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'Avocado farmers free from import duty



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France to support Tanzanian students in Ukraine



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Sector stakeholders to advertise Tanzania



SMART MONEY

Absa Group expects high single digit revenue in 2022, says interim CEO

Riding on less profit but more turnover business philosophy

Global bonds extend rout on inflation fear with fed hike looming

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Ministry overhauls 2018 broadcasting regulations

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A review of the Broadcasting Networks and Services Regulations of 2018 by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has reduced initial and annual license fees with a view to attracting investments, the government said yesterday.

Online content providers were under the regulations subjected to a 100,000/- fee upon registration and pay 1m/- annual fees, which the minister for Information, Communications and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye set out the new terms.

At a briefing session for a wide ranging media representation to discuss achievements in the sector under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan during the past year, he said application fees have now been reduced to 50,000/- and the annual fees cut from 1m/- to 500,000/-.

The review is meant to enhance the use of online platforms, creating job opportunities for young Tanzanians. "We have also scrapped fees for certain programmes aired by radios and televisions including sports, music, films and cookery," the minister affirmed.

Only television channels and radio stations broadcasting current affairs and news would be subjected to pay license fees, he said, elaborating that the government has scrapped license for service providers (radio and television) who air their content through social media.

During the one year period, significant achievements have been recorded such as an increase simcard registration from 51.2m in March 2021 to 55.3m in February 2022, equivalent to an 8.2 per cent boost.



Songwe regional commissioner Omary Mgumba (R) consoles Salama Sanga, one of more than 30 people hurt in a road crash involving a bus moving from Tunduma and headed for Dar es Salaam. It overturned at Senjele in Mbozi District yesterday, with sources saying four passengers died on the spot. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

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Four dead, 42 injured in three way accident



Our driver was trying to overtake the fuel truck ahead of us, but the truck was also overtaking another vehicle. This made our driver lose focus and plunged into the ravine," she said.

By Guardian Reporter

FOUR people died and 42 were injured after a long-haul bus veered off the road and plunged into a ravine

at Senjele in Mbozi District, Songwe Region yesterday.

The Police sources said the bus was taking passengers from Tunduma to Dar es Salaam and its driver

was trying to overtake a fuel truck when he came face to face with a lorry, forcing him to veer off and plunge into the gorge.

Acting Regional Police Command-

er (RPC) Rashid Ngonyani said the accident occurred at around 8am and involved the bus with registra-

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Home Affairs working on police methods directive

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government yesterday reacted to a directive by the ruling CCM as to the need to reform the police force saying it was working on the matter, meant to facilitate changes in the way the law enforcing agency discharges its responsibilities.

Home Affairs minister Hamad Yussuf Msauni (pictured) told journalists yesterday that the ruling party had issued a directive which the ministry has no option, but to implement.



This is a government elected by the people, and if the party which owns the government says so, there is nothing we can do other than implementing the directive," he stated, explaining to the media achievements in the ministry during the one year in which President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been in office.

In a central committee meeting over the weekend, CCM directed the government to take a closer look at the Tanzania Police Force as it has been at the centre of complaints by the general public over its con-

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EA industrialists want 35 pc tariff in AfCFTA pact

By Guardian Reporter

INDUSTRY captains have urged the East African Community (EAC) partner states to adopt 35 per cent as the maximum common external tariff (CET) rate and commence its implementation in the next financial year.

This is the majority position of the regional private sector consultative meeting held mid last week on Nairobi, bringing together manufacturers' confederations from the EAC region. The current maximum CET is 25 per cent in which case the proposed 35 percent maximum CET rate seeks to

reinforce protectionism in the EAC zone against current efforts to widen the free trade zone to beyond the EAC zone, in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The proposals of leading industrialists are designed to "provide an adequate tariff degree of difference required to incentivize industrial development in the EAC region, by safeguarding products that are sufficiently produced in the region against similar cheap imports," they said, in a spirit that it basically contrary to AfCFTA intentions. The proposed 10 percent tariff dif-



ference implies maintaining EAC as a cohesive zone, instead of implicitly expanding to create a continental free trade zone, with relative ease of trading within the EAC zone less by tariff walls as proposed but market presence and supply channels.

Industrialists say a tariff wall is needed to safeguard and sustain existing investments in "prioritized regional value chain of textiles, automotive, agro-processing, wood, iron and steel, mineral processing, energy, fertilisers,

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Ministry overhauls 2018 broadcasting regulations

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The number of mobile phone users has also increased from over 27.3m to over 32.7m during the year, equivalent to 19.7 per cent, he stated, pointing at the number of internet subscribers as increasing from 28m to 30m during the year, a 7.1 per cent rise.

During the current financial year, the government set aside 170bn/- to enhance the construction of the national ICT infrastructure backbone using the Tanzania Electricity Supply Corporation (TANESCO) transmission systems, he said.

As a result this dropped the construction cost, covering 4,442 kilometres in 33 districts instead of 1,880 kilometres without this method, also enabling the construction of the national ICT infrastructure backbone in 66 districts out of 139, he said.

In future the government intends to extend the network to neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through Lake Tanganyika, he specified, highlighting that so far 93.5bn/- has been spent by the government to invest in different spheres of communication.

The postcode project was doing well and it will be completed in a period of five months and not five years (2020/25) as projected in the CCM election manifesto, he promised, explaining that the project will cost over 2bn/-, casting aside initial estimates of 700bn/-.

In one year the government had cut off levies charged on electronic accessories such as laptops and mobile phones to revamp the sector's growth, the minister stated, noting an increase in the number of radios, television channels and cable television. TV channels increased from 44 to 56 and radios from 119 to 210 countrywide.

Cable television outlets increased from 37 to 59 while registered newspapers increased from 270 to 284, around 5.2 per cent increase, he added.



Prof Joyce Ndalichako (3rd-L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities), officiates at the inauguration of Guidelines of Assessment of Disability. The event was held in Morogoro municipality yesterday in tandem with a seminar on Impairment Assessment of Occupational Accidents and Diseases for medical practitioners from Coastal Zone regions. With her are Workers Compensation Fund director general Dr John Mduma (R) and Dr Robert Mhina (L), chairperson of the task force which drew up the guidelines. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Prof Ndalichako unveils guidelines on evaluation for disabilities

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro.

Prof Joyce Ndalichako, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities) has unveiled guidelines for the evaluation of disabilities as a result of accidents and disease at work place.

The launch of the guidelines took place here yesterday at the opening of a training on the evaluation of disabilities caused by accidents. Among the attendants were medical experts and health workers from Coastal zone regions of Mtwara, Lindi, Dar es Salaam, Coast and Morogoro. The seminar is being coordinated by Workers Compensation Fund (WCF).

"These guidelines prepared by experienced experts abide by Workers Compensation Act (Cap 263) and 2016 regulations and amendments and will be applied during training to empower participants to evaluate disabilities correctly," she said.

Prof Ndalichako said she believes that the application of the guidelines will enhance achievements and the evaluation of the disabilities will enable WCF to

process workers' compensation claims in time.

In regard to doctors and health workers' training, Prof Ndalichako said it is sustainable, whereby WCF began the training to doctors in FY 2015/16. So far 1,301 doctors from various districts countrywide had been trained.

"WCF has already conducted such trainings in the country's central, lake, southern highlands and coastal zones," she added.

The minister said the involvement of WCF was a right step in the present environment whereby the Phase VI government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan continues with the task of strengthening the country's industrial economy which will see an increase of industrial revolution.

"In such an environment, the responsibility of WCF is not merely paying compensation, but also to work together with stakeholders in inventing, and developing strategies to reduce or prevent accidents at work places or disease," said Prof Ndalichako, adding:

"I am directing WCF to offer education

and training to doctors on the evaluation of disabilities as a result of disease at work place."

She said the WCF has great benefits for workers, employers and the nation in general because as for now workers are certain of insurance against income loss due to disasters from accidents.

She cited other benefits as the increase of national income from production as well as from quality services. And this calls for good relationship at work places between the employer and employee.

Earlier, WCF director general, Dr John Mduma said there has been great changes on the improvement of environment investment and trade in the country during the Phase VI government.

"The changes we at WCF are proud of the 365 days of Samia Suluhu Hassan's in office for the improvement of workers' compensation services including reduction of contributions in regard to the private sector from 1 per cent to 0.6 per cent as well as reduction of interest for debt accrued due to delayed contributions that had gone down from 10 per cent to 2 per cent only, explained Dr Mduma.

Four dead, 42 injured in three way accident

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tion number T278 ALQ.

"In the accident, four people died on the spot, all of them are men and 42 other people injured, some having sustained serious injuries. They were rushed to Ifisi hospital and the Songwe regional referral hospital," he said.

He cited recklessness of the bus driver as a major factor in the accident, noting that he was speedily trying to overtake "a number of vehicles ahead him."

The bus driver, Mjahidi Waziri (39) is in custody and will be brought to court once investigation is completed, he said, reminding those who drive to adhere to traffic rules and regulations to avoid unnecessary road crashes.

Ahmed Ramadhani, the doctor on duty at the referral hospital in Vwawa, confirmed receiving four bodies and 35 casualties.

He named the deceased after being identified by their relatives as Sadd Adamu, Mhina Charles both residents of Dar es Salaam, who he said were drivers of outward bound vehicles from the port of Dar es Salaam to outside the country.

The others are Novatus Kalumuna, an employee of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) Tunduma customs centre who was travelling to Iringa, along with Sangwa Ngosha.

The medic said most of those admitted with injuries were progressing well ex-

cept for Felix Mpundu (40), a Zambian national who was referred to the Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital for further treatment, having broken ribs.

Grace Msingwa, a passenger on the bus, said she saw a fuel truck which was ahead of them also overtaking another truck, which led to the accident.

"Our driver was trying to overtake the fuel truck ahead of us, but the truck was also overtaking another vehicle. This made our driver lose focus and plunged into the ravine," she said.

Yusuf Ramadhani, a Dar es Salaam resident, said he had sustained injuries on his hands and ribs, urging that regular inspections of vehicles and drivers be conducted so as to prevent unnecessary accidents.

Traffic police reports assert that 80 per cent of accidents in the country are caused by reckless driving, 12 per cent arising from mechanical failures, six per cent from weather mishaps, while only two per cent of road accidents arise from poor infrastructures.

Global figures issued by WHO in 2018 indicated that around 1.35m people die as a result of road traffic crashes annually at the time, and millions more injured or disabled. Head injuries remain the leading cause of death and disability among motorcycle riders, the report underlined.



Birju Sanghrajka (2nd-L), East Africa's Head of Corporate Commercial and Institutional Banking at Standard Chartered Bank who was on a tour of Tanzania, and Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania CEO Sanjay Rughani (L) meet the bank's corporate clients at a special event in Dar es Salaam late last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Home Affairs working on police methods directive

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duct.

"This is a government elected by the people, and if the party which owns the government says so, there is nothing we can do other than implementing the directive," he stated, explaining to the media achievements in the ministry during the one year in which President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been in office.

During the past year about 34,698 police officers were promoted, he said, noting that the National Identification Authority (NIDA) has so far registered 22,881,902 Tanzanians out of the targeted 25m people.

NIDA has also managed to produce 10,756,674 national identity cards

already distributed to Tanzanians across the country, he stated, highlighting that during the past year NIDA has issued 1,335,298 National Identification Numbers (NIN), raising the number of NIN issued to 19,283,241 so far.

During the past year about 34,698 police officers were promoted, he said, noting that the National Identification Authority (NIDA) has so far registered 22,881,902 Tanzanians out of the targeted 25m people.

In the combat against human trafficking, 102 persons who were being trafficked were rescued, with four cases filed in court and suspects in

remand, or bailed and awaiting judgement.

The minister said the government was working on improving living conditions of police officers by further training and other motivating measures to promote efficiency. Improved infrastructure and working environment for institutions under the ministry are in the course of being assured, he stated.

Achievements during the sixth phase presidency include the construction of Prisons Department headquarters in Dodoma and the ministry's central offices at Mtumba in the government city part of the capital.

Building a factory for the police to acquire uniforms locally is another achievement, he added.

EA industrialists want 35 pc tariff in AfCFTA pact

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and pharmaceuticals plus attract new investments to transform the EAC industrial sector, in particular, transforming secondary intermediates into finished products."

Industrialists shudder to think of that same consideration being extended to AfCFTA as a while given its vast market, focusing instead of relatively assured growth of industries in the EAC zone.

The latest analysis on the proposed rates of the CET by the EAC Secretariat shows that under a maximum CET rate of 35 per cent, "the partner states stand to benefit most through increased revenue generation by 5.5 per

cent and a boost to intra EAC trade of \$18.9m," it said, implying that trade with the outside world would actually decrease and there is no difference in that regard between cheap products from abroad and from nearby African countries.

With a 10 per cent tariff wall added to the current 25 per cent taxation of goods from outside the EAC, industrialists say employment generation would create infinitesimally by 0.03 per cent (6,781 persons) if the maximum rate of 35 per cent is adopted, while not exploring its impact on purchasing power or input to inflation in the zone. The industrialists proceeded to sweeten that analysis affirming that Burundi will benefit from

increased trade creation by \$1,363,749 while Rwanda gains by \$3,714,495 if the maximum CET rate of 35 percent is adopted.

Non-metallic minerals, printing, products of wood, furniture, paper, crops; horticulture are among the industrial sectors in Rwanda and Burundi that will benefit from 35 per cent maximum CET, they said. The average potential net welfare loss effects under the proposed 35 per cent maximum CET rates is estimated at \$25.5m, the analysis indicated, seeing it as a one off effect implying it is relevant only for the year the tariff is put into place, and later people will be used to the new trade regime. The sectoral council of ministers

of Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (SCTIFI) is expected to sit on Monday next week to deliberate on the analysis done by the EAC Secretariat on the implications of maximum CET rates of 30 per cent, 33 per cent and 35 per cent.

Free market lobbies prefer a 30 per cent rate as it will incentivise a greater trade outreach while 35 per cent is protectionist and contrary to the spirit of the new AfCFTA as well as World Trade Organisation (WTO) "most favoured nation" rules as a whole. The proposed 35 per cent maximum CET rate reinforces national and regional policies on developing priority value chains, expand intra-regional trade, strengthening product diversification,

creating employment opportunities from production switch, and sustain regional food security and rural development.

It is also expected to reduce the use stay of applications on products sufficiently available or can be manufactured in the region. A stay of application allows an EAC member to unilaterally deviate from the CET and implement a tariff (higher or lower) for the period of one fiscal year.

Industrialists say the proposed CET rate is central to boosting the competitiveness of East African manufactured products in the continent and the globe but it isn't competitiveness that is sought as that arises from efficient production rather than an extra tariff wall.

Their analysis shows that industrial production is set to increase by \$12.1m (0.04 percent) if the highest rate at 35 per cent maximum tariff rate is adopted by the EAC ministers' meeting, which other analysts think is too low as an incentive to the block widening trade with the rest of Africa.

The EAC Partner States have not agreed on the proposed maximum CET rate with divergent views of 30 per cent, 33 per cent and 35 per cent, with the more liberal outlook at present prevailing in Tanzania likely to alter the balance in favour of a more accommodating AfCFTA tariff, not the maximum proposed.



GFA Vehicle Assemblers technician Hamadi Ramadhani (R) briefs members of the Parliamentary Committee on Industries, Trade and the Environment on activities at the firm when they toured it at its Kibaha premises in Coast Region yesterday. Second left is Industry, Trade and Investment minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania avocado farmers to enjoy free import duty scheme in India

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

TANZANIA and India have agreed that avocados to be exported from Tanzania will not attract any import duty, the bilateral incentive to local farmers as well as relevant exporters.

Meanwhile, other competitor countries, especially those from Latin America which are also exporting their avocado to India will continue facing a slim import duty of at least 30 per cent.

According to Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe the friendly incentive was an important economic opportunity which should wisely be used by Tanzania.

"Tanzania has snatched a lucrative avocado market in India and we have so far started to export. Through our long-standing bilateral ties, India has agreed to offer us an incentive scheme of free import duty contrary to our competitors," he unveiled.

He challenged the local farmers to use the incentive door effectively through improving their production scope in order to stand a better side to benefiting accordingly.

He added that the parent ministry has, and will continue to put in place diverse viable initiatives to ensure for improved production and productivity among farmers in all regions where the economic cash crop flourishes.

"The Tanzania's ministry of agriculture and that of India have both formed special teams which works together to ensure for a smooth win-win situation in pertaining to all crops export from Tanzania," the minister added.

He said the government was working over possibility to open more market for avocado in different destinations from across the world, urged the farmers to cultivate commercially.

Tanzania is the third largest avocado produce in Africa, after South Africa and Kenya.

However, despite being endowed with key potential for the cultivation of the crop, including subtropical climates, the country has yet to benefiting full from the sub-sector.

Between 2015 and 2018 annual production rose from 20,000 tonnes to 190,000 tonnes.

Moreover, according to the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), in 2018 Tanzania exported 7,551 tonnes with a total value of USD 8.5 million to Europe, Africa, and Asia.

The Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) indicated that the production was 19,449 metric tonnes in 2016/2017.

Regions where the cash crop is cultivated in Tanzania include Mbeya, Njombe, Songwe, Iringa, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, and Tanga.

Others are Kigoma and Kagera in the north-west and Morogoro in the east of Tanzania.

The popular avocado varieties produced in Tanzania are hass, fuerte, pinkerton, and to some extent, Puebla.

Relevant records shows that the most important market for Tanzania's avocado is Netherlands, with an untapped potential of USD 1.8 million, whereby the second-largest market is France. However, other markets with large untapped export potential include Japan, Switzerland, Spain, Germany, the United Arab Emirates, and China.

Currently it is estimated that over 10,000 farmers across the country are involved in avocado production.

In November 2021 the National Plant Protection (NPPZA) - Department of Agriculture of South Africa granted market access to the importation of avocados from Tanzania.

In addition, from 25th November 2021, the Indian Plant Health Authority allowed for the first time to export avocados from Tanzania to India.

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

Coast RC launches 10-day crackdown against illegal migrants

COAST Regional Commissioner Abubakar Kunenge has launched a special 10-day operation to control illegal migrants and warned immigration officials against bribery during the crackdown.

The launch took place

here yesterday and the crackdown will target various areas with routes used by migrants when entering the region.

RC Kunenge said he will not tolerate any immigration officials who will involve themselves in bribery during the crackdown and stern legal measures will be

taken against them.

He added some migrants who have been entering the region had involved themselves in crime, the situation that threatens the security of the residents in their areas.

He added that the crackdown will help to reduce crime to en-

sure the region's peace and security and appealed to owners of factories in the region to cooperate with immigration officers when they visit their premises.

"I also call upon neighbouring regional commissioners to cooperate in this exercise as before entering Coast regions, ille-

gal migrants pass through their regions and there are people therein who assist the migrants, hence if we work together we can rectify the situation," he added.

Coast region immigration officer, Omari Hassan said the crackdown that started yester-

day will be conducted in ten days continuously and the main aim is to control the influx of illegal immigrants.

He said Coast region has many opportunities in the numerous factories it has with others continuing to be established. Among visitors coming to the

country are those with genuine entry permits, but added that once these expire, they become illegal migrants.

Hassan said their aim is to fight the vice and appealed to the region's residents to help by reporting to appropriate authorities the presence of illegal immigrants in their areas.

Just recently 35 illegal migrants were arrested in Ubena Zomozu area and legal steps have already been taken against them.




**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
FOR PROVISION OF CIVIL WORK
REFERENCE NO. MST-TZ-20220301**

Daqing Oilfield Construction Group Co., Ltd. (hereinafter as DOCG), as a CONTRACTOR for Storage Terminal of EACOP Project, invites experienced and reputable contractors that have demonstrable capability, willingness, ability and availability to perform related works to express their interest in providing the services of civil work in Tanzania.

The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania and an onshore Marine Terminal in Chongoleani, near Tanga Port in Tanzania.

There are four (4) packages planned for Storage and Terminal as follows:

- Package-1: Early work (Ref: MST-TZ-20220301-001)
- Package-2: Temporary facilities (Ref: MST-TZ-20220301-002)
- Package-3: Civil work for Terminal (Ref: MST-TZ-20220301-003)
- Package-4: Civil work for Storage Facilities (Ref: MST-TZ-20220301-004)

Should you be interested in participating any or all of the packages, please provide below minimum requirements clearly specifying the package(s) of interest, including the reference number(s).

Package-1: Early work (Ref: MST-TZ-20220301-001)

The services include but not limit to, the following:

- Early work of site preparation and earthworks for Temporary facilities area.
- Top soil and Vegetation clearance, shore protection.
- Construction of infiltration pond.
- Construction of Permanent access road.
- Procurement materials for the works.

Minimum Requirements:

- CRB with civil and/or building class 1
- Suitable resources availability including equipment, qualified personnel.
- ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, OHSAS 18001 (ISO45001:2015), or equivalent certificates.
- Suitable HSE, Social and Quality policy.
- A proven track record of experience in providing similar services in last 3 years.
- Financial capacity to deliver the requested services.
- Certificate of Incorporation(BRELA); TIN Certificate; All Valid Business License and Permits

Package-2: Temporary facilities (Ref: MST-TZ-20220301-002)

The services include but not limit to, the following:

- Temporary living camp construction.
- Temporary road, fence and drainage facilities construction.
- Temporary technical facilities construction.
- Other temporary facilities construction.
- Procurement materials for the works.

Minimum Requirements:

- CRB with civil and/or building class 1
- Suitable resources availability including equipment, qualified personnel.
- ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, OHSAS 18001 (ISO45001:2015), or equivalent certificates.
- Suitable HSE, Social and Quality policy
- A proven track record of experience in providing similar services in last 3 years.
- Financial capacity to deliver the requested services.
- Certificate of Incorporation(BRELA); TIN Certificate; All Valid Business License and Permits

Package-3: Civil work for Terminal (Ref: MST-TZ-20220301-003)

The services include but not limit to, the following:

- Early work of site preparation and earthworks for Terminal area.
- Building and Architectural Works.
- Civil work include foundation of equipment, structure, pipe etc.
- Permanent roads, fencing and final leveling and grading.
- Other general civil work.
- Procurement materials for the works

Minimum Requirements:

- CRB with civil and/or building class 1
- Suitable resources availability including equipment, qualified personnel.
- ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, OHSAS 18001 (ISO45001:2015), or equivalent certificates.
- Suitable HSE, Social and Quality policy
- A proven track record of experience in providing similar services in last 3 years.
- Financial capacity to deliver the requested services.
- Certificate of Incorporation(BRELA); TIN Certificate; All Valid Business License and Permits

Package-4: Civil work for Storage Facilities (Ref: MST-TZ-20220301-004)

The services include but not limit to, the following:

- Foundation of Tanks, soil improvement or CFG pile (if required).
- Procurement materials for the works
- Other general civil work relate to Storage Facilities.

Minimum Requirements:

- CRB with civil and/or building class 1
- Suitable resources availability including equipment, qualified personnel.
- ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, OHSAS 18001 (ISO45001:2015), or equivalent certificates.
- Suitable HSE, Social and Quality policy
- A proven track record of experience in providing similar services in last 3 years.
- Financial capacity to deliver the requested services.
- Certificate of Incorporation(BRELA); TIN Certificate; All Valid Business License and Permits

Application for registration with the EWURA local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.

Interested companies with the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest in English language by sending the above documents to pg@docgi.cn (not exceeding 20mbs) on or before **17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on 15th May, 2022**. Subject of the email should be **EOI for MST-TZ-20220301-001/002/003/004 - COMPANY NAME**.

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will receive, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), a detailed pre-qualification questionnaire for further evaluation by Company.

DOCG reserves the right not to consider companies that submit an incomplete dossier.

Note: Only prequalified companies will receive invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.




**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
FOR PROVISION SERVICE OF INSURANCE & MEDICAL & SECURITY
REFERENCE NO. MST-TZ-20220302**

Daqing Oilfield Construction Group Co., Ltd. (hereinafter as DOCG), as a CONTRACTOR for Storage Terminal of EACOP Project, invites experienced and reputable contractors that have demonstrable capability, willingness, ability and availability to perform related works to express their interest in providing the services of insurance, medical and security in Tanzania.

The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania and an onshore Marine Terminal in Chongoleani, near Tanga Port in Tanzania.

There are three (3) packages planned for Storage and Terminal as follows:

- Package-1: Insurance Service (Ref: MST-TZ-20220302-001)
- Package-2: Medical Service (Ref: MST-TZ-20220302-002)
- Package-3: Security Service (Ref: MST-TZ-20220302-003)

Should you be interested in participating any or all of the packages, please provide below minimum requirements clearly specifying the package(s) of interest, including the reference number(s).

Package-1: Insurance Service (Ref: MST-TZ-20220302-001)

The services include but not limit to, the following:

- Employer's Liability Insurance
- Comprehensive General Third Party Liability Insurance including Pollution Insurance
- Automobile Public Liability Insurance
- All Risk Insurance of all CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT and ITEMS

Minimum Requirements:

- Evidence of registration in TIRA.
- Experience in insuring major industrial projects and in any oil and gas projects.
- Financial capacity to deliver the requested services.
- Certificate of Incorporation(BRELA); TIN Certificate; All Valid Business License and Permits

Package-2: Medical Service (Ref: MST-TZ-20220302-002)

The services include but not limit to, the following:

- Provision of doctor, nurse for health care for project employees, doctor shall have ALS/BLS certificate.
- Provision of 24/7 emergency care.
- Provision of full equipped ambulance and driver, standby 24/7.

Minimum Requirements:

- ISO18788 certification
- ISO 45001 certification.
- Proof of commitment to upholding the VPSHR.
- Proof that hiring practices avoid the recruitment of personnel involved in human rights violations.
- Demonstrate the capacity to manage security operations, to provide training and that he implements a robust Corporate Social Responsibility policy in line with national labour regulations.
- Relevant experience for last 3 years.
- Insurance certification.
- Memorandum and Articles of Association
- Copies of government issued IDs for all shareholders
- Certificate of Incorporation(BRELA); TIN Certificate; All Valid Business License and Permits

Package-3: Security Service (Ref: MST-TZ-20220302-003)

The services include but not limit to, the following:

- Provision of 24/7 manned guarding services for project site premises (including camp, Storage warehouse, construction area)
- Provision of Security Control Room monitoring services 24/7 -English Speaking.
- Provision of a dedicated Security Supervisor- English Speaking.
- Provision of weekly Security Information reporting services for the East African Region, especially Tanzania.

Minimum Requirements:

- ISO18788 certification
- ISO 45001 certification.
- Proof of commitment to upholding the VPSHR.
- Proof that hiring practices avoid the recruitment of personnel involved in human rights violations.
- Demonstrate the capacity to manage security operations, to provide training and that he implements a robust Corporate Social Responsibility policy in line with national labour regulations.
- Relevant experience for last 3 years.
- Insurance certification.
- Memorandum and Articles of Association
- Copies of government issued IDs for all shareholders
- Certificate of Incorporation(BRELA); TIN Certificate; All Valid Business License and Permits

Application for registration with the EWURA local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.

Interested companies with the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest in English language by sending the above documents to pg@docgi.cn (not exceeding 20mbs) on or before **17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on 30th March, 2022**. Subject of the email should be **EOI for MST-TZ-20220302-001/002/003 - COMPANY NAME**.

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will receive, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), a detailed pre-qualification questionnaire for further evaluation by Company.

DOCG reserves the right not to consider companies that submit an incomplete dossier.

Note: Only prequalified companies will receive invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.

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LETSGO AFRICA DELIVERS DOUBLE DIGIT GROWTH IN PROFITS, BUILDING THE @LETSGONATION TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACROSS FOOTPRINT

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- Screen friendly version: Letshego_group_financials_december_2021.pdf
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Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 11th March, 2022 – Pan-African inclusive finance entity, Letshego Holdings Limited ("Letshego Africa" / "Letshego Group") has announced positive Full Year Results for the year ended 31 December 2021 this last Thursday 3 March 2022. The Group's consolidated performance for 2021 has been strong with double digit growth in profits: Profit before tax was up 11% year-on-year to P1.147 billion, and Profit after tax climbed 16% for the same comparative period, to P730 million.

Asset quality remains strong with the Group's Loan Loss Ratio (LLR) at -0.1% for the year, or 0.5% excluding once-off deductions. The Group's Non-performing loans ratio increased marginally to 5.9% for the year (FY2020: 5.3%), reiterating stability in the Group's credit and risk management framework. Performance for the year was largely driven by 17% growth in net customer advances, totalling P11.9 billion.

Other financial performance highlights include:

- * **NET INTEREST INCOME** up 6% to P1.989 billion (FY 2020: P1.861 billion)
- * **TOTAL ASSETS** increased by 30% year-on-year to P15.8 billion (FY 2020: P12.2 billion)
- * **CUSTOMER DEPOSITS** increased by 77% year-on-year to P1.2 billion (FY 2020: P664 million)
- * **COST TO INCOME RATIO** of 52% (FY 2020: 50%), in line with expectation due to heightened digital investment and insurance costs in Namibia
- * **EFFECTIVE TAX RATE (ETR)** improved to 36% (FY 2020: 39%)
- * **EARNINGS PER SHARE** improved by 16% at 31.5 thebe (FY 2020: 27.1 thebe)
- * **RETURN ON EQUITY (ROE)** increased to 14% (FY 2021: 13%) and return on assets was maintained at 5% (FY 2020: 5%).
- * **CAPITAL ADEQUACY RATIO** remains well capitalised at 35% (FY 2020: 39%) alongside strong asset growth
- * **DEBT TO EQUITY** increased to 145% in line with gearing ratio guidelines (FY 2020: 118%)
- * **NON-FUNDED INCOME** increased by 30% year-on-year to P368 million and grew to constitute 16% of Operating Income (FY2020: P284 million, 13% of Operating Income)

Letshego's double digit growth in profit was supported by the Group's progress in its Transformation Strategy, underpinned by digitalisation. Letshego's 5 year vision is on track to deliver world-class retail financial services, with a focus on platform customer experience, product eco-systems and multi-tier partnerships within its regional digital hubs. Considerable investment in this strategy was realised in 2021, with 5 distinct 'Value Streams' now leading Letshego's product delivery and customer focus, namely Lending, Savings & Deposits, Insurance, Payments and Lifestyle.

Andrew F. Okai, Group Chief Executive Officer, said, "Letshego's 2021 performance was sound with our regional team delivering double digit growth in both profit before and after tax, despite navigating our way through an ongoing global pandemic. We are making strong progress in transforming our organisation into an entity that leverages digital and end-to-end automation to unlock significant enterprise value, not only for our customers, but also for our investors and shareholders. People remain our strongest asset as we continue to acquire and empower individuals with specialist skills to power a future-fit organisation."

2021 saw the commencement of Letshego's second phase (the customer phase) of its 6-2-5 strategic execution roadmap, 'Plan 2'. The second phase will run for two years and is characterised by focused investment into deepening investment and differentiating digital and tech enhancements. This is with a view towards spurring momentum in end-to-end automation of processes, systems and platforms, while securing strategic milestone in platforms and products that enable a step change in tangible value for new and potential customers.

In the first half of the year, Letshego went live with its LetsGo Digital Mall in 10 markets, following successful pilots in Botswana and Nigeria. This unifying platform increases customer access across multiple channels including web, USSD, WhatsApp and mobile, enabling Letshego to build and evolve the platform towards its ambition of creating a company with an inclusive one-stop portal not only for Letshego products, saving, payments, loans and lifestyle solutions, but also enabling access to everyday facilities such as mobile data and airtime, municipal service payments, all in a secured environment.

Net Interest Income saw a gradual increase of 6% year-on-year, and non-funded income increased by 30% year-on-year, buoyed by momentum in new insurance offerings in select markets. In line with the Group's commitment to spurring focused investment, the Group's operating expenses grew 13% year-on-year. Investment is expected to increase further in the 2022 financial year.

Within the Group's lending value stream, Letshego achieved double digit growth in its Deduction at Source portfolio of 14% (FY2021: P10.5 billion). Profitability in Deduction at Source remains positive, buoyed by digital and system enhancements. The year saw slower growth in the Micro & Small Entrepreneur portfolio increasing in value by 7% to P859million (FY 2020: P806million), while the Mass Mobile Loans portfolio enjoyed stronger performance, with growth more than doubling in value to P568 million (FY 2020: P231 million).

Since launching the LetsGo Digital Mall, Letshego's regional subsidiaries are focusing their local campaigns to register both existing and potential customers. At the end of 2021, just over 93,000 Enterprise Active Customers (EAC) had registered on the Mall and loan applications submitted via digital channels increased to 78% by the end of the reporting period (End Dec 2020: 69%). At the time of going to press, the Group has already tripled this figure to registering more than 300,000 Enterprise Active Customers as at 3 March 2022. Letshego is on track to achieve 1 million EAC's by end of 2022. Enterprise Value is also expected to gain momentum with the ongoing addition of new products to the Mall, as well as the launch of flagship programmatic social impact solutions (including Affordable Housing, Agriculture, Education and Health).

Letshego's most vulnerable product segment in pandemic conditions remains its marginal portfolio of Micro and Small Entrepreneurs (MSE), comprising 8% of the Group's total portfolio. Recovery of this segment remained gradual through the year following intermittent pandemic containment measures that prevailed across select countries in 2021. The Group's Deduction at Source portfolio remained resilient with public sector jobs largely unaffected despite pandemic conditions. In an effort to mitigate risks associated with unpredictable pandemic environments, the Group is prudent in curtailing new loan growth in higher risk segments and geographies, while prioritising portfolio remediation and collection efforts.

2021 was a milestone year for Letshego's Savings and Deposit segment, crossing the P1 billion mark in portfolio value, and increasing 77% year-on-year to P1.2 billion (FY2020: P664 million). Operational efficiencies over the period saw the segment reduce its costs by 100 basis points, with final quarter on quarter growth measuring the highest trajectory at 14% growth.

Deposit mobilisation remains a priority for the Group, evidenced by increased deposit customer numbers growth of 17% to 722 921 (FY 2020: 619 481). Focused initiatives to grow the deposit base in 2022 include digitalising micro-saving solutions, salary domiciliation, development of our LetsGoPay payment ecosystems on the digital mall and growth in strategic partnerships.

Employee costs increased by 11% year-on-year supporting the acquisition of specialist and digital skills needed to support digitalisation, risk management and the overall Transformation Strategy. Letshego remains passionate about upskilling and empowering employees, customers and members of the community with future-fit, digital skills that support sustainable financial inclusion and digital-savvy economies for Africa's long-term benefit.

Ongoing initiatives to increase the number of agile thinking activators across Letshego's footprint were successful in 2021, with train-the-trainer Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe) training more than 40 employees as certified practitioners. 30 cross-functional Agile Squads now support customer and new product delivery targets. Performance measurement and tracking is now tracked online, with operational productivity having increased by 15% Group-wide since introducing Agile ways of working.

Other people-first initiatives include the appointment of 131 individuals with digital and specialist skills to support delivery and ongoing strategic transformation. Other empowerment initiatives include the launch of the LetsGo Digital Mastery programme for external candidates, leadership development programmes for both Executive and Managerial employees with Gordon Institute of Business School (GIBS), McKinsey's Black Academy for 25 employees to secure global expertise, and the extension of Letshego's online digital learning portal, where all employees have access to over 4,000 globally accredited training and skill enhancing curricula. Currently, 71% of employees are learning off the Coursera platform with 45,423 learning hours logged during the year, averaging 26 hours per employee. Letshego remains well capitalised at 35% capital adequacy ratio and has a strong liquidity position to support future business growth. The Board has resolved to pay a final dividend of 31.5 thebe.

Letshego Tanzania Ltd T/A Faidika Microfinance

In Tanzania, Letshego Tanzania Ltd T/A Faidika Microfinance is progressing well with its profit before tax performance of TZS 5.4 billion. The full year's performance trends were characterised by stability in terms of the level and quality of interest earning assets, introduction of new products, good collection rate at 96% and digitization efforts in the midst of Covid-19 outbreak. Challenges were experienced in the growth of portfolio, but these have been mitigated by product diversification to Private Payroll and Banc assurance and increased focus on the areas where Letshego has a competitive advantage in the market. Going forward, Letshego Tanzania Ltd has exciting product and solutions up for launch, these include Programmatic loans, digital wallets & payments, expansion of insurance business that will be powered by a full implementation of our digital platform (Digital Mall).

Baraka Munisi, Letshego Tanzania Ltd T/A Faidika Microfinance's Chief Executive officer added, "Letshego Tanzania's performance in the last year has been strong, with significant traction achieved in defending the portfolio amid Covid-19 Pandemic. Our people-first initiative remains a priority as we up skill our employees to support our digital transformation and seize our potential for sustainable growth. Tanzania is set to achieve a step-change in performance following the launch of Digital Mall. New products including Private Payroll and Banc assurance before Jan 2022".

About Letshego Group

The Letshego Group is an African multinational, first opening its doors in Botswana more than 21 years ago by offering loans to government employees. Today, the Group has over 3,000 employees comprising more than 21 nationalities, and supports public and private sector individual customers, as well as micro and small entrepreneurs. Letshego has operations in 11 sub-Saharan African markets, including Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Letshego Holdings Limited (the group holding company) is listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange, with additional listings including a subsidiary listing on the Namibian stock exchange, and bond listings on both the Ghana and Johannesburg Stock exchanges.

www.letshego.com – follow us on social media #LetshegoGroup #letsgodigitalnatio

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Tanzania economy remains resilient in spite of Russia-Ukraine war - govt

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame – Arusha

TANZANIA inflation rate has remained well under single digit, at 5 per cent despite an on-going conflict in the East Europe, while the shilling keeps getting stronger against all odds.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Emmanuel Tutuba, pointed out that while country's inflation rate fell to 3.7 per cent in February 2022 from 4.0 per cent in January, the situation remains stable even now despite the global Covid-19 pandemic, which has been taking toll on the economy for the last two years.

"And we are still doing well despite on-going unrest following the Russia, Ukraine conflicts in the Eastern Europe," stated the Permanent Secretary while addressing journalists in Arusha Region.

Organised by the Ministry of Finance and Planning the training is within the series of educational programs for media personalities targeting to enlighten members of the press on economic issues.

It was further stated during the media training that the country's inflation remains under control sticking well be-

low the government's medium-term target of 5 per cent.

Stability according to experts is also credited due to slower rises in the prices of key commodities, including food, which is the biggest driver of inflation in Tanzania.

The Permanent Secretary added that the country's total foreign reserves have reached a historical high, sailing well above the regional benchmarks. The central bank attributed the reserve increase to exports of goods and services that increased by 6.1 per cent.

"The country's foreign reserves are sufficient to cover about 6.4 months of projected imports, excluding those financed by foreign direct investment," stated Mr Tutuba.

"We now pay salaries in time, settle debts within the set timeframe and the country is also seamlessly executing all major development projects," he added.

On the other hand, the World Bank's GDP growth forecast for Tanzania after Covid-19 induced slowdown indicated that growth in 2019 stood at 5.8 per cent, then dropped to 2 per cent in the following year of 2020.

By the year 2021 growth rose to 4.3 per cent and in the course of this year, the country's GDP growth is being predicted at between 4.5 per cent and 5.5 per cent.



UNFPA project officer Ramadhangwa briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam at the weekend on the importance of people appearing for later this year's national population and housing census. With him is the agency's Deputy Resident Representative in Tanzania, Dr Wilfred Ochan. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Over 23,000 people in three districts trained on buying TBS certified goods

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 23,745 people including 18, 645 primary and secondary students in Kasulu, Mele and Nkasi districts have been educated on the importance of buying products that are certified by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

The move was hand in hand with encouraging retailers to register food and cosmetics stores.

The public education campaign ended over the weekend in those districts and was delivered at various primary and secondary schools, markets, stands, auctions and other open spaces where people showed up in large numbers to get education and awareness of various issues related to product quality.

TBS marketing officer, Mussa Luhombero said students and teachers are stakeholders in the importance of standards in their daily lives, so when they are given the education they become good ambassadors for their families and for the people around them.

According to Luhombero, the education is provided to students and their teachers to prepare them to be good ambassadors for promoting the use of quality products within the communities in which they live.

He reminded students, teachers and the general public to realize that the war on cheap goods is not only for TBS, but for the nation as a whole, explaining that students and teachers are important in standards in their daily lives and encouraged people to keep reporting when they encounter expired or in doubt of any product on the market, including those banned from use in the country.

He cited the example of banned products for use in the local market including second-hand underwear, dot 3 brake fluid oil and some cosmetics containing toxic ingredients. Luhombero encouraged traders to make a clear procedure of making follow-up on product registration that has been given by TBS.

Some of the teachers and students who received the education commended TBS for providing such education to the public at the district level, as it will increase awareness by ensuring the issue of poor product marketing in the market is reduced if not eliminated.

"I urge TBS to continue training in entrepreneurial groups in Lushoto District so that they can begin the process of obtaining a license to use the quality mark," said Edward Oswald one of the entrepreneurs.

One of the students who have benefited from the training, Joyce Damiani said TBS was doing a good job, as before where most of what were taught they did not know, so she promised to be good ambassador for her parents and guardians by making sure they buy quality and unexpired products.

French embassy expresses willingness to support Tanzanian students who fled the war in Ukraine

By Felister Peter

THE French Embassy in Dar es Salaam have expressed willingness to support to Tanzanian students who fled the war in Ukraine.

Nabil Hajlaoui, the ambassador of France to Tanzania made the remarks yesterday when speaking at a function for the signing of agreement between the French School Arthur Rimbaud and the Agency for French Education Abroad (AEFE).

"As we all know that dozens of students from Tanzania and the rest of Africa fled the war in Ukraine; many Tanzanian students have returned in the country. We hope they would wish to continue with their studies," said ambassador Hajlaoui.

He added: We are committed as French authorities to help these students; they should come to us and we will look at possibilities we can offer to let them continue with their studies." He said the embassy of France in Dar-es-Salaam is also committed to enhance relationship with Tanzania as well as continuing to support its education sector.

According to him, the issues of cooperation in education sector were also raised recently during President Samia Suluhu Hassan's visit in France. France supports Tanzania in various educational aspects such as teachers, researches and scholarships to university students.

The ambassador noted that French authorities through the agency continues and increases its financial support towards the French School

Arthur Rimbaud. He said signing of the agreement is an indication that there is strong trust with the team of the school-teachers, board and board members. "Having this school in Dar es Salaam symbolizes our cooperation with the government of Tanzania because it has opened doors to students from different cultural languages," President of school board, Rajab Katunda said the school enrol students from different cultural backgrounds whereas 30 per cent of them are Tanzanians. He said the remained 70 per cent of students are from 40 nationalities.

Katunda said that despite being a French school, they also cooperate with other local school through exchange programs. He said currently some students from Arthur Rimbaud School are at Morogoro International School for a one week exchange program. "We encourage Tanzanian parents to bring their children at the school because they will also learn other languages; established in 1967, the school has nearly 400 students from 40 nationalities and the demand is increasing," said Katunda.

The school's headmaster, Caroline Mianny-Martias said the school is growing rapidly bringing together nursery, elementary and secondary school students. She said students are taught other foreign languages including Spanish.

Through the network of French schools, students enrolled in Dar es Salaam can benefit from increased mobility and uninterrupted education on five continents.

Huge efforts to advertise Tanzania's food and agriculture sectors underway - envoy

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

GERMAN Ambassador to Tanzania, Regine Hess has said there are huge efforts being done by Tanzania and stakeholders to advertise the country globally especially in agriculture and food sectors, and stressed she would like to see Arusha develop like Germany in having all kinds of exhibitions in every sector.

The ambassador was explaining her experience here at the weekend at the opening of Tanzania International Food and Agriculture Expo (TANZFOOD Expo 2022) that involved 129 firms from within and outside Tanzania.

"As of now, Germany leads globally in having all kinds of exhibitions for every sector. Even you here in Arusha, can advertise Tanzania through this exhibition and it's here that agriculture and food markets are found as the world will fast recognise you," she said.

Arusha Regional Commissioner, John Mongella, opening the exhibition on behalf of the Minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe, said;

"The government intends to make Arusha a hub for global issues, Ambassador Hess has said Germany is the one leading in having all kinds of exhibitions for every sector. But I believe Arusha leads in the country in having big events of international standards."

He added: "our plan, as government is to work together with stakeholders to increase these events to make the entire world recognise Arusha as the place to go for staging exhibitions for every sector."

Mongella added that the strategy to make Arusha the hub of international events is driven by other KILIFAIR international exhibition slated for June this year as well as the World Tourism Conference.

"We are thankful to president Samia Suluhu Hassan and the Ministry of Natural resources and Tourism, and we have selected October this year to be the time for holding the world tourism conference which will bring together all tourism stakeholders and this will go simultaneously with other exhibitions intended to advertise our country, hence all stakeholders should prepare to participate in the coming events," added RC Mongella.

He added: "TANZFOOD Expo 2022 is the initial important step and I must encourage organisers of the exhibition that there is every sign that it will become a huge international exhibition on food and agriculture in the East Africa region.

The chairperson of the National Agricultural Council (NAC) who is also the managing director of Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), Dr Jacqueline Mkindi, said as for now Tanzania has opened up adding that, the sector that will put the country on the world map is the agriculture sector.

"Big agricultural markets have opened up and the entire world is now looking at Tanzania in taking its agricultural products."



This is at the pavilion of Tanzania's National Environment Management Council at the ongoing annual AGRITEQ Trade Fair in Doha, Qatar, with officials including NEMC communication manager Irene John (L) attending to visitors. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt warns dealers inflating fertiliser price

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) has warned traders inflating the price of the key farm input for the pretext of global price increase.

TFRA Executive Director, Dr Stephen Ngailo sounded the warning in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when speaking with some fertiliser traders.

Dr Ngailo said the government in July last year suspended the procedure of giving a price cap on fertiliser to allow competitiveness in the fertiliser business and make the product available to farmers.

"This was to allow the supply and demand idea to dominate the market, but traders abused the opportunity by hiking the price by more than 50 percent, something which is contrary to the rules and regulations governing fertiliser business in the country," he said.

According to Dr Ngailo, between September and December, the fertiliser price was going ok, but between February and March things became worse as many farmers cannot afford the inflated prices in the southern highlands regions-Katavi, Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe, Songea and Iringa.

Citing examples, Dr Ngailo said that in February this year, the price of UREA in Njombe

and Ruvuma regions was at between 96,000/- and 99,500/- per 50kg of fertiliser, while in Katavi it was sold at 105,000/-.

He, however, said that in recent months, traders have been sporadically increasing the price of commodity, without proper reasons causing lots of inconveniences to small-scale farmers in the country.

The TFRA boss cited examples in Njombe, saying that in March the price of 50kg of UREA is sold between 145,000/- and 150,000/-, in Ruvuma it is sold at 139,000/- and Katavi is sold at 145,000/-.

"This price is exorbitantly high to ordinary farmers. That's why I'm asking fertilizer dealers to operate according to the rules and regulations governing the sector for the interest of farmers in the country," he said.

He added that the government will not hesitate to suspend business licenses for fertiliser dealers who would be found hiking the price of the commodity.

"The government is working on the possibility of bringing back the former procedure of putting a price cap on all fertiliser such as Urea, DAP, CAN and SA," he said, reaffirming TFRA's commitment to ensure that farmers get quality, on time and at affordable price. TFRA would also ensure that fertiliser traders are served in line with fertiliser act no 9 of 2009.



INVITATION TO BID

DATE: 08TH MARCH, 2022

TENDER REF NO: 2022/AIRD/002

African Initiative for Relief and Development(AIRD) is calling for tenders for:

LOT 1: FRAMEWORK CONTRACT FOR VARIOUS VEHICLES, GENERATORS, AND MOTORCYCLES SPARE PARTS

LOT 2: SUPPLY OF LUBRICANTS

Interested and eligible Companies may obtain further information and collect tender documents at AIRD new logistics base Mubondo Kasulu office and Kibondo logistics base, during normal office working hours. ALL BIDDERS ARE REQUESTED TO SIGN IN THE COLLECTION REGISTER AND THE SUBMISSION REGISTER WHEN SUBMITTING YOUR DOCUMENTS.

The soft copy can be also obtained via the email below.

This e-mail will be used to request and receive the spare parts list documents and also to request any clarifications: airdprocurement2021@gmail.com.

A complete set of spare parts list may be obtained by interested candidates / bidders free of charges at AIRD reception offices in Kasulu or Kibondo starting Monday of 14th March, 2022.

Prices quoted should be inclusive of all taxes and for must be in Tanzania shillings and shall remain valid for (180) days from the closing date of tender (PRICES IS FOR GENUINE SPARE PARTS)

Completed spare parts price list documents are to be enclosed in plain sealed envelopes marked with Tender name and reference number and deposited in the Tender Box at AIRD new log base Mubondo - Kasulu office; the bidders must sign in the submission register maintained at the office receptionist. The spare part list documents should be addressed to:

The Procurement Committee
AIRD
P. O. B o x 428
Mubondo - Kasulu

The bids submission deadline is on 31st March 2022 at 15:00 pm and the bids opening is on the same day at 16:00 at AIRD Office.

Thank you

AIRD Procurement Committee

216749001

PLAN INTERNATIONAL TANZANIA



Request for Quotation for Supply of Vocational Education Training Hub Tools and Machinery

RFQ No. PIT/CO/29/FY22

1. Plan International Tanzania is an International humanitarian child-centered development organization without religious, political or government affiliation. Plan's mission is to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries through a process that unites people across cultures and adds meaning to their lives. Plan Tanzania has a physical presence and implements projects in the following Regions: Dar Es Salaam, Coast, Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Rukwa, Kigoma (Refugees Emergency Program in Kibondo District).
2. Plan International Tanzania has set aside funds through A Working in Future project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be used to cover eligible payment to Supply Vocational Education Training hub tools and machinery
3. Interested eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to tenders@plan-international.org Attn: Head of Procurement and Logistics. Bidding documents in the English language will be sent to interested bidders by email. Plan Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing of the bid documents.
4. All quotation in **one original plus one copy**, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes "marked the above quotation number" must be delivered to the address, Plan International Tanzania, Central Technologies House, Plot No. 96 Mikochei Light Industrial Area, New Bagamoyo Road - Next to TBC1&NECTA, P O Box 3517 before 14:30pm EAT Friday 1st April 2022.
5. Late and electronic quotations shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Country Director
Plan International Tanzania
Central Technologies House
Plot No. 96 Mikochei Light Industrial Area
New Bagamoyo Road - Next to TBC1&NECTA
P O Box 3517
Tel: +255 22 2773258/64/72
Dar es Salaam

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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TOWN PLANNERS REGISTRATION BOARD

1 Year IN OFFICE



Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan
President of the United Republic of Tanzania

Congratulations

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of TOWN PLANNERS REGISTRATION BOARD congratulate the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, on her completion of ONE successful year in office.

We wish you long life, good health and prosperity as you continue to lead our great nation.

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Town Planners Registration Board, Maktaba Street, P.O.Box 1150 Dodoma, Phone: 0262323833,
Direct line:+255753504222, Email:registrar@tprb.go.tz

UVCCM in Kibiti applauds President Samia's one-year record



Juma Ndaruke, CCM's Kibiti District Youth Wing chairman, addresses a meeting held in the district at the weekend. The focus was on achievements made during President Samia Suluhu Hassan's first year in office and the party wing's performance in the last five years. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent

CHAMA Cha Mapinduzi Youth Wing (UVCCM) in Kibiti District, Coast Region has praised president Samia Suluhu Hassan for her continued hard work since she took office, promising continued support for both the government and the ruling party.

This was said by UVCCM chairperson in Kibiti District, Juma Kassim Ndaruke during the youth wing's conference held over the weekend to outline President Samia's one year successes and UVCCM achievements in the district for the last five years.

"On behalf of UVCCM in Kibiti District, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate president Samia following her one year success which has seen this country continue making a lot of progress in terms of development. For the past year, Kibiti District has received 2.3bn/- from the government for development projects and the funds were directed on the construction of classrooms to improve the learning environment for our children," said Ndaruke.

Ndaruke added: "UVCCM in the district worked hand in hand with the government at district level in making sure that we meet the government's goals by participating in construction of classrooms from foundation level to comple-

tion."

Ndaruke said the current leadership whose term comes to an end this year, was elected into office in 2017 and the wing was financially poor, something which led to stalemate of implementation of many projects which would have benefited the party and the community in Kibiti District.

"As the ruling party's youth wing, we decided to put into place a strategic plan to strengthen youth participation and setting goals to ensure they participate in political and development activities. This improved the economic situation as well as the welfare of the people," he said.

He said in order to motivate more youth in the party, they organised a special camp where more than 500 youth took part as well as forming youth mobilisation groups.

"These motivations have enabled our youth-led groups to participate fully at various projects and on the 2021 national torch relay, we took second place at national level due to our participation," he said.

He added that the party's youth wing has been able to launch more than 30 new branches in various wards within the district, something which has seen huge increase of members within the party.

Ndaruke said in supporting the government's initiative of empowering the youth, the wing came up with a strategy of forming youth groups totalling 85.

"The groups have benefited from loans amounting to 250, 630,028/- from the municipal council, I believe behind a strong and dedicated UVCCM which is very committed to participating on all projects within the district both for the party and government," he added.

Kibiti District Commissioner, Ahmed Abbas commended the outgoing chairman for his hard work in uniting youth in the district, something which helped successful completion of government development projects.

"I would sincerely like to express my sincere gratitude to the outgoing chairman of UVCCM, for his dedication and for being able to put the youth together, we all understand how important it is to link the success of government activities with the youth. As the head of all government activities in this district, I have worked with him very closely and he has been a true leader. I take this opportunity to wish him all the best and hope he gets a higher position than the one he is leaving behind," he said.

Abbas also urged CCM members in the district to get ready for the party's elections which are set to take place later this year.



Jane Goodall Institute

TANZANIA

For Wildlife Research, Education & Conservation

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR GOODS, SERVICES AND WORKS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is a global community conservation organization that advances the vision and work of Dr. Jane Goodall by conserving chimpanzees and inspiring communities to conserve the natural world we all share, we improve the lives of people, animals and the environment, we strongly believe everything is connected and everyone can make a difference.

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) was founded in 1977 by Dr. Jane Goodall. The JGI with its partners makes a difference through landscape and community-centered conservation, chimpanzees research projects, environmental education to young generation, and the innovative use of science and technology. We work closely with local communities in Tanzania, inspiring hope through a collective power of individual action. JGI-TZ has a longstanding history on community-led integrated conservation in Western Tanzania (Uvinza, Kigoma, Tanganyika and Nsimbo DCs) with a head office in Dar es Salaam.

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania now invites sealed applications from eligible bidders for the prequalification of the following procurement categories.

Lot Number	Description
	Category I: Goods/Supplies
JGITZ/FY2022-23/01	Printing Services: Designing, printing and supplying of Staff ID and business cards, newsletters, fliers, brochures, posters, branded stationery items, envelopes, tents, burners, sign boards, billboards, mugs, coats, t-shirts, caps, manuals, magazines, various reports, and the related services.
JGITZ/FY2022-23/02	Supply of office sundries/general merchandise/kitchen supplies (sugar, milk, tealeaves, coffee, milo etc), cleaning and sanitary materials (Air freshner, Sanitizers, Mops, Toilet papers, Toiletries, etc).
JGITZ/FY2022-23/03	Supply of IT equipments/machines: computers, UPS, laptops, desktop computers, GPS, Network equipment, tablets, servers, Cameras and related accessories, printers, scanners, photocopiers, projectors, fax machines, consumables and related IT equipment
JGITZ/FY2022-23/04	Supply of general office stationery, cartridges, and tonners
JGITZ/FY2022-23/05	Supply of office furniture and fixtures (Air Conditioner, Curtains, Blinds, Carpets, Fans, electrical equipment etc)
JGITZ/FY2022-23/06	Supply, repair and servicing of fire extinguishers and related equipment
JGITZ/FY2022-23/07	Supply of tires and tubes for motor vehicles and motor cycles preferably importers, dealers and distributors
JGITZ/FY2022-23/08	Laboratory and Medical Supplies (Chemicals, First AID Kit, Groves etc)
JGITZ/FY2022-23/09	Supply of agriculture and forestry items (Seeds, tubes, wheelbarrow, etc)
JGITZ/FY2022-23/10	Supply of Solar equipment and servicing
	Category II: Services
JGITZ/FY2022-23/11	Provision of computers and peripherals (copiers and printers etc) service, repair and maintenance
JGITZ/FY2022-23/12	Provision of clearing and forwarding services-Dar es Salaam
JGITZ/FY2022-23/13	Provision of catering services for meetings, training and conferences (Kigoma DC, Uvinza DC, Mpanda DC).
JGITZ/FY2022-23/14	Provision of Accommodation services and Meeting Venue
JGITZ/FY2022-23/15	Provision of courier, transportation, and mail order services
JGITZ/FY2022-23/16	Provision of motor vehicle and motor cycle service, repairs and maintenance
JGITZ/FY2022-23/17	Provision of Generator service, repair and maintenance
JGITZ/FY2022-23/18	Provision of Boat engine service, repair and maintenance-Kigoma
JGITZ/FY2022-23/19	Provision of transport services specifically town shuttles, double cabin pick-ups, station wagon, minibuses and trucks.
JGITZ/FY2022-23/20	Provision of air ticketing services/travel agency services.
JGITZ/FY2022-23/21	Provision of Insurance broker service
JGITZ/FY2022-23/22	Provision of security services
JGITZ/FY2022-23/23	Provision of cleaning services
	Category III: Works
JGITZ/FY2022-23/24	Provision of general office repair and maintenance (Plumbing, Electrical, AC service, carpentry, painting, masonry etc)
JGITZ/FY2022-23/25	Provision for Installation, service, repair and maintenance of Local Area Networks and PBX systems.

Note: The prospective suppliers may submit their proposals for one or more lots in separate sealed envelopes for every application.

1. Interested eligible firms must confirm their intention to participate by indicating all relevant contact information and request for the prequalification documents through an email address jgi-tanzania@janegoodall.or.tz. Applicants will be responsible to follow up to ensure that JGI Tanzania has received the notification. Prequalification documents in English language will be sent to interested applicants by email upon request. Applicants will be responsible to confirm receipt of the prequalification documents. JGI Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing of the bid documents.

2. Applications for pre-qualification should be submitted in one original copy in sealed envelopes, delivered by hand or post to the address provided in the tender document. Deadline for submission shall be **12PM EAT on Thursday 31st March, 2022.**

Firm launches national promotion to reward customers

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

VIVO Energy Tanzania that distribute and sell Engen branded car oils and Shell lubricants has launched a national promotion for the use of the products called 'Jaza Ushinde na Engen'.

In the promotion customers of these products will have the opportunity to win various prizes including 'bodaboda' made Boxer BMI25, refrigerator and modern TVs.

Speaking at the launch of the promotion the company's president for the East and Southern Africa Region, Hans Paulsen said the aim of the promotion was to thank their

customers for supporting them in 2021.

"We thank our loyal customers for their support and return to Engen service centers for high quality fuel and excellent customer service. The 'Jaza Ushinde na Engen' promotion aims to reward our customers, and we hope to find winners soon," said Paulsen.

He said Vivo Energy Tanzania is proud to provide some of the best products and services in the country as well as leading professional advice in the technology and technical sector and personal service provided to customers.

Explaining how to participate in

the promotion, Paulsen said customers will be required to refill their fuel at any Engen facility across the country where they will be purchasing the lottery drawer.

"After the filling fuel customers will be required to fill out an entry coupon and attach a copy of the transaction receipt and enter it in the lottery box at the service center, the customer will leave with the coupon section for confirmation on the day the winner is announced," said Paulsen.

He said the promotion would end on May 9 this year and customers would be excited about the chance to win the prizes they had prepared for them.

PACT TANZANIA



STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS COMMITTED FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IN THE YEAR 2022.

To comply with Regulation 12 of the Government Notice 609 on Financial Transparency and Accountability, Pact Tanzania hereby discloses below funds committed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of financing year 2022 budget for implementation of ACHIEVE project activities. Pact also discloses funds committed by USAID through Freedom House for financing year 2022 budget for implementation of Data Driven Advocacy (DDA) project activities. Pact implements its activities through local civil society organizations (CSOs) whereby a significant amount of these funds is channeled to CSOs for implementation of project activities. Pact works with around 43 CSOs on ACHIEVE and DDA projects in Tanzania.

Project Name	ACHIEVE Project	Data Driven Advocacy (DDA)
Funding Agency	USAID	USAID
Project purpose	ACHIEVE is a five-year, USAID-funded global cooperative agreement with the dual objectives of attaining and sustaining HIV epidemic control among at-risk and hard-to-reach pregnant and breastfeeding (PBF) women, infants, children, and youth, as well as to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS and prevent HIV transmission among these populations; and supporting the transition of prime partner funding and implementation to capable local partners in order to meet the PEPFAR goal of 70% of funding to local partners in Tanzania.	DDA Activity seeks to improve and sustain Tanzanian rights-focused civil society's ability to advocate for, and influence policy on, key national level rights issues using better data and information to drive results. The program is aimed at mentoring and providing technical assistance to rights-focused CSOs in data collection and evidence-based advocacy.
Project duration	October 01, 2021 - September 30, 2022	September 01, 2017-August 28, 2022
Additional Funds committed for Financial Year 22	\$ 14,718,127.00	\$729,209.00
Regions of implementation	Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar Mjini Magharibi, Coastal, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Mwanza, Geita, Kagera, Tabora, Kigoma, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Mara, Dodoma, Singida, Morogoro, Iringa, Njombe, Ruvuma, Mtwara, Mbeya, Katavi, Rukwa and Songwe.	All regions in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar



Thomas Ngawaiya (C), chairman of the Centre for Good Governance and Development in Tanzania, pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend presenting the agency's evaluation of Samia Suluhu Hassan's first year as Tanzania's President. He said, overall, she had performed well on the good governance score. He is with the agency's secretary, Hamad Tao (L), and board member Erasto Tumbo. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Rights activists push for gender budgeting to empower women

By Correspondent Mary Kadoko

HUMAN Rights activists have suggested the need for gender budgeting to empower women to be able to bring their impacts in different sectors countrywide.

They made the suggestions in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when speaking at the official launch of a book titled; 'The Reality of Women Participation in state pillars' (executive, legislature, and parliament) and written by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP).

One of the participants, Lilian Liundi affirmed that resource allocation initiatives are inevitable as women empowerment matters are tabled.

"All women who are in power today, wouldn't be there if weren't empowered in different ways. So, there is a need to put in place measures to empower them," said Lilian Liundi who

is the TGNP's managing director

She lauded President Samia Suluhu Hassan for breaking the record by putting in power women to hold top positions that were all time held by men.

She also cited the appointment of the new director of Presidential Communications Zuhura Yunus and appointing the then Deputy Speaker Tulia Ackson as the candidate to hold the Speaker's seat.

One of the participants, Nyasugara Kadege said it's high time that women act responsibly in different positions they hold as they represent the voice of others.

Nyasugara said: "As we launch this book today my appreciation goes to the team that made this possible as the data will produce expert leaders from the local to the government level. Women's agendum revolution however has positioned so many

women in power, President Samia Suluhu Hassan being an example."

The Counselor in charge of development analysis and planning at Canadian High Commission in Tanzania, Taslim Mandhani also urged the government to assimilate Canada's decision of making sure that 40 percent of boards carry 40 percent of women qualified to hold power.

She said: "My country has the law that demands 40 percent of women representatives in all available boards, something that has influenced women empowerment. So it's my hope that this will also be applied here as a step forward towards the women's agenda revolution."

UN Women programme analyst, Pella Kijuu called a task team for women to making sure that exploitation roots towards women are nowhere to be seen as the vision is 'No one is left behind.'



CONGRATULATIONS ON A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The Management and staff of Kamal Group of Companies join the nation in congratulating the President of the United Republic of Tanzania H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan as she marks one year of her appointment as President.

"Your commitment towards building a better Tanzania is really inspiring and we as Kamal Group will continue our support towards your vision"

Congratulations Hon. President Samia Suluhu Hassan

KAZI IENDELEE..

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Women call for elimination of gender bias

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

MEMBERS of Incredible Naari Platform have underlined the need for Tanzanians to break bias among boys and girls.

They made the call recently when celebrating the International Women's Day; themed: "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow."

Platform's founder, Jaya Choudhury said: "It's high time parents give equal attention between girls and boys."

"During the event, members discussed on how to break gender bias so that parents can understand the effect of gender bias and later on giving important things to girls similarly to boys."

She said that during the event members tried to see how gender bias can be eliminated "because we believe that girls are very intelligent similarly to boys and should be given important things which they need to meet their dreams."

"In some families, girls are not getting the needed attention as it is to boys, to meet their dreams," she said, lauding President Samia Suluhu Hassan for being the first female president of Tanzania, urging young girls to emulate that spirits for future leaders.

She commended her endeavours of bringing socioeconomic development in the country, describing her

as truly incredible leader.

Incredible Naari has members all over the world who mingle through social media outlets such as Facebook and in Tanzania it was created in May 2020 by Jaya Choudhary and Lalita Mathur Chauhan.

She expressed thanks to Mama Shamim Akhtar who was guest of honour whose presence made the event more inspiring.

"We express thanks to our sponsor Mitsumi Distribution Nitu Priyadarshi whose support helped us to take the event on next level and thanks to all guest who trusted and joined us, no event is successful without participants," she said.

So far the group is having more than 2500 members from more than 40 countries.

The idea is to provide a safe platform for ladies to be able to express themselves in terms of thoughts, stories, jokes, dance and other issues.

"Here you are encouraged to show your creativity, appreciate others in the process inspire others as well and motto of the group is "inspire, appreciate and motivate ladies around us and spread positivity," she said.

Mama Shamim Khan added: "Thanks for all the honour bestowed upon me during the International Women's Day celebrations by your esteemed group, it was a blast, thanks Zaitun for your invitation extended to me."



RFQ Title: Procurement of Computer Laptops
RFQ Number: 2022-PACT/02/06
Date of Solicitation: 15th March 2022
Closing Date and Time: 29th March 2022, 11:00 am (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)
Questions and Clarifications: Due by 28th March 2022
Estimated Delivery/ Performance Date: 30th May 2022.

Introduction to Pact:

Pact Inc. is an international non-profit organization with its headquarters in Washington, DC. Pact serves communities challenged by poverty and marginalization because we envision a world where everyone owns their future. To do this, we build systemic solutions in partnership with local organizations, businesses, and the government. Our goal is thriving, resilient communities where those we serve are heard, capable, and vibrant.

The Adolescents and Children, HIV Incidence Reduction, Empowerment, and Virus Elimination (ACHIEVE) project is a five-year, USAID-funded global project to reach and sustain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, infants, and children. ACHIEVE is implemented by Pact, in partnership with Jhpiego, Palladium, No Means No Worldwide, and WI-HER. The overall goal is to improve access to HIV-inclusive services to improve the health and well-being of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). The project is working to support and strengthen the capacity of the national and community-level social services workforce, systems, and structures to ensure quality services for OVC, at-risk AGYW, and people living with HIV (PLHIV) at National and across all regions of Tanzania.

Pact Tanzania through ACHIEVE project will procure computer laptops for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to ease project implementation reporting and proper documentation.

Overall Objective:

The overall objective of this assignment is to procure computer laptops for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to ease project implementation reporting and proper documentation.

A. Requirement/ Scope of Work

S/No.	Item	Description/Specification.	Quantity
1.	Laptop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display – 14" • Processor – 11th Gen i5 • Ram – 8 GB DDR4 • HDD – 1 TB • O/S – Win 10 Professional 64 Bit license pre-installed • USB ports • HDMI port • RJ-45 Ethernet port • Black/Silver • Warranty – 1 year and above 	40

Scope of Work

Specific scope of work includes but should not be limited to the following:

1. Work with the procurement and ICT team to verify computer laptops adhere the quality and specification agreed.
2. Procuring and delivering the computer laptops per standard agreed.
3. Comply with Section 889 of the US National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Interested vendors should request the full Terms of Reference (ToR) through email with the subject line **"TOR for Procurement of Computer Laptops" to ProcurementTZ@pactworld.org before 28th March 2022**

All questions and requests for clarification should be directed to ProcurementTZ@pactworld.org with the subject line **"Request for Clarification: Procurement of Computer Laptops" before Friday, 28th March 2022.**

B. Eligibility

To be considered for the award, vendors must currently be legally operating in Tanzania, and the quotation must include all of the following information:

- Ability to meet or exceed the requirements/technical specifications outlined in Section A;
- Ability to deliver the items/services specified in Section A no later than the date(s) required.

C. Submission Instructions

The following information is to be included by a vendor in the proposal:

- Quote, valid for at least 90 days.
- Current company profile.
- Copies of registration, certificate and address of their registered office, valid business license, VAT, TIN certificates, and Tax clearance certificate.
- Item's specification full addressed in the quotation.
- Manufacturer authorization certificate for the quoted item/s.
- Evidence of similar assignments, and at least three (3) names and addresses of client served.
- Current Audited financial statement – for two consecutive years.
- Delivery time must be specified.
- Payment terms 100% after delivery.

Vendors who wish to answer this RFP should send their proposals in sealed envelopes to Pact Tanzania Head Office by 29th March 2022, 11:00 am. All sealed envelopes need to be marked as **"Procurement of Computer Laptops"**

Office Address: :

The Tender Committee
Pact Tanzania
74 Uporoto Street, Victoria
P. O. Box 6348, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Proposals submitted through emails will not be considered.

Quotations received after that time or at a different address may not be accepted

As mentioned above, all quotations and delivery dates shall be valid for at least 90 days following the submission.

PACT will open all bids on 29th March 2022 at 11.30 am in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2022

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

FCC is right to check foul play, but markets are best

FAIR Competition Commission officials have begun investigating why prices of building materials are rising at a fast pace, with intent to figure out if some businesspersons are engaged in cartel pricing.

That would be an act of sabotage where economic sabotage charges can be levelled in court, according to FCC director general William Erio.

It was interesting that he made remarks to journalists with World Consumers Rights Day (today - March 15) just around the corner.

While the situation merits screening, it is likely that the price hikes are not surprising even if they are avoidable, as it all depends on the supply chain.

Once a crucial item for manufacturing one or a series of items is priced higher than is usually the case, it can cause a chain reaction in the pricing system as a whole.

The standard defensive reaction is to sell at higher prices when manufacturing or importation costs rise. It all depends on whether the factor is local or is external in its origin - or its intensity.

What the commission appears to be worried about, though, is appreciation of prices merely by expectations of a shortage, without that situation actually being seen on the ground.

It is a matter of getting a signal that a certain importer for some input has failed to obtain it, or a major producer has obtained a foreign market outlet as some other sources for the product fail to fulfil earlier export pledges, etc.

In these days of serious - even relentless - disturbances in glob-

al supply chains after lockdowns and now conflicts, anticipation of price rises isn't surprising. Prices are part of a strategic setting in risk taking and can also be anticipated.

Syndicates for hiking prices are common in business, and governments commonly make efforts to control such situations, with varying degrees of success.

The proper limitation against price rises is increased supply such that, if one raises prices, consumers will look elsewhere.

But if one raises prices and the government steps in, no new producer will enter the sector as the hiking producer is likely to be an inefficient one and thus be replaced by the market if one imports cheaper products, and then moved to set up a local plant for the same.

In other words, commissions may not really serve as the ultimate answer to price rises but could just help.

If an importer or a general commodities agent finds that a producer has hiked prices, why wouldn't he or she not obtain a short-term credit facility, import one thousand tonnes of the commodity to sell at the old, normal price, ruin the hiking fellow and laugh all the way to the bank?

If price hikes are stopped by bureaucracy, suppose hikers pay a price for bureaucrats to stay put? And if it is market forces and bureaucrats say it is a cartel, do they not scare new investments?

So, then, what next? It appears judicious for us make an effort to trust the market rather, with some caution, than keep raising alarms.

Agricultural transformation needs new structures, fewer programmes

HOPES are being raised on how the implementation of district agricultural development plans (DADPs) could have a huge impetus in accelerating agricultural transformation countrywide.

This is the view adopted by top-level government advisers and aired by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, taking the current developments as a new stride in the drive to accelerate agricultural transformation.

It is expected that this will be the case when the plans are being devised, developed and implemented in all districts.

The PM is on record as having affirmed that the proper implementation of DADPs will bring a lasting solution to many challenges adversely affecting the agriculture sector, listed as the whole category of crop growers, livestock keepers, pastoralists and people engaged in fishing. One reason for this optimism is that DADPs will catalyse industrialisation by making raw materials more available for industrial undertakings.

DADPs for 30 local government authorities (LGAs) have just been launched, and this is seen as the beginning of a new vision for district-level strategies and its implementation in all regions. There are some new things there.

One agro-sector advisory group involved in the scheme is the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) founded by the late Dr Kofi Annan, one of Africa's most illustrious sons.

AGRA worked hard to bring about the DADP visions for the 30 districts, and Tanzania is asking it to consider supporting similar efforts to cover the 154 districts countrywide.

If the vision is clear enough, showing that it can fruitfully be realised in any district, it is likely to be taken up even if

AGRA isn't on the spot in each district. There is a vast number of financial institutions that can chip in, so long as the vision is workable.

While the details of DADPs may not be entirely clear, there are things that can easily be noticed in the improvement of the agro-sector.

A case in point relates to the high prices of inputs and the low prices of crops or grains, neither of which is directly within the ambit of the government to put under control.

The dimension of vision design and sphere of implementation is another matter, where the PM said that DADPs will guide the next stage of the national agricultural sector development programme (ASDP) in local governments.

The idea is that LGAs are more attuned to local contexts, opportunities and challenges in the specific district setting than otherwise.

There is however something like a disclaimer on the part of the government in directing the design and implementation to focus on districts, without direct avenue given for ministerial intervention or obligation except for broader policy issues.

Experience shows that when the district or local setting is at issue, it is necessary for the vision or design to be totally tuned to the market (as crop markets and input issues) with no possible recourse to discretion among district officials.

Even when crop pricing, input supplies and credit sources exist, land occupancy structures that effectively fetch credit in banks must also be there or DADPs will rely on farmers seeking loans through customary land occupancy certificates, and be denied access.

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Forget about Covid-19, so do some people say..

By Jeffrey A. Tucker

EARLIER this year, a phrase was trending because Bari Weiss used it on a talk show: "I'm done with Covid." Many people cheered simply because the subject has been the source of vast oppression for billions of people for two years.

There are two ways to be over Covid-19. One way is to do what the memo from the consultants of the Democratic National Committee in the United States suggested: declare the war won and move on. For political reasons.

Deaths attributed to Covid-19 across the US are higher now than they were in the summer of 2020 when the whole country was locked down. They are also higher now than during the election of November the same year.

But today we are just supposed to treat it for what it is: a seasonal virus with a disparate impact on the aged and frail.

Rationality is back! In that sense, it's good to forget about Covid-19 if it means living life normally and behaving with clarity about what does and does not work to mitigate a virus.

The Democrats decided that the hyper-restrictionist ways were risking political fortunes and that, in the circumstances, the line and the talking points needed to change.

The other way to get over Covid-19 is to forget completely about the last two years, especially the astonishing failures of compulsory pandemic controls.

Forget about the school closures that cost a generation two years of learning. Forget that the hospitals were largely closed to people without a Covid-related malady.

Forget about the preventable nursing-home deaths. Forget that dentistry was practically abolished for a few months, or that one could not even get a haircut.

Forget the stay-at-home orders, the church and business closures, the playground and gym closures, the bankruptcies, the travel restrictions, the firings.

Forget the crazed advice for everyone to mask up and physically separate, the record drug-related deaths, the mass depression, the segregation, the brutalisation of small business, the labour-force dropouts, the forced stoppages of art and culture, and the capacity limits on venues that forced weddings and funerals to be on Zoom.

Forget about a closer look at the bogus mathematical models, vaccine trials, the circumstances behind the Emergency Use Authorisations, the adverse effects, the inaccuracies of the PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test, and misclassification of deaths.

Forget the billions and trillions of misdirected funds, the division of all workers between essential and nonessential, and the millions who were forced to get jobs they did not want.

Forget about the possibility of a laboratory leak, the deadly use of ventilators, the neglect of therapeutics, the near-banning of all talk of natural immunity, the overselling of the vaccine, the lost religious holidays.

Forget about the lonely deaths due to the blocking of loved ones from hospitals, the censorship of science, the manipulated and hidden CDC (national Centres for Disease Control and Prevention) data, the payments to the major media, the symbiotic relationship between government and Big Tech, the demonisation of dissent, and the abuse of emergency powers.

Forget how health bureaucracies headed by political appointees took over the task of regulating nearly the whole of life, while messaging the country that freedom just doesn't matter much anymore!

Who precisely benefits from this method of being "over Covid-19?" The unrepentant hegemon that gave us this disaster to begin with. They want to be in the clear. They don't just desire to be exonerated; they don't want to be judged at all.

They want to be unaccountable. The best path towards that end is to foster public amnesia.

I don't just mean the US Democrats. This calamity all began under a Republican president who still retains folk-hero status. Plus all Republican governors except one (Kristi Noem of South Dakota) bought into the initial lockdowns. They don't want to talk about it either.

There is a vast machine extant that desperately wants everyone to forget. Not even forgive, just forget. Don't think about the old thing. Think about the new thing instead. Don't learn lessons.

Don't change the system. Don't uproot the bureaucracies or examine why the court system failed us so miserably until it was too late. Don't seek more information. Don't seek reforms. Don't take away powers from the CDC and NIH, much less Homeland Security.

Meanwhile, we live amidst a crisis without precedent. It affects health, economics, law, culture, education, and science. Nothing has been left untouched. The end of travel augmented every pre-existing international tension.

The wild government spending and the monetary accommodation of the ballooning debt, in addition to supply chain breakages, are all directly responsible for record levels of inflation.

It's much easier to blame Putin than it is to look at the failed policies of the United States and many other governments in the world.

There are so many remaining questions. My own estimate is that we know about 5 per cent of what we need to know to make sense of this whole disaster. What precisely were Fauci, Collins, Farrar, Birx, and the whole gang doing in February 2020 when they weren't looking for early treatments?

Why did so many prominent epidemiologists completely reverse their stated views on lockdowns? They flipped from being largely skeptical of coercive measures on March 2, 2020, to fully embracing the most egregious measures only a few weeks later.

Moreover, there was clearly a conspiracy emanating from the top

to smear dissenting scientists who later said that the lockdowns were causing vastly more harm than good. The people behind the Great Barrington Declaration were targeted by government and media for professional ruin.

When did the vaccine companies get rolled into the mix and under what terms? We need to know the when and why of the questioning and denial of natural immunity.

Who was involved in this egregious and wholly inaccurate attempt to stigmatise those who rejected the vaccine? Where were the trials for generic therapeutics that the NIH is supposed to fund?

Why in general did an entire establishment choose panic, lockdown and mandate over calm and the traditional practice of public health?

I have my own questions. What were the conditions and the messages that led the New York Times to use its podcasts and printed pages (February 27 and 28, 2020) to spread absolute panic?

This institution had never done this before in any previous pandemic. Why did it choose this path even weeks before Anthony Fauci and Deborah Birx started lobbying then President Donald Trump to pull the trigger? The two were the top coronavirus advisers of the former president's administration.

To put a fine point on it: how much money was involved?

What we need is a full timeline with every detail for two years. We need reparations for the victims. We need to take powers away from hundreds and thousands of leading politicians, scientists, public health officials, and media executives.

What changed pandemic panic to a new calm is the force of public opinion. God bless the protestors, polls and truckers.

That is a great improvement but there is a long way to go to rekindle the love of liberty that can protect us next time. It's not about left and right. We need a new understanding of public health, bodily autonomy, and essential liberties.

Some people want global amnesia and otherwise no change in the regime, no follow-up, no investigations, no connecting dots, no justice, no answers to burning questions.

And consider this. If we are so over Covid-19, why are people still being fired for not being vaccinated, including people with superior natural immunity?

Why have the fired not been rehired? Why the masks on planes, trains, and buses? Why the continued quarantine rules?

Why the restrictions on international travel? Why are children still forced to cover their faces? Why

must everyone who wants to see a Broadway play be forced to cover up his or her smile?

The remnants of restrictions, mandates and impositions are there to serve as a reminder of the prevailing ruling-class attitude towards their policy choices. There are no regrets. They have done everything right. And they still have their thumb on you.

That is intolerable. By all means, forget about Covid-19 and live life as normally as possible in defiance of those who live to foster fear. But, never forget the disastrous Covid-19 restrictions that created such destruction. We cannot let anyone off the hook, much less pretend that the policy disaster that created billions of personal tragedies never happened.

The world we live in today - with worse health, economic dislocations, demoralised and under-educated children and youth, segregations and censorships, the unquestioned ubiquity of rules manufactured by the undemocratic administrative state, the instability and fear that comes with no longer trusting the system - is a far cry from the one that existed only a few years ago.

We need to know why, how and who. There are millions of questions that cry out for answers. We must have them. And we need to work to recover, rebuild, and ensure that it will never happen again.

A dispatch from the Brownstone Institute, of which Jeffrey A. Tucker is founder and president, published in The Epoch Times. However, the views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of The Epoch Times.



There are so many remaining questions. My own estimate is that we know about 5 per cent of what we need to know to make sense of this whole disaster. What precisely were Fauci, Collins, Farrar, Birx, and the whole gang doing in February 2020 when they weren't looking for early treatments?

Ramaphosa: There is a long way to go, but Special Tribunal is game changer in war against corruption

By Cyril Ramaphosa

THE Special Tribunal of the Special Investigating Unit has shown we are turning the tide against corruption and State Capture, and unravelling the vast webs of patronage.

During the Presidential Imbizo in Makikeng over the past weekend, several citizens raised concerns about the pace of the fight against corruption. They told me what I have heard in many other communities across the country: that the perpetrators of such acts are known, not least because they flaunt the proceeds of their crimes.

But the arm of the law is long. Those who have stolen from the state may believe they have gotten away with it. But their deeds will eventually catch up with them, whoever they are, and whatever position they may hold. They will learn that crime does not pay.

In this regard, one of our most effective weapons in the fight against corruption and State Capture is the Special Tribunal of the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), which I established in 2019.

It adjudicates on matters that the SIU institutes for civil litigation after it has concluded its investigations. The Special Tribunal was set up to speed up litigation.

This approach has made it possible for public funds and state assets lost to corrupt acts to be recovered faster, avoiding delays in the high courts, where the SIU has to wait its turn together with other litigants. The SIU can request preservation orders and the freezing of assets to prevent further losses to the state.

This is important when considering that perpetrators who are under suspicion often go to great lengths to move around, hide or dispose of proceeds of corruption.

There can be no doubt the Special Tribunal has been a game changer. Since its establishment, the Tribunal has recovered about R8.6-billion from unlawful contracts. For any fight against corruption to be deemed effective, it is not sufficient that perpetrators are prosecuted.

The proceeds of their crimes must be re-



President Cyril Ramaphosa addresses the media after responding to the State of the Nation Debate in Cape Town on 16 February 2022. File photo

covered. This money belongs to citizens and should be used to meet their needs.

Last week, the Special Tribunal ordered two construction companies to return the profits they earned from R40-million in contracts to erect the Beit Bridge border fence. This followed an investigation by the SIU that uncovered a number of irregularities, including a pre-payment to the companies by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

Over the past few weeks alone, the Tribunal has reviewed and set aside more than R100-million worth of irregular and unlawful contracts arising from Covid-related procurement.

It has also been successful in getting back money from senior executives in state-owned enterprises who conducted irregular business activities. For example, in 2021 a former Transnet executive was ordered to pay R26-million he received as a shareholder of a firm of consulting engineers contracted to Transnet while he was a full-time employee.

The SIU has in a number of cases approached the Tribunal to delay the payment of pension benefits, pending the outcome of its investigations, to public servants implicated in financial irregularities or fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

The cases before the Tribunal show that much work still needs to be done to strength-

en governance and management across all arms of the state.

They point to serious lapses on the part of accounting officers and failures to adhere to laws and regulations governing procurement. I have said before that winning the war on corruption will be difficult, and that it will take time to unravel the vast webs of patronage that had become entrenched. I have also maintained that we must fight private sector corruption with equal vigour, because for every public sector employee willing to be bribed, there is a business person willing to pay a bribe. These corrupt relationships have eroded the capacity of the state to deliver on its mandate.

They have set back the state's efforts to provide decent healthcare, to deliver clean water, and to ensure a consistent supply of power to communities and businesses.

But, as the Special Tribunal has demonstrated, we are steadily turning the tide. Not only are perpetrators being arrested and taken to court; they are also having to forfeit the proceeds of their crimes.

There is still a long way to go, and there is a huge amount of stolen public funds that still need to be recovered. But the SIU and the Special Tribunal have made a good start, and I am confident of many more successes in the months and years ahead. **DM**

China injects more positive energy into global economic development

By He Yin

CHINA has set its economic growth target for 2022 at around 5.5 percent, according to a government work report delivered at the fifth session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) on March 5.

The international society generally believes that this target is science-based and reasonable, and mirrors China's initiative. It will help guide public expectations, boost confidence, and build consensus for development, and promote China's high-quality development.

China will keep contributing to global recovery and growth while working to realize the growth target.

Both economic growth rate and increment are important when one evaluates China's contribution to the world economy.

In 2021, China's GDP hit 114.4 trillion yuan, or \$17.7 trillion at the yearly average exchange rate. It is estimated to account for over 18 percent of the global economy. The domestic value added of the country reached \$3 trillion, which is unprecedented in the history of global economic development.

To increase China's 2021 GDP of 114.4 trillion yuan by 5.5 percent is equivalent to realizing a 7.4-percent growth five years ago, or a 10.5-percent growth 10 years ago. The 5.5-percent growth will contribute a considerable amount to the world economic growth.

To evaluate China's contribution to the world economy, one must value both the quantity and quality of the Chinese economy.

At present, global recovery is facing multiple barriers and the process of global development has been severely impacted. To deliver more sense of fulfillment, happiness, and security to the people through development is a common task for all countries.

China is fully, accurately and comprehensively implementing a new development philosophy featuring innovative, coordinated, green, open, and shared growth and takes high-quality development as a theme of economic and social development for the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025) and beyond.

The country has actively endeavored to transform its growth model, optimized economic structure and shifted growth drivers, creating opportunities for and injecting energy into global development.

An international expert remarked that the adherence of China, a country with 1.4 billion people, to the path of high-quality development is an important contribution made by the country to the world economic development and reflects its major country responsibility.

To evaluate China's contribution to the world economy, one must see the country's development and its interaction with the world.

China is opening up more sectors of the economy in a more thorough fashion to create a world-class business environment established on market principles and the rule of law. From reaching \$6 trillion in foreign trade for the first time, to making new records in foreign direct investment inflow, and to signing over 200 cooperation documents on the Belt and Road Initiative with more than 140 countries and 32 international organizations, China is actively integrating itself into the global economy



A woman works at a workshop of a special textile company in Daying Economic Development Zone in southwest China's Sichuan province, March 4, 2022. File photo

and continuously promoting win-win results through its own development.

Meanwhile, China is a staunch supporter for the multilateral trading system with the WTO as the core. It is actively negotiating on and signing more high-standard free trade pacts and regional trade agreements, and building a global gov-

ernance system that's fairer, more just and more reasonable, playing a significant role in promoting strong, balanced, sustainable and inclusive growth of the world economy.

Obviously, China is facing more risks and challenges in its development, such as the ongoing pandemic, sluggish world recovery, fluctua-

tion in commodity prices, and increasingly more complicated domestic and external environment. However, the country's economic fundamentals sustaining long-term growth remain unchanged.

The country is surely able to with-

stand downward pressure and maintain stable economic operation, and will inject more positive energy into the world economy to make it stable, healthy and sustainable.

People's Daily

UN 'resurfaces' after a long pandemic-induced lay-off

UNITED NATIONS

AFTER several on-again and off-again pandemic lockdowns, the United Nations is planning to return to normal beginning this week.

A circular from Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on March 11 says "based on the new guidelines, we are now able to institute associated changes in our workplace, returning to full operational capability while still prioritizing the health and safety of personnel, and balancing the operational needs of the Organization".

Guided by the Senior Emergency Policy Team and the Occupational Safety and Health Committee in New York, Guterres has decided to make the following changes:

As of Monday, 14 March: mask use will be voluntary throughout the UN building and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), mostly denied entry since March 2020, will now be given access to the UN premises.

While diplomats were never barred from the UN during the lockdown - since they "own" the building - all CSOs were banned from the premises. The UN also refused to renew their passes to enter the headquarters building.

The mounting protests last year came from several NGOs, most of whom have been partnering with the UN and providing humanitarian assistance in conflict-ridden countries, including Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, Libya, Sudan and Ethiopia.

"Civil society organizations are elated about the resumption of their access to the UN building," said a former senior UN official who interacts regularly with CSOs.

Andreas Bummel, executive director, Democracy Without Borders, told IPS: "We welcome that civil society representatives will be given routine access again at UN headquarters. We certainly hope that similar closures will not be required again".

"Should a need arise, civil society access should be treated equally to that of diplomats and other stakeholders. This not only pertains to the premises in New York or Ge-



The UN's empty corridors will soon be back to normal. Credit: United Nations

neva, but all conferences held under UN purview. We are concerned, for instance, about reports that CSO representatives weren't allowed to attend the Oceans treaty negotiations," he added.

As of Monday 28 March, Intergovernmental meetings will also resume as "normal", and by Monday, 4 April, UN headquarters will enter the "Next Normal" phase.

Decisions regarding the opening of the buildings to visitors, the general public, including for United Nations Guided Tours, to non-resident correspondents, and the holding of side events/receptions will be taken in April, said the circular addressed to over 3,000 UN staffers in New York.

The UN's decision to go into "full operation" comes following criticisms from member states over the lack of UN staffers to service some of the meetings.

Ambassador Boubacar Diallo of Guinea, the outgoing chairman of the Group of 77 plus China, the largest single coalition of

developing countries at the UN, warned last year that the Group continues to be disappointed that due to security concerns, the Administrative and Budgetary Committee was being deprived of interpretation services (in the UN's six official languages) during informal consultations.

"We look forward to the day that multilingualism is fully restored, and we can enjoy interpretation services as we are doing here today. We are committed to a thorough consideration of the agenda items allocated to the Committee, and in this regard, note with disappointment that several reports are still outstanding," he added.

This endemic situation, he pointed out, significantly compromises the Committee's work. With a resolution being adopted by consensus, including the 134 members of the G77, he said, "It is not possible to turn a blind eye to a General Assembly resolution and a deaf ear to the two-thirds majority of the General Membership."

The UN has still barred scores of UN retirees living in the tri-state area - New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. One of them who retired after nearly 22 years working in the Secretariat, told IPS, UN security officers barred him from entering the building last month and said his retiree UN pass was invalid.

"I was treated as if I was a security risk - after all these years of service to the UN", he complained.

Asked about the status of UN staffers in Geneva, which hosts one of the largest conglomerations of UN agencies, Ian Richards, former President of the Coordinating Committee of International Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA) told IPS masks are still required for now in public spaces.

"Many meetings are back to normal. The car park is filling up. We are starting to see a more settled pattern now of colleagues alternating between office and home," he added.

In Geneva, he said, retirees have been able to enter since last year. "No reason to

keep them away," said Richards, an economist at the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

In his circular, Guterres said "after a long two-year struggle against the COVID-19 pandemic, we have encouraging news to report. COVID-19 case numbers, hospitalizations and transmission rates have significantly improved in New York City and the Tri-State area".

Cases amongst UNHQ personnel have also sharply declined and have been at very low levels for some time. As you know, State and City authorities in New York have now lifted or revised their pandemic mitigation measures, he said.

"From the beginning, our approach on health and safety measures, as well as our transition from Phase Zero to the "Next Normal" phase has been closely guided by advice and the guidance of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and that of the local health authorities in New York City and State," said Guterres.

The CDC has introduced a new "community level" tool to help formulate prevention steps based on the latest data. Levels - which are determined by hospitalization and test positivity rates - are characterized as low, medium or high. New York is currently at the low community level, for which the CDC recommends the following:

On the question of masks, the circular says people may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

On COVID-19 vaccine: "Stay up to date (meaning a person has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including any booster dose(s) when eligible)".

Meanwhile, the authorities in New York City have decided to end COVID-19 vaccination requirements at restaurants, gyms, fitness studios, entertainment and cultural venues.

But the City will continue to mandate masks in public transit, as well as in healthcare facilities, correctional facilities, homeless shelters, schools/day care for children aged 2 to 5, and Broadway theatres. Individual businesses can choose to mandate masks while indoor school mask mandates have been discontinued in the Tri-State area.

IPS

DAKAR

AS Russia's attack began rattling Kyiv with multiple missile and air raids about 5am, it suffused the dawn with stains of darkness. It was accompanied with military menaces in countries like Finland and Sweden and raising a warning to anyone who may assist the Ukrainian people - ordinary citizens bereaved, over 2.5 million displaced and boldly defending themselves - from nuclear war.

It turned the global energy market and trade in goods such as wheat, maize and minerals into weapons of war, which bluntly violates the prohibition against use of force under article 2(4) of the UN Charter and customary law.

Governments, companies, and ordinary citizens across the world are observing this catastrophe with a mix of anger, fear, and sadness.

There is also widespread dismay, since the invasion of Ukraine is really an exercise in human folly and futility, which will not move us one inch closer to dealing with the truly burning issues of our age.

This confrontation is spinning the global market of goods such as wheat, other grains and minerals into turbulence. This is happening with food prices already

This is how hope trumped the fog of war in Nairobi

soaring, with supply chains disrupted following more than two years of dealing with COVID-19, as well as droughts raging worldwide, including across 49.6% of the U.S. The climate and biodiversity breakdowns make future pandemics, wildfires, floods, pollution, and other deadly disasters more likely. We're failing to provide answers to these crises to billions of people, including millions of Russians and Ukrainians. This senseless war risks obfuscating our common challenges and making things worse.

At the same time in Nairobi, some 8,000 kilometers away from the attacks in Kyiv, the broadest government and civil society coalition ever thought possible - including representatives from Russia and Ukraine - was preparing to do the exact opposite. It was an effort to arrive at a decision by all the world's environment ministers to save lives. It culminated on Wednesday, 2 March, at the end of the UN Environment Assembly, in the historic adoption of a resolution to End Plastic Pollution.

Not reduce plastic pollution, but to end it. It is an ambition so grand that it can



Dandora landfill in Nairobi, Kenya, where much of the waste in the landfill is plastic. File photo

only be achieved through scientific ingenuity, political determination, and - most importantly - multilateral cooperation.

Plastic pollution has become a primary concern that extends well beyond the circles of environmental activists. In almost seven decades, plastic production soared from 2 million tonnes to 348 million tonnes. Exposure to plastics can harm human health, potentially affecting fertility, hormonal, metabolic and neurological activity, and open burning of plastics contributes to air pollution. Plastic waste is literally running in our blood, lab tests confirm.

Plastic pollution also makes climate change worse - by 2050 greenhouse gas emissions associated with plastic production, use and disposal will account for 15 per cent of allowed emissions, under the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C (34.7°F).

For resource-based economies, like much of Africa's countries, plastic pollution puts a strain on land and marine ecosystems. More than 800 marine and coastal species are affected by it. Some 11 million tonnes of plastic waste flow annually into the oceans. Without comprehensive action, this is set to triple by 2040 and by 2050 there might be more plastic than

fish in our oceans.

This plastic resolution puts us on track to an international and legally binding plastic treaty by the end of 2024. It's important to note that, not unlike a declaration of war against industry, this puts the plastic industry on notice that their days of polluting our planet are numbered and signals to big consumer brands that their reliance on single use plastics must change.

Yet businesses can and must adapt. Just like when the use of mercury was restricted through international consensus, dental clinics (where the poisonous metal was in wide use) did not go out of business. This is an opportunity for businesses to shift, altogether with support of government initiatives to reuse and circular economy system.

In fact, a shift to circular economy, which can reduce the volume of plastics entering oceans by over 80 per cent and reduce virgin plastic production by 55 per cent, will also save governments US\$70 billion and create 700,000 additional jobs, mainly in the global south. While the headlines are overtaken by the military offensive in Ukraine, we urge news readers to scroll down, read more about the diplomatic breakthrough last week in Nairobi and be inspired - as we are. Against the backdrop of geopolitical turmoil, the resolution to End Plastic Pollution shows multilateral cooperation at its best.

Indeed, plastic waste has grown into an epidemic. With the resolution by the world's ministers of environment we are officially on track for a cure.

A green and a peaceful future is within reach - so long as people demand their governments act. May this serve as a vital reminder that while conventional war offers no victory to any side, the campaign we wage jointly against a triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature loss and pollution offers benefits for both people and the planet. **IPS**

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Authorities in Kigoma start distributing oil palm improved seedlings to farmers

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

AUTHORITIES in Kigoma in collaboration with the Kitwanga Prison Service have started distributing improved seedlings of oil palm—tenera variety to the smallholder farmers in the country.

This came few days when 'The Guardian' reported overgrown improved seedlings of oil palm were stationed at prison.

Kigoma District Commissioner, Ester Mahawe and Buhigwe District Commissioner, Col. Michael Ngayalina have put on a smiling face on the smallholder farmers by leading the distribution exercise and so far the smallholder farmers have responded positively.

Speaking during the handing over of the improved seedlings of oil palm, DC Ngayalina urged the farmers to manage them well saying Tenera is a popular commercial variety in large oil palm producing countries that is going to double their profit.

"Go and manage well this new tenera variety. These seedlings have high yielding potential. They produce five times higher palm oil compared to traditional Dura variety that you have been growing for years. Most of you grow exclusively Dura

type with low yielding potential in old farms. It is time to start replacing now," said Ngayalina.

Kigoma DC, Mahawe said that the government decision to promote the improved seedlings of oil Palm government is basically aimed at addressing shortage of edible oil in the country.

"The seedlings are produced at high cost. Each seedling costs about 10,000/- The government has decided to distribute them for free. Therefore it is the government directive that no one seedling should die of carelessness," she said.

TARI director general, Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo and TARI Kihinga director Dr Filson Kagimbo said the research institute has produced more than Nine million improved seeds and will continue producing more and distributing to the farmers. Amcos and government military institutions for multiplication and distribution to all those who want to grow the crop.

"We have plenty improved seeds in our stores. We want to make sure that these government military institutions get enough seeds to produce the seedlings for the farmers. I would like to advice that the smallholder farmers living around



Buhigwe district commissioner Col. Michael Ngayalina distributes improved oil palm seedlings to farmers at Kitwanga Prison Service: Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

the prison service benefits first from these hybrid seedlings," said Mkamilo

Mahembe AMCOS chairman Hussein Ally popularly known as Makorokocho from Kigoma DC and the chair-

person for Milinzi village Abdallah Kilumbi in Buhigwe hailed the government for distributing the improved seedlings of oil Palm for free to the farmers.

"Before this government initiative, we were buying

these seedlings between 6,000 and 10,000/- each. This was a challenge to the poor farmers who could not afford to buy many seedlings to cover their acres. We promise before you commissioners that we are going to manage them for ourselves and the future generations," they said.

Kigoma regional agricultural adviser Joseph Lubuye said that all extension officers and lead farmers have been trained on the agronomy of the improved seedlings of oil Palm.

"I have no doubt that these extension officers will participate to train the farmers on agronomy of the crop and make close monitoring on the progress. I call on all farmers group to continue registering their names so that they can get more seeds and grow them in their respective villages," he said.

Assistant Commissioner for Tanzania Prisons Service Kigoma Dr Uswege Mwakaheya said about 100,000 improved seedlings of oil Palm the improved seedlings of oil palm were delayed due to dry spell

"It was not wise to take the improved seedlings of oil Palm to the farmers' field during dry season, they would die. So farmers had to wait for the long rains," he said

Kwitanga prison service receives the improved seeds from TARI Kihinga, it multiplies and distributes to the farmers. So far, it has distributed more than 18,334 improved seedlings to the surrounding communities.

SEAC conducts post-election review mission in Angola

By Guardian Reporter

THE support to member states in strengthening good governance and democracy has become a critical blueprint of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) electoral observation missions (SEOMs).

This was underscored by Ambassador Tête António, Minister of External Relations, Republic of Angola, during a recent courtesy call on the Ministry by members of the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC).

The SEAC is in Luanda, Angola on a post-election goodwill mission to follow-up on the implementation of the SEOM recommendations arising from the general elections held in August 2017.

The minister also highlighted key legislative developments with respect to the conduct of elections in Angola, hailing in particular, the historical decision to facilitate voting by Angolans in the diaspora, adding that voter registration and voting by such citizens will be facilitated

through Angola's diplomatic infrastructure abroad.

Speaking on behalf of the SADC executive secretary, the Director of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs, Jorge Cardoso, expressed the delegation's appreciation for the assistance rendered in facilitating consultations with various electoral stakeholders in Angola.

The SEAC delegation is led by Advocate Thoahlane Leshele, the SEAC member from the Kingdom of Lesotho, and Advocate Orlando Rafael Duarte, the SEAC mem-

ber from Mozambique.

Leshele noted that besides reviewing the 2017 elections, the mission was also in the country to assess the level of preparedness for Angola to conduct the forthcoming elections to be held in August 2022.

The mission assured the government that they had taken note of issues raised by all stakeholders which included political parties, civil society organisations and media institutions, these issues will be part of a Report to be submitted to the Chairperson of

the Organ. On March 10th 2022, the SEAC delegation also held consultations with the Constitutional Tribunal of Angola which was led by Justice Laurinda Prazeres Monteiro Cardoso, the President of the Tribunal. During elections, the Constitutional Tribunal also seats as Electoral Tribunal.

The delegation received a briefing on the role of the Tribunal and the settlement of disputes arising from the 2017 elections, in addition to the structural and legal implications arising from the recent review of the Constitution-

al Law (in 2021) and its readiness for the forthcoming elections.

To date, the mission has held consultations with the following stakeholders; Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), the Broad Convergence for the Salvation of Angola (CASA-CE) Coalition, Forum of Angolan Non-Governmental Organisations (FONGA), National Patriotic Alliance (APN), Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), Angola Chapter, National Liberation Front of Angola (FNLA), Social Renewal Party (PRS), Deputy At-

torney General of the Republic of Angola, and SADC Ambassadors and High Commissioners Accredited to the Republic of Angola UN Resident Coordinator in Angola and the European Union Delegation.

It is expected that SADC will field another mission essentially focusing on the country's readiness to hold elections in August 2022 ahead of a decision to deploy the SEOM in accordance with the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2015).

Security firm wins police praise for adhering to professionalism

By Guardian Reporter

PRIVATE Security Company— SGA Security has been commended by the country's Police Force for adhering to professional standards when it comes to recruit and training of security guards employed by the institution.

The praises were made during the passing out parade of 50 SGA security guards who completed a month-long training organized by the company in collaboration with the Police Force.

The event was presided over by the Kinondoni District Police Community Police Officer Jane Dotto who was accompanied by the Kinondoni District Community Police Inspector Sam Mkama Monge.

In her speech, Dotto emphasised the need for total co-operation between the police force and other stakeholders in the fight against crime and criminals.

"It is impossible for a private company security guard to see an incident unfold in front of him or her and stay calm without taking any action thinking that it is not his or her responsibility; we must work together for the benefit of the public, despite of the small differences that exist between the police force and the private guards," she said.

She suggested the need to intensify training for private security guards not only for the benefits of the private security company but for the benefits of the community in general.

"SGA is a company that provides close cooperation to the Police Force a move which makes it easier for the police to provide its cooperation to the company by improv-

ing its operating systems," said Dotto.

She added that SGA follows all the criteria that are set by the Police Force concerning the recruiting of its (SGA) staff, including recruiting only those who have been subject to preliminary military trainings, for example through the National Service (JKT) and paramilitary trainings through the wildlife management related courses.

"Other criteria include that of certifying the health of potential recruits through OSHA officials so as to confirm that they have good health, as well as putting the records of their fingerprints at the relevant fingerprints database," she stated.

"SGAs have also been at the forefront of requesting training assistance to prepare the security guards they recruit, which make it easier for the police force when it comes to facilitate its (police) duties."

SGA human resource manager, Ebenezer Kaale explained that the SGA's secret to success in the Defence field was the regular professional training which is provided to its officers, whom he said were been selected based on specific criteria provided by the Police Force.

"We highly value our officers and we give priority to their operational capabilities by giving them adequate knowledge and motivating them to act as par the wishes of our clients," said Kaale.

SGA employs 6,000 Tanzanians and provides services throughout the country, through the regular guarding services, armed security guards, dogs security department, logistics, installation of security equipment and emergency services such as ambulances and fire fighters.



Kinondoni District Community Police Officer Jane Dotto in a group photo with the SGA trainees.




Re-Advertisement

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties

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

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

No.	Reference no.	Description of goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-21-09-03A	Slag cement 42.5L 70:30	i. Company profile with proven experience in Slag cement manufacturing. ii. Relevant licences/consents/permits/government approvals;
2	BUL-21-09-04A	Slag cement Minecem 32.5L 90:10	iii. Local ownership percentage (Local Content); iv. Quality; v. Cost of the goods; vi. Lead time; vii. Guarantee/Warranty time frames; viii. Price Competitiveness; and ix. Proven ability to supply large volumes on a daily basis

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

- Company profile(s) with tracked experience in cement manufacturing.
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgements and/or insolvency / bankruptcy proceedings, if any, during the last 3 years.
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registrations as required.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest close of business on 22nd March 2022. Any responses received after this date will not be considered.

Please quote reference number **"Slag cement - BUL-21-09-03A & BUL-21-09-04A"** in the subject line of your email.

NB: Bulyanhulu reserve the right to invite any other supplier(s) which did not submit an EOI submission.

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

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

216756001

Ukraine challenges legitimacy of Russia's UN membership

UNITED NATIONS

THE overwhelming condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine—which triggered a veto from Russia and an abstention from China last week - has raised a challenging question about the legitimacy of UN memberships of both countries which are permanent members of the Security Council.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) ceased to exist back in 1991, with the Russian Federation assuming the rights and obligations as a successor state.

And the Republic of China (Taiwan) was expelled from the United Nations - and ousted from its highly-prized permanent seat in the UN Security Council (UNSC) - about 51 years ago.

But according to the UN charter, "the USSR and the Republic of China" - not the "Russian Federation" or "the People's Republic of China" (PRC) - are still two of the five permanent members of the most powerful body in the Organization.

If both countries assume they are rightful successors, why aren't they going before the General Assembly to help amend the Charter? As a result of the anomaly, the un-amended

UN charter remains outdated and a relic of a distant past.

According to Article 108 of the Charter, amendments must be adopted by two thirds of the 193 members of the General Assembly and ratified by two thirds of the members of the United Nations, including all five permanent members of the Security Council, namely the US, UK, France, China and Russia.

The Charter has been amended five times:

- In 1965, Article 23 was amended to enlarge the Security Council from 11 to 15 members
- In 1965, Article 27 was amended to increase the required number of Security Council votes from 7 to 9
- In 1965, Article 61 was amended to enlarge the Economic and Social Council from 18 to 27 members
- In 1968, Article 109 was amended to change the requirements for a General Conference of Member States for reviewing the Charter
- In 1973, Article 61 was amended again to further enlarge the Economic and Social Council from 27 to 54 members

But it was never amended to reflect the two successor states, namely the Russian Federation and the People's



A cargo of high energy biscuits for Ukrainian refugees is offloaded at an airport in Poland. Ukraine has long been the "breadbasket" of Europe, but the fighting could disrupt global wheat trade, with knock-on impacts on food prices and overall food security.

Republic of China (PRC)

During the Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly last week, Ukraine's Ambassador, Sergiy Kyslytsya, pointed out that while "the Russian Federation has done everything possible to legitimize its presence at the United Nations, its membership is not legitimate, as the General Assembly never voted on its

admission to the Organization following the fall of the Soviet Union in December 1991".

With the collapse of the USSR in late 1991, the Commonwealth of Independent States signed a declaration agreeing that "Member states of the Commonwealth support Russia in taking over the USSR membership in the UN, including permanent membership in the Security Council."

And in October 1971, the General Assembly decided to recognize the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations.

But one longstanding question remains: why has Russia and PRC not moved for an amendment of the charter?

Is it that both countries fear they will not be able to garner the two thirds majority needed in the General Assembly for any amendments to the charter?

In a December 1991 inter-office memo, the UN's Office of Legal Affairs said: "For the present, the old Union of Soviet Socialist Republics remains a member of the United Nations with all the rights and obligations of memberships. Its representatives, whose credentials have been approved by the Credentials Committee, continue to occupy the seat of the USSR in all organs of the United Nations."

"In considering the changes which may come about in the near future and their implications within the internal constitutional order of the United Nations, it should be borne in mind that the United Nations will, of necessity, be obliged to proceed from whatever arrangements are made internally in the Soviet Union in relation to the break-up of the USSR and the decisions which are taken by the republics regarding their individual status in international law and that of any collective entity which might emerge."

The memo lays out several scenarios over succession states, including "a similar issue following the partition of India and Pakistan when certain Members objected to India's automatic retention of its seat while Pakistan had to apply as a new state."

But the question of an un-amended Charter remains unanswered.

In response to a question, UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told reporters March 4, the UN's Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) had "undertaken a review of its relevant files".

"I was informed that the search is continuing through the paper-based files, and non-digitized files, and that some related documents have been found, including an interoffice memo dated 19 December 1991".

He said it has been declassified, and "I can share it with you if you are interested."

The interoffice memo, he pointed out, does not in any way alter the Secretariat position, which is that, in accordance with the UN Charter, "the question of UN membership is the responsibility of Member States".

In his 165-page book on the Security Council titled "Of Foxes and Chickens - Oligarchy and Global Power in the Security Council", James Paul, then Executive Director of the New York-based Global Police Forum, writes the dissolution of the Soviet Union in late 1991 provided another act in this strange drama (following the admission of PRC).

A number of successor states came into being of which the Russian Federation was the largest.

"It was certainly not the major power that the USSR had been, having a far reduced population and economy. The new state was not clearly the same as the old, but the permanent members did not want to open up the dreaded membership question."

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 243 00--

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

WORD-FIT

3 LETTERS: PLY, FIG, ALL
 4 LETTERS: SALT, TIME, LOME, IGAD, ENDS, ISLE SNAR (7 WORDS)
 5 LETTERS: PANEL, ENDED, STARK, TIGRE, ROMEO (5 WORDS)
 6 LETTERS: NEEDLE, PENALS, RUSSIA, SKILLS LOOSER (5 WORDS)
 7 LETTERS: TUNNELS
 8 LETTERS: FLAMINGO
 10 LETTERS: SITUATIONS

CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across

- a Japanese dish of thinly sliced beef or pork boiled quickly with vegetables and then dipped in sauce
- a crow-like bird
- little in size
- a soft plastic mixture
- a male child
- police officer in East Afrika
- a musical instrument
- a piece of writing on a particular subject
- laws formerly in operation in S.Africa controlling blacks
- rowdy behaviour
- the holding of an office

Down:

- class, kind, variety
- on the top of
- the place where one lives
- basic monetary unit of Panama
- large New Zealand parrot
- labour hard
- Assegai
- Lake victoria in Kenya
- a course or run for skiing
- someone who plants
- argument in favor of something
- a habitual drunkard

SOLUTIONS

WORD-FIT

YUGOSLAVIA
 FARM
 AMIDDLMA
 RNOTEDU
 CDAANT
 COLOUR
 LILIC
 PONDEMAIL
 MOOI
 ABROGATE
 DOOREG
 OESTATEY

CROSSWORD

REFERENCES
 ERON
 AMENMUNGU
 LEATENU
 TINDOLD
 DEMAND
 ELS
 KNOBEVENT
 ALIER
 AGONIZED
 BERGERA
 ABULAYAT

By Magezi: 0755429240 telximagezi@gmail.com

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One **Radio One**



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Absa Group expects high single digit revenue in 2022, says interim CEO

By Guardian Reporter

Despite of uncertain outlook of the global economy and possible fifth Covid-19 wave, Absa Group says is expecting to sustain its strong performances in 2022, with return on equity to remain similar levels to 2021.

Presenting the bank group's full year financial results for 2021, interim chief executive officer Jason Quinn highlighted that he expect high single digit revenue growth.

According to the results, the bank's revenue growth remained resilient at 6 percent to R85.9 billion or 8 percent in constant currency, supported by strong growth in net interest income (up 9 percent).

Absa Group headline earnings more than doubled to R18.6 billion in 2021 (R8 billion in 2020), well in excess of 2019 earnings, as pre-provision profit increased and as the impairments charge reduced substan-

tially.

"This is a strong set of results which reflect the benefit of, not only the improved operating environment in 2021, but also the deliberate actions that we have taken to ensure that Absa remains resilient and poised to resume our growth plans in a favourable environment," the interim CEO said yesterday during announcement of the financial results.

"Our purpose-led approach to supporting our clients and communities defined our success in a tough environment while also creating value for shareholders."

The improvement in part, reflects a stronger than expected economic recovery in South Africa, where Absa generates most of its income, according to the CEO.

"South Africa's gross domestic product improved from a low base in 2020 and showed improving momentum for most of the year," he said. "All of the countries in which Absa has a presence look to have returned



to positive economic growth during 2021."

Non-interest income was in line with 2020 levels, as the negative impact of Covid-19-related claims in the insurance business eroded the benefit of strong income increases in areas including Global Markets.

Solid revenue growth and cost management helped to deliver positive pre-provi-

sion profit growth over the past two years.

"While the outlook for the global economy in 2022 is particularly uncertain, we feel positive about the strong base that we have built in the past few years and how this has positioned us to deliver on our strategic objectives," said Quinn.

"We will pursue growth opportunities appropri-

ate to the environment and shore up buffers as needed to ensure that the bank remains resilient."

He said Absa has made significant progress in building on existing environmental, social and governance (ESG) capabilities and in its aspiration to become an African leader in this space as it was the first South African bank to announce sustainable fi-

nance targets with the aim to finance or arrange over R100 billion for ESG-related projects by 2025.

"We also announced Africa's first certified green loan from the International Finance Corporation, with a value of \$150 million," he said.

However, Absa currently expects South Africa's economy to grow by 2.1 percent in 2022, returning to pre-Covid absolute GDP levels by the end of the year.

In countries outside of South Africa, where Absa has a presence, GDP-weighted economic growth of 5.3 percent is expected.

He said Absa continues to make material investments in information technology (IT), where costs increased by 19 percent to R4.9 billion as the bank sought to build on the gains made during the past three years in improving system reliability and stability for customers, and to strengthen security and controls.



Jason Quinn

However, the results shows impairment charges were significantly lower than in the prior year as fewer customers defaulted on loans and the outlook for defaults improved on the back of improved macro-economic conditions.

Customer deposits grew 12 percent, supported by strong performance in the retail and business banking and corporate deposit portfolios and the closure of the Absa Money Market Fund, with a significant portion of those customers electing

to migrate to Absa deposit products.

"We have come through the crisis in a strong position, having focused on managing operating leverage, building balance sheet resilience and preserving capital," said Punki Modise, Absa Interim Group Financial Director.

"These actions and our financial performance resulted in a return on equity that exceeds our cost of equity, years ahead of expectation," she said.

Riding on less profit but more turnover business philosophy

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

RIYAZ Khan is a business man with over 32 years in business and has travelled extensively across the country in pursuit of various agricultural products.

He mainly deals with cereals such as soya beans, sesame (simsim), peas, and spices among others and on average he purchases between 100,000 to 500,000 tonnes per month depending on the orders placed.

He has however come up with the less profit, more turnover business principal that has helped to keep his business afloat for decades now.

For starters, at the most basic level, turnover is the total sales revenue that a business generates over a specific period while profit is the amount of money remaining once the business deducts its costs for the same period. In simple terms, the turnover is the top-line of an income statement, and the profit is the bottom-line.

Business experts say that turnover is vanity, but profit is sanity. While a massive sales turnover looks impressive, there's rarely a commercial benefit to this unless it creates profit.

Khan however chose to settle for more turnover rather than a big profit margin and he has been able to prioritise building up his market share or customer base which has helped him capitalize on a solid turnover despite minimal profits.

"I do business on this principle. For every kilogram of cereals purchased, I get 10/- as the profit margin with all the expenses incurred covered," he narrated.

According to him, this principle has three benefits that include profit, access to direct market and agriculture sector development.

He has a chain of warehouse stores across various areas such as Tunduma, Masasi, Mbeya, Kondoa, Karatu, Babati that he operates on sole proprietor / joint venture arrangements.

His business reaches a chain of 3,000 people who are directly and indirectly involved in the day-to-day operations in logistics, storage, transportation and packaging.

Just like many people who lack capital, Khan started his business with zero capital but his trustworthiness helped him build confidence among business people and he saved the little he got as a middle-man to invest in his current business.

"My trust was the foundation. I was sent advance payments from business people and in due process I made some little profit that I reinvested to grow my business," he added.

Khan diversified his business after establishing a hardware dealing in PVC plumbing items in Kariakoo, a business he runs with his close relatives.

He thanked the Government for putting in place a conducive business environment that has enabled Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) like his to prosper.

He however noted that he invests the little he gets into charity as part of his efforts to make the world a better place for the marginalized groups including orphans.

"I have been able to share the little profit I get with marginalized groups in Dar es Salaam, Masasi, Kondoa, Mbeya among other areas since 2005. Sometimes I donate food items like rice, beans and cash. I know this is not all they need but my support at least helps to put a smile on beneficiaries' faces," he added.



Kariakoo resident and businessman Riyaz elaborating a point on his less profit, more turnover business philosophy during an interview at the weekend.

Asked on his future plans, Khan noted that he is looking forward to joining the manufacturing industry that will help to add value to his products and make bigger profits.

"Am also looking forward to establishing a five-star hotel in Dodoma to tap into the booming hospitality industry business in the near future. This will be a joint-

venture as the project is costly," he said without giving further details.

Apart from his personal contribution to growth of the country's economy, Khan has also played a patriotic role of luring foreign investors from Europe, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, India, United States of America (USA) and Singapore to come and invest in the country.

According to him, he has already coordinated over 1,000 foreign investors who have invested in the mining, steel, plastics, and PVC sectors.

"I don't do this for money. This is part of my contribution to the development of the country. As a citizen, my wish is to see Tanzania make strides in terms of development," he stressed.

Global bonds extend rout on inflation fear with fed hike looming

NEW YORK

BOND markets tumbled Monday as investors anticipated the inflationary impacts of the war in Ukraine will spur aggressive monetary tightening across the developed world.

The yield on 10-year U.S. Treasuries, German bonds and U.K. gilts all jumped more than 10 basis points.

Five-year Treasury yields topped 2 percent for the first time since May 2019, as traders braced for the Federal Reserve to kick off a tightening cycle on Wednesday.

The selloff drove the German 10-year yield to the highest level since 2018, with the move picking up amid concern a fresh round of restrictions to curb the spread of Covid-19 in China could exacerbate global supply bottlenecks.

It's a sharp turnaround in positioning. Bonds had initially rallied in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine as investors piled into haven assets. But with inflationary pressures building and the prospect of monetary tightening drawing closer the allure of holding government debt is fading.

"As the inflation outlook is being dominated by geopolitical factors and, most recently, the lockdown in Shenzhen, it seems likely that the repricing higher of inflation has further to

go," said Peter Chatwell, multi-asset strategist at Mizuho International Plc. "This may be particularly disruptive for rates markets."

The Fed and the Bank of England are both Mornnexpected to hike rates this week. The European Central Bank sent government bonds reeling last week after policy makers unexpectedly signaled an accelerated exit from monetary stimulus in response to price growth.

Ten-year Treasury yields broke a previous February high to reach 2.10 percent, the most since 2019. The 10-year U.S. breakeven rate -- a bond-market gauge of inflation expectations -- rose above 3% for the first time on record in data going back to 1998.

Swaps traders are certain the Fed will raise interest rates by 25 basis points this week and see better than an 80 percent chance that it hikes borrowing costs at each of the six subsequent meetings scheduled this year.

"Yields are reflecting a surprise higher shift upward in inflation expectations," said Jim Caron, senior portfolio manager and chief strategist of global fixed income at Morgan Stanley Investment Management. "Many thought inflation would peak in the first quarter and fall. Now, with oil prices, inflation may stay high."

NCBA bank inspires women to go for greatness in life

By Guardian Correspondent

IN honor of International Women's Day on March 8th, NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited has come out to encourage women in Tanzania to strive for greatness as one way to break the gender bias in our workplaces and communities.

Margaret Karume, Managing Director and CEO of NCBA Bank, made this point in communication to staff and customers whilst commemorating International Women's Day at their head offices in Dar es Salaam.

In her statements, Ms. Karume recollected her journey of rising through the ranks from a clerk to most senior leadership positions, overcoming the scourges of gender stereotyping and discrimination.

She said, 'I stood out from the competition within the organizations I worked in by applying myself as a team player, learning from others, listening to advice from my mentors and learning from my predecessors.'

Moreover, Margaret spoke out about her observations and experiences with unconscious gender bias as she grew through the ranks, saying, 'As I was growing in my career I observed that Age is a factor that hinders some women because some leaders believe mature people handle certain roles and responsibilities better than young people. Furthermore, beauty is also often regarded as a factor for opening doors for a woman or getting the right attention - in some instances the more beautiful a lady is, the more likely she is to win an opportunity.' She stated.

Margaret went on to mention other unconscious biases she and other female leaders often experience such as marital status, where people believe a married lady with a family can handle critical leadership roles better than an unmarried woman.

Margaret described how to promote gender equality in the world. She said, 'I think it shouldn't be so



Margaret Karume, Managing Director and CEO of NCBA Bank.

much about doing things differently and doing more for women," but that everyone should remember that no gender is superior to the other. It is critical to create an environment and provide training for both males and females to equally excel and to believe that results can be obtained from both.

Zainab Mushi, the Head of Human Resources at NCBA Bank, also spoke out about overcoming unconscious biases women experience in the workplace throughout Africa. "The primary issue is how women are perceived," she says. "If we can continue to redefine our beliefs and values, women will have an opportunity to achieve greatness."

"We must be prepared and willing to provide transforma-

tive knowledge that enables women to overcome gender bias and pursue greatness. It is a task that everyone, including men must undertake'. Ms Mushi emphasized.

Gloria Njiu, NCBA Bank's Head of Digital Business offered a broad perspective on gender equality and the role of Digital financial innovation in addressing it. In her words, "As a truly African bank, we have opened our doors to the country's women microentrepreneurs."

"For example, MPAWA is one of our innovative financial products for women. MPAWA was created to provide women microentrepreneurs with quick easy access to instant loans," Gloria said.

It is also a useful service that

allows them to save money using M-Pesa and hence driving financial inclusion.

NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited is part of the NCBA Group PLC, which is one of the largest financial services groups in the region.

A bank with the financial strength, expertise, and regional reach to support Tanzania and the regions' economic growth aspirations.

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World's central banks set policy for economies shaken by the war

LONDON

GLOBAL central banks this week will offer the biggest collective assessment of a changed world since Russia's invasion of Ukraine sparked renewed supply disruptions and a sudden inflation shock for many economies.

Among the eight members of the Group of 20 whose monetary officials are due to meet, the Federal Reserve's impending interest-rate increase is likely to steal the limelight.

The others will display a kaleidoscope of policy reflecting differing impacts from the conflict in a world economy already adjusting to surging prices. Decisions will range from another potential rate hike at the hawkish Bank of England, to the Bank of Japan's likely outcome of insisting on a continued easing stance.

Those announcements follow in the wake of the European Central Bank's surprise decision last week to accelerate a wind-down of stimulus, leaving investors wondering what other shifts might be in store.

What follows next is a run-down of the major monetary meetings of the coming week.

First up, on Tuesday, is the People's Bank of China. Analysts are watching closely whether a key rate will be cut for the second time this year.

While activity data in January and February likely showed mild improvement, risks are looming as geopolitical tensions worsen and oil prices spike. Beijing's new growth target of about 5.5% this year may also imply the need for central-bank support.

Adding to the case for monetary loosening, China's credit expansion slowed in February as a long holiday and the slumping housing market meant people and companies borrowed less.

David Qu, economist says: "We expect the PBOC to cut the required reserve ratio further to free up more cash for banks to lend and then lower interest rates to strengthen the stimulus." For the full report, click here

Federal Reserve

The Fed takes center stage on Wednesday. An expected quarter-point increase in the benchmark rate would be the first since 2018. Chair Jerome Powell is having to balance the hottest inflation in four decades and uncertainty tied to the war.

Data in the past week showed consumer prices soared 7.9% in February from a year earlier, and inflation is poised to rise even further as commodities costs rise. On the eve of the Fed decision, investors will get another key data point, with a sizable increase likely in the producer price index.

Against a backdrop of inflation well above the Fed's 2% goal, tightness in the labor market is driving up wages -- another tailwind for price pressures.

In addition to raising rates, the Fed plans to shrink its nearly \$9 trillion balance sheet later in 2022 after completing purchases this month that were intended to provide support to the economy during the pandemic.

"This decision will come after an unrelenting drumbeat of elevated inflation readings. Under normal circumstances, the intermeeting data would support a 50-bps hike. But circumstances are currently extraordinary" says Bloomberg economists

Brazil

After the Fed on Wednesday, Brazil's central bank is expected to raise its key rate for a ninth straight meeting, to 11.75%. That's up from just 2% a year ago.

The driving force behind the aggressive tightening cycle is a surge in consumer prices. Central bank chief Roberto Campos Neto is confronting inflation that now exceeds 10%, three times the official target.

Indonesia

On Thursday the focus shifts to Bank Indonesia, which will consider risks from commodities and food costs at a decision expected to keep rates unchanged.

The central bank recently said it's watching for a buildup in imported inflation, even though it sees consumer prices as relatively manageable. Both headline and core gauges in February stayed at the lower end of its 2%-4% target, while the government has pledged to keep a lid on volatile costs of food.

Turkey

Later on Thursday, Turkey's central bank will probably keep its rate at 14%, conforming to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's unorthodox approach that favors looser policy rather than tightening to quell inflation that's at a 20-year high.

The pace of annual consumer-price gains reached 54% in February, stoked by energy and food, and the global impact of the war could drive such pressures even further.

That would threaten to prolong a cost-of-living squeeze faced by Turkish households, a narrative that may become more pressing as the country approaches elections in 2023.

Bank of England

Shortly after Turkey's decision, the BOE looks all but certain to take its key interest rate back to its pre-Covid level, the first major central bank to achieve that milestone.

Faced with a worsening inflation outlook that Bloomberg Economics says could push inflation to 10% later this year, officials are expected to increase their benchmark to 0.75%. With the U.K. also in the grips of a cost-of-living crisis, some economists predict a minority of officials will again push for an unprecedented 50-basis-point increase.

Dan Hanson, senior U.K. economist says: "Beyond this month, we expect the scale of tightening to be curtailed by concern about the economic impact of Russia's war on Ukraine. The risk to our view is that high inflation readings this year alarm the BOE."

Japan

With inflation still far behind the accelerating levels in much of the world, the BOJ is expected to keep all settings unchanged on Friday and stick with messaging that domestic price growth is still too feeble.

The communication task is getting harder, however. Governor Haruhiko Kuroda and colleagues have recently emphasized the importance of stronger wage growth to ensure inflation forms part of a virtuous cycle of growth. The takeaway is that monetary easing must continue for longer.

Russia

The weekends with the Bank of Russia's first regular interest-rate meeting since the invasion of Ukraine led to harsh sanctions and the seizure of a large portion of its more than \$640 billion in foreign reserves.

CURRENT NEWS

Online business registration is a step in the right direction

By Geoffrey Nangai

TANZANIA has made various attempts to promote investment in the country by creating an enabling business environment through strategic reforms.

The strong policy signals have admittedly led to some improvements in the realignment of the business regulatory regime and the government's efforts to improve service delivery.

Notable among such initiatives is the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) Online Registration System (ORS) that has not only cut down time for business registration but has also helped reduce unnecessary movements.

The ORS system increases efficiency of the government services and users are able to apply for the Business Name Registration, Company Registration, Industrial License Registration, Trade and Service Marks Registration and Patents Registration online.

According to data, Business Name Clearance & Name Registration takes a maximum

of one day, company Names Clearance takes one day while Company Incorporation Certificate will be issued within one day.

For industrial licensing the Certificate of Registration will be issued within two days while the Industrial Licenses will be issued within two days.

Last week, I visited the BRELA pavilion during the Women Entrepreneurs Week organized in Dar es Salaam by the Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC), and to my amusement, people were awarded business certificates on the spot.

This caught my attention as many Government agencies had for long been depicted to have a lot of red tape and beau racy with the Head of State publicly announcing that the sixth phase Government will not entertain the vice as it puts off would be investors.

The Minister of State in the Vice President Office responsible for Union and Environment Selemani Jafo while officiating as Guest of honor during the event commended BRELA for its efforts

in creating conducive business environment adding that the Government was working around the clock to remove the existing business hurdles.

"I commend BRELA for this transformation and I believe it will help in enhancing Government efforts to create a conducive environment for both domestic and foreign investors," Jafo noted.

According to a BRELA representative, the agency is committed to improve the business environment in Tanzania and has already taken multiple measures to simplify business registration as part of its to increase efficiency.

The representative said the ORS system has helped to streamline the procedures and modernize services, making the agency's services quick and easy that increases willingness of businesses to register and operate legally.

For the country to make bigger strides in terms of creating a conducive environment, as a country we need devised strategies so as to improve both the policy and regulatory regime that

should go in line with ensuring that the private sector operates in a more friendly environment.

The good part is that the government already embarked upon a holistic approach geared towards reviewing the policy and regulatory framework governing institutions and agencies.

They must improve and strengthen the business enabling environment (BEE) in line with its objective of moving towards industrialization for economic

transformation and human development.

This should go in line with streamline and rationalize the licenses, taxes, charges, fees and levies to ensure inclusive participation of the private sector, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and large-scale enterprises.

According to the Third National Five Year Development Plan (FYDPIII; 2021/22 - 2025/26) under the theme, "Realising Competitiveness and Industrialisation for Human Development" the Government will continue to strengthen the business and investment enabling environment through effective policies to facilitate free private sector competition.

The Efforts to improve the business and investment enabling environment will focus on shortening procedures and easing regulations for starting and operating businesses; simplifying investment procedures by establishing one stop service centres to reduce bureaucracy and corruption; reducing barriers for investors including work permits for specialized professionals



"I commend BRELA for this transformation and I believe it will help in enhancing Government efforts to create a conducive environment for both domestic and foreign investors," Jafo noted

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Russia has lost access to half its reserves, says finance minister

MOSCOW

RUSSIA has already lost access to almost half of its reserves and sees more risks to President Vladimir Putin's war chest due to increased pressure from the West on China, said Finance Minister Anton Siluanov.

"The total volume of our reserves is about \$640 billion, and about 300 billion are in such condition that we can't use them now," he told state television in an interview on Sunday.

"We see what pressure Western countries put on China" to limit access to reserves in yuan, he said. "But I think our partnership ties

with China will let us not just preserve it but expand it."

The asset freeze on Russia's central bank was imposed as part of a series of economic penalties to punish Moscow for the invasion of Ukraine, now into its third week.

Russia's own data published in January shows that \$100 billion of the reserves were held in U.S. dollars as of June, which was 16.4 percent of total cash pile at that time. Holdings in euros were 32.2 percent and those in yuan at 13.1 percent at the end of June 2021.

China has vowed to continue normal trade relations with Russia, which is seen as a strategic partner, despite a corporate exodus

by many European and U.S. firms. China's move to double the yuan trading band for the ruble showed little sign of boosting activity in the pair, with liquidity tightening further on Friday.

Russia will repay debt in rubles until its cash pile is unfrozen, Siluanov said. The Bank of Russia introduced capital controls after its foreign reserves were frozen by international governments. The restrictions have raised the prospect of the nation's first debt default since 1998.

Russia's war on Ukraine has inflicted a domestic toll that's already comparable to the worst downturns of President Vladimir Putin's more than two decades in power.

An economy that was on track to expand this year swung into reverse in a matter of days. Bloomberg Economics' initial forecast is for Russia's full-year GDP to slump about 9 percent in 2022.

The central bank will also keep the Moscow Exchange stock market closed until at least March 18, extending a record shutdown meant to shield domestic investors from the impact of harsh sanctions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Siluanov vowed to continue to aid Russian banks that are in a difficult situation. Current level of reserves allow even those banks to function "that have become the subject of the harshest sanctions," he said.



President Vladimir Putin with Russian Central Bank Governor Elvira Nabiullina

Putin's war is damaging the developing economies

By Jayati Ghosh

NEW DELHI - It is difficult to see any winners in the ongoing war caused by Russia's irrational and devastating invasion of Ukraine. But the losers extend far beyond the people of Ukraine, who are being attacked, and the people of Russia, who did not choose this war but now must endure an economy being dismantled by trade and financial sanctions. The economic impact of the conflict will be felt around the world, including in many developing countries that are already struggling to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

One immediate concern is the effect of rising oil prices. The price of benchmark Brent crude recently jumped by 20% to more than \$139 per barrel, its highest level since 2008 - probably in response to news that the United States and its European allies were discussing a possible ban on imports of Russian oil, which had so far been exempt from Western sanctions.

(On March 8, the US announced a ban on imports of Russian energy products, while the United Kingdom pledged to phase out imports of Russian oil and oil products by the end of 2022.) But global energy prices had already been soaring, following a period of dramatic volatility during the pandemic.

The price of Brent crude, which had fallen to as low as \$9 per barrel in April 2020 at the height of the pandemic's first wave, rose above \$90 per barrel in January 2022.

Since then, the Ukraine war has put further upward pressure on oil and gas prices. Western media have focused on the impact of rising energy prices in Europe, which relies heavily on natural gas imports from Russia.

But most of the world's oil and gas importers are much poorer. Many of these countries were unable to mount fiscal responses to the pandemic on the scale of those in the US and other advanced economies, and have since experienced much weaker recoveries in output and employment.

This latest oil-price spike is a blow they can ill afford, as it is likely to generate balance-of-payments problems and domestic inflationary pressures that will be tough to combat in the current uncertain context.

Of course, the additional inflationary pressures from the Ukraine war are also complicating the challenge that policymakers in rich Western economies face in tackling rising



Jayati Ghosh

prices without causing a hard economic landing.

Oil is a universal intermediary good, which influences the costs of commodities and services, as well as transport costs, in multiple ways. Oil-price increases can thus be a significant driver of cost-push inflation even at the best of times.

But inflation in rich countries was already at levels they had almost forgotten. Policymakers also appear to consider only the most simplistic weapons against inflation, like raising interest rates and tightening liquidity, which do little to address cost-push pressure and could cause a real economic downturn.

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As a PS subscriber, you'll also enjoy unlimited access to our On Point suite of premium long-form content. Say More contributor interviews, The Big Picture topical collections, and the full PS archive.

But the challenges are greater still in the developing world, leaving policymakers with even less wiggle room. The dramatic recent increase in oil prices obviously affects oil-importing countries directly, and will feed into all other prices through rising input and transport costs.

The tragedy playing out in Ukraine is also increasing global food prices, creating even more pain in developing countries where hunger had already increased dramatically during the pandemic. Before the war, Ukraine was the world's fifth-largest wheat exporter, and also a major exporter of barley, corn, rapeseed, and sunflower oil.

The prices of these commodities in global trade have risen significantly, adding to recent increases in crop prices generally. Now there is a further danger: Financial investors who had been betting on speculative asset markets will need to find other places to park their money, and food futures could emerge as a favored destination.

In the first five days of March, the price of wheat

futures at the Chicago Board of Trade increased by 40%, putting it on track for its largest weekly increase since 1959. Crop production in developing countries could also be hit by fertilizer shortages.

Russia, the world's largest wheat exporter, is also a major fertilizer producer, and disruptions to these exports will push global food prices even higher.

We previously saw parts of this movie in otherwise peaceful times, just before the global financial crisis, and it was a dark and depressing story even then.

The food crisis that resulted from financial-market speculation in 2007-08 led to massive increases in hunger and devastated the lives of hundreds of millions of people in developing countries.

Jayati Ghosh, Executive Secretary of International Development Economics Associates, is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a member of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.

AGRA help smallholder farmers on climate change adaptation

NAIROBI

AGRA (Alliance for a Green Revolution) has joined the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate) as a Knowledge Partner.

Launched at COP26, AIM for Climate is a UAE-US joint initiative which works to accelerate investments and support for climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation.

At its first Ministerial Meeting in Dubai, AIM for Climate agreed a target of \$8 billion from public and private-sector partners for climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation by November 2022 at the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27).

As a Knowledge Partner of AIM for Climate, AGRA supports the objectives of the global initiative and intends to create opportunities to enhance African countries' agricultural sector readiness for investments and support smallholder farmers adapt to the effects of climate change.

This engagement flowed from

a meeting with Her Excellency Mariam Almhiri, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, who shared more about the AIM for Climate initiative, and its goal to catalyse solutions at the intersection of agriculture and climate.

The UAE Minister met with AGRA President Dr. Agnes Kalibata and a delegation of Ministers and senior government leaders from Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda during the Agriculture, Food and Livelihoods Week hosted at the Expo 2020 Dubai.

Dr. Kalibata said commitments and action will be needed if smallholders are to adapt to the changing climate. "If no action is taken, climate impacts will lead to overall yield reductions of up to 30% by 2050, while extreme weather events will result in higher losses of post-harvest quality and quantity. AGRA is proud to join the AIM for Climate as a Knowledge Partner and to engage with other participants to seek to accelerate adoption of solutions through its Innovation Sprints,"

Dr Kalibata said.

During the Expo, the AGRA President also discussed important opportunities with the World Bank, the Committee on World Food Security, EAT Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Nourishing Africa to support African countries in financing their transitions to more sustainable food systems in the follow-up from the Food Systems Summit.

"Our aim at AGRA is to work closely with African governments to help them access platforms for mobilising resources to push their commitment to transform their food systems forward and translate them into concrete strategies and action. This involves setting targets and reforms to be effected," she added. "Together with our partners, AGRA is proud to launch the AGRF to be held in Kigali, Rwanda, in September 2022 to support building these implementation plans and bringing Africa's voice together on food security and climate to COP27 in Egypt later this year".



Maize farm affected by climate change

VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

RIGHTS BODY: Ambush, reprisals in Ethiopia kill 64

NAIROBI

AT least 53 people died in western Ethiopia after an unidentified armed group attacked a civilian convoy and its military escort in a region plagued by ethnic violence, a rights body appointed by the government said on Sunday.

The previously unreported attack occurred on March 2 in Metekel, in the Benishangul-Gumuz region, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission said.

Twenty soldiers and three civilians were killed in the ambush, while 30 attackers died during the day-long gun battle that followed.

Eleven more people were killed the following day - including one who was burned alive - as security forces round-

ed up suspects and carried out summary killings, according to the rights group.

The commission investigated the incident after a video posted on social media on Friday showed armed men, some in military uniforms, using a stick to poke a man back onto a burning pile of bodies after he tried to escape. The government said on Saturday it would act against the perpetrators. read more

According to the commission, the government soldiers stopped a bus, pulled out eight ethnic Tigrayan civilians who had just been released from prison and accused them of orchestrating the attack.

Security officers detained and beat the men, then they shot them, along



In this file photo taken on Jan 30, 2021, an Eritrean refugee child walks at the entrance of Mai Aini Refugee camp, in Ethiopia. File photo

with two men from the local Gumuz ethnic group, and burned their bodies, the commission said. Security officers told the commission that they found cash and a satellite phone with the Tigrayan suspects.

Security forces discovered another Tigrayan man hiding in a car, tied him up and threw him onto the pyre, the commission said, noting the presence of Ethiopian soldiers and uniformed forces from the Amhara region and Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples' Region.

The rights body did not say which security force killed the civilians.

Spokesmen for the two regions were not avail-

able for comment. A military spokesman and government spokesman did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The violence in the Benishangul-Gumuz, home to several ethnic groups, is separate from the war in Tigray, a northern region that has been fighting central government rule for more than 16 months.

The United Nations has said at least 15,000 Tigrayan civilians were arrested or detained in connection with a state of emergency declared in November and lifted last month.

Agencies

Widodo launches construction of Indonesia's new capital

JAKARTA

INDONESIA officially launched the construction of its new capital in the Penajam Paser Utara regency in East Kalimantan on March 14, with President Joko Widodo leading the ceremony.

The ceremony started at around 10 am with governors solemnly taking turns in handing over to the president a small bag of earth and a pot of water taken from their own areas.

The president then poured all the earth and water into large pots to symbolize national unity that would be enforced with the new state capital "Nusantara".

Bambang Soesatyo, East Kalimantan Governor Isran Noor and First Lady Iriana accompanied the president to receive the earth and water.

In the Indonesian language, fatherland is called "Tanah Air" that literally means "Earth" and "Water".

In his speech, Widodo said, "Today, Monday March 14 2022, we gathered here for our



big aspiration and for the big work that we will begin to carry out soon namely the building of Ibu Kota Nusantara."

The term Ibu Kota Nusantara in local language means State Capital Nusantara. And the word Nusantara roughly indicates an ar-

chipelago.

"I would like to express my gratitude to governors. This is the form of our unity in diversity, the strong unity among us, in building Ibu Kota Nusantara," the president said. "Collaboration among the central government, regional governments, the Armed Forces, the National Police, the private sector, and the whole community to support this state capital will be very helpful that what we aspire will be realized soon."

As many as 34 provincial governors from across the country attended the event. Also participating were Chairman of People's Consultative Assembly Bambang Soesatyo; Bambang Susantono and Dhony Rahajoe as head and deputy head of the IKN Nusantara Authority who were installed on March 10; several cabinet ministers; and 15 traditional group leaders from East Kalimantan.

As many as 60,000 government employees, Armed Forces and Police Force members will reportedly be relocated from Jakarta to the new state capital by the end of 2023.

Agencies

Novavax's COVID-19 jab rollout in EU off to a slow start

WASHINGTON / PARIS / HAMILTON

DEMAND for the COVID-19 vaccine produced by US biotech firm Novavax has been underwhelming in the European Union's main countries in the early rollout, so far undermining hopes that it could convince vaccine sceptics to get a shot.

Over 85 percent of adults in the 27-country EU bloc have received at least one dose and nearly two-thirds of them have also had a booster, but tens of millions remain unvaccinated.

The Novavax vaccine, the latest to receive the EU regulators' approval

under the trade name of Nuvaxovid, was expected to persuade some sceptics because it is based on a more conventional technology than the other four vaccines authorized so far in the EU.

But initial data on Nuvaxovid's rollout show that it has had a small impact on vaccination campaigns.

In Germany, the EU's most populous country and home to more than 10 million unvaccinated adults, only about 38,000 Novavax doses have been administered since the start of the rollout on Feb 24, according to data from the Robert Koch Institute.

In March so far on average nearly 90,000 COVID



vaccines have been administered daily in Germany, mostly boosters. Only 3 percent of them were Novavax's, despite over 2 million doses distributed to the country. A similar situation is emerging in Italy, where less than 16,000 Nuvaxovid doses have been administered since Feb 28, when the rollout start-

ed after the delivery of one million shots to vaccination centers. In the same period, the country injected over 70,000 COVID-19 vaccines a day, largely boosters, data from the government show.

Novavax said its protein-based shot will play a role in driving vaccination among those who have been hesitant to get im-

munized and it has started an educational effort on vaccine choices.

The arrival of the vaccine so far into the region's campaign which started in late 2020 and amid the easing of restrictive measures were among the reasons for the "disappointing performance," former head of the EU's drugs agency, Guido Rasi, said.

Data from the European Center for Disease prevention and Control show that boosters amount to about two-thirds of all vaccinations in recent weeks, with the (messenger) mRNA vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech remaining the most used.

Nuvaxovid is used almost exclusively as a first dose for unvaccinated.

"The hope that the (Novavax) vaccine could convince the undecided has been dashed. Unfortunately, there is no upsurge in the number of newly vaccinated people," said Nino Cartabellotta, who chairs the Gimbe Foundation, a research group.

In France, only about 1,300 people received the Novavax vaccine in the first 10 days of the rollout.

Demand for boosters was far higher, with over 12,000 of Pfizer's third doses administered on March 10 alone, the last day for which data is available, data from the French health agency showed.

Marcos Jr holds big lead in poll for Philippine presidency

MANILA

THE son and namesake of late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos has maintained a strong lead in the Philippines' presidential election race, according to an opinion poll published yesterday.

The Feb 18-23 survey by independent pollster Pulse Asia showed Marcos cornering 60 percent of support from 2,400 respondents, unchanged from January, with his closest rival Leni Robredo, the incumbent vice president, sliding from 16 percent to 15 percent.

The other main presidential contenders for the May 9 contest - Manila Mayor Francisco Domagosa, boxing great Manny Pacquiao and Senator Panfilo Lacson - received 10 percent, 8 percent and 2 percent, respectively.

Sara Duterte-Carpio, the daughter of incumbent President Rodrigo Duterte, remained the top choice for vice president, with a 29-point lead over her closest rival, Senate president Vicente Sotto.

Duterte-Carpio is the running mate of Marcos. In the Philippines, the vice president is elected separately to the president.

More than 67 million Filipinos, including 1.7 million overseas, have registered to vote in the elections, which historically have a high turnout.

Posts contested include the presidency, vice presidency, 12 senate seats, 300 lower house seats, and roughly 18,000 local positions. Official campaigning began on Feb 8.



Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Junior, presidential candidate and son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, greets supporters during a rally in Las Pinas City, suburban Manila, on Sunday. AFP

Malaysia PM's alliance wins key election amid rise in youth voters

KUALA LUMPUR

A COALITION led by Malaysian Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob on Saturday scored a landslide victory in a state election seen as a key test for national polls, after voting reforms that saw a large influx of young and first-time voters.

The convincing win in southern Johor state for a coalition led by Ismail Sabri's party, the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) came ahead of a general election that could be called as early as July. Malaysia has lowered the voting age from 21 to 18 and allowed automatic voter registration, adding 5.8 million people to the electoral roll - a 40 percent increase, with new voters making up about a third of those registered in Johor.

On Saturday, the UMNO-led Barisan Nasional alliance secured 40 of 56 Johor state legislature seats, crushing a fractured group of rival parties.

"This result was beyond our expectations... for us, this is a gift for the people of Johor," UMNO president Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said in a live-streamed victory speech.

Since 2018, Malaysia has had three prime ministers and seen the collapse of two governments and the splintering of two major opposing coalitions, amid protracted political turmoil.

Johor's election was the country's most divided race yet, with two ruling government coalitions, an opposition alliance, and several independent parties and candidates joining the fray.

MUDA, a youth and reforms-based party contesting its maiden election in Johor, won just one of the seven seats it contested. But it said the youth vote propelled it to second-place finishes in two constituencies.

Agencies



Voters wearing face masks as they line up to enter a voting center on the outskirts of Malacca, Malaysia, on Nov 20, 2021. File photo

CPPCC members interviewed via video link ahead of annual session

MEMBERS of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) were interviewed via video link ahead of the opening of the fifth session of the 13th CPPCC National Committee at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on March 4.

Zhou Jianping, a member of the 13th National Committee of the CPPCC, also chief engineer of China's manned space program, introduced China's aerospace plans for 2022.

China's space station construction entered the full implementation stage last year, and the core module of the space station is in good conditions after over 10 months of in-orbit operation, Zhou

introduced.

He said the Shenzhou-13 spaceship has been in orbit for around 140 days, during which its crew members have maintained good health and a great work-life balance.

They have completed both planned missions and those newly assigned while they were in orbit, and are scheduled to return to Earth in mid-April, he noted, adding that the return will mark the conclusion of the verification of key technologies of China's space station.

Zhou said that analysis and preliminary assessment of flying data indicated that all systems of the manned space program are technically qualified, with

their major functions and performance beyond design objectives.

The chief engineer introduced that China will launch two laboratory modules, two manned spaceships and two cargo crafts this year, and the Shenzhou-15 crew will fly to the space station before the end of this year and join the Shenzhou-14 crew in space.

At that time, the space station will consist of three modules, two manned spacecrafts and one cargo spacecraft, Zhou said.

The space station will host six astronauts and carry a large number of high-level space experiment devices covering fields such as life sciences, biological sci-

ence, and material science, he said.

"China contributes nearly 30 percent to the world's manufacturing," said Liu Mingzhong, a member of the 13th National Committee of the CPPCC, who's also the board chairman and Party secretary of China First Heavy Industries, during the joint interview.

Liu said high-quality development of equipment manufacturing is a vital part of China's high-quality development and is indispensable to a modern major country.

"Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the country has attached high importance to the development of equipment manufac-

turing. It has grown into a world-class manufacturer of high-speed rail, nuclear power, hydropower, and metallurgy equipment. In particular, it is leading the world in manufacturing technologies of petrochemical engineering equipment," Liu said. He noted that China will carry out reforms to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, promote independent innovation, and build more creative centers involving enterprises, universities and research institutes, so as to strengthen the resilience of the industrial chain of equipment manufacturing.

During the joint interview, member of the 13th National Committee of the CPPCC Li Yingxin, who's also the vice-pres-

ident of the Tongzhou District People's Court of Beijing, introduced how circuit court trials have brought fairness and justice closer to people.

To illustrate her point, she shared a story of a migrant worker surnamed Zhang, who filed a lawsuit against his contractor because the latter refused to compensate him for his work injury.

After Li received Zhang's case and learned that the man could not appear in court as he was hospitalized, she moved the hearing to Zhang's bedside. Doctors and patients, surprised by the circuit court trial in Zhang's ward, all gave the thumbs up to Li after they witnessed the hearing.

People's Daily



China determines to make Beijing Paralympic Winter Games as splendid as Winter Olympics

COMMITTED to organizing the green, inclusive, open and clean Games, China has planned and prepared for the Winter Paralympics and Olympics at the same pace during the past more than six years to make sure the Paralympics will be as splendid as the recently-concluded Olympics.

Recently, barrier-free facilities in the competition venues and the Beijing 2022 Winter Paralympic Villages have been widely acclaimed for considerate designs and arrangements.

The preparations for the 2022 Winter Paralympics are efficient and smooth, said Andrew Parsons, president of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), adding that the barrier-free facilities have been in place at the venues and Paralympic Villages, providing a safe and convenient environment for participants.

A three-storey two-way accessible ramp, with wide-angle mirrors placed in the turns, has been set up at the National Aquatics Center, a venue for wheelchair curling during the Paralympic Winter Games.

The wide-angle mirrors enable athletes with disabilities to spot players coming from the opposite direction as early as possible, thus avoiding collisions, said a staff member at the venue, who added that there are several half-space landings on the ramp for the convenience of disabled athletes.

Such arrangements demonstrate Games organizers' humanistic concern for athletes with disabilities. "All the accessible designs are aimed at providing a fair and comfortable competition environment for athletes with disabilities," noted Liu Zhenduo, facility manager of the venue operation team.

Under the principle of frugality in hosting Winter Games, all five competition venues for the Paralympics have been transformed from the ones used in the Winter Olympics. These competition venues have been certified as qualified for competitions by international Olympic winter sports federations.

The preparations and venue transformation for the Paralympics have been efficient and smooth, which is attributed to Games organizers' careful consideration of the needs of both the Olympics and Paralympics during the preparations.

During the design and construction of the venues, they fully explored the possibility of creating a barrier-free environment, which greatly reduced workload and improved work efficiency in the transformation of venues.

To make it easier for athletes with disabilities to check in, the Paralympic Village in the Yanqing competition zone set up security checkpoint at the entrance of the Village. Thanks to the thoughtful arrangement, athletes with disabilities only need to get off the vehicle once during the trip from the airport to their accommodation. While the security checkpoint is brought closer to the Paralympic Village, athletes with disabilities also feel more connected with the service teams.

Compared with that during the Olympics, the checkpoints at Paralympic Villages not only have an extra green channel for manual security checks, but provide more careful and thoughtful security check procedures.

"We received a warm and consideration welcome here and are really thrilled," said the deputy head of the Slovakian delegation to the 2022 Winter Paralympics.

While ensuring athletes with disabilities live comfortably, China has also made efforts to bring them safe and good competition experience.

Many athletes have already carried out training in some venues of the Paralympics, and highly praised their operation.

The National Biathlon Center, one of the Paralympic venues, prepared Braille reading materials and maps, ensuring information accessibility to visually impaired people and helping them better understand the information about venue and competition.

As the temperature has risen recently, the technical team of the National Alpine Skiing Center, another venue, has managed to reduce the surface temperature to maintain the hardness of the snow.

In order to keep the ski run level and clean, the team members clean it carefully every day. "These are all for the best possible competition and training environment for athletes," said Li Guangquan, a technical official.

"We will integrate the construction of accessible facilities for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games into the efforts to improve the accessibility of the environment in the host city, so as to leave rich sustainable heritage to the city," said Yang Jinkui, head of the Paralympics department of the Beijing Organising Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Since 2019, Beijing has carried out a special campaign for improving environmental accessibility between 2019 and 2021, under which it handled more than 210,000 cases of illegally occupied and idle accessible facilities and established 100 high-quality demonstration zones of accessible environment and 100 "15-minute radius convenient and barrier-free life circles".

People's Daily

Ukrainian presidential office says 4th round of talks with Russia to be tough

KIEV UKRAINIAN presidential office adviser Mikhail Podolyak expects that another, fourth round of talks with Russia which was scheduled to begin yesterday by video link will be tough.

"The fourth round of negotiations. On peace, ceasefire, immediate troop pullout and security guarantees. Tough discussion is due," he said on his Telegram channel.

Earlier, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told TASS Russian and Ukrainian delegates would continue negotiations by video link on Monday.



Ukrainian Presidential Office Advisor Mikhail Podolyak

Ukrainian delegation member David Arakhmiya, the leader of the ruling party Servant of the People's parliamentary faction, said the talks would begin at 10:30, without specifying the time belt.

The first round of Russian-Ukrainian negotiations was held in the Gomel Region of neighboring Belarus on February 28. It lasted five hours. The second round followed in Belovezhskaya Pushcha, Belarus on March 3. The delegates met for a third time in the Brest Region of Belarus on March 7.

And on March 10 Russian For-

eign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmitry Kuleba held a meeting on the sidelines of the diplomatic forum in Turkey's Antalya.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on February 24 declared a special military operation in Ukraine in response to a request for help from the leaders of the Donbass republics.

Russia demands Ukraine's demilitarization and denazification, its neutral and nuclear-free status, recognition of Russia's sovereignty over Crimea and the sovereignty of the Donetsk and Lugansk people's republics.

Serbia will remain military neutral and will not join NATO – Vucic

BELGRADE

SERBIA will remain a military neutral state and will not join NATO, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, who is running for a second term, said at the election rally of the Serbian Progressive Party in Backa Palanka on Sunday.

"Someone says: 'Never say never, maybe we will join NATO someday.' But I say: we don't need to join NATO. I think Serbia should remain militarily neutral, protect its military neutrality and develop its army," the Serbian President said.

Vucic (pictured) noted that during his tenure as president, unlike his rivals in the presidential race, he did not destroy the Serbian army, but strengthened it.

"We are strengthening our

army in order to defend our sky, our land, ourselves and never depend on anyone except our people. This is our policy," he stressed.

In the early 2000s, the then pro-Western leadership of Serbia stated that the armament of the army was outdated and unpromising.

As part of the reform of the defense system, it was decided to sell military training grounds, barracks and other facilities, and send armored vehicles for remelting.

Armored troops (the main tank - T-55) were melted down for several years at the Serbian metallurgical plant Zhelezara Smederevo, which was bought by the American company US Steel.

After melting down Serbian armored vehicles, US Steel sold the



now-unprofitable steel mill to the Serbian government in January

2012 for the symbolic sum of \$1. In addition, according to the

document of the Serbian Defense Ministry dated December 5, 2017, in 2005 it was decided to sell 200 T-55 tanks, 121 M60 armored personnel carriers, 77 M36 self-propelled guns, 88 M38 howitzers (122 mm), 36 anti-aircraft self-propelled artillery installations ZSU-57-2.

The sale was carried out after the weapons were registered as secondary raw materials, the document says. Also in 2003, 2005 and 2008, it was decided to destroy 9,218 9M32M (Strela-2) anti-tank missiles and 420 launchers for the Strela-2 system. In 2003, they disposed of 23,000 small arms and 91 guns of 20 mm and 30 mm caliber.

The disposal of weapons was carried out in cooperation with the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency. Agencies

Turkey will not join Western sanctions against Russia – foreign minister

ANKAR

TURKEY will not join the sanctions some Western countries have imposed on Russia over the special operation in Ukraine, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told a diplomatic forum in Antalya on Sunday.

"We believe that the sanctions will not resolve the problem," he said when asked about Turkey's stance regarding sanctions against Russia. "Take the airspace. In accordance with the Montreux Convention we have no power to close it. This is a legal obligation."

In the meantime, NATO's Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on the sidelines of the diplomatic forum the alliance expected all its members to impose restrictions on Moscow.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on February 24 launched a special military operation in Ukraine following a re-



Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu

quest for assistance from the leaders of the Donbass republics.

He said Moscow had no plans for an occupation of Ukrainian territories. The United States, the European Union, Britain and a number of other countries said they were

introducing sanctions against Russian legal entities and individuals.

Turkey has repeatedly said it had no intention of joining sanctions against Russia so as not to harm its own economy and to keep the door open to a dialogue with Russia.

Huawei's TECH4ALL project in Africa wins GSMA award

NAIROBI

AT MWC 2022 Barcelona earlier this month, Safaricom, Close the Gap and Huawei received the Global Mobile GLOMO Award in recognition of the TECH4ALL DigiTruck project's outstanding contribution to the UN's sustainable development goals.

The DigiTruck project was launched in Kenya for the first time in 2019. It was launched by Huawei in collaboration with international NGO Close the Gap, Kenya's Ministry for ICT, Computer for Schools Kenya, GSMA and operator Safaricom.

The project aims to bring digital technology to resource-poor regions and enable people to receive quality education and improve their lives.

By the end of 2020, the project has provided services to 13 Kenyan rural areas 1300 students and teachers, clocked up to 22000 hours for training.

DigiTruck is a mobile classroom transformed from a truck container with wireless broadband access, where students can learn digital skills and access the internet.

"This win is a remarkable recognition of our efforts together with Huawei and other partners in connecting our customers digitally," said Peter Ndegwa, CEO of Safaricom.

DigiTruck is part of Huawei's digital inclusion initiative TECH4ALL,

aimed at using technology, applications and skills to empower people and organizations. In Sub-Saharan Africa, TECH4ALL is also carried out in South Africa, Ghana and Mauritius.

In South Africa, TECH4ALL has benefited more than 52000 students from over 90 primary schools both in urban and rural areas; in Mauritius, the project is using underwater cameras to monitor threatened coral reefs in real-time to protect and restore 5 hectares of the coral reef ecosystem; in Ghana, the project aims to create digital content for local teachers and students.

Ghana's Education Minister Yaw Osei Adutsum said: "I am pleased to see that UNESCO and Huawei are working with our national institutions, especially

those mandated by the Government of Ghana to promote the full integration of ICT into the education system."

"Information and communication technologies ICTs can help accelerate progress towards every single Sustainable Development Goals of United Nations especially key SDGs including Quality Education, Gender Equality and Climate Change.

As a global ICT company operating in Sub-Saharan Africa, we try to unlock the potential of ICTs together with local and international partners for better life, better community, better environment and better future for people and future generations from the region said Yang Chen, VP, Huawei Southern Africa Region. Agencies

China, Africa urged to cement diplomatic ties through closer people-to-people exchanges

ADDIS ABABA

CHINA and the countries of Africa should cement their ever-deepening diplomatic ties by further enhancing people-to-people exchanges, an Ethiopian expert has said.

People-to-people relations should be considered as the basis and mainstay and could uplift the already blossoming China-Africa ties, Costantinos Bt. Costantinos, a professor of public policy at the Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

With the emergence of technology boosting the power of public diplomacy, strong people-to-people relations can support the traditional form of diplomacy, Costantinos said.

"We should understand that the 21st century has dramatically changed the way nations interact with each other, in which traditional diplomatic ties alone could not bring about the expected aspirations unless it is aligned and supported by formidable popular support," he said.

Costantinos, who has served as an economic advisor to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, said that building strong people-to-people relations involves pub-

lic participation in complex issues that transcend national boundaries.

He called on China and Africa to develop a collaborative relationship by putting the people of both sides at the center as "a requisite for abundant relations and adopt a disciplined coordination model for the conduct of diplomacy."

By sharing its experience and practices, China can empower Africa's growing young population to keep up with the latest advancements, according to the expert.

Costantinos underscored the importance given to expanding China-Africa cultural and people-to-people exchange as one of the nine programs to be implemented under the first three-year plan of the China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035.

During the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held in late November 2021, China said it will work closely with African countries to implement the cultural and people-to-people exchange program, in which the Asian country will support making all African countries having diplomatic ties with China approved destinations for Chinese tourist groups, and hold a series of events including film festivals and forums.

Xinhua

5 dead in Malawi due to Tropical Cyclone Gombe impact

LILONGWE

AT least five people in Malawi have died of the impact of Tropical Cyclone Gombe that is moving towards the country from Mozambique, Malawi's Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) said Sunday.

Four of the dead were from the district of Machinga, while the fifth, a 28-year-old man washed away by a flooding river, was from the district of Mangochi, the DoDMA said.

According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Gombe made initial landfall in Mozambique on Friday as a Category 3 tropical cyclone "with devastating winds, rainfall and storm surge."

The WMO added in its warning posted Friday on Twitter that heavy rains "bring a threat of flooding in

Mozambique and southern Malawi for several days." Malawi's Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services has issued a bulletin regarding Gombe's approach, adding that 10 districts in southern Malawi, including those bordering Mozambique, will be affected.

Gombe has brought continuous heavy rains to Malawi, resulting in flooding and destruction of several infrastructures in the country. As preparatory measures, the DoDMA has stockpiled relief items and deployed a search and rescue team to the flood-prone areas. In late January, Malawi was hit by Tropical Cyclone Ana, which left at least 46 people dead and another 18 missing in the country, affecting more than 221,000 households and 945,000 people, according to official reports.

Xinhua



Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) junior tennis player, Wazaino Mutale, battles it out in a past BQ Open tournament that took place in the city. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Dar Gymkhana to host CPS tennis tournament next week

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

THE CPS tennis tournament will get underway next week at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC), the tournament's organizers disclosed yesterday.

Salum Mwamvita said the tournament will start on Thursday and end on Saturday and more than 60 players are expected to compete in it.

He said winners in singles and doubles categories will rake in cash prizes.

Mwamvita said 500,000/- will be handed over to winners in the men's singles category, the runner-up will get 300,000/- and 150,000/- will be presented to each of the players who will reach the semi-finals while those who will reach quarterfinals will each take home 100,000/-.

In the women's singles category, the winner will get 350,000/- runner-up is to secure 200,000/- while in the men's doubles the winners will get 300,000/- runners-up secure 200,000/- and 100,000/- will be handed over to those who will reach the semi-finals.

Mwamvita noted: "This year's edition of the CPS tennis tournament gets underway next week from March 24-27 at Dar es Salaam Gym-

khana Club (DGC). We thank CPS for bankrolling the tournament."

This is the second time in a row for CPS to sponsor a tournament, they sponsored it last year.

In the previous interview CPS Director, Sebastian Dietzold, said his company is aimed at giving children an opportunity to showcase their talent.

He said the country has many tennis players but they stay idle, he said they need private sector support so that they can play many games.

Dietzold said his company is committed to seeing that the country has a tennis league that will see local players being ranked on International Tennis Federation (ITF) and eventually compete at the Davis Cup.

He stated: "CPS is committed to seeing that tennis is played in many parts of the country, we want to have a strong tennis league which can help our players earn ITF ranking and shortly play at the Davis Cup but that can be done if the private sector helps."

He said this year CPS plans to sponsor tennis tournaments in Zanzibar and Arusha, pointing out this is the first step targeting taking tennis to greater heights.

Two wheelchair tennis players jet off to Turkey for BNP Paribas World Team Cup

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

TANZANIA wheelchair players travel to Turkey to compete at the BNP Paribas World Team Cup.

The National Wheelchair Tennis Association (WTTA) secretary-general, Riziki Salum, said initially they planned to send six players but due to financial challenges the association is facing, two players are travelling to Turkey.

Salum, who also serves as the national side's head coach, said WTTA has done all it can to raise money for the trip but to no avail.

The tactician pointed out that he and the two are going to Turkey on sponsorship from the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

The coach mentioned the two players as Lucy Julius and Rehema Suleiman.

"We have tried our best, but we have failed. We have no choice but to send the two players only, the two are sponsored by the International Tennis Federation (ITF)," he said.

Salum said WTTA was banking on well-wishers who included the Qatar Embassy to Tanzania but, as of yesterday, the embassy had not released the funds.

"We were banking on well-wishers who included the Qatar Embassy but the Ambassador Hussain Ahmad Al-Homaid is in his country, his absence has affected us," Salum pointed

out. "The Qatar Embassy has invited me but whatever the outcome of the invitation, we are sure that our country will be represented by two players," he said.

Six players who were in the initial squad for the trip are Voster Isaya, Jumanne Nassoro, Albert Churi, Rehema Suleiman, Lucy Julius, and Pendo Zengo.

The team was to travel to Turkey last Thursday but failed due to the financial challenges WTTA is facing.

Due to this, Tanzania missed the Megassaray Open which started last Saturday and ends today.

The coach said the team will compete at BNP Paribas World Team Cup which gets underway on Thursday and concludes Sunday, it will be used for this year's World Cup qualification, the World Cup is scheduled for May 2-8.

They will also compete at the Kros Medical Open Wheelchair Tennis Tournament which is slated for March 24-27.

The Kros Medical Open will be used as a qualification for the Paris 2024 Paralympics.

Tanzania wheelchair tennis team competed at the BNP Paribas World Team Cup which was held in 2017 in Italy and it has also competed at many regional events and performed well.

Sports now set to afford tourism a major boost



Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Damas Ndumbaro (C), poses for a picture with Atletico Madrid's International Trade Director, Danilo Scio (2nd R), and Tanzania's Ambassador to Spain, Samuel Shelukindo (2nd L), who is based in Paris, France, shortly after a meeting with the outfit's leadership. Others (L-R) are Tanzania's Embassy staff. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

BY CORRESPONDENT LLOYD ELIPOKEA

A vividly clear illustration of sports' gigantic impact on society was seen last week during our Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Damas Ndumbaro's Dutch tour.

Indeed, the honourable minister was in Holland last week to hold talks with the world-famous Ajax Amsterdam FC about the possibility of the Dutch titans advertising our enticing tourism attractions via billboards at their home arena and also through the Dutch club's trademark jerseys.

Pleasingly, according to the minister, the talks were successful as Ajax's management welcomed our government's proposal and promised to present it to the Dutch giants' commercial department.

It should be noted at this juncture that this is a praiseworthy

move by the authorities which should be lauded to the hilt.

It also demonstrates that the authorities are willing to engage in utterly creative or out-of-the-box thinking to boost various sectors of our country's economy.

One then can rightly feel sanguine about the Dutch club's receptivity to our government's impressive proposal and hopefully, the partnership, once formalized, will open a new and successful chapter in the history of tourism in our country.

Moving on, Simba SC was in the thick of ultra-competitive continental club football last Sunday when they played host to the Moroccan outfit RS Berkane in a key CAF Confederation Cup group stage duel.

It should be recalled that these two football outfits crossed swords a week ago in an encounter that ended in a 2-0 triumph

for RS Berkane on the latter's home turf.

With that loss in mind, the face-off last Sunday would prove to be all-important for Simba SC as an unfavourable outcome would have badly dented their hopes of progressing to the next phase of the CAF Confederation Cup.

Fortunately, though, the Msimbazi Street side earned a hard-fought, slim 1-0 victory over Berkane which propelled them to the apex of their group.

In addition, Simba SC's win last Sunday reminded us once again of the decidedly tricky nature of top-class football where the tables can be turned so rapidly from a defeat to a victory in merely two games.

Finally, let us dig into the hotly debated issue of coaching on the continent where more often than not, foreign coaches are preferred to indigenous tacticians.

Granted, while it is true that foreign coaches have garnered a measure of success in continental football, the laudable exertions of indigenous football masterminds like Aliou Cisse of Senegal or Pitsso Mosimane of South Africa indisputably reveal that African coaches can rise to the occasion with the ideal amount of support.

It is questionable, however, whether that kind of support has been readily available in the past.

Thus, one would like to call upon the CAF president Patrice Motsepe to strain every sinew to improve coaching on the continent.

Indeed, it is widely known that the CAF president likes to talk about a good game.

Nevertheless, where the quality of coaching is concerned, we would very much like to see the CAF president do much more not just in words but in deeds.

Simba SC winger out to prove doubters wrong

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

MALAWIAN winger, Peter Banda, has proved soccer lovers wrong after experiencing a dip in form shortly after joining Tanzania's Simba SC and later performing well for it.

The footballer adapted to Simba SC's approach, turning into a squad key player thanks to his contribution, including scoring and assisting.

Banda is eager to showcase virtuosity after having a turnaround.

The 21-year-old professional is now slowly establishing himself into the first-team squad after missing the first round due to various reasons including injuries and national team duties.

Banda was signed by Simba earlier this season from Sheriff Tiraspol of Moldova, where he was playing on loan from Malawi's Nyasa Big Bullets FC.

The performer though had a bad start, but since returning from the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals in Cameroon, the footballer has showcased improvement.

In recent matches, ranging from continental tournament assignments to NBC Premier League and Azam Sports Federation Cup, Banda has been convincing Simba coach Pablo Franco to be one of the squad players who is sure to start in the first team regularly.

The winger produces great displays in fixtures, in the last five matches he has been involved in two of the team's nine goals scoring one goal and assisting.

Banda told The Guardian despite the good work he has done, has not yet reached the level he wants.

The winger stressed he continues to fight to ensure he helps Simba achieve goals as well as show his quality.

The footballer added he is proving people wrong, especially those who said he is not good for NBC Premier League.

The professional stated: "Coming into a new league it wasn't easy, as every player needs time to adapt and grow his game into the team system and understanding the game and what the coach wants, I know I have a talent, and I wasn't worried as I knew the time will come and everyone will be able to see what I can produce."



Simba SC winger, Peter Banda (R), dribbles past Dodoma Jiji FC defenders as the squads faced off in the NBC Premier League clash in Dar es Salaam.

"What I need right now is to show people the quality I have in helping the team achieve its goals. I thank the technical bench for believing in me and giving me a chance," Banda noted.

"I will continue to fight to regain my confidence that will make me better and more enjoyable in my life in Simba and I believe that will come true as we are with my teammates, they support me in everything so Simba fans should remove any doubt about their team as we are here to make them happier."

Coach Franco described Banda as a young

player with great potential and all qualities of playing for such a popular team like Simba.

"Banda is a good player and a great talent, he shows improvement every day and I believe that together we will all achieve goals," Pablo noted.

Banda has been starting as a right-winger or left, interchanging with Pape Ousmane Sakho. The wingers have been a threat in front of opposing outfits' goals, impressing Simba fans.

Xavi: Aubameyang is a gift 'fallen out of the sky'

BARCELONA

BARCELONA coach Xavi Hernandez says Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang is a gift that dropped from the sky after the former Arsenal striker's sixth goal for the club helped seal a 4-0 win against Osasuna on Sunday.

Aubameyang, 32, added the third goal before half-time at Camp Nou after Ferran Torres had scored twice. Substitute Riqui Puig completed the scoring after the break as Barca cut the gap on second placed Sevilla to five points with a game in hand.

Barca have now hit four goals in four of their last nine games, leaving behind the problems they encountered in front of goal in the first half of the season. January signings Aubameyang, Torres and Adama Traore have helped transform their attack.

"Aubameyang is a present that has fallen out of the sky," Xavi said in a news conference of the Gabon forward, who joined on a free transfer after Arsenal agreed to terminate his contract.

"It's not just [the goals], it's how he trains and his professionalism. He's an example, [all the players] are."

Torres, a €55 million signing from Manchester City, opened the scoring from the penalty spot against Osasuna and added the second after good work from Ousmane Dembele. The Spain international has been criticised for his finishing since joining Barca but he now has five goals for the club.

"I said that the goals would come for Ferran," Xavi added. "He's scored goals wherever he's been: Valencia, City and with the Spanish national team. It was just a matter of time. I'm delighted with how he's doing."

Xavi also praised the third member of Sunday's front three, Dembele. The French winger has been jeered in recent weeks following a standoff over his contract renewal, with his

current terms up in June, but he's won supporters back around with assists, including two more against Osasuna.

"If you perform you make people happy," Xavi said. "The fans can see that he's giving everything for Barca and you can't deceive the supporters. He was great today."

Barca are currently riding a wave of euphoria following a run of positive results under Xavi. They were ninth in LaLiga when the former midfielder took over but are now third, unbeaten in 12 league games and closing in on Sevilla, who drew this weekend.

However, they're still 12 points behind leaders Real Madrid, who they meet in the Clasico at the Santiago Bernabeu next weekend (U.S. audiences can stream Real Madrid vs. Barcelona this Sunday LIVE on ESPN+).

"Winning LaLiga is very difficult, even if we beat Madrid," Xavi said. "Mainly because Madrid aren't slipping up. They've only lost twice. They would have to drop points four times, so we can't be too optimistic."

"But the sensations are really good. If we can put this intensity into every game then we can compete against anyone. Everyone is enjoying themselves and that can be difficult in modern day football."

"We improved our ball circulation and added that intensity [that was missing] from Thursday's goalless draw against Galatasaray. The win gives us a lot of confidence."

Before the Clasico, Barca travel to Istanbul on Thursday for the second leg of their Europa League last 16 tie against Galatasaray.

Xavi confirmed defender Gerard Pique will be fine for the game despite coming off with a thigh problem.

(Agencies)

Ronaldo hits form in time for another go at familiar foe Atletico

LONDON

CRISTIANO Ronaldo gave Manchester United fans a glimpse of what they thought they were getting from his second coming at Old Trafford with a trio of thumping finishes to see off Tottenham 3-2 on Saturday.

The 59th career hat-trick of Ronaldo's career was just his second for United and a first in 14 years as his second spell has failed to match the hype around his signing in August.

United go into today's finely balanced Champions League last-16 tie against Atletico Madrid, after a 1-1 draw in the Spanish capital, knowing European glory is their only remaining chance of silverware this season.

Ronaldo has tended to save his best for the Champions League this season, scoring six goals in the group stage just to ensure United did not suffer the ignominy of a group stage exit for the second consecutive season.

However, his subdued performance as a frustrated and isolated figure up front the Wanda Metropolitan three weeks ago was more reflective of the problems Ralf Rangnick has faced during his interim spell as United manager.

The German is credited as the Godfather of the high-energy, pressing style of play that has inspired the likes of Jurgen Klopp and Thomas Tuchel to go on to be Champions League winners as coaches.

Rangnick has not been able to implement the same verve to United, much of which has been blamed on a 37-year-old Ronaldo's inability or unwillingness to press.

The Portuguese has also been pointed at as the source for stories of dressing room disquiet that seem to leak out after every poor result.



Cristiano Ronaldo twice beat Atletico Madrid in Champions League finals with Real Madrid (AFP)

Amid reports he was set to be dropped for last weekend's Manchester derby, Ronaldo jetted back to his homeland to rehab a hip injury that was given as the official reason for missing a 4-1 thrashing at the Etihad.

- 'Keep playing' -

Rangnick joked that maybe he should sanction that trip more regularly after Ronaldo returned to Manchester in scintillating form to put Spurs to the sword.

But he also did not hold back in his assessment of Ronaldo's work off the ball in recent weeks.

"Today he showed for sure that he is physically capable to do that," Rangnick said of Ronaldo's defensive contribution.

"We also have to admit that it has not

always been like that in the past weeks and months.

"Today showed exactly that he is still in physical shape to perform at that level."

Ronaldo's performance impressed the watching Tom Brady as the seven-time Super Bowl winner told his fellow superstar to "keep playing" as they embraced on the Old Trafford pitch after the game.

Whether he stays for the second year of his contract at United will depend heavily on if the Red Devils make it into the Champions League next season.

Into the twilight years of his career, he can ill afford a season off the biggest stage where he shines brightest.

Atletico know that only too well. Between 2014 and 2019, Ronaldo was on

the opposite side for all five of their exits in the knockout rounds of the Champions League, twice inflicting the ultimate blow in final defeats to Real Madrid.

Ronaldo's treble on Saturday set another goalscoring record as he now has the most goals in men's professional football according to FIFA's records with 807.

Only Sevilla have suffered more in that total than the 25 Atletico have conceded.

As United's struggles have laid bare, Ronaldo may not be the force he once was.

But he is still the one Diego Simeone's men will fear most coming back to haunt them on the big occasion.

AFP

Messi's highs and lows at PSG

PARIS

LIONEL Messi's difficult start to life at Paris Saint-Germain plunged new lows this week, with the French giants crashing out of the Champions League before their fans jeered the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner on Sunday.

Here, AFP Sport takes a look at Messi's fleeting brilliant moments and the more frequent tough times since he left Barcelona for Paris last year.

*Highs First goal v Man City 28/09/2021

-- Messi scored his first PSG goal in their first big game of the season against Manchester City. He had failed to score in his first three appearances, but got off the mark in style at the Parc des Princes. After surging forward from the halfway line, Messi exchanged passes with Kylian Mbappe and fired a brilliant shot into the net.

*Late magic beats Leipzig 19/10/2021

-- Messi's best moments for PSG have come in the Champions League, despite their early exit. There were times when their campaign looked like it could end even sooner, though, such as when they trailed RB Leipzig at home in the group stage. But Messi scored twice in seven second-half minutes, including the winner from the penalty spot, to rescue a 3-2 victory.

*Hat-trick of assists 28/11/2021

-- When the Argentinian first joined PSG, most people would not have expected three assists against Ligue 1 strugglers Saint-Etienne to feature on a list of his highlights. But he did produce an excellent display on a snowy night in Saint-Etienne and has the joint most assists in the French top flight this season, tied on 10 with Mbappe.

*Lows Wait for first league goal 29/08/2021 - 20/11/2021

-- Messi had to wait until November to score his first league goal for PSG. It finally came in a 3-1 home win over Nantes, after he failed to score in games against Reims, Lyon, Rennes, Marseille and Lille.

*First defeat by Rennes

3/10/2021

-- PSG struggled for goals early in the season when Messi was in the team, and that problem was evident in a 2-0 loss at Rennes. Messi, Mbappe, Neymar and Angel Di Maria all started, but Mauricio Pochettino's men failed to even register a shot on target.

*Cup exit 31/01/2022

-- The holders were dumped out of the French Cup by Nice as Messi made his first start since contracting Covid-19 in Argentina. After the second goalless draw between the sides this season, on-loan goalkeeper Marcin Bulka made the decisive save in the shoot-out for Nice, against his parent club.

*Missed penalty v Real Madrid 15/02/2022

-- Although PSG's Champions League debacle of 2022 will be remembered most for the second-leg collapse in Madrid, Messi's missed penalty in the first game was a big moment. His spot-kick was saved by Thibaut Courtois in the 62nd minute, and although Mbappe's brilliant goal grabbed a 1-0 win late on, it proved to be crucial in the tie.

*Champions League exit 9/03/2022

-- Messi and PSG's tough season was dealt a killer blow as they capitulated at the Santiago Bernabeu. Having led 2-0 on aggregate with less than half an hour remaining, Karim Benzema's hat-trick ensured PSG's wait for a maiden Champions League title would go on. The way the French giants imploded brought back memories of their dramatic last-16 defeats in 2017 and 2019 by Barcelona and Manchester United respectively.

*Getting booed 13/03/2022

-- The Paris fans made their feelings known in the team's next game after the Madrid debacle. Messi and Neymar were held partly to blame and were subjected to jeers and whistles throughout a straightforward 3-0 win over bottom club Bordeaux on Sunday at the Parc des Princes.

AFP

Arsenal overtake Leicester as most likely to gatecrash top four

LONDON

LEICESTER City not only lost Sunday's meeting with Arsenal 2-0, they also passed the baton to their hosts as the team most likely to gatecrash the Premier League's top four.

Brendan Rodgers' side were knocking on the door of Champions League football in the past two seasons, capitulating at the end of both campaigns in a manner that will serve as a warning from history to Arsenal for the run-in that lies ahead. The Foxes have not been able to match those heights this term -- never finishing a matchweek any higher than eighth -- but while Leicester have fallen away, the identity of the side most likely to take their place has not been particularly clear until now.

Arsenal have quietly but consistently established themselves as the Champions League team-in-waiting, securing five wins in a row and turning their games in hand into welcome opportunities to strengthen their position rather than must-win, high-pressure encounters to make up ground. There is understandable reticence in this part of north London to look too far ahead given a quarter of the season remains -- and some tough fixtures lying in wait -- but Arsenal responded to wins elsewhere for Manchester United and West Ham United this weekend with a deserved victory of their own to move back into fourth place once more.

The Gunners now sit one point above United and three clear of West Ham despite having played three games fewer, a position manager Mikel Arteta is aware of but continues to play down.

"I look at the table with the games that we have remaining, I know where we are but we have to look forward," he said after the match. "We have to look at what we do, focus on our performances and prepare for the next match and that's it. The rest is just... we are going to be guessing. I am not a great gambler, I have never been and I don't want to gamble now."

Arsenal also still have to play United at Emirates Stadium, a place where many games in recent years have resembled a referendum on the future direction of the club: some protesting, some supporting but all frustrated at the distance between where they are and where they once were. The atmosphere is markedly different now, fans responding in unison to a young team playing for each other and exhibiting a resolve so often lacking in recent times.



Thomas Partey opened the scoring after 11 minutes with a simple header from Gabriel Martinelli's corner -- yet another set-piece failure for Leicester -- and the goal seemed to give him the confidence to dictate plenty of the midfield exchanges thereafter. It was Martin Odegaard, though, who shone the brightest once again here, creating five chances in the first half alone -- more than any other Arsenal player in the first half of a Premier League game since Mesut Ozil against Everton in October 2017.

There is more than a passing resemblance between Odegaard and Ozil; specifically the Ozil whom Arsenal fans purred over on his best

days, not the one who later became an outcast, sapping both money and positivity from a club engaging in introspective existential angst. Odegaard has the same ability to find space in the final third, so often picking the right pass with the optimum weight attached to it.

The 23-year-old has spoken this month of his contentment at finally being settled after a nomadic career to date, being given "peace and stability to establish myself somewhere, and not stress about where the next loan should be." He is seemingly thriving in the environment Arteta has created.

"He was terrific again today, in every aspect of the game," Arteta said of the

Norway captain. "What he had to do in defending, when we were in high, when we were deep, in build-up phase in the final third, the way he understands and manages the game when he was needed, I think, is coming a long way since his arrival. He is showing great maturity and responsibility on the pitch and he makes the other players better, I think."

Aaron Ramsdale made one of the saves of the season in October's reverse fixture, and while his first-half intervention to deny Harvey Barnes was not in that category, Rodgers was caught by a pitchside television camera mouthing the word "wow" as his celebration

was cut short by the England goalkeeper's right-handed reflex stop.

Leicester were aggrieved at the penalty decision for Arsenal's second goal, coming on a VAR (video assistant referee) review for a Caglar Soyuncu handball in a penalty-box melee, but regardless of the method, the Gunners were good value for their win.

It is not just Leicester's recent experience that should serve as a warning for Arsenal. There are difficult challenges ahead, not least in their remaining fixtures with Liverpool next up on Wednesday, games against United and West Ham at the end of April, plus trips to Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea to be rearranged.

The experience of 2018-19 will linger in the memory, too, after winning just one of their final five league games to stumble out of the top four under Unai Emery. The wait for a first Champions League campaign has felt much longer than five years in these parts given the 19 consecutive seasons in Europe's premier club competition that preceded it.

Nothing is decided yet, but beating Leicester in the manner they did underlined that Arsenal are in pole position from here.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Ronaldo hits form in time for another go at familiar foe Atletico

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Yanga lauds fundraising initiative

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

YANGA leadership says the side's international friendly match against Somalia's national team, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend, served its purpose.

The outfit hosted Somalia's national team at Azam Complex, the game ended in a 1-1 draw, and more than 36m/- was raised.

The proceeds from the match will be channeled to Yanga supporter, Ali Kimara, who has a rare disease ailment.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan contributed 15m/- before the international friendly kick-off to support the fight against rare diseases.

Kimara has a foundation known as Ali Kimara Rare Disease Foundation (AKRDF).

The AKRDF's purpose is to raise awareness and advocate for the consideration and inclusion of children living with a rare disease in health and education systems.

Yanga's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Senzo Mazingisa thanked all people who contributed to the cause.

He said his club is satisfied with the response from the public.

"The match against Somalia national team served its intended purposes, first, it was the money which we wanted to raise and also the match allowed our coach to use some of the players who have not been playing for various reasons, we thank those who contributed to this success," he said.

Mazingisa recently said his club through GSM Group Foundation decided to play the international friendly match for the noble cause as part of its corporate social responsibility.

He said Kimara who has been in bed for many years suffering from a rare disease condition is a true supporter of the club, hence the need to support him.

"Kimara is our true and diehard supporter, he has his foundation which is helping others suffering from rare disease conditions, as a club and GSM Group Foundation we feel that we must be part in supporting his initiative, we always support the community in which we operate," he noted.

Somalia's national team, made up of mostly Somali diaspora players, will use the match to prepare for next week's AFCON encounter against Eswatini in Dar es Salaam.

The return leg will take place between March 27-29 in Mbabane.

Somalia said it will use Benjamin Mkapa Stadium for its tie against Eswatini as the horn of Africa country does not have a certified stadium for international matches.

Somalia and Eswatini are among the 12 lowest-ranked teams in Africa and will play a two-legged preliminary stage to determine a place in group stages for 2023 AFCON in Ivory Coast.

The six winners will make it to the group stages joining 42 others that were seeded.

Mtibwa Sugar impressed by league win over Geita Gold FC

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS season NBC Premier League side Mtibwa Sugar has hailed its players for posting a victory over Geita Gold FC at Manungu Stadium in Morogoro on Sunday.

Mtibwa Sugar information officer Thobias Kifaru said he is delighted with the 2-0 win against Geita Gold FC.

He said Mtibwa Sugar's extraordinary performance and their subsequent triumph were phenomenal and have brought excitement and happiness to supporters of the club.

"Thank you for maintaining a fighting spirit which Mtibwa Sugar is what it stands for, the performance on Sunday was extraordinary, our ultimate goal is to remain in the NBC Premier League," Kifaru stated.

Mtibwa Sugar goals were scored by midfielder Steven Nzigamasabo in the 26th minute of the first half and forward Mayanja Mululi in the 76th minute.

The victory saw Mtibwa moving to the 13th spot with 19 points from 18 games.

The team will face Kagera Sugar at Manungu Stadium on Wednesday and then travel to Dodoma for a game against Dodoma Jiji FC.

Kifaru said he was particularly impressed with the team's style of play and urged the players to keep on fighting and

The information officer pointed out with self-belief and hardworking the team can do well in coming games.

"The team is currently playing with composure and can hold the ball while pushing forward, I hope that we will continue doing the same," he said.

“

Thank you for maintaining a fighting spirit which Mtibwa Sugar is what it stands for, the performance on Sunday was extraordinary, our ultimate goal is to remain in the NBC Premier League," Kifaru stated.

Biashara United, Prisons desperate to end winless streak in relegation fight



Biashara United

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

BIASHARA United welcomes fellow NBC Premier League strugglers Tanzania Prisons to the CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza for a relega-

tion six-pointer today afternoon.

Coach Vivier Bahati ÇOs charges have now gone two games without a victory and are 14th on the log with 16 points, just two points above the direct relega-

tion spots occupied by Mbeya Kwanza FC and Prisons.

Prisons are currently placed at the bottom of the league standings with just three wins and four draws from 17 games to register 13

points. They have gone six games without victory.

The side's head coach Patrick Odhiambo will be at the center of attention.

The Kenyan coach takes on his former pay-

masters for the first time since leaving Biashara United in December last year.

During his seven months period at Biashara United, Odhiambo guided the club to a top-four finish which earned them the right to play in CAF Confederation Cup for the first time in their history but he is yet to hit the road running for the Prison wardens.

Odhiambo is yet to register a victory in his seven games in charge of Prisons and his position could be under increasing threat.

The tactician was nevertheless optimistic ahead of the game he has admitted is a must-win affair for his struggling side.

Odhiambo revealed: "It will be a very tough game of course. We are aware it is a must-win game if we are to move out of the relegation zone. I have prepared the boys for the game, they know what is needed given our past results. ÇY

In the seven head-to-head meetings between the two sides, Biashara United has triumphed three times while four games have ended in stalemates."

"With no victory in seven past encounters against Biashara United, Odhiambo and his charges need to dig deeper if they are to change that."

The last time they played each other in October last year, Biashara United which was still with Odhiambo won 3-0 at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya thanks to goals by Ramadhan Chombo, Dennis Nkane, and Ambrose Awio.

The Ghanaian duo of Collins Opare and Christian Zigah as well as Chombo and Deogratius Judika will be key for the hosts while Jeremiah Juma, Nuridin Chona, and Salum Kimenya will be vital for the visitors.

Yanga refutes rumours about South Africa club's quest for Mayele signature

By Correspondent Nassir

Nchimbi

YANGA has denied reports that its striker, Fiston Mayele, who leads this season's NBC Premier League scoring charts, is set to join South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs.

Senzo Mazingisa, Yanga Chief Executive Officer, said he was shocked to hear reports of Mayele's offer from Kaizer Chiefs and pointed out that it was propaganda to try to slow down their best striker.

Mazingisa, a South African citizen, said he had earlier traced the information to South Africa and into Kaizer Chiefs and discovered it was a fabrication and quickly met Mayele and talked to him on how to keep cool during this period.

He said officials have told Mayele to focus on scoring and if there is any offer from Kaizer, then Bobby Motaung who is the club's technical

affairs boss would be the first to contact him.

"These are just propaganda, I am not saying this in the sense of mere denial, but I have followed up to Kaizer, there is no such thing, you know there are others who hear about clubs like Kaizer, Orlando Pirates, or Mamelodi Sundowns but for me it is different," he said.

"If Kaizer wants Mayele or wants anything from Yanga I think if I'm not the individual to be informed, Hersi would be the first to know. We have Bobby there... he would let us know as soon as possible."

Mazingisa, who previously worked for Orlando Pirates before serving as Simba's Chief Executive Officer and later heading to Yanga, said.

"These are the issues that are happening intending to prompt the player to start thinking about the offer."

"We have been here for a long time, we know this happens in Tanzania, we have



Yanga's forward, Fiston Mayele. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

told Mayele this information will fuel him or slow him down if he doesn't focus on his duties and we know more teams will be coming for him."

The player's manager, Nestor Mutuale, disclosed: "I have not received such an offer, we only see information in the networks, I think someone will wake up and decide to write something uncertainly."

"Kaizer is a big club that knows how to communicate, considering Mayele has a contract with Yanga, let's leave it to Yanga they are the ones who own the player," Mutuale, a Congolese, noted.

Mayele has been at his best in 17 league games. The footballer has scored 10 goals and provided three assists as the leading scorer alongside Namungo striker Reliants Lusajo.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

