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Committee wants HESLB to operate as bank

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'Many GBV cases never go courts'

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PS calls for speed on postcode addresses



EABC upbeat on trading with DRC

By Guardian Reporter

TRADE ties between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with other EAC Partner States will increase significantly with DRC having joined the trading bloc.

Emmanuel Nkusi, board director at the East African Business Council (EABC) made this observation at a business meeting in Goma in northeast DRC, organized by EABC and the Congolese Federation of Enterprises (FEC), where he stated that in 2020, EAC countries imported goods worth \$49.2m from the DRC while exporting \$584m merchandise to DRC.

He lauded President Félix Tshisekedi (pictured) for signing the Treaty of the Accession to the EAC, outlining that EAC exports to DRC include lime and cement, iron and steel, tobacco and various beverages.

There are also considerable sales of animal or vegetable fats and oils, wheat gluten, sugars and confectionery, plastics, soap and other products.

FEC-Goma chairman Bercky Chirimwami said the Congolese trade chamber is eager to build the capacity of DRC business people



The firm is looking to expand its market to the other EAC partner states

to operate comfortably in the EAC common market, urging businesspeople in DRC to seek opportunities in cross-border trade and investments.

EABC CEO John-Bosco Kalisa said that joining the EAC paved the way for removing visa fees and looking forward to improve the regional transport infrastructure, cutting the cost of doing business. Business people from Tanzanian and Uganda entering DRC have to pay for a visa valid for 30 days, charged at \$50 and the same is usually demanded of business operators entering the two countries from DRC.

Women cross-border traders operating from DRC appealed for the business chambers to roll out training on how to export to the EAC zone, at the meeting shadowed by the Goma one-stop border post linking Rwanda and DRC. In 2019 Rwanda's exports of goods to DRC stood at \$372.5m while Rwanda's imports from DRC stood at \$16.7m, officials said.

Transit and cross border trade at the border post usually involves up to 80 trucks entering DRC from Rwanda while an average of three trucks daily cross from DRC to Rwanda, chiefly loaded with coffee, scrap metal and minerals.

The Goma border post operates from six

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Fuel prices: Govt offers 100bn/-, works on loans



Energy Minister January Makamba tables in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday a report on rises in oil prices in the country. He said the government was lining up 100bn/- to ease the impact of the global trend. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Songa wa Songa, Dodoma

ENDING fuel prices hikes has elicited 100bn/- in recurrent expenditure in interim fuel relief funding, as while the government seeks loans from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to be included in budgetary estimates for the next financial year.

Energy minister January Makamba told the National Assembly here yesterday that the measure will not affect ongoing and planned development projects. The relief measure will be applicable in fuel business from June 1, with pump prices likely to go down, easing prices of essentials galloping in recent months.

Thereafter, the government expects that loans from the World Bank and IMF will be ready to further push fuel prices down and related high cost of living, the minister noted.

The government chose the 100bn/- subsidy intervention instead of removing fuel levies as they have already been significantly slashed, he stated.

To counter high fuel prices occasioned by international market supply cuts in the wake of delivery obstructions in the wake of the Covid-19 low production of oil and the Ukraine war as the recovery was picking up.

Last October the government reduced institutional levies meant like wharf age at the Tanzania Ports Authority, the Weight and Measures Authority (WMA fee), the Tanzania



As a result of this measure, levies were cut by 29.38/- per litre of petrol, 30.05 per litre of diesel and 26.99/- per litre of kerosene

Bureau of Standards (TBS charge), the Tanzania Revenue Authority (customs processing fee), the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (agency fee) and the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (regulatory levy).

"As a result of this measure, levies were cut by 29.38/- per litre of petrol, 30.05 per litre of diesel and 26.99/- per litre of kerosene," the minister noted. Slashing these levies hinders the government from collecting 102bn/- in the year, so that it shields consumers, he stated.

But as the price rise due to market turmoil was being tamed, the Russian invasion in Ukraine late February returned prices to an upward spiral, going towards \$100 per barrel.

The subsidy levy followed an outcry from lawmakers last week over the rising cost of living due to fuel price hikes, with fuel reaching 3000/- in Dar es Salaam and 5000/- in upcountry regions.

MPs demanded that the government come up with measures to ease the burden as it was affecting transport costs and prices of essentials, including food products.



'Museveni has excellent ideas on fuel price hikes'

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu has applauded her Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni for ideas on the best strategies to deal with hiking prices of fuel, which she said will be adopted in Tanzania.

The president, visiting Uganda for two-days, expressed this appreciation at a signing ceremony for two memoranda of understanding



Two sides agreed to strengthen bilateral trade by removing trade barriers

(MoUs) to strengthen cooperation in defense and energy.

She said at their meeting, the two leaders discussed the effects of hiked prices of fuel, coming out with valuable insight into the issue. If applied in Tanzania it will help address the growing challenge of price hiking in fuel, she stated.

"President Museveni has given me very

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Girl dropout return rates eclipse targets

By Songa wa Songa, Dodoma

MEASURES adopted last year to allow girls who drop out of secondary school for various reasons to be readmitted in public educational institutions registered a more than 100 per cent turnout.

Prof Adolf Mkenda (pictured), the Minister for Education, Science and Technology, made this observation when tabling the ministry's budget



proposals for fiscal 2022/23, noting that the turnout has been possible with presidential guidelines on the provision of secondary education outside formal schooling.

Implementing the guidelines enabled a total of 3,333 young women to return to secondary school in 2022 while the target stood at 3,000, he stated.

The government took measures to expand access to education for those who drop out, building nine new centres and rehabilitating five buildings at the Institute of Adult Education for the purpose, he said.

Teaching and learning for secondary school students outside the formal system was strengthened by reviewing syllabuses and modules in the first phase for Form One and Form Two as well as phase two for Form three

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Vodacom Tanzania MD steps down, for South Africa return

By Guardian Reporter

VODACOM Tanzania managing director Sitholizwe Mdlalose will be stepping down next month, after heading the country's largest telecom company for nearly one year.

Mdlalose who was appointed by the company board in August last year to replace Hisham Hendi, who also resigned, will be returning to Vodacom (Pty) Limited to fill the vacant post of the managing director.

The company board chairman Rtd. Justice Thomas Mihayo was quoted in a statement issued yesterday, expressing his views on the executive's anticipated departure applauding him on his achievements since joining the company.

"The board acknowledges the talent and experience that Sitho brought into the organization. True to his abilities, and in the short period that he served at the helm of the company, he formulated a robust strategy that we all believe will serve to consolidate our leadership position in the market for the mid to long term" said Mihayo.

Judge Mihayo said during his time, Mdlalose led the company through multiple strategic negotiations that have poised its operations for recovery and future growth.

"Sitho's leadership posture has been a strong asset to rallying support amongst key stakeholders surrounding our business including policymakers, customers and staff. His visionary leadership style is what the organization needed for a smooth transition into the post-pandemic era of our times," Judge Mihayo further said.

Prior to joining Vodacom Tanzania, Mdlalose was Chief Finance Officer of Vodacom (Pty) Limited and for over 6 years, held various senior positions within the Vodafone Group with an exceptional track record of growing

businesses and delivering strategic transformation.

"The entire Board wishes him and his family the very best. We have embarked on a search for his replacement and will inform our stakeholders in due course," added Mihayo.

Mdlalose was also quoted in statement saying, "I have enjoyed immense support and a fair share of challenges during my time all of which have contributed to setting solid foundations for the organization as it recovers from the effects of the pandemic and pivots to a future-ready technology company."

He added: "I leave behind a strong leadership team that will continue to lead Tanzania well into the digital age and change lives through technology."

Mdlalose's successor in Tanzania will be announced in due course, Vodacom Pty said yesterday.

Mdlalose is a qualified Chartered Accountant (ACCA) and a Harvard Business School Senior Executive Programme graduate.

Vodacom Tanzania provide a wide range of services for consumers and enterprise including voice, data, messaging, financial services and enterprise solutions to over 14 million customers.

Vodacom Tanzania is listed at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) with the market capitalization of 1.7trn/- and a share price of 770/- as at May 9 this year.

"I am confident that Sitho is the ideal candidate to lead Vodacom South Africa in a challenging economic climate that will require proactive innovations to adjust to shifts in customer behavior," Vodacom Group CEO, Shameel Joosub said.

"His in-depth experience, financial and business acumen, strong interpersonal skills and proven track record make him an obvious choice for this important role."



Justice Carmel Agius (L), President of the UN International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, receives from his African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights counterpart, Justice Imani Daud Aboud, a souvenir on the latter court in Arusha city yesterday. They updated themselves on the on-going judicial activities of the two international courts. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Museveni has excellent ideas on fuel price hikes'

FROM PAGE 1

good strategies to look into and I think I am going to apply them," she said, underlining that this will permit sailing smoothly, with a good mechanism to check the hiking of fuel prices.

The current tour was important to discuss joint mitigation of emerging challenges to economic recovery, she stated, noting that the two countries experienced a difficult time with the Covid-19 pandemic and now face similar problems like others in the aftermath of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The two leaders discussed ways to strengthen transport links for efficient conduct of commerce to sustain trading activities and take up more business opportunities, she said, pointing at peace and security matters as featuring in the talks.

Discussion surveyed economic development, transportation infrastructures, education and health sectors, where they reaffirmed the long standing amicable relations between the two countries.

Tanzania was doing well despite

various global challenges of Covid-19 and Russia-Ukraine conflict, she stated, affirming that the government was taking measures to strengthen the economy, working to attain development goals.

Two sides agreed to strengthen bilateral trade by removing trade barriers, urging Ugandans to come and invest or conduct trade in Tanzania, hailing President Museveni for opening up economic activities that were closed during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Uganda was implementing a number of strategic projects in crude oil extraction and launching strategies to deliver essential services to the community at the grassroots level, she said, after the host president said the two leaders discussed fast-tracking the implementation of various projects and agreements for mutual benefits.

President Samia arrived on Tuesday morning for a two-day state visit, received at Entebbe International Airport by Rukia Nakadama, a deputy prime minister, along with State Minister for International Cooperation, Henry Okello Oryem.

EABC upbeat on trading with DRC

FROM PAGE 1

in the morning to eight in the evening and plans are currently being set up to ensure it operates for 24 hours. Rwanda and DRC have a common list of goods traded under the COMESA simplified trade regime, allowing small firms to trade across the border without paying import duty.

DRC exports to EAC include: wood, plants, seeds, fruits, re-melting scraps of iron or steel, natural sands and others. Arbitrary and unclear rules and procedures, low capacity of regulations on standards along with high road toll fees hinder trade growth into the DRC, the meeting was told.

Participants at the business meeting appealed for rapid development of the port at Lake Kivu at least by late 2023

as an additional corridor to link DRC to Rwanda and Burundi, while enabling DRC business people to map out opportunities availed by the EAC zone.

The two chambers are rolling out sensitization campaigns on EAC protocols, the African Due Diligence Platform (Mansa) and the East African Trade and Investment Mission to DRC in a bid to boost business to business networking.

EABC officials say DRC has vast resources to hasten industrial development in the EAC region, with CEO Kalisa undertaking an industrial tour to Lowa Chocolaterie, a small firm in Goma manufacturing chocolates and Choco-butter. The firm is looking to expand its market to the other EAC partner states, chamber officials noted.

MP calls for in-depth investigation into 356bn/- govt 'owes' symbion

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

KISESA Member of Parliament, Luhaga Mpina (CCM) has called upon fellow MPs to reject contracts that have been causing losses to the nation, including, citing the one that now requires the government to pay 356bn/- to Symbion power generating firm.

Mpina made the remarks in parliament here yesterday when contributing to FY 2022/23 budget estimates for the Investment, Industry and Trade ministry, and added that in-depth investigations need to be conducted to find out what had actually transpired in regard to the Symbion contract.

He said the money demanded must not be paid until the government determines what it stands to gain from the issue.

"Such kinds of contracts have been causing huge losses to us and as for now I hear that Symbion demands to

be paid 356bn/-, while at the same time we are not told who had caused all this and steps taken against him or them.

"We are not being told what is the amount of the firm's accumulation of government taxes, in fact there are so many details being hidden from us," he added.

Earlier, Mpina said investment by the government and the private sector needs close monitoring as many contracts entered have been squeezing government's income including transferring of its resources.

"They have also been denying job opportunities to Tanzanians with the resources transfer benefitting citizens of other countries.

"Right now, Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has started looking for partners in a similar joint venture envisaged to run our ports. There are also other contracts - including the one in which TRA and Sista Company that has been transferring Tanzanians' money, and another 70bn/- contract involving

TanESCO and Tech Mahindra of India have adequate ICT experts here in the country," he added.



Freeman Mbowe, national Chairman of the opposition Chadema, opens a meeting of the party's Central Committee in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Militia kill 14 civilians, one soldier in Congo

ITURI

Fourteen civilians and a soldier were killed by militia on Monday night at the Loda camp for displaced persons in Ituri province, northeast DRC, reports say.

According to Jules Tsuba, the head of an association of civil society groups in Djugu territory, the rebels beheaded most of the victims.

The Kivu Security Tracker (KST), a respected monitor of violence in the region, said it suspected militants from an ethnic armed group called Codeco (Cooperative for the Development of Congo) to be behind the attack.

The killings come just a day after a massacre in a gold mine. Local civil society leaders said about 50 people were killed in the gold mine massacre, but the Congolese government announced that the attack left 35

people dead.

According to Lieutenant Jules Ngongo, spokesman for the FARDC (Congolese army) in Ituri, the civilians died during clashes between two rebel groups - Zaire and Codeco.

"Two armed groups are fighting for control of the gold mine called Camp Blanquete. Unfortunately, during their dirty work, some people were caught in the crossfire of these outlaws and several lost their lives and their huts were burned," said the FARDC statement. "These armed groups use the peaceful population as human shields and operate even at night."

The Codeco armed group claims to defend the Lendu community while the Zaire armed group claims to defend the Hema community. The two communities often clash in Ituri province.

AGENCIES

Girl dropout return rates eclipse targets

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and Form Four, the minister explained.

Subjects whose syllabuses and module were improved are English, Kiswahili, Geography, History, Civics, Biology and Mathematics, he specified.

In 2017, the fifth phase government banned readmission to secondary school of dropouts especially from pregnancy, and then last November the ban was reversed, with ex-Education

minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako declaring that the doors are open for dropouts to return to formal schooling.

The young women could re-enroll within two years of giving birth, or enroll at an alternative education center when the gap is more than two years, to obtain a condensed version of the same curriculum.

Two months ago the government and the World Bank reached an accord for the Secondary Education Quality

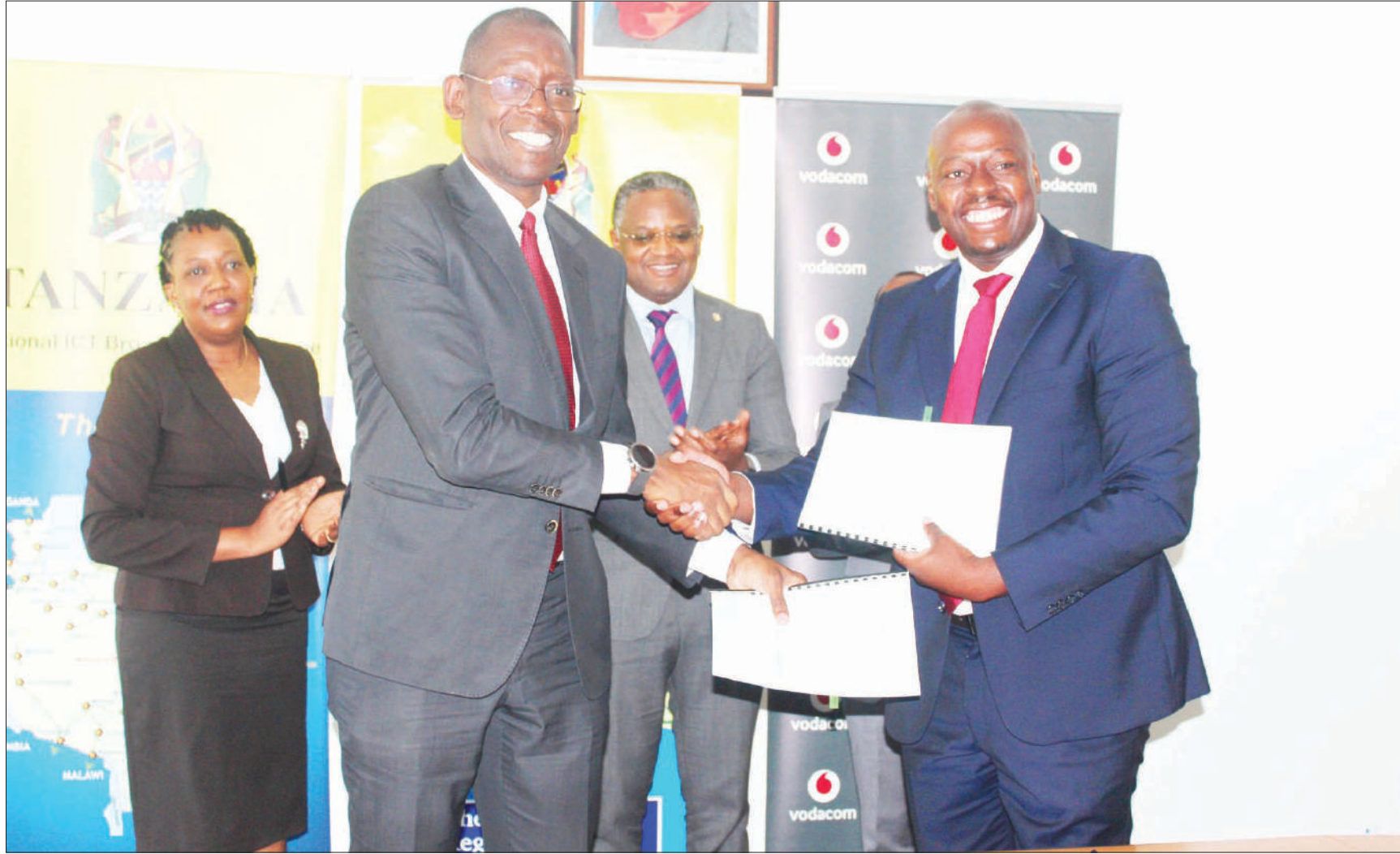
Improvement Program (SEQUIP), with a \$500m loan, to facilitate smooth readmission of new mothers returning to school.

Disbursements will be tied to carrying out pledges and objectives set in the agreement, with continuation guidelines that specify how long conceiving girls are allowed to remain in school before taking leave of absence to give birth. They also spell how soon after giving birth a student is allowed

to return to school.

The government also pledged to shed involuntary pregnancy testing that used to be compulsory in secondary schools, with results leading to expelling pregnant students.

A monitoring system to track girls' return to public schools or enrolling in centres to continue their studies will be set up, also monitoring local authorities' adherence to the guidelines, the pact intoned.



Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation (TTCL) director general Peter Ulanga (L) and Vodacom Tanzania Plc managing director Sitholizwe Mdlalose exchange documents on a 23.2bn/- contract they signed in Dar es Salaam recently in connection with work on the national fibre optic cable network named as National ICT Broadband Backbone. This is managed and operated by TTCL on behalf of the government. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Quelea quelea wreak havoc on paddy farms in Kilosa District

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

A TOTAL of 530 acres of rice in Mbigiri, Tindiga and Kilangali wards in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region, have been destroyed by quelea birds, leaving farmers in shock of loss and famine risk.

Farmers are decrying that one week has passed since the birds attacked their farms and they are now forced to leave everything and spent much time in the fields to fight the birds.

Jaffari Mpoto, one of the farmers said he has been waking up early in the morning to spend the whole day in the farm, so at least to save something.

"The situation has been worse because we are now forced to abandon other development activities and move to the farm. A one-acre needs two people and above to protect it from the destructive birds," he said.

He said farmers are also using traditional techniques which include drums and screaming so as to chase the birds.

Kilagali ward councilor Amos Kusupa urged the government to take immediate action and help overcome the problem as majority of the farmers in the areas depend from the crop to survive and for commercial.

He said the people's efforts to fight

the birds were not enough due to poor methods they deploy including beating drums or making noise which hasn't produced any fruit so far and the birds continue to destroy the crops.

"The groups of birds are many for the farmers to overcome at a time, beating drums and screaming weren't enough to chase all the birds, many of them are now tired as they witnessed their crops fading away," he asserted.

Mayowela Hassanali, Kilosa District pest control officer said a number of measures are being taken which include conducting a study to identify the habitat of the birds.

He said, the district council in collaboration the Ministry of Agriculture was also working on bringing pesticides where all equipment including installation of landing lights at the airport located at the Mtibwa sugar factory were ongoing.

Kilosa District Commissioner Alhaj Majid Mwangi urged the farmers to remain calm as the government continues with various measures to address the challenge.

"Let us continue protecting our farms, as we are waiting for the protocol procedures to be completed to allow an aircraft to come here and spray pesticides in the farms to chase the birds," he said.

MPs' committee wants HESLB to operate as bank

By Songa wa Songa, Dodoma

THE Parliamentary Committee on Social Services and Community Development yesterday recommended that the Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB) be empowered to operate like a commercial bank to improve its efficiency in processing and disbursement of credits.

In its recommendations tabled in the National Assembly on the 2022/23 budget estimates for the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the committee said employing bank-style in its operations will also enable HESLB improve loans recovery.

This followed the committee's findings that many

Tanzanian are unhappy with its current modus operandi, especially the blurred criteria on who gets loans and how much.

Committee chairman Stanslaus Nyongo said consultation with education stakeholders, including parents, has revealed that HESLB is not operating on criteria that benefit all groups.

"When they say science students should get 100 per cent of loan, it doesn't happen like that; when they say priority is on students from difficult backgrounds, it doesn't work just as with top performers," he said.

Maswa East MP (CCM) who is the committee chairman, said after going through the discrepancies in loan processing and allocation, they met HESLB

officials who informed them that the challenge is financial resources to meet the needs of applicants.

"They (HESLB) informed us that they were being 400bn/- annually which rose to 500bn/- recently while the actual annual need is 800bn/-," he said.

"Therefore, we thought that the complaints will end if they (HESLB) are given the 800bn/- the need so that they manage it like banks do."

That way, Nyongo suggested that both sides will be happy as all applicants will access loan and the lender, empowered to operate like a commercial bank, will be able to recover the money.

HESLB is tasked by its establishing Act, under Section 7(i) to recover all the due loans extended for former students since July 1994 so that the

same money can be used to lend other students for sustainability.

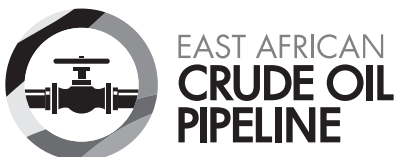
But according to the committee, for the loans scheme to be truly sustainable and ensure a stable revolving fund, it must be given powers that commercial banks use.

HESLB's current mandates are "to assist, on a loan basis, needy students who secure admission in accredited higher learning institutions, but who have no economic power to pay for the costs of their education. To collect due loans from loan beneficiaries and use it as revolving fund to sustain operations of the board and to create synergies through establishing strategic partnerships in student financing ecosystem."

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF: MEDICAL EVACUATION AND SERVICES TANZANIA REFERENCE NO : 10007711

East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline, an Oil and Gas company, invites experienced and reputable organizations to express their interest in providing Medical Evacuation Services to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project.

The EACOP project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in the Hoima district in Uganda to the Chongoleani peninsula near Tanga in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

Scope of work / methodology of program to provide for medical evacuation service

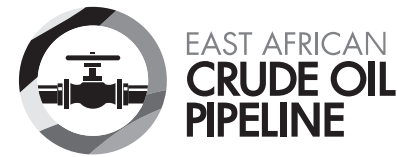
1. Assessment of health infrastructure along the Right of Way and transportation corridors – Service Provider will need to conduct a formal and thorough site health review, which shall assess the capability of the existing facilities.
2. Assessment of type of fixed wing medevac aircraft to be utilised in the event of medical evacuation. Review and assessment of logistical providers and timelines for domestic and international medevacs, including an assessment of domestic road planning and management, availability of air-evacuation capabilities along the entire Right of Way.
3. Development of a specific Medical Assistance solution that will enable the Service Provider to support coordination of Medical Evacuation Services according to a common operational procedure, including the development of a Project-wide medical evacuation plan (MEDEVAC).
4. Optional scope - Implementation and management of medical facilities on all project worksites:
 - Provision of Medical Supply Chain management
 - Management of Contractor's Medical facilities on Sites,
 - Staff and manage Contractor's site clinics
 - Provision of Medical quality management services
 - Provision of Occupational Health services
 - Prevention and Public Health services
 - Provision of Consultancy, audits and expertise abilities
 - Community health services
 - Provision of Telemedicine

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:
- Business license.
 - Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority and Tax (TRA) Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
 - Proof of registration with the EVVURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database or an approved application at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
 - Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.
 - Experience in delivering Medical Evacuation Services to projects similar to EACOP . .
 - Competence and capacity in delivering the Medical Evacuation Services outlined above at a large scale, in compliance with national and international standards, and with at least 10 years' experience / performance of similar services.
 - Suitably qualified and experienced personnel in Medical Evacuation Services for oil and gas projects that comply with IFC requirements.
 - Financial capacity to deliver the services required including submission of financial accounts for the past three years
 - Evidence of organization QHSE policy, procedure, and process in compliance with applicable Local, International, and Industry standards for similar works.
 - Proof of Anti-corruption and compliance policies
 - Appropriate licensing if any from relevant in-country authorities for the provision of the services.

Companies which have the ability, capacity and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email (max. email size 20Mb) to procurement.tz@eacop.com , on or before **16:00 hours** East African Time (EAT) on **27th May 2022**.

Note: The EACOP project will review and assess the documents provided by the interested companies to derive a list of prequalified companies. Only prequalified companies will receive, subject to signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: MARKET SURVEY ON STEEL PIPE MANUFACTURING REFERENCE NO: 579212

East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) invites experienced and reputable organizations to express their capabilities in steel pipe supply for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

The EACOP project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in Hoima District, Uganda to Chongoleani, Tanga Region, in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

- Market survey for API 5L Line-pipe supply
- Compliant to API 5L, ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45000 certificates

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Companies or organizations expressing their interest are required to submit documentation of their:

- Experience track list in the manufacture and supply of 18-meter length LSAW or HFW pipes API 5L X65 which shall include as a minimum project list, dates of project, pipe technical characteristics and steel suppliers
- Line-pipe manufacturing capacities above 30km per month
- Steel supplier and Anti-corrosion coater general information (plate or coil, location, capacities)
- Pipe mill planned workload up to end 2024
- Typical Quality plan and LSAW/HFW Inspection and Test Plan
- Typical HSE plan, HSE policy
- Financial statement of the last 3 years

Companies which have the ability, capacity and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to eoi.market.linepipe.tz@eacop.com (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **17:00 hours** East African Time (EAT), on **26th May, 2022**.

Note: All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English Language.

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Over 81bn/- set aside for construction of houses for teachers, deputy minister says

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TEACHERS may soon have a reason to smile as the government has set aside 81.50bn/- for construction of teachers' houses throughout the country in the 2022/23, the Parliament was told yesterday.

Out of the amount, 37.85bn/- will be spent on building of residential houses for secondary school teachers while 43.63bn/- will be for primary school teachers houses, being part of the plan to solve teachers houses challenge.

The revelation was made yesterday by the Deputy Minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), David Silinde while responding to a question asked by the Segerea MP, Bonnah Kamoli (CCM).

The legislator had wanted to know why the government does not see it appropriate to build residential houses for teachers, just as it does to security forces.

"When shall the government practically implement the ruling party manifesto that calls for construction of teachers houses like the security forces?" she asked.

Minister Silinde responded that in implementing the party manifesto, the government shall continue disbursing funds to help improve learning and teaching environment, including building of teachers' houses depending on availability of funds from various sources.

"The government will distribute the amount to areas with acute shortage of teachers houses in the country," said the deputy minister, adding that this is part of the improvements the government is doing for teachers.

Tanzania Teachers Union (TTU) said it has been impressed with the government's efforts in improving

teachers' welfare through promotions and recruitments.

TTU believes that the current government's efforts will raise teachers' morale and automatically improve their performance.

Speaking to reporters in Dodoma over the weekend, acting president of the union, Dinnah Mathamani, commended the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan for addressing various challenges facing teachers.

Mathamani noted that the government had approved promotions, employments, construction and renovation of school infrastructures as well as assured of salary increment after some preliminaries.

On promotion, she said, during the financial year 2021/22 a total of 127 teachers were promoted and 52,000 others are also lined up for promotion.

Acting president said that in one year already more than 27,000 teachers have been employed in phases, as well as 12,000 more expecting to be employed, this will increase the number of teachers in schools, and thus reduce teachers' periods and enable them to better prepare students.

She commended the construction of new classrooms arguing that currently students are no longer crowded in classrooms.



The government will distribute the amount to areas with acute shortage of teachers houses in the country



Lydia Ngailo (R) and Suzana Sanga of Kihesa in Kilolo District, who make a living by crushing stones into gravel for sale, go about their small-time business. Correspondent Francis Godwin caught up with them yesterday.

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

Many GBV cases never reach courts - DPP

THE Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Sylvester Mwakitalu, has said his office has identified acts of gender based violence in regions that are not mentioned as having many such incidents and which only ends at police level without reaching government prosecutors.

Mwakitalu made the remarks here yesterday at a four-day task force meeting involving state prosecutors and other legal stakeholders from all Tanzania regions.

"The prime aim of this sitting is to empower you in dealing with various crimes emanating from human rights

violations, since a prosecutor is an important ingredient in meting out justice.

"We have made studies in some of the regions, but we have discovered that acts of gender based violence are numerous as opposed to given statistics. There are those that reach the police desks and end there without reaching prosecutors.

"But also there are others that are never reported at all, and those reaching the offices of prosecutors are the ones cited by statistics," he added.

Mwakitalu called upon prosecutors

to perform their duties professionally and ethically in assisting the people in meting out justice.

He also called upon them to make sure that enough evidence is gathered and worked upon proficiently and quickly to assist the people in the entire issue regarding laws.

He also said the main stakeholders in educating the public in these issues have been the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC).

It was also mentioned at the meeting that Arusha Region is leading in acts of gender based violence and child abuse

followed by Temeke District in Dar salaam Region, while cases involving gender based violence and child abuse reached 40,000 nationally in 2020.

LHRC Acting Director, Fulgence Massawe said: "We do not say that acts of gender based violence have gone down significantly. In 2020 these numbered 40,000 but in 2021 they dropped to 29,000."

For his part, Mary Makondo, the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Permanent Secretary said the aim of the training is to learn on the better way to deal with cases that reach courts.



MGEN TANZANIA INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 TZS 000	2020 TZS 000
Gross written premium	4,137,319	4,071,146
LESS: Premium ceded to re-insurers	(1,186,690)	(1,213,911)
Net written premium	2,950,629	2,857,235
Change in gross unearned premium provision	(10,423)	534,709
Re-insurers' share of change in provision for unearned premium	(213,921)	66,178
UPR movement	(224,344)	600,887
Net insurance premium revenue	2,726,285	3,458,122
Investment income	40,374	57,413
Commission earned	243,963	263,759
Other income	1,023,894	45,372
Claims incurred	(1,025,833)	(1,036,182)
Operating and other expenses	(2,029,487)	(2,821,072)
Acquisition cost	(482,436)	(503,760)
Profit/(loss) before tax	496,760	(536,348)
Tax	(19,309)	(19,257)
Profit/(loss) after tax	477,451	(555,605)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 TZS 000	2020 TZS 000
Share capital	2,920,000	2,920,000
Contingency reserves	2,034,994	1,910,875
Share premium	67,619	67,619
Accumulated losses	(7,137,630)	(7,490,961)
REPRESENTED BY	(2,115,017)	(2,592,467)
Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	137,708	79,968
Intangible assets	-	109,746
Receivables arising out of direct and reinsurance arrangement	316,851	102,352
Reinsurers' share of technical provision and reserves	1,049,697	1,283,751
Deferred acquisition costs	119,535	99,940
Other receivables	87,586	44,695
Current Income tax	69,056	65,848
Deferred tax	-	-
Investment	143,831	140,844
Government securities	870,902	1,006,453
Right of use asset	88,173	-
Cash and bank balances	62,822	14,810
Total Assets	2,946,161	2,948,407
Liabilities		
Unearned premium	1,668,833	1,658,407
Outstanding claims provisions	1,977,985	1,916,203
Lease liability	91,995	-
Creditors arising out of reinsurance arrangement	886,151	1,171,214
Other payables	430,067	736,655
Bank balances	6,147	58,395
Total Liabilities	5,061,178	5,540,874
NET ASSETS	(2,115,017)	(2,592,467)

The financial statements on pages 15 to 40 were approved for issue by the Board of Directors on 25th March 2022 and signed on its behalf.

George Mpeli
Director

Ernest Kilumbi
Director

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Year ended 31 st December 2021	Share capital TZS 000	Advance against share issue	Contingency reserve TZS 000	Share premium TZS 000	Retained earnings TZS 000	Total TZS 000
At 1 st January 2021	2,920,000	-	1,910,874	67,619	(7,490,961)	(2,592,468)
Issue of shares	-	-	-	-	477,451	477,451
Net profit	-	-	-	-	477,451	477,451
Advance against share issue	-	-	-	-	(124,120)	(124,120)
Transfer to contingency reserve	-	-	124,120	-	-	124,120
At 31st December 2021	2,920,000	-	2,034,994	67,619	(7,137,630)	(2,115,017)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 TZS 000	2020 TZS 000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Cash generated from operations	114,340	(428,948)
Tax paid	(22,516)	(10,091)
Net cash from / (used in) operating activities	91,824	(439,039)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	(101,545)	(23,648)
Proceeds on disposal of assets	-	25,346
(Increase) / decrease in investment in government securities	(176,292)	542,335
Acquisition of Right of use asset	(117,564)	-
Net cash (used in)/generated from investing activities	(395,401)	544,033
Cash flows from financing activities		
Impact of adoption of IFRS 16; leases	91,995	-
Net cash (used in)/generated from financing activities	91,995	-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	(211,582)	104,994
Increase in cash and cash equivalents		
Cash at beginning of the year	392,484	287,490
Cash at the end of the year	180,902	392,484



Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank director of finance Kaanaeli Nnko pictured in Morogoro municipality on Tuesday gifting Morogoro regional commissioner Martine Shigella (L) a souvenir at the bank's pavilion at the on-going national exhibition for empowerment funds and programmes. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Contractors board to hold annual consultative meeting in Dodoma

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

CONTRACTORS Registration Board (CRB) will tomorrow (Thursday) conduct annual consultative meeting with contractors and construction industry stakeholders in Dodoma to discuss the contribution of contractors in the economy of the country.

The two days consultative meeting will be held at Jakaya Kikwete Convention Center on Thursday and Friday.

According to the CRB registrar, engineer Rhoben Nkori, the meeting will involve all stakeholders including employers, consultants, engineers and architects.

He mentioned others as quantity surveyors, policy makers and other experts in construction industry and this year's theme is "The importance and contractors contributions in the country's economy."

"This annual consultative meeting which is held every year is very important for the development of construction industry at large. We welcome different experts so that we can exchange ideas, challenges and success stories of our industry," said eng Nkori. Eng Nkori mentioned some topics to be presented during the consultative meeting as the contribution of contractors in the national economy and challenges that affect contractors and the development of construction industry.

He mentioned other topics as the importance for the contractors to be conversant with tax systems and procurement procedures so that they can contribute immensely to the national economy.

Also, Eng Nkori said there will be paper on conflict resolutions in the constructions industry especially in public procurement adding that besides the meeting there would be also technology, services and construction equipment exhibitions.

He said CRB has invited different public and private institutions to show their products that will have pavilions besides the meeting.

"This meeting will involve many construction industry stakeholders from private and public institutions and companies. It is the place where you will get different experiences and success stories from contractors and other stakeholders so we encourage all contractors to attend," he said.

As a move to build capacity for local contractors, CRB has been conducting regular trainings to contractors on contract management, e-procurement system (TANePs), conflict resolutions and joint ventures.

Recently such trainings for local contractors were held in Mbeya, Iringa, Dodoma, Dar es Salaam and Mwanza which was attended by many contractors in different zones.

During those training CRB has been encouraging local contractors to join and get muscles that will enable them to implement projects which take trillions of money like their counterparts from foreign countries.

Health experts highlight need for women to frequently attend clinics during pregnancies

By Guardian Reporter

HEALTH experts have called for establishment of special awareness campaigns for women to frequently attend clinics to address anemia during pregnancy—one of the main causes of maternal deaths.

Speaking at a screening exercise recently, Dr Faraja Mdegella, an internal medicine specialist and Director of Dar es Salaam based Feypassion clinic said

anemia has serious complications to expecting mothers.

She said if severe during pregnancy, the developing baby may be at risk of anemia as an infant adding that people with anemia also have a higher risk of giving birth prematurely or delivering a low weight baby.

Dr Mdegella said having anemia also increases the risk of blood loss during labor, which can make it more difficult to fight infection.

"However, people can usually treat the condition by eating more iron-rich foods and taking iron supplements," she said. She advised that routine full blood count should be carried out at the antenatal booking visit and at 28 weeks to allow sufficient time to treat iron deficiency before delivery.

Anaemia is a serious global public health problem that particularly affects young children and pregnant women.

The World Health Organisation

estimates that 42 percent of children less than 5 years of age and 40 percent of pregnant women worldwide are anaemic.

Globally, 1 out of 3 women are anaemic and in Tanzania data shows 1 in 2 women are anaemic.

During the screening which was organised in collaboration with Clouds Media Group more than 100 women were being screened on various diseases.

PS implores Pemba officials to speed up post-code address system exercise

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

GOVERNMENT officials have been called to increase the pace for the countrywide postcode address system exercise so that it is finalised by May 22 this year as planned.

Mohamed Khamis Abdullah, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Information, Communications and Information Technology ministry made the call here yesterday during inspection visit in Pemba's North and South Regions.

He said the task of collecting data of residential addresses for the postcode address system has been going on well and praised Pemba North Region for better use of the government funds in the exercise, and called on officials to spend the remaining 30m/- for the erection of street names and house numbers.

He added that the time given for the exercise was almost up hence they

should speed up to ensure it is finalised by the set date.

Abdullah also stressed that the postcode address system is essential for the country's development as it will also assist during the population and housing census slated for August this year, which will allow planning its development strategies.

He added that the postcode address system will also help in service delivery including in regard to tourism and courier services from one place to another.

Pemba North Regional Administrative Secretary Ali Mohamed Mwinyi and his Pemba South counterpart Amour Hamad Saleh said the exercise is among essential requirements for the development of the country and promised the Deputy Permanent Secretary that before May 18 this year the exercise will be finalised in their regions.

Z'bar women demand representation in Council of Clerics

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

WOMEN Members of Zanzibar House of Representatives (BWZ) have called for women representation in the Council of Clerics in order to provide solutions to challenges facing them including issues regarding marriage and divorce.

The call was made here yesterday by Konde Constituency Representative, Zawadi Amour Khamis at the House sitting when debating on FY 2022/23 Budget estimates for the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Public Service and Good Governance.

She said there are no women in the Zanzibar Council of Clerics therefore unfortunately there is no one to speak for them on all issues touching them.

She added that it was important for the Office of the Chief Mufti to have a unit that deals with challenges facing women including the issue of marriages that is best to heard by women themselves instead of men.

"Last year when contributing to the debate that established the Office of the Mufti I mentioned about the issue of incorporating women in the Council of Clerics but that was ignored.

"I asked various sheikhs who said it is not sin for women to sit in the council," she said.

She explained that there are issues that need elaboration

by women including the issue of marriages and divorces that need a special unit.

Deputy Speaker of the House, Mgeni Hassan Juma also agreed that women need positions in the Council of Clerics to deal with challenges facing them.

She said huge development strides have been gained by women some of who have received

adequate education to hold the positions and provide solutions on religious issues.

Special Seats representative from Unguja North Region, Panya Ali Abdallah said she was pleased by the good work being done by the Office of the Mufti in providing training to couples before marriages, the situation that has reduced the number of divorces.



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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

1. The public is hereby notified that there will be a movement of special load from Holili to Moshi by vehicle with registration number(s) **KDB189J / ZG5310 & KCW052Z / ZG3212** of Spedag Interfreight

The Journey is scheduled to start on **04.05.2022 to 17.05.2022**

2. Special load Dimensions: Length - 28.4 M, Width - 5.0 M, Height - 5.6 M

3. Route: From Holili to Moshi Via Soweto

Travelling time will be only time **(06:30 am – 06:00 pm)**

We regret for any inconvenience caused

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'Zanzibar govt spent 3bn/- to support entrepreneurs'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government through the Economic Empowerment Agency has spent 3bn/- to support 4,173 entrepreneurs with soft loans so as to improve their businesses and projects.

Minister of State, President's Office, Labour, Economy and Investment Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga told the House of Representatives here when responding to a question by Nungwi MP Abdalla Abassi Wadi who wanted explanations on the progress of the economic empowerment agency which was established recently.

Soraga said the agency's Fund has officially started operating after the Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi signed to approve its commencement which aims to reach small entrepreneurs with funds so as to support their growth.

"In Unguja, a total of 1,878 entrepreneurship groups have benefited and 2,295 groups in Pemba. The funds were issued by CRDB bank which was assigned with the responsibility of managing and disbursing the funds in accordance with the set criteria," he explained.

He further said the government has allocated a total of 36bn/- to support small-scale entrepreneurs to carry out their investment tasks in various economic projects.

The minister also said the government through the economic empowerment agency has allocated another 35bn/- to support entrepreneurs in the blue economy including seaweed and crab farmers. "It is high time now for the small-scale entrepreneurs to utilize the opportunity by seeking for the funds so as to invest more in their projects and thus improve their income while contributing to the country's development," he said.

Meanwhile, Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdullah has said that the government's aim to establish rehabilitation centers for people recovering from drug or alcohol addictions (Soba House) is to support the addicts to fight the situation and come back into normality.

He said this yesterday when he visited the treatment and rehabilitation centre in Kidimni Central District, Unguja South Region to see the operation of the centre and its projects.

Hemed said all addicts at the centre are a reliable resource for the nation

and families that's why the government was working to ensure quality services are available to the youth in all rehabilitation centres in Isles.

The Second Vice President, who is also the chairman of the Zanzibar Drugs Control and Enforcement Authority (ZDCEA), commended the authority's leadership for initiating development projects as well as providing the addicts with essential skills that will help them later once they go back to their communities.

He also commended the authority for its decision to reduce costs in projects, a move which will help the funds to be used in other important areas.

Coronel Burhani Zuberi Nasoro said the centre, which commenced operation in January 2022, currently has 34 drug addicts where the main goal is to fight drug abuse and change the behavior of the addicts bringing them to normal situations.

In addition, coronel Burhani explained that the centre has some projects including construction of an office building as well as cattle and poultry farming, sewing, vegetable farming and a garage.



In Unguja, a total of 1,878 entrepreneurship groups have benefited and 2,295 groups in Pemba. The funds were issued by CRDB bank which was assigned with the responsibility of managing and disbursing the funds in accordance with the set criteria



Barrick Tanzania human resources officer Alfa Rashid (L) exchanges ideas in Morogoro municipality at the weekend with AIESEC Tanzania officers Heritha Godfrey (R) and Hytham Jacob. It was at a capacity building workshop for students of Morogoro-based Mzumbe University. AIESEC is an international youth-run, non-governmental and not-for-profit organisation that provides young people with leadership development, cross-cultural internships and global volunteer exchange experiences. It focuses on empowering young people to make a progressive social impact. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has allotted 16.55bn/- to renovate 19 old district hospitals in the country in the 2022/2023 financial year, Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), Dr Festo Dugange said yesterday.

He told the House that the government is also in search of funds that would be used to more other hospitals, stressing the commitment to improve provision of health services.

The deputy minister was responding to a supplementary question by the Arumeru West MP, Noah Saputu who had wanted to know when the government would renovate the Olturumet district hospital in Arusha Municipality.

In response, the deputy minister said the government will in the 2022/2023 look for more money to help facelift other old hospitals, adding that the

Govt allots over 16bn/- for renovation of old hospitals

district hospital will be considered in the next phase.

Earlier in a main question, the Arumeru lawmaker had also wanted to state when it would build children ward, X-Ray room, out patients building and the administration building at the hospital.

"All these buildings are in very poor state, when the government shall start their constructions?" asked Saputu.

Dr Dugange responded by acknowledging that PORALG in April, 2021 received special request for disbursement of 800m/-, for expansion and renovation of the hospital whose infrastructures are in poor states.

But he maintained that the government was aware of the state of

the hospital, and is looking for more funds to renovate such old hospitals, the Olturumet district hospital included.

"I appeal to all Tanzanians to cooperate with the government in protecting infrastructure in hospitals and health centres," he said.

In the 2021/2022 the government planned to spend 27bn/- to renovate old district hospitals in the country.

Dr Dugange made the disclosure as he was responding to a supplementary question from Makete Member of Parliament Festo Sanga.

He said the main aim is to improve infrastructure of the old hospitals for better service delivery in public health facilities.

MP Sanga wanted to know when the government would renovate the Makete District Hospital in Njombe Region.

Earlier, Mbinga Rural MP Benaya Kapinga (CCM) had asked when the government will build the Mbinga District Hospital in Ruvuma Region.

Responding, Dr Dugange said the government would consider construction of the hospital in the coming financial year since the District Council has already allocated a plot for the project.

Between 2015 and 2020, the government has built 101 district hospitals, a move that has increased the number of the facilities from 77 in 2015 to 178 last year.

New policy to regulate crowd funding coming

By Francis Kajubi

BOOM in crowd funding through pyramid schemes by FinTech and Start-up innovators mostly operating on social media platforms will soon start operating under a new policy.

The underway policy will among other things obligate the latter to list at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) market for them to raise money through crowd funding from the general public for investment purposes.

An increase in pyramid schemes calling for investors through crowd funding has prompted the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to start framing such a new policy.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam at a special dialogue with stakeholders on innovative financing model in Tanzania ahead of the Innovation Week 2022 to commence next week, CMSA Director of Research, Policy and Planning, Alfred Mkombo said that online FinTech and Start-up businesses needs a bold regulatory framework that will protect people from losing their money.

"We've started framing a new policy to guide online FinTech and start-up innovators, especially those who campaign for the general public to invest their money in return for handsome profits. However, the policy targets at promoting candid FinTech and start-up innovators," said Mkombo.

According to him, it is high time for innovation in the capital markets

to take the lead in creating an enabling environment for operation and regulation of crowd funding in Tanzania that had left hundreds of citizens swindled away their hard earned money by bogus start-up innovators.

UNDP's Funguo Programme Manager, Joseph Manirakiza, said that the programme, which is being funded by the European Union and the UK Aid among other objectives, targets at promoting the country's innovation sector by making sure that FinTech and Start-up innovators operate legally.

"The other objective of the programme is supporting innovators in the FinTech and Start-up sectors to grow and attract confidence by large investors to invest in their innovations. We support them financially, with new technologies and in skills and capacity building" said Manirakiza.

This year's Innovation Week is being organised by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology under the theme 'Innovation for sustainable development'. Other stakeholders who are sponsoring the event are Vodacom Tanzania, UNESCO, D4D Hub, KOICA, Sweden Sverige, UNCDF, UNICEF and CRDB Bank Plc.

Digital Finance Expert from the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) Paul Damocha said that the agency has been focused on FinTech and Start-up innovators in the agriculture sector.

According to him, the agency has been facilitating innovators with concessional loans, guarantees and other products that equip them in extending their technology to people at the grassroots.



Sosthenes Kewe (L), a former executive with the Financial Sector Deepening Trust, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday speaking at a Tanzania Innovation Week workshop organised by the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (Costech). Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government plans to complete the Kintiku-Lusilile water project aimed to benefit 11 villages in Manyoni district by October, 2022, the Parliament heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Water Maryprisca Mahundi named the villages as Chikuyu, Mwiboo, Mbwasa, Makutupora, Mtiwe, Chilejeho, Maweni, Mvumi, Ngaiti, Kintinku and Lusilile.

She made the explanations in response to a question asked by the Manyoni East MP, Dr Pius Chawa (CCM), who had wanted to know when the government would complete the project.

"When would this water project be completed to help solve water shortage

Kintiku-Lusilile water project to benefit 11 villages in Manyoni, legislators told

in the villages?" asked the MP, adding that the construction is too slow.

In response, the deputy minister told the lawmaker that the project is being implemented in two phases whereby the first phases commenced in October, 2021, in three villages of Chikuyu, Mwiboo and Mbwasa which currently have access to water.

She explained that the second phase of the project is scheduled to continue in the 2022/2023 and is expected to be completed in October, 2022 and help improving availability of water in all the 11 villages.

Several lawmakers complained about the availability of clean and safe water in their areas, saying access to water is a big challenge in the country.

The government targets to increase water supply in urban areas to 95 per cent and rural areas by 85 per cent come 2025.

According to the CCM election Manifesto 2020/2025, the ruling party pledged to increase the number of people accessing clean and safe water in rural areas from 47 per cent in 2015 to 70.1 per cent in 2020.

The document further read that in

urban areas, the number of people accessing clean and safe water has increased from 74 per cent in 2015 to 85 per cent in 2020.

Overall, the number of households accessing clean water in the country from safe sources has increased to 77 per cent by 2020.

The manifesto pledges to speed up the supply of clean and safe water to meet the needs of over 85 per cent in rural areas and over 95 per cent in urban areas in mainland Tanzania by 2025, and over 95 per cent in Zanzibar.

Mbeya Nanenane preparations begin, event faces worn-out infrastructure

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

PREPARATIONS for this year's Agricultural and Livestock Exhibition (Nanenane) for Southern Highlands Zone regions have begun in the City of Mbeya but face the challenges of worn out infrastructures due to not being used last year because of Covid-19 Pandemic.

The first sitting on the event's preparations for the southern highlands regions were held at the weekend and involved experts from the Livestock and Fisheries ministry including farmers from the zone's seven regions.

Speaking at the meeting, Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera said the condition of some of the infrastructures at the John Mwakangale Fair Grounds is not friendly and instructed TARURA to have them refurbished before August this year.

"This is our first sitting, but among issues we have to urgently deal with

is the improvement of infrastructures inside the fairgrounds, I therefore instruct TARURA to deal with the issue," RC Homera said.

Commenting on the issue, representative from the office of Mbeya Regional Administrative Secretary, Donald Bombo said among the reasons that contributed to the dilapidation of the infrastructures at the fairgrounds is the suspension of the event last year due to Covid-19.

He said since the disease has subsided they are now set to refurbish all essential infrastructures inside and outside the fairgrounds to facilitate the event.

Some of the Regional Commissioners who attended the meeting included the Iringa Regional Commissioner, Queen Sendiga who said the step taken by the government to revive the exhibition is a good opportunity for farmers to learn about better farming practices, and also called for careful use of funds set aside for the preparations of the event.



Dismas Prosper (2nd-R), NMB Bank Plc's northern zone manager, symbolically presents computers to secondary and primary school teachers in Babati District at the weekend. The bank has so far handed over 25 computers and 200 galvanised corrugated roofing sheets for use in schools in the district. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Makete

THE government and education stakeholders are called upon to help more than 400 children from poor families in Matamba, Kimani and Mlondwe wards, in Makete District, Njombe Region who have missed classes due to lack of school items with some of them deciding to abandon classes altogether.

The request was given here on Monday by education stakeholders in Makete District including Claudy

Govt, stakeholders advised to assist 400 children in need of school items

Mahenge when presenting school items to poor families in the district's three wards.

They handed out various school items valued at 10m/- including school uniforms, exercise books, sanitary

pads as well as other teaching and learning tools.

Mahenge said they decided to hand out the assistance after seeing many students cutting short their life dreams due to lack of school essentials.

"I am a resident of Makete hence I am directly touched by all obstacles the children face, the world has changed, we cannot tolerate seeing our children living in difficult conditions which we had also experienced, we have the

responsibility to ensure our children get education in good surroundings," said Mahenge.

Speaking about the assistance which has been given for six years now by Mbeya based Maria Foundation, the

foundation's representative; Haroun Mhaviile said their aim is to ensure children get education in a friendly environment.

He said various stakeholders with roots in Makete but live in other areas of the country agreed to assist the children with needs in various primary and secondary schools.

The foundation's coordinator, Yohana Nyenye said more than 1,000 have benefited by the assistance and many of them are enrolled in higher education institutions.



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The Talent Acquisition Specialist provides human resource support services in talent acquisition and employee capacity building. The position will work closely with the Africa HR team to support talent acquisition, onboarding of staff, and capacity development. Reporting to the People Learning and Development Manager - Africa region and will be based at any of the TNC office locations in the Africa region. In Africa. No employment visas or assistance is being offered with this position except for the local labor employment requirements. This is an initial 18 months term-limited position with a possible extension of tenure subject to work requirements and availability of funds.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The Talent Acquisition Specialist is responsible for administering and maintaining HR systems, programs, procedures, and plans according to HR policies and will provide assistance to all levels of personnel on HR-related issues and requests within the TNC Africa Business Unit. This position provides support to the People Learning and Development manager and maintains a high degree of confidentiality and a strong customer service focus. Using their specialized knowledge, the Talent Acquisition Specialist will deal with customers with a high level of maturity, tact, and diplomacy. Their key role is to oversee our full-cycle recruiting processes and reinforce Africa Business Unit's policy on talent acquisition, assessment, and interviewing, which includes employee planning and sourcing processes, serve as the BU focal person on recruitments, onboarding, and contracting. The Talent Acquisition Specialist will provide support for the overall hiring strategy of the Business Unit to ensure our teams consist of a diverse set of qualified individuals. The role must provide excellent customer service, demonstrate initiative, take ownership of responsibilities, and complete projects with positive results. The role will work closely with the worldwide Office talent acquisition team, training, and development.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree or a minimum of 5 years related work experience in the area(s) of specialization or equivalent combination.
- Human Resource certified professional.
- Experience coordinating and leading HR projects.
- Experience responding to HR-related questions and problems from employees/management.
- Experience in one or more of the following areas: database management and spreadsheet software; constructing and producing reports; data input, manipulation, and analysis.
- Experience working with MS Office software, including Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint

For a full Job profile and how to apply please visit <https://careers.nature.org/> and search for 51459.

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ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The Contracts Specialist will support the strategic priorities of the Africa region through efficient oversight of Africa Region contracts, while providing excellent customer services to project managers. They are responsible for supporting staff from every phase of contract development from researching the legal regulations to negotiating the terms and preparing the final print document. They collaborate with Legal team to support staff to terminate contracts on favorable terms. They will provide guidance related to administrative contractual requirements based on extensive knowledge of policies and procedures to staff across Africa region. They are responsible for implementation of the contractual processes and practices in order to improve effectiveness and disseminate information to assist staff in making decisions, solving problems, and improving workflow.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree and 5 years related experience or equivalent combination;
- Finance, Operations or related field experience;
- Experience managing and implementing multiple projects;
- Experience drafting and negotiating agreements and managing contract workflow and process;
- Experience working with widely dispersed cross-functional teams.
- Demonstrated experience handling confidential information;

For a full Job profile and how to apply please visit <https://careers.nature.org/> and search for 51466.

Submit CV and cover letter separately using the upload buttons online. All applications must be submitted in the system before the end of day on May 23rd, 2022.

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After disrupting fuel price rises, monitor upcountry supply lines

CONSENSUAL leadership has once again been observed as President Samia Suluhu Hassan moved to act on incessant fuel price rises, especially as the National Assembly, and indeed most of the cabinet, had expressed the need for action in that direction. The president directed the Ministry of Energy to take measures to cushion the price of fuel, using funds in the government recurrent budget within this financial year. That was necessary as the situation is biting already, and did not have to wait for the new financial year, as the president explained in a nationwide address.

The president explicitly acknowledged calls and demands from MPs that something be done to lessen the pain arising from the hikes in fuel prices and most other basic consumer goods. The government has at least been able to put money into fuel importation and wholesale prices so retail prices remain stable or even be lessened somewhat. How ambitious the new move will be had to await the detail of cash infusion into the pricing structure, and if any specific pricing directives would be made after that. This appears to be embedded in the president's remarks, that the government releases money, retail traders reciprocate.

Alarm creates an artificial emergency, so the government had to first intervene and then seek regulatory compliance from wholesalers and retailers. Regulatory initiatives work when normal trading conditions prevail in the market, as otherwise speculation takes over. The

issue was hence to absorb price shocks rocking the market by using recurrent expenditure funds, while the Treasury works on changes in taxes and levies on fuel imports. Tax changes scan the medium term view, while dipping finances into wholesale and import expenses was meant to change the fuel trading atmosphere, as a starting point.

So the most difficult part of the job, reassuring the population and political stakeholders specifically that the government is on top of the game, that it is in charge and can redirect market tendencies, and all this is now in the hands of the Ministry of Energy. Its work starts immediately, while the tax measures will be included to start in the next financial year as the president explained, but evidently the degree to which the short term measures shall work, and regulatory fiat be observed by wholesalers and retailers, shall give an indication of future trend. If prices are lessened across the country, people will start believing.

Some aspects of the price hiking all the same tend to infuse a certain amount of worry, as to how far the price variation as one moves inland from the port of Dar es Salaam was singularly due to transport costs. The price of fuel in Dar es Salaam was being cited at slightly over 3,000/- while in far inland regions it was upwards of 5,000/- by observations of MPs in a number of interventions. There is an element of speculative pricing, so the government should direct its fiscal measures to empowering more imports and monitoring the distribution; sinking cash into the market and let it work on its own could prove deceptive.



The birth of the African Union

By Cameron Duodu

GHANA, under President Kwame Nkrumah, selflessly gave Guinea ten million pounds sterling - a princely sum worth about 200 million pounds today, when France left Guinea in a peremptory manner, leaving the Guinea treasury empty. Now read on:

The money aside, Nkrumah and President Sekou Toure of Guinea shook the African continent still further when they announced the formation of a "Ghana-Guinea Union" of states which, they said, would serve as "the nucleus" of an African union of states, which other African countries could later join, if they liked.

For never before had two independent African states voluntarily decided to join together, although (of course) several "nations" had been forcibly brought together under the roof of a single nation, during the military conquests that marked the colonial period.

However, the step the two countries took was largely symbolic, for Ghana and Guinea did not share common frontiers that they could pull down; nor did they possess common ports where customs duties could be harmonised; nor were there any other concrete steps they could take, immediately, to make the "union" an effective and practical proposition.

Worst of all, one country spoke English and the other French - hardly the easiest way of uniting two countries. Yet the idea, as such, was imaginative and immensely appealing, and was hailed in many parts of Africa. In fact, Mali soon joined the union, and was rewarded with a loan of about 5 million pounds sterling by Ghana.

Efforts were actually made by the three countries to cooperate politically and economically, where possible. They sent "resident ministers" to each other's country. And Ghana took another initiative when it acquired new Ilyushin-18 aircraft from the Soviet Union, with which it was able to introduce Ghana Airways flights to Conakry and Bamako. This improved transportation in West Africa, generally, by enabling passengers from the two countries to connect to flights to other West African countries, as well as to Europe and elsewhere.

Trade also began to pick up between the three countries - meat from Mali, in particular, began to be flown into Ghana as air cargo, and was seen in some Ghanaian cold-stores. But alas, by late 1960, Nkrumah and Sekou



Toure - both headstrong personalities - had somehow fallen out and the union was tottering. No announcement was, however, forthcoming on the nature of the disagreement that had torn them apart.

Indeed, I myself only became aware of it by accident, when Kojo Addison, the censor whom Dr Nkrumah had planted in the Radio Ghana newsroom (where I was working as a news editor) began surreptitiously to take news items that mentioned Guinea or Sekou Toure out of our news bulletins! It was a crass act of intolerance

that was, unfortunately, typical of the emotional manner in which international politics was often pursued in Ghana at the time. It is to the credit of President Sekou Toure that he ignored the sometimes sour relationship between Nkrumah and himself, and magnanimously gave Nkrumah a home in Guinea, when Nkrumah was overthrown in 1966.

The Nkrumah-Toure disagreement may well have happened because by 1960, there were serious political tensions in Africa, that had begun to make the continent "sleepwalk" into splitting into two blocs (reflecting broadly, in a distorted form, the two blocs that constituted the countries engaged in "The Cold War").

One African "bloc" became known as the "Monrovia Group" and the other, the "Casablanca Group". Most of the members of the Monrovia Group were

drawn from an earlier group called the "Brazzaville Group" that was formed by mainly pro-French countries. Initially, the Group was known as the "Afro-Malagasy Union" or, from its French initials, UAM.

The countries in the "Brazzaville Group" were Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, Cote d'Ivoire, Dahomey (now Benin), Gabon, Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso), Madagascar, Mauritania, Niger, Central African Republic, Senegal, and Chad. Later, the Group became more influential, when it was expanded to include Ethiopia, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Togo, Tunisia, and Congo (which became Congo-Kinshasa after the death of its first Prime minister, Patrice Lumumba).

The "Casablanca Group" emerged in 1961 and comprised Algeria, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Libya, Mali, and Morocco (for a short period). They were often labelled as the "radical group" (in contrast, the label "conservative" was applied by lazy journalists to the Monrovia Group!) The labels were clearly a misnomer, for by no stretch of the imagination could Morocco, for instance, which was a "conservative" monarchical regime, be described as "radical" or "anti-imperialist".

Clearly, both Groups were alliances of convenience: it was politically unwise - as far as domestic politics were concerned - to appear "isolated"

on the African political scene. Hence, one adopted friends not necessarily because one shared a common political philosophy with them, but because they were available, or not regarded as a threat to oneself. Or they happened to have the same foreign friends!

It was not only Nkrumah who was disheartened by the existence of the Monrovia and Casablanca Groups in Africa. President Sekou Toure of Guinea (a member of the Casablanca Group) was also unhappy and he took steps to link up with Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie to try and organise a conference of the foreign ministers of the two groups, preparatory to a summit of their heads of state.

When Nkrumah heard of this, he was apparently irritated. Why should his ally, Sekou Toure appear to be trying to steal his thunder as the unacknowledged "father of African unity"? So he set his own secret diplomatic moves in motion, to get the Monrovia and Casablanca Groups to merge and form a common organisation. To accomplish this, Nkrumah dispatched one of his most trusted aides, Kwesi Armah (better known as Ghana's high commissioner in London), to Liberia to see President William Tubman, who was

widely respected as one of the "old wise men" of Africa. (Liberia was one of the first African countries to be visited by Nkrumah after Ghana had achieved its independence in 1957).

International Day for Plant Health poses challenges for agro-sector research, rules

THIS year is the first time that agronomists and administrators around the world mark International Day of Plant Health on May 12, which the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) the decision by the United Nations General Assembly will help to highlight under-served issues of plant pests and diseases responsible for the loss of up to 40 percent of food crops, worsening hunger worldwide. In a statement released towards the end of March, the UN agency said the international day will help uplift global thinking on an issue that is critical in addressing global hunger. Plant pests and diseases cause massive crop losses and leave millions without enough food, and no solution are in sight.

A UN chronicler says that the observance was championed by Zambia and unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly in a resolution co-signed by Bolivia, Finland, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Tanzania. In that context the country's UN mission and the government at large have a measure of credit for bringing about this moment of reflection, partly arising out of networking at the United Nations General Assembly and other multilateral agencies. Direct diplomatic initiative is also relevant, for instance if one tries to find out where the idea was mooted, how it was relayed, and finally adopted.

The issue of plant health is multifaceted, where it isn't just crop health that is at issue, and indeed not

just food crop health that is targeted, though it comes to mind upon the mention of plant health than other features involving crops or plants generally.

In its formulation, the resolution asserts that healthy plants constitute the foundation for all life on Earth, as well as ecosystem functions, food security and nutrition. That is why pests and post-harvest losses are a menace.

A UN chronicler says that the International Day of Plant Health will be an opportunity to highlight the crucial importance of plant health, both in itself and as part of a global health approach, encompassing human, animal and ecosystem health. That means policy makers and development partners figure out what new links are needed in those areas to attain a measure of harmony. Such inputs are at times crucial in a policy renewal dimension, as without it the vital input of a certain input in policy or regulatory environment would take time to be noticed. Similarly, at the UN level, the day will help to indicate where to fully bridge national capacities for accessing food for populations and global capacity as a whole.

Figures still affirmed by FAO that plant pests and diseases cause food crop losses of up to 40 percent, and what this means for growing world hunger and rural livelihoods are disturbing. As we don't have effective ways of curbing such waste, genetic modification to remove pest attraction might just be the way out.

Food crisis is largely due to these three: Conflict, climate change and COVID-19

By Joseph Chamie

PEOPLE require food, with more people requiring more food and less people requiring less food. Despite that self-evident relationship, most governments appear reluctant to accept the intimate link between the supplies of food and the numbers of people and continue calling for the further growth of their populations.

The world's population of approximately 8,000,000,000, or more than double its size at the start of the Green Revolution in the mid-1960s, is again facing a food crisis across many countries and areas. And that food crisis is expected to worsen in the near term.

The food crisis in dozens of countries, which are located primarily in Africa and Asia, is largely due to the three Cs: conflict, climate change, and COVID-19. Also, the recent conflict in Ukraine due to Russia's military invasion has further exacerbated the food crisis.

As a result of the conflict in Ukraine, a growing number of governments are erecting new barriers to stop the exports of food products and other important commodities at their borders. Those barriers are expected to worsen the food crisis with shortages and higher prices for a variety of goods in many food insecure countries.

Today an estimated 800 million people, or 10 percent of the world's population, are hungry. Also, projections show that the world is not on track to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030, i.e., Sustainable Development Goal 2.

The future growth of world population, which is currently increasing by approximately 80 million per year, is expected to be concentrated in regions that contain most of the countries suffering from hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition.

Of the expected growth of the world's population of nearly 600 million over the next eight years, Africa, much of which is dependent on imported food, accounts for 47 percent of that demographic growth, followed by Asia at 43 percent.

Moreover, the projected percentage increases in the populations of Africa's sixteen food insecure hotspot countries are among the world's highest and well above the global average. By 2030 many of the populations of those African countries are expected to increase by no less than 25 percent.



A Malian refugee tends vegetables at the market garden in Ouallam, Niger

The current population of Niger, for example, is expected to increase by 34 percent over the next eight years, i.e., from 26 million to 35 million. In contrast, the projected increase of world population of 7 percent over those eight years is a fraction of the rates of Africa's food insecure hotspot countries.

The expected population growth of food insecure countries by mid-century is even more striking. Whereas world population is projected to increase by about 20 percent by 2050, the populations of some African food insecure hotspot countries are expected to double in size by mid-century. A particularly rapid rate of future demographic growth is the population of Niger, which is expected to increase from its current 26 million to 66 million by mid-century.

The future growth of world population, which is currently increasing by approximately 80 million per year, is expected to be concentrated in regions that contain most of the countries suffering from hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition.

Another African food insecure hotspot country whose population is expected to double in size is the Democratic Republic of the Congo, increasing from 95 million today to 195 million by 2050. The African country with the largest population, Nigeria, is also pro-

jected to increase substantially from its current 217 million to 401 million by 2050, thereby displacing the United States as the world's third largest population.

Outside of Africa six additional countries, which have been affected greatly by armed conflicts and violence, are also considered food insecure hotspot countries. Those countries are Afghanistan, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen in Asia and Haiti and Honduras in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Following the Green Revolution in the late 1960s, global food production has outpaced the rapid growth of world population during the second half of the 20th century. World population has more than tripled since 1950, from 2.5 billion to 8 billion today.

At present, approximately half of the planet's habitable land is now being used for the production of food, which accounts for an estimated 70 percent of freshwater consumption. That vital human activity has important consequences for the planet, including contributing to biodiversity loss, pollution, deforestation, and soil degradation as well as to greenhouse gas emissions.

Part of the responses to those consequences for the planet include reducing meat consumption and moving the world's popu-

lation to a more plant-based diet. In addition to the improvements to human health, eating mostly plant-based foods would contribute to lower greenhouse gas emissions and reduced animal waste.

In many parts of the world, especially those food insecure hotspots noted above, the effects of climate change and environmental degradation are greatly impacting the production, availability, and distribution of food with droughts, floods, high temperatures, wildfires, desertification, pests, rise in sea levels, etc.

In addition to aiming to increase the supply of food and making healthy diets affordable and accessible for populations with low household purchasing power, greater efforts are needed to reduce the overall demand for food by stabilizing the size of populations.

In addition to reducing high morbidity and mortality rates, governments should endeavor to reduce high fertility rates. Expediting the demographic transition in countries with high death and birth rates would contribute considerably to reducing the future sizes of those populations and thereby the projected demand for additional food.

For example, Africa's future population, which has increased six-fold since 1950, could be markedly less than currently projected if the continent's demographic transition is expedited. If the future fertility rates of African countries were to follow the United Nation's low variant projection instead of its medium variant, the population of Africa would be 200 million less by 2050 and more than a billion less by 2100 (Figure 3).

Reductions in the rapid growth of populations in Africa, Asia, and elsewhere will certainly not resolve the problems of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Other major challenges need to be addressed, including conflict, climate change, and COVID-19. However, it is also certainly the case that lower rates of demographic growth will lead to fewer additional people in the future. Such demographic reductions will in turn lead to reduced future demand for food.

As stated at the outset, the relationship between food and people is self-evident. Namely, people require food, with more people requiring more food and less people requiring less food.

It's well past the time for governments to embrace the relationship between food and people. To do so entails governments adopting comprehensive policies and implementing effective programs aimed at reducing high rates of population growth and stabilizing the size of their populations.

Joseph Chamie is a consulting demographer, a former director of the United Nations Population Division and author of numerous publications on population issues, including his book, "Births, Deaths, Migrations and Other Important Population Matters."

Today is the time for transformation

By Yasmine Sherif

"I first think about my children. They are why we were forced to leave - because our children are always our first concern."

These are the moving words of Victoria, who fled the brutal war in Ukraine with her two daughters. Her eyes welling up with tears, she recalled their dangerous journey from Ukraine. She and her two school-aged daughters were forced to leave behind everything they have ever known.

I met Victoria during my recent mission to Moldova, together with USAID, FCDO-UK, UNICEF, UNHCR, Theirworld and civil society senior representatives. Victoria and her girls now live with a host family in Moldova, and despite the hardship and uncertainty of what the future holds for her loved ones still in Odessa, she finds some respite in the fact that her two daughters are attending school. "Here they can continue their education, socialize and take their mind off the war. They can forget about it for a while and just be children again."

Tragically, the story of Victoria and her daughters is not unique; it is the story of the 5 million Ukraine refugees who have already fled the deadly con-

flikt in Ukraine. It is also the story of over 128 million children and youth whose lives today are shattered by armed conflicts, forced displacement, climate-induced disasters and other crises across the globe: in Africa, Asia, Middle East and South America.

The global loss of childhood and sense of despair have become universal. This is a shameful trend for humanity and the time has come to transform despair into hope. The most cost-effective and efficient way to do so is through urgent, substantive and predictable financial investments in quality education for those children left furthest behind in emergencies and protracted crises.

As Leonardo Garnier, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General for the 'Transforming Education Summit' stresses in this month's high-level interview: "The truth is that education remains one of the most underfunded areas of humanitarian aid, receiving less than 3% of total global humanitarian funding. This has to change."

To ensure quality education for vulnerable children caught in the midst of crises requires urgent, bold and significantly scaled-up financing by both humanitarian and devel-

opment actors, as well as the private sector. The European Union is an excellent role model: it invests 10% in education from both its humanitarian and development envelopes.

What kind of financing are we willing to invest to make a transformative change? How much do we value true transformation to ensure that every child and adolescent can access a quality education as their last hope when everything else in their world has fallen to pieces?

This year, as we accelerate our efforts towards the 2030 Agenda deadline, the UN Secretary-General's 'Transforming Education Summit', being convened in September 2022, is our collective opportunity to make a real difference. By transforming the way in which we deliver financing through pooled funding, grants and loans and by transforming financial envelopes into significant, combined humanitarian-development investments for education, we can and we must, transform the lives of girls and boys through education, and thereby deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals and all Human Rights.

Anything less is not the transformation we urgently need today.



Request for Proposals
Consultancy services:
Mid-Term Review of the Girls Get Equal in Tanzania

RFP No. PIT/CO/072/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, Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Rukwa, Kigoma. Plan Tanzania also works with other stakeholders in various projects countrywide
2. Plan International Tanzania through project of Child and early forced marriage in RUKWA, has set aside fund to conduct consultancy services for provision of **Mid-Term Review of the Girls Get Equal in Tanzania**. The 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 International Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing or submission of the bid documents.
3. Bidders are requested to submit Technical and Financial Proposals each be enclosed in a separate envelope and marked "Technical Proposal" and "Financial Proposal" respectively. The two envelopes shall then be enclosed in a single envelope.
4. Bidders must submit the proposals in a sealed envelope by hand to: The Country Director, Plan International Tanzania, Plot no. 496 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area, P O Box 3517, Dar es Salaam before 17:00 Monday 30th May 2022, marked the respective RFP number. Not to be opened before 17:00 Monday 30th May 2022. Electronic and Late bids will be rejected.

Country Director
Plan International Tanzania
Central Technologies House
Plot No. 96 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area
New Bagamoyo Road - Next to TBC1&NECTA
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Dar es Salaam

Burkina Faso junta faces mounting pressure to deliver on security promises

By Fahraman Rodrigue Koné

THE junta in power in Ouagadougou justified the 24 January coup by citing the inability of former president Roch Marc Christian Kaboré's government to provide security in Burkina Faso. By making security its primary objective, the regime raised people's hopes of a rapid return to peace and stability.

Three months after the putsch, however, the military hasn't been able to reverse the growing insecurity, and incidents of violence occur almost daily.

Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (Acled) figures show 610 attacks, mainly involving violent extremist groups, between 25 January and 8 April 2022, that killed 567 people (Chart 1).

Compared to the corresponding period in 2021, incident numbers have quadrupled and deaths tripled. Insecurity was rising before the coup, and extremists have taken advantage of the break in the chain of command.

Jihadists also strengthened their grip on various regions of the country in February, notably the Sahel, North, East and Central-North regions. In the Sahel region, they controlled roads to isolated areas. In mid-February, the violent extremists imposed a blockade on Djibo and threatened to extend it to Dori. On 11 April, in Central-North, gold mining company Société des Mines de Taparko was forced to close for "security reasons".

The already significant number of displaced people in the country has increased. According to the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation, numbers rose from 1,741,655 at the end of January to 1,814,283 at the end of February – an increase of 4.17% (Chart 2). Burkina Faso faces the largest forced displacement crisis in the Sahel, accounting for 64% of all displaced people in the region.

With violence persisting, the initial euphoria of the coup has subsided, making way for criticism of the new authorities' inability to restore security. Transitional president Lieutenant-Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba blamed the lack of progress on the need to set up transitional institutions, which will provide a political framework for a more effective fight against violent extremism.



Protestors cheer in support of the military junta during a march in support of the military take over in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 25 January 2022. Burkina Faso's army announced on state television, on 24 January 2022, that it has deposed President Kaboré as well as suspended the constitution, dissolving the government and the national assembly, and closing Burkina Faso's borders. File photo

February and March were devoted to this political process. It resulted in the definition of a charter specifying the duration (36 months) and the organs of the transition and their composition and missions. The government and the legislative assembly of the transition were also installed.

But the Burkinabè don't want to wait any longer. If not properly addressed, their expectations might lead to a new political crisis that could plunge the country into more instability.

In early April, Damiba announced that the first results of the new strategy would be visible within five months. To make this happen, he's counting on recently agreed measures to reinvigorate the state's response to insecurity.

These include major changes to the security apparatus. The heads of the main commands and operational units have been replaced. A new national operations command was created, and retired military personnel were called in to strengthen security force capacity. The authorities have promised to improve defence and security forces' equipment and living conditions. An audit of the military's management was announced, the results of which should be used for better internal governance of the institution.

As increased military action looms, authorities must prioritise civilians' protection. Data from September 2021 attributed 10% of abuses against civilians to pro-government forces (defence and security forces and "volunteers for the defence of the fatherland").

Violations of civilian rights feed a mindset of revenge among ordinary people, making them more likely to join or collaborate with jihad groups. The urgent need to restore security should never justify shortcuts and simplistic methods that sacrifice civilians' safety.

In addition to revitalising the military, the authorities are showing a commitment to dialogue with armed groups. The ministries in charge of national reconciliation and religious and customary affairs will be the main political interlocutors. In his national address on 1 April, Damiba said he hoped such dialogues would involve the local committees created for this purpose.

Ad hoc dialogue has happened before, for example in 2020 in the Djibo region. This created relative calm during the presidential elections. The current initiative, unlike its predecessors, benefits from clear institutional support and strong political will, even if the details and content of the dialogue aren't yet defined. To maximise its chances of success, the process should be informed by past learning.

The effectiveness of Burkina Faso's responses, whether military operations or dialogue, will depend largely on how well they are implemented and synchronised. The sequencing, coordination and articulation of these two components must be clarified, so they complement rather than compete with each other.

Burkina Faso's regional and international partners should define flexible and pragmatic support strategies, accounting for national and regional changes. These partners include the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), African Union (AU), United Nations and European Union.

In the absence of insisting that Burkina Faso returns to constitutional order within a 'reasonable' time, the credibility of these partners rests not just on strict adherence to processes but on constructive approaches to helping the country achieve its security goals. Economic sanctions, which Ecowas has threatened if the country's authorities don't revise the transition schedule, could trigger a negative spiral and lead to a break in relations.

Regional and sub-regional organisations could also draw on the expertise of neighbouring countries to support local dialogue in Burkina Faso. With European partners' withdrawal from Mali and uncertainties about their support mechanisms for Sahelian states, the AU and Ecowas should increase their engagement with states in the region that are plagued by insecurity and political instability. **DM**

Banditry in Nigeria: Why 5 government strategies have failed

By Salek Yaks Musa

HEIGHTENED violence and insecurity in the north-west and north-central regions of Nigeria has become an existential threat to many.

Reported security incident trends show the regions experienced 65% of the total security incidents in Nigeria in the first quarter of 2022, with 2,331 fatalities.

Bandits are largely responsible for stoking violence and insecurity in these regions.

Numerous bandit groups exist in north-west and north-central Nigeria but they do not have any central authority and there is little to suggest collaboration between them. The groups have different operational capacities and technical capabilities, and are mostly clandestine in their operations. Their main activities are cattle rustling, kidnapping civilians for ransom, armed attacks and community invasion.

Since 2016, the current gov-

ernment has adopted numerous military and other non military strategies to stamp out banditry. But the increasing activity and violence of the groups indicate that the government's efforts have failed to achieve the desired results.

Based on my work and analysis of security trends, I have identified five strategies adopted by the Nigerian government and analysed why they failed. I also have suggestions about what the government can do differently.

Dialogue, settlement and peace missions

In the early stage of banditry in 2016, some Nigerian state governments leaned heavily on negotiation and settlement to end it. Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto and Kaduna states adopted different dialogue and settlement initiatives to end the killings, banditry and kidnappings.

The state governments paid money as compensation to identified leaders of bandits in return for peace. Sokoto, Zam-

fara, and Katsina states further offered an amnesty hinged on renouncing banditry and kidnapping, and the surrender of weapons.

Following the same logic, a famous Islamic cleric, Sheik Ahmad Gumi, initiated a peace mission aimed at reaching a consensus between the government of Nigeria and bandit leaders to end the violence. This wasn't well received by the public. The Kaduna state governor, for one, insisted that the Fulani would not abandon banditry to return to their nomadic life of tending animals.

Overall, the dialogue, settlement and peace mission failed to end the banditry. But it did reveal that the groups were mainly driven by economic motivations.

Air bombardment and seizing telecommunication services

As negotiations and settlements failed, in 2018 government efforts turned to military aerial bombardment of occupied forests used as bandit strongholds. The effort was

strengthened by the seizure of telecommunication services in parts of the north-west for several weeks in the last quarter of 2021. Seizing the network was meant to undermine the ability of the groups to communicate and receive information about military activities.

The operation did not weaken the groups. The crisis worsened, and civilian casualties resulted from the military air raids in 2021 in several communities.

Lack of support by ground troops undermined the operation as bandits moved from one location to another to evade the aerial bombardments. Similarly, the shutting down of telecommunication services was not uniformly done across the north-west. Bandit groups could easily move elsewhere.

Deploying women soldiers

In Kaduna State, which has become the epicentre of banditry, 300 soldiers from the Nigerian Army Women Corps were deployed on the highly volatile

A2 Abuja-Kaduna expressway in January 2021. This was done to complement and strengthen the ongoing security operations on the route.

In the first month of deployment, the A2 highway was free of abductions. But the A235 Kaduna-Kajuru-Kachia route and surrounding communities experienced a spike in attacks and abductions.

Again, the attackers simply moved their operations.

Ending ransom payment State governments decided, in 2020, not to negotiate with bandits. They also discouraged victims' families from paying ransom to bandits in exchange for their kidnapped family members.

The Nigerian Senate considered passing the Terrorism Prevention (Amendment) Bill 2021. This would criminalise payment of ransom as a felony punishable by 15 years in prison.

The intention was to make kidnapping for ransom less attractive. But the bill attracted

public criticism. Some government agencies rejected it and the government is said to have paid ransom (though it denies this).

Successful rescue of victims by security forces would have discouraged Nigerians from paying ransom, but such rescues have been insignificant. Citizens are therefore not confident that if they do not pay ransom, their kidnapped family members will be freed through security operations. It remains unclear whether the Senate will still approve the bill after the public debates.

Labelling bandits as terrorists A federal high court ruling has compelled the federal government to proscribe bandits as terrorist organisations. This was intended to ensure that the appropriate level of force, tactical and operational assets and resources were deployed against the groups. In essence, this should translate to tougher sanctions for the bandits, and the application of the Terrorism Prevention Act to penalise

their informants and supporters. Yet these measures have not deterred the now sanctioned terror groups.

Recent terror attacks by the groups include an ambush of the convoy of a deputy governor; killing of 11 soldiers at a military base; the Kaduna airport attack; the Kaduna-bound passenger train attack; and kidnap of students of the Zamfara State College of Health Technology, Tsafe.

Recommendation

Poverty, hunger and unemployment make people vulnerable to radicalisation and drive conflict. What is required is sincere policy implementation to lift Nigerians out of these circumstances.

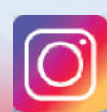
In the short term, improved security collaboration with civilians would make individuals and communities feel safer and more willing to offer vital information to security forces. Trust in government security forces is lacking in Nigeria.

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

Africa anti-corruption conference wants greater ties to curb bribery

By Guardian Reporter

THE 12th edition of the Regional Conference of heads of anti-corruption agencies in Commonwealth Africa has set a common approach to the urgent priorities of tackling corruption.

They reached the decision in their joint communiqué at the climax last Friday in the Rwandan capital, Kigali.

Delegates recognised that corruption continues to be a key challenge in the region with heavy losses incurred as a result of illegal transfers of proceeds of corruption and crime, and illicit financial flows out of Africa.

They agreed that corruption must be tackled more vigorously and they committed to stronger local, regional, and international cooperation and collaboration among anti-corruption agencies in Commonwealth Africa to enhance the capacity-building of investigators and prosecutors of corruption offences, and to support the speedy and unfettered repatriation of recovered assets.

Additionally, they called on governments to provide anti-corruption agencies with adequate resources to monitor, prevent, and prosecute corruption.

The four-day conference was organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda and brought together Heads and Representatives of anti-corruption agencies from the Commonwealth's 19 African member states and stakeholders.

They discussed the impacts of corruption on sustainable development, strategies and innovative approaches for combating corruption through sharing knowledge, good practices and success stories, and key priorities towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16.

In her opening remarks, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland QC, emphasized the unique bond of the Commonwealth family and the need to strengthen international cooperation and partnerships to go beyond anti-corruption agencies, tax authorities, and anti-money laundering agencies, to stamp out corruption and create "the lasting, positive space for sustainable development to thrive, and for people everywhere to flourish".

"We can win the war against corruption through collaboration, cooperation and a Whole-of-the-Commonwealth approach [of working together; learning from each other, and collectively setting the highest possible standards] using the transformative technologies," the Secretary-General said.

The Secretary-General also reiterated the Commonwealth Secretariat's commitment to supporting member states act



Heads of anti-corruption agencies in Commonwealth Africa have called for greater regional collaboration among member states in the fight against corruption.

on corruption through a three-pronged approach based on research, capacity-building and strong collaboration.

Speaking at the conclusion of the conference, Dr Roger Koranteng, the Secretariat's Adviser and Head of Public Sector Governance said: "The challenges we face in combating corruption call for a broad collaboration of agencies, stakeholders, and experts.

So, it has been a successful four days of deliberations during which we exchanged sev-

eral ideas and heard success stories on what countries are doing to prevent and stamp out corruption."

"The high-level representation we had during this conference of Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies, and key international organisations such as the World Bank, Transparency International, and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, demonstrates the importance of such a gathering.

The global nature of corruption means that

now, more than ever, we must work together to make corruption a thing of the past and build the inclusive and prosperous Africa We Want," they said.

"With the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting around the corner, I hope the recommendations within the communiqué will inform discussions amongst leaders. We thank the people and Government of Rwanda for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for the conference."

Some 200 delegates, including members of the Association of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa, senior government officials, regional and international organisations, international experts, policymakers, and development partners, attended the conference which was convened under the theme: "Combating Corruption for Good Governance and Sustainable Development in Africa."

WHO, Gavi not planning Covid vaccine buys from SA's Aspen

By Special Correspondent

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) and its COVID-19 vaccine partner Gavi have no immediate plans to buy shots made by Aspen Pharmacare, the two bodies said, dealing a blow to Africa's efforts to develop its own vaccine production capacity.

Aspen completed a deal in March to package, sell and distribute Johnson & Johnson's vaccine in what was lauded as a game-changing moment for an under-vaccinated continent frustrated by sluggish Western hand-outs.

But the South African company's expectations of high de-

mand in Africa, where just a sixth of adults are fully vaccinated, have not materialised. It's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) warned last week it would be forced to re-purpose about half of its vaccine production capacity if orders did not pick up.

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Africa's top public health body, has called upon organisations procuring shots for the continent to prioritise sourcing from African producers.

However, COVAX, the global COVID-19 vaccine-sharing programme instrumental in Africa's pandemic response - has no current plans to place orders with

Aspen because of oversupply.

COVAX is backed by the WHO, the global vaccine alliance Gavi and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.

"In the case of Aspen, the current overall demand situation means we are currently not in a position to buy large quantities of vaccines," a Gavi Spokesperson said.

"However, we are in discussion to see if a collaboration would be feasible as part of expanding regional supply."

Kate O'Brien, the WHO's Director of Immunization, Vaccines and Biological, said COVAX had already secured the 380 million vaccine doses required for the

global programme for the second and third quarters of this year.

"COVAX has more supply than is at present being demanded by countries, and that's a good place to be in," she told Reuters.

As wealthy countries used their purchasing power to corner early supplies, Africa initially struggled to source COVID-19 shots, leading to calls for a boost to the continent's vaccine production capacity. The African Union's goal is to produce 60% of all routine vaccines covering everything from COVID to measles administered in Africa locally by 2040, up from the current 1%, and several such plants are

being set up.

The WHO and European Union are backing regional vaccine manufacturing initiatives. And South Africa, Senegal, Rwanda and Kenya are all seeking to establish vaccine production hubs.

Recently, however, acute shortages of COVID-19 vaccines have given way to a glut of doses as donations to COVAX and supplies from drug makers have picked up and African governments' vaccination campaigns struggle to keep pace. Aspen CEO Stephen Saad warned that the current lack of demand called into question the viability of local production, endangering Africa's future vaccine security.

"There are lives at stake here," he told Reuters, adding that if Africa, and the rest of the world, didn't support its capabilities the continent would remain at the back of the queue in the next pandemic.

Last year, the Biovac Institute, another South African vaccine producer, struck a deal with Pfizer and BioNTech to manufacture around 100 million doses a year of their COVID-19 vaccine for the African Union (AU). Production is due to start later this year.

"The lack of demand is certainly worrisome to all," Biovac Institute CEO Morena Makhoana said. "This emphasises why we need dedicated vaccine capability so

that we have entities that can go through the ups and downs of the vaccine industry." Ayode Alakija, co-chair of the AU-backed African Vaccine Delivery Alliance, said it was unfair to blame purchasing organisations for the demand shortfall.

African governments, she said, were now largely responsible for a glut of vaccines, having failed to establish successful mass vaccination campaigns and ensure their countries' ability to absorb vaccine supplies.

"African political leadership seems to have jumped from 'we have no vaccines' to manufacturing vaccines, and forgotten the two steps in between," she said.

Calling on natural defences to turn back banana pandemic

By Andrew Dunne

IN the 1950s, the "Gros Michel" variety of banana was wiped out by Panama disease. The banana crop in some locations was basically eliminated by the disease of fusarium wilt, caused by a pathogen that enters the plant through the roots.

With no defense possible, the only solution for the banana industry was to cultivate a different banana variety called the Cavendish, which was naturally immune to Panama disease. In that way, the Cavendish variety rose to become the most traded banana crop in the world today.

Unfortunately, the disease that causes fusarium wilt has mutated and now the Cavendish crop is no longer immune. It too is being decimated by fungal disease.

"This fungus is a complete nightmare," said Dr Aurelio Ciancio, from the Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection at the National Research Council of Italy in Bari.

"Producers are worried because it's spreading quickly around the world," he said.

Ciancio is the coordinator of the MUSA research project. "Traditional control measures are limited and this fungus is clearly capable of killing plants at speed," he said.

Funded by the EU and working with partners from Europe, Africa and Latin America, MUSA spent four years investigating the use of bio-controls, or natural agents in plant defense.

The banana's bugbear is dubbed Tropical Race 4 (TR4) also known as Panama 4. First identified in Taiwan in 1990, the mold causes fusarium wilt in the Cavendish cultivar. Entering through the roots, it chokes off the plant's energy supply, killing it from within.

TR4 has been detected in banana growing areas around the world. It spreads stealthily in contaminated soil or water, remaining undetected until it invades the plant. By the time its effects are visible, as the banana plant turns yellow and wilts, it's too late. TR4 has moved on to strike its next victim, destroying banana plantations as it goes.



The TR4 fungus has been identified in places as far afield as Australia, Mayotte, Mozambique, Peru and Colombia. Once again, just like with Panama disease, the 23-billion-euro global banana industry faces an existential threat.

The bananas we buy have a narrow genetic base. Because they reproduce by cloning, they are all practically identical, genetically speaking. All bananas in the world are susceptible because the Cavendish is a monocultural crop with zero resistance to TR4.

MUSA research focuses on rhizosphere microbiology, which is the study of microorganisms in the soil around a plant's roots where micro-organisms thrive.

Microorganisms such as fungi, bacteria and nematodes (microscopic worms) may be our natural allies in the fight against banana diseases.

When it comes to rhizosphere microbiology, said Ciancio, "There are the good guys, and the bad guys."

"Our aim has been to identify the good guys," he said. These are the microorganisms that will help plants to feed, activate their natural defenses or even turn the tables and attack pathogens and pests that threaten the plant.

The scope of the MUSA project included not just TR4 but other severe problems banana plants encounter, notably plant parasitic nematodes (tiny worms which disrupt nutrient and

water uptake) and black weevil (one of the most serious insect pests facing bananas). The MUSA team collected and sequenced thousands of biocontrol agents with encouraging results.

MUSA partners in Costa Rica discovered a fungus that can reduce the impact of disruptive nematodes, or tiny worms, which attack the plant. On the other hand, in Cuba, MUSA partners conducted research on a type of nematode that fights the deadly black weevil insect.

Overall, their findings demonstrate how microorganisms in the rhizosphere may help to prime banana plants' natural defenses and sustain its roots.

Meanwhile, on the tropical island of

Réunion in the Indian Ocean, TR4 is not yet present but the threat looms large. "The diseases we're studying are now very close to the border," explains Bernard Reynaud, Professor of Plant Biology and Ecology at Réunion University, Head of the CIRAD Laboratory and coordinator of the EU-funded INDICANTS project.

Earlier this year, indicants plans to develop rapid tests to detect the presence of harmful bacteria or fungi in banana plants.

"For bananas the issue is that there are lots of epidemics in small areas and we're trying to limit their expansions," said Reynaud. "For this, we need a rapid, specific, and sensitive diagnostic test."

He and CIRAD colleague Dr Isabelle Robène are working on a low cost, mobile DNA-based diagnostics kit that detects multiple pathogens at once, including TR4.

"TR4 cannot be controlled using fungicides and cannot be eradicated from soil using fumigants," said Dr. Robène, a specialist in plant pathology and molecular diagnostics.

Robène explains that current diagnosis is often unreliable and slow, which can allow TR4 to escape. The INDICANTS solution would enable scientists to test and have results back in just 20 minutes, which could be a game-changer.

"With rapid molecular diagnostics, you'd quickly apply control and containment measures," she said. "You'd fence off an area, you'd prevent transportation from that area, and you'd destroy the infected plant material."

The toolkit which Robène and colleagues are working on must be validated through inter-laboratory tests and field surveys.

It is now being further optimized to ensure that it can detect the four common vascular diseases affecting bananas. The next phase for the MUSA team is to develop commercial biocontrol products and technical innovations that can reach farmers and banana producers.

The technique of using nature's solutions to fight nature's problems has much potential for addressing other food security challenges, argues MUSA's Ciancio.

"In just one or two grams of soil we have thousands of microbial species," he said. "It's a black box which we can use against these diseases."

BUSINESS

Oil price drops as economic worries, strong dollar weigh

SINGAPORE

OIL prices dropped more than 1 percent on Tuesday, extending the previous day's steep declines as coronavirus lockdowns in top oil importer China, a strong dollar and growing recession risks fed worries about the outlook for global demand.

Brent crude was down \$1.19, or 1.1 percent, at \$104.75 a barrel at 0607 GMT after slipping to as low as \$103.19.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude fell \$1.07, or 1 percent, to \$102.02 a barrel after hitting an intraday low of \$100.44.

On Monday, both benchmarks posted their biggest daily percentage falls since

March, dropping by 5 percent to 6 percent.

The falls reflected trends in global financial markets, as investors shed riskier assets on worries about interest rate rises and resulting impact on economic growth.

The dollar held near 20-year highs, making oil more expensive for holders of other currencies.

"China's COVID situation, rising rates and growing recession risks are not helping risk assets," Warren Patterson, head of ING commodities research, said.

Latest data showed China's export growth had slowed to single digits, the

Imported Refiner Acquisition Cost ● West Texas Intermediate

Crude oil price (\$/barrel, real 2010 dollars)

\$150

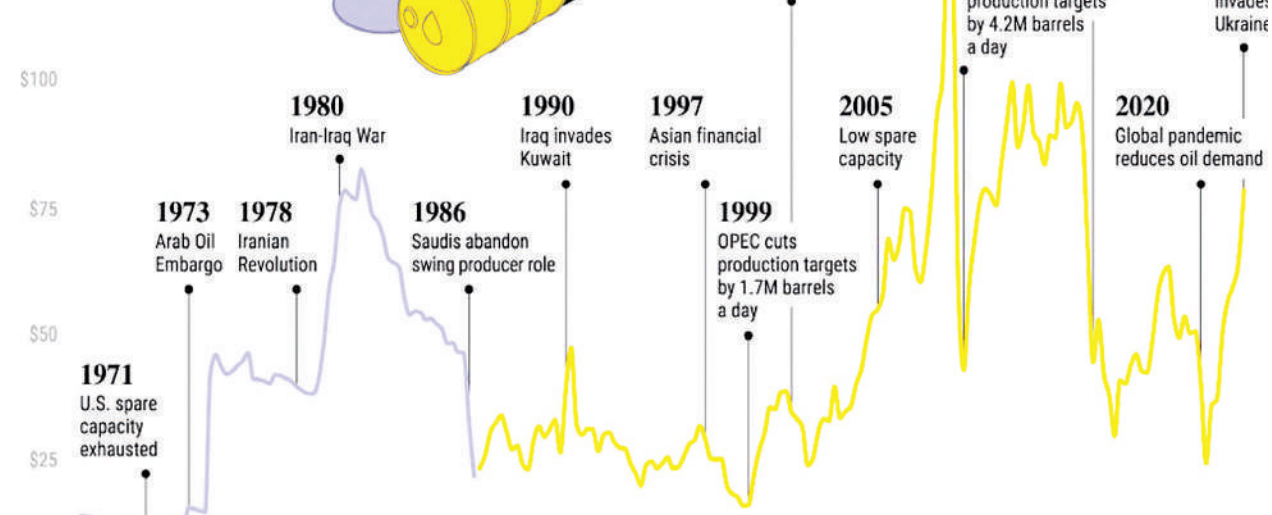
\$125

\$100

\$75

\$50

\$25



weakest in almost two years, as the country extended lockdowns to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Oil prices were boosted last week

after the European Commission proposed a phased embargo on Russian oil. However, the approval has been delayed amid requests from Eastern

European members for exemptions and concessions.

A new version, currently being drafted, is likely to drop a ban on EU tankers

carrying Russian oil, after pressure from Greece, Cyprus and Malta, a EU source said.

"Clearly, (EU) members are struggling to come to an agreement, which suggests that we may see a further watering down of the proposed package," Patterson said.

Financial markets are also heeding concerns that some European economies could suffer distress if Russian oil imports were curtailed further, or if Russia retaliated by cutting off gas supplies.

German officials are quietly preparing for any sudden halt in Russian gas supplies, Reuters reported. An emergency package could include taking control of critical firms, read more

A halt to Russian gas supplies to Germany would trigger a deep recession and cost half a million jobs, a senior economist said in an interview published on Tuesday.

Hungary has also restated its position that it will not accept a new round of proposed sanctions on Russia until its concerns are addressed.

In the United States, crude, distillates and gasoline inventories likely fell last week, a preliminary Reuters poll of the weekly data showed on Monday.

SportPesa eyes 50 per cent market share in next 5 years

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

SPORTPESA has revealed plans to increase its sports betting market share from the current 30 per cent to 50 per cent in the next five years.

Speaking on the sidelines of its 5th anniversary, SportPesa Director, Administration and Compliance Abbas Tarimba said the company will keep consolidating its existing product line-up, including jackpots, while bolstering presence in the fast growing sports betting segment to power it way to 50 per cent market share.

"There were 13 players in the sports betting industry before our entry in the Tanza-

nia market five years ago, we have been able to establish ourselves as the preferred sports betting company out of the existing 24 companies and our strategy is to empower more Tanzanians while creating a win-win situation," he said.

Tarimba added that the company's strategy was to build on a healthy competition while offering unmatched value-added services in the Tanzanian market.

He noted that for the sports betting sector to grow, there should be fairness and ensure that the rights of players are preserved.

"There should be safety of clients' money and this should be in accordance with the

country's laws and internationally accepted standards. The management of betting companies should be very transparent and the managers of such companies should have a good track record," he added.

Tarimba said that with regulatory and policy reforms, the sports betting sub-sector has a big potential of contributing to Tanzania's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) riding on the country's growing sports fans.

"Riding on the big fan base in Tanzania, we decided to sponsor some of the big teams in Tanzania that added so much value to the country's league and improved financial stability and competitiveness. We have also gone an



Abbas Tarimba the SportPesa Director, Administration and Compliance addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam recently to announce the company's 5th anniversary celebrations. Photo courtesy of SportPesa.

extra mile to increase fan engagement by bringing in international clubs that put Tanzania on the global map," he noted.

Commenting on the company's efforts in supporting the country's economic development, Tarimba said the company has attracted \$17bn (approximately 30bn/-) in terms of Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) in the country since its entry in the Tanzanian market.

He noted that since May 2017 to date, the company has paid 344.4bn/- in form of prizes in line with the company's economic empowerment strategy.

"We have played six jackpots and our prizes have been life-changing. We have transformed Tanzanians from low-levels to mid-income levels. The winners have also paid up to 63.3bn/- to the government coffers in taxes," he added.

He noted that SportPesa as a company has paid 434.7bn/- in total taxes, adding that the company will continue paying taxes to support the country's economic development agenda.

"We are currently running a 1.2bn/- jackpot up for grab. 15 percent of this will be used to pay the relevant taxes," he added.

He commended the Government's efforts to reduce tax from the initial 20 percent to the current 15 percent that has helped increase government revenue.

"Reducing the tax has ultimately paid off as the revenue increased to 10.6bn/- between July to December, 2020 to 14bn/- during the same period in 2021. This means that sports betting, if given the required policy intervention, can contribute tremendously to the country's revenue growth," he added.

By Adela Madyane-Kigoma

Energy shortages affect industrial production in Kigoma

INDUSTRIAL producers in Kigoma are facing the shortages of energy to run machines, which has denied the region from exploiting business opportunities found in neighbouring countries in the Great Lakes region.

The region which borders Burundi, Rwanda, Congo and Zambia is considered to be the hub of business in western Tanzania, considering all countries depends on it to move import and export goods through Dar es

Salaam port.

Currently, Kigoma region depends on fossils fuels to generate electricity, which is costly and not reliable to meet the demands of producers of goods for both local and exports markets.

Speaking during the Tanganyika business summit held here, region the Chairperson of Tanzania Cham-

ber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) Abdul Mwilima said, there must be reliable supply of electricity, to attract more producers of goods, highly demanded in the neighbouring countries.

"The region does not only face the shortages of electricity, but also poor infrastructure to smooth movements of goods from producers to consum-

ers," he said. "Having improved infrastructure such as roads and railways will allow timely movement of cargo to neighbouring countries including Democratic Republic of Congo where business people spend at least a month to obtain goods from the port of Dar es Salaam."

He said this has increased the costs of doing businesses while affecting

capitals for most of businesses.

He called for the government to improve Kigoma airport to allow international flights movement for passengers and goods to neighbouring countries of DRC, Zambia and Burundi.

The Kigoma Regional Commissioner Thobias Andengeny has empha-

sized on improved transparency and removing of red tapes to investors among government institutions.

Head of business chamber Habonayo Boniface believes that The Great Lakes Region countries have obligations to end poverty using their own resources and human capital.

The Zambia Industrial Development Corporation managing director Dominic Bwala said collaboration was necessary for member countries to ensure trade is improved to stimulate economic growth.

AngloGold on track for to meet a full-year guidance

JOHANNESBURG

JSE- and NYSE-listed AngloGold Ashanti reported a solid performance for the first quarter of the year, with production steady year-on-year, an increase in total cash costs limited to 4 percent and a strong improvement in cash flow.

The company remains on track to achieve its full-year guidance.

Production for the first quarter was 588 000 oz, unchanged from that produced in the first quarter of 2021, with strong improvements from the Australian operations having offset lower production from Kibali, in the Democratic Republic of Congo; Geita, in Tanzania; and Obuasi, in Ghana, which resumed its underground production ramp-up in January, as planned.

Output from the Americas region was flat.

Total cash costs for the three months were \$1,041/oz, up 4 percent year-on-year, driven largely by what the company notes were uncontrollable factors, including rising inflation across several categories of input costs and higher royalties - owing to the higher gold price received.

Inflationary pressure was partly offset by operating improvements and an 8 percent increase in underground grades.

Free cash flow increased to \$268-million from an outflow of \$92-million in the first quarter of 2021, ensuring the balance sheet remains flexible during an ongoing period of reinvestment in improving its portfolio, the company highlights.

The increase in free cash flow was aided by \$326-million received from Kibali.

"We're starting to achieve our main catalysts. There's still a long way to go, but we're starting to see an improving operational performance across the portfolio, underpinned by a more focused operating culture and a better grade profile," says CEO Alberto Calderon.

He highlights that the average grade during the period was similar to that of the first quarter of 2021, with this not being seen in several years, as the grade had been deteriorating previously. He indicated that this is the result of additional investments, and the company now seeing the results of more predictable operations at mines.

AngloGold is embedding a new operating model after completing the implementation of an organisation-wide restructuring.

The company has introduced new leadership and removed duplicate roles and unnecessary expenditure to reduce costs and improve operating results.



AngloGold Chief Executive Officer Alberto Calderon

DSE posts 16.4bn/- monthly equity turnover in April 2022

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) posted an impressive performance of 16.4bn/- equity turnover in April being a 233 per cent increase from 4.95bn/- posted in March, 2022.

According to analysts, a strong outlook on corporate profitability remains the key reason for stock market growth driving a massive buying spree in a number of counters.

Available data from the DSE shows that VODACOM dominated that market in April after registering a 5.3bn/- mostly through pre-arranged deals hence not affecting its market price.

TBL on the other hand recorded 4.5bn/- billion while CRDB registered 2.7bn billion while NMB and Tanga Cement counters recorded 1.46bn/ and 1.1bn/- respectively.

The benchmark index (DSEI) however lost 3.6 per cent attributed largely by fall in share price of cross listed companies within the period such as EABL (-5%), KCB (-17%), JHL (-4%).

The domestic equity index (TSI)

also lost 0.26% caused mostly by falling domestic equities such as DCB (-3%) CRDB (-4%) TCCL (-1%) SWALA (-8%) NICO (-14%), TICL (-19%).

On the other hand, stocks that registered positive price movement within the period include, TPCC (+3%), DSE (+5%) JATU (+30%).

According to the Zan Securities Chief Executive Officer Raphael Masumbuko, the market remains bullish and the Domestic Listed stocks index (TSI) is expected to gain more points in Q2, 2022 reflecting a "glass half full" outlook based on still-strong corporate sales and profit growth resulting from economic growth, measured inflation and low interest rates.

"We expect to see more trading activities for domestic listed equities as we head towards the dividend period. Overall good earnings reported by a number of companies in 2021 will create incentive for investors to drive momentum for price appreciation in a number of counters, recovery from COVID pandemic and the overall economic growth pulsating a number of



DSE brokers at work. Strong outlook on corporate profitability remains the key reason for the bourse's performance. PHOTO/FILE

companies to higher profitability," he said.

Masumbuko said factors suggest a favorable backdrop for stocks, with the potential for more gains in the second quarter of 2022 adding that consequently

dividend calls scheduled for Q2, 2022 will increase stock prices," he stressed.

He noted that yields on the long end of the yield curve to maintain current levels on the onset of the recent coupon revision,

however we expect a marginal upside risk to the inflation outlook as global fossil fuel prices edge higher prompted by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict which will prompt investors to demand higher

yields to compensate for inflation risk.

"We expect cost push inflation to drive consumer price index higher in April and May driven by the sharper-than-expected oil price rise," he added.

Happiness Lushinge breaks barriers in a male-dominated industry

By Guardian Reporter

IF you thought that operating heavy machinery in a mining site is solely a man's job, then you have another think coming.

But, Happiness Lushinge is among women born to conquer! Her journey at Barrick North Mara started in 2014 when she was employed as a cleaner after completing her secondary school education.

Happiness went on to make a name for herself as the only woman operating a big underground dump truck on the narrow underground roads at the gold mine.

Over the years, Happiness developed a love for operating machinery at the mine. Her dream came true in 2020 when she was finally employed as the first woman to operate a big underground truck.

Happiness says building a career in a male-dominated industry was not easy. Her resilience, persistence, and fearlessness have paid off through the years.

"I can now find the going easy. I have worked hard to win the trust of my colleagues and supervisors. Safety is of paramount importance in the work that I do. I follow all the rules and regulations that apply to working on a mine site, more so, underground. I also do my part to assure that targets are met," says Happiness.

Due to Happiness's admirable work ethic, she was voted the Employee of the Year at

Barrick's North Mara Gold Mine in 2021.

"I couldn't believe I was the winner of this prestigious award. I was thrilled and scared at the same time. The award has motivated me to seek to learn how to operate other modern and more complicated mining equipment," says Happiness.

Apart from her hardworking nature, Happiness's candid performance on the job is also a result of the cooperation she gets from her colleagues and the training programs that Barrick offers its employees.

When all is said and done, Happiness is aligned with Barrick's values, especially the one that compels the company to offer equal opportunities for both male and female employees.

"By respecting our contributions, Barrick is giving [women employees] the motivation to believe that it values our contributions in the same manner as it does with those of our male counterparts," she says, noting that she is always happy to see the number of women employees growing at North Mara. "There are women employees in various departments, including in professional areas like engineering," she says.

The company's massive investment in training has enabled Happiness to learn a lot about the operation of underground mining equipment.

Happiness acknowledges that there will always be challenges at work but recognizes



Happiness Lushinge admires her Employee of the Year Award certificate

that one's fighting spirit and the desire to achieve goals is truly what matters.

She calls upon girls in various schools to take their education seriously so that they can ultimately go for mining-related courses

and benefit from the opportunities that the sector has to offer.

"They only need to understand that any work that a man does, a woman can also do," she says. Happiness is delighted to witness

the decline of gender biases in male-dominated industries.

"The sky's the limit for Happiness. "My goal is to learn how to operate modern and complicated mining equipment so that I can be a force to be reckoned with on an international level," she says.

Despite her busy schedule, Happiness spends her leisure time with the family, reading books and exercising.

For his part, her supervisor, Asha Mambo, attests to Happiness's ability to deliver on what is expected of her. "She reported no accident so far despite the fact that she operates big underground trucks on narrow underground roads. She has an excellent safety record," says Mambo.

Mambo describes Happiness as a person who has the right attitude towards work and is one who always aims to achieve the best results and gives adequate time and attention to her daily undertakings.

"She currently stands out to be the best performer in her field of work. She is exemplary and a motivation to other women to operate underground equipment.

As a person with no prior driving skills, she has made great achievements within a short period of time.

Happiness has shown a sense of ownership that is creating positive results for her career and for the success of the company," Mambo says.

Vodacom Tanzania strives to promote female participation in science, maths

By Guardian Reporter

ALTHOUGH number of male and female students who enroll in science and technology subjects in school is at par, but two in three girls may drop these subjects and will not pursue beyond secondary education.

This leads to a gender imbalance when it comes to employment and business in the Information Technology (IT) sector.

As part of its purpose pillar of inclusion for all, Vodacom Tanzania has always empowered women and young girls through technology as an important area of focus for its business development agenda.

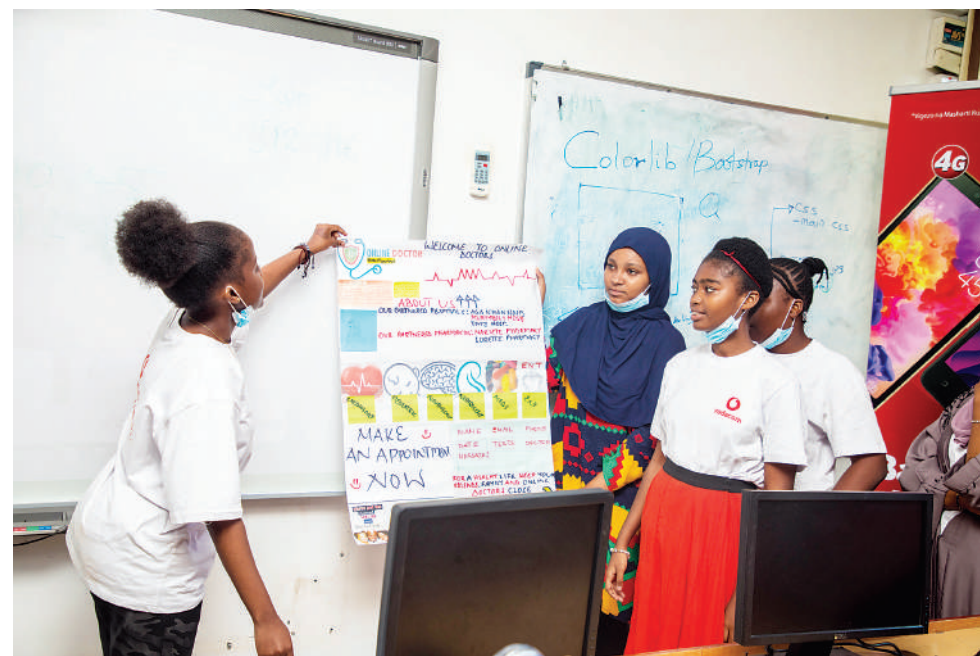
Gender disparity between men and women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) careers is alarming worldwide and yet research shows that these are the jobs of the future in driving innovation, social well-being, inclusive growth, and sustainable development.

Therefore, Vodacom Tanzania embarked on leveraging its technological expertise and resources to achieve this goal.

Education, specifically in STEM, was immediately identified as a key area for action to empower women and young girls to become more competitive in the business and employment markets.

"Vodacom believes that there needs to be a concerted effort from government, private sector, and academia to encourage young girls still in school to take up STEM subjects. Code like a girl program was therefore initiated in 2018 as one way of bridging the gap" says Vivienne Penesis, Vodacom Tanzania Human Resources Director.

#codeLikeAGirl is a 4-day program to develop coding skills, encourage uptake of ICT, and STEM subjects and develop valuable life skills for girls aged between 14 and 18 years. It provides influential mentors for the girls who inspire them to be passionate about technology and its possibilities.



The programme has reached over 1,000 girls in Arusha, Dar es Salaam and Mwanza, with plans to expand into other regions this year

Coding is a way of solving problems, sequential thinking and simulating, creating, and designing. The training is designed to give girls interest in a sector that is currently more popular with boys.

"We deliver the training program in partnership with Tanzania Data Lab (dLab). The training program covers basic knowledge of various computer languages and development programs. The

learning is facilitated interactively and engagingly that integrates life skills while developing code - enabling learners to develop their own websites" adds Vivienne.

In line with its social responsibility agenda, among the criteria for selection, girls are chosen from a diverse range of backgrounds including those who might otherwise not have received access to this program. Special consideration is also given to girls with special needs.

Maka Mawazo, a young girl living with a physical disability participated in one of the workshops, "I am grateful to Vodacom and dLab for this opportunity. We had 10 groups in the program. Our group created a website that deals with Gender-based violence (GBV) and we won first prize!"

She urged other girls to take advantage of the program, "I urge other girls, especially those with special needs, if they get this opportunity, they should take it. They can do it, just like I did."

Eligibility for the 4-day workshop is restricted to female participants aged between 14 and 18 years old. They need to have an interest in computer knowledge, to allow them to learn and fully participate in the workshops. Lastly, they should not have attended previous

workshops.

"I always thought coding was such a complex thing that a secondary school girl like myself would need years to learn but after the training at dLab, I realized how interesting and easy coding is. I am even considering pursuing ICT studies in the future because it is interesting" said Sandra William, another recent graduate of the program.

The program has reached over 1000 girls in Arusha, Dar es Salaam and Mwanza with plans to expand into other regions this year. The program engages local schools and institutions to generate awareness.

During the 4-day program, the girls are organized into groups with a trainer ratio of no less than 1 to 10. The girls design websites and present their ideas to a panel of judges who award the best designs and ideas.

"We wanted to create a fun atmosphere that will get girls excited about career paths in STEM, and to help more women and girls feel inspired to get into coding and be more involved in the creation and development of tech," says Mahadia Tunga, Co-Founder, dLab.

NAIROBI

Kenya resolves fuel dispute with Uganda

KENYA has moved to avert a diplomatic spat with Uganda over a decision to localise fuel cargo meant for Kampala.

Petroleum Principal Secretary Andrew Kamau has said Kenya shared a record of available stocks of diesel and super for Uganda in this month's allocation quotas, easing fears of a looming fuel shortage in the

neighbouring country.

Kenya last month ordered oil marketers to localise 133.5 million litres of super and 104.7 million litres of diesel that were meant for the transit market prompting protests by the Ugandan Parliament over looming outages.

Uganda relies on Kenya for transportation of 75 percent of its fuel requirements highlighting the adverse effects in the likelihood of disruptions from Nairobi.

Kenya ordered oil marketers to localise fuel cargoes in MT Campo and MT Elka Athina in a

bid to ease a biting shortage that is still affecting rural parts of the country.

But the decision came at a cost to oil dealers that mainly deal in the transit market as their supplies to the regional market took a hit. "We had a meeting with the Ugandan ministry and their tech-

nical people because they were afraid that they were going to have fuel shortage. We explained to them and also sent them their stocks in our facilities and they are satisfied," Mr Kamau said on Monday. Oil marketers allocate 60 percent of their fuel imports to the local market and 40 per-

cent for the neighboring countries including Uganda.

Kenya's decision to localise the two vessels at end of last month rattled Kampala, prompting the lawmakers to order Ugandan lawmakers to push for the release of all cargoes meant for the transit market.

"Our country is likely to be enveloped into new fuel prices, which may lead to escalating prices and yet this is something we have been suffering from in the recent past," Ugandan lawmakers said last week.

The government also slashed fuel allocations for oil marketers that had increased their quotas for the neighboring countries adding to the supply fears that have gripped Uganda.

Hichilema urges African leaders to act on economic development

JOHANNESBURG

ZAMBIAN President Hakainde Hichilema has called for African countries to exploit their resources "properly, strategically and cleverly". He was delivering a keynote address at the first day of the African Mining Indaba 2022 conference in Cape Town on Monday.

"This calls for deliberate efforts on the part of us, the African leaders, to ensure the sustainable development of our resources," he stressed. No longer was it good enough to talk about the potential of Africa. "We want to realise that potential ... we must get the job done."

The "job" included the development of both downstream and upstream linkages in the mining sector (including the development of mining services and mining equipment manufacturing industries), both within and across countries, as many individual African countries were too small to develop complete supply and product chains within their own borders. "Africa should, and must, cooperate!"

The continent needed exploration activities to identify new resources. "We also have immense potential on the artisanal side, and small-scale mining," he highlighted.

This, he further noted, was an area that was very important to many people in Africa. Governments and major mining companies must work together to develop artisanal and small-scale mining across Africa.

This would allow the development of the social compacts needed to support the development of mining.

"I'm embarrassed that we have so much poverty among so much wealth," he affirmed. African countries should not accept that they didn't have enough electricity to power the development and operation of mines. The continent's leaders had to act.

With regard to his own country, he pointed out that mining was the cornerstone of the Zambian economy. The focus of his administration, inaugurated eight



Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema

months ago, was on reviving the Zambian economy.

His aim was the development of a sustainable, responsible, mining industry that would provide a base for the development of a manufacturing sector.

Regarding mining inputs, such as equipment, the country wanted to cooperate with other African countries, starting by developing a relationship with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Zambia would manufacture some inputs locally, and import others from neighbouring countries (such as the DRC), while exporting Zambian-made inputs to them.

"Zambia is a key player in the global copper mining industry," he observed. The same applied with cobalt. "Copper is critical in the green energy transition, and there is increasing demand for it. What an opportunity!"

Zambia planned to increase its copper production to 3 000 000 t/y (currently, it was less than 900 000 t/y).

But the country had no desire to be just a source of raw materials for the electric vehicle (EV) revolution. It wanted to be a central player in this development, establishing EV technology and manufacturing capabilities.

Hichilema pledged to work with the private sector, to develop public-private partnerships, pointing out that this approach had worked for other countries.

He urged mining companies to bring any problems they had to the attention of his government.

And he explained that the current moratorium on the issuing of mining rights was a temporary situation, imposed to clean corruption out of the process; it would soon be lifted.

Zimbabwe's bank lending freeze will worsen crisis, business chamber says

HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S decision to suspend bank lending in a desperate bid to arrest the rapid devaluation of its currency will worsen the economic crisis and expose borrowers to predatory loans, the country's business chamber said on Monday.

"Surely, this is not an ideal measure to control the growth in broad money supply," the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) said in a statement.

"This legitimises a parallel banking system with usurious interest rates and no investor would be attracted to such an economy where lending can be suspended overnight."

President Emmerson Mnangagwa ordered banks to stop lending with immediate effect on Saturday, saying the unprecedented move was meant to stop speculation against the Zimbabwean dollar, which has been rapidly devalued on a thriving black market. [LSN2WZOLR]

Before Mnangagwa's announcement, the Zimbabwean dollar was officially quoted at 165.94 against the U.S. dollar, but had been trading at an exchange rate of between 330 and 400 to the greenback on the black market.

On Monday, the official rate moved to 275.79 Zimbabwe dollars, according to the central bank website, after the government decided to use interbank market rates instead of a rate determined during the central bank's weekly auctions.

Zimbabwe abandoned its inflation-ravaged dollar in 2009, opting instead to use foreign currencies, mostly the U.S. dollar. Mnangagwa's government reintroduced the local currency in 2019, to circulate alongside foreign currencies in the economy, but it has rapidly lost value again.

An official of the Bankers Association of Zimbabwe told Reuters it would comment the order to suspend lending only after a meeting with the central bank on Monday.

The Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries, which along with the ZNCC represents major businesses, said it would comment late on Monday after reviewing the new regulations. Economic research firm Morgan & Co said the lending freeze would hurt Zimbabwe's already fragile economy.

"Businesses rely on borrowing for short-term financing and operational needs," it said in a note. "Lending is required to import raw materials, pay salaries, working capital requirements and machinery. This measure will negatively impact on productivity and capacity utilisation."



Businesses rely on borrowing for short-term financing and operational needs," it said in a note. "Lending is required to import raw materials, pay salaries, working capital requirements



Zimbabwe Central Bank



ITV PGM SCHEDULE			
MONDAY 9 May	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Uzalo	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Kipindi Maalum - WCF rp
12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Mjuz Zaidi	13:55 Habari za saa	13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt
13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	14:15 Soap: Love to Death	14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	17:00 Jiji Letu	18:10 Abu yako rpt
18:15 Mapeishi	18:30 DWTV: Kesho leo	19:00 Aya ya Jamii	19:30 Soap: Uzalo
20:00 Habari	21:05 Dakika 45	22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW	22:15 Soap: Love to Death
23:00 The Base	23:00 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV	
TUESDAY 10 May	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Uzalo	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:25 Jagina rpt
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Aya ya Jamii	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt	13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Shika Bamba rpt	14:30 Igizo Filler: Mizengwe	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto wetu	17:00 The Base	18:10 Jiji Letu	18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW rpt
18:30 Uchumi na baaahara	19:00 Jarida la wanawake	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	20:00 Habari
21:05 Soap: Love to Death	21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi Housing	22:00 Ripoti Maalum
22:30 Soap: Love to Death	22:30 Soap: Love to Death	23:00 Soap: Love to Death	23:45 The Base
00:45 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV		
THURSDAY 12 May	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Uzalo	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:25 Jagina rpt
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Aya ya Jamii	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt	13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Shika Bamba rpt	14:30 Igizo Filler: Mizengwe	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto wetu	17:00 The Base	18:10 Jiji Letu	18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW rpt
18:30 Uchumi na baaahara	19:00 Jarida la wanawake	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	20:00 Habari
21:05 Soap: Love to Death	21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi Housing	22:00 Ripoti Maalum
22:30 Soap: Love to Death	22:30 Soap: Love to Death	23:00 Soap: Love to Death	23:45 The Base
00:45 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV		
FRIDAY 13 May	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Uzalo	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:25 Jagina rpt
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Aya ya Jamii	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt	13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Shika Bamba rpt	14:30 Igizo Filler: Mizengwe	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto wetu	17:00 The Base	18:10 Jiji Letu	18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW rpt
18:30 Uchumi na baaahara	19:00 Jarida la wanawake	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	20:00 Habari
21:05 Soap: Love to Death	21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi Housing	22:00 Ripoti Maalum
22:30 Soap: Love to Death	22:30 Soap: Love to Death	23:00 Soap: Love to Death	23:45 The Base
00:45 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV		
SATURDAY 14 May	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Uzalo	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:25 Jagina rpt
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Aya ya Jamii	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt	13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Shika Bamba rpt	14:30 Igizo Filler: Mizengwe	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto wetu	17:00 The Base	18:10 Jiji Letu	18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW rpt
18:30 Uchumi na baaahara	19:00 Jarida la wanawake	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	20:00 Habari
21:05 Soap: Love to Death	21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi Housing	22:00 Ripoti Maalum
22:30 Soap: Love to Death	22:30 Soap: Love to Death	23:00 Soap: Love to Death	23:45 The Base
00:45 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV		
SUNDAY 15 May	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Uzalo	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:25 Jagina rpt
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Aya ya Jamii	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt	13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Shika Bamba rpt	14:30 Igizo Filler: Mizengwe	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto wetu	17:00 The Base	18:10 Jiji Letu	18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW rpt
18:30 Uchumi na baaahara	19:00 Jarida la wanawake	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	20:00 Habari
21:05 Soap: Love to Death	21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi Housing	22:00 Ripoti Maalum
22:30 Soap: Love to Death	22:30 Soap: Love to Death	23:00 Soap: Love to Death	23:45 The Base
00:45 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV		

CAPITAL

Tues 10 May

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
08:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00
10:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
11:00 Series rpt: Ithban
12:30 Capchat rpt
13:00 Meza Huru
13:30 Innovation rpt
14:00 Sports Gazette
15:00 Our Earth
16:00 Series rpt: Ithban
17:30 Capchat rpt
18:00 Meza Huru
18:30 Innovation rpt
19:00 Sports Gazette
20:00 Our Earth
21:00 Series rpt: Ithban
22:45 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
23:00 Eco@Africa

Wed 11 May

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
08:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Our Earth Rpt
10:00 Innovation rpt
11:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00
12:30 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
13:00 Series rpt: Ithban
14:30 Telenovela: Laws Of love
15:00 Capchat Prime
16:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
17:30 Eco@Africa
18:00 Innovation rpt
19:00 Sports Gazette
20:00 Our Earth
21:00 Series: Ithban
22:45 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
23:15 The Decor
23:45 Al Jazeera

Thurs 12 May

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
08:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love
10:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
11:00 Series rpt: Ithban

16:30 Business edition rpt

17:00 In good shape
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Turning the spotlight
19:30 Tanzania yetu
20:00 Series: Ithban
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30
22:00 Capchat Prime News
23:00 Al Jazeera

Frid 13 May

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
08:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00
10:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
11:00 Series rpt: Ithban
12:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
13:00 Meza Huru
13:30 Rev
14:00 Eco@Africa
15:00 Abu Yako
16:00 Local Pgm: Business Edition
17:00 Telenovela: Laws Of love 17:15
18:00 Capchat Prime News
19:00 Mambano ya hoja rpt
20:00 Al Jazeera

Sat 14 May

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Rev rpt
08:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
09:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:00 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out n' about rpt
12:00 Sports Gazette rpt
13:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
14:00 Our Earth rpt
15:00 Business edition rpt
16:00 Korean Drama: The Sling Shot
17:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 17:15
18:00 Eco@Africa
19:00 Bundesliga kick off
20:00 Capchat rpt
21:00 Mizengwe
22:00 The Decor
23:00 Korean Drama: The Sling Shot
24:00 Out n' About
25:00 Music: Club 101 rpt
26:00 Series rpt: Ithban
27:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 15 May

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 In good shape
08:00 Capchat rpt
09:00 Sports Gazette rpt
10:00 Korean Drama: The Sling Shot
11:00 Jagina rpt
12:00 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00 In good shape rpt
14:00 Series rpt: Ithban
15:15 Abu yako
16:00 Rev rpt
17:00 Dakika 45 rpt
18:00 Mizengwe rpt
19:00 The Decor rpt
20:00 Meza Huru
21:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
22:00 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
23:00 Korean Drama: The Sling Shot
24:00 Dw News Africa
25:00 Capchat live
26:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love
27:00 Al Jazeera

WORLD

Filipinos pin hope on Marcos' victory to promote economy

MANILA

FERDINAND Romualdez Marcos Jr won a landslide victory in Monday's Philippine presidential election as voters pin hope on him to bolster the economy amid the raging COVID-19 pandemic.

Marcos, 64, son of former President Ferdinand Marcos, secured over 30 million votes, according to unofficial data released by the Commission on Elections on Tuesday. It is the first win by a majority in presidential elections in the Southeast Asian country since 1986, beating Marcos' main rival, incumbent Vice President Maria Leonor Robredo.

His running mate, Sara Duterte-Carpio, the 43-year-old daughter of outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte, also won by a majority in the vice presidential race.

Marcos has the backing of both his family's loyalists in the country's north and Duterte-Carpio's supporters in the south, dubbed the "solid north-south." He won the endorsement of many political parties and officials across the country.

Analysts said Marcos' social media

campaign has successfully attracted millions of young people who are the bulk of the registered voters.

"Marcos calls for unity among Filipinos, and he is being seen as the only candidate who will pursue the legacies of President Rodrigo Duterte, something that the majority of Filipinos clamor for," said Anna Malindog-Uy, researcher of Philippine-BRICS Strategic Studies.

During his campaign, Marcos said he will work to develop the country by addressing the impact of the lingering COVID-19 pandemic, creating new jobs, improving digital infrastructure and agriculture, enhancing public health and stimulating domestic consumption.

The former senator is expected to strengthen ties with the Philippines' neighbors. Last year, Marcos told local media that China and the Philippines are neighbors and consolidating the good-neighborly friendship between the two countries is for the people's benefit. He vowed to strengthen the bilateral relations and promote cooperation in economy and trade, education, and people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

One of his priorities is to revive a



Supporters of Philippine presidential candidate Ferdinand Marcos Jr hold newspapers with coverage of his landslide presidential victory, outside the campaign headquarters in Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, yesterday. (JAM STA ROSA / AFP)

struggling economy in his six-year term.

Data from Philippine Statistics Authority showed that 23.7 percent of the country's population of nearly 110 million live in poverty. The unemployment rate peaked at 17.6 percent in April 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic and fell to 6.4 percent in February this year, still above the pre-pandemic level of 5.1 percent in 2019. More people are expected to get jobs as the government eases COVID-19 restrictions, allowing more businesses to resume operations or increase capacity.

From 2020 to this January, the Department of Finance said the Philippines had borrowed 1.3 trillion pesos (about \$25 billion) to fund the efforts against COVID-19. According to Asian Development Bank, the Philippine government's debt-to-GDP ratio widened to 60.5 percent in 2021 from 54.6 percent in 2020.

"The Marcos administration should address rising expectations from the people in their daily struggle against unemployment, infla-

tion, poor health services, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and the huge amount of foreign debts incurred by the government," said Bobby M Tuazon, director of Policy Studies at the Center for People Empowerment in Governance of the Philippines.

Despite the challenges ahead, the recovery of the Philippine economy is forecast to gain traction this year, fueled by strengthening domestic investment and consumption. The government's GDP target for 2022 is between 7 to 9 percent.

According to the Asian Development Bank's forecast in the Asian Development Outlook 2022, the Philippine economy is expected to grow by 6.0 percent this year, rising further by 6.3 percent in 2023.

Furthermore, against the backdrop of the rising uncertainty of the geopolitical situation, how to stick to an independent foreign policy and take firm control of regional security will be a test for the Marcos administration.

US 'spreading lies' to sour Sino-African ties

THE United States is "spreading lies" about Chinese companies' operations in African countries in an attempt to undermine China-Africa cooperation, Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said on Monday.

Zhao dismissed as "totally groundless" claims related to sovereignty and transfer of data that were made by US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman on Friday in Libreville, Gabon, when she spoke about countries choosing to cooperate with Chinese information and communications technology service provider Huawei.

Chinese companies, including Huawei, have conducted mutually beneficial cooperation with countries in Africa and other parts of the world, and "there is not a single case of a cybersecurity accident, surveillance or wiretapping in the

course of cooperation", Zhao said at a daily news conference.

He added that Chinese companies have improved communications infrastructure in African and other countries and have provided "advanced, quality, safe and inexpensive" services to local people.

"It is up to African countries and people to decide with whom they choose to cooperate. The US is in no position to pass judgment," the spokesman said.

The Chinese government has expressed its clear opposition to abusing information technologies in order to conduct mass surveillance of other countries, Zhao said, citing the Global Initiative on Data Security proposed by China in 2020.

In the initiative, China called on information and communications technology service providers not to install back doors in their



A trainee is guided at a Luban Workshop in Cairo, Egypt, on Aug 16, 2021. The China-aided workshops provide vocational training. File photo

products and services, and said countries should not obtain data located in other countries through companies or individuals without other countries' permission.

"If the US really cares about data security, it can publicly support the initiative or make a similar commitment while promoting its own companies and products,"

Zhao said.

Also, the US "has long conducted, planned and organized the theft of secrets and monitoring of foreign governments, companies and individuals, including those in African countries", Zhao said, questioning whether the US respects the sovereignty of African countries.

"African countries and other members of the international community have long understood that the US has never treated Africa as an equal partner or really cared about the well-being of people in Africa," Zhao said.

"We call on related US officials to respect African countries' sovereignty effectively and make concrete efforts to help their response to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic development, instead of spending time on spreading lies," the spokesman said.

Africa's aviation industry negatively impacted by Russia-Ukraine conflict - experts

NAIROBI

THE Russia-Ukraine conflict is exerting a negative impact on Africa's aviation sector, experts said Monday.

Abderahmane Berthe, secretary-general of the African Airlines Association, said at a continental aviation forum that the conflict has resulted in a high cost of fuel for aircraft.

"We hope that this crisis will not continue because this will continue to impact our airlines and if the airlines have high operating costs, it means that the airfares will go up and will impact the passenger traffic," Berthe told the 10th Aviation Stakeholders Convention.

He added that Africa's travel sector and cargo operations of many African airlines also face challenges.

According to Berthe, the aviation indus-

try has seen rising prices of many imported goods amid the Ukraine crisis.

"We foresee a lack of foreign currency in many African countries that will make it difficult for airlines to repatriate their revenues back to their home countries," said the secretary-general. CEO of Kenya Airways Allan Kilavuka pointed out that the conflict has increased living costs in many African countries.

"It is very difficult to stimulate the air travel sector when consumers have a low propensity to spend. So we are concerned that the crisis will dampen the recovery of the aviation sector," said Kilavuka.

Starting Sunday, the three-day conference gathered more than 500 delegates from 47 African countries for discussions on the development of the travel ecosystem.

Xinhua



Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu (front) and Russian Ground Forces Commander-in-Chief Oleg Salyukov review the troops during the Victory Day military parade in Moscow, Russia, on Monday. Xinhua

Listening to books' becomes increasingly popular in China

It's worth noting that there is also a growing trend toward the publishing of the printed version of books based on audio contents. An audio book created by famous Chinese writer and scholar Yu Qiyu has been listened to more than 100 million times on Ximalaya FM, an online audio-sharing platform in China. The corresponding printed book series have also been well received.

A series of science books for children based on audio contents created by Zhang Chenliang, a famous popular science blogger in China, has seen its sales volume exceeding 900,000 copies.

As 5G and artificial intelligence (AI) gain momentum, text-to-speech (TTS) technology has penetrated every link

of audio reading. Audio content created and performed by AI, such as novels and news information, has gradually emerged and been used by "we media" accounts and reading apps that provide audio content services.

AI has facilitated the conversion of printed books to audio products, thereby meeting the growing demand for book listening. "TTS technology involves deep learning with the help of AI and big data. It can effectively improve the efficiency of audio content production. So far, our audio content created with the latest technologies can be hardly distinguished from human voice," said Lu Heng, executive of the AI speech lab of Ximalaya FM.

Although there is a huge stock of paper books, the costs of the development of high-quality audio books can be quite costly, according to Lu, who disclosed that a virtual host can record audio books with five million Chinese characters a day, thus reducing the costs by more than 90 percent.

With the development of audio reading, radio drama and other niche categories of audio products have found a wider audience and met people's diverse needs. Radio drama is considered "drama to listen to". It not only enables the audience to listen to a book, but helps them enjoy the rich aesthetic elements of the book by telling story with the help of human voice, music, and sound effect.

Massive amount of online literary works, intellectual property (IP) with great value for adapting, and gradually improving market mechanism have attracted a large number of professional dubbing studios, clubs, as well as audience to radio drama.

It is not easy to find the most suitable voices for good content, for imitation and melodious voices are not enough for the production of good audio content.

"The production of radio drama is more like an artistic creation. The entire process, which includes script adaptation, selection of voices, recording of content, production of music, and sound mixing, takes half a year to a year," said Zhang Yiran, a post-80s co-founder of a dubbing studio, who joined the field because of interest. **People's Daily**

Sri Lanka gives military, police emergency powers after clashes

COLOMBO

SRI LANKA gave emergency powers yesterday to its military and police to detain people without warrants, after a day of clashes that killed seven people and injured more than 200, in violence that prompted Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to resign.

As the Indian Ocean nation battles its worst economic crisis in history, thousands of protesters had defied curfew to attack government figures, setting ablaze homes, shops and businesses belonging to ruling party lawmakers and provincial politicians.

Despite sporadic reports of unrest, the situation calmed by Tuesday, said police spokesman Nihal Thalduwa, adding that about 200 people had also been injured in violence that led to an islandwide curfew until 7:00 am (0130 GMT) the following day.

The government of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the younger brother of the prime minister, outlined broad powers for the military and police to detain and question people without arrest warrants.

The military can detain people for up to 24 hours before handing them to police, while private property can be searched by force, including private vehicles, the government said in a gazette notification yesterday.

"Any person arrested by a police officer shall be taken to the nearest police station," it said, fixing a 24-hour deadline for the armed forces to do the same.

Some analysts expressed concern over the potential for abuse of the emergency measures.

"In a situation where there is both a state of emergency and curfew who can monitor to ensure these regulations are not abused?" said Bhavani Fonseka, of the Centre for Policy Alternatives think tank based in Colombo.

The president had already declared a state of emergency on Friday as protests escalated.

Day of violence

The attacks on government figures came in apparent reprisal for an incident just hours before Rajapaksa's resignation.

Rajapaksa spoke to hundreds of supporters gathered at his official residence on Monday following reports that he was considering stepping down.

After his remarks, many of them, armed with iron bars, stormed a camp of those protesting against the government, beating them and setting fire to their tents.

Police fired water cannon and tear gas to disperse the skirmishers, after having initially done little to hold back the government supporters, according to Reuters witnesses.

Thousands streamed into the streets in celebration after Rajapaksa's resignation, but the mood quickly became tense.

Protesters attempted to tear down the gates of Temple Trees, his residence in the center of Colombo, where broken glass and discarded footwear littered the surrounding streets yesterday, after some of the night's worst clashes.

Military troops patrolled the area, where eight torched vehicles lay partially submerged in a lake. Discarded files and smashed equipment littered the ransacked offices of government officials.

Sri Lanka's unprecedented economic crisis follows a pandemic that hit key tourism earnings, leaving the government grappling with rising oil prices and the impact of populist tax cuts.

It has sought assistance from multilateral lenders such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as India and China.

Former finance minister Ali Sabry, who resigned on Monday, along with the rest of Rajapaksa's cabinet, has said useable foreign reserves stand at as little as \$50 million.

Shortages of fuel, food and medicine have brought thousands onto the streets in more than a month of protests that had been mostly peaceful until this week.



Sri Lankan army soldiers stand guard outside prime minister's residence a day after clashes between government supporters and anti-government protesters in Colombo, Sri Lanka on yesterday. AP

AS audio books, podcasts, apps that provide audio content, as well as other new business models have sprung up in China, readers have embraced more possibilities. Many Chinese people now read books, take classes, enjoy TV series and socialize with the help of audio products.

According to the latest annual report on Chinese people's reading habits, 32.7 percent of Chinese adults had the habit of listening to audio books in 2021.

Today, many publishers roll out new books in print together with their digital and audio versions.

In April this year, People's Literature Publishing House in China launched the digital and audio versions of the book "The Queen's Gambit" in Chinese language right after its printed version was

released.

"Now we usually roll out the printed, digital and audio versions of books at the same time, so whether you are a visual or an aural learner, there's always a choice that suits you the best," said Zhao Chen, director of the department of digital publishing and technology of the publishing house.

"The development of the digital and audio versions of new books starts at the beginning of copyright-related work on the contents of the books. When we reprint a book without audio version, we often attach to it a bookmark with a QR code offering the access to its audio version. In this way, we can keep updating our products and enable different versions of the book to promote the popularity of each other," Zhao said.

Singapore bans controversial Kashmir film praised by India's Modi

SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE has banned a controversial Indian film about the exodus of Hindus from Muslim-majority Kashmir, citing concerns over its "potential to cause enmity between different communities".

The Kashmir Files has been praised by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his right-wing Hindu nationalist followers, and has proved a box office hit, but critics say it is loose with facts and fans anti-Muslim sentiment.

"The film will be refused classification for its provocative and one-sided portrayal of Muslims and the depictions of Hindus being persecuted in the ongoing conflict in Kashmir," the Singapore government said in a statement on Monday in response to media queries.

"These representations have the potential to cause enmity between different communities, and disrupt social cohesion and religious harmony in our multi-racial and multi-religious society," the statement added.

Singapore's 5.5 million population is made up mainly of ethnic Chinese, Malays and Indians. The Southeast Asian city-state has strict laws that punish any attempts to disrupt inter-racial and religious harmony.

Hundreds of thousands of people, many of them Hindus, fled from Kashmir after a violent uprising against Indian rule began in 1989.

Supporters of the 170-minute Hindi-language movie say it shines a light on an often overlooked chapter of Kashmir's history while others see it as evidence of the growing religious polarization Modi's critics say he has fostered since coming to power in 2014. **Agencies**

Foreign accusations about HK poll groundless, says liaison office

THE Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region yesterday blasted G7 foreign ministers and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy for smearing the just-concluded sixth-term chief executive election in the city.

In a statement, the spokesperson of the office demanded that concerned politicians respect the historical trend and stop interfering in Hong Kong's affairs.

These politicians, turning a blind eye to the structural flaws in their own democratic systems, attacked HKSAR's election and the Chinese government's implementation of the "one country, two systems", which seriously undermined international laws and the basic norms governing international relations, the office said.

Such a political stunt is doomed to be in vain and self-defeating, the spokesperson said.

The office said the successful conduct of the sixth-term chief executive election has furthered the implementation of the "patriots administering Hong Kong" principle and fully showcased the advancement and strengths of the improved electoral system, which works in line with "one country, two systems" and the actual situation on the ground in Hong Kong.

The three elections held following the improvements to the electoral system demonstrated that it can effectively safeguard the democratic rights of Hong Kong people, which is that they can be the masters of their own affairs, the office said.

The three polls also proved that the new system can reflect public opinions and aspirations, and it is a politically inclusive system that comes with wide representation, balance participation, and fair competition. Hong Kong's democracy is a representative, genuine and effective democracy, the office said.

The improved system has bettered the city's democracy and stayed abreast with the times, providing strong institutional safeguards for the city to realize its stability and prosperity, the office said.

The central government will continue to uphold the "one country, two systems", "patriots administering Hong Kong" principle and actively promote the city's integration into the nation's development, the spokesperson said.

A stable and prosperous Hong Kong not only conforms to the wellbeing of the public of Hong Kong, but also is in the interests of the global community, the office said.

The central government's unwavering resolve in implementing the "one country, two systems" policy will not be deterred by the political manipulation and brazen intervention by any foreign forces, nor can it stop Hong Kong, the Pearl of the Orient, from regaining its glamour, the office said. **Xinhua**



A stable and prosperous Hong Kong not only conforms to the wellbeing of the public of Hong Kong, but also is in the interests of the global community, the office said

和國香港特別行政區 2022 年
2022 Chief Executive Election of
Special Administrative Region of the People



John Lee Ka-chiu makes a speech after winning the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's chief executive election on Monday.

Africa's major miners call for value chains building

CAPE TOWN

MAJOR mining countries in Africa on Monday highlighted the great potential and prospects in Africa's mining sector in "green metals" and other minerals while expecting investment in the sector to bring more benefits to the local community through building on value chains.

Investing in African Mining Indaba, which was said to be the largest African mining investment event, kicked off on Monday in Cape Town, the legislative capital of South Africa, attracting thousands of attendees from governments, mining groups and relevant players.

As the Just Transition to a low-carbon future will drive the demand for green metal resources, Africa has such abundant and untapped resources, like lithium, copper, cobalt, nickel, and zinc, South African Minister of Mineral and Energy Resources Gwede Mantashe told the delegates.

South Africa accounts for the largest percentage of the world's Platinum Group Metals reserves, which are used to manufacture electric or hydrogen-powered vehicles, with Zimbabwe ranked third.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Zambia, meanwhile, are among the largest producers of copper and cobalt in the world.

The DRC accounts for about 70 percent of global cobalt output and half of the world's re-



People visit an exhibition during Investing in African Mining Indaba in Cape Town, South Africa, on Monday. Major mining countries in Africa highlighted the great potential and prospects in Africa's mining sector in "green metals" and other minerals while expecting investment in the sector to bring more benefits to the local community through building on value chains. Investing in African Mining Indaba, which was said to be the largest African mining investment event, kicked off on Monday in Cape Town, attracting thousands of attendees from governments, mining groups and relevant players. **Xinhua**

serves.

These "minerals of the future" hold great potential for the continent, he said. Mining has the potential to be a greater contributor to the economy, and the country welcomes active and pragmatic collaboration with mining industry players, Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema said.

According to him, Zambia is committed to building a resilient and sustainable mining industry anchored on environmental, social, and governance standards, and best practices.

Zambia is a key player in the global copper mining industry and is home to vast reserves of copper and cobalt.

As copper is critical in the green energy transition with an ever-increasing demand for it, Zambia is determined to respond to the high demand for copper and has a goal

to take its annual production levels from the current 830,000 to 3 million metric tons in the next ten years, Hichilema said, adding that the country is also determined to increase production of cobalt and nickel, also key to the green energy transition. Zambia is also promoting exploration and exploitation of tin, lithium, graphite, and rare earth minerals, among others, to contribute to the successful energy transition, he said.

President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana, a leading diamond mining country, said mining remains the most important sector of Botswana's economy and implored investors to "seriously consider coming to Botswana to carry out exploration and mining projects," as his government is completing a project that will bring coverage of geological mapping for exploration to 90

percent nationwide.

With signs of improvement in the market and economic activity, Botswana's enough skilled mining personnel, organized and regulated labor movement, the overall progressive nature of Botswana's mineral policy and laws together with its investment climate makes Botswana competitive for mining investment, said Masisi.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa is also expected to attend the conference on Tuesday to elaborate on South Africa's work to ensure that mining remains a "sunrise industry."

While alluring investors, Zambian head of state Hichilema made a strong call that mining in Africa should benefit more people through building the value chain, instead of focusing on producing raw materials only.

He said mining in Africa should not only stay on potential. "We want to realize that potential to drive development to alleviate the poverty amongst our people," he added.

Deliberate efforts are needed between African leaders and partners to ensure sustainable development and management of mineral resources, said Hichilema.

Development of supporting infrastructure is also critical, and Africa has immense potential in the artisanal and small-scale sub-sector, which is important for local people to involve in the mining sector, according to him.

The governments of Zambia and DRC last month signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to facilitate the development of value chains in the electric battery and clean energy sector.

"Together we will... establish our nations as leading players in the era of electric vehicles and other green innovations," said Hichilema. Mantashe also said Africa's resource endowment "must be translated into a competitive advantage for value-added manufacturing that can contribute to job creation, investment, and export growth." He expected delegates to discuss mineral beneficiation during the meeting for the benefit of the current and future generations.

"Beneficiation will mean we are fully taking ownership of the value chain of our minerals across the spheres of upstream, midstream, and downstream mining economic activities instead of exporting these to other countries," he said. In Botswana, what has over the years been "a thorn in the flesh" is the slow uptake of mineral beneficiation industries to diversify the economy, and this is an investment growth potential for the mining sector, said Masisi. **Xinhua**

Chinese scientists contribute new technique to production of artificial or semi-artificial food from carbon dioxide

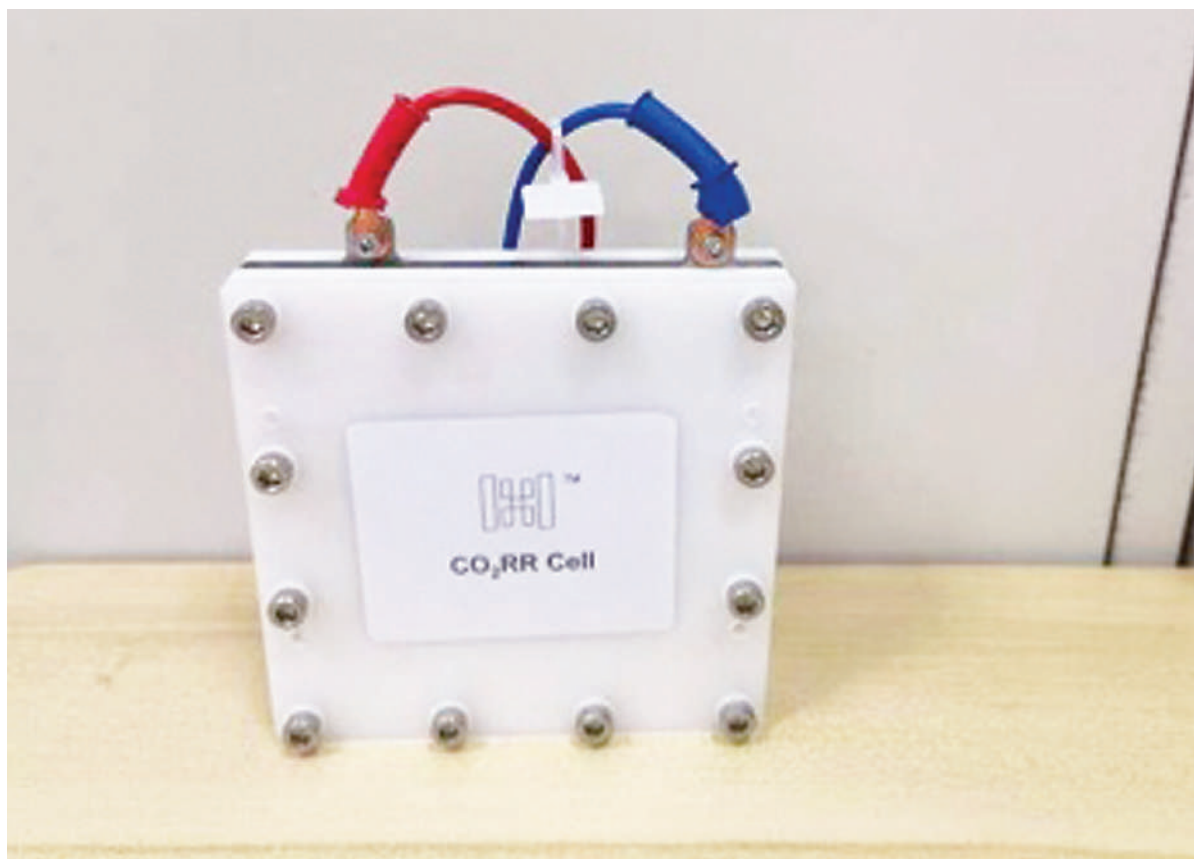


Photo shows the solid electrolyte reaction device.

CHINESE scientists found new use of carbon dioxide following the success of synthesizing starch from carbon dioxide last September, the first of its kind globally.

The newly completed study has shown that through the combination of electro catalysis and biosynthesis, carbon dioxide can be efficiently reduced to synthesize high concentration of acetic acid, and then further translated into glucose and fatty acids by using microorganism.

The study was jointly conducted by three research teams led by Xia Chuan from the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Yu Tao from Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and Zeng Jie from the University of Science and Technology of China, respectively.

The study was published in the journal Nature Catalysis on April 28 and also featured on the cover of the journal.

"The study has contributed a new technique to the production of artificial or semi-artificial food," said Li Can, an academician of the CAS and director of the catalysis committee of the Chinese Chemical Society (CCS).

To use carbon dioxide to produce glucose and fatty acids, the first step is to convert it into acetic acid under

mild conditions. Acetic acid is not only the main component of vinegar, but also an excellent carbon source for biosynthesis and can be converted into glucose and other biological substances.

A new solid electrolyte reaction device employed by researchers has significantly increased the efficiency of the conversion from carbon dioxide into acetic acid and can realize the continuous production of acetic acid aqueous solution with a concentration of 97 percent for more than 140 hours, which is considered the most important highlight of the study by industry insiders.

Using microorganism to produce glucose is the second step.

"Brewer's yeast is mainly used for fermentation in the production of food like cheese, steamed bun, and spirits. It is also often used as a model organism for microbial manufacturing and research in cell biology," said Yu.

This process can be understood as converting carbon dioxide into vinegar and feeding the yeast to produce glucose and fatty acids, according to Yu.

The study has pioneered a new strategy for the production of food products including glucose through the combination of electrochemistry and living cell catalysis, provided a new example for further development of new agriculture and bio manufacturing driven by electric power, and represented an important direction in the utilization of carbon dioxide, said Deng Zixin, an academician of the CAS and director of State Key Laboratory of Microbial Metabolism, Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

The upcycling of carbon dioxide into value-added products represents the tantalizing possibility of a renewable-electricity-driven manufacturing industry and a substantially untapped opportunity to tackle environmental issues and achieve a circular economy, the researchers said.

"With an electrolyte reactor and different microorganisms, we can produce starch, pigment or medicines in the future," said Xia Chuan, the paper's co-corresponding author from the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China. **People's Daily**

Macron proposes 'European political community'

BRUSSELS

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron believes that a "European political community" should be built that would be broader than the European Union and would include non-EU nations.

He outlined his vision in a speech in the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Monday.

"How should we organize Europe in a political manner?" he asked. "And how can we go further than the European Union? It's our historic obligation now to respond to that question."

The ultimate goal, he said, is to maintain stability on the continent. Relying on the EU only is not enough.

"Given its level of integration and ambition," the EU could not be Europe's only organizing body, he said.

This new organization would allow democratic European nations to "find a new space of political co-

operation" in the areas of security, energy, transport, infrastructure investment and freedom of movement.

To become a member state of the EU is a lengthy process, often taking years if not decades, Macron said, as the EU's membership criteria are very strict.

His proposal comes as Ukraine, currently in conflict with Russia, is seeking the EU's support and asking to be admitted as a candidate country to enter the Union.

The proposal complements the 49 proposals of the Conference on the Future of Europe that will be presented to the leaders of EU institutions.

These proposals cover climate change and the environment; a stronger economy, social justice and jobs; the EU in the world; values and rights, rule of law, security; digital transformation; migration; and education, culture, youth and sport. **Agencies**



French president Emmanuel Macron speaks during a joint press conference with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz as part of a meeting at the chancellery in Berlin, Germany on Monday. **AP**

SPORT

Paralympic weightlifter, coach set for camp in South Africa

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S Paralympic weightlifter, Yohana Mwila, and his coach, Albert Chiwalala, depart for South Africa today to camp in preparation for the coming Commonwealth Games.

Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) vice-president Vincent Kaduma, who is also the manager of the national Paralympic weightlifting team, said the two will camp at Stellenbosch University in South Africa for two weeks.

He said the camp will help the two know more about Para power weightlifting and prepare them for the coming Commonwealth Games.

"The two are leaving for South Africa on Wednesday, the camp is very good for our country as the coach will learn new techniques and tactics of the game."

The two are under support from the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) through its arm, the Games Athletes Program (GAP).

The GAP is for emerging athletes and coaches from the Commonwealth. It aims to support the development of inclusive sports pathways, removing barriers to participation for people with a disability and women and girls to become actively involved in sport.

The Games Athletes Program said in a statement the development of coaches is fundamental, but so is tackling many of the barriers and constraints that prevent participation.

The program involves multi-stakeholder partnerships and the building of long-term collaborations with universities, sports organizations, and government agencies.

The statement revealed: "Through partnerships, people are now shifting their mindsets and starting to have a positive influence on communities to believe that it is a fundamental human right for women, girls, and people with a disability to be included in their sport pathways."

GAP is a sport for development and peace program that supports the development of inclusive sports pathways throughout the Commonwealth.

Developed by the Commonwealth Games Federation and Griffith University, it has expanded into a mutually beneficial and collaborative relationship with other partners joining on this exciting but challenging journey.



Tanzania's Para powerlifter, Yohana Mwila, is pictured at training in Dar es Salaam recently, preparing for the 2022 Commonwealth Games which will take place in Birmingham, England from July 28 until August 8. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YOHANA MWILA

Ruvu Shooting midfielder targets return to Simba SC

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

COAST REGION'S Ruvu Shooting midfielder, Abdulsamad Kassim, has said he still dreams of returning to Simba SC after leaving the club during this season's mini registration period.

Kassim was signed by Simba SC earlier this season as a free agent, following his departure from Kagera Sugar.

The lack of regular playing time at the Msimbazi Street squad made him unable to hold a permanent place in head coach Pablo Franco's first team.

The midfielder that hails from Zanzibar said his biggest dream is to continue playing football at a high level.

Kassim was adamant he believes that is what will enable him to either return to Simba SC or go to another club with higher standards in the Premier League.

The midfielder pointed out: "Soccer is a big game that is every day seen in public, I have dreams of either returning to Simba or playing wherever that has a great status like Simba SC, I have not given up."

"I believe in the great potential and determination to achieve my dreams. I continue to work on it, I will not give up because I am a player and I get the opportunity to play at Ruvu Shooting."

"I spoke to the Simba SC coach when Ruvu Shooting played against the side in the Federation Cup game, he told me a lot of things and convinced me I still have a chance to return to his squad if I reach the level he needs, so, I'm not in a hurry... I believe it will be fulfilled," Kassim noted.

The midfielder was in the Ruvu Shooting squad that played against Simba SC in an NBC

Premier League match that took place in Dar es Salaam last Sunday and ended in a 4-1 victory for the latter.

Meanwhile, Azam FC head coach, Abdihamid Moallin, said after his side garnered a 2-1 win over Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC in Dar es Salaam on Saturday, the next task was to make sure he prepares his squad well to face Mbeya City FC at the latter's backyard.

Mbeya City FC was expected to entertain Azam FC in a top-flight clash at Sokoine Memorial Stadium in Mbeya yesterday, with the latter aiming to secure a third-place finish in the Premier League standings.

Mbeya City FC was in need of rectifying mistakes that led to the outfit's 1-0 loss to Mtibwa Sugar FC in Morogoro on Saturday.

Coach Moallin disclosed he has finished with KMC FC and had headed to Mbeya to again fight for three points.

According to him, he understands that their hosts are in a state of disrepair, following their failure to do well in the matches against Mtibwa Sugar and Mbeya Kwanza FC.

The coach revealed: "I know it will not be an easy game for us and them either, but I will try my best to have my charges fight as they did in the game against KMC FC and get three more points that will keep us in the Premier League standings."

"At the moment the Premier League games are full of challenges because every team needs to win to achieve its goals, and we have our goals, so we will not be tired of fighting until we reach our goal."

Azam FC's goal against KMC FC was scored by Zambian striker, Rodgers Kola, while the only goal for the latter was scored by Tanzanian striker, Miraji Athuman.

SPORTS

Former Yanga attacker happy with Premier League return



Amissi Tambwe

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

BURUNDIAN striker, Amissi Tambwe, has vowed to show his edge when the 2022/23 NBC Premier League begins after enabling Dar es Salaam's DTB FC to be promoted to the league.

The club has excelled in this season's Championship League, leading the remaining sides in the quest for the trophy.

DTB FC on Sunday secured a place in the next season's Premier League after beating Pamba FC of Mwanza 1-0 at Azam Complex Stadium, Chamazi in Dar es Salaam.

Tambwe, who had served Simba SC and Yanga at different times, said his current club is going to the Premier League next season hoping to fight

for a good position and end up as one of the best teams in the division.

He said it is difficult for DTB FC, at the moment, to say it is going to win the 2022/23 Premier League title, given they are newcomers and would need time to be familiar with the league.

The attacker stated their main goal would nevertheless be to make sure their team finishes in a good position.

Tambwe disclosed: "It is not possible to say we are going to lift the next season's Premier League trophy, that will be a very quick move, the purpose will be to fight for our experience and put our team in a good position."

"If we continue to be in the Premier League for the following season, then we can talk about more, but it is too early to say anything at the moment other than making sure we go to fight and enable our team to become part of the teams that will be popular after next season," Tambwe revealed.

Tambwe said: "I believe in my goal-scoring ability, if I stay healthy I will keep on firing in goals for my team next season and remain in the conversation as always, but the main goal is to win and make our team regular in the NBC Premier League."

The Burundian footballer is the leading goal scorer in the Championship League, having netted 14 goals so far, while teammate, Nicholas Gyan, has netted 11 goals.

The win over Pamba FC has seen DTB FC amass 65 points which can only be achieved by Ihefu SC, currently with 62 points in the Championship League.

There are still two games for all Championship League teams to play in the 2021/22 season, so Ihefu SC will have to win at least one game to join DTB FC in the next season's Mainland Premier League.

Parents urged to cooperate with teachers, pupils



A section of Kilimani Primary School pupils' guardians participates in a race, one of the sporting activities in a bonanza, which took place at the school in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

DAR ES SALAAM'S Mbezi Juu Ward Councillor, Anna Lukindo, has called on parents, teachers, and pupils to unite and cooperate on various issues that bring about development and uplift the talents of children and the education sector.

She made the call in Dar es Salaam last weekend while addressing participants of a bonanza held at Kilimani Primary School.

The bonanza had the theme 'Sports for health, sense for development, and preparing to be counted'.

Anna said the bonanza targeted to promote health and foster unity between parents, teachers, and students while congratulating teachers on their efforts to ensure that children are morally upright while in school.

Anna stated: "You have seen that sports are healthy, that's why you organized this bonanza, I congratulate you and I am happy to see that this school is promoting sports, I also believe we will see various talents."

"Those who will see good performers in football and other sports should not hesitate to tell us to help develop their talents," the official added.

The school's headmaster, Francis Njoroge,

said the bonanza is organized every year to expose the talents of various students to be recognized as well as promote them when they go to participate in sports.

Njoroge revealed: "The bonanza has involved various sports including football, netball, athletics for parents, and students and tug-of-war."

"We also thank the parents for their cooperation, our school has been leading in examinations and sports due to our system of preparing students to focus on all important aspects," Njoroge added.

The school's sports teacher, Ramadhan Simons, called on pupils to come forward and participate in sports when the opportunity arises.

The teacher emphasized that the approach will help to improve their health as well as expose their talents.

FIFA says Brazil and Argentina must play World Cup qualifier

ZURICH

BRAZIL and Argentina lost their appeals to FIFA on Monday and will have to play the World Cup qualifying game that was abandoned last year in Sao Paulo amid chaos on the field caused by pandemic rule breaches.

In one of the most bizarre scenes during the qualifying program for the World Cup, Brazilian health officials came onto the field minutes after kickoff last September to dispute the quarantine status of some Argentina players.

Both countries easily qualified for the World Cup as the top two teams in the 10-nation South American group without needing to play the abandoned game. They took part in the draw last month for the final tournament, which is scheduled to be played from Nov. 21-Dec. 18 in Qatar.

However, the latest FIFA ruling means Brazil and Argentina seem sure to have to play their essentially meaningless 18th qualifying game, possibly in September.

It might be the second time the rivals meet ahead of going to Qatar.

Since the original FIFA disciplinary ruling in February – which imposed fines, player suspensions and an order to replay the qualifier – the soccer federations of Bra-

zil and Argentina agreed to play a friendly game in Australia.

That “Superclasico” is scheduled for June 11 in Melbourne.

The two federations could challenge FIFA again in an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport to overturn the replay order.

FIFA did cut the amount the two federations were fined. Brazil now has been ordered to pay 250,000 Swiss francs (\$251,000) for “infringements related to order and security” at the game. Argentina has now been fined 100,000 Swiss francs (\$100,500) for “obligations in relation to the preparation of and its participation in the match.”

Both will also pay 50,000 Swiss francs (\$50,250) for the game being abandoned.

Four Argentina players with Premier League clubs were accused of falsifying coronavirus declarations to enter Brazil by failing to state they had been in red-listed Britain in the previous 14 days.

Emiliano Buendía, Emiliano Martínez, Giovanni Lo Celso and Cristian Romero got two-match bans from FIFA-organized games.

Argentina will face Mexico, Poland and Saudi Arabia at the World Cup. Brazil will play Switzerland, Serbia and Cameroon.

AP

Xavi: Barca out of the running to sign Haaland

BARCELONA

XAVI Hernandez has said Barcelona's financial situation ruled them out of the running for Erling Haaland, with sources telling ESPN that Manchester City hope to announce the signing of the Borussia Dortmund striker later this week.

ESPN have reported on Barca's interest in Haaland throughout the past year, with Xavi refusing to deny a meeting took place with the Norway international in Munich as recently as March.

However, with a transfer fee of around €75 million and wages to cover, Barca, who are operating under financial restrictions imposed by LaLiga, were unable to compete with City.

“It is very difficult because of the economic situation,” Barca coach Xavi said in a news conference on Monday when asked about missing out on Haaland. “I can't lie to you, that is the reality.”

“I wouldn't say [it is only down to money]. I am not going to disrespect other clubs' sporting projects. We are not the only club with a good project. City have won a lot of titles and compete at the top level.”

“But if what you say happens [and Barca don't sign Haaland], it would have been because of financial issues.”

Asked if he could now confirm his meeting with Haaland in Munich, Xavi, laughing, added: “I have been to Munich several times.”

Sources have told ESPN Barca also have an interest in Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski as they look to improve in attack, although the club's financial plight also

makes that deal complicated, even with the Polish striker out of contract in 2023.

“It is important to strengthen every year, win or lose,” Xavi said when asked if it was essential to sign a top striker this summer with Haaland moving to City and Real Madrid pursuing Kylian Mbappe.

“Barca have to strengthen every season, but even more so if we lose. But the financial situation is what we have. Players have to leave for signings to come in, so it is complicated.”

“It is one of most difficult situations in club's history, but we have to strengthen to be competitive. We will assess among everyone here at the club what we can do and go from there.”

Barca's spending limit has been reduced to minus-€144m by LaLiga – it is the only negative cap in the league – and they can only spend 25% of any savings on wages or transfer fees until they are operating within their limit.

That made qualifying for next season's Champions League essential on a financial level, which Barca secured on Saturday with a win over Real Betis.

Xavi said they now have their sights set on finishing second, which would bring another cash boost via participation in the Spanish Supercopa in Saudi Arabia, but they are missing key players for Tuesday's game against Celta Vigo at Camp Nou.

Sergio Busquets is suspended, while Pedri, Nico Gonzalez, Sergi Roberto, Sergino Dest and Gerard Pique are all out with injuries.

(Agencies)

Man City title would have ‘more sugar’ for Fernandinho

LONDON

MANCHESTER City captain Fernandinho has said winning the Premier League title this season would be especially sweet.

The 37-year-old Brazilian midfielder is set to leave the Etihad Stadium at the end of the season after nine years at the club.

Reigning champions City have been involved in a protracted battle for the title with Liverpool but established a three-point lead at the top of the table last weekend by thrashing Newcastle 5-0 while their rivals could only draw 1-1 at home to Tottenham Hotspur.

It was just the result City needed after an agonising 6-5 aggregate semi-final loss to Real Madrid still left them waiting for a first European Champions League title after they conceded two goals in the closing seconds of normal time.

“Every title is sweet,” Fernandinho, bidding for his fifth Premier League winner's medal, told reporters.

“It's going to be one more... with a little more sugar.”

“It was a great response but at the same time we are focusing on ourselves and know the title is in our hands.”

He added: “It doesn't matter what they do over there, we have to keep going through all the hard games.”

“This is what we are trying to do, focus on ourselves, but I thought it was a great response after defeat in Madrid, especially for our fans and ourselves because when you

lose a match like this, the confidence can go a little bit down.”

“But not just the result, the performance overall was really good and we are really happy about that.”

One downside for City in their win over Newcastle was when Ruben Dias went off injured at half-time.

The Portuguese has now joined fellow defenders John Stones and Kyle Walker among City's casualty list, with none of the trio expected to play again this season.

Fernandinho, deployed as a makeshift centre-back after Dias's departure, said: “We have some injury issues now but – at the end of the season – that is normal.”

AFP

“

But not just the result, the performance overall was really good and we are really happy about that.

Haaland could be on the move amid links to Manchester City

By STEVE DOUGLAS

ERLING Haaland might be coming home.

The future of the Norway striker, one of the rising stars of world soccer, is set to be finalized this week and the expectation is he will leave Borussia Dortmund to join Manchester City as the English club's belated replacement for Sergio Agüero.

Neither City nor Dortmund are commenting officially about the potential transfer but it's the talk of soccer, with even the manager of Liverpool – City's big rival in the Premier League – weighing in.

“This transfer will set new levels, let me say it like this,” Jurgen Klopp told British broadcaster Sky Sports about Haaland joining City.

It is being widely reported that the release clause of 75 million euros (\$79 million) in Haaland's contract with Dortmund will be activated this week. Haaland could then bid farewell to Dortmund's fans at the team's last game of the season, at home to Hertha Berlin on Saturday.

Sebastian Kehl, who is taking over as Dortmund sports director, told Sport1 on Sunday that there should be “clarity in the next week” about Haaland's future, though he didn't mention City specifically.

Belgian newspaper Nieuwsblad reported on Monday that Haaland completed his medical examination in Brussels.

The 21-year-old Haaland was born in England – in Leeds, which is a short drive from Manchester in the north of the country – while his father, Alf-Inge, was playing for City in the Premier League. As a kid, Erling Haaland was pictured wearing a City jersey.

“I wish he was coming back home



Erling Haaland

here to Leeds – this is his birthplace – but I understand the decision for him to go to Man City,” said Leeds manager Jesse Marsch, an American who coached Haaland and when they were at Austrian team Salzburg.

“Credit to them for getting that done,” Marsch added. “I always wish the best for Erling, he is an incredible human being.”

Along with Kylian Mbappe, Haaland is leading the new generation of stars ready to take over from Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo as soccer's marquee players. He could be the headline signing that lifts City from being a regular winner of domestic trophies to the standout team

in Europe. Pep Guardiola's team has failed to win the Champions League despite heavy spending by the club's Abu Dhabi ownership. City has played without an out-and-out striker this season following the departure of Agüero, its record scorer, after 10 years at the end of the 2020-21 campaign. The team's lack of a natural goal-scorer has shown in some big matches this season, notably when getting eliminated by Real Madrid in the Champions League semifinals last week.

City tried to sign Tottenham striker Harry Kane in the last offseason and, when that didn't come off, contemplated bidding for Cristiano Ronaldo before the

Portugal forward sealed a return to Manchester United.

Haaland, who has also been linked with a move to Madrid, has 85 goals in 88 games since joining from Salzburg in January 2020. At his best, he is almost unstoppable and his rivalry with Bayern Munich's record-breaking goal-scorer, Robert Lewandowski, has lit up the Bundesliga over the last three seasons.

“It will be interesting,” Marsch said. “He is an explosive player in transition and Man City often plays a lot in possession.”

“He can play any style of play but certainly I believe it makes Man City one of, if not the, best teams in the world even better.”

AP

Everton needed help in relegation battle and their fans stepped up

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

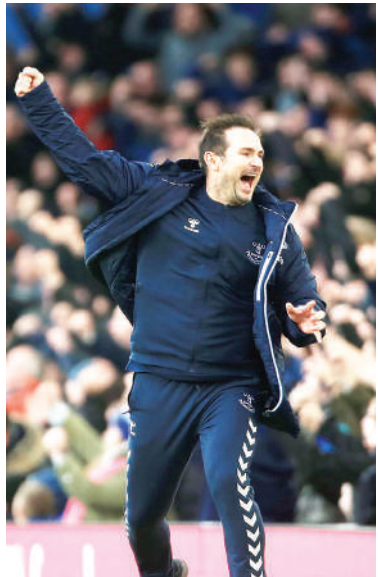
MANAGER Frank Lampard made a point of leaving the Everton dressing room following Sunday's crucial 2-1 Premier League win at Leicester City to head back onto the pitch and make a personal thank you to the supporters who had helped inspire his players to victory at the King Power Stadium.

There are times when a manager will play to the gallery and bank credit with the fans by milking the adulation that comes back the other way, but Lampard's show of appreciation felt different. It seemed more like a display of gratitude and relief; an acknowledgement that Everton's sudden revival in their fight against relegation – which sees them now a point clear of 18th-placed Leeds United with one game in hand – has been sparked, and sustained, by their long-suffering supporters.

“I went back out there because they [Everton fans] are incredible and they need to know how we feel about them,” Lampard said after the win. “What we had last week against Chelsea [a 1-0 win], what we had leaving Finch Farm [their training ground], what we had today, it is incredible. They should give themselves a huge pat on the back – they are part of that result today.”

“They pushed the players and that is why we celebrate with them at the end. With their influence, with their togetherness, and what we can do with it – I'm not shouting from the rooftops, we are still in a relegation fight – but if we want to get out of it, it has to be together as a club and we have seen that in recent weeks so just a huge thank you to them.”

Prior to Everton's 1-0 win at home to Chelsea on May 1, the supporters filled the streets around Goodison Park and welcomed the team bus in their thousands, setting off flares and creating a scene replicated inside the ground during the game. Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel also revealed how his players were



Frank Lampard

breakaway clubs showed they were vehemently opposed to their game being treated as a commodity by owners and chief executives whose motivation was rooted solely in financial gain. But while that was one example of fan power, the difference made by Everton fans this month is another element of how, when a fan base comes together, it can generate momentum which makes a significant difference on the pitch.

There have been other examples in recent weeks. Eintracht Frankfurt and Rangers reached the Europa League final on the back of incredible support from their fans, inside and outside

the stadium. Eintracht took over 30,000 fans to the quarterfinal win against Barcelona in the Camp Nou and their contribution to a shock win even prompted Barca coach Xavi to question how the German club were able to get so many supporters into the stadium.

While the scenes inside and outside the Santiago Bernabeu last week, when Real Madrid produced their unforgettable fight-back against Manchester City in the Champions League semifinal, was another example. A week earlier, City's Etihad Stadium lacked atmosphere and a sense of occasion, so perhaps fan power made the crucial difference for Madrid?

Everton's situation is different to those of Frankfurt, Rangers and Madrid, though. Their fans have come together out of a sense of desperation. If Everton go down, the club face a financial nightmare. In March, they posted a loss in excess of £100 million for a third successive year – their losses amount to £371.8m over that three-year period – and the club's finances have also been hit by the cancellation of sponsorship deals with three Russian companies – USM, Megafon and Yota – due to connections with Alisher Usmanov, the Uzbek oligarch sanctioned by the U.K. government because of links to Russia President Vladimir Putin.

And with construction already

underway on Everton's new 52,888-capacity stadium at Bramley-Moore Dock, funding the completion of the stadium as well as managing the cost of relegation and ensuring a swift return to the Premier League would place the club under huge financial and sporting pressure.

Having seen their team drop into the bottom three prior to the Chelsea game, five points adrift of safety, the Everton supporters came together against Leicester to make a difference at a time when Lampard's side were beginning to look like a lost cause.

At times in recent years, the many mistakes made by Everton in terms of managerial appointments and player recruitment have prompted fans to register their anger and add to the negativity that has hung around Goodison for too long. It was a similar story at Newcastle, where fans lost patience under former owner Mike Ashley, while Manchester United are once again in the midst of fan protests against the ownership of the Glazer family.

When fans turn against their club, it often seems like a downward spiral and can damage the morale and results of the team. But just when the players needed them most, the Everton fans have put their grievances aside and focused on saving the team from a relegation that could place the future of the club in doubt.

Everton are still fighting for survival, but back-to-back wins have replaced hope with belief and you can't overstate the role that fan power has played in their revival.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Haaland could be on the move amid links to Man City

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Sportpesa rewards Simba SC for CAF Confederation Cup last eight's feat

By Guardian Correspondent

THE entertainment and sports betting company, Sportpesa Tanzania, yesterday handed over a 50m/- check to Simba SC after the outfit qualified for the quarterfinals of this season's CAF Confederation Cup.

The firm handed over the check as a bonus for the outfit's achievements.

The ceremony took place at the offices of Sportpesa, the squad's main sponsor, at Masaki in Dar es Salaam.

Sportpesa was represented by the firm's Board of Directors' Chairman Tarimba Abbas, and Public Relations and Communications Manager, Sabrina Msuya.

Simba SC was represented by Chief Executive Officer Barbara Gonzalez, Project Manager Belinda Paul, and defender, Erasto Nyoni.

Abbas congratulated Simba SC's players and officials for the progress they have made, stating it shows how the team and its leadership are determined to go far.

The official noted: "I would like to congratulate the leaders and players of Simba SC for the steps and achievements that you have achieved, as you have given a great honour to players across the country."

Abbas pointed out: "Most of all it is the honour you have given us, great sponsors, for the way you have been able to represent the nation and fight to this point."

"This is a good sign as we hope in the next tournament you will have better planning and reach the next level to achieve your goal as a team."

The official revealed: "Simba SC has done justice to our Sportpesa logo and the company believes that we have been one of the catalysts that enabled Simba to qualify for this stage."

"What we are doing today is fulfilling one of the promises we made when we signed the sponsorship agreement in 2017 that we will hand over a bonus of 50m/- if one of the teams we sponsor qualifies for the quarterfinals of the African Champions League," he concluded.

Speaking on behalf of Simba SC, Chief Executive Officer, Barbara, stated: "I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sportpesa for following all the terms of the agreement by offering a bonus of 50m/- after reaching the quarterfinals of the CAF Confederation Cup."

Barbara noted: "Sportpesa has been giving a bonus whenever we do well in various competitions, whether local or international, and that is following the contract, I congratulate you very much."



Sportpesa's Board of Directors Chairman, Tarimba Abbas (L), hands over a 50m/- check to Simba SC Chief Executive Officer Barbara Gonzalez as a bonus for the club's progression to this season's CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinals at a function which took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Coastal Union pledges consistency

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

WITH Coastal Union hosting Biashara United in NBC Premier League's 23rd round match in Tanga on Wednesday, the former's officials have pledged the continuation of victory.

The Coastal Union officials noted the team will have to stop Biashara United at Mkwakwani Stadium.

This will be another home game for Coastal Union, barely three days after taking on Polisi Tanzania FC at the same stadium, notching a 1-0 victory. In an interview with The Guardian, Coastal Union's Fans and Motivation Committee's Chairman, Salim Bawazir, assured the club's followers that it will garner a win over Biashara United.

"Just like the victory over Polisi Tanzania FC, I want to tell you that Biashara United will drop three points here at Mkwakwani Stadium, they're modest opponents," he said.

In the NBC Premier League standings, Coastal Union is sitting 12th with 24 points, as is the case for Kinondoni Municipal Council FC which has 24 points but is placed 11 based on having a good goal difference. Biashara United is sitting 13th after collecting 23 points, one point adrift of Coastal Union, after participating in 22 matches.

If Coastal Union will win today's match, the squad will have a total of 27 points equivalent to Dodoma Jiji FC and Mtibwa Sugar FC which are placed eighth and ninth respectively.

If the game will end in a draw, it means Coastal Union will have 25 points, the same as Polisi Tanzania FC which is sitting 10th in the NBC Premier League standings.



Tanzania's senior national soccer team Taifa Stars' players jubilate when one of the side's players netted a goal in an international friendly fixture against the Central African Republic held in Dar es Salaam in March. PHOTO: TFF

Yanga needs to push together, says coach Nabi



Yanga midfielder, Said Ntibazonkiza (C), seeks to keep Prisons' midfielder Jumanne Elfadhili in check as the former's teammate Salum Abubakar (L) looks on when the clubs met in an NBC Premier League tie which took place in Dar es Salaam on Monday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YANGA head coach Nasreddine Nabi has called for solidarity from his side as it looks towards the end of the season.

The Green and Yellow squad has disappointed its supporters in recent games, having dropped six points recently in the NBC Premier League.

They have drawn three of their last league games and failed to score any goal.

Yanga was held to a 0-0 draw by Mbeya's Prisons in the NBC Premier League clash which was played in Dar es Salaam on Monday.

They have also had goalless draws with Simba SC, and Ruwu Shooting, but are still runaway league leaders with an 11-point gap over second-placed Simba SC.

However, with Yanga's draw with Prisons, Simba SC will have the opportunity to reduce the gap with Yanga to eight points should they beat Kagera Sugar today.

Speaking after his side's disappointing goalless draw with Prisons on Monday evening, Nabi admitted Yanga fell short in their target and called for his side to pick themselves up and push together.

The tactician noted: "The results were not as good as we had expected because we dropped two points in the title race."

"The players gave their best, they created enough chances to win the game but we could not make the most out of them. These things happen in football, fans should not despair but pull together."

"In the title race we can't talk about the 11 points gap, we rather focus on getting back the morale of the squad for the remaining seven games. We know what needs to be done for us to be crowned champions."

"From my experience in past title races, you can't focus on your opponent in the title race. If you want to win the title you have to focus on your team instead of

thinking of the other side."

"We are sorry for the result but our focus should be on lifting the team's morale."

Yanga has seven matches of the NBC Premier League season remaining, starting with the short trip to the capital city to face Dodoma Jiji FC at the Jamhuri Stadium on Sunday.

They will thereafter entertain relegation-threatened Mbeya Kwanza FC on May 21, before traveling to Mwanza to face Biashara United three days later before the league takes a three-week break.

These all promise to be tough tests, with Mbeya Kwanza FC, Dodoma Jiji FC and Biashara United among the sides caught up in an almighty relegation scrap involving half the teams in the league this season.

Togolese, Sudanese referees selected for Taifa Stars' 2023 AFCON qualifiers tie

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE Confederation of African Football, CAF has appointed Togolese match officials for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifications fixture for Tanzania's opener away to Niger.

Taifa Stars begin their qualification campaign away to Niger at Stade de l'Amitié Général Mathieu Kérékou Cotonou, Bénin on June 4, 2022.

The match will be played in Benin due to Niger's lack of an approved venue for international games. The match will kick off at 16:00 GMT.

The Togolese quartet led by center referee Komlanvi Aklassou will handle the first group stage game of the qualifiers on Saturday.

Aklassou will be assisted by his compatriots Jonathan Ahonto Koffi and Wassiou Tchamolla Ourotou whilst Kouassi Atogobe also from Togo will be the fourth official.

Aklassou was the middle man in this season's CAF Champions League preliminary round game involving AS Sonabel of Burkina Faso and Mali's Stade Malien in September last year.

Ibrahim Sangare from Mali has been appointed match commissioner for the fixture. The COVID-19 officer will be announced later by CAF.

For Taifa Stars' second Group stage game against Algeria, Sudanese referee Mahmood Ali Ismail will be the center man and will be supported by compatriots Ahmed Nagel Subahi and Elmoiz Ali Mohamed Ahmed as the assistant referees.

Elsiddig Mohamed El Treefe will be the fourth official. The Sudanese referee has been in charge of two CAF Champions League matches this season.

Mahmood was the center referee when TP Mazembe drew 1-1 with Amazulu in Lubumbashi in 2021/22 CAF Champions League's second-round tie and also handled the group stage game between SG Sagrada of Angola and Morocco's Wydad Athletic in Luanda.

Last year, he handled the East African derby when Kenya hosted Uganda in the 2022 World Cup qualifiers in Nairobi which ended in a goalless draw.

The match commissioner is coming from Eswatini in the person of Dlamini Zide Gilbert while the COVID-19 officer will be announced later by CAF.

Tanzania which has been pooled together with Uganda, Benin, and Algeria in Group F will host the North African giants at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on June 8, 2022. The match will kick off at 16:00 GMT.

The third and fourth rounds of qualifiers will be played in September, with the last two rounds in March next year.

The top two teams from the group qualify for the finals which will be held in Ivory Coast from June 23 next year and will comprise 24 nations, who will have qualified from the 12 groups.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

