorporate the National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children (NPAVWC 2017-2021/22).

In Arusha Region, WFTT grants have made impact to Maasai communities through the work of MINUTIE, an organization based in Loliondo District which has successfully won a court case of a young Maasai girl who was married off at a tender age of 14, to an abusive old man.

Speaking during the WFTT celebrations which brought together 300 feminist women's rights, Rose Njilo, Chief Executive Officer of MINUTIE said

the girl was not only physically abused by her husband but also a group of men tortured her and threw her out in the bush where wild animals could feast on her but luckily she was rescued by sympathetic residents.

"We pursued the case because we believed that in the end Maasai community men and women would learn that it is violation of the country's Constitution to marry off a girl below 18 years and also it is a criminal offence for a person to torture another person", she said.

In Dar Es Salaam Region, several women rights organisations have accessed funding from WFTT and the use of the same brought about transformative impact.

One example is the support granted to Wanawake katika Jitihada za Kimaendeleo (WAJIKI) which has launched an anti-sex-tortion campaign dubbed 'Safari Salama kwa Mtoto Wa Kike Bila Rushwa ya Ngoni' (Safe journey for a girl child without sextortion) among motorcycle tiders (bodaboda) as well as conductors and drivers of commuter buses (daladala) in the sprawling commercial capital.

With funding from WFTT, WAJIKI has been able to influence the actual and possible perpetrators of sexual abuse to girls into ambassadors of a campaign to protect girls and school children in general as they move to and from school.

Janeth Mawinza, WAJIKI ex-

ecutive director, said feminist organisations working on violence against women, girls and children under the leadership of WILDAF (Women in Law and Development in Africa) during the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence in 2022 picked WAJIKI campaign strategies as a best practice, and used it to reach out to masses using a caravan that travel in several regions in Tanzania.

"Our strategies involved transforming men motorists and conductors of commuter buses so that they become protectors of schoolgirls. We also reached out to schools to educate pupils on how to protect themselves and to the general public through small groups (kijiwe kwa kijiwe) as well as individual by individual so that everyone is aware on how to protect girls and school children from sextortion", she said.

However, Mawinza said, should they secure more funding, their plan is to make sure the campaign is promoted nationwide.

Debora Mwanjanje, Coordinator of ELIMISHA, said through information and education strategy; they have reached out to many women in Mbeya Region especially small-scale traders.

"Unlike before, a lot of women traders these days do not borrow money before they come to us to seek support in understanding the terms of the loans they wish to take", she said.

The WFTT second level of funding is devoted to strengthening women, girls and children's rights movement through national networks, platforms and coalitions which interrogates discriminatory legal frameworks, policies, plans and budgets for the purpose of raising collective voice and sustaining feminist agenda.

Prof Meena said through WFTT funding, the Coalition of Women Leadership and Constitution has been instrumental in demanding enhanced participation of women in leadership spaces, incorporation of an equality principle in the Political Parties Act as well as demand for reform of electoral laws to facilitate effective participation of women in electoral processes as voters and candidates with equal chances of winning.

According to Mary Rusimbi, the co-founder and the first executive director of WFTT, there are 44 women's funds at regional level namely Asia, Latin America and Africa and at national level where WFTT fits in, pushing for development in philanthropic sector over the last 30 years. The second co-founder is Marije Te Riele.

Rusimbi said the idea of forming women funds comes from 30 years of feminist funding experiences which demonstrated that the contributions of women, girls and others affected by injustice have big potential for transforming communities and the world.

Further, she said experience demonstrates a growing body of knowledge and evidence which confirms the critical role of collective action, women's groups and movements and women's funds' role in advancing women's rights and transformative feminist agenda.

Ananilea Nkya holds a PhD on Tanzanian News Media Engagement with National Development

Excluded Afghan girls forced to seek education in Pakistan



By Ashfaq Yusufzai

Afghan girls attend a private school in Pakistan rather than lose out on their education.
Credit: Ashfaq Yusufzai/IPS

HUNDREDS of young women and girls are moving to Pakistan to continue their studies after the Taliban's restrictions on women's education in Afghanistan.

This week Afghan students called upon the Taliban leadership to allow women into universities and pave way for the development of the war-ravaged country.

On March 6, 2023, universities in Afghanistan re-opened after winter vacation but only for male students.

"We want the Taliban's government to respect women as Islam gives equal rights to women. Therefore, allowing female education is just in line with Islam," Naureena Bibi (17) arrived in Pakistan in June last year and is studying at a college in Peshawar.

Another student recalls how she and her siblings were sent to Pakistan to continue their education.

"With the seizure of powers in Afghanistan by Taliban, women feel harassed. My parents are extremely concerned about us because the soldiers cause trouble for the female students when they go to schools," Shaheen

Bibi (17) told IPS.

A Grade 12 student, she said, believes that Taliban leaders' actions are misguided, and this is why parents were leaving Afghanistan to let their female children be educated.

"If the situation remains the same and the Taliban doesn't review their decision regarding banning women from universities, there will be no female doctors and nurses to treat women patients," she said.

According to her, many of her relatives have arrived in Peshawar and been admitted to schools and colleges.

"My father has a cement shop in the Afghan capital Kabul, and he still lives there, but I, along with my brother and two sisters, have come here and rented a house just for our education," she said. "My younger sister is also pursuing studies in computer science in a private college in Peshawar."

Peshawar, located close to the Afghan border, is the ultimate destination for girls to quench their thirst for education.

After the Taliban seized power in August 2021, they banned most women and girls from attending

high schools, colleges, and universities in Afghanistan, sparking international condemnation and despair among young people in the country.

To condemn the decision, women have staged protests in the capital Kabul since the imposition of the ban.

"We have been holding agitations to force Taliban to rescind the ban and allow women education but to no avail. Taliban are very strict towards women," Naseema Bibi, an Afghanistan Women's Unity, and Solidarity activist, told IPS.

Bibi said that restrictions aimed to send women to the stone age and that the United Nations must do some soul-searching to save the future of thousands of women who were now sitting idle in their homes.

"We appeal to the Taliban and the international community to come to the rescue of women and permit their education. Less than five percent can afford admission to Pakistani institutions," she said.

Taliban have also banned women from pursuing university degrees in Islamic studies.

In all Islamic countries, women

and scientists and take up other advanced studies, but the Taliban claiming to be championing the cause of Islam, are prohibiting them from education, she said.

Pakistan had, even before the Taliban took over, been providing education to Afghan nationals.

"We have allocated 15 seats in medical colleges for Afghan students in medical colleges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, one of Pakistan's four provinces close to the Afghan border," said Dr Muhammad Rafiq at the Ministry of Health, Islamabad. He said there are over 5000 seats throughout Pakistan where students are enrolled on the Afghan government's recommendation.

Now after the Taliban's ban, parents are moving their daughters to get education in private educational institutions in Pakistan, he said.

No country in the world can make progress when women half of the population is held back, he said.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said he was disappointed by the Taliban's decision and wanted the Taliban to revoke the ban and allow women to get an education.

He hoped the Afghan government would review its decision and facilitate women's education.

Pakistan will help the Afghan women in their education, he said.

"We have been hosting over three million Afghan refugees," he said.

Gul Yasmin (19), an Afghan medical student in Peshawar, is perturbed over the Taliban's order to prohibit women's education in her country.

"It is highly ridiculous that the Taliban's leader Hibatullah Akhundzada has been arguing that his inner circle has been against modern education of girls. Our country requires female doctors, nurses, and teachers to make progress," she said.

"Without women's education, we cannot move forward, and the Taliban must revisit their instructions on female education," she said. "Afghanistan has been facing massive brain drain, and our doctors, engineers, and educated lots are migrating to Pakistan and other countries due to the situation created after Taliban's rule."

Afghanistan's Minister of Higher Education, Neda Mohammad Nadim, told IPS they hadn't taken a final decision on the education of women and girls.

"We will allow girls' education based in accordance with Sharia law. It's a temporary problem but will be resolved soon," he said. Taliban held women in high esteem because Islam gives respect to women, the minister said.

Taliban have often been slammed in the past for their attitude to women, Javid Khan, a teacher of international relations at the University of Peshawar, told IPS.

"They (Taliban) didn't allow girls education during their rule in the 1990s. The new ban isn't surprising," he said.

According to UNESCO, women's attendance in higher education increased 20 times between 2001 and 2018, he said. It means that only the Taliban was the hurdle in women's education, Khan said.

Sultana Gul, a female Afghan teacher, who arrived in Peshawar in December last year and teaches at a private school, told IPS that she couldn't serve back home because of the harassment of the Taliban's soldiers.

"Going and coming back from school has become a daunting task for female teachers and students. Therefore, I came here and am teaching at an Afghan school," Gul (31), who previously worked in a girls' school in Kabul.

She said that most girls want to come to Peshawar, but their parents won't allow them. In some areas, the Taliban allow women in high schools, but generally, they are stricter, and people are afraid, Gul said.

She said there is a glimmer of hope for Afghan girls in Peshawar, but only a few can benefit.

IPS UN Bureau Report

By Mario Lubetkin

THE global food security crisis reveals an increase in the undernourishment prevalence, reaching higher than in 2015, when countries first agreed to eradicate hunger by 2030 as one of the SDG targets. In the Caribbean, between 2014 and 2021, hunger increased by 2.3 percentage points, affecting 16.4 percent of its population by 2021. Moreover, the Caribbean is a net importer of almost all the main food groups such as cereals, dairy products, fruits and vegetables (except the Dominican Republic), meat and vegetable oils.

This region is highly vulnerable to extreme events, climate variability and climate change. Increasingly extreme weather events, shifting rainfall patterns, rising temperatures, recurrent drought, and floods, among others, pose an unprecedented threat that can cause substantial socio-economic and environmental loss and damage.

The recent Forty-Fourth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), chaired by the Bahamas, highlighted some of the main challenges affecting food production in the region. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has strengthened a special focus to implement joint strategies to support the Caribbean countries' priorities and discuss new ways for the Caribbean to transform agri-food systems.

For the first time, FAO was in-



The successful transformation of the agri-food systems in the region will require ownership, political commitment, and action plans, writes the author. Credit: Wadner Pierre/IPS

The Caribbean's role in the transformation of our agri-food systems

ited to address this important discussion during the 17th Special Session of the CARICOM Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR). FAO recognized CARICOM's great efforts to implement the agri-food systems strategy in member states to help achieve the reduction of the Caribbean's large food imports bill by 25 percent by 2025.

The Organization is supporting the development of priority value chains to contribute to reducing the region's food import bill. It is doing so by working with governments and key stakeholders in designing and upgrading strategies, as well as good practices and opportunities for attracting investment to help boost intra-regional trade.

In this frame, the Heads of Government of CARICOM have also supported the project proposal "Building Food Security through Innovation, Resilience, Sustainability and Empowerment" presented by Guyana; and FAO is working closely with the Member States to promote a climate finance mobilization strategy to fund innovative initiatives such as novel animal feed, optimizing greenhouses, soil, and land mapping. FAO supports governments and communities in building capacities to comprehensively manage multi-hazard risks to enhance the resilience of livelihoods and value chains.

It is crucial to increase and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of investments across the agri-food system. In this regard,

FAO, together with the CARICOM Private Sector Organization, agreed to pursue collaboration to enhance intra-regional trade and private sector investment in the Caribbean to trigger agriculture sector growth.

On the other hand, the last Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), whose current pro-tempore presidency is held by St. Vincent and Grenadines, concluded with a declaration from 33 member states, which emphasizes a regional commitment to guarantee food security, supporting agricultural and rural development.

This high commitment of the main government structures of the region will contribute to an effective preparation for the next FAO Regional Conference in Georgetown, Guyana, which will take place in March 2024, disclosing the importance of an effective engagement of the Caribbean in the decision-making process to transform the agri-food systems.

The successful transformation of the agri-food systems in the region will require ownership, political commitment, and action plans. It is necessary to coordinate a joint effort to reinforce technical assistance in the field and more investment and partnerships to support food security, climate change fight, sustainable production, and international fair commerce to protect livelihoods and small-scale producers and guarantee our food security.

By Guardian Correspondent, Ngara

AS the country joined the global world to commemorate the International Women's Day, a group of women in Ngara District, Kagera Region came together as friends with the aim of uplifting one another economically, have much to smile about.

These women injected between 50,000/- and 300,000/- as capital to enable them purchase fruits and other commodities so as to supply to Tembo Nickel after securing a tender to send the service every week.

Some in the group were previously engaging in selling second hand clothes, peddling trinkets and others had vegetable and fruit stalls at Rulenge market which is expanding day to day.

Benadetha Bishashara, one of the group members says one day, an officer Tembo Nickel, saw the banner which had the women with a heading 'Conventional Unisupply' and approached them.

"She was passing by and noticed our banner, we said we could distribute different products such as food, fruits and vegetables, even though truthfully we had never done this kind of business before," she says.

Benadetha added that despite having no experience in the business, Tembo Nickel had faith in them and provided them with a chance to supply fruits, vegetables and other food stuff.

"After securing the tender, our major challenge was capital, we found someone to provide collateral at the bank where we got a loan, and we started to supply the fruits to Tembo Nickel, from October 2021 to date. As the trust between Tembo Nickel and ourselves continues to grow, we now supply the company every Saturday and each of us has a specific task," she explains. Magdalena Rajabu, one of the group members says as soon as Tembo Nickel gave them the tender, it was easy for them to even get products on credit.

"Even the whole sale traders whom we take the products with have trust for us because they know you are supplying Tembo Nickel and that is a big help to us," she states.

Magdalena says the trust put in them by Tembo Nickel from their early beginnings till now, has enabled them to grow their businesses, transform lives.

"We were simply advertising ourselves with a banner because we believed we could offer that service, even with very little credit at the time. Then Tembo Nickel officials passed by and saw us and today we are here," said



Benadetha Bishashara and Magdalena Rajabu, weigh their produce before delivery to Tembo Nickel

Tembo Nickel improving lives of Ngara District small traders

Magdalena.

Magdalena explains that the outcome is impressive with a starting capital of between 50,000/- and 300,000/- from each member they now have a collective base of 15m/-.

"In the beginning I used to buy Kitege fabric, second hand clothes which would hang in my stand, even a whole month with no sales, now the group has formed a company and also our individual capital has expanded. I have a clothes shop and I no longer peddle second hand clothes," she said.

Aneth Justine says in 2016 she started to sell avocados and when her capital reached 50,000/- she added more varieties of fruits.

After securing the Tembo Nickel tender, and with bigger capital, the group had to look outside the district for other products to satisfy their customers.

"Our main customer is Tembo Nickel, for sure this company has changed our lives in a significant way, from having small capital and looking for products here and there, to now having bigger capital, we are now able to take bigger orders and get much more produce," she says.

"There are times when produce such as mangoes, oranges, Irish potatoes and cucumber have to be ordered, and we are comfortable with that because we have a reliable trusted customer"

she adds.

Ester Mihungu, a mango seller at Rulenge market, says that she still carries on with her personal business of selling different fruits, but on Saturdays, she has a solid customer which is Tembo Nickel which takes large orders.

"This has all come about because of trust between each other and between our clients. We are hoping that Tembo Nickel will continue to trust women in the surrounding area, we are an example for others," she stressed.

She says: "Perishable goods have a lot of challenges, including transportation because some are sourced outside of the district and by the time they arrive some have started to rot."

"We wish we could one day have a cold-room, so we can ensure the all the produce arrives at its optimum and this will ensure bigger profits for us," she said

These women bore witness on how Tembo Nickel has changed their lives and they are only a small segment of those who are reached by the company. As they themselves have said, each week they buy produce from between 50 and 70 other women. They buy eggs from a children's orphanage in Rulenge.

Tembo Nickel has not just touched lives of the women and their families, but a chain of traders in the market whom the women buy the produce.

500 female journalists to benefit from TGNP project

By Correspondent Daniel

Semberya

THE Tanzania Gender Network (TGNP) is set to train 500 identified gender champion female journalists students from ten higher learning institutions—journalism colleges and universities in Dar es Salaam.

Anna Sangai, TGNP training and capacity building coordinator unveiled this recently in Dar es Salaam when speaking during a one day orientation session on Boresha Habari Project with lecturers from some high learning institutions.

Sangai said that the Tanzania Media and Civil Society Strengthening (Boresha Habari) Project, which is being implemented by TGNP in collaboration with Internews, intends to see the 500 female journalist students are equipped with gender concepts and gender sensitive reporting skills.

She said that TGNP has been implementing various projects aiming at sensitising and bringing women into leadership posts, noting that it is their expectations that working collaboratively with these ten selected high institutions will among many other things increase gender sensitive reporting by female journalist students.

"Enhance the capacity of female students be able and have the courage to vie for leadership posts in within and outside their higher learning institutions' compounds."

Coordinator of the Media and Civil Society Strengthening (Boresha Habari) Project, Mariam Oushoudada said that a four months project aims at up scaling TGNP intervention of women leadership



Tanzania Media and Civil Society Strengthening (Boresha Habari) Project Coordinator Mariam Oushoudada speaks on the importance of the project at a briefing for lectu. Photo: Courtesy of TGNP.

through implementing various initiatives and leveling the leadership presentation of women in various leading posts in the nation.

She further noted that the project also intends at increasing young journalist women and men become gender champions that advocate for female leadership in the higher learning institutions.

Oushoudada further noted that their orientation session on Boresha Habari Project with was to introduce to them this project because they are the ones grooming these journalists.

"A day orientation meeting with 20 Higher Learning Institutions

lecturers intends to highlight on the project activities to be conducted in their respective high learning institutions."

The lecturers and tutors were drawn from Tumaini University, St Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT)-Dar es Salaam Campus, Dar es Salaam College of Journalism, the Open University, Raida, Time School of Journalism, Practical School of Journalism, Institute of Arts and media communication, and School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Dar es Salaam.

According to Oushoudada said: "It is imperative to start grooming

female leaders in higher learning institutions because this is where they start lagging."

She further noted that higher learning institutions are a major platform where leaders are prepared; hence it is best to strike the iron while it's still hot.

Oushoudada noted that the training will be based on gender concepts and gender-sensitive reporting, media and ethical leadership, fact checking and ethical leadership in media.

"This will allow the young journalists when deployed in the media houses to accurately reflect society and the actions, views and

concerns of all genders, hence creating more space for women to vie for political seats without the fear of being publicly humiliated."

This initiative will also perpetuate the inclusion of women who are experts in their fields is especially important, particularly in areas traditionally dominated by men's voices such as politics, economics, conflict, science and sports.

Doing so will at the end mitigate the scarcity of female youth leaders in higher learning Institutions and other journalism structures at large.

Again the sensitization of young

journalists in higher learning institutions will encourage female students to vie for leadership posts and campaign for female leadership in higher learning institutions.

Women's share of senior and leadership roles has seen a steady global increase over the past five years (2017-2022).

One of the participants during that session, Assistant Lecturer Mass Communication Department, Tumaini University Dar es Salaam, Ajuaye Mdegela has commended TGNP for introducing this project.

"The project will equip the selected student journalists with proper skills on how to write and report properly on all issues on gender and related matters."

He however urged TGNP to ensure all reportage issues by these selected journalists will undergo their training to reach the society, which is the targeted audience to enable the understand what is all about on gender.

Dean of students and Tutor at the Dar es Salaam School of Journalism, Sadick Japhari, said that the session on gender issues was very resourceful to them.

"We have been equipped with skills that will enable us teach our students on how they can appropriately and properly report gender issues."

Lecturer, Journalism and Media Studies of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Dar es Salaam, Dr Dotto Kuhenga, has commended TGNP for the various initiatives it has been undertaking on gender and media to young leadership.

However, he has suggested that since gender is a multi-sectoral issue, they need also to take several measures and approaches in order to attain the intended purpose of their project.

By Ufrieda Ho

A LOOMING shortage of medical specialists in South Africa and across the continent stands to put Africa's healthcare progress further on the back foot, deepen global inequities and ultimately throttle the training pipeline of professionals.

These challenges are tipping points for worst-case scenarios for public healthcare, said Eric Buch, chief executive of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA) and a professor in health policy and management at the University of Pretoria. They also impact on the success of meeting the aspirations of universal health coverage, including in South Africa through the National Health Insurance.

It made the focus of recent two-day International Medical Education Leaders Forum - Africa conference at the university about pushing for greater investment in and promotion of specialised medicine as "not a healthcare luxury" but a vital part of building integrated public healthcare systems across Africa.

There was also a clear warning from speakers at the conference that Africa must raise a stronger unified voice or specialist expertise will continue to be exported to richer countries or be reserved for the moneyed and the elites on the continent.

Another call was to simultaneously work on staff retention strategies, including addressing underlying conditions that cause job dissatisfaction, while pushing back harder on things like the World Health Organization's (WHO) code of conduct on international recruitment. The code is meant to prevent "brain drains" but has become too easily circumvented and doesn't carry adequate consequences for non-adherence.

For decades the continent has borne the brunt of the loss of medical expertise and weakening training support and infrastructure. A WHO survey released in June 2022 and published in the British Medical Journal Global Health found that even at a primary healthcare level - never mind specialist level - the continent falls short of the WHO's threshold density of 4.45 health workers (physicians, nurses and midwives) per 1,000 people. Across 47 countries the average was a mere 1.55 health workers per 1,000 people. Only Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles and South Africa scored above the threshold ratio.

There's urgency for specialists to act. Buch added: "The agenda of this gathering that represents nine Colleges of Medicine in South Africa (CMSA), West Africa and East Africa, is a first of its kind in many ways because we recog-



The recent International Medical Education Leaders Forum - Africa conference heard that there 'just aren't enough specialist training posts at academic hospitals'. (Photo: iStock)

The shortage of medical specialists looming crisis for Africa, experts warn



Jawi added that coming healthcare threats will look like a repeat of the Covid devastation of 2020. It should compel governments to be better prepared and to invest in health and education.

nise that as specialists we are at a moment where we have the responsibility to drive an agenda about the unique and essential contribution of specialists to healthcare and the threats to our healthcare systems if we don't make our voices heard."

The conference drew representatives from an 11,000-member community.

The aim now, Buch said, is for a detailed conference report to be compiled with clear recommendations and actionable steps. This document will be presented to the WHO, the African Union and the global community of medical education fraternities and colleges. It was about African specialists fighting for a seat at the table to shift agendas.

Representatives at the conference also homed in on the wellness, support and leadership development of doctors. It's an overlooked area, said

Professor Suvira Ramlall, the CMSA president at the College of Psychiatrists, in her presentation. She added that there is terrible irony that doctors are often the worst patients, neglecting their own mental health needs. Other speakers who touched on this theme raised concerns about stigma and fear of seeking help because of the risk of losing licenses to practice or suffering reputational damage.

Speakers said that many doctors, as a result, start their journey to specialisation with unseen or hidden burdens of mental health issues. There are pressures to succeed in advancing their careers while often working for low pay and in appalling conditions. Not being able to help their patients in the way they are trained to do also amounted to moral injury, burnout and ultimately exiting the public healthcare system.

Other presentations highlighted the lingering impact on doctors who bore direct witness to the scale of death and severe illness from the Covid-19 pandemic. Data presented also showed a growing reality that many doctors and health workers are dependent on alcohol and drugs to cope.

The third key conference theme focused on improving and consolidating examination and assessment standards for specialists. It's become crucial to improve public trust of specialists trained on the continent.

"We have been working towards workplace-based assessment and a programme of entrustable professional activities that every specialist knows their discipline, not that they've just filled a logbook," said Buch of efforts in South Africa.

But even as the CMSA had more than 5,000 candidates who went

through the same final exit exams each year, the output of specialists still faced severe bottlenecks. "There just aren't enough specialist training posts at academic hospitals. So, the pipeline is too small to produce the number of specialists required to meet the national needs."

It's a deepening crisis for South Africa, and already a disaster in many countries in the rest of Africa. For Dr Jane Obudu Fualal, president of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa, that means patients from countries like hers, Uganda, are forced to travel to South Africa or overseas for specialist treatment. Many who can't afford it simply die. Those who spend on treatment outside their borders add to the economic bleed for their countries.

Fualal said it should be a trend that can be reversed with better strategising and investment. "We have to make governments understand that we don't have to lose billions and instead we can make Africa a destination for specialist medical tourism."

Lives above profit

She also called for more innovation and locally appropriate solutions. For instance, Covid-19 had revealed ways to optimise online platforms. For candidates in her region it had helped cut travel accommodation costs and time.

Professor James Jawi, the Kenyan executive director of the African Centre for Global Health, said that ultimately the conference's message needs to reach politicians and policy-makers:

"For a long time we have been led by economic thinking which states that the key thing is to control inflation so that the economy can grow and only when the economy has grown will you have enough money to provide healthcare. We've been arguing against this - economists and politicians need to start thinking about values differently, other than GDP and profit and that what matters are the lives of people."

Jawi added that coming healthcare threats will look like a repeat of the Covid devastation of 2020. It should compel governments to be better prepared and to invest in health and education.

"Even the few people we are training as specialists, we are losing to other countries because at home we are not giving them sufficient incentives to stay. Government needs to understand that specialist medicine is not 'too expensive' and healthcare is not a consumptive sector - it is a productive sector."

DM

Breaking the link between 'polycrisis' and poverty

By Vidya Diwakar

THIS year marks the halfway point - eight years in and eight years out - of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to end poverty and reduce inequalities.

Yet, we are a long way off from these commitments, and multiple crises - now known as 'polycrisis' - such as conflict, disaster and extreme poverty are converging on low income and lower-middle income countries, necessitating systemic change in our poverty eradication efforts.

The scale of the challenge before us is undeniable. Poverty has long been concentrated in certain low- and lower middle-income countries that continue to experience conflict and a high number of conflict related fatalities, and high numbers of people affected by disasters from earthquakes, to floods, fires or drought.

These are just two causes of impoverishment and chronic poverty, which often combine with other crises and shocks including ill health.

This isn't just a concern, however, at the country level. The challenge we are increasingly facing because of polycrisis in many parts of the world is that inequalities within countries are also worsening. The complex and often multi-layered nature of today's crises means that policymakers need to develop longer term solutions, instead of firefighting crises as they emerge.

Our work at the Chronic Poverty Advisory Network (CPAN) in Afghanistan saw that the pan-



Children are assessed for malnutrition at an IDP camp in Borno State, Nigeria. Credit: WFP/Arete/Siegfried Modola

dem, layered with the transition in power, drought, and heightened economic crises, all combined to drive poverty and a dramatic increase in hunger.

Its consequences were especially worrying for certain groups, not least women and girls, and with intergenerational consequences.

In Nigeria, research points to a confluence of hardships over the years experienced by the poorest populations due to sequenced, interdependent crises. The poorest households pre-pandemic were more likely to experience hunger and sell agricultural and non-agricultural assets to cope during Covid-19 in 2020.

As time went on they were also

more likely to pay more than the official price for petrol in 2022 during rampant economic crisis, and to expect drought and delayed rains to negatively affect them financially into 2023.

Yet despite interconnected crises, most governments and international agencies respond to each disaster individually as it arises. This could limit the effectiveness of poverty eradication interventions or create additional sources of risk and vulnerability amidst polycrisis.

For example, the singular focus of many countries responding to Covid-19 often diverted resources from other interventions including peacebuilding operations,

thereby allowing new conflict risks to arise.

Working 'in' and 'on' polycrisis: centring equity and risk

To reach the goal of poverty eradication and reducing extreme inequities, it is critical to respond in a way is sensitive to working in places experiencing polycrisis. This requires at a minimum upholding principles of 'do no harm' and being sensitive to local conditions and contexts.

At the same time, we need to find ways of proactively working on polycrisis, by responding to multiple crises simultaneously rather than one at a time. In other words, building on learning from conflict contexts, we need to be

working in and on polycrisis in the road to zero poverty.

Many countries worked 'in' polycrisis when responding to climate-related disasters during COVID-19. For example, the Bangladesh government adapted its Cyclone Preparedness Plan through various actions including modifying dissemination of messaging through public announcements and digital modalities, and combining early warning messaging with COVID-19 prevention and protection messaging.

Afghanistan disaggregates needs by sector, severity, location, and population groups in its humanitarian needs overview, which when considered holistically can help ensure responses that prioritise benefiting people in poverty.

There are equally important lessons from working 'on' polycrisis. The World Food Programme's operational plan in response to COVID-19 was regularly updated to consider evolving layered crises and support pre-emptive action, scale-up direct food assistance, and reinforce safety nets.

There are also examples we can draw on for reducing poverty from around localised decision making, relying on the knowledge that local communities, women's rights organisations, and local disaster risk management agencies have about populations in the areas in which they operate.

Flexibility in funding is important in this process to be able to respond to rapidly changing contexts and needs.

Working 'in' and 'on' polycrisis together necessitates matrix

IPS UN Bureau

Roads marking materials market to hit US\$8.99bn by the end of 2029

PUNE

THE global road marking materials market registered a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 4.4 percent, reaching above US\$8.99 billion by 2029, according to the report by MarketsandMarkets, analytics firm.

Road marking materials can be referred to utilize on the roadways and pathways to communicate and guidance information to drivers and pedestrians.

"Uniformity in the markings is standardized to prevent driveway confusion and improve the road safety," the report says. "Additionally, the technological advancements like marking longevity, retro reflectivity and low installation expense are implemented to improve the scope of market potential for road marking materials."

Major factors that are expected to boost the growth of the road marking materials market in the forecast period are the rise in the expenditure on the safer roads.

Furthermore, the current infrastructure and the roadway projects in the advancing countries are further anticipated to propel the growth of the road marking materials market.

Moreover, the safer roads positively influence the GDP which is further estimated to cushion the growth of the road marking materials market.

On the other hand, the cautious approach of road contractors is further projected to impede the growth of the road marking materials market in the timeline period.

According to the Organization of Safe International Road Transport, 3,287 people perish on average on the world's roads each day, or about

1.25 million people per year.

Poor traffic conditions are primarily to blame for these occurrences. To prevent mishaps brought on by weather-related factors and reduced sight of road markings at night and during the day, safer roadways are required.

To decrease the number of people who lose their lives in traffic mishaps, governments in many countries, including those in the United States, the United Kingdom, China, and Switzerland, have taken action to improve road condition and provide appropriate road markings.

This is anticipated to raise the use of road marking materials, driving growth in the market for these materials worldwide over the upcoming years. The demand for road marking materials is expected to witness moderately high growth in China, owing to the increase in infrastructural expenditure and construction of roads, parking lots, etc.

The rapid industrialization of emerging economies such as China, India, and Japan are expected to boost market demand.

Infrastructure investment in China has historically been a major driver of economic growth.

Faced with a slowing economy, the government is now hoping that infrastructure development can continue to spur growth as it has in the past, despite a rapid slowing in investment growth over the last decade and the dual priorities of increasing spending and reducing government debt.

As the central government tightens its grip on monetary and fiscal policy, funding will primarily go to long-term infrastructure projects that will help secure the country's future, such as transportation, affordable housing, and safety.

TANZANIAN ENGINEERING COMPANY EXCLUDED FROM WORLD BANK'S PROJECTS



By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN firm Burhani Power Engineers has been excluded in implementing World Bank projects, after the Bank debarred its mother company based in Kenya mid this week for fraudulent practices connected to a project in Uganda.

The company which was launched in Tanzania in 2004 has been classified as class 1 electrical contractor by the country's contractor regulatory body, the Contractor Registration Board of Tanzania (CRB).

Burhani Engineers Ltd, the Kenyan engineering, procurement and construction company and its three affiliates in Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda are now ineligible to participate in projects and operations financed by the World Bank Group during the 24-month debarment to March 2025.

Other affiliates affected by the World Bank decision including Burhani Engineers Limited based in Kigali, Rwanda and Burhani Engineers Limited located in Kampala, Uganda.

According to the World Bank, Burhani misrepresented its prior experience in multiple submissions to mislead the selection process and obtain contracts under the project.

"This activity constitutes fraudulent practices under the World Bank's procurement guidelines," the World Bank said in a statement issued recently.

The US\$168 million World Bank-funded project was designed to increase access to electricity in rural areas of Uganda.

As part of the settlement, Burhani, with 150 employees across East Africa, acknowledged culpability for the underlying sanctionable practices and agreed to meet specified integrity compliance conditions for release from debarment.

According to the World Bank statement, the settlement agreement provides a reduced debarment period for the company's cooperation and voluntary remedial actions.

Burhani also agreed to develop and implement an integrity compliance program reflecting the principles set out in the World Bank Group integrity compliance guidelines and to

continue cooperating with the World Bank Group Integrity vice presidency.

The debarment qualifies for cross-debarment by the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the African Development Bank.

Burhani Power Engineers becomes the fifth Tanzanian company and individuals to be excluded from the World Bank project over the last one decade.

Other companies and individuals previously excluded from implementing the World Bank projects include Mr Munawer Khalfan, a consultant and MMK Project Services Limited, and engineering consulting firm, were both debarred in January 2014 and their debarment is ongoing.

Ramky Tanzania Limited, providers of comprehensive environment management services based in Bagamoyo district was debarred in December 2021 and the debarment is expected to expire in August this year.

According to the World Bank, Sinotec Co. Limited, an energy solutions company registered

in China, was cross debarred with Africa Development Bank (AfDB) on November 25, 2020 and its debarment will end mid next month.

An investigation conducted by the AfDB's Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption established that the company misrepresented its experience, the value and dates of its reference contracts and its relationship with other bidders while participating in three Bank-financed tenders under the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydropower Project in Rwanda, the Uganda Rural Electricity Access Project and the Last Mile Connectivity Project in Kenya.

"At the expiry of the debarment period, Sinotec Company Limited will only be eligible to participate in Bank-financed projects on condition that it implements an integrity compliance program consistent with the Bank's guidelines," said AfDB.

The Regional Rusumo Falls Hydropower Project financed by the African Development Fund, a constituent entity of the African Development Bank Group, and aimed at developing sustainable energy infrastructure to increase power generation and access to electricity through the construction of a hydropower generation plant and of transmission lines and substations.

The Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption of the African Development Bank Group is also responsible for preventing, deterring and investigating allegations of corruption, fraud and other sanctionable practices in Bank Group-financed operations.

Is the global property market bubble about to burst?

By Harvey Jones

LAST year was tough on stock markets as share prices crashed in the US and beyond, yet the sell-off didn't spread to the property market.

Now, all eyes are focused on where property prices go next. If they do crash, this could inflict more damage than last year's share price meltdown, making people feel a lot poorer.

It could be about to happen, so hold tight.

There are plenty of reasons why house prices could go into meltdown. A dozen years of near-zero interest rates have pushed prices to record highs, while stretching affordability to the max.

Buyers could afford those dizzying prices when money was cheap, but that's no longer the case, as the US Federal Reserve and other central banks continue to increase interest rates in a battle against inflation that is far from won.

The energy shock, cost-of-living crisis and ballooning debts are piling on the pressure. If the world slips into recession, that won't help either.

In some countries the crash is already here. Swedish house prices fell for nine consecutive months last year and Nordea bank predicts

a total peak-to-trough drop of as much as 20 per cent. Some say it could be more.

The slide is one of the fastest in the world and brings back uncomfortable memories of the 1990s property crash that spilled into financial markets and forced the Swedish government to take over banks that were on the brink of default, says Eva Sun-Wai, fund manager at M&G Investments.

Sweden is sending out a "major warning sign" to the rest of the world, she says.

"Other economies are battling many of the same global factors affecting Sweden, namely soaring energy bills, falling real wages and a worsening economic outlook."

One reason Sweden was the first to fall was because most homeowners have variable-rate mortgages, and saw their monthly payments increase sharply.

The UK looks ripe for a housing bust, given the country's many economic troubles and overpriced housing stock following years of boom, but has been saved by the high number of fixed-rate mortgages.

However, fixes don't last for ever and when they mature, owners could face a payment shock.

Lloyds estimates that UK house prices will fall 7 per



Zurich, in sixth position, ranked high for safety and quality of health care. Photo by Agencies

cent this year. Japanese bank Nomura predicts a 20 per cent crash.

UK house prices actually rose by 1.9 per cent in the year to January, according to lender Halifax, but are now down 4.2 per cent from their August peak, says Kim Kinnaird, director of Halifax Mortgages.

"That trend is likely to continue as higher borrowing costs lead to reduced demand from buyers."

In Australia, prices fell 7.2 per cent in the year to January, the biggest and fastest decline since 1980, according to CoreLogic HVI.

New Zealand prices fell 13.3 per cent, Reinz Index calculates. Yet in Europe, declines have so far been small.

In the US, home prices increased 4 per cent in 2022, according to the National Association of Realtors, although in San Francisco, home of many struggling US

tech companies, prices fell 21 per cent (but still average a hefty \$1.38 million).

Global prime residential markets experienced a year of two halves in 2022, says Paul Tastevin, director and head of world research at property agent Savills.

"Capital values rose by an average of 3.2 per cent across the 30 cities we monitor in 2022, with the second half of the year contributing only 0.7 per cent as the dete-

riorating economic situation and higher interest rate environment took effect."

There were bright spots, though, with prices in Miami and Dubai rising 25.4 per cent and 12.4 per cent, respectively, over the year.

"These markets are still relatively competitively priced by global standards, the low cost of living, tax regime and warmer climates attracting international and domestic buyers," Mr Taste-

vin says.

Prices in global centres Singapore and New York rose more than 6 per cent as they attracted inflows of high-net-worth individuals setting up businesses, he adds.

Some cities felt the global economic turbulence more than others, as rising interest rates hit Sydney particularly hard.

"Hong Kong's lingering pandemic-related restrictions continued to hamper its prime residential markets and prices fell by 8.5 per cent. However, it remains the most expensive market in the world," Mr Tastevin says.

Savills expect prime residential prices to also grow this year but only by 0.5 per cent. Less glamorous markets may not do as well.

"The rarefied nature of prime residential, coupled with a general lack of stock in many cities, will prevent a sharper slowdown in city hotspots," he adds.

Dubai cemented its position as a second home destination for the wealthy, with prices up 44.2 per cent last year, according to Knight Frank, Bloomberg

Prices will retreat but it will be far from uniform, says Kate Everett-Allen, head of global residential research at Knight Frank.



PROPER GOVERNANCE MITIGATES FDI'S RISKS

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

TANZANIA is one of the most preferred destinations for foreign investments (FDIs) in Africa and considered as among the 10 biggest recipients.

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD's) 2021 World Investment Report, FDI inflows to Tanzania reached US\$1 billion in 2020 and showed an increase from the previous year (US\$991 million), despite the global economic crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Speaking with this paper in an exclusive telephone interview on the possible risks that can be caused by FDIs in Tanzania in terms of corruption, exploitation and environmental damages, Professor Abel Alfred Kinyondo Department of Geography and Economics at the University of Dar es Salaam said "Foreign direct investments [FDIs] as they are have no problems. They should be a blessing to a country rather than a curse."

However, he said that there is no investment that has no risks. "Any major investments before being allowed in the country are supposed to get the National Environment Management Council (NEMC's) approval. So, if NEMC works efficiently, all possible investment risks that can be brought about by FDIs will be mitigated."

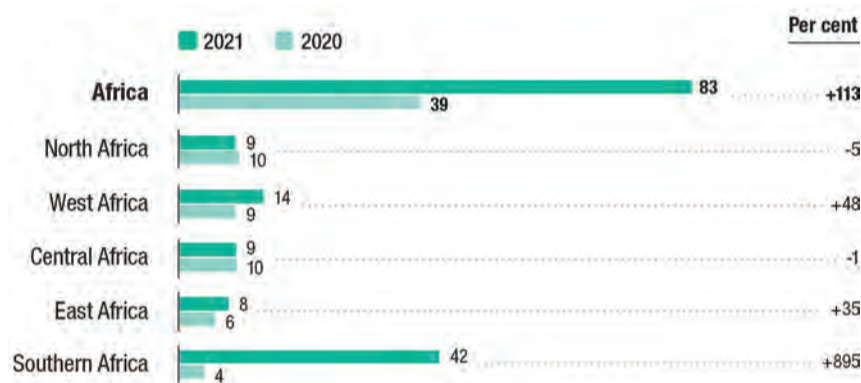
Prof. Kinyondo further said "We need clean and functional governance systems that have the mandate and power to mitigate any possible risks."

For his part, Senior Lecturer at the Catholic University College of Mbeya, Dr Balozi Morwa said that most FDIs are exploitative, corrupt and cause serious environmental damage by leaving behind huge holes after mining.

He said "Some investors are likely to use tax incentives to corrupt the respective minister. The Minister for finance and planning has been given the mandate by the Parliament to hold meetings with investors and reach agreement, terms and conditions. This can give room for corruption."

He has suggested that all applications presented by investors who want to invest in the country should be discussed by the parliamentary committees rather than being decided by a minister only. Doing so will mitigate any possible corruption by these investors.

Dr Morwa said that some FDIs have been exploitative. He said there are some textile industries in the country whose 99 percent employees are women. And they are paid very low wages, which are below a taxed rate. Their contracts are renewed after every three months.



"By employing many women on a three months contractual basis; that is exploitation because by nature women are prone to exploitation, and they can't resist or boycott."

Speaking in September last year during a two-day high-level dialogue to promote foreign direct investment (FDI) that was hosted by both Tanzanian government and MIGA, that was held in Dar es Salaam, the Vice President of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), Ethiopis Tafara said that his Organisation had currently guaranteed over US\$7 billion of foreign investments to African countries.

Presenting an overview of investment climate and opportunities in Tanzania during MIGA's forum, the TIC Ag Executive Director John Mathew Mnali said the country has top foreign direct investment (FDI) destination in the East Africa Community (EAC).

During John Magfuli's presidency (2015-2021), unfriendly policies caused a growing mistrust of international investors, damaging the perception of Tanzania's business climate, which remains restrictive.

However, since March 2021, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has affirmed her commitment to prioritise economic growth and strengthen Tanzania's economy through further development of the country's mining and quarrying sector.

She also stressed the need for Tanzania to increase foreign investment to encourage growth, particularly in helium, gold and nickel mining and oil extraction. In 2016, a large deposit of helium gas was discovered in Tanzania, but its exploration work was postponed.

From an economic perspective the disadvantage of foreign direct investment is that capital inflow from foreign direct investment is often accompanied by higher, longer term outflows that do not benefit the host country.

Displacement of local businesses - the entry of large foreign firms may drive out local businesses that simply cannot compete.

According to the World Bank, FDI is one of the recently identified new important forces of globalization.

The rapid growth and perfor-

mance of FDI has generated a number of policy issues regarding benefits and costs to the economies of both home and host countries.

At the macroeconomic level, FDI is believed to bring new capital for investment, contributing to the balance of payments, adding to the country's capital stock, and potentially adding to future economic growth.

Corruption and conflict are important elements of political risk assessments, which in turn determine investor perceptions of the business climate in a country.

Therefore, it is important for Tanzania to make efforts to promote good governance and fight against corruption.

For Tanzania to understand the impact of Foreign Direct investments and Inflation on the economy, as well as monitoring the operations of foreign investors' data availability is very important.

An active policy is required to attract FDI and to make FDI work for economic growth. Also good policies are essential to control price fluctuation (Inflation) so as to enable the stability of our currency and promote economic growth.

FDI is an important indicator of globalization in Tanzania. Foreign companies often possess advanced environmental technologies and can use them in all countries in which they operate. Foreign companies can improve competition.

This can increase the welfare of consumers through the improvement of product quality, the availability of additional products in the market, the expansion of the product market and reduced prices of products.

However, small producers in the host countries may suffer if they fail to cope with the competitive prices. In this case, foreign companies can crowd out local investors. Foreign companies can become important employers through the generation of new jobs in their new projects. Foreign companies may also contribute to fiscal revenue through their operation.

Therefore, it is important for the government of Tanzania to formulate policies which will enhance the positive impact of FDI to the local economy.

Why infrastructure development for Africa matters most

THE story of Africa's development is changing. Six of the world's fastest growing economies are in Africa! Democratic governance has been strengthened over the past five decades, enabling a platform for stable growth and prosperity in most parts of the continent. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is happy to be part of this upward transformation process, through the implementation of its programmes.

But while we boast of having some of the fastest growing economies, what we don't generally say is that we also have seven of the ten most unequal economies in the world.

If we look at the GINI coefficients, an index which measures the extent to which the distribution of income or consumption expenditure among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution, Africa is the most unequal continent in the world. Added to that specificity is the fact that 75% of Africa's population is under the age of 25.

This growing youth population, most of which has access to modern and rapid communications systems, and requires instant results, could impact adversely on the African countries if social inequality and the current systems of government are not revised. Inclusive policies are an absolute pre-requisite for political stability.

By 'inclusive' I mean creating jobs for the youth and facilitating access to public services. The equation of the most unequal yet youngest continent is one that could explode.

Tunisia is an interesting model that failed. The North African country was praised for its good transport system, highest penetration of information and communication technology (ICT) on the continent, good ports, relatively good airports, fairly good agricultural production, highest literacy rate of girls...but the country imploded.

Fundamentally, the majority of the population did not perceive the level of inclusion of the youth as satisfactory. This is why whatever we do in agriculture, infrastructure, ICT, if we do not resolve the key issue of inclusiveness, we are carrying very fragile systems that at one moment or another will implode. So, inclusiveness is very fundamental.

But for real development in every sphere to happen, we need to improve our infrastructure. At NEPAD, we believe that infrastructure development is the key to all aspects of social and economic transformation.

Antonio Estache and Grégoire Garsous, both experts in infrastructure investment in Africa, state in their literal notes on "The impact of infrastructure on growth in developing countries" that there is, indeed, a plethora of anecdotal and more technical evidence that better quantity and quality of infrastructure can directly raise the productivity of human and physical capital and hence growth.

For example, transport access can improve education and markets for farmers' outputs and others by cutting costs, facilitating private investment, improving jobs and income levels for many.

Despite the gains registered in improving regional infrastructure connectivity across the continent since the establishment of the African Union along with NEPAD, Africa still faces serious infrastructure shortcomings across all sectors, both in terms of access and quality.

For instance, only 38% of the African population has access to electricity, the penetration rate for internet is less than 10% while only a quarter of Africa's road network is paved. Studies have shown that poor road, rail and port facilities add 30% to 40% to the costs of goods traded among African countries, thus adversely affecting the private sector development and the flow of foreign direct investment (FDI).

Furthermore, a recent World Bank study found that the poor state of infrastructure in many parts of Africa reduced national economic growth by two percentage points every year and cut business productivity by as much as 40%, making Africa - in spite of its enormous mineral and other natural resources - the region with the lowest productivity levels in the world.

In order to boost intra-African trade, we need to improve infrastructure. That's why we designed PIDA (Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa), a 30-year strategy by NEPAD, the African Union and African Development Bank (AfDB), focusing on regional trans-boundary projects. The good thing about PIDA is that it was designed from the bottom up. The priorities are consensual. Given our global context, some of the



By Ibrahim Mayaki

minimal conditions for structural economic transformation require a less top-down approach in our planning processes.

The 4,500-kilometre highway from Algiers in Algeria to Lagos in Nigeria, for example, would not have been possible without the political and technical support of each of the affected countries. Ten years ago a private sector operator who wanted to discuss a regional project with two governments would be lacking a rational framework.

PIDA is that rational framework. Jointly coordinated by the African Union Commission, NEPAD, the regional economic communities and AfDB, PIDA provides the strategic framework for priority projects to transform Africa through the construction of modern infrastructure into an interconnected and integrated continent that is competitive domestically and in the global economy.

PIDA also forms the basis for the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure, which took place in Senegal in June 2014. Hosted by President Macky Sall, who is also Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee, the summit's aim was to accelerate the mobilisation of both domestic and international financial support for the implementation of the high impact regional infrastructure projects in Africa.

We have picked 16 out of 51 largely programme-based PIDA projects that were discussed at the Summit. The objective of this summit was to create a dialogue between policy makers, heads of government and private sector operators. Financing will develop from public-private partnerships.

The 51 projects require an estimated \$68 billion for their implementation to 2020 whilst an additional \$300 billion is envisaged as requirement for the PIDA projects to be implemented through to 2040. With such quantum resource requirements in the long term, there exists a huge financing gap which needs to be addressed for the successful realization of PIDA projects.

When high level politicians, business entrepreneurs, industry experts and researchers met in Dakar, it was not just another talk-shop on Africa's development. The summit was about producing results in terms of new approaches to project preparation that will lead to an increased level of funding being directed to PIDA projects within a shorter timeframe.

Dakar summit highlighted the need to scale-up Africa's domestic financial resource mobilisation and provided a unique high-level platform to convene and engage African leaders, business-persons, regulators and policy makers on specific aspects that have hampered the roll out of transformative regional projects across the continent.

Working closely with the private sector, the summit produced tangible outputs that will, over time, contribute to regional transformation. The summit marked the beginning of a strong collaboration between public and private capital, based on effective project risk mitigation and project structuring to match different investor groups with a range of investment securities. The significant outcomes of the summit, which was a nouvelle approche to tackling the changing landscape of Africa's shifting development paradigm, will be an opportunity for NEPAD to be key point for investment in Africa.

Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki is the chief executive officer of NEPAD.

CONSTRUCTION

Ireland house owners face scrutiny from authorities

DUBLIN

Ireland's buy-to-let crackdown has triggered a landlord exodus that is hitting business investment in a major threat to economic growth, experts have warned.

Rental supply in Ireland has plunged as a toxic cocktail of high taxes on landlords' income, rent controls and a winter eviction ban push Irish investors to sell up en masse.

Two fifths of all homes listed for sale in the last three months of 2022 were buy-to-lets, according to the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland (SCSI), a professional body.

Nationally, across Ireland on February 1, there were 1,096 homes listed to rent on Daft.ie, a property website. This was roughly an eighth of historical levels - from 2006 to 2021, the average number of listings on February 1 of each year was 8,500.

The supply crunch is driving up rents. Nationally, average market rents in Ireland rose by 13.7pc year-on-year in 2022, after jumping 10.5pc in 2021, according to Daft.ie. Back in 2020, rent growth was just 0.5pc.

There are growing concerns that Ireland's housing crisis will damage the country's economic model, which is centred on attracting tech giants to its shores via an ultra-competitive 12.5pc corporate tax rate.

"One of the greatest threats to our economy is our lack of housing," says John O'Sullivan, of the SCSI.

"After the massive bust at the end of the 2000s, Ireland's success story was its recovery based on investment into Ireland, primarily from tech, pharma and aviation. If these companies can't house their staff, then maybe the next lot of companies who are thinking about investing will decide not to relocate here."

Officials in Ireland's Industrial Development Agency (IDA), which is responsible for drawing foreign investment into Ireland, have expressed concerns about how the housing crisis is hitting business investment.

"IDA's clients are worried about the housing and in particular the rental situation across the country," the organisation's head of strategic policy wrote in an email that was released following a Freedom of Information request by The Irish Times.

Employers who are already based in Ireland are targeting new build developments directly to arrange accommodation for their staff, says Colin Richardson, of CBRE, a real estate firm.

"When new developments are coming on to the market, whether that is to buy or rent, the big employers are in there having conversations to see what their options are about potentially taking a number of units for their staff," he says.

Last week, Ian Talbot, chief executive of Chambers Ireland, an influential lobby group, warned that the greatest challenge for business was the lack of talent, driven by the dearth of affordable and appropriate housing.

"We are growing as an economy, but we are not growing at the pace we could grow. Our domestic market has been constrained by this lack of housing," Talbot said.

In recent decades, the Irish government has been hugely successful in encouraging US tech companies to become tax resident in the state as well as establishing significant operations there.

Yet the reliance on these companies to drive economic growth has raised eyebrows, with critics arguing that the model is unstable and that Ireland's bumper GDP figures are distorted by tech and pharma giants booking their profits and assets in the country.

Its exposure to big tech companies came into particular focus in recent weeks, with the now struggling sector axing thousands of jobs in the country, including household names like Google, Twitter and Facebook owner Meta.

There are signs of stress in Ireland's commercial property market, with Bank of Ireland forecasting a 6pc drop this year in prices amid rising interest rates and reduced demand for office space.

In a further sign of trouble, Irish Life, one of the country's biggest insurance and pension providers, blocked withdrawals from its €500m (£445m) Irish property fund for a six month period due to a surge in customer redemption requests.

The notice period will allow time to make any property sales "as required to pay future withdrawals" and in a manner that is fair to all customers, it said. But as the economy creaks, housing affordability is only getting worse.

Irish buy-to-let policy is more draconian than that in the UK. In "rent pressure zones" - namely all Irish cities - rent growth on existing lets is capped at the lower of either the consumer prices index or 2pc.

CITY COUNCIL RECOGNIZES DCB BANK'S SUPPORT IN EDUCATION



Kifuru Primary School pupils cheer DCB Commercial Bank managing director Isidori Msaki (right) at a function to present 30 desks through Dar es Salaam City Council in support of education development in the city. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam City Council (DCC) has acknowledged the support of DCB Commercial Bank in the education sector by donating 30 desks to Kifuru primary school in Segerea, Dar es Salaam.

The DCC executive director Eng. Aman Mafuru said at the handing over of desks to the school that the government wants to ensure that all primary schools facing desks shortages are supplied with enough desks.

"We will ensure that our partnership with DCB Commercial bank moves forward in ensuring that we

solve numerous social services challenges facing the municipality and communities at large," he said.

On his part, the DCB Bank Managing Director Isidori Msaki said in an effort to help Tanzanian government improve education sector in the country, the bank is planning to donate at least 1,000 desks in various pri-

mary schools in the country between 2023/2025.

Msaki said the 30 desks being donated at Kifuru Primary School in Segerea, Dar es Salaam was among the 150 desks that the bank will support various primary schools in the Ilala municipality. He said apart from improving education sector, the desks will also ensure that pupils learn in a good environment, thus helping to improve their pass rates.

"We are supporting our campaign dubbed, 'Elimu Mpango mzima na Mama Samia,' that acknowledges the importance of education in the development of the nation," he said.

Msaki said the DCB Bank's board of directors headed by Ms Zawadi Nanyaro, aims to ensure that pupils in primary schools have good learning environment.

He said the bank also supports the national, and particularly the Dar es Salaam region municipals initiatives in improving the education sector.

"We believe the government through President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been doing a great deal to improve the education sector, but it is evident that the government alone cannot foot all education costs to millions of pupils in the whole country," he said.

He said the bank will continue to support various government development initiatives in the education sector, including various schools facing different challenges including shortages of classroom blocks, lack of toilets, shortages of school desks and other social services in the municipals and the country at large.



Skyscrapers make Dubai more attractive to tourists

DUBAI

Dubai will be a more attractive destination for tourists and visitors with upcoming skyscrapers in the coming years as the developers are accelerating their efforts to complete their projects to cater to the rising demand in one of the most popular cities of the world.

With its upcoming range of new high-rise buildings, the city will retain its status of

hosting the most-tallest building of 300 metres and above. It has over 25 buildings higher than 300 metres built, which is much more than any other city in the world, according to the Zoom Property Insights.

Referring to the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, the Insights says currently five towers above 300 metres in Dubai are part of the list of 100 tallest under-construction buildings in the world.

"The city is still a busy con-

struction site for skyscrapers. With their dynamic structures, the new high-rise buildings are expected to change the city's skyline," according to the Zoom Property Insights.

Ciel Tower (365.5 metres), Il Primo Tower (356 metres), Uptown Tower (340 metres), Regalia (331meters) and One Zabeel Tower 1 (330 metres) in Dubai are included among the world's 100 tallest under-construction buildings.

Dubai, which currently

holds the title of housing the tallest structure in the world - Burj Khalifa, will see more unique developments in the coming years. Due to these new skyscrapers, it will remain an attractive tourist destination globally.

Among them, Burj Binghatti, a development by Jacob & Co, is aiming for the title of the world's tallest residential tower, which interestingly, is also held by Dubai. Launched in November 2022, this develop-

ment is expected to have more than 100 storeys. It is being developed in Business Bay.

Talking about the rising number of skyscrapers in Dubai Ata Shobeiry, CEO of Zoom Property, said: "Most of these skyscrapers are mixed-use developments, featuring abundant opportunities for investors and end-users alike. Once completed, they will play a pivotal role in cementing Dubai's position as a leading real estate investment hub."

Apart from Burj Binghatti, there are many other skyscrapers in the pipeline in Dubai. Among them, Ceil Tower is already gaining a lot of popularity since it's set to become the tallest standalone hotel in the world with its projected height of 365.5 metres, according to the Zoom Property Insights.

The tower will have over 1,000 suites and guestrooms along with state-of-the-art amenities and a 300-metre atrium. Currently, Gevora Hotel on Sheikh Zayed Road holds this title as it stands tall at 356 metres.

Entisar Tower, a planned 570-metre development, is going to be the latest addition to the list of skyscrapers on Sheikh Zayed Road. It will be a 122-storey-high building featuring a unique design.

Dubai One is another upcoming tower by the Meydan Group. Also called Meydan One Tower, is proposed to be Dubai's new city centre. It will be a residential building comprising apartments, hotels, and an observation deck along with a host of other facilities and amenities.

Besides the aforementioned, Dubai Creek Tower, RP One and 106 Tower are noteworthy upcoming skyscrapers in Dubai.

"Due to the rising economy and sustainability factor, Dubai has garnered the interest of many globally-renowned development firms. This is one of the major reasons why we are witnessing an increase in the number of high-rises in the emirate. With Dubai touching new heights of success with every passing year, we can expect more skyscrapers gracing its skyline," Shobeiry said.

WORLD

Britain's early retired resist calls to work, despite higher living costs

LONDON

IN their fifties and deciding there was more to life than work, Liz and Ian Woodbridge quit stressful jobs during the pandemic - part of a cohort of British early retirees now resisting a government call to return, despite rising living costs.

For an array of reasons, including ill health, hundreds of thousands of older workers left their jobs during and after the societal disruptions of COVID-19, contributing to a chronic labour shortage that forecasters predict will drag on Britain's economic performance for years.

The relative wealth of many of the early retirees poses a challenge for finance minister Jeremy Hunt, who has said Britain needs them to leave "the golf course". Hunt is considering policies to encourage them back in the UK's March 15 budget.

But with no mortgage to pay, and enjoying a new lifestyle in the English countryside, both Liz, a 58-year-old former tech marketing executive, and Ian, a 57-year-old ex-fund manager, have spurned consultancy offers from their old employers.

"Nothing would ever entice me to go back to any kind of work," said Liz, who tried a temporary job invigilating exams at a local school but soon resented the intrusion into her time.

Double-digit inflation has increased their day-to-day costs, but not enough to change their minds, Ian said.

For the government, the shrinking labour force is a headache that reduces economic capacity and fans wage demands and inflation. It comes at a time when Britain's growth is also held back by Brexit-related trade and investment disruption.

Britain is the only one of the world's seven largest advanced economies to still be smaller than it was before the pandemic, and economists see a link to the smaller workforce.

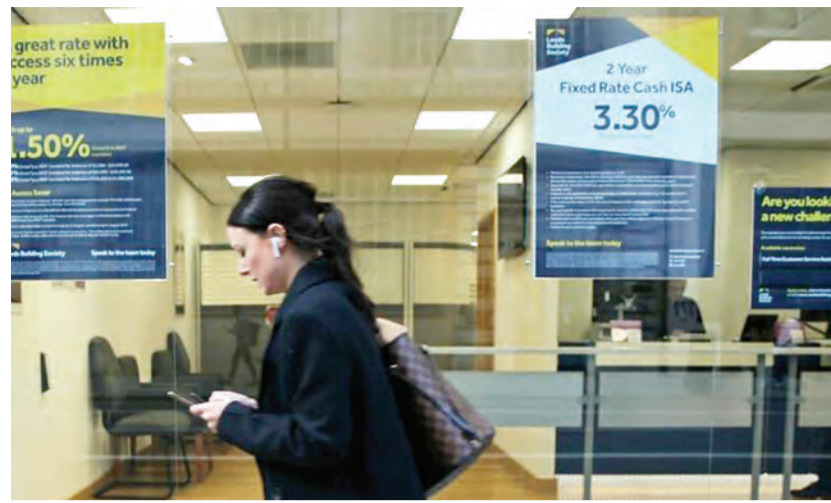
Since the final quarter of 2019, Britain has lost 408,000 people aged 16 to 64 from the workforce, according to the Office of National Statistics. Of those, 313,000 were over 50.

Even with the surge in the cost of living, the number of people aged 50-64 in the labour force has risen by just 68,000 since its low point in mid-2022.

The exodus of older workers has no equivalent in other advanced economies. The employment rate for workers aged 55-64 has fallen more than in any other advanced economy, according to figures from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The Bank of England forecast last month that Britain's overall labour force participation rate would remain below its pre-pandemic level for the foreseeable future.

Hunt's options are limited. Although Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said at the start of the year that he wanted to use the welfare system better to get people back to work, around 90 percent



A pedestrian passes notices advertising savings rates in the window of a Building Society in London on Sept 29, 2022. (PHOTO / AFP)

of people aged 55 to 59 who have retired early or are out of work do not depend on state benefits, according to an Office for National Statistics survey.

"It's quite a hard sell," said Tony Wilson, director of Britain's Institute for Employment Studies. "The best part of 90 percent of people who say they are early retired ... say that they will probably or definitely never work again."

"Golden generation"

For the Woodbridges, the government should focus its limited resources on helping the young rather than pushing comfortable older people into work with tax breaks, saying their "golden generation" has already enjoyed final salary pensions, free university education and cheaper housing that the young can only dream of.

"Kids are saddled with student loans and they're basically picking up the tab for the 40-year party that we've enjoyed," Ian said.

Business groups and researchers agree that acting on childcare would do more to unlock greater economic growth.

Wealth plays a big factor in decisions to retire early. Based on data from before the pandemic, Britain's Resolution Foundation found the richest fifth of 50-59 year olds were 10 times likelier to retire early than the bottom fifth.

Britons with private pensions can

withdraw assets without tax penalties from the age of 55 - a lower age than elsewhere.

This could have contributed to Britain's greater fall in older workers, said Stephen Millard, deputy director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research think tank.

In the Woodbridges' case, the pandemic threw up economic opportunities that accelerated their decision to retire early, Ian said, including increasing the value of their home near London, which they sold to move to a cheaper property in rural Shropshire.

But the well-off are not the only ones to leave the work force early.

Deborah Feighan, 62, retired from her job as a ward administrator for Britain's National Health Service in April 2020 and lives on a modest pension along with her husband Malachy, who had to stop work due to knee problems.

Former colleagues have suggested she return to work, but she does not want to go back to her previous rigid shift pattern.

Research by the Trades Union Congress suggests that for lower-paid Britons aged 50-64, ill health is a more common reason to leave work than early retirement.

Compared with late 2019, 390,000 more people across Britain's working-age population say long-term ill-health is the reason for their economic inactivity.

Agencies

Xi stresses enhancing integrated national strategies, strategic capabilities

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Wednesday stressed opening new ground for enhancing integrated national strategies and strategic capabilities.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks while attending a plenary meeting of the delegation of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the People's Armed Police Force, during the first session of the 14th National People's Congress, China's national legislature.

Consolidating and enhancing integrated national strategies and strategic capabilities has profound significance in building a modern socialist country in all respects and advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts, as well as in achieving the goals for the centenary of the PLA in 2027 and more quickly elevating the armed forces to world-class standards, said Xi.

Highlighting the goal of maximizing China's national strategic capabilities, Xi called for efforts in integrating the strategic layouts, resources and strengths in all areas, in a bid to system-



atically upgrade the country's overall strength to cope with strategic risks, safeguard strategic interests and realize strategic objectives.

Xi urged efforts to advance collaborative innovation in science and technology, with

a focus on independent and original innovation, thus building high-level self-reliance and strength in science and technology at a faster pace.

Strategic capabilities in emerging fields must be bolstered in pursuit of new advantages in national development and international competitions, and the resilience of industrial and supply chains must be enhanced, Xi said.

Xi ordered coordinating the construction of major infrastructure, accelerating the building of national reserves, and making the reserves more capable of safeguarding nation-

al security.

Consolidating and enhancing integrated national strategies and strategic capabilities must draw momentum from reform and innovation, Xi stressed, urging more progresses in this regard.

He also called for efforts to foster a sound atmosphere of caring for, devoting to, building and safeguarding national defense among members of the public to pool strengths for consolidating and enhancing integrated national strategies and strategic capabilities and for building a strong country with a strong military.

Agencies

Medvedev slams attempt to blame Nord Stream blasts on 'pro-Ukrainian group' as propaganda

MOSCOW

MEDIA allegations about a "pro-Ukrainian group" being behind the sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines are nothing but propaganda, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Security Council Dmitry Medvedev wrote on Telegram yesterday.

"It's ignorant US propaganda," he said, commenting on Western media reports blaming the pipeline explosions on a "pro-Ukrainian group" not affiliated with anyone.

"They must just be lone rangers fighting against the damned Muscovites. Some inglorious bastards saving the world," the politician quipped, referring to a Quentin Tarantino movie.

"They went and dove into the sea, blew up two huge pipes on the seabed and dis-



appeared into the sunset. Unnoticed. In a sea full of NATO ships and littered with international tracking systems," Medvedev went on to say.

He emphasized that the "movie" had flopped right after its premiere as the audience did not believe it and started asking uncomfortable questions about why they had done a 180 on their previous version about a "Russian connection" and why the West was actively insisting that the "pro-Ukrainian group" did not have any ties to the Kiev regime.

Agencies

S. Korea's Yoon to visit Japan for summit, first such trip in 12 years

SEOUL

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife will visit Japan from March 16-17 at Tokyo's invitation, his office said yesterday, the first such visit in 12 years after Seoul announced a plan to end a protracted dispute over wartime forced labor.

Yoon (pictured) will hold a summit meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

"The visit... will be an important milestone in the improvement and development of relations between South Korea and Japan," Yoon's office said in a statement.

South Korea said on Monday that its companies would compensate victims of forced labor under Japan's colonial rule from 1910-1945.

"South Korea is an important neighbor with which we should cooperate in addressing various issues in the international community," Japan Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said at a briefing.

"I hope that through this visit to Japan, Japan-Korea relations will further develop based on the friendly and cooperative relations that have existed since the normalization of diplomatic relations."

He said "nothing has been decided" when asked about potential agenda items.

Yoon's office said he hoped to expand various security, economy, and cultural fields, and revitalize exchanges between people in the two countries "in order to overcome the unfortunate history of the past and move forward into the future."

South Korea's defense ministry said on Tuesday it would work with Japan to enhance security cooperation, including trilateral relations with the United States. **Agencies**



African officials say digitisation key to achieving gender parity, food security

NAIROBI

THE attainment of gender parity, food security, and improved health outcomes for African women and girls will be dependent on sustained investments in digital technologies, senior officials said on Wednesday at a virtual event to mark International Women's Day.

African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment Josefa Sacko said bridging the gender gap in technology access will boost crop yield in the continent by more than 20 percent, and reduce the population of the hungry population by 12 percent.

"Digital tools present abundant opportunities for women in Africa's agri-food systems. It will lead to improved food security, rural incomes, and climate resilience," said Sacko.

Convened by Nairobi-based Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the virtual forum that coincided with the launch of the 2023 Women Agripreneur Awards renewed the call for accelerated digitization as a means to address power imbalance among men and women, transform food systems amid climate-induced stagnation.

Sacko said this year's International Women's Day, held under the theme of "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality", should inspire African governments to leverage digital tools in their quest to become food secure, gender inclusive, and environmentally sustainable.

Access to technologies, innovations, finance, and markets will boost the capacity of African women to transform agricultural value chains amid threats linked to climate change, pests, diseases, and shrinking arable land, said Sadiyo Dido Bashuna, the head of Gender and Inclusiveness at AGRA.

She added that governments should address policy, cultural, and funding bottlenecks that have limited uptake of technology among African women farmers, to the detriment of food security and rural development. She noted that technology has motivated African women to venture into agri-business, leading to higher export earnings, job creation, and improved food and nutritional security in the continent.

Jemimah Njuki, the chief of the Economic Empowerment section at UN Women, said investing in supportive infrastructure, training, and capacity building will be key to ensuring that there is gender parity in access to technologies crucial for streamlining Africa's agricultural value chains.

China to make greater contributions to world peace, development

FOLLOWING a path of peaceful development is a distinctive feature and essential choice of Chinese modernization.

Breaking away from the traditional pattern in which rising powers have always sought to dominate, China is benefiting both itself and the whole world through its development.

China will stand firmly on the right side of history and on the side of human progress. Dedicated to peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit, it will strive to safeguard world peace and development as it pursues its own development, and it will make greater contributions to world peace and

development through its own development.

Chinese civilization, with a history of over 5,000 years, has always cherished peace. The pursuit of peace, amity, and harmony is an integral part of the Chinese character, which runs deep in the blood of Chinese people.

From the middle of the 19th century, China had long been troubled by foreign aggression and frequent warfare, which brought deep sufferings to Chinese people. Having experienced bitter sufferings in the past, the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chinese people know the value of peace and development, and see it as their sacred duty to

promote the peaceful development of the world.

Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed that China remains firmly committed to peaceful development. No matter how the international landscape may evolve and how strong it may become, China will never pursue hegemony, expansion or sphere of influence.

Besides, China is the only country in the world that has pledged to "keep to a path of peaceful development" in its Constitution, which also indicates the country's firm determination to follow a path of peaceful development.

China does not subscribe to the outdated logic that "a strong coun-

try is bound to seek hegemony." Some countries, while pursuing modernization, invaded, colonized and plundered others, bringing miseries to the people in developing countries. There are still a few Western countries seeking hegemony and power politics even today, severely threatening world peace and stability.

Chinese modernization never involves military expansion or colonial plunder, but champions the shared human values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom, advocates win-win cooperation with the world and builds a community with a shared future for mankind.

For 70-plus years since the founding of the People's Republic, China has never provoked a conflict, occupied one inch of foreign soil, started a proxy war, or joined any military bloc.

Keith Bennett, vice chair of the 48 Group Club, noted that China is not developing by exploiting any other country. It is developing itself and modernizing itself, and at the same time helping other countries to develop and modernize, he added.

Development always remains the top priority of China, the world's largest developing country. Chinese modernization is independent and self-propelled, and at the same time absorbs Western experiences in

modernization in China's opening up drive. It strives for national development by integrating internal impetus and peaceful exploitation of external resources.

China adheres to the path of peaceful, open, cooperative and common development, and will offer as much assistance as it can for other developing countries. Meanwhile, the country will unswervingly safeguard its national sovereignty, security and development interests. China has never bullied, oppressed, or subjugated the people of any other country, and will never allow any foreign force to bully, oppress, or subjugate Chinese people.

People's Daily

Mandonga now gears up for international non-title bout



MultiChoice Tanzania's Head of Marketing, Ronald Baraka Shelukindo (C), poses for a photo with a section of Tanzania's professional pugilists during the launch of an international non-title bout between prominent Tanzanian pugilist Karim Said 'Mandonga Mtu Kazi' and Ugandan Kenneth Lukyamuzi, slated for March 25 in Nairobi, Kenya. Also in the photo are officials from Peak Media firm, the fight's organizers. The main bout and supporting bouts will all be telecast live via DStv's Maisha Magic Bongo channel.160. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Guardian Correspondent

PROMINENT Tanzanian professional boxer, Karim Said 'Mandonga Mtu Kazi', has announced a 'disaster' for a popular Ugandan boxer, Kenneth Lukyamuzi, when the two take on each other in an international non-title bout slated for March 25 at the KICC Hall in Nairobi.

Speaking to reporters at the DStv Tanzania's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, 'Mandonga Mtu Kazi' said the fight, which will be aired live on DStv, will aim to silence his opponent.

The outspoken boxer was adamant that the fight will further allow him to issue a sound warning to the remaining pugilists in the East Africa region.

The pugilist flamboyantly disclosed he will come up with a new punching style, dubbed 'Mlungumbunga' when taking on Lukyamuzi.

"All Africans should prepare to witness someone being 'crucified' in the ring through DStv," 'Mandonga Mtu Kazi' revealed while insisting that he will beat his opponent via an early Knock-out.

'Mandonga Mtu Kazi' disclosed: "I am extremely happy that DStv agreed to telecast this fight because this will make it visible all over Africa."

"This is the time to show Africa and the world that 'Mandonga' is a real man... I'm going to issue a warning," he stressed.

"If there is any boxer who believes he has what it takes to

excel, he should fight me, I have only one job, beat him!," 'Mandonga Mtu Kazi' boasted.

MultiChoice Tanzania's Head of Marketing, Ronald Shelukindo, stated that to ensure many Tanzanians watch the fight, DStv will show the fight live through the Maisha Magic Bongo channel available in the DStv Bomba package of only 23,000/-.

The official stated: "We have placed this fight on DStv Bomba's lower channel to allow many Tanzanians to see their famous boxer hoist the Tanzanian flag in the boxing ring."

"This is just the beginning, we will continue to make sure that we add entertainment in our channels while giving our athletes a platform to be seen internationally," Shelukindo noted.

It should be noted that recently 'Mandonga Mtu Kazi' won popularity in Kenya following his victory over veteran Kenyan Super Middleweight boxer, Daniel Wanyonyi.

This fight is, once again, expected to be the talk of the town in Nairobi. There will be several undercard bouts involving Tanzania and Kenya pugilists, some of which will have Nik Otieno (Kenya) trading blows with Hasnan Ndongo (Tanzania), George Bonabucha (Tanzania) coming up against Michael Diares (South Africa).

In other bouts, Consolata Musanga (Uganda) will take on Fatuma Yazidu (Tanzania), and Zawadi Kutaka (Tanzania) will confront Plaxodus Odwor (Kenya).

CPS to sponsor Junior Tennis Tournament Season Three

By Guardian Correspondent

THE CPS, the Developer of Fumba Town in Zanzibar, has announced its sponsorship for the Junior Tennis Tournament Season Three, scheduled for March 11-12 at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC).

According to Sebastian Dietzold, CEO of CPS, sponsoring the Junior Tennis Tournament Season Three aligns with the commitment of the developer to supporting youths' sports and promoting healthy lifestyles.

He said the tournament will bring together more than 50 junior tennis players from across Tanzania to compete in a friendly and competitive environment.

Dietzold stated: "We are excited to sponsor the Junior Tennis Tournament Season Three as part of our commitment to investing in the health and well-being of Tanzania's youth."

The official revealed: "We believe that sports play an important role

in building confidence, discipline, and teamwork among young people, and we are proud to support this tournament that promotes these values."

Tennis coach Salum Mvita, the organizer of the Junior Tennis Tournament Season Three, expressed his appreciation for the sponsorship from CPS.

He said: "We are grateful to CPS for their generous sponsorship of this tournament. The support we have received from CPS, the Developer of Fumba Town, has enabled us to provide young tennis players with an opportunity to showcase their skills and talent in a competitive setting."

He added that the Junior Tennis Tournament Season Three promises to be an exciting event for players and spectators alike.

"With the support of CPS, young tennis players from across Tanzania will have the opportunity to compete and develop their skills in a safe and supportive environment," he said.

All set for EAAR Junior Championships, says AT

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has said all is set for this year's edition of East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships (EAAR) which get underway today at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Lwiza John, AT information officer, yesterday said preparations for the championships have been completed.

"All is ready for the EAAR Junior Championships, slated to take place from today to tomorrow, Uganda and Kenya's teams arrived, and we expect the other nations to jet in today (yesterday)," she said.

Apart from the host Mainland Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya, other nations which are expected to battle it out in the two-day event are South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Zanzibar, Rwanda, and Burundi.

Mainland Tanzania will be represented by 19 junior athletes that have been camping at Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) Training & Conference Centre in Dar es Salaam.

The 19 runners were selected at the Open Championships that were held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium last weekend, involving more than 200 junior athletes.

They are Siwema Julius, Shija Donald, Salma Samwel, Christian George, Elizabeth Kirario, Bravo George, Kimena Kibesa, Damian

Christian, Fedelis Amadi, and Baraka Tulili.

Others are Gaudensia Manono, Elia Clement, Nicodemus Joseph, Nelson Mangura, Jackson Sylvester, Dickson Mangura, Malcom Kazmir, Emmanuel Amos, and Elizabeth Ilanda.

William Kallaghe, AT vice-president, revealed during the show-down he was pleased with the performance shown by the junior athletes.

He disclosed that AT aims to put much emphasis on developmental teams.

The AT official revealed: "We thank all those who contributed to the success of these Open Championships, we have resolved that our focus should be on youth teams."

"In our plan of activities for this year, there are many junior and youth activities... we want to nurture young talents as we know that the future of athletics in the country is in the hands of these young athletes, we ask stakeholders to join us in this endeavour," Kallaghe pointed out.

The national junior athletes are under the tutelage of Mwinga Mwanjala and Robert Kalyahe.

Mwinga yesterday said she is confident that her charges will do well in the regional junior championships.

"The camp is going on very well and I'm confident my charges will do the country proud by winning medals, I'm very sure of that," she said.



Tanzania's female boxer, Fatuma Yazidu (R), trades punches with her counterpart, Lulu Kayage, during a past non-title bout that took place at Friends' Corner Hall, Manzese in Dar es Salaam. Fatuma won by points. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SUPERDBOXINGCOACH.BLOGSPOT.COM

Dar female boxers to participate in IBA World Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's national women's boxing squad is expected to travel to India next week to battle it out in this year's edition of the International Boxing Association (IBA) Women's World Boxing Championships.

The two-week championships are set to take place in New Delhi from Wednesday.

Lukelo Wililo, Boxing Federation of Tanzania (BFT) president, said the country's contingent will be made up of two boxers, Lightweight pugilist Beatrice Nyambega and Light Flyweight boxer Rehema Maganga.

Samuel Kapungu and Mohamed Abubakar, AIBA-recognized coaches, and the leader of the delegation, Wililo, will accompany the boxers.

Wililo said the country's representatives have been sponsored by the IBA.

The BFT official pointed out that while in India he will attend

the Women in Boxing Conference that has been organized by the IBA and the Boxing Federation of India (BFI).

He noted: "We are expected to depart for India on Monday for this year's edition of IBA Women's World Boxing Championships."

"The team is currently attending intensive preparations in Dar es Salaam and we are hopeful that the pugilists will perform well in the championships," he said.

He thanked Africa Human Rights Network (AHRN), Oasis Village based at Mbezi, and Club Gym who have provided their facilities free of charge for the team.

The IBA Women's World Boxing Championships started in Scranton in the USA in 2001 and this year will see Tanzania send pugilists to the showdown for the first time.

This year's edition will see 350 women from 74 countries battle it out in the championships which will be held in 12 weight categories.

According to IBA, the opening ceremony will take place at the K.D. Jadhav Indoor Hall on March 15 with preliminaries and quarterfinals scheduled for March 16-23 and semi-finals will take place on March 25.

For the first time, IBA has confirmed a lucrative prize fund of US\$2.4m for the Women's World Championships

According to IBA, gold medal winners in each of the 12 weight categories will receive US\$100,000, ensuring a bumper reward for finishing top of the podium.

Boxers that will finish as runners-up in their categories will collect US\$50,000, while fighters who will claim bronze will receive US\$25,000.

Jury deliberations begin for XXXTentacion's accused killers

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

JURY deliberations began Wednesday in the trial of three men accused of murdering rising rap star XXXTentacion during a 2018 robbery outside a Florida motorcycle shop after the alleged gunman's attorney argued that DNA evidence proves his client and another man are innocent.

Attorney Joseph Kimok gave the final defense closing argument in the trial of three men accused of first-degree murder, telling jurors that while the artist struggled with his killers before being shot and DNA was found on the body and on a stolen necklace, it wasn't from his client, 28-year-old Michael Boatwright. Nor was it from accused second gunman Trayvon Newsome, 24, or accused getaway driver and ringleader Derrick Williams, 26.

"Whoever (XXXTentacion) struggled with is not in this courtroom," Kimok told jurors as the four-week trial neared its conclusion. "The DNA proves that someone not named Michael Boatwright or Trayvon Newsome participated in this murder."

A fourth man, Robert Allen, pleaded guilty last year to second-degree murder and testified against his former friends. Attorneys for all three men say he is lying about their clients' involvement in the slaying and robbery, which netted \$50,000. They also say Broward County sheriff's detectives botched the investigation, failing to consider other possible suspects including Canadian rap star Drake, with whom XXXTentacion had an online feud.

Lead prosecutor Pascale Achille in her rebuttal argument Wednesday admitted that Allen is not a perfect witness, that he has previous felony convictions, but co-conspirators in murders rarely are.

"Plans hatched in hell do not have angels for witnesses," she said.

Achille said that while detectives never found the guns, masks and money, only Williams was arrested within days of the shooting, giving the others time to hide any evidence. She said the lack of DNA evidence linking the defendants to the killing is irrelevant – that fact does not exclude them. She said much more importantly, cellphone data shows the defendants were together near the motorcycle shop at the time of the slaying and that Bluetooth data puts them in the SUV used by the shooters at that same time.

During her primary closing argument Tuesday, Achille played surveillance video from the motorcycle shop and elsewhere that she says backs up Allen's testimony. She also played cellphone videos the defendants allegedly took hours after the killing that showed them smiling and dancing as they flashed handfuls of \$100 bills.

Boatwright, Williams and Newsome all face mandatory life sentences if convicted. Prosecutors did not seek the death penalty. While the three are being tried together, the jury has to decide separately on each and could convict just one or two. The jurors deliberated for about an hour Wednesday before adjourning. They will resume Thursday.

XXXTentacion, whose real name was Jahseh Onfroy, had just left Riva Motorsports in suburban Fort Lauderdale on June 18, 2018, with a friend when his BMW was blocked by an SUV that swerved in front.

Surveillance video showed that two masked gunmen emerged and confronted the 20-year-old rapper at the driver's window, and one shot him repeatedly after a 45-second struggle. They then grabbed a Louis Vuitton bag containing the \$50,000, which XXXTentacion had just withdrawn from the bank. They then got back into the SUV and sped away. The friend was not harmed.

Prosecutors say the three defendants and Allen set out that day to commit robberies and went to the motorcycle shop to buy Williams a mask. There they spotted the rapper and decided to make him their target.

Prosecutors say Allen and Williams went inside the motorcycle shop to confirm it was him. They then went back to the SUV they had rented, waited for XXXTentacion to emerge and ambushed him, according to prosecutors.

The rapper, who pronounced his name "Ex ex ten-ta-see-YAWN," was a platinum-selling rising star who tackled issues including prejudice and depression in his songs. He also drew criticism over bad behavior and multiple arrests, including charges that he severely beat and abused his girlfriend.

AP



Losing culture? Mbappe's PSG reflect on latest Champions League failure



Kylian Mbappe looked dejected after PSG exited the Champions League at the last-16 stage for the second season running. (Agencies)

MUNICH

PARIS Saint-Germain were convinced that persuading Kylian Mbappe to stay would finally deliver them Champions League glory, but the failure to build a strong enough team around the France superstar has contributed to another early European exit.

Wednesday's 2-0 loss to Bayern Munich in Germany saw the Qatar-owned club lose their

last-16 tie 3-0 on aggregate and go out in the first knockout round for the fifth time in seven years.

PSG's run to the 2020 final now looks even more like an anomaly, coming in a pandemic-hit season when the Champions League was reduced to a mini-tournament behind closed doors.

There were celebrations last May when Mbappe agreed a new three-year contract to stay with Lionel Messi

and Neymar in the French capital rather than join Real Madrid.

The appointments of Portuguese super scout Luis Campos as head of recruitment and Christophe Galtier as coach to replace Mauricio Pochettino were supposed to be followed by the building of an exciting new team.

It is hard to argue now that PSG are stronger with the likes of Vitorinha and Fabian Ruiz than they were with Angel di Maria and Leandro Pare-

des last year.

"It is not about the construction of the squad. It is just the story of the season. We were missing important players. The squad, over the two legs, was seriously weakened," said Galtier on Wednesday.

- 'This is our maximum' -

He had a point, with Mbappe only able to make a cameo appearance off the bench after a thigh injury as PSG lost 1-0 to Bayern in the first

leg.

Neymar is missing with an ankle injury, while Presnel Kimpembe is out and fellow defenders Marquinhos and Nordi Mukiele both came off during Wednesday's game.

"It has been a very busy season. Players' bodies have been asked to do a lot. There was the World Cup, and obviously when you get to the last 16 it is good to have everyone available," Galtier said.

PSG placed their hope in Mbappe and Messi turning the tie around in Munich, but the latter had little impact while the France superstar saw just 32 touches of the ball.

"As I said in my first Champions League press conference this season, we were going to do our maximum. The truth is this is our maximum," admitted Mbappe, whose own future will now again become the subject of increasing speculation.

Others are left wondering why a club of PSG's means could not build a deep enough squad around Mbappe to remain competitive despite the injuries.

"If Paris Saint-Germain have ambitions of winning the Champions League, they need to sign players who are up to the required standard," said David Ginola, a former star for the club and now a pundit for broadcaster Canal Plus.

"I think they will get the success they are looking for the day they stop betting everything on one player. When are we going to talk about a team?"

- Messi to depart? -

One reason PSG were unable to build the team they wanted, even with the wealth of their Qatari owners, is money.

With so much spent on Mbappe's new deal and the need to respect UEFA's Financial Fair Play rules, they failed to sign the central defender they desperately needed.

Messi is out of contract after this season. There have been talks about extending that deal, but he will be 36 in June and it may be wise to invest the money required elsewhere. There may be doubts about Galtier's own future, with the coach aware that winning Ligue 1 alone might not be enough.

"We know how important the Champions League is to PSG," Galtier said.

"There is a lot of expectation. If we only win the league, has it been a bad season? The big regret is that we were not able to compete with all our strength in this tie."

There are no guarantees a full-strength PSG would have beaten Bayern, or gone on to win the Champions League.

In 11 seasons in the competition in the Qatar era, they have won only seven two-legged knockout ties.

"There is no reason why Paris Saint-Germain in 2023 will learn the lessons they have not learned for 10 years," wrote Vincent Duluc in sports daily L'Equipe.

"There is also no reason to deny that for PSG, when it comes to the last 16 of the Champions League, losing is a culture."

AFP

Angry Tottenham fans turn on team going backwards under Antonio Conte

JASON BURT

BOOED off and booted out. Antonio Conte was back but this will probably be his last Champions League match as the head coach of Tottenham. They departed the competition with the lamest performance they have produced on this stage with boos at half-time, then again when Conte replaced forward Dejan Kulusevski for defender Davinson Sanchez as they desperately searched for a goal, and at an angry full-time.

Poor Harry Kane and, surely, he cannot carry on much longer in the lilywhite shirt. The striker did not receive any service from such a chronically uncreative team and yet almost improbably provoked extra-time with a late, late header that finally forced a save from Milan's under-worked goalkeeper Mike Maignan.

That would have been unjust on the Italian champions who deservedly earned a quarter-final place, and should have won this game, although they will have been shocked by how comfortable it all was. Spurs' cause was not helped by the dismissal of Cristian Romero who was a headless liability in defence and had to go

having launched himself at Theo Hernandez by the touchline to earn a second yellow card while Conte stood and stared at his shoes in the damp north London air. It summed it all up.

Conte appeared to keep the Spurs' players in the dressing room for a long time after the final whistle and when he finally did emerge he was asked the key question. "This is not the right day to speak about my future. I have a contract with Tottenham and then Tottenham know very well what my thoughts are. At the end of the season we will meet and make a decision," he said.

"I am really sorry for the fans but we cannot invent the win. It's important to know this or to hope that in one day a miracle of a trophy can go into our training ground. We have to have patience but I know the fans do not have patience because for a long time Tottenham have not won a trophy."

To Italian television he appeared to be a little more spiky, remarking provocatively: "You never know the club might want to get rid of me earlier. Perhaps they had higher expectations."

They certainly had higher expectations that the "unacceptable" - Conte's word - FA Cup exit to

Sheffield United while it is now three games without even a goal to celebrate.

What now for Spurs? This was their last chance of winning a trophy but let's be honest there was little prospect of that. After all they have failed to win any of their last five Champions League knockout matches since beating Ajax in the semi-finals in 2019. All Spurs have left is a frantic fight to finish in the top four to qualify for it again next season. And then what? Will Conte still be there?

It is looking increasingly unlikely with little apparent appetite from him or Spurs to extend a contract that runs out this season as he returned to the touchline after recovering from an operation to have his gallbladder removed. His presence summoned zero re-

sponse even if he has been through a lot this season, with the deaths of three close friends, and certainly deserves praise for wanting to lead the team despite the need to recuperate.

The obvious follow-on from that is that this is a Spurs side also urgently in need of surgery as they struggled to create against Milan who fashioned the better chances and never really looked like surrendering their 1-0 advantage from the first-leg until Kane's header. But Spurs never did enough. Conte may have done a remarkable job in reaching the Champions League but the team is getting worse.

Such an exit as this will also, of course, place Kane's future into even sharper focus. With one more season left on his

contract and such little prospect of silverware can the 29-year-old really commit himself to such an anaemic team? His face said it all at the end and not even the most die-hard Spurs fan would surely complain if he decides to go.

Conte's face also painted a picture. This is such an unhappy competition for him, having never gone beyond the quarter-finals but it was the nature of this one that felt so decisive. It was just not good enough and has to actually speed up his departure. At least Kane provided some threat. Son Heung-min was awful, Kulusevski ineffective while a central midfield pairing of Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg and Oliver Skipp, and there were groans with some of their passing, is never going to control a fixture such as this. They were eclipsed by the former Manchester City midfielder Brahim Diaz. Conte spoke

of "major absentees" but apart from Rodrigo Bentancur who did he mean?

It is also astonishing how little pressing Spurs do and there is just so little threat in the team - apart from Romero's apparent one-man mission to take out the opposition. After the first leg in Milan this was on a knife-edge and it clearly affected Spurs. One slip and it would feel that this tie was over. One goal and it was game on. But neither were they ever brave enough or maybe even good enough to force the issue.

They had just two efforts on target - there was also a rising shot from Hojbjerg that Maignan easily pushed over - and never any sustained pressure while Milan spurned chance after chance with substitute Divock Origi hitting the post and Fraser Forster denying Diaz. Amid the criticism, Spurs can have no complaints.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko

We should do more exercises using our bikes



SPORT

Losing culture? Mbappe's PSG reflect on latest Champions League failure

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Nabi reveals tactical changes for Yanga's victory over AS Real du Bamako



Tanzania's Yanga goal-getter, Fiston Mayele, dribbles past Mali's AS Real Bamako defensive midfielder, Moussa Coulibaly when the two sides locked horns in a 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group D tie played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Yanga commanded a 2-0 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Micho unveils Uganda squad for double-header against Tanzania

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

UGANDA'S Cranes head coach Milutin Sredojevic 'Micho' has unveiled a 30-member provisional squad for the crucial back-to-back 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers against Tanzania slated for later this month.

Micho's charges will host Taifa Stars in Ismailia, Egypt, on March 24 (kick-off is at 6 pm) and then travel by charter flight to Dar es Salaam for the return leg on 28 March 2023

Both Tanzania and Uganda sit bottom-side of Group F with a point apiece from two games as Algeria and Niger lead with six and two points respectively.

The squad has four goalkeepers, 10 defenders, seven midfielders, and nine forwards. Former Simba SC striker Emmanuel Okwi highlights the forwards' picks while Yanga midfielder Khalid Aucho retains his place among midfielders.

The squad revealed will start preparations next week. The team will enter a residential camp on March 15 at Cranes Paradise Hotel, Kampala before playing local friendlies against regional sides.

First, the locally based players summoned will play a regional tour game against the Kitara region side next week. On March 19 the selected locally-based players will then travel to Egypt.

The foreign-based players summoned will join the rest of the squad in Cairo directly from their respective clubs.

Uganda's Cranes provisional squad:

Goalkeepers: Jamal Salim Magoola (Richards Bay, South Africa), Alionzi Nafian (URA FC), Charles Lukwago (St. George), and Joel Mutakubwa (Gaddafi FC)

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Yanga head coach Nasreddine Nabi feels his side improved significantly after half-time and needed to as the outfit beat a resilient AS Real de Bamako 2-0 in a 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group D match that was held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

Fiston Mayele's eighth-minute strike, plus a strike by substitute Jesus Moloko, made it a comfortable victory in the end that kept alive Yanga's hopes of qualifying for the quarterfinals of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup.

Yanga has moved to the second spot in Group D with seven points, four ahead of third-placed TP Mazembe of DR Congo, and will only need to avoid defeat against the Congolese side when they face off in Lubumbashi to advance to the quarterfinals.

In a post-match press conference, Nabi was quick to point out the importance of halftime tactical reaction when the visitors were on top of things after going behind.

The gaffer said: "I am very glad we got the victory this time. After what happened in Bamako at the last minute we promised each other that

we need to win the three points in the return game and give joy to our fans... we knew that the victory today will help us to have every chance of qualifying."

"We didn't want to underestimate them, we know that this team from Bamako has qualities and they showed that they have qualities, and with the will of God and a little bit of tweaking, we changed things

technically in the second half, we resumed the match strongly," the coach noted.

"We all indeed agree on the qualities and talent of Stephane Aziz Ki, however, the problem is that tactical discipline is very important," the gaffer pointed out.

Nabi added: "After scoring the goal, we lost the midfield because Aziz doesn't want to track back and it is not only Aziz, even the

wingers did not come inside to provide the necessary security in the midfield."

"It is why we lost the midfield battle at one point, we saw almost for 25 minutes it was the opponent who was strong and who had the ball and control of the midfield," the coach noted.

"That's why I decided to change the tactic completely from 4-2-3-1 to 4-3-3 to have more players in the

midfield and also by giving instructions to the wingers to get in."

The gaffer said: "This allowed us to come back in the second half and reclaim midfield control and, above all, we blocked the danger of the opposing team."

On March 19, Yanga will treat the home match with Tunisia's US Monastir before making the trip to Lubumbashi in early April.

Desperate situation for Ruvu Shooting at bottom of NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

BOTTOM-placed Ruvu Shooting cannot afford any further slip-up if the outfit is to retain slim hopes of avoiding relegation, as it takes on hosts Mbeya City FC in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League encounter at Sokoine Stadium this afternoon.

Ruvu Shooting is coming into the match having suffered a 1-0 loss at home to Kagera Sugar in their last league outing.

The only goal of the game was scored in the second minute of added-on time to hand Ruvu Shooting, coached by Mbwana Makata, another cruel defeat.

Makata and his men have no room for errors with only five games remaining to reduce the five-point deficit and climb out of the drop zone.

In their last 10 away games in all competitions, Ruvu Shooting has a poor record of just three draws and seven losses and has conceded two goals or more in four matches. They have lost each of their last two games on the

road.

Ruvu Shooting's strikers have a very fragile form this season. Indeed, goals have been hard to come by for Ruvu Shooting this season, scoring just 14 times, which is the fewest of any team in the league.

The Premier League leader Yanga, meanwhile, has scored 42 goals in the same period with the side's attacker, Fiston Mayele, netting 15 of those.

Makata admitted to the desperate situation they find themselves in at this stage of the campaign though he is still positive they can save their season with better results.

"We know we have a difficult challenge ahead of us to make sure we play with commitment and urgency to get good results in this game which is crucial for us," the coach noted.

"The remaining games, if we manage to get good results, will put us in a good position, but the important thing is to see how we prepare ourselves to face the schedule ahead of us," Makata said.

Makata has reported no fresh injury problems ahead of the showdown, meaning the former Dodoma Jiji FC and Mbeya Kwanza FC coach has a full-strength squad at his disposal.

As for Mbeya City FC, they have been playing fairly well in their last few matches, winning three times and losing three.

They come into the match having picked up a 1-0 victory in a match against Kagera Sugar to progress to the quarterfinals of this season's Azam Sports Federation



Ruvu Shooting's head coach, Mbwana Makata, issues instructions to his players when they took part in a recent training that took place in Morogoro. PHOTO: COURTESY OF RUVU SHOOTING

Cup (ASFC) last weekend.

That result means Mbeya City FC is undefeated in the outfit's last two matches having beat Polisi Tanzania 1-0

away in their last league outing.

In the league standings, Mbeya City FC now sits 10th on the log with 25 points.

Victory in the duel

against Ruvu Shooting would go a long way to ensure Mbeya City FC is not dragged into the relegation scrap at the end of the season.

Mbeya City FC head

coach, Abdallah Mubiru, will be relying on striker Sixtus Mubiru to score goals, having scored eight times already this season.

Tariq Kiakala, who

has five goals, and midfielder Hassan Nassoro, who has scored three times in the league, are, as well, dependable goal-getters for the hosts.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

