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Bank of Tanzania deputy governor Dr Bernard Kibesse (2nd-L) shares a light moment in Dar es Salaam yesterday with NMB Bank PLC board chairman Dr Edwin Mhede (2nd-R) shortly after the launch of the latter bank's Sandbox Environment, a platform that brings together various innovators in testing their ideas. Looking on are NMB chief executive officer Ruth Zaipuna (L) and chief financial officer Juma Kimori. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister: Private sector must use 1.3trn/- funding

By Guardian Correspondents

THE government yesterday urged members of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) to utilise opportunities brought by the 1.3trn/- rapid credit facility disbursed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to support economic recovery efforts following the Covid-19 pandemic.

The money has already been allocated to key sectors that include water (139.4bn/-), health (466.9bn/-), education (64.9bn/-), local governments (302.7bn/-), aside from women, people with disabilities and youth (5bn/-) and tourism (90.2bn/-). Zanzibar has been allocated 231bn/- out of the 1.3trn/- received.

Geoffrey Mwambe, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment) said at a meeting with TPSF members that Tanzania took an innovative approach to

combat the Covid-19 pandemic.

The method goes in line with addressing the country's long-term challenges in the listed sectors, he said.

"We believe that implementation of the projects will not only stimulate the economy but ensure growth where economies of scale are required," he said, noting that President Samia Suluhu Hassan's vision is to see place the private sector in a leading role in the country's development efforts.

The government had already taken other incentives to ensure that the country's economy remains afloat via innovative monetary policy where the government injected 1trn/- that will be accessed by banks at three percent interest charge.

"Additionally we have already disbursed 600bn/- to construct new ministerial facilities in Dodoma. We anticipate that these projects

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NMB lends 1bn/- seed funding to innovators

By Guardian Correspondent

NMB Bank yesterday launched the first ever sandbox environment for local startup companies in a move seeking to inspire technological innovations for better delivery of financial services in the sector.

Dr Bernard Kibesse, the deputy governor for the Bank of Tanzania, graced the launch, stating that the funding shall enable startups to partner with NMB in the testing and delivery of innovative financial solutions.

NMB Bank CEO Ruth Zaipuna said the top lender backs this initiative in seed

funding solutions and inventions showing marketability credentials and transformative potential to elevate local banking to new heights.

Under the setup, startups and tech savvy individuals will be accorded a simplified channel to integrate solution innovations with NMB Bank platforms for testing their readiness to be marketed, which the lender said will be done after central bank approval is obtained.

The deputy governor noted that the NMB Sandbox Environment initiative was meant

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Tanzania picked Africa's leading travel destination

●Serengeti tops parks' awards again

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA has been voted Africa's leading destination in World Travel Awards (WTA) 2021 listing announced yesterday with Serengeti named the continent's top national park and Zanzibar the best beach destination.

The country has been nominated in

'Africa's leading destination' category since 2008, but this year Tanzania finally managed to win this highly coveted continental tourism title.

As for the Serengeti, this is the third time the hotspot is clinching Africa leading national park category in a row after attaining the honour in 2019 and 2020.

It also happens to be a triple victory

for the country, as Zanzibar Island has again been voted 'Africa's leading beach destination' in the same awards event.

Hotel Verde on the island (also known as Azam Luxury Resort and Spa), has on the other hand, grabbed the 'Africa's leading green hotel 2021' award.

And, not surprisingly, Serengeti once again won 'Africa's leading national park' title, while the 'Four Seasons' Safari Lodge in the Serengeti was declared 'Africa's

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RC directs clean-up after hawkers leave

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

DAR ES SALAAM regional commissioner Amos Makalla has directed respective municipal councils to clean up the mess of shacks and boxes left behind by departing petty traders known as 'machinga' and ensure that they don't return to those areas.

He told officials at streets and ward levels to make sure all areas the traders have vacated are cleaned up within one week, and no new stalls are constructed in future.

Makalla issued the directive yesterday when presenting an assessment of the hawkers relocation exercise, sweeping stalls from roadsides and on top of drainage culverts.

Piles of woods, boxes and stall remnants

were left behind after being vacated by the traders, the council officials must ensure they are cleaned up rapidly.

"I give you one week to make sure that all areas vacated by the traders are clean," he said, intimating that every street and ward executive must make sure no new business stalls are erected after October 31.

In the event there will be people erecting a stall on say-so from some officials, this should be reported to higher authorities, he affirmed.

"The third directive is that every public institution, including colleges and schools must protect their areas against business stall invasion.

"I will put these directives in writing," he stated, insisting that he will not tolerate seeing small traders returning to roadsides, "as this will show that myself and my DCs and executive directors are not fit to hold those positions."

He also called on small traders vacating various areas not to return, noting that he is aware of "the trick of using tables for displaying their goods instead of stalls."

The relocation of small traders was going

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Eliya Yohana, a Standard Six pupil at Buhongwa A Primary School in Mwanza City, is held shoulder-high by his colleagues yesterday shortly after emerging winner of Puma Energy's 2021 Road Safety Programme and Drawing Competition - co-organised by Puma Energy Tanzania and Amend. He was presented with a trophy, a certificate and 500,000/-, while the school was awarded 4m/-. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



DAWASA implementing WB-funded water supply project

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE Dar es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) is implementing World Bank funded water supply and distribution project to address water woes to 450,000 residents in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region and Ardhi University in Dar es Salaam.

The 65.4bn/- project is expected to improve access to clean water for Bagamoyo District and Dar es Salaam Region.

DAWASA project manager Engineer Ishmael Kakwezi said in interview recently in Dar es Salaam that the construction of the project commenced last year in November and so far the work has been executed to more than 55 per cent.

The project aims at expanding coverage and improving the quality of service for the city population and providing reliable supply of water for residential zones both new and under development.

The aim of the project is to improve availability of water service to residents who do not have access to clean water and depend on wells.

The project involves ongoing construction of three water reservoirs tanks at Vikawe ward, Mbweni area and Tegeta A both with the capacity of 5 million litres.

The project also encompassed the laying of 1442 km of transmission and distribution pipelines together with the construction of 2 pumping stations.

Kakwezi added that the project

will provide access to clean water to resident of Changanyikeni, Vikawe, Goba, Bunju, Wazo, Oysterbay, Salasala, and Bagamoyo town.

"So far, in Bagamoyo town, after the completion of the project in the town, around 1100 residents based in the district had been connected with water services," he said.

"The project has so far distributed water to different areas in Bagamoyo including Ukuni, Sanzale, Migude, Kimala Ng'ombe and Bagamoyo town," Eng Kakwezi explained.

He added that the availability of water service to the residents helps to end challenge of water woes in the area as well as improve hygiene of majority residents.

According to Kakwezi, the project is scheduled to be completed in December this year, the contractor continues with work in at the site which goes parallel with connecting water to customers.

"We are continuing with the implementation of the project by laying water transmission pipes currently at Bunju area and Mbweni," he said.

The completion of the project will help to increase water services coverage as well as increase revenue to authority.

"So far, in Bagamoyo town, after the completion of the project in the town, around 1100 residents based in the district had been connected with water services"

NMB lends 1bn/- seed funding to innovators

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to promote innovation and creative solutions, boosting financial sector growth and help banks to improve service delivery.

"Today's event goes hand in hand with the government's initiative to support technological breakthroughs driven by the youth," he declared.

The new NMB venture accords local startup companies and young tech savvy entrepreneurs a rare opportunity to showcase their capabilities and create innovative financial solutions, reducing the cost of banking services and creating employment opportunities.

This investment is yet another demonstration by NMB to support efforts of the government to address limitations faced by the public in accessing banking services, including limited access to financial products and sparse distribution points, he elaborated.

"I applaud NMB Bank for being on the forefront in supporting government efforts, as demonstrated by various initiatives being taken by the bank," he stated, pointing at the recent decision to set aside 100bn/- for the purpose of lending to the agriculture sector at interest rates not exceeding 10 per cent.

NMB needs to come up with a similar arrangement for startups and young innovators as limited access to affordable credit was a major drawback to their entrepreneurial and innovation endeavors, he emphasized.

He said Tanzania has many innovators who fail to deliver accordingly and make meaningful breakthroughs mostly due to lack of supportive opportunities and working capital.

"Through initiatives such as your

sandbox environment, creative Tanzanians will have a place where to test their innovative ideas for creating solutions, which will not only support service delivery but also help to create new jobs," he remarked.

Earlier, Zaipuna said leveraging technology to provide best-in-class experiences to NMB Bank customers and serving Tanzania was a key priority. With its massive technological investments, financial inclusion agenda and capital muscle, NMB this year managed to scoop seven international awards of excellence, including one for being the most innovative lender in the country.

The sandbox initiative would not only expand NMB's digital platforms but also consolidate its innovation leadership in the market, she affirmed.

"The Sandbox Environment is a platform that allows startups to experiment, test and pre-certify integration with our banking services," she explained, specifying that NMB experts have designed a clear guide on security and risk assessment lodged with the bank to allow innovators to attain transition into the wider environment.

Board chairman Dr Edwin Mhede said the venture was prompted by ongoing transformation in the banking industry driven by consumer needs and competitive innovation in the context of globalization, liberalization, technological breakthroughs and the Covid-19 pandemic.

For his part, the acting head of technology and digital transformation, Kwame Makundi, called on all startups willing to work with NMB Bank to seize this rare opportunity to test marketability readiness of their innovations.



Legal and Human Rights Centre executive director Anna Henga (2nd-L) pictured at The Guardian Ltd newsroom in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a certificate of appreciation to Nipashe newspaper news editor Sanula Athanas for winning the 2020 Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) Award in the Human Rights category. Looking on are The Guardian newspaper managing editor Wallace Mauggo (R) and Nipashe (Weekends) editor Epsen Luhwago. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

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will boost the amounts of money in circulation," he asserted.

He told the delegates that the government had reviewed the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Act to address cumbersome processes during the tendering process. PPRA has already issued guidelines on tendering process as earlier directed by the president, the minister observed.

Abdulkajid Nsekela, the chairman of the Tanzania Bankers Association said that banks are ready to support financing for tenders to implement projects by the government.

"We're ready to finance the private sector via those who win tenders. They should ensure they work in line with the terms of reference of the projects to ensure that there are no delays in the repayment process," he added.

By Guardian Correspondent, Bariadi

SIMIYU region is set to reduce by half stunting rate among children under five years of age from 31.2 per cent in 2020 to 15.6 per cent in 2025 and thinning from 4.6 to 2.3 per cent by 2025.

This was revealed yesterday by Simiyu region nutrition officer Chacha Magige when he was addressing reporters, saying the region has put in place robust strategies to reduce malnutrition in the next five years.

Magige said as for now the region's percentage of stunting for children under five years stands at 31.2 per cent and thinning at 15.6 per cent, adding that the situation has spurred them to increase their investment in providing education on nutrition issues

Simiyu Region set to reduce stunting by half in five years

to small children given at health centres.

He added that apart from this investment on education, they will also empower health experts to provide nutrition services at regional and district level as well as health centres.

Costantine Mathia, resident of Bariadi town said stunting in Simiyu Region has been a thorn in their flesh because many residents are ignorant on the issue of children's nutrition.

He said despite many people in the region cultivating growing various food crops, still more education was needed, especially in rural areas on the entire issue of proper nutrition for their children.

Agripina Lusekya, a nurse

at Muungano health centre said the issue of nutrition for Bariadi town residents is still a challenge despite being educated pregnant women almost every day on the type of foods to eat themselves and their children.

She said she has continued to advice for more education to be provided in the next five years in order to eradicate or reduce the malnutrition challenges.

Some breastfeeding mothers in the town said education is still needed and asked officials at health centres and dispensaries with maternity services to continue educating women as well as providing them with better foods for their children.



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Amos Makalla (C) addresses senior public officials in the region on Wednesday at a meeting meant to evaluate progress in the relocation of small traders from roadsides and other unauthorised areas to spots officially earmarked for them. He is with acting regional administrative secretary John Bosco (L) and Ilala district commissioner Ng'wilabuzo Ludigija. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Tanzania picked Africa's leading travel destination

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leading luxury lodge 2021,' further cementing this destination as a leisure spot, for excursion or resting.

There was yet another victory for Tanzania at WTA in relation to the exclusive Thanda Island Lodge in Mafia District, winning Africa's leading luxury island award 2021. The Thanda Island, mostly known among wealthy travellers, has not only won the continent's top

position but also emerged the top Global WTA destination having been declared 'World Leading Exclusive Private Island in 2021.'

It seems like the country's islands are a force to reckon with in tourism, as the Chapwani private island in Zanzibar was named 'Africa's leading private island 2021,' winning the title for the second year in a row, after last year's awards.

At the time when the country

is struggling to revive its tourism industry as it was badly hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, the WTA listing will help Tanzania emerge from the ashes as the world recovers and resumes travel.

Tanzania National Park's (TANAPA) senior assistant conservation commissioner for corporate communications, Pascal Shelutete, said in a statement yesterday that Serengeti has been

named Africa's leading national park for three consecutive years.

Other nominees in the 2021 listing include Etosha National Park in Namibia and the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya.

'Serengeti National Park is a habitat for a wide variety of animals, birds and plant species and it is world famous for the wildebeest migration and its large lion population, he specified.

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on well and the 12-day extension to October 31 will find no traders remaining in unauthorised areas, the RC underlined.

Act No. 13 of 2007 and regulations thereof prohibit the conduct of any kind of business on road reserves

and violators face a 300,000/- fine or three years in prison or both, he reminded the council officers.

"But since the government cares for people's welfare, it decided to relocate hawkers to avoid the heavy fines or jail terms, so it is better for small traders to realise this," he added.



Bank of Africa group CEO Amine Bouabid (R) presents a recognition award to Super Group of Companies chairman and CEO Seif A. Seif (C) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. This was on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the partnership between the two parties. They are with Bank of Africa Tanzania Limited's managing director and CEO, Adam Mihayo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

BOA BANK GIVES

SMEs benefit from 28bn/- Covid-19 debt relief fund

By Felister Peter

BANK of Africa-Tanzania has approved a debt relief of 28bn/- to small and medium scale entrepreneurs (SMEs) to help them revive and grow their businesses that were hit by the outbreak of COVID-19.

"The outbreak of COVID-19 disrupted the global value chain and economy; Tanzania was not spared. We had projected last year to grow our GDP by 6 per cent but we ended up at 4.8 percent because of the pandemic," said Bank of Africa, managing director and CEO, Adam Mihayo.

He was speaking in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday evening during a dinner gala which was attended by the bank's Group CEO, Amine Bouabid as well as diplomats and clients.

He said since the bank's mission is to assist the government in driving up economic growth, they have decided to provide much support to the SMEs which accounts for almost 95 percent of all the businesses in the country. A total of 49 SMEs benefited from the debt relief programme.

"We intended to empower SMEs to ensure they have financial muscles to manage their businesses better especially during the pandemic outbreak. We are optimistic that playing in this sector would positively contribute to the country's economy," said Mihayo, adding the bank did not want to let its clients struggle on their own, hence coming up with a debt relief programme to give them a breathing space.

According to him the various interventions from the government and Bank of Tanzania (BoT) managed the country to post relatively better economic performance compared to other Sub-Saharan countries.

Despite the impact of COVID-19, business in the banking sector demonstrated

resilience, he said.

Mihayo said: "Bank of Africa Tanzania was this year recognized as one of the leading banks in Africa. Our capital base has grown to US \$ 2.5 billion; all these achievements are because of our sincere clients."

He said the future of Tanzania's economy is promising and will continue to perform better even during the pandemic because the country's economy is diversified.

Amine Bouabid, Bank of Africa Group CEO said he has been engaged in tours of the bank in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania to see their

operations and strategize for the coming two year (2022-2024).

Bouabid noted that the future of the country depends on SMEs because they are the engines of development and economic growth.

"We want to work more closely with the SMEs and provide them with loans to revitalize their businesses," he said, adding the bank has been mostly giving loans to SMEs and companies in East Africa compared to the western side.

Earlier, the bank's board member, Moremi Marwa said: "We are confident that the bank will grow further with

the new leadership under Mihayo; his competence and knowledge and insights to the sector will enable the bank to maintain its competitiveness and improve provision of services and product delivery to customers.

Marwa said the bank aligns itself with the government policy of achieving an economic growth which is inclusive and sustainable and ensures financial inclusion.

"With the leadership of Mihayo will be able to maintain our competitiveness, visibility, profile and contribution to the economic development of the nation."

British high commissioner calls for combating of climate change and limiting of global emissions

By Beatrice Philemon

BRITISH High Commissioner to Tanzania David Concar has called on young people across the world to act as if the house is on fire to combat climate change and reduce global emissions.

Concar said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when briefing participants from different organisations including staff from UK and Italy embassies on the Youth4Climate Driving Ambition event.

Climate change affects the lives of millions people as well as the massive forest fires in the US and Greece and the unprecedented floods in Germany.

"In Tanzania, lives and livelihoods are already being affected by sea level rises, more frequent flooding, droughts and crop failures. We need people to become more aware of the problem and be willing to act," he said.

"Reducing global emissions can protect us from the breakdown of our climate systems and emissions which need to fall by 50 percent in 2030," he said, adding the time for thinking is over, hence the need for actions.

Concar said climate action principally requires political and economic action. Climate action needs governments and big businesses to act, to cut emissions and provide financing for poor countries.

According to him, climate action means decarbonising economies and investing at scale in adaptation.

This transformation can only be achieved through national and international action linked to clear and decisive political and economic leadership.

Although the world's governments have met 25 times previously to discuss climate action. But emissions are still rising and the world continues to get hotter.

Italian Ambassador to Tanzania, Marco Lombardi said that young people all over the world should see climate change as the defining crisis and take action.

"No generation has been exposed to climate change as much as yours, extreme droughts and floods are on the rise and we all know how it exasperate poverty and malnutrition in less developed countries," he said.

He said as climate change continues to affect more countries across the world, youth are now demanding accountability and change.


"Youth have come up with new toolkit dubbed: 'Youth4ClimateLive Series and Complementary Educational Toolkit.'" said the ambassador.

Youth4ClimateLive Series and Complementary Educational Toolkit is a series of nine episodes that covers a wide array of climate topics and each session convenes intergenerational discussions and we have seen an incredible group of unstoppable youth at the forefront of creative climate action.

It aims to engage, educate and excite young people all over the world and they should feel empowered to collaborate with their peers, lead their communities and persuade policymakers to enact meaningful climate action at the local and global levels.

"In Tanzania youth have already developed the 'Badiliko Jumuishi' that mainly target a national campaign to raise awareness and advocacy for youth engagement in climate negotiations," he said.

He said from September 28th to 30th this year, Italy hosted the youth event "Youth4Climate Driving Ambition" that brought together almost 400 young people aged 18 to 29 from all over the world for a landmark youth conference in Milan where they had chance to develop concrete proposal on topics relevant to the COP negotiations.



Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition
[THRDC]

P. O. Box 105926 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Mob: +255 769 642 208 E-mail: info@thrdc.or.tz
Website: www.thrdc.or.tz

21.10.2021

BID INVITATION TO SUPPLY ONE (1) OFFICE VEHICLE

Contracting Authority: Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC)
Tender number: THRDC/OFFV/3/2021 (The tender number should be indicated in the application)
Tenders are to be returned in a sealed envelope marked: Bid to supply one (1) office vehicle

To:
The National Coordinator,
Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition,
P.O Box 105926, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam.

Deadline for submission: All tenderers must submit their applications within the ten (10) days after the date of the advertisement. All applications should be sent through the address above. Hand delivered and emails application will not be accepted.

Address to be printed on the bid envelope. The tender will be opened within five (5) days after the bid deadline; however, it may be communicated otherwise by the contracting authority.


Below is a detailed general description of the vehicle THRDC is intending to purchase:

TOYOTA RAV4 OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR CAR
Model code: (Please indicate in your application)
Mileage: Below 65,000 km
Year: 2010 or later
Engine: 2400-3000cc
Dimension: according to a car type (please indicate in your application)
Dimension (Interior): according to a car type (please indicate in your application)
Transmission type: Automatic
Drive train: 4WD
Gearbox Type: 6 Speed Automatic Transmission
Body Type: Suburban Utility Vehicle
Steering: Right
Fuel: Petrol/Diesel
Seats: 5
Color: White/Blue/Gray
Doors: 5
Riding Capacity: 5
Country of origin: Japan

All bidders should also indicate any other customers benefits accompanied with their service including comprehensive vehicle maintenance plan and time. THRDC has the right to reject any or all the bids depending on the prevailing circumstances.

The price for the requested vehicle should include all associated fees.

116526501



Minerals Corporation Limited
in partnership between Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of Tanzania



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Advertisement

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below services at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

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

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

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-21-10-02	Rehabilitation by installing the deteriorated paste line support's Replacement of worn out pipes and elbows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available to commence paste line rehabilitation from November 2021. Able to provide Utility Vehicle with Scissor lift (UTV) or Telehandler with man basket, Scaffolding, Lifting tools and trackless, Able to provide tools and equipment (jacklegs, Welding machine, Grinders and Gas cutting sets). Team to consist at least one mining engineer or equivalent – provide CV's of key personnel Competence in Working at Heights and fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mines – provide reference of the previous similar work(s) Team with multi discipline members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts.

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

- Full company profile;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- BRELA – Register of Companies detailed information certificate
- Local Content Plan approval or acknowledgement of submission to the Mining Commissioner
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration
- Years' service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest close of business on the 26 Oct 2021. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote reference number in the subject line of your email.

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

For and on behalf of **BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**

116526501

Africa-Turkey Economic and Business Forum set to develop cooperation in commercial spheres, says EAC official

By Guardian Reporter

THE flow of investment and business opportunities between Turkey and Africa is set to increase as over 2,000 players from the public and private sector are meeting in Istanbul today to discuss ways to further develop cooperation in commercial and economic fields.

"The forum will pave the way for strengthening the economies of Turkey and African countries in the post-pandemic era," said the East African Community (EAC) director general-customs and trade, Kenneth Bagamuhunda when speaking ahead of the forum.

The upcoming 3rd Africa-Turkey Economic and Business Forum will be held in Istanbul, Turkey from October 21st to 22nd, 2021.

Bagamuhunda said that more than 2,000 from public and private sector players are expected to attend the forum, which is aimed at promoting and increasing trade and investment between Africa and Turkey.

Bagamuhunda disclosed that the forum will include B2B debates, and panels in which several topics such as African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and new market opportunities, Post-COVID-19 economic recovery, sustainable health partnerships, collaboration between Turkey and Africa on agriculture and agro-industries, innovation as well as financing would be discussed.

He added that the ministerial meeting between African Ministers and their Turkish counterparts will be organized within the margins of the forum to discuss the deepening Turkish-Africa partnership in the

post-pandemic era in the fields of trade, investments, logistics and technology.

According to the Director General, the forum will provide an open space for key public and private sector actors from Turkey and Africa to discuss and build on their respective experiences, and jointly identify a set of recommendations for scaling up private sector engagement and innovative catalytic Public-Private Partnerships for broad-based, sustainable, inclusive growth and development.

The forum will be graced by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo Felix Tshisekedi, Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of African Union Commission and Albert Muchanga, AU Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining.

Others are the Director General of World Trade Organization, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Ministers from Turkey and African countries and Chairpersons of business associations.

The 1st Turkey-Africa Economic and Business Forum was held in Istanbul, Turkey from November 2nd to 3rd, 2016 and attended by Trade and Economy Ministers from 42 African countries and over 2,000 businessmen and officials.

The second forum was held between October 10th and 11th, 2018, in Istanbul. Themed: 'Investment on the Sustainable Future Together' the event was graced by the Presidents of Turkey, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and 26 Ministers from 43 African countries with 2,500 business people in attendance.

Ford Foundation inaugurates global fellowship programme to identify and connect leaders

By Guardian Reporter

IN efforts aimed to strengthen response to Covid-19, the Ford Foundation has announced the launch of the 48 new emerging leaders to join the Ford Global Fellows Programme focused on addressing systemic inequality across the globe.

The emerging leaders from around the world, including East Africa, join the inaugural 24 fellows whose fellowship has been extended for two more years.

In a statement availed to the media yesterday, Adria Goodson, director of the Ford Global Fellowship said all 72 active fellows are bringing their local experiences to each other to design and reimagine solutions to global drivers of inequality.

"We are scaling the Ford Global Fellows faster because this crisis moment requires bolder commitments to creating a more just and equitable future," he said.

He said the fellowship will provide leaders with tools, networks, and solidarity they need to work better, smarter, and more sustainably in the long haul.

Fellows from East Africa are Noah Mirembe Gabigogo, co-founder and director of the Taala Foundation Kampala, Uganda; Michael Richard Katagaya, the team leader of Evidence and Methods Lab Kampala, Uganda; Ian Damian Tarimo, executive director, TAI Tanzania based in Dar Es Salaam; and Angela Benedicto, founder and executive director, Wote Sawa Domestic Workers Mwanza, Tanzania.

"Because Covid-19 has laid bare the crisis of inequality, and this has been compounded by vaccine inequity, climate change, rising authoritarianism, and racial and gender inequity, Ford has adapted the fellowship to meet the urgency of the crises with a renewed urgency to combat it," he noted.

In response, the Foundation is scaling up its flagship global fellowship program to support leaders from communities who face injustice head-on and help them cultivate their ideas and energy in solving long-standing inequalities exposed or exacerbated by the

pandemic.

He added: "People who are most proximate to injustice are stepping up and surfacing solutions to local challenges driven by global structures of inequality. More than ever, these emerging leaders across the globe need each other to strengthen and accelerate their ideas. We aim to support fellows as they build lasting networks and institutions that carry the work forward."

Launched in 2020 by the Ford Foundation in New York, the Ford Global Fellows is a 10-year, \$50 million program that aims to support leaders across the globe to shift structures and systems of inequality over time. Over 10 years, the program is looking to build a global network of 240 fellows who will be working together to build a community of practice, strengthening their networks with change-makers in the broader social justice field, build influence, and advance ideas and solutions across issues, borders, sectors, and contexts.

The Ford Global Fellows represent a broad range of backgrounds, fields, and approaches to addressing inequality—with areas of focus that range from promoting equal rights and opportunities for women and girls, securing rights for Indigenous and traditional communities, to increasing political and economic power of people with disabilities, and more. Many are from communities that are directly impacted, emerging as leaders drawing from their own lived experience with the challenges of inequality.

"Progress is not possible without leaders who have the audacity to imagine a brighter future and steer us toward that vision," says Hilary Pennington, Ford's Executive Vice President of Programs. Adding, "In the face of this pandemic, we need leaders who are deeply aware of the systems and structures at play and seek solutions from different people, places, and cultures. We need leaders who make ideas grow and institutions work. The Ford Foundation is proud to work together with the fellows to build a powerful global community with a shared vision."



Simanjiro legislator Christopher ole Sendeka (L, foreground) shares a light moment with Mirerani township resident Adam Hamis as the MP toured Manyara Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Over 100000 students in 3 regions gain from road safety sensitisation

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

MORE than 110,000 pupils from over 100 primary schools in Dar es Salaam, Geita, Ruvuma, Dodoma and Zanzibar have benefited from a road safety training that was aimed at reducing road crashes in the country.

The revelation was made yesterday by managing director, Puma Energy Tanzania, Domic Dhanah when speaking during an event to award winners of the 2020-2021 road safety programme and drawing competition held at Kalangalala primary school.

During the ceremony which was graced by Geita regional education officers, traffic police officers and government officials, Dhanah said they have been implementing the programme in collaboration with a non-governmental organisation—AMEND.

Dhanah said in Geita Region, road

safety training was conducted at five primary schools whereas a total of 12,000 pupils had benefited. He said the company picked Geita for the programme because it is among the fastest growing regions with population on the increasing

"There is big number number of vehicles in Geita which pose a risk to other road users, especially pupils. Students become vulnerable to accidents when going and back from school as some drivers do not adhere to traffic regulations," he added, noting the fuel marketing company prioritises road safety training to pupils in support of the government's efforts to reduce accidents.

Dhanah said: "We want children to be aware of safe road rules at their tender age; we also insist on them to share the knowledge with their family members back home. We also expect to conduct similar trainings in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and

Zanzibar before the end of this year."

Inspector of the traffic police in Geita District, Emmanuel Shagaya, appealed to the pupils to share the knowledge with other schools to broaden their understanding of road safety issues.

"You must share what you have learnt with your parents; tell them to be careful when crossing the roads. This would help to reduce road crashes," he said.

According to him, road safety education is of paramount importance because there have been an increased number of accidents because of increased community activities.

Kalangalala ward councillor, Prudence Temba called upon the residents and drivers to respect traffic regulations. He said drivers must ensure they drive at a normal speed when passing at congested areas such as markets, schools, churches and playgrounds.

Temba urged those preferring to board motorbikes to make sure they put on helmets and remind drivers to drive at recommendable speed.

"We have challenges in adhering to road safety rules because some of the road signs cannot be clearly seen. Puma should consider assisting the traffic department in putting up road signs especially at congested areas," he said.

Representing the regional education officer, Masumbuko Magang'bila commended Puma Energy Tanzania, urging them to also offer similar training to other schools.

He said the presents given to winners as well as the schools would motivate more pupils to participate in the drawing competition in the coming year. A school that emerges the winner receives 1m/- while the first winner (pupil) of the drawing competition gets 500,000/-.



Mati Super Brands Ltd group managing director David Mulokozi has a word with the firm's staff at yesterday's launch of Tanzanite premium vodka at Babati in Manyara Region. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Only 7 pc of Tanzanians drink coffee, says TCB

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

ONLY seven per cent of Tanzanians drink coffee while 93 per cent of coffee produced in Tanzania is exported.

Coffee quality control officer from Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB), Florian Ndungulu told this paper here on Tuesday that the board's target is to ensure that by 2025 twenty per cent of Tanzanians will be coffee drinkers.

He added that the quality of the coffee produced in the country

has been shown to be going up, the situation that would help to boost incomes of coffee farmers, despite the small percentage of drinkers in the country.

Ndungulu added that in this year's farming season coffee quality has been enhanced compared to the last two seasons. "Coffee is among beverages used by many people worldwide, hence the increase of its quality is the outcome of farmers' concerted efforts in adhering to better production practices that entails the use of modern

agricultural technologies that aim to enhance its profitability, despite the small number of coffee drinkers in the country," Ndungulu said.

For his part, TCB manager Sijali Bowa said cooperative unions that supervise coffee farmers have big opportunity to buy the crop for processing. He added that through cooperatives, farmers can benefit because many coffee buying firms will come forward to buy the commodity at good prices due to the processing quality.

Stakeholders who contribute to

the value chain in the coffee sector said there was still a challenge in producing better quality coffee.

Among them, Samora Mayaonga from Café Africa Organisation said joint efforts are needed to assist farmers produce the crop profitably including enhancing of its quality to satisfy competitive markets.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner Juma Homera said the government values coffee as the country's major crop continues to grow because of the availability of better quality seeds to the market.



Mpiana Juma (R), Tanzania Scouts Association commissioner in Tanga Region, pictured on Wednesday presenting Tanga regional commissioner Adam Malima with a copy of a guidebook on the body's participation in sensitising the public on the war on corruption. They are with Zainabu Bakari, head of the Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau in the region. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Govt is reviewing Drugs and Prevention of Illicit Traffic and Drugs Act - Z'bar First Vice President

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman has said that the government is currently reviewing the Drugs and Prevention of Illicit Traffic and Drugs Act so as to help strengthen the war against drug abuse and trafficking.

The VP made the statement yesterday here when he toured and inspected one of the sober houses in the Isles.

He said that drug abuse and trafficking in Zanzibar was still a major challenge that required a strong national plan that would help put in place a better system of the war.

He said that the draft of the bill is expected to be sent before the House of Representative in the next meeting for amendment.

"Once passed, the law will put in place

strong systems and infrastructures and will be an effective tool to work against the drug challenge in the country," he said. The legislative reform would help the government address the issue which has been deteriorating efforts and capacity in the fight against drugs in the Isles," he said.

He further said the government will also prepare a comprehensive national anti-drug plan that will harmonize the effective division of responsibilities to various institutions and stakeholders that are involved in the fight.

"The new plan will engage every stakeholder and all institutions in the country providing time for every stakeholder to prepare a work plan to complement major objectives of the war," he asserted.

Lieutenant Colonel Burhan Zubeir Nassor, director general of the Zanzibar Commission for National Coordination and Drug Control acknowledged that the war against drug abuse and trafficking was hard and the commission was facing a number of challenges.

"Some of the challenges that thwart our efforts include cases taking too long in courts, poor cooperation from witnesses during case hearing as well as case cancellation even after putting much effort to take the suspects to court," he said.

He however said that with the proposed new changes the law will help address several setbacks that has been affecting the war against drug abuse and trafficking.

The DG said that the Act will help strengthen control in various areas such as ports, airports as well as in marine.

Z'bar, mainland govts promise to allocate special funds to boosting of agro-ecology, organic farming

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Ministries of Agriculture both from Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar have pledged to allocate special funds in their ministerial budgets starting with the financial year 2022/23 to promote uptake of both agro ecology and organic agriculture among small and large farmers in the country.

Opening the second National Ecological Organic Agriculture conference here in Dodoma yesterday, Zanzibar minister of Agriculture Dr Sudi Hassan and the Deputy Minister of agriculture Hussein Bashe pledged to endorse the systematic financing of organic agriculture for human health and climate change resilience in Tanzania.

The two-day conference that brought about 500 local and foreign organic agriculture stakeholders together to discuss the success, challenges and way forward, is themed 'Accelerating Ecological Organic Agriculture Uptake for Sustainable Food System'.

"Apart from special funds allocation to organic agriculture, the ministry has plans in place for establishing an indigenous seeds bank in one of the country's region with high production of crops. The seeds will be cleaned professionally before preserving them in the bank that will be supplied to farmers at the district council's level for multiplying them through cultivation," said Bashe.

He suggested that the plan can be implemented by starting with five key food and cash crops that cut across the country's agriculture sector. Bashe said that the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) in collaboration with the ministry's directorate of crop promotion, agricultural inputs and cooperatives will be tasked with conducting research on indigenous seeds multiplication, preservation and sustainability.

In the current fiscal year, he said, the ministry has been allocated with 10bn/- for conducting researches related to agriculture inputs and crops.

According to him, the ministry will soon transform the organic agriculture desk into a complete department with deployment of more experts on agro ecology and organic agriculture. The department will call for deployment of experts at district levels from officials from the government and stakeholders in the agriculture sector.

"This is a ministry's commitment on the way forward to empowering organic agriculture. The future is agroecology and organic agriculture for human health and climate change resilience. In discouraging the use of industrial pesticides, the ministry is planning to champion harvesting, drying and processing pyrethrum into powder form so that it can be used for suppressing insects to crops in farms," said Bashe.

He asserted that farmers have been spending almost 6bn/- annually in procurement of industrial pesticides that pose health threats to humans in a long run.

Backing him, Dr Sudi Hassan, Minister of Agriculture in Zanzibar said that his ministry will allocate special funds to promoting agroecology and organic agriculture in the island.

"We ought to have a common ground on discouraging conventional farming in our country for our people's health and climate change resilience. In Zanzibar we already have an organic agriculture policy since 2019. As the result to this policy, over 60 percent of farmers in Zanzibar are practicing organic agriculture.

Welcoming the two ministers to officiate the conference, Dr Mwantima Juma, Chairperson of the Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) said that shifting from conventional farming to organic will help the community from being victims of cancer diseases and other environmental related effects.

"Organic agriculture is safe and vital towards climate change resilience, human health and economic developments that are sustainable," said Dr Juma.

Stanbic Bank gives 100 desks to Kijitonyama Secondary School

By Guardian Reporter

STANBIC bank Tanzania has handed over 100 desks worth 9m/- to Kinondoni District Commissioner, Godwin Gondwe to be used by students at the Kijitonyama Secondary School in Dar es Salaam.

The handover event was held at the school premises on Wednesday and attended by the school headmaster, representatives from Kinondoni municipality, teachers, and the bank's staff.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, the bank's chief executive Kevin Wingfield said the bank's donation aims to support the government's efforts to improve the learning environment in schools across the country, cementing its position as a committed partner to education prosperity.

He said Stanbic is consistently looking for ways to improve dreams and the donation will play a big role in enabling children's dreams at Kijitonyama Secondary School.

"The move is in line with their ongoing campaign 'Stanbic Madawati initiative' that aims to donate 1,000 desks and plant trees across the country to improve the physical conditions of classrooms and the general environment of schools, which are key in providing conducive learning."

He said: "Stanbic Madawati initiative is aligned with the government's priorities in creating a lasting change and

Dr Mwinyi assures TPDF of government's support

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has assured the Tanzania People's Defense Force (TPDF) that his government will continue to work with the force.

Dr Mwinyi made the assurance at the Zanzibar State House when he met and held talks with TPDF Chief of Staff (CS) Lt. Gen Mathew Edward Mkingule.

President Mwinyi assured the high-ranking TPDF leader that his government will continue to extend its sincere cooperation to the force so that it can continue to carry out its responsibilities effectively in the country.

Dr Mwinyi congratulated the TPDF's CS for his appointment and expressed his confidence in the leader due to his professionalism and confirmed that he is confident the position will be treated fairly.

Lt Gen Mkingule assured President Mwinyi that he will work fairly with the aim of serving all people of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Lt Gen Mkingule replaces Lieutenant General Yacoub Hassan Mohamed who was appointed as Tanzanian Ambassador to Turkey.

Earlier, Dr Mwinyi met and talked with UK-based Wentworth investors led by its executive chairman Robert Mc Bean.

In his remarks, President Mwinyi called on UK investors to invest in Zanzibar natural gas exploration.

through this donation; the students here will have a good environment for learning. The desks are made within the community where the schools are located, hence providing an opportunity for locals to benefit from the initiative."

For his part, DC Gondwe applauded Stanbic Bank for extending its help to support students' learning facilities.

"I am very impressed with their efforts to support the community surrounding them. This donation came at the right time here at Kijitonyama Secondary where there was a shortage of desks," he added.

Prioritise conflict resolution to make Great Lakes Region a peace haven, delegates say

By Guardian Reporter

DELEGATES who attended the just-ended three-day meeting in Dar es Salaam said here yesterday that Great Lakes Region will be a haven of peace if people and governments will sincerely value and prioritise conflict resolution at all possible smallest units of society.

The training drew delegates from 12 countries and it sought to empower trainees to take immediate and apt action in resolving conflicts in their societies in order to maintain peace well before things get off hand.

Zambian delegate, Brigadier-General Joyce Ng'wane Puta told reporters that resolution of conflicts and emphasis on

peace will make people lead peaceful lives, people will value social stability and promote development in the Great Lakes Region.

"We have been taught how to resolve conflicts and maintain peace right from the grassroots in our society. To me this is something good and valuable. For if we shall plant peace at family level it will be easy for the next generations to inherit this system that will make our countries safe for it will be a system friendly to development," she said adding that she will be a peace ambassador in her own society.

Anastase Nabahire praised the training saying, if what has been taught will be practised societies will get closer and this will result into peace. "Peace always

starts with unity. We the people of Africa have a huge opportunity of getting united if we shall maintain peace. I shall use this knowledge to resolve conflicts in my society in case of strife," he pledged.

Dr Aggee Shyaka Mugabe, one of the trainers, said the essence of the course was capacity building. The knowledge acquired will enable trainees to resolve conflicts and restore peace so that the Great Lakes Region becomes a peaceful place.

He said many of course participants were women and youths because, the two groups are very influential in society.

"We now have a good team. We are very optimistic our team will be of great value and will turn our societies into safe societies living in peace and tranquility," he said.

SAO HILL ENERGY LIMITED

The companies Act, 2002 (Section 334) MEMBER'S VOLUNTARY WINDING – UP NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the general public that SAO HILL ENERGY LIMITED a company with registration number 40027 dully convened a meeting on 14th July, 2021 and passed a special resolution in accordance to section 333 (1) (b) of the Companies Act, 2002 that the company be wound up voluntarily.

All parties concerned and who have claims are hereby notified to submit their claims in a closed envelop within 30 days to GODFREY BASIL MRAMBA of Basil & Alred, Ace Building, Haile Selassie Road, P.O. Box 78661, Dar es salaam, Tanzania, who is appointed Liquidator of the Company.

Any claims lodged after 30 days from this publication will not be considered for admission.

GODFREY BASIL MRAMBA
Liquidator
For SAO HILL ENERGY LIMITED

SAO HILL ENERGY LIMITED

REG: 40027

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRA - ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SAO HILL ENERGY LIMITED HELD AT ITS REGISTERED OFFICE

ON 14 JULY 2021 AT 13:00 P.M

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE:

1. GODLISTEN MINJA	DIRECTOR/ CHAIRMAN
2. LILIAN KITOSY	DIRECTOR
3. ANNETTE KIRETHI	COMPANY SECRETARY

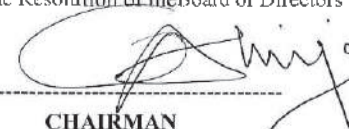
THE CHAIRMAN REPORTED that according to the Company activities, the Shareholders of SAO HILL ENERGY LIMITED (hereinafter called "the Company") is desirous of voluntarily winding up the Company.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS:

IT WAS RESOLVED:

1. That, the Company be voluntarily liquidated and dissolved as decided by members;
2. That, Godfrey Basil Mramba be and is hereby appointed as a liquidator for the purpose of winding up the affairs and distributing the assets of the Company.
3. That, the remuneration payable by the Company to shall be negotiated and agreed based on the man-hour spent on this assignment;
4. That M/S Basil & Alred be and is hereby appointed auditor for the purpose of auditing the Liquidator's account of the winding up of the affairs of the Company;
5. That the remuneration payable by the Company to M/S Basil & Alred as auditor shall be negotiated and agreed based on the man-hour spent on this assignment.

The above is a certified True Copy of
The Resolution of the Board of Directors


CHAIRMAN


COMPANY SECRETARY

Rukwa receives over 20bn/- for executing development projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

RUKWA Region has received more than 20bn/- for implementing various development projects during the six months of the phase VI government.

Rukwa Regional Commissioner, Joseph Mkirikiti made the remarks here yesterday as he addressed reporters on achievements of the phase VI government since it came to power.

He said the region received 20.7bn/- of which 8.94bn/- was from the 1.3trn/- IMF loan the government had received for addressing the Covid-19 effects.

He added that the region also received 11bn/- through the National Food Reserves Agency (NFRA) for the purchase of maize from farmers.

He further said they also received

750m/- from funds the government had collected from the mobile money transaction levy for funding various development projects in the region.

RC Mkirikiti said out of the money, 8.94bn/- will be used to build 256 classrooms for primary and secondary schools as well as constructing 73 satellite schools and two dormitories, all of which will help in alleviating education challenges in the region.

He added that the 750m/- has been channeled towards the refurbishment of health infrastructures including revamping some of health centres, including the purchase of working tools and beds for patients.

Mkirikiti thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for seeking funds that have assisted in improving development projects in the region.

Women entrepreneurs appeal to Tanzanians to buy local products

By Felister Peter

WOMEN entrepreneurs working under the umbrella of Iloganzala Women against Poverty Association (IWAPOA) have appealed to Tanzanians to love and purchase locally made products as they are of high quality standards.

The women, most of whom are from vulnerable families, made the appeal at Alliance Francaise in Dar es Salaam recently when addressing journalists on celebrations to mark the world day for overcoming poverty which is celebrated globally on October 17th.

IWAPOA Chairperson, Paskazia Senzari said: "Our businesses were seriously affected during the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak; we couldn't access markets over fears of being infected. The future is now promising as we have started producing various products with the support from ATD Fourth World. ATD is an international movement of solidarity work among and in collaboration with the most excluded families. The abbreviation stands for (All Together in Dignity).

Senzari said that she started uniting women to fight against poverty in the year 2000, before the group was officially formed in 2008. She said they are also supporting vulnerable women from TABOTE women groups who have been trained on entrepreneurship, business and financial skills.

TABOTE stands for Tandale, Boko, Tegeta with a total of 23 members who are women living in poverty.

She added that IWAPOA supports poor women from six wards in Temeke District namely, Buza, Azimio, Charambe, Keko, Charambe and Yombo Vituka. The women including widows and people living with HIV/Aids have been trained in producing hand made products such as batik, soap, natural shampoo, handmade bags and traditional sandals.

IWAPOA has a total of 550

members in 11 regions of Mbeya, Morogoro, Moshi, Masasi, Lindi, Shinyanga, Tabora, Tanga, Mwanza, Iringa and Mtwara.

TABOTE chairperson, Ashura Mshana said: "We engage in entrepreneurship because we want to do away with daily jobs which don't ensure a sufficient income to sustain a decent life."

She said during the celebrations of the world day for overcoming poverty on Sunday—October 24th, 2021 to be held at Alliance Francaise, women will showcase their products and share experiences to inspire others to join the group.

"Women were left behind in many aspects; we now want to take part in economic activities and raise our own income," she said.

Venance Magombera from ATD Fourth World said the NGO works in different disadvantaged areas of Dar es Salaam including Tandale, Mwananyamala, Magogoni fish market and the stone quarries in Tegeta and Boko.

"We have long relations with the communities in the specific localities built through trust and direct partnerships, disseminations of an international participatory research on the hidden dimensions of poverty and the support for income generating activities," said Magombera.

He said that the introduction of the street library in areas such as Manzese has really helped to transform a number of children who were not ready to continue schooling. He said they are also assisting children from vulnerable communities to get birth certificates whereas so far a total of 700,000 children have received the documents.

ATD operates in over 40 countries; it was firstly established in Tanzania in 1990's.

October 17 was in 1992 officially recognised by the United Nations as the international day for the eradication of poverty.



Exim Bank's head of retail banking, Andrew Lyimo (in sunglasses) and other officials of the bank pictured in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday showing ignition keys for a car lined up as the grand prize for the winner of the bank's newly launched campaign dubbed 'Weka MkwanziaTukutoe!'. The drive is meant to encourage Tanzanians to have a saving culture. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

EXIM Bank has launched a 'Weka MkwanziaTukutoe' campaign which aims to encourage Tanzanians to have a saving culture while having the opportunity to grab various prizes including cash as well as a Toyota Vanguard car.

The three-month campaign was launched yesterday in Dar es Salaam and is set to reach all Tanzanians including customers of the bank as well as the prospective ones.

Speaking at the launch of the campaign in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the bank's retail banking

Exim Bank comes up with special campaign to enhance saving culture among Tanzanians

head, Andrew Lyimo said the campaign aims to bring about change in Tanzanians attitude from home saving to bank saving.

"The goal is not just to encourage Tanzanians to create a culture of saving, what we need is to see that more Tanzanians keep their savings in a safe place to sustain economic growth, which is why we plan to encourage them to use our various accounts such as salary account."

"Others include Mzalendo account that runs without monthly deductions, Haba na Haba account and Faida account that allows them to save and earn interest. We also have Nyota account which is a special account for children without forgetting special account for SMEs," he said.

Mentioning various gifts to be offered during the campaign, Lyimo said there are cash prizes amounting

to 1m/-, per month where every month there will be six winners, along with a last draw that will allow them to win the grand prize of a Toyota Vanguard.

"So our current and new customers will be in a position to win these whenever they do a deposit starting from 500,000/- onwards. The bigger the deposit, the more they place themselves in a position to win big prizes he said.



Brian Bogart (R), the World Food Programme's Deputy Country Director in Tanzania, pictured in Dodoma city yesterday addressing the Second National Ecological Organic Conference. He is on ways to accelerate ecological organic agriculture and make food systems in the country more sustainable. Left is the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Refrain from illegal trade, TRA advises business community in Kagera Region

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has called on the business community in Kagera Region to refrain from doing illegal business, as the move retards country's economic growth.

TRA Commissioner General Alphayo Kidata made the call here recently when addressing traders in the north western region of Kagera.

He said using unauthorized entries means the trader is involved in black market, avoiding taxes, thus denying the government its right to revenue.

"I want you to use official entries, not 'hidden-like rats-pathways', otherwise your goods will be confiscated, turn you into bankruptcy, and deteriorate industry production," he cautioned.

According to him, goods which are likely to be involved in black market are thick cotton wrap pieces, spirits, cement and edible oils.

Kidata urged the traders to pay revenues willingly as they are free people in a free country, without waiting to be forced to.

"You should be competent in keeping records

of your businesses, so as to enable TRA officers to set right estimations for tax," he advised.

He emphasized on the proper use of Electronic Fiscal Device (EFD) for efficient management control; contrary to that, a person may be fined 3m/- and imprisonment.

"If a device is not well functioning, it should be reported, so that it is replaced with another," he insisted.

The Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (TCCIA) Kagera Regional Chairperson, Ladslaus Gerald admitted there were some traders who are not honest and are dealing in black market, that they affect other trader's successes as well as the government adding that the chamber has been fighting them.

Kagera Regional Commissioner Charles Mbuge has assured the TRA Commissioner General that the regional authorities will do everything in their full capacity to see that government taxes are collected accordingly. He also called on both officials and taxpayers to play their part without disturbing one another.

By Henry Mwangonde

EAST African Chief Executives Officers (CEOs) are confident, optimistic and feel a strong connection to their purpose while looking forward to driving expansion despite continued uncertainty and risk volatility in the region, a new study shows.

According to the 21 KPMG East Africa CEO Outlook Survey report which was launched yesterday, 82 percent of East Africa CEOs are confident about the growth prospects of their country compared to only 32-percent at the height of the pandemic.

The report said dwindling trust in governments by the public has shifted focus to organisations to fill the void and regional CEOs see their organisations playing a role in addressing societal challenges such as gender inequality and climate change.

"Accelerating growth and the digital agenda East Africa CEOs are aggressive about their digital investment with 88 percent noting the urgency to shift

Global CEO confidence returns to pre-COVID pandemic levels

investments to digital opportunities and divest businesses that face digital obsolescence," the report reads in part.

The report said with increased stakeholder pressure to build business back better, regional CEOs are embedding Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) into business strategy.

On stepping up on social issues 82 percent of East Africa CEOs see themselves increasingly held personally responsible for driving progress in addressing social issues.

"On collaborating to power sustainability 36 percent of East Africa CEOs say they will invest about 10 percent of their revenues in programmes that enable their organisations to become more sustainable and overwhelmingly agree that world leaders at COP26 must inject the necessary urgency in the climate change agenda - 84 percent," the

statement adds.

The report said East Africa CEOs see their organisation's ESG programmes improving their financial performance compared to global CEOs at 36 percent.

It further noted that EA CEOs are strengthening their organisation's digital advantage by building a more flexible future of work and operating as part of digital ecosystems.

On building a flexible future of work, the report said East Africa CEOs recognise that majority of their employees will work two or more days remotely and are enabling them to work flexibly.

On partnering for transformation and resilience, the report said East Africa CEOs see forming new partnerships as critical in their digital transformation efforts but are also cognizant that a strong cyber security strategy is critical to create trust with their key stakeholders.

FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Customer needs and desires are of paramount importance

THE phrase the customer is always right is an ideal that many stores try to adhere to as their customer service policy. It means that if the customer is unhappy about a product, the business will try to fix the problem and make the customer happy. In other words, the 'customer is king' or the 'customer is always right' is a motto or slogan which exhorts service staff to give a high priority to customer satisfaction. It was popularised by pioneering and successful retailers such as Harry Gordon Selfridge, John Wanamaker and Marshall Field. They advocated that customer complaints should be treated seriously so that they should not feel cheated or deceived.

Harry Gordon Selfridge, Sr. was an American retail magnate who founded the London-based department store Selfridges. John Wanamaker was a United States merchant and religious, civic and political figure, considered by some to be a proponent of advertising and a "pioneer in marketing. Marshall Field was an American entrepreneur and the founder of Marshall Field and Company, the Chicago-based department stores. His business was renowned for its then-exceptional level of quality and customer service.

This attitude was novel and influential when misrepresentation was rife and caveat emptor (let the buyer beware) was a common legal maxim. Variations include "le client n'a jamais tort" (the customer is never wrong) which was the slogan of hotelier César Ritz of Germany who said, "If a diner complains about a dish or the wine, immediately remove it and replace it, no questions asked". A variation frequently used in Germany is "der Kunde ist König" (the customer is

king). However it was pointed out as early as 1914 that this view ignores that customers can be dishonest, have unrealistic expectations, and/or try to misuse a product in ways that void the guarantee and states "if we adopt the policy of admitting whatever claims the customer makes to be proper, and if we always settle them at face value, we shall be subjected to inevitable losses. The work concluded "If the customer is made perfectly to understand what it means for him to be right, what right on his part is, then he can be depended on to be right if he is honest, and if he is dishonest, a little effort should result in catching him at it. An article a year later by the same author addressed the caveat emptor (the principle that the buyer alone is responsible for checking the quality and suitability of goods before a purchase is made) aspect while raising many of the same points as the earlier piece.

Nowadays, the customer is always right motto often leads to situations in which customers tend to overuse their position in relations with customer service representatives who have to provide best possible service and have no right to say "no".

As we enter an eatery in Dar es Salaam recently, all the waiters and waitresses are giving us that "why bother us" look. Unfazed we continue and take our seats at one of the corners. But wait a minute, what happened to the smiling faces and greetings that made us feel at home away from home in such places?

Many hoteliers in the city have in the past run campaigns geared at improving customer service, like the customer care campaigns that mean to receive customers well and serve them with warmth, courtesy, respect and total attention.

Heart conditions mean much more to public health than often thought

CARDIOVASCULAR diseases (CVD) account for nearly half of all deaths resulting from non-communicable diseases, making them the world's number one killer. World Heart Day is, therefore, a perfect platform for the CVD community to unite in the fight against CVD and reduce the global disease burden.

World Heart Day is celebrated every year on 29 September. In May 2012, world leaders committed to reducing global mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by 25 per cent by 2025. Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is accountable for nearly half of all NCD deaths making it the world's number one killer. World Heart Day is, therefore, the perfect platform for the CVD community to unite in the fight against CVD and reduce the global disease burden.

Heart disease and stroke, is the world's leading cause of death claiming 18.6 million lives each year.

Created by the World Heart Federation, World Heart Day informs people around the globe that CVD, including heart disease and stroke, is the world's leading cause of death claiming 18.6 million lives each year, and highlights the actions that individuals can take to prevent and control CVD. It aims to drive action to educate people that by controlling risk factors such as tobacco use, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity, at least 80% of premature deaths from heart disease and stroke could be avoided.

World Heart Day is a global campaign during which individuals, families, communities, and governments around the world participate in activities to take charge of their heart health and that of others. Through this campaign, the World Heart Federation unites

people from all countries and backgrounds in the fight against the CVD burden and inspires and drives international action to encourage heart-healthy living across the world. We and our members believe in a world where heart health for everyone is a fundamental human right and a crucial element of global health justice.

The World Heart Federation (WHF) is a nongovernmental organization based in Geneva, Switzerland, formed in 1972.

In 1978 the International Society of Cardiology merged with the International Cardiology Federation (which had been founded in 1970) to form the International Society and Federation of Cardiology. This body changed its name in 1998 to the World Heart Federation.[1]

The federation hosts the World Congress of Cardiology. A preliminary and somewhat informal international meeting of cardiologists was held in Prague in 1933, but the advent of Nazism and World War II prevented further international cooperation in the field until 1946, when a Cardiological Congress took place in Mexico City. The first true World Congress was held in 1950.[2]

The first World Congress of Cardiology was convened in Paris in September 1950 under the aegis of the International Society of Cardiology, which had itself been founded four years previously. Subsequent congresses were held at four-year intervals until 2006; since then, they have been held at two-year intervals.[1]

"World Heart Day" was founded in 2000 to inform people around the globe that heart disease and stroke are the world's leading causes of death.[3] World Heart Day is celebrated every year on 29 September.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



By Mohamed Nurudeen

THE 9/11 terror attacks in the United States of America (USA) in 2001, and the fallouts from the global war on terror have had a profound influence on the global security landscape. The dislocation and relocation of terrorist cells and training camps; the declared intention by terrorist organisations to strike targets that represent the interests of Western countries and their allies; the emergence of new terrorist groups; alliances formed by various global terrorist franchises and the increasing incidence of terrorist attacks, have altogether redefined the global security terrain profoundly.

Terms such as 'jihadism', 'extremism', 'terrorism', and 'fundamentalism' have rampantly found expression in the deliberate targeting and mass murder of defenceless populations through armed violence, thus becoming the new face of public insecurity on both the domestic and international arena.

Apart from the fallouts from the global war on terror, the Arab Spring has also had a significant influence on the emergence of violent extremism particularly in West Africa. The toppling of the Libyan leader Muammar Ghaddafi in particular, and the resultant governance vacuum in that country facilitated the proliferation of weapons on a massive scale from Libya into other parts of the West African sub-region.

The Libyan situation also served as a boost for North African-based terrorist organisations such as Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) whose activities have witnessed a surge, spilling over into Mali and other neighbouring states.

The culmination of these dynamics, coupled with the sub-region's peculiar security challenges, has given rise to the chilling reality

Terror in the backyard gives West Africa security headaches - Part 1

of terror and the growing number of terrorist attacks in countries including Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, Niger, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Mali.

The latest major attack occurred at Salhan village in northern Burkina Faso along the border with Mali and Niger on June 5, 2021, claiming the lives of 132 innocent civilians, including children. Each successful terrorist attack in spite of existing local security safeguards hitherto considered as adequate, goes to underscore the vulnerabilities in the security architecture of not only the countries under attack, but the sub-region in its entirety.

Vulnerabilities of States
The vulnerabilities alluded to here include, among other things, porous frontiers that make illegal cross-border movements easy, large expanse of ungoverned spaces within the sub-region that provide habitat for fugitives, and even legitimate cross-border movements such as those guaranteed under the ECOWAS Protocol which, to a large extent, render mobility and infiltration easy for terrorist groups.

Byman (2005) dilates more on this point when he asserts that the most important form of assistance a state can offer a terrorist group is a safe haven. The existence of safe havens allow for easy recruitment, training and indoctrination of radicals.

When granted a safe haven in which they are free to operate, terrorist organisations become as potent as guerrilla groups. The large ungoverned space in Northern Mali provided a sanctuary that enabled AQIM to grow and become bold/militarised to launch assaults openly against the Government in that country.

Other enabling factors are the proliferation of small arms and

light weapons, large numbers of unskilled/unemployed youth, and the absence of regional mechanisms and systems for effective information sharing on the activities of criminal gangs.

Security experts observe that the terrorists' mode of operation seems to follow a similar pattern wherever they strike. In most instances they target Western establishments as well as countries that are considered sympathetic to, or supportive of the terror group Islamic State (IS), and places frequented by Western nationals.

They go in for 'soft targets' including hotels, restaurants, beach resorts and shopping centres. Having chosen a target location, the terrorists would plant their men there prior to the attack.

The bigger picture in the Sahel is a multiplicity of terrorist groups and affiliates across the region, from Algeria and Libya in north to Niger, Mauritania, Mali, Chad and Nigeria downwards. Mention can be made of Al Mulathamum Battalion (AMB), Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), Macina Liberation Front (MLF), Boko Haram, Islamic State of the Greater Sahara (ISGS), a regional affiliate of the terror group Islamic State (IS), and

of course AQIM, among others. These groups and their international franchise organisations support each other in the form of funds, weapons and other essential logistics.

Therefore, rather than just one simple situation, the jihadist threat in the region is a hydra-headed problem shrouded in complexity.

Having made that clarification, however, it is also important to register that the most active terrorist organisations that have gained prominence in the West African sub-

region currently are Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and its offshoot, MUJAO.

'Boko Haram' (translated simply as 'Western education is forbidden') came into existence in the northern Nigerian city of Maiduguri in 2002, launching attacks initially on Western interests in neighbouring states around the Lake Chad Basin.

The death of its leader, Mohammed Yusuf in police custody in 2009 saw the group becoming more radical and extending its attacks to Islamic institutions and moderate Muslims, including those in the group's home-country Nigeria. The kidnapping of 276 female students from the

Government Girls Secondary School at Chibok in Borno State in April 2014, is one of Boko Haram's high-profile exploits. In 2015, the group formally pledged allegiance to the global terrorist organisation Islamic State in the Levant (ISL) and assumed the title Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP).

For its part, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), originally known as the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), splintered in 1998 from the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), a key architect in the Algerian Civil War. In 2006, GSPC formally merged with global Al-Qaeda and assumed the name Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.

Following persistent counter-terrorism crackdowns by the Algerian state, the group scattered and established cells in some locations abroad including West Africa's Sahel region.

One of the group's initial exploits was an operation carried out in Northern Mali in April 2003, during which it abducted 32 Europeans. The hostages were eventually ransomed for a total of US\$6 million.

For the south, all the roads in global economic governance lead to inequality & vulnerability

By Bhumika Muchhala in New York

Last week's annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and G20 finance ministers illustrated that despite a historic debt crisis sweeping across developing countries and their urgent need for external financing for health and economic recovery, global economic institutions governed by rich countries do not possess the political will to deliver meaningful solutions. The inadequacy of the G20's debt relief framework, which has failed to restructure sovereign debt since its inception, stands without change or any fresh effort to mobilize private sector participation in debt relief.

Despite the broad call to recycle SDRs from rich to poor countries, the few countries that made commitments to do so are employing a conditional loan mechanism which will further drive fiscal consolidation measures in low-income countries.

Deprived of the policy independence and vaccines that allow advanced economies to enact massive fiscal stimulus programs and open their economies, many developing countries are facing a cycle of deflation and despair.

The IMF's flagship World Economic Outlook (WEO) confirms the entrenchment of global divergence between North and South by reporting that developed countries will return to pre-crisis growth projections in 2022 while developing countries' recovery will stretch to 2024, in a journey marked by "permanent economic scarring and revenue losses" for the South.

The WEO concludes that unemployment is a major driver of this gap and unemployment rates would be persistently higher if trouble with vaccinations leads to COVID-19 becoming 'endemic.'

A brand new (and conditional) loan to recycle SDRs?

In the months preceding the largest ever allocation of \$650 billion SDRs was issued by the IMF on August 23, a momentum to recycle SDRs from rich to poor countries was generated by a broad range of actors, including the UN, governments and civil society.

A milestone was achieved when G7 leaders committed to voluntarily channel \$100 billion of their unused SDRs. Despite this amount falling short of the IMF's own conservative estimate of the \$200 billion financing shortfall in low-income countries between 2021 and 2025, the move was welcomed in light of the unequal distribution of SDRs based on IMF members' quotas, where over 60% (or \$400 billion) of the SDRs go to developed countries.

After France announced it will channel 20% of its SDR allocation to African countries, with a focus on vaccine donations, all eyes were on the Annual Meetings for announcements by other rich countries.

In a virtual panel last week, IMF Managing Director Kristina Georgieva said that the "100 billion number is very achievable," alluding to several countries who had stated, but not yet committed exact amounts, their intentions to channel SDRs. Given the urgency of fiscal space and external financing across developing countries, more details were expected.

The Fund was tasked by the G20, G7 and IMF membership to design a mechanism to recycle the funds. In response, the IMF proposed two key pathways, that of scaling up the long-standing Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) concessional loan facility for low-income countries and establishing a new Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) that would be accessible to middle-income countries.

While both proposals were accepted by the G20 and the G24 group of developing countries in the IMF, years of critique looms over the PRGT for its fiscal consolidation conditions, including by the Fund itself. Empirical research has long illustrated how the PRGT shrinks public expenditure for indispensable social services and employees in health and education and promote regressive taxation measures that disproportionately hurt women and low-income communities.

Meanwhile, the RST, which is still being formulated and will be presented for approval to the Fund's Board in 2022, is the first loan facility to address balance of payment risks stemming from climate change and pandemics, featuring conditionality related to climate or pandemic preparedness designed and monitored in coordination with the World Bank.

There are three key concerns that already emerge in the little that is currently published or known of the Fund's design of the RST. First, access to the RST will be contingent on having a conditional IMF loan program already in place. According to one of



The IMF and G20 concluded their Annual Meetings without real solutions to debt crises, fiscal austerity and financing shortfalls across the Global South. Credit: hrw.org

the only published sources on the RST, it would likely 'top up' a regular IMF loan program.

Second, while many in the international community have asked the IMF to support countries with climate transition risks, including financing for a just transition, the RST should not be counted as climate finance. The latter is direct budget support for climate mitigation and adaptation, while the RST addresses budget distortions that may arise from climate change.

Third, it remains to be seen whether the RST's stated objective of catalyzing private and other multilateral financing will involve creating an enabling environment for the vested interests of private finance in creating investible climate-oriented schemes that yield more for profit than for people.

In a letter to G20 finance officials and the IMF, over 280 civil society organizations and networks, including researchers and academics, called for a set of principles to govern the fair channeling of SDRs to developing countries.

These principles include, for example, attachment of policy conditionality, accrual of more debt, avoiding the double-counting of SDRs as aid, and ensuring access for middle-income countries that are often excluded from multilateral schemes.

The letter stresses the importance of recycling SDRs through grant funding that facilitates budget support for public services and a fair recovery that supports climate justice, and tackles economic and gender inequality, including the unpaid care burden that women bear, and the pandemic exacerbated.

A critical opportunity to progressively alter the basic tenets of development financing in the current global financial architecture has been missed by the Fund and its rich country members.

G20 fails to address record high debt distress

As the G20's wholly inadequate debt moratorium concludes at the end of 2021, the World Bank reports that the debt burden of low-income countries rose to a record \$860 billion and half of the world's poorest countries are in external debt distress as a result of the pandemic. And yet, the G20's finance ministers again fail to advance real debt solutions such as debt relief, debt cancellation and fair restructuring mechanisms for countries requesting debt reduction.

Indeed, no new relief scheme or possibility of a debt standstill was announced by the G20 finance minister's communiqué, even with the imminent closure of its Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI).

Meanwhile, the G20 proved once again their lack of power to increase private sector creditor participation in debt reduction initiatives beyond mere reaffirmations. At the Spring Meetings in April 2021, Mohamed El-Erian, President of Queens' College, Cambridge and Chief Economic Advisor at Allianz, said at a webinar that the Paris Club process of case-by-case debt treatments is "not enough to overcome coordination problems in the private sector; the Paris Club needs to impose more of a stick for the private sector."

The inability to regulate

the private sector into debt relief participation alludes to how the 'chutzpah' of bondholders is a direct outcome of the way G20 leaders and their central banks have nurtured private finance to become so powerful that they now find themselves unable to curtail its might.

The Jubilee Debt Coalition stated in their press release that the G20 are asleep at the wheel as the debt crisis intensifies in low-income countries, pointing out that the DSSI has suspended less than a quarter of debt payments, while the G20's Common Framework for Debt Treatments (CF) has restructured no debt.

In particular, private creditors received the largest amount of debt payments, \$14.9 billion, and suspended just 0.2% of debt payments. In early 2021, Chad, Ethiopia and Zambia applied to the CF for debt restructuring. So far, none have been successful, in large part due to private lenders refusal to take part in debt reductions.

Meanwhile, the current rise in global interest rates will increase the cost of debt servicing, worsening debt crises and preventing indebted countries from both economic and health recovery.

In response to the wave of debt distress sweeping across the South, the UN Conference on Trade and Development has called for substantive debt relief and outright cancellation. The counterfactual, they state, is another lost decade for development marked by developing countries using their vital public finances for debt payments rather than investing in pandemic and economic recovery.

Even the Fund's Fiscal Monitor report highlights limitations of the international debt architecture to support orderly restructurings as a core risk for global pandemic recovery.

In stark contrast to the G20, several developing countries at the 76th UN General Assembly in September called for debt cancellation, comprehensive debt restructuring and debt relief linked to middle-income countries or to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Small island and developing states called for debt relief in the context of a new vulnerability index for the provision of multilateral support. Against these segmented scales of political and economic power, a democratization of decision-making in the global debt architecture is increasingly urgent.

As long as the multilateral response to the debt crisis generated by the economic fallout of the pandemic is governed by creditor countries, the decades old imperative to establish a debt workout mechanism capable of carrying out timely and fair restructuring, including debt cancellation, will remain elusive.

Fiscal austerity continues to exacerbate global inequalities

In Georgieva's policy agenda last week, she underscored that health spending is a priority and that where fiscal space is limited, "lifelines should be increasingly targeted toward the most vulnerable groups." However, in her institution's Fiscal Monitor, an explicit priority is placed on reducing deficit and debt levels, "undertaking structural fiscal reforms (such as pension or subsidies reform) ... and

committing to fiscal rules that lead to deficit reduction in the future."

The IMF's historical preoccupation with fiscal consolidation is a reflection of capital market and investor reasoning, in which the only path to securing access to low-cost borrowing for most developing countries is "strengthening the credibility of their fiscal policy."

Embedded within a financial architecture shaped by a short-term and speculative logic, and pro-austerity bias, the South's public budgets are subject to private interests that are in diametric opposition to equitable and rights-based development.

Consequently, the priority of securing the confidence of creditors is illustrated by Oxfam's finding that out of 107 IMF loans, 90 require fiscal consolidation measures across 73 countries. Instead of facilitating public investment in health, education and social protection systems, medium-term policy advice in the loans cut and freeze public wage bills, through which public employees are financed, and increase or expand value-added and general sales taxes.

As UNCTAD puts it, unless the autonomy and impunity enjoyed by global finance is seriously regulated, the potential of fiscal policy to play a structural role in sustained decent work creation and pursuing the right to equitable development is rendered defunct.

Deepening inequality and poverty across the South is a direct result of the failure of effective multilateralism. Between 65 and 75 million people have been thrown into poverty, the gap between the top 10% and bottom 80% mushrooms, and achieving the SDGs by 2030 is rendered close to fantasy in many developing countries.

Women have been dealt the most unequal hand, experiencing at least \$800 billion in lost income globally in 2020 while low-wage informal work and unpaid care work has increased beyond measure.

Ultimately, the principles of historical responsibility, distributive justice and interdependency of recovery must guide the centers of financial and economic clout to support rather than hinder health and economic recovery for the most vulnerable regions of the South.

Tinkering on the technocratic smokescreens of power and resource asymmetries created by centuries of colonial history, and more recently by four decades of neoliberalism that has institutionalized a pathologically unequal financialized world economy, will no longer suffice. Structural change is indispensable, precisely because the counterfactual may well be a lost decade for the vast majority of the human race.

Bhumika Muchhala is Senior Researcher and Policy Advocate on Global Economic Governance at the Third World Network.

Fair tax plan could prejudice global south

BRATISLAVA

An agreement between 136 countries aimed at forcing the world's biggest companies to pay a fair share of tax has been condemned by critics who say it will benefit richer states at the expense of the global South.

A deal agreed on October 8, and which covers around 90% of the global economy, includes plans for a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15%.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which led negotiations on the agreement, has said it will help end decades of countries undercutting each other on tax.

But independent organisations campaigning for fairer global taxes and financial transparency argue it will rob developing countries of revenues needed to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, ultimately pushing millions more people into poverty.

Matti Kohonen of the Financial Transparency Coalition (FTC) civil society group told IPS: "In principle, a global minimum corporate tax is a good idea, but only if the rate is right and implemented properly. Under this deal, the main beneficiaries are the OECD - which led the negotiations - and its largest members."

Calls for a global minimum corporate tax rate have grown in recent decades amid increasing scrutiny on the tax practices of multinationals.

The OECD deal, which has an aspirational implementation date of 2023, is designed to set a floor on corporate taxation and stop companies shifting profits to countries with the lowest tax rates they can find.

The OECD says the minimum global rate would see countries collect around USD150 billion in new revenues annually, and that taxing rights on more than USD125 billion of profit will be moved to countries where big multinationals earn their income.

But independent groups say the agreement falls far short of what is needed for a fair global

corporate taxation system and has ignored the needs and wishes of developing nations, which rely more heavily on corporate tax than richer states.

According to OECD research Corporate Tax Statistics: Third Edition (oecd.org), in 2018, African countries raised 19% of overall revenue from corporate taxation as opposed to 10% among OECD states.

Critics point out that the 15% floor agreed to is well below the average corporate tax rate in industrialised countries of around 23%, potentially creating a 'race to the bottom' as countries cut their existing corporate rates.

It is thought a number of developing states had wanted a higher minimum global rate.

Civil society groups critical of the agreement also have concerns over many exemptions in the deal - there is a ten-year grace period for companies on some aspects of the agreement, and some industries such as extractives and financial services, are exempt.

Meanwhile, they highlight, only 100 of the world's largest companies would be affected by part of the agreement aimed at getting highly profitable multinationals to pay more taxes in countries where they earn profits. Moreover, the minimum global tax will only apply to companies with a turnover of more than 750 million USD, which would exclude 85-90% of the world's multinationals.

The fact that countries will have to waive digital services taxation rights, which are important sources of revenue for some developing states, is also problematic. And there are concerns that in many cases extra tax paid by corporations 'topping up' their tax bill to 15% will go to countries where they are headquartered. In many cases, this will be in already rich nations such as the US, UK, and Europe.

Chennai Mukumba of the Tax Justice Network Africa advocacy group told IPS: "We have an opportunity to reform the global tax system to make it right for global south countries,



Questions are asked whether the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) agreement to force the world's biggest companies to pay a fair share of tax will benefit the global South. Credit: Hugo Ramos/Unsplash

but we are settling for so much less. This is a lost opportunity to balance the scales, to put fairness at the centre of the system."

The deal could have a negative effect on African countries, in particular, she pointed out.

Kenya and Nigeria are among four countries that have not signed up for the deal.

"A lot of African countries currently have corporate tax rates of 25-30%. If

the minimum rate is 15%, there is a great incentive for companies to shift profits elsewhere," Mukumba said.

"Kenya hasn't signed up to the deal because it is trying to raise revenue from its digital services taxation rights. It may end up buckling to the pressure [to join the deal]," she added.

OECD impact assessment studies for the deal published in 2020 <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/>

economic-impact-assessment-webinar-presentation-october-2020.pdf showed that developing nations would gain as much as 4% extra corporate tax revenue.

The organisation told IPS this month (OCT) that it is now expecting those extra revenues to be even higher because of changes to the agreement since last year.

However, studies Pillar 1 impact assessment

- 04.10.21 FINAL (oxfamireland.org) by the global aid group Oxfam estimate that 52 developing countries would receive around only 0.025 percent of their collective GDP in additional annual tax revenue under the redistribution of taxing rights.

The group also says a 25% global minimum corporate tax rate would raise nearly USD 17 billion more for the world's 38 poorest countries - which are home to almost 39% of the global population - as compared to a 15 percent rate.

Speaking just after the agreement between the 136 countries was reached, Oxfam said in a press release that the deal was "a mockery of fairness that robs pandemic-ravaged developing countries of badly needed revenue for hospitals and teachers and better jobs".

It added: "The world is experiencing the largest increase in poverty in decades and a massive explosion in inequality, but this deal will do little or nothing to halt either."

Despite the criticism, OECD officials are adamant that the agreement will benefit developing nations.

They point out that it does not affect any state's national corporate tax rates, and that the 10-year grace period only applies to a very small amount of

income - 5% of the carrying value of a firm's tangible assets and payrolls in a jurisdiction.

Grace Perez Navarro, Deputy Director of the OECD's Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, told IPS: "The global minimum tax is aimed at stopping tax competition that is causing a race to the bottom in corporate tax rates."

"It does not require countries that have higher rates than 15% to lower their corporate tax rate, it just ensures that those countries will be able to collect at least 15%, no matter what type of creative tax planning a multinational comes up with."

"It will also reduce the incentive of multinationals to artificially shift their profits to low tax jurisdictions because they will still have to pay a minimum of 15%."

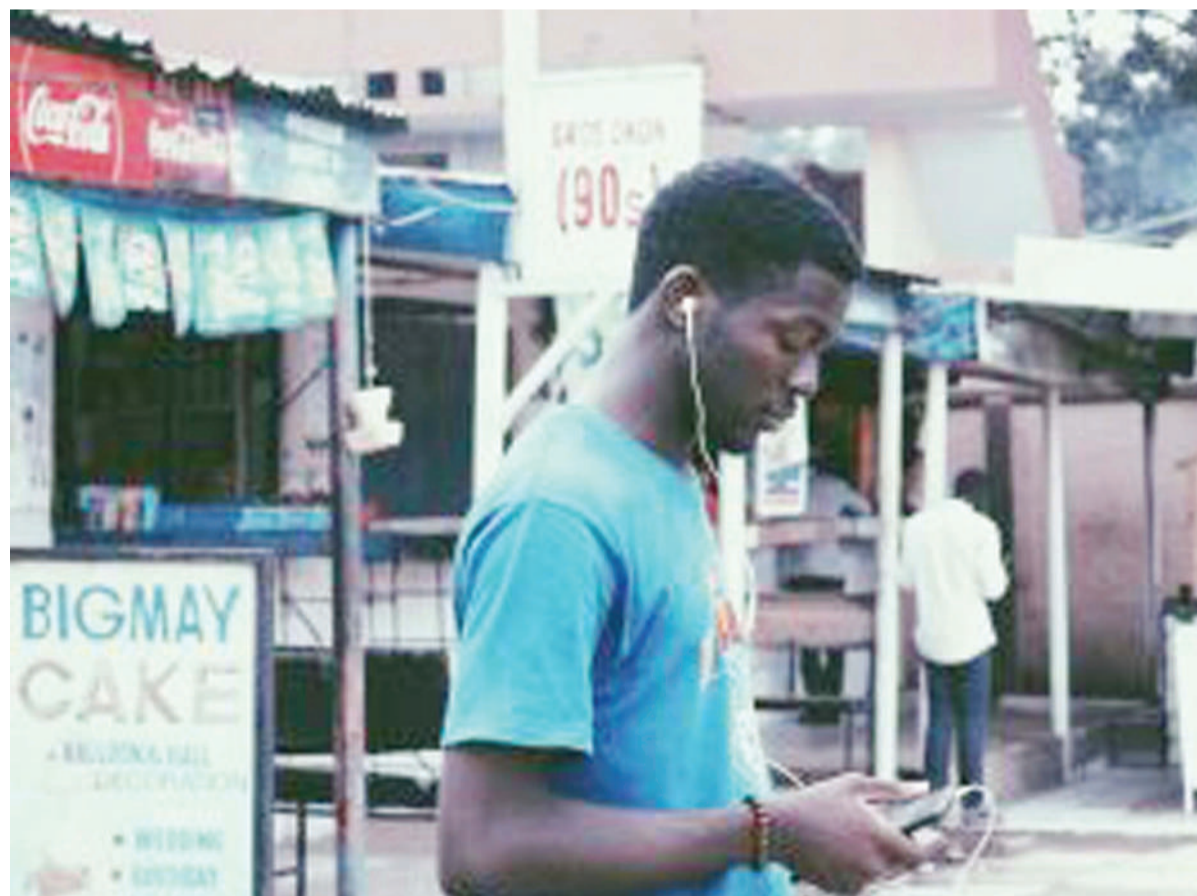
She added: "It will also relieve the pressure on developing countries to offer excessive, often wasteful tax incentives while providing a carve-out for low-taxed activities that have real substance. This means that developing countries can still offer effective incentives that attract genuine, substantive foreign direct investment."

But Mukumba said the problem is not that the deal will not bring any extra revenue to developing nations, but that richer nations will get much more out of it.

"Developing nations want a global corporate tax minimum, they have pushed for it in the past. They will get revenue under this deal, yes, but nowhere near as much as richer nations will get out of it," she said.

This is problematic at a time when many developing nations are struggling with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and need revenue.

"This [deal] will mainly support recovery efforts in the G7 countries instead of developing countries which have been most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and are more in debt, preventing them from generating enough revenues to recover from the crisis and ultimately throwing millions more people into extreme poverty," said Kohonen.



Nigeria and Kenya have not signed up for the fair tax deal. Credit: Muhammadtaha Ibrahim Ma'aji/Unsplash

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 UMJUJUYO 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

By Kaila Nichols

African-American women make history, find sisterhood while climbing Mount Kilimanjaro

WHEN Diana Kinard and Dawn Frazier first met at a marathon in 2019, they quickly bonded over one goal on their bucket lists: to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

Together, the two came up with the idea of a collective that's "inspiring Black women to embrace their next chapter of growth through travel and shared experiences," according to their website. They bounced back and forth for an official name, but settled on Shades of Favor to reflect their determination and faith to accomplish this goal.

"We decided that we were favored because we were still able to even think about doing something like [climbing Mount Kilimanjaro]. This was in our thought process and it scared us; but still, we were intrigued by it. We were still encouraged," said Frazier.

"And the fact that we're all different shades, we took that into consideration," Kinard added. "Even when you see us all together, you see all these

beautiful hues."

In August, they believe they became the first group of Black women to climb Mount Kilimanjaro -- the largest free-standing mountain in the world. But their intention wasn't to make history.

Before the climb officially began, the Shades of Favor group spent four months preparing, knowing that training and gathering gear would be essential to their success.

"We wanted to create a safe space, so when we're doing something that hard that we could be ourselves and have the conversations that would probably only be comfortable with certain groups," said Frazier.

There were some challenges to planning the trip. Of the original 23 women who planned on going, nine actually joined the group -- all over the age of 40.

"COVID-19 hit, and then people started dropping off, which was under-



Before the climb officially began, the Shades of favour group spent four months preparing, knowing that training and gathering gear would be essential to their success.

standable. Dawn and I are still going, if y'all want to step out on faith with us, let us know," Kinard said.

Before making the climb, the group knew that training would be essential to success and prepared for about four months.

"We knew through all the research you need to be in the best shape of your life," Kinard said.

The group started bonding even before the climb as they shared workout routines in anticipation of the journey. Kinard said they began to push and motivate each other.

They began the climb on Aug. 18 at 2:30 a.m. and took six days to reach the summit from their entry point. Kinard and Frazier hiked to Uhuru Peak, the highest point, which sits at 19,340 feet.

While it wasn't an easy task, the two women say they gained so much on the journey, including friendship with a supportive group of Black women.

The trek on Mount Kilimanjaro took six days from the Shades of Favor collective's entry point to the summit.

"It was so amazing to just sit around the table, eat dinner with the whole group [and] talk about everybody's day," Frazier said.

"Every day you saw something beautiful or a plant or flower that you know you're not going to see anywhere else in the world," Kinard added.

During their travels, Kinard said they also got to experience Tanzania. "The people are so warm and they were so happy," she said. "They were so happy to see us. We got that everywhere we went."

The women are still in contact. Kinard and Frazier are currently planning to check off another item on their bucket list: a trip to Machu Picchu in Peru.

"We destroyed all those stereotypes on that mountain. We get along, we talk, we're honest with each other," Kinard continued. "We had doctors, nurses, entrepreneurs, brokers ... all kinds of different careers but we all came together and got up that mountain, and it was an amazing thing."

Poaching a threat to Africa's wildlife

By Special Correspondent

SAFARI Operators Association of Zimbabwe president Emmanuel Fundira has said, while game meat production can contribute to economic growth in the country, there was need to curb poaching activities.

In a survey conducted in eastern Madagascar, it was revealed that 95 per cent of those interviewed said they had eaten at least one protected species. But the majority showed a preference for meat from domestic animals, suggesting that game hunting could be greatly reduced if alternative sources of animal protein were affordable and available.

Studies have also shown that elsewhere



on the continent, people still hunt wild animals to feed their families, while in other places hunting is done on a commercial basis.

The study said illegal game hunting was complex and was closely linked to various factors that differ from place to place.

However, wildlife experts said there was not much research done to look into illegal game hunting, while there is a lot of research on ivory

and rhino horn poaching. There is also poaching for elephant tusks, horns or other animal body parts, which experts say is a threat to African wildlife.

Fundira said conservationists needed to find ways to deal with illegal hunting activities.

"My view and experience is that game meat production is grossly underdeveloped. It is an area with great potential and can contribute significantly to economic

growth, including nutritional aspects which are well-known.

"For example in South Africa, commercial game meat commands an annual value of R12 billion, with a significant proportion going towards exports," Fundira said.

"It is for this reason that we should move away from poaching valuable assets and instead formalize game meat production for the benefit of the economy," he said.

Fundira said in many

African countries, there was little or no research into the illegal game meat trade due to the high cost of research which is often beyond the means of the already over-stretched wildlife authorities.

He said surveys on parks and wildlife sanctuaries had identified illegal hunting for game as the key threat to wildlife conservation in African countries.

"Surveys show that the most worrying indicator is that large-bodied mammals are now well below their expected numbers."

In Zimbabwe, some of the endangered species facing extinction include the black rhinoceros and elephants that are hunted for their ivory and meat.

New education initiatives due to follow France's soft power drive

By Special Correspondent

FRANCE is strengthening partnerships with the African higher education sector - a move perceived to be part of a broader strategy of higher education diplomacy or 'soft power' aimed at strengthening African alliances to serve France's cultural, economic and political agendas.

The challenges in Africa-France cooperation in higher education, along with ways to promote initiatives, were highlighted by higher education stakeholders at the New Africa-France summit held in the southern French city of Montpellier on 8 October, which included a focus on higher education, research and innovation.

France, which was ranked eighth worldwide in 2019 on the Soft Power 30 education sub-index, has had its influence in Africa chipped away over time.

Against this backdrop, Prof Juma Shabani from the University of Burundi explains the significance of the Montpellier event: "The summit comes in with a new format, new actors and new themes, including higher education, just as France's influence in the former colonial power's historic turf is increasingly contested by world powers including Russia and China and amid political problems with some African countries, including Algeria and Mali."

The summit aims to reinvent Africa-France relations in several fields, including higher education and research, which go back more than a century and are, therefore, built on a solid foundation, said Shabani, the director of the doctoral school at the University of Burundi and a former UNESCO development director.

"The Africa-France summit served to strengthen France's soft power, given the direct influence it will have on the African youth," he told University World News. This is because recommendations about the development of higher education are relevant to the employability and youth self-employment in Africa.

The summit, which for the first time ever, did not convene African heads of state but rather civil society actors such as academics, researchers and students, among others, follows on French President Emmanuel Macron's speech in November 2017 at the University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, where he announced the start of a new relationship with African countries with a focus that includes access to higher education.

Several initiatives were launched at the summit, including supporting programmes to enable greater student mobility, a five-year €130 million (about US\$151 million) fund to support African digital start-ups through the Digital Africa initiative, which could help to tackle graduate unemployment and the creation of a three-year €30 million fund for democracy in Africa, in which African

universities could play an important part. In addition, a 'House of African worlds and Diasporas', will be established. "This 'house' will provide a meeting place for Africans from Africa and the diaspora to share and exchange knowledge in various areas, including higher education, African cultures and languages, as well as providing various learning opportunities, including the learning of African languages," said Shabani.

Dr Laté Lawson, the research manager at the UK- and Africa-based Education Sub-Saharan Africa (ESSA), told University World News: "Any event for Africans in the diaspora should be connected back to Africa to understand, engage with and support higher education actors on the continent."

"Working in silos will not help, as those in the diaspora, without meaningful dialogue, may view things from a different lens compared to those based there [in Africa]," Lawson added.

Amina Bouzguenda-Zeghal, the CEO of the Université Paris-Dauphine in Tunis, the first international campus of Université Paris Dauphine, told University World News: "For me, the main interest of the New Africa-France Summit is to listen to young people from Africa and France instead of to the exchange of speeches between officials."

"Promoting cooperation for higher education and innovation starts with understanding the needs and ambitions of young people in Africa," said Bouzguenda-Zeghal.

"It was interesting to question the lexicon used in the context of cooperation. For example: Should the name of the French Development Agency be replaced by the Co-investment Agency?"

But, added Bouzguenda-Zeghal, despite the importance of the mobility of young people between countries to enable cooperation, no questions were raised during the summit about visas, after France announced the restriction on the number of visas for countries in North Africa, including Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, a few days earlier.

According to the summit website, there are 82,994 African students studying in French universities and higher education institutions.

According to Bouzguenda-Zeghal, there was scope to strengthen Africa-France cooperation on research, higher education and innovation as only 2% of France's aid to Africa goes towards research and development.

"We note that a good number of young graduates in medicine and engineering (especially in computer science) are trained in African universities and find their jobs in France," she said. However, she added that those trained in research, development and innovation should benefit Africa first.

Renewed calls made to protect girls' rights, end child marriages in East, southern Africa

By Special Correspondent

WHEN girls are forced to drop out of school for marriage; often well before their 18th birthday and seldom as a choice, it perpetuates a lifetime poverty and the denial of girls' rights and ability to fulfill their potential.

Under the joint UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage (GPECM), experts on ending child marriage gathered last week to recommit to these efforts, with a particular focus on East and Southern Africa. The event was attended by more than 200 participants and covered issues ranging from high-level leadership commitment, the engagement of youth and community led organizations, to financing for scale-up and sustainability. In this region, COVID-19 has led to a reversal in gains made over the past two decades and is expected to contribute to 10 million more child marriages as socio-economic pressures mount and poverty deepens.

The GPECM was launched in 2016 with a focus on 12 high prevalence countries globally. It has recorded significant successes, particularly in India

and Ethiopia, where numbers have begun to decrease. Yet as the programme commemorated five years in an event on 11 and 12 October, this region continues to be a priority due to the high prevalence and incidence of child marriage: 53 per cent of girls in Mozambique, 40 per cent in Ethiopia, 34 per cent in Uganda and 29 per cent in Zambia are married by age 18.

The high-level event was opened by Graça Machel, founder of the Graça Machel Trust, followed by Mutale Nalumango, Vice President of Zambia.

Machel emphasized the need to work with men and boys to address toxic masculinities that contribute to the high rates of child marriage. She also called for stronger community-based interventions to end this practice.

Nalumango said her country was investing in girls and redoubling efforts to educate communities about the direct and long-term impacts of child marriage. Their programmes also focused on girls who were already in marriage: "Our government will not give up on them. Access to education, economic opportunities and health services, including HIV

prevention and sexual and reproductive health, will help enrich their lives and enhance their futures," she said.

Nalumango warned that if Africa is to fulfill its vision as outlined in the African Union's Agenda 2063, cross-sectoral action is required at all levels to address the root causes of child marriage. These include poverty, lack of opportunities for girls, girls' lack of access to education, negative social and cultural practices, and gender inequality.

P r e g n a n c y - r e l a t e d

is the leading cause of death among girls aged 15 to 19

Dr. Bannet Ndyabangi, UNFPA Regional Director for East and Southern Africa, described his personal experiences as a medical doctor in Uganda where he witnessed childbirth complications in girls who were not physically mature enough to give birth. In East and Southern Africa, pregnancy-related complications are the leading cause of death among adolescents aged 15 to 19. He called on governments to enforce laws and multi-sectoral education and sexual and reproductive health and rights programmes

that give boys and girls the information and tools to protect their own health and well-being and prevent child marriages.

SADC Parliamentary Forum Secretary-General Boema Sekgoma said that the SADC Model Law on Child Marriage had made inroads in shifting legislation in the region, to provide enabling legal and policy environments to end child marriage through inter-linkages between comprehensive sexuality education, early and unintended pregnancies, and child marriage.

In the past five years, at least 10 out of 15 SADC Member States have made considerable progress in putting measures in place to end child marriage. And at least eight SADC Member States have included comprehensive sexuality education in school curricula to sensitize children on child marriage and the legal age for marriage.

However, greater efforts are required to disseminate information and materials at a grassroots level, working in partnership with civil society, and encouraging role models and mentors to take up the cause.

We will never give up the slavery reparations fight, say Caribbean rastafarians

DOMINICA

The Rastafarian organisations in the Caribbean are determined that the issue of slavery reparations will emerge from the eclipse of COVID-19.

As the world deals with the impacts of efforts to contain the virus' spread and regional governments tackle vaccine hesitancy and a wave of misinformation, issues not directly related to COVID-19 have had to be temporarily shelved.

However, members of the Caribbean Rastafari Organization are determined to keep the movement for slavery reparations in the minds of citizens and on the agenda of policymakers.

"From the time of emancipation in 1834, our ancestors have been clamoring for reparations. Some leaders have taken heed to the calling, some have ignored it, but the Rastafari nation from its inception has been appealing for reparations, and up to today, we are on that platform," chairperson of the Caribbean Rastafari Organization, Burnet Sealy told IPS.

Sealy is known as Ras Bongo Wisely Tafari - part of a move by members of the Rastafarian faith to change the colonial names given at birth and advance the internal healing aspect of the reparations process.

He is a member of the Reparations Committee of Saint Lucia, one of 15 national reparations organizations in the member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) bloc.



Ras Bongo Wisely Tafari (far right) holds on to the CARICOM's symbol of the reparatory justice movement, the reparations baton, in Castries, Saint Lucia. Credit: Alison Kentish/IPS

In 2013, the group of nations established the CARICOM Reparations Commission (CRC), a body charged with making the 'moral, ethical and legal' argument for reparatory justice for organizations of the Caribbean Community.

The CRC is headed by Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies.

"It is the greatest crime ever committed against humanity - a crime whose harm and suffer-

ing continue to haunt humanity in this 21st century. A crime that has anchored the 21st century within a legacy of untold human suffering, and there is no carpet in the world that is big enough to brush this under," Sir Hilary told a Slave Trade Remembrance Day online discussion earlier this year.

The movement for reparations in the Caribbean has risen and waned in the last decade. Changes in administration on some islands, with ensuing

shifts in policy directions and budgetary priorities, meant that funding for national committees has also been wavered.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its consequent limitations on movement and in-person gatherings have added another obstacle to the movement.

However, Ras Bongo Wisely Tafari says that despite the challenges, the Rastafarian movement remains committed to healing from the effects of slavery.

"Reparations Cannot Die," he told IPS.

"We have been educating the masses on what reparations are all about. People think that reparations is just about money, but we are letting them know that this is not true. Reparations really mean repairing the damage that was done as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery, continuing to colonial rule. The damage was done mentally, physically, spiritually, financially, culturally."

CARICOM, which is home to about 16 million people, has its reparations battle fought as part of a 10-Point Plan. Signed in 2013, the plan calls for:

- A full, formal apology for slavery by the governments of Europe;
- A repatriation program to reset the descendants of the over 10 million Africans who were forcefully transported to the Caribbean;
- An Indigenous Peoples Development Program to begin healing from genocide on the

native Caribbean populations;

• The establishment of cultural institutions like museums and research centers;

• A program to remedy the public health crisis includes the African descended population in the Caribbean, which has the highest incidence of hypertension and type 2 diabetes globally. Regional health experts and historians say this is directly related to the 'nutritional experience, physical and emotional brutality and overall stress profiles associated with slavery, genocide, and apartheid;

• Programs to eradicate the high levels of illiteracy that stem from slavery;

• The establishment of an African Knowledge Program;

• Psychological rehabilitation programs;

• Technology transfer;

• Debt cancellation.

The argument has been won that reparatory justice is inevitable. The issue is how best to achieve it. Who should have the authority to conceptualize and structure it and how to ensure that while it has a reparatory function, it is also at the same time creating a greater sense of justice and humanity in the world," says Beckles.

The road to reparatory justice has been tough to conceptualize in the Caribbean, and in the face of issues like climate change, biodiversity loss, and a global pandemic, slavery reparations often plummet on the list of priorities for governments.

For champions of the cause, however, the commitment is unwavering.

"It is our responsibility to maintain that focus of our ancestors and see to it that we have reparations," Ras Bongo Wisely Tafari told IPS.

"This is not a quick fix. It is a long journey, but we refuse to give up the fight. Reparations are a must."

DOMINICA

In war-torn Syria, the support of Education Cannot Wait (ECW) - the United Nations global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises - is bringing positive, life-changing educational opportunities tailored to children like 11-year-old Ali.

Ali, who lives in Raqqa with his two siblings and parents, has to work to help support his family. He and his brother did not attend school. Ali heard about registration for ECW-supported educational activities near the industrial area in which he works. They are part of courses being offered in three centres in the city - alongside psychosocial support for children who have experienced war for most of their lives.

Ali initially registered his siblings in the ECW-supported programme but held out himself for fear of losing his job. The centre proposed a flexible learning schedule - one that would allow the brothers to work and attend classes. Programme officials had to convince his family and employers at the industrial centre that school is essential for children's development. Now he is part of a class of 16 children from the area who attend classes from 7:30 am to 10:00 am. After class, they go to work.

Ali's story is one of the many stories of vulnerable children and adolescents embroiled in Syria's protracted conflict that ECW's investments are helping bring back to school in partnership with education partners on the ground. ECW's multi-year response in Syria was initiated in 2017 through an initial investment which was further expanded into a Multi-Year Resilience Programme which will continue until 2023 with a cumu-

Bringing quality education to Syria's most vulnerable, crisis-impacted children: Their education cannot wait



Kawthar, 13, takes notes while attending Grade 3 at a UNICEF-supported self-learning centre in Al-Hasakeh, northeast Syria. She says she always wanted to be like other children and grab her bag and go to school like other children. With Education Cannot Wait assisted schooling, this dream has become a reality. © UNICEF/Syria 2020/Deilil Souleiman

lative budget of US\$45 million.

"Too many children and adolescents in Syria have only seen the brutal reality of war, forced displacement, and the hardship of living in areas affected by armed conflict in their short lives. For them, education is a beacon of hope. It is an opportunity to thrive and become positive change-makers to rebuild their communities and ensure a more peaceful and prosperous future for all," said Yasmine Sherif, the Director of Education Cannot Wait. "Working together with our partners on the ground, ECW is dedicated to fulfilling the right to a quality education for the most vulnerable girls and boys in Syria."

"Save the Children has key actor status in the education sector in Syria and has been involved since the inception of ECW's multi-year response, providing sector-specific technical expertise and guiding in the development of a programme framework that is responsive to the extensive education needs of children in Syria," Sara Dabash, Awards Officer for the ECW programme in Syria, told IPS.

Children and adolescents already suffering from the impacts of a decade-long war are also bearing the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly due to school closures and movement restrictions.

"The disruption of access to quality education for children has dramatically impacted learning and child well-being. In addition, lack of access to safe learning environments and continued isolation exposes children to higher risks of child labour, early marriage, and other negative coping mechanisms. The limited social interactions also compromise access to psychosocial support and other protection services," Dabash said.

According to Dabash, blended learning options have been introduced, using devices such as mobile phones for remote learning. This option has its downsides as many children have limited to no access to phones or internet connections.

Figures provided by Save the Children put almost 7 million people in need of humanitarian education assistance. Children make up 97 percent of that number. Dabash says, however, that in the "determined locations of implementation within the ECW programme in northeast Syria, Save the Children, with the support of its partners, has identified around 15,000 children as the most vulnerable and in need of education assistance."

Since 2017, ECW is also partnering with UNICEF to provide quality education services for the most vulnerable children in the country.

"With funding from ECW, UNICEF provides children across Syria with opportunities to continue their learning through a holistic package of activities tailored to the needs of the children. To support learning, the package of activities generally includes providing learning supplies and psychosocial support through recreational activities. Where classrooms do not exist or continue to be unsafe or overcrowded, we establish new classrooms and rehabilitate existing ones," Karen Bryner, Education Specialist and ECW Programme Manager in Syria, told IPS.

Bryner says the partnership provides training, teaching supplies and stipend payments to teachers.

The goal is to get as many girls and boys as possible enrolled and attending school regularly. According to UNICEF, "children have experienced psychological distress due to violence and instability. Many have missed years of education, with over 2.4 million currently out of school."

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged that goal with intermittent school closures. However, Bryner says when face-to-face instruction was not an option, the ECW-supported students transitioned to electronic and paper-based distance education.

"Various modalities were used over the last year, including What-

sApp groups by teachers to deliver daily instruction where connectivity allowed; blended learning with face-to-face instruction two days a week and home-based learning (worksheets and assignments) for the other days, conducting lessons in smaller groups closer to children's homes, and home delivery of biweekly learning packs and retrieval of students' work by teachers," she told IPS.

The story of 13-year-old Kawthar is a testament to the positive impact of ECW's support for the most marginalised children Displaced five times and suffering from growth-related issues due to stunting, she could not walk to school, and her family could not afford transportation. Two years ago, Kawthar, originally from Al-Hasakeh City, enrolled in the ECW-supported self-learning programme implemented by UNICEF - a course that gives out-of-school children the tools to catch up to their peers. She also receives transportation to classes.

"I always wanted to be like all other children; to grab my bag and head to school; to read, write and learn," says Kawthar. "I wish for all children to be able to go to school. And I certainly hope that nobody gets displaced anymore and that we all remain safe."

According to UNICEF, with ECW funding, since November 2020, the self-learning programme has been able to reach 2,600 out-of-school children in Al-Hasakeh. Despite this progress, challenges remain to fulfil the right to inclusive, quality education for every child in Syria.

UNICEF states that there has been a 20 percent increase in the number of children in need of humanitarian assistance, and agencies will need scaled-up support as they continue to bring hope to Syria's children.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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POOR TENANTS FORCED TO STAY IN OUTSKIRTS DUE TO RESTRICTIVE DOLLAR-RENTED APARTMENTS

By Francis Kajubi

In recent days, Dar es Salaam has seen an increase in high rise apartment buildings located in the central business district and posh areas close to the CBD which, unfortunately remain largely unoccupied.

The majority of the city's low and middle income residents cannot afford renting the expensive apartments which lease in US dollars per square metre hence choose to stay in the suburbs, dozens of kilometres away from the CBD.

"Only if I am sick do I wake up past 5am in the morning which is my routine wake up time," said Shadya Salum who is a fish vendor currently staying at Mbagala Rangitatu in the outskirts of the city although her working station is Mzizima Fish market in the CBD.

"I am not strong enough to use muscles and force my way against to commuter buses against strong men which is normally the case at rush hours," the 20 year old said. Salum's routine is all too common among many low and middle income families in Dar es Salaam. According to her, she spends 2,000/- a day to cover return fare between Mbagala and the Mzizima market, a distance of 15.5 kilometers which is covered in 38 minutes during off peak hours.

Shadya has been selling fish to Mbagala residents for a year and a half now after relocating to the city from Mtwara region, her hometown, in search of better life. She is a single mother with one son left behind in the care of her mother in Mtwara. A primary school drop-out due to pregnancy, she rents at 30,000/- a month.

Because of hiked renting rates of houses in the CBD and adjacent areas such as Kurasini, Chang'ombe, Magomeni, Upanga and others, most low income and middle income families stay in the shilling rented cheap residential units in slums of Tegeta,

Kimara and Gongo la Mboto.

In late August, The Guardian published a story on concerns raised by real estate developers and managers who are blaming decision to relocate the central government's headquarters to Dodoma, the country's central region, since earlier 2017.

The real estate managers said despite cutting down rental and purchasing prices, apartments remain empty without tenants nor outright buyers because elite civil servants and business people have relocated to Dodoma city.

Along new Bagamoyo road where most of the properties are 50 percent vacant, a neighbourhood that is booming with new high rise residential and commercial buildings, rental prices stand at an average of US\$12 per square meter compared to the CBD's US\$14 per square meter. Apartments are sold at an average of US\$130,000 compared to the city center's average of US\$280,000, prices that remain off-limits for many people.

In the posh neighbourhoods of Masaki, Oyster-bay and Upanga, rental prices for apartments with three to four bedrooms ranges between US\$4,500 and US\$6,000 month while purchasing prices hover around US\$500,000 and 1,500,000. The real estate managers however argue that the prices are lower compared to US\$8,000 per month and US\$2million for renting and buying respectively.

One of the tenants at Masaki who introduced himself by a single name Stanley who resides at JKM Apartments, said that he has no problem with the prices. Declining to mention how much he pays per month Stanley said that properties in Dar es Salaam are affordable. "I have no problem with the rental prices, in fact, Dar es Salaam properties are rented at affordable prices compared to other cities that I have been to such as Lagos and Johannesburg," he said.

Jacqueline Samson, Property

manager, Skyline Property Limited said that the 20 floors skyscraper along new Bagamoyo road is rented at US\$10 per square meter excluding value added tax but US\$12 with VAT. She said that the minimum lettable space is 50 square meters. The buildings have two wings covering 800 square meters.

"The rental price is negotiable and can even be lower depending on how much space the customer needs. We charge US\$50 a month for parking one car while water bills are inclusive to the rental charges except that every tenant owns his own electricity meter. Letting period starts with a minimum of three months," Samson said.

Clarah Herman, Sales Supervisor at Victoria Noble Center along new Bagamoyo road, with 15 floors said the renting price is US\$10 per square meter while minimum purchasing price is US\$168,000 for a three bedroom apartment.

"Most people ask, why choose the Noble Center? The answer is simple, it has office spaces in the front and residential apartments in the back. Its spacious offices start with 53 square meters," Herman argued.

When asked what initiatives the government is taking to stimulate the real estate business in Dar es Salaam, Deputy Minister of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Developments, Dr Angelina Mabula said that the role of the government is just creating a conducive environment for doing business.

"The government is implementing mega projects in Dar es Salaam such as construction of new roads, expansion of the port and the rapid transit network to connect the city just to attract new investments," Dr Mabula said adding that government officials are going around the world to lobby investors to come and do business in the country. She said the government has also directed



A bird's eye view of Treasure Victoria Apartments in Dar es Salaam which is one of the latest skyscrapers decorating the commercial capital's skyline. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

municipalities and district councils to allocate land for industrial parks so that investors face no bureaucracy.

Commenting on the subject, Tanzania Private Sector Foundation's Executive Director, Francis Nanai said that business was generally disturbed by the central government's relocation to Dodoma and not only the real estate sector. Nanai said TPSF has been working closely with the government in lobbying investors to come and stimulate Dar es Salaam's economy.

"But as TPSF and the government are taking such joint initiatives, property managers should think of further cutting down rental and purchasing prices. The properties

are being marketed at high prices that ordinary people can't afford," he advised.

Thabit Massa, Dar es Salaam Principal Trade Officer backed Nanai's view by blaming property investors for demanding prohibitive prices. "You may find that 80 percent of properties in Dar es Salaam are leased and sold in US dollars. In developed countries, skyscrapers in city centers are leased at low prices so low income earners find homes to live in contrary to what the situation is in most African cities where worthy people prefer to live in such blocks leaving the poor to opt for residential units in the outskirts," said Massa.

Mt Kenya glaciers to disappear by 2040

NAIROBI

Mount Kenya glaciers will disappear in the next two decades because of climate change, a new United Nations (UN) backed report warned Tuesday.

The report from the World Meteorological Organization and other agencies, released ahead of the UN climate conference in Scotland that starts October 31, forecast that on current rates all glaciers on Mt Kenya alongside - Tanzania's Kilimanjaro and Uganda's Rwenzoris - would be gone by the 2040s.

Only three mountains in Africa are covered by glaciers: the Mount Kenya massif, the Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda, and Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Even though the glaciers are too small to act as significant water reservoirs, WMO underlined their touristic and scientific importance.

Mount Kenya, an extinct volcano that is a key attraction site for tourists because of its glaciers, is Africa's second highest peak after Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro. It is expected to be deglaciated a decade sooner, the WMO said, which will make it one of the first entire mountain ranges to lose glacier cover due to human-induced climate change, according to the report.

"The rapid shrinking of the last remaining glaciers in eastern Africa, which are expected to melt entirely in the near future, signals the threat of ... irreversible change to the Earth system," WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in the report.

A report in 2017 said that the Lewis Glacier, the largest on Mt Kenya, has decreased by 90 percent in volume since 1934, with the highest rates of ice volume loss occurring around the turn of the century.

The State of the Climate in Africa 2020 report highlights Africa's disproportionate vulnerability but also reveals how investing in climate adaptation, early warning systems, and weather and climate services can pay off. It said climate change contributed to mounting food insecurity, poverty and displacement in Africa last year.

Apart from worsening drought which impacted Agriculture there was extensive flooding recorded in Kenya and other countries in East and West Africa in 2020, the report noted, while a locust infestation of historic proportions, which began a year earlier, continued to wreak havoc.

Bank to bankroll innovative start-ups with 1bn/- seed funding

By Property Watch Reporter

INNOVATIVE financial startup owners in the country have an opportunity to get funding from NMB Bank Plc which has set aside a 1bn/- as the first ever sandbox environment to back them.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam mid this week when he launched the sandbox investment, Bank of Tanzania's Deputy Governor, Dr Bernard Kibesse commended the bank for the initiative that will allow the startups to partner and work with NMB for testing and delivering innovative financial solutions.

Dr Kibesse said the NMB sandbox environment initiative is a noble idea that will promote innovation and creative solutions which will greatly boost growth of the financial sector and help banks to improve service delivery.

"Today's event goes hand in hand with the government's initiative to support technological breakthrough driven by youth in the country," he noted while noting that the new NMB initiative will also give local startup and young tech savvy entrepreneurs a rare opportunity to showcase their capabilities and create innovative financial solutions to serve the market.

"I applaud NMB Bank for being on the forefront in supporting the government's efforts, as demonstrated by various initiative being taken by the bank including the recent decision to set aside 100bn/- for lending to the agriculture



NMB Bank Plc headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

sector at interest rate not exceeding 10 per cent," the deputy central bank chief added.

Dr Kibesse called on NMB management to come up with a similar arrangement for other groups of innovators who face limited access to affordable credit which is a major drawback to their entrepreneurial development. Dr Kibesse said Tanzania has many innovators who fail to deliver accordingly and make meaningful contribution to the economy due to lack of supportive opportunities and working capital.

"Through initiatives such as your sandbox environment, creative Tanzanians will have a place where to test their innovative products for creating solutions, which will not only support

service delivery but also help to create new jobs," he added.

Briefing the chief guest on the new product, NMB's CEO, Ruth Zaipuna said the bank will back the initiative with the billion shilling financing package targeting solutions and inventions with marketability credentials to elevate local banking to new heights.

Under the setup, startups and tech savvy Tanzanians will be accorded an easy way to integrate innovative solution with NMB's platforms for testing their readiness to be marketed, which the lender said will be done after getting the requisite approvals from BoT.

"The sandbox environment is a platform that allows startups to experiment, test and pre-certify integration with our banking services," Zaipuna said while noting that its experts have created a clear guide on security and risk assessment before allowing the innovators to transition to its live environment.

She explained that due to its massive technological investments, financial inclusion agenda and capital muscle, NMB has managed to scoop seven international awards for excellence, including one for being the most innovative lender in the country.

Earlier, NMB's Board Chairman, Dr Edwin Mhede said the latest initiative was prompted by ongoing transformation in the banking industry emanating from changes such as consumer needs and competitiveness in the market. "In the wake of the coronavirus and aspects such

as globalization and liberalization, innovation has become the norm in banking services," Dr Mhede said.

The bank's acting Chief of Technology and Digital Transformation, Kwame Makundi backed Dr Mhede's observation by stating that local startups should seize the opportunity to work with NMB. "This is a rare opportunity to work with the country's largest financial institution," Makundi said stressing that innovators stand a chance to test the marketability readiness of their products.



Tunu Mjema (R), a teacher at Nguzombili Primary School in Geita district receiving a trophy from Geita regional education officer Masumbuko Stephano earlier this week after her school emerged overall winner of Puma Energy's 2021 Road Safety Programme and Drawing Competition co-organised by Puma Energy Tanzania and Amend. Second right is Puma Energy's environment and safety officer, Ambokege Minga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

TOURISM PS SAYS INVESTOR AT NGORONGORO LODGE GOES TO COURT OVER DISPUTE WITH NCAA

By Property Watch Reporter

MAURITIUS based Hotels and Lodges Limited has gone to High Court in Arusha seeking an injunction to block Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority from repossessing Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge due to failure to implement privatization benchmarks.

Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Allan Kijazi said over the phone this week that his office has failed to intervene in the dispute because HLL has filed a court case.

"So far that the matter is in court, I cannot say anything," Dr Kijazi said noting that the issue will now be sorted by the judicial system. A fortnight ago, the PS had promised to follow up on the issue and later make a public announcement.

"Let me get details and I will come back to you," Dr Kijazi said earlier this month when the conflict erupted following NCAA management's decision to forcefully evict the investor who is accused of failing to invest cash as agreed during privatization in 2004.

The NCAA's decision follows allegations that HLL had in recent days failed to operate the luxury lodge inside Ngorongoro Crater which hosts high profile visitors. "Our staff and management were forcefully evicted by NCAA game wardens without any notice last week contrary to the privatization agreement signed with Parastatal Sector Reform Commission," said one of the lodge's employees.

When contacted earlier this week, NCAA Director General, Dr Frank Manongi said he was out of office. In 2004 when HLL was leased Tanzania Hotels Investments' Seronera Wildlife Lodge, Lobo Wildlife Lodge and Lake Manyara Lodge, the investor had pledged to spend US\$20 million in upgrading and modernizing them.

HLL paid US\$28 million to PSRC to



Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge in Arusha.

acquire the state owned lodges located in the Northern tourist enclave including Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater. Treasury Registrar's spokesperson Erick Mkuti recently said an audit exercise of all privatised enterprises was under way to establish those that have failed to implement agreed benchmarks for possible repossession.

"We will know the fate of the Tahli properties once the audit exercise is done," Mkuti said while pointing out that the TR's office has not received any complaints relating to HLL and its properties.

President Samia has ordered her lieutenants to refrain from harassing private investors and instead be facilitators of projects because the country needs to at-

tract foreign capital to speed up economic growth and development projects.

"Let us be facilitators of foreign investments, my government has decided to re-engage with the international community," President Samia said when she swore-in her cabinet earlier this year. She has often repeated her statement saying her government needs to be 'predictable.'

'China-funded projects worth Sh 394bn linked to graft'

NAIROBI

China-funded infrastructure projects in Kenya worth nearly Sh394.27 billion have been dogged by claims of graft and financial impropriety, the third highest value of tainted ventures being implemented globally under Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

A study by a top US research university suggests Kenya is among the top countries where implementation of Chinese government-funded projects has been slowed down by graft allegations such as misuse of funds, collusion, inflation of costs, and kick-backs.

The findings are part of a report by AidData, an international development research laboratory based at the College of William & Mary, covering some 13,427 projects worth \$843 billion (Sh93.23 trillion) funded by the Chinese across 165 countries over 18 years.

"We find that 94 percent of collateralised lending from official sector institutions in China between 2000 and 2017 supported countries 85 scoring below the global median on the WGI (Worldwide Governance Indicators) Control of Corruption," the researchers said in the 'Banking on the Belt and Road' report.

"These patterns in the dataset reinforce a key point: Beijing is more willing to bank-roll projects in risky countries than other official creditors, but it is also more aggressive than its peers at positioning itself at the front of the repayment line (via collateralisation)." The report does not specify the affected projects.

Projects implemented under the BRI in



Standard Gauge Railway trains at Mombasa port.

Kenya include the expansion of the Mombasa Port, the construction of the Lamu port, the installation of safe city surveillance systems in Nairobi and Mombasa, and the construction of the standard-gauge railway (SGR).

Kenya has for years been in the global spotlight for corruption largely in public procurement. Past estimates by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) show that as much as a third of the country's annual budget is lost to graft. This translates to about Sh900 billion every year, or

Sh2.45 billion daily, given the country's latest annual budget of about Sh3 trillion.

President Uhuru Kenyatta also recently acknowledged that corrupt officials siphoned about Sh2 billion daily from public coffers. The researchers at the US University have flagged three China-funded projects in Kenya valued at \$3.552 billion (Sh394.27 billion) whose implementation has faced claims of corruption and financial malpractice.

This is the highest value in Africa followed by Zambia's \$585 million (Sh64.93 billion),

but dwarfed by Malaysia's \$14.541 billion (about Sh1.61 trillion) in two projects and a project in Venezuela worth \$3.901 billion (Sh433.01 billion).

A notable example of a mega China-funded project that was marred by claims of graft is the August 2017 deal for the supply of computed tomography (CT) scanners to Kenyatta National Hospital, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, and 34 county hospitals.

The project was 80 percent funded by China Development Bank with a \$78.792 million

(Sh8.74 billion) loan. The National Assembly's Public Accounts Committee opened a probe into the project on allegations the equipment had been overpriced fourfold with officials at Health and National Treasury ministries as the beneficiaries.

"By identifying projects that faced claims of corruption or other types of financial wrongdoing, AidData is not rendering judgment about the veracity of the underlying claims," the researchers wrote in the 'Banking on the Belt and Road' report.

"Nor is AidData implying that the financiers or implementers of these projects were necessarily responsible for financial wrongdoing." China has in two decades established itself as a financier of first resort for many low and middle-income countries, providing record amounts of international development finance.

Beijing's lending and grant-giving activities, however, remain shrouded in secrecy, the researchers reckon, despite China outpacing the US in overseas development finance programmes, committing about \$85 billion (Sh9.44 trillion) every year.

Water-poor Egypt eyes quadrupling desalination capacity in five years

CAIRO

Water-scarce Egypt aims to more than quadruple desalination capacity by granting private companies concessions from its sovereign wealth fund to build 17 plants over the next five years with sustainable solar energy.

The plan fits into Egypt's push to diversify its sources of fresh water for a fast-growing population as it faces competition for Nile river water from the giant hydropower dam that Ethiopia is building upstream. The new concessions are designed to encourage private investment and technological development, both areas in which the Arab world's most populous country has struggled.

Investment in new desalination plants would be kick-started with the government guaranteeing to buy the water and re-sell it to domestic and industrial consumers at a steep discount that would entail a large subsidy, according to fund chief executive Ayman Soliman. He declined to estimate the size of the subsidy.

The new plants would produce a combined 2.8 million cubic metres a day, an amount that would be doubled longer term. Egypt now has installed desalination capacity of around 800,000 cubic metres a day and the government is targeting 6.4 million cubic metres by 2050, according to figures from the fund.

"We've already solicited offers. What's happening is a combination between a competitive process and a limited negotiation process," Soliman told Reuters.

The military, which under President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has been used to spearhead infrastructure development, has already built 27 desalination plants and private firms have installed some in resorts along Egypt's arid sea coasts.

Under the 25-year concessions, firms would bring in their own construction contractors and use high-yield renewables for energy. So far investor response has been strong, Soliman said. "We've received offers to build whatever capacity we need. There is investor appetite to build three times as much."

The wealth fund hopes to reduce an estimated capital cost of around \$1,000 per cubic metre of desalted water by 20-25% by employing renewable energy, economies of scale in plant construction, and creative financing, including green finance. Private resorts along Egypt's Red Sea and Mediterranean coasts, even golf courses, have been using expensive fossil fuel energy for desalination.

"If you live in a compound, you're talking about 13 to 18 (Egyptian) pounds (\$0.83-\$1.15) per cubic metre, while the government tariffs are a tenth of that. There is a massive subsidy that is being built in," Soliman said.

Nacala Logistics introduces electronic tickets on passenger trains

MAPUTO

Nacala Logistics has successfully tested electronic tickets for its passenger transport service. The measure is part of a project to modernize the passenger management system, and will ensure greater flexibility and operational efficiency on the Nampula - Cuamba, Cuamba - Lichinga and Cuamba - Entre Lagos routes.

The process started in July and lasted

until the month of August, when tickets could be purchased in advance at the company's stations. At the moment, new tickets must be paid for in cash, but the company is already working towards introducing electronic payment systems.

"This process is here to stay, and we are working to introduce more innovations so that passengers will soon be able to pay via M-Pesa and through other electronic solutions available on the market," said Francisco Ricarte, manager of Nacala

Logistics Railway Operation. Among the numerous advantages that this innovation brings, the speed of purchasing tickets and greater control over the sales process stand out.

The equipment also provides systematized data on the movement of passengers in the Nacala Corridor, which will contribute to the improvement of the rail passenger transport service. Nacala Logistics is responsible for the management and operation of a railway and port

system with over 1,600 km of line, and carrying coal and general cargo as well as passengers.

The Nacala Logistics brand represents the companies of the Nacala Corridor, namely: Northern Development Corridor (CDN), Nacala Integrated Logistics Corridor (CLN), Central East African Railways (CEAR), Companhia Logística de África (CLA) and Vale Logistics Limited (VLL).

CONSTRUCTION

EVERGRANDE SHARES SLIDE AFTER \$2.6BN DEAL COLLAPSES

BEIJING

Shares of China Evergrande Group slid as much as 14 per cent on Thursday after a deal to sell a \$2.6 billion stake in its property services unit fell through, in the latest blow to the developer whose massive debt woes have rattled global markets.

Evergrande said on Wednesday it had scrapped a deal to sell a 50.1 per cent stake in Evergrande Property Services to Hopson Development as the smaller rival had not met the "prerequisite to make a general offer."

Both sides appeared to trade blame for the setback, with Hopson saying it does not accept "there is any substance whatsoever" to Evergrande's termination of the sales agreement, and it is exploring options to protect its legitimate interests.

The deal is the developer's second to collapse amid its scramble to raise cash in recent weeks. Two sources told Reuters last week the \$1.7bn sale of its Hong Kong headquarters had failed amid buyer worries over Evergrande's dire financial situation.

The latest setback also comes just ahead of the expiry of a 30-day grace period for Evergrande to pay \$83.5 million in coupon payments for an offshore bond, at which time China's most indebted developer would be considered in default.

In an exchange filing on



Evergrande's Hong Kong headquarters.

Wednesday, Evergrande said the grace periods for the payment of the interest on its US dollar-denominated bonds that had become due in September and October had not expired. It did not elaborate.

"The scrapped transaction has

made it even more unlikely for it [Evergrande] to pull a rabbit out of a hat at the last minute," said a lawyer representing some creditors, requesting anonymity as he was not authorised to speak to the media.

"Given where things are with the

missed payments and the grace period running out soon, people are bracing for a hard default. We'll see how the company addresses this in its negotiations with creditors."

Trading in the Hong Kong-listed shares of China Evergrande, its

property services unit and Hopson all resumed on Thursday after a more than two-week suspension. Evergrande trimmed opening losses and was down 9.8 per cent in early trade. Its property services unit dropped 5 per cent, while its electric vehicle arm plunged as much as 10.3 per cent. Shares of Hopson rose 5.6 per cent. Mainland China's property index gained nearly 2 per cent.

Evergrande was once China's top-selling developer, yet is now reeling under more than \$300bn of debt, prompting government officials to come out in force in recent days to say the firm's problems will not spin out of control and trigger a broader financial crisis.

The string of official reassurances are likely aimed at soothing investor fear that the developer's debt crisis could ripple through China's broader property sector, which contributes around a quarter to the country's economic growth.

Since the government started clamping down on corporate debt in 2017, many real estate

developers have turned to off-balance-sheet vehicles to borrow money and skirt regulatory scrutiny, analysts and lawyers said. Statements from other property developers on Thursday exacerbated investor concern of contagion.

Chinese Estates Holdings said it would book a loss of \$29m in its current fiscal year from the sale of bonds issued by property developer Kaisa Group. Modern Land said it had ceased to seek consent from investors to extend the maturity date of a dollar bond due on October 25. Its shares were suspended from trading on Thursday.

While Chinese high-yield spreads, as indicated in an index of Chinese corporate high-yield issuers, continued to narrow as of Wednesday evening US time, Modern Land's decision weighed on investors' mood, said Clarence Tam, fixed income portfolio manager at Avenue Asset Management in Hong Kong. "The market is worried all single-B companies will choose not to pay," he said.

Dubai Investments signs deal to develop US\$272 million project in Ras Al Khaimah

DUBAI

Dubai Investments signed an agreement with Ras Al Khaimah-based master developer Marjan to acquire land to develop a Dh1 billion (\$272.2 million) mixed-use waterfront destination on Al Marjan Island.

The project will include a beachfront resort, serviced apartments and villas plus residential buildings, retail, food and beverage outlets along with other recreational amenities, the listed investment holding company said in a statement to the Dubai Financial Market, where its shares are traded.

The agreement was signed by Khalid bin Kalban, vice chairman and chief executive of Dubai Investments, and Abdulla Al Abdooli, chief executive of Marjan. "Ras Al Khaimah is fast gaining traction as a hub for tourism in the region, with the emirate's government channelling resources and investing in a range of wellness initiatives to leverage its natural assets," Mr bin Kalban said.

"Catering to the growing demand for such projects in Ras Al Khaimah and in line with strengthening Dubai Investments' real estate portfolio with the addition of more high-end hospitality projects, the company is optimistic [that] this new project will further accentuate the well-being appeal."

The UAE property market, which softened due to a three-year oil price slump that began in 2014 and oversupply concerns, is showing signs of a recovery amid an accelerated Covid-19 vaccination campaign, Expo 2020 Dubai and a rebounding economy.

Property prices in the UAE have stabilised in 2021 as the economy recovers from the coronavirus pandemic-induced slowdown and government initiatives to spur growth. Ras Al Khaimah is fast gaining traction as a hub for tourism in the region, with the emirate's government channelling resources and investing in a range of wellness initiatives to leverage its natural assets.

Economic support measures and government initiatives - such as res-



Al Marjan Island in Ras Al Khaimah. Dubai Investments intends to build a beachfront resort, villas, residential buildings and recreational amenities on the island.

idency permits for retirees and remote workers, as well as the expansion of the 10-year golden visa programme to attract foreign professionals to the UAE - have helped to improve investor sentiment.

Situated on the View Island within Al Marjan Island, the new mixed-use project will offer a private enclave with waterfront views. "Al Marjan Island has become a preferred hub for visitors and investors from around the globe and we are looking

forward to expanding our offering through world-class projects," Mr Al Abdooli said.

"This will further support Ras Al Khaimah's positioning as a vibrant tourism, hospitality and residential destination." Dubai's sovereign wealth fund, the Investment Corporation of Dubai, holds an 11.54 per cent stake in Dubai Investments.

Set up in 1995, Dubai Investments holds stakes in companies involved in a range of sectors including property,

industrial, financial services, health care and education. It owns businesses such as Dubai Investments Park, venture capital company Masharie, Al Mal Capital and district cooling company Emicool.

"We just finished the master plan for a real estate project in Murjan Island. It will have 170 villas, a hotel, serviced apartments and retail units. Demand for such projects is very high in Ras Al Khaimah," Mr bin Kalban said in an interview in May. The

company plans to sell Dh800m worth of residential units in 2021.

Dubai Investments is also delivering a Dh500m project in Fujairah with shopping malls, residential and office towers and a hotel, as well as a Dh3bn mixed-use project in Mirdif with more than 1,000 residential units, an office building and a hotel. The company will finance new deals through a mix of bank loans and its own cash, Mr bin Kalban said in May.

Air India back under Tata's control after \$2.4bn bid

NEW DELHI

Tata Sons is in a strong position to turn around the country's loss-making Air India, after it emerged as the winning bidder in the long-awaited privatisation of the country's flag carrier, according to industry analysts.

The move sees history coming full circle, as the airline was started by the group's JRD Tata in 1932 under the name Tata Airlines, before it was nationalised about 20 years later.

Tata - India's oldest and largest conglomerate with interests ranging from automobile manufacturing to steel - already has a strong presence in the country's aviation sector, with its joint ventures in the airline Vistara, which it owns along with Singapore Airlines and AirAsia India. Its industry experience will help it chart the future of Air India.

"The deal is positive because Tata can turn around the airline into a profitable entity in a few years," said Vijay L Bhambwani, head of research, behavioural technical analysis at research firm Equitymaster.

India had struggled for decades to sell off the airline, partly due to its large debt-burden, which meant the last attempt in 2018 failed to attract a single bidder. But the government sweetened the deal by reducing the amount of debt the buyer would have to take on and allowing full ownership of the carrier. Tata's winning bid was 180 billion rupees (\$2.4bn) for a 100 per cent stake and it will take on about \$2bn of Air India's debt, which stands at more than \$8bn.

Tata has a strong record of successfully turning around ailing companies, with its takeover of British carmaker Jaguar Land Rover being a prime example. Tata Motors bought the troubled Jaguar and Land Rover brands from Ford in 2008 and cut costs early on as part of its turnaround strategy as it invested more than \$16bn in product development with new models such as the second-generation Range Rover Evoque, a new Land Rover Defender and hybrid variants.



An Air India plane.

WORLD

Trump launches 'TRUTH' social media platform

LOS ANGELES

FORMER US President Donald Trump will launch his own social media app, TRUTH Social, that he said would "stand up to Big Tech" companies such as Twitter and Facebook that have barred him from their platforms.

TRUTH Social will be created through a new company formed by a merger of the Trump Media and Technology Group and a special acquisition company, according to a press release distributed by both organizations.

"We live in a world where the Taliban has a huge presence on Twitter, yet your favorite American President has been silenced. This is unacceptable," Trump said in a written statement included in the release.

"I am excited to send out my first TRUTH on TRUTH Social very soon. TMTG was founded with a mission to give a voice to all. I'm excited to soon begin sharing my thoughts on TRUTH Social and to fight back against Big Tech," he said.

The social network, set for a beta launch next month and full rollout in the first quarter of 2022, is the first of three stages in the company's plans, followed by a subscription video-on-demand service called TMTG+ that will feature entertainment, news and podcasts,

according to the news release.

In a slide deck on its website, the company envisions eventually competing against Amazon.com's AWS cloud service and Google Cloud.

A Trump representative who declined to be named confirmed the contents of the TMTG news release to Reuters. Trump spokesperson Liz Harrington also tweeted a copy.

"For so long, Big Tech has suppressed conservative voices," the former president's son, Donald Trump Jr., told Fox News in an interview. "Tonight my father signed a definitive merger agreement to form what will ultimately be the Trump Media and Technology Group and TRUTH Social - a platform for everyone to express their feelings."

Twitter, Facebook and other social media platforms banned Trump from their services after hundreds of his supporters rioted at the US Capitol on Jan 6.

That protest came after a speech by Trump in which he falsely claimed that his November election loss was due to widespread fraud, an assertion rejected by multiple courts and state election officials.

The deal will list Trump Media & Technology Group on Nasdaq through a merger with Digital World Acquisition Corp, a blank-check



Former US President Donald Trump

acquisition firm led by former investment banker Patrick Orlando.

Trump Media & Technology Group will receive \$293 million in cash that Digital World Acquisition Corp had in trust, assuming no shareholder of the acquisition firm chooses to redeem their shares, according to the statement.

Orlando, who has worked at Deutsche Bank and BT Capital Markets, has launched at least four SPACs and has plans for two more, according to his firm's website and regulatory filings.

But none of the SPACs have completed a deal yet. A China-based SPAC that Orlando led failed last month to complete a merger with Giga Energy Inc that would have valued the transportation solutions provider at \$7.3 billion, be-

cause it could not deliver the cash required, according to regulatory filings.

Shareholder redemptions reduce the amount of cash that Digital World Acquisition Corp will have available to give to Trump Media & Technology Group at the closing of the deal.

The companies said in the statement that the completion of the merger is subject to redemptions not exceeding an agreed minimum cash requirement. The statement did not disclose what the requirement is, though that detail is typically contained in a regulatory filing that should follow on Thursday.

The deal values Trump Media & Technology Group at \$875 million, including debt, according to the news release.

Ardern: NZ secured 'historic' free trade deal with Britain

WELLINGTON



NEW ZEALAND and Britain have agreed in principle the details of a historic Free Trade Agreement, which will see a boost of almost 1 billion NZ dollars (\$720 million) to New Zealand GDP and un-

precedented access for Kiwi exporters to the British market. The FTA will also see an elimination of all tariffs by Britain on New Zealand exports, with over 97 percent being removed the day the FTA comes into force, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern told a press conference on Thursday.

As a result, New Zealand exporters will save approximately 37.8 million NZ dollars (\$27.23 million) per year on tariff elimination alone, statistics show. Elimination of tariffs covers all honey, wine, kiwifruit, onions, a range of dairy and meat products, and most industrial products.

The deal will also see significant increases for beef and sheep meat market access, Ardern said, adding Working Holiday arrangements for young people from both countries are to be improved and extended.

New Zealand is the second country to secure a new FTA with Britain post Brexit, Ardern said, adding the FTA will further accelerate New Zealand's COVID-19 economic recovery and substantially cuts costs for exporters and businesses immediately.

She said New Zealand's export beef volumes will increase from 12,000 tonnes to 60,000 tons, and those of sheep meat will rise from 149,205 tons to over 164,000 tons, with free market access after 15 years - putting more money back into the pockets of Kiwi farmers while presenting them the opportunity for further growth.

Britain was New Zealand's seventh largest trading partner pre-COVID-19, with two-way trade worth nearly 6 billion NZ dollars (\$4.32 billion) to March 2020, statistics show.

New Zealand Trade Minister Damien O'Connor said pre-COVID-19 estimates also projected that New Zealand goods to Britain will increase up to 40 percent and that New Zealand GDP will benefit up to 970 million NZ dollars (\$699 million) due to the FTA.

More than 260 environmentally beneficial products have been prioritized for tariff elimination - the largest environmental goods list ever agreed, O'Connor said.

The agreement in principle sets out the key elements of the free trade deal with Britain, with the text to be finalized over the coming months, he said.

Veteran Pakistani reporter recalls China's restoration of lawful seat at UN

UNITED NATIONS

"I have never seen such a resounding applause in my life," remarked Iftikhar Ali, a Pakistani journalist who witnessed the moment half a century ago when the legal seat of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the United Nations was restored.

Ali, who covered the UN General Assembly (UNGA) session in 1971 for the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), witnessed the historical event, when the UNGA voted on China's legal representation.

After a week of debates, the 135-member UNGA convened on the night of Oct. 25, 1971, to discuss a draft resolution jointly proposed by Albania, Algeria and 21 other countries calling for the recognition of the PRC as "the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations", Ali said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

The assembly then adopted the draft resolution by a roll-call vote of 76 to 35, with 17 abstentions, as Resolution 2758.

"Huge excitement" erupted immediately after the result was announced, recalled Ali.

Cheers and applause filled the air, and people were hug-

ging and shouting, said Ali. "Some ambassadors also got up and danced."

A photo of Tanzanian Ambassador Salim Ahmed Salim dancing was published in U.S. newspapers the next day, said Ali.

"At that time, I had to leave to file the story," said Ali, who had no time to participate in the celebration.

He rushed all the way to the third floor of the General Assembly building and shot a flash in one of the telegraph rooms to the APP headquarters: "UNITED NATIONS CHINA IN TAIWAN OUT APP."

The big news had to be announced "in the fewest words" possible through telegram, since there were no telex machines or computers at that time. "Another word would delay it," Ali explained.

The veteran Pakistani journalist has been covering UN news ever since. While many events have become fuzzy over time, the night of Oct. 25, 1971 remains vivid in his memory.

This was an issue of "universal membership," Ali stressed, adding that most countries thereafter insisted that "Taiwan is a province of China."

In addition to what happened in the General Assembly



United Nations flag flying outside the UN headquarters in New York, the United States. Xinhua

Hall, Ali noted that the Chinese delegation's arrival at John F. Kennedy International Airport on Nov. 11 was another highlight for China's restoration of its lawful seat at the United Nations.

There was a huge crowd of reporters waiting outside the airport for the arrival of the delegation, which Ali called a "sea of people." Many people "were beating drums and gongs and shouting welcome slogans."

Journalists, as well as permanent representatives of the 23 sponsors of the draft resolution and some UN representatives of other countries, as well as "officials, friends and colleagues from various walks of life," went to the airport to greet the Chinese delegation.

"I was really proud of China

when I saw the five-star red flag raised high in front of the Roosevelt Hotel," Ali said.

In Ali's view, the restoration of China's legitimate seat at the United Nations has had a significant impact on the UN's ecology.

"The whole United Nations, the whole scenario has changed because of the presence of the People's Republic of China," he said, adding that China is a country "with a development policy on the thinking and in support of the third-world countries."

Ali also believes that the presence of China at the Security Council has made the most important organ of the world "balanced."

"China has been a strong ad-

vocate of multilateralism, and it continues to be an important supporter of developing countries," said Ali, adding that China has constantly insisted that decisions regarding international affairs should be reached through consultation between all members.

On China's principle of safeguarding the international system with the United Nations at its core, Ali said that China has done a great job in this regard.

He thanked China for helping Pakistan build the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which he said has brought "prosperity to the people of Pakistan."

Ali told Xinhua that he has strong feelings and love for China and its people as his first visit abroad was to the Asian country.

He visited China in 1964 as a member of the Pakistani delegation to Beijing to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the PRC's founding.

"I have been to China seven times. My last visit was in 1976," said Ali.

The international community made a wise choice 50 years ago, "we are very proud of that," said Ali, who expects to visit China again some time in the future. Xinhua

UN evacuates staff from Ethiopia's Tigray after another airstrike

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations is evacuating some humanitarian personnel from Ethiopia's Tigray region, following a new airstrike on the regional capital of Mekelle, a UN spokesman said on Wednesday.

"Initial information from the

ground indicates that civilians - including women and children - were injured," said Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, of Wednesday's attack. "We are trying to gather more information." While the United Nations and humanitarian partners are staying and delivering humani-

tarian aid, Haq said. "For safety measures, a small proportion of the UN team has been relocated - and that's around 100 UN staff and 17 dependents." Airstrikes in and around Mekelle claimed the lives of three children and wounded 20 others on Monday. He said that the world organization has almost 400 staff mem-

bers in Tigray alone, committed to delivering lifesaving needs to the most vulnerable people. Some 30 percent of all UN staff in Ethiopia are in different country regions, including Tigray.

Counting UN, national and international non-governmental organizations, there are nearly 2,000 humanitarians in the

northern region, the spokesman said. "Our humanitarian colleagues are alarmed by the escalating conflict in the north," Haq said. "We repeat our call to all parties to the conflict to de-escalate across Tigray, Amhara and Afar to avoid further casualties and the suffering of civilians." Xinhua

NOT long ago, the U.S., UK, and Australia established a trilateral security partnership dubbed AUKUS, under which the U.S. and the UK will help Australia build nuclear-powered submarines. It is generally believed by the international community that by making the move, the three countries are risking the stability of the entire world to pursue their own interests.

Representatives of many governments expressed opposition to the AUKUS nuclear submarine deal and deep concerns over its consequences at the recent General Debate of the First Committee of the

76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The U.S., UK and Australia have gone against global non-proliferation efforts by carrying out the nuclear submarine deal, which involves the transfer of huge amounts of extremely sensitive and weapons-grade highly enriched uranium and poses a serious risk of nuclear proliferation.

The current non-proliferation architecture can hardly supervise such deal effectively. If other countries should

follow suit, the international non-proliferation regime would face more severe challenges and the fruits of years of global non-proliferation efforts could be wiped out.

The AUKUS trilateral security partnership will not contribute to strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), said Vladimir Ermakov, head of the Delegation of the Russian Federation and director of the Department for Nonproliferation and Arms Control of the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, at the General Debate of the First Committee of the 76th session of the UNGA.

"There is a potential risk that another non-nuclear-weapon State will be used to deploy nuclear-weapon States' military nuclear infrastructure. This leads to greater international instability and runs counter to the efforts to reduce nuclear weapon arsenals," said Ermakov.

As a non-nuclear-weapon State party to the NPT and a party to the South Pacific Nu-

clear Free Zone Treaty (the Treaty of Rarotonga), Australia could set a very negative precedent for the implementation of IAEA safeguards by building nuclear submarines, according to Ermakov.

Just like the quadrilateral mechanism involving the U.S., Japan, India and Australia, the so-called trilateral security partnership was also designed to serve the Indo-Pacific strategy dominated by the U.S. as well as provoke confrontation between regional countries and escalate geopolitical com-

petition.

Such a dangerous move, which resulted from the Cold War mentality and narrow-minded "group politics", is open provocation against multilateralism.

By conducting the nuclear submarine deal, carrying out joint military drills, and expanding arms trade with Australia, the U.S. and UK have cast the shadow of a new Cold War upon the Asia-Pacific region and posed serious threats to the peace and tranquility of the region.

AUKUS nuclear submarine deal threatens global stability

The AUKUS highlights geopolitical ambitions of great powers and signals a resurgence of the Cold War mentality, noted representatives of countries including North Korea, Mexico, Sri Lanka, and Venezuela at the General Debate of the First Committee of the 76th session of the UNGA.

The recent introduction of the AUKUS trilateral strategic partnership that includes strategic delivery systems with nuclear technology could trigger further an arms race, said Syed Mohamad Hasrin Aidid, permanent representative of Malaysia to the UN, at the meeting. *People's Daily*

TARGETING MORE THAN 35,000 OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

QFFD, Zanzibar govt sign MoU for out-of-school children

QATAR Fund for Development (QFFD) and Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar signed a memorandum of understanding, on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, in Doha-Qatar to improve equitable access to educate more than 35,732 primary school-aged out-of-school children, in the presence of H.E./Abdulrahman Bin Mohammed Al Dosari, Director of the Department of African Affairs of the State of Qatar, H.E./Hussain Bin Ahmed Al Homid, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Tanzania through video conference, and H.E./Mahdi Jumaa Muallem, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to the State of Qatar.

Recently, QFFD, Educate A Child (EAC) a global program of the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation in collaboration with its implementing partner UNICEF has signed a project to enroll out-of-school-children in the eleven districts of Zanzibar.

The project will be based on five main strategic axes to address the obstacles that prevent access to quality education, which are raising awareness of the importance of education, providing incentives for enrollment and school attendance, improving school infrastructure through building and renovating facilities established by the local community and developing health facilities in a manner that takes into account gender differences as well as Promote quality of education

and support extension programs and life skills development, including promoting girls' education and empowerment through safe learning environment.

"Education is the most important element in life as, without education a community cannot be flourish. The global has faced and still facing many challenges when it comes to educate children within rising conflicts and mutual disasters, more children are left out of school and are not given the basic right to build themselves," HE. Khalifa Al-Kuwari, Director General of QFFD, said.

"Qatar Fund for Development priorities supporting vulnerable communities and in close collaboration with Education Above All Foundation, we strive to facilitate access to quality education for all. We are proud to announce with EAA our contribution amounting to more than (3mn Dollar) for a three-year-period to support access to quality education for all in Zanzibar," he added.

"The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training value the support that will have a significant and positive impact on education system in Zanzibar.

This new collaborative approach will enable the enrollment of tens of thousands of our children into quality primary education, thereby strengthening their opportunities for more sustainable future for themselves, families and our



community afterward" Simia Mohamed asserted, the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar's ministry of education and vocational training.

"This agreement comes within the framework of developing good relations between the State of Qatar and the United Republic of Tanzania, considering what has been done constitutes real support for Qatar's efforts to spread the education of out-of-school children and support the endeavors of community development and a culture lifelong learning adopted by the Education Above All Foundation in collaboration with UNICEF", expressing his thanks to the EAA and Qatar Fund for

Development for this pioneering initiative," HE. Hussain Ahmed Al Homid expressed, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Tanzania.

Fahad bin Hamad Al-Sulaiti, CEO of Education Above All Foundation said: "we are delighted to participate in today's MoU signing between QFFD and The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar which is based on number of comprehensive, educational and social intervention to enroll children who are otherwise missing out on an education.

"in line with our commitment to address the complex barriers that face out-of-school children around the world, this project ties together strategic approaches from

the classroom to community campaigns to ensure equitable access to learning and a path out of poverty," he mentioned.

It is worth noting that the Education Above All Foundation is a global initiative based in Doha, State of Qatar, that works to provide new life opportunities and real hope for poor children, youth and women in developing countries, through global, national and local partnerships, in addition to successful and innovative intervention in the educational process. It also works to protect the rights to education wherever this rights is at risk as to draw the world's attention to urgent educational issues.

Agencies

NATO's spying charges against Russian diplomats groundless

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has said NATO has no evidence indicating the expelled staffers of Russia's diplomatic mission at the organization had been involved in any malign activities.

"We should be aware that NATO has systematically ruined relations with Russia to opt for the Cold War logic. Also, we should remember that the role of NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in this destructive process is significant. And lastly, we should keep in mind that there is no evidence against the activity of the Russians NATO has expelled," Zakharova wrote in her Telegram-channel in reply to Stoltenberg's statements about the reason for the expulsion of Russian diplomats.

NATO's secretary general, she remarked, should ask himself how many representatives of the organization's member-countries disguised as diplomats and journalists are involved in spying activities around the world.

"If you find this impermissible, then please recall NATO countries' intelligence operatives from Russia," she concluded.

Earlier, Stoltenberg said that the decision to expel Russian diplomats from Brussels had been made on the basis of intelligence information. At the same time, he mentioned no evidence that might prove the charges against Russia.

Agencies

China's first solar exploration satellite sent into space

CHINA'S first solar exploration satellite named Xihe was sent into space aboard the country's Long March-2D carrier rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi province on Oct. 14.

The satellite is expected to fill in the gap in high-quality observation data on the source regions of solar eruptions by conducting the world's first space exploration of solar H spectral imaging.

The sun-probing science and technology experiment satellite, whose main scientific payload is a solar space telescope, weighs 508 kg and has a designed lifespan of three years. It will operate in a sun-synchronous orbit at an altitude of 517 km and with an inclination of 98 degrees, which allows it to go over Earth's North and South Poles and carry out 24-hour continuous observation of the sun.

The solar H spectral line is one of the most useful spectral lines for the study of the responses of the photosphere and chromosphere to solar activities.

Through data analysis of the spectral line, scientists can get information about physical changes in the sun during solar eruptions, such as its atmospheric temperature and velocity, and study the dynamic processes and physical mechanisms of solar eruptions.

With the rapid development of aerospace technology, more than 70 satellites have been sent into space globally for solar observation since the 1960s. They have focused on observational studies of sunspots, solar flares, and coronal mass ejections.

"Exploring and studying solar activities and coming up with countermeasures can reduce or avoid their adverse impact on the Earth," said Zhao Jian, director of the Earth Observation System and



China's first sun-probing science and technology experiment satellite Xihe is launched aboard the country's Long March-2D carrier rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi province on Oct. 14. File photo

Data Center of the China National Space Administration (CNSA), who believes it absolutely necessary for China, a major country in aerospace, to carry out solar exploration in time.

The country has formulated two solar exploration projects, which were named after Xihe, the sun goddess in charge of time and calendar in ancient Chinese mythology who has been well known as the mother of the sun, and Kuafu, a giant in Chinese mythology who chased after the sun, according to Zhao, who said the projects represent China's solutions and contributions to solar exploration.

While the recently launched satellite Xihe represents China's first step toward solar exploration, the Kuafu mission is designed to develop and launch another solar observation satellite—the Advanced Space-Based Solar Observatory. As part of the space-science pilot project of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the Kuafu mission is scheduled to be launched in 2022.

The successful launch of Xihe marks China's official entry into the era of solar exploration, Zhao said, adding that the satellite bears great significance as it will conduct the world's first space exploration of solar H spectral imaging and involve new methods and new technologies for astronomical velocity measurement and navigation based on spectral information.

Solar exploration has become a hotspot of global space exploration missions. China ranks second in the world in terms of the number of published research papers on solar observation, but all the satellite-generated data used by Chinese scientists came from for-

eign spacecraft, according to Zhao.

"Xihe will put an end to such dependence on foreign satellites," said Zhao, adding that China will establish a scientific committee on satellite data and formulate policies on the data so that it can be studied, used and shared by scientists around the world.

"We will strive to achieve original research results and make contributions to the advancement of science," Zhao said.

Xihe has adopted a groundbreaking new technology satellite platform which realizes the ultra-high pointing accuracy and stability of the payload and is two orders of magnitude better in terms of relevant performance than other existing satellite platforms with the same moment of inertia.

Dubbed "double ultra-high platform" by industry insiders, the platform is expected to give a boost to leapfrog development of technologies for high-precision satellite platforms in China.

According to Zhao, upon the success of in-orbit tests, the high-performance technology platform will significantly improve China's technological strength for space observation.

Relevant technologies of the platform will be promoted in the next-generation space missions involving high-resolution detailed survey of the Earth, large-scale stereoscopic mapping, stereoscopic solar exploration, and the discovery of exoplanets, Zhao said.

Two intergovernmental cooperation microsatellites of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), the first international organization in the high-tech industry proposed by China, and eight commercial microsatellites have also been launched together with Xihe.

People's Daily

UN chief urges public development banks to do more to 'green the balance sheet'

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on public development banks to do more to "green the balance sheet" in a video message to the 2021 Finance in Common Summit in Rome on Wednesday.

"You spearheaded the green bond market - now is the time to do more to green the balance sheet," the UN chief stressed.

"With your reach from the global to the local, public development banks are critical partners as we seek to recover better from the pandemic," said Guterres.

He underscored that the joint declaration of all public development banks at the first Finance in Common Summit last year was a strong signal of intent.

"Today, I call on you to turn that vision into concrete and time-bound targets and plans to align your operations and policies with the 2030 Agenda and keep the 1.5 Celsius degrees goal within reach."

"We must fully integrate a forward-looking and preventative lens in our work and bolster resilience to future shocks," said the secretary-general.

"We must reach universal social protection by 2030; ensure macroeconomic and labour policies work in tandem to support a just transition; and heavily invest in job creation and reskilling programmes that expand opportunities for women and better prepare



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

young people."

Guterres noted that their support for the Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection is essential to help ensure a more even recovery - and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

"Your financing decisions can either entrench developing countries in high emission, fossil fuel-dependent development pathways with a high risk of locking in stranded assets or facilitate the transition to renewable economies," he said.

"This is especially true in a COVID-19 recovery context, where developing countries are battling the triple crises of pandemic, debt and climate," he added.

"This means phasing out

all fossil fuel finance starting immediately with coal and redirecting these investments to renewable energy to ensure universal access to electricity," said the secretary-general, urging them to scale up funding to support adaptation and build resilience to at least 50 percent of total public climate finance.

"I also urge you to make climate risk disclosures mandatory - in line with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-Related Finance Disclosures," the top UN official said.

"We need a stronger, more integrated and networked multilateral system - with public development banks as central players," said Guterres.

Xinhua

Florida school shooter pleads guilty to murdering 17 people

ACCUSED shooter Nikolas Cruz pleaded guilty on Wednesday to 17 counts of murder and 17 counts of attempted murder in the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, the deadliest ever at a US high school.

At a hearing, Cruz, 23, stood hunched over and entered one guilty plea at a time as the judge read off the charges. His lawyer, David Wheeler, Broward County's chief assistant public defender, said last week Cruz intended to plead guilty in the Valentine's Day attack. read

more

Cruz was a 19-year-old expelled student with a history of mental health and behavioral issues at the time of the "cold, calculated and premeditated" killings, Broward County's State's Attorney Office said in court documents.

After the pleas were entered, Cruz removed his COVID-19 mask and apologized to his victims.

"I am very sorry for what I did and I have to live with

it every day," he said. "And that if I were to get a second chance I will do everything in my power to try to help others ... I have to live with this every day, and it brings me nightmares that I can't live with myself sometimes."

Cruz wore a dark blue sweater vest above a blue shirt. He was thin and had on large glasses. His hands clutched the wooden podium he stood at while the judge spoke to him.

As a prosecutor read a detailed account of the incident, relatives and friends of the victims sat in the courtroom gallery, wiping tears from their eyes and holding each other.

Because prosecutors have vowed to seek the death penalty, his change of plea from not guilty opens the penalty phase. A jury would decide whether he should be sentenced to life in prison or death.

In Florida, juries determine whether to impose a death sentence. If prosecutors are not willing to drop the potential death penalty as part of any plea deal that may be struck with Cruz, then a jury would decide.

Broward County Circuit Judge Elizabeth Scherer scheduled jury selection for the penalty phase in the case to begin on Jan 4. She also set a status hearing for Oct 26. During a hearing last

week, Cruz pleaded guilty to assault and battery of a law enforcement officer in a separate case in which he was accused of kicking, hitting and punching a sheriff's deputy as well as attempting to remove his Taser in a November 2018 jail attack.

Before accepting his guilty pleas, Scherer asked him if he understood the impact the assault case could have in the penalty phase of the murder case.

"Sir, I need to advise you that the state is going to be using this conviction in this case as evidence of an aggravating factor for purposes of arguing in favor of the death penalty. Do you understand that?" Scherer asked Cruz.

"Yes, ma'am," Cruz responded. Some of the teenagers who survived the deadly rampage formed "March for Our Lives," an organization that called for gun control legislation such as a ban on assault-style rifles.

Agencies



Said Ndemla

Ndemla: Mtibwa Sugar will bounce back in NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

MTIBWA Sugar midfielder Said Ndemla has said that despite the team starting poorly in this season's NBC Premier League, he believes it will do well given the quality of players making the team.

In the three fixtures the Morogoro-based outfit has featured in, the side has yet to come out with a victory.

The domestic top flight's newcomers, Mbeya Kwanza FC, commanded a 1-0 win over Mtibwa Sugar in the first match, held in Coast Region.

The Morogoro outfit went on to post a 0-0 draw with Prisons in the second fixture, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

Geita Gold FC, the other Premier League new competitors, battled to 1-1 draw with Mtibwa Sugar in the following tie, which took place in Geita.

Mtibwa Sugar has as a result posted two points from the matches, which is by far a below-par showing.

Ndemla said the presence of an experienced coach, Cameroonian Joseph Omog, as well as the experience of some new players, including him, will change the team's trend soon and start notching wins in following ties.

"Mtibwa Sugar fans should not be afraid, it is true we have not started the season well but this is a matter of time soon things will change and we will make them happy because the technical bench and footballers are fighting to ensure we return to success," the midfielder stated.

Ndemla has been brought to Mtibwa Sugar on loan from Simba SC to improve the midfield, as the Morogoro club is eager to turn into a serious contender.

The footballer pointed out that with the training he did when the league was suspended, he believes victory will be achieved and happiness will return to their fans.

He said lack of good preparation was the squad's drawback early on, with the club having roped in a good number of new players.

The midfielder has nailed a spot in his current club's lineups in the assignments, his loan spell further seeks to see to it he rejuvenates his career.

The midfielder had been relegated to a fringe player at his parent outfit.

Mtibwa Sugar is one of the oldest teams in the NBC Premier League and has won the league twice in 1999 and 2000.

National cricket team set for 2021 T20 Coast Tournament

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA senior national cricket team is today expected to confront Mombasa Sports Club in the opening tie of the 2021 T20 Coast Tournament in Mombasa, Kenya.

The tournament offers the national cricket team the opportunity to shape up for the 2021 Africa Qualifiers for ICC Men's T20 World Cup, which will take place later this year.

The squad left for Mombasa yesterday for the showpiece, which will take place at Mombasa Sports Club cricket ground.

The squad will, after the showpiece, jet off to Rwanda for the 2021 Africa Qualifiers for ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

The national cricket team, under the tutelage of Kenyan cricket legend Steve Tikolo, is made up of 16 players, who participated in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament, which ended recently.

Commenting on the benefits of the Mombasa tournament, which



National cricket team.

sees Tanzania's national cricketers enter as a guest side, Tikolo said it would be an opportunity for him to see the development of players and address the cricketers' weaknesses.

"It is good to get five practice matches that we have been invited by locals in Kenya, I thank the Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) for making these games a success as well as those in Mombasa, Kenya I believe we will do well"

The coach, who has also coached the national U-19 cricket team, said that he is happy with his team on the field of development, expressing satisfaction with the

cricketers' showing in fielding, batting, and bowling.

Tikolo pointed out: "There have been a lot of improvements since I joined the Tanzanian team, there were challenges on the batting side but now they have a good improvement on it, there were mistakes and now we have fixed them, bowling was always on top and there was no problem on that side."

Following the tournament in Kenya, the Tanzanian team will travel to Rwanda for a tournament that will bring together African nations which will compete for two places in the 2022 ICC T20 World Cup that

will take place in Australia.

With the likes of Nigeria and Namibia participating in the Rwanda tournament, Tikolo disclosed he is not worried about his squad heading into the tournament and giving his team a chance to win the Mombasa competition and later in Rwanda.

The national cricket team's skipper, Abhik Patwa, said that the morale of the players is very high.

The experienced cricketer revealed the cricketers have shown readiness and confidence headed to the friendly series and later in search of a ticket to play in the

ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

Patwa pointed out: "We had officially started training since last year and special praise goes to our coach Tikolo, he has taken us to the next level and we had been doing fitness session with coach Noel, an approach which has boosted our fitness level."

"The intensity of the players is very high, the morale is also extremely high, the four best DC Caravans T20 showpiece's players are on the national team. This shows how well we are ready for the tournament."

Mpango to open 2021 SHIMIWI tournaments in Morogoro



A women's tug-of-war team takes part in one of past Inter-Ministerial Sports Federation (SHIMIWI) tournaments, which took place in Morogoro.

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

VICE-President, Philip Mpango, will tomorrow open this year's Inter-Ministerial Sports Federation (SHIMIWI) tournaments in Morogoro.

Morogoro Regional Commissioner Martine Shigela said the competitions were underway yesterday but they will officially be launched tomorrow, with Mpango serving as the opening ceremony's chief guest.

SHIMIWI official Alex Temba said the competitions are football for men, netball for women, men's and women's tug-of-war, and athletics that will be

made up of races, 100 meters, 200 meters, 400 meters, 800 meters, and 1,500 meters for both men and women.

Temba, an official from the Tanzania Meteorological Authority, said there will also be other competitions like cycling, draft, scoring, cards, and darts.

He said in the games a total of 21 ministries, nine departments, and 12 regions will compete in the tournaments.

He said until yesterday, 16 ministries had confirmed their involvement, as well as institutions.

They are President's Office, Vice-President's Office, and Prime Minister's Office including the Osha Institute.

Others are the Ministry of Works, Transport, Office of the Auditor-General, Justice, Ministry of Information, and Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports.

Morogoro Municipal Sports Officer Asteria Mwang'ombe who coaches Morogoro Regional Commissioner's netball team said the return of the games is a good thing as it will build health for employees, generate income, and open businesses.

On August 15, this year, the Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, instructed all ministries responsible for coordinating and organizing the games to meet and put in place a plan to restore the games.

The move, according to Ma-

jaliwa, will see to it that public servants have the opportunity to participate in sports and protect themselves from non-communicable diseases.

He issued the order when he represented President Samia Suluhu Hassan at a CRDB Bank charity race held at The Greens Oysterbay Stadium, Dar es Salaam.

The Prime Minister said the Shimiwi Games were important because they brought together the staff of government ministries and institutions and helped improve their health and increase productivity and efficiency.

Dar hosts Mr. Tanzania contest final

By correspondents Joseph Mchekadona & Sabata Kasika

THIS year's Mr. Tanzania contest final will be held today at Ubungu Plaza in Dar es Salaam, the contest's organizers disclosed.

Tanzania Body Builders Federation (TBBF) Secretary-General, Francis Mapugilo, said preparations for the final are over.

He said all contestants' age starts from the age of 18 to 65 as stipulated in the constitution of TBBF and the winner will take home 5m/- runner up will take home 3m/- and the third winner will pocket one million shillings.

Mapugilo stated: "All preparations for this year's Mr. Tanzania contest are over, the final will be held at Ubungu Plaza, we expect it to be more entertaining."

He asked all of the final contestants to

follow the rules of the competition.

Bodybuilding is one of the fastest-growing sporting activities in the country, it is loved and practiced by people of all ages and genders.

Bodybuilding is the use of progressive resistance exercise to control and develop one's muscles (muscle building) by muscle hypertrophy for aesthetic purposes.

It is distinct from similar activities

such as powerlifting because it focuses on physical appearance instead of strength.

An individual who engages in this activity is referred to as a bodybuilder.

In professional bodybuilding, competitors appear in lineups and perform specified poses (and later individual posing routines) for a panel of judges who rank them based on symmetry, muscularity, size, conditioning, posing, and stage presentation.

Bodybuilders prepare for competitions through the elimination of nonessential body fat, enhanced at the last stage by a combination of extracellular dehydration and carbo-loading, to achieve maximum muscular definition and vascularity.

They also tan and shave to accentuate the contrast of their skin under the spotlights.

Is Solskjaer papering over cracks or have Man U turned a corner?

MANCHESTER, England

ONLY time will tell what Manchester United's win over Atalanta -- having battled back from two goals down to win 3-2 -- actually means. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer will hope it becomes a turning point after a miserable month of four defeats in seven games rather than a Jose Mourinho-against-Newcastle United moment.

Amid intense speculation surrounding Mourinho's job in October 2019, United battled back from 2-0 down to win 3-2. While the Portuguese coach lived to fight another day, he was sacked eight weeks later.

If nothing else, three goals in the second half against Atalanta at least means United have some semblance of momentum ahead of Liverpool's visit to Old Trafford on Sunday. It may be that they simply have to try to out-score Jurgen Klopp's team because it would be a minor miracle if they managed to stop Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and the rest after conceding six goals in five days.

Afterward, Solskjaer came out fighting, first rejecting a suggestion that the players had shown they remain behind their manager and then fiercely backing match winner Cristiano Ronaldo after criticism of the 36-year-old's work rate.

"Don't even start," snapped Solskjaer when it was suggested the players had shown they are still playing for him. "Don't disrespect the players. They play for Man United and they know they're the luckiest men in the world. I said that to them tonight. They're the luckiest men in the world, the 11 and the subs are the ones who can play for Man United and that's what so many millions of boys and girls want to do.

"If anyone wants to criticise Ronaldo for attitude and work rate just watch the game today. I said make sure we get the next goal and as long as we did not concede the next goal I knew we'd win the game."

Solskjaer's fiery post-match interview was a stronger defence than his team managed all night. There have been lots of worrying elements to the performances this season but none more so than their inability to defend. Solskjaer dropped Paul Pogba to the bench, explaining before kickoff it was because his team had been "too open," but it didn't seem to make much of a difference.

Atalanta are good at scoring goals -- they were the top scorers in Serie A last season -- but it helps when the opposition want to lend a hand, too. They couldn't have expected much when Josip Ilcic clipped a hopeful pass into space down the right but 10 seconds later the ball was in the net, Mario Pasalic nipping in ahead of Scott McTominay to tap in Davide Zappacosta's cross.

Just once in their past 20 games have United managed to keep a clean sheet, and they are without one at Old Trafford since the middle of March. The run of 12 home games is their worst for nearly 60 years. Not only can United not defend from open play, they can't defend set pieces either, and before the first half was over Merih Demiral out-jumped both Luke Shaw and Harry Maguire to head in Teun Koopmeiners' corner.

It was almost impressive that United found a way to concede two goals as poor as the four they shipped at Leicester City on Saturday. Demiral's goal was the fourth time Solskjaer's team have conceded from a set piece in the past five games, and for the first time ever United went in at half-time of a Champions League tie two goals down.

United fans who began the game singing "Ole's at the wheel" were booing when the half-time whistle went. It quickly turned to chants of "red army" as the players went down the tunnel but the supporters in the Stretford End had already made their feelings known after a disastrous 45 minutes.

"We conceded two bad goals," said Maguire afterward, in something of an understatement. "We knew coming in at half-time the next goal would be crucial. I think in the end we deserved the victory. Yes, we made it difficult, but it's a great victory in the end. We showed great togetherness in the dressing room at half-time. The fans gave us great energy and we got the result they deserved."

"They had two chances and scored two goals and that has to stop," added Solskjaer.

or all United's problems at the back, they still have a collection of the best attacking players in the world, and in the second half they worked out Atalanta's defence was as bad as their own.

Rashford, sharp on his first start since undergoing shoulder surgery in the summer, got one back with his second goal in two games, and after McTominay had hit the post, Maguire swept in the equaliser at the back post. Bruno Fernandes, poor at Leicester, created both goals and Solskjaer will hope it signals a return to form for the midfielder ahead of Sunday.

David De Gea still needed to make his now-weekly world-class save to deny Duvan Zapata, but the winner was reserved for who else but Ronaldo? United's No. 7 powered a header into the net from a Shaw cross.

The noise almost blew the roof off Old Trafford, and just like that, "Ole's at the wheel" was back. There is still a desperation among the match-going supporters for the Norwegian to do well.

The chant will be back again on Sunday. The question, though, is for how long? Papering over the cracks or a corner turned, only time will tell.

Karim Benzema is Real Madrid's MVP

MADRID

MAYBE the secret is in the drink. Karim Benzema has just finished training at the Ciudad Deportiva, Real Madrid's training ground in Valdebebas, on the outskirts of the Spanish capital, not far from Barajas airport. After changing into a neat black trousers / amber polo designer combo for his interview with ESPN, he drains a bottle of coconut water.

It's a typically hot day in Madrid, and his choice of drink might surprise you. Not if you know Benzema. Coconut water is filled with potassium, sodium and magnesium, a perfect way to hydrate after training or after a match. It's also low in calories and fat-free. Everything the 33-year-old Frenchman does is to optimise his performances. He has become obsessive about fitness, recovery, preparation and well-being -- the discipline of self-care. It's fair to say that the older Benzema gets, the better he is as a footballer.

"Physically, I feel good. The more time goes by, the better I feel," he tells ESPN. "It is a lot about experience and, from 30 years old, the invisible work. Everything you do after trainings, when you get home. The seriousness, the professionalism. It is just learning. Learning to like all the work, not just the pitch and the football. It is loving the work in the gym, to rest well, to eat well. To work on your day off."

"You learn to like it. You don't force yourself to do it -- you like doing it. I go to the gym because I like it. There are moments where I am tired and I don't really want to go, but because I like the work and I know it will make me better, I do it," he explains.

Lionel Messi's move to Paris Saint-Germain this summer has pushed Benzema even further into the spotlight. He is not only the most recognizable face of El Clasico but also the face of La Liga, even at his age (he will turn 34 at the end of December). While Real Madrid and Barcelona are both navigating difficult transitions, for Benzema, the clashes between the two giants remain the biggest games in world football.

"For me, it's still the same. This is the best game in football in the world regardless of the players who are here, the ones who left. It is the history. It is football. [Before Ronaldo and Messi] there was Zinedine Zidane, there was Ronaldinho, there was Ronaldo, there was Samuel Eto'o. The names change, but Real Madrid vs. Barcelona is still Real Madrid vs. Barcelona, regardless of the players. The pressure is different."

"I have been playing Clasicos for a while. This will be my 37th! I approach the game knowing that it's Barcelona, with everything surrounding the game, but I am focused. I want to win it," he says.

There are individual prizes in his sights, too, beyond the vision of collective glory in Madrid. At this late stage in his



Karim Benzema

career, Benzema has never been as strong as he is now. He has never been as consistent, as efficient, as important; he's never been so close to winning the game's highest individual honor, the Ballon d'Or.

He is in the running with Lionel Messi, of course; Robert Lewandowski, who scored for fun all year; Jorginho, who won the Champions League and the Euros less than two months apart. But Benzema won the Nations League and boasts a remarkable consistency for club and country. No-one had more goals and assists than he did in 2021 -- 31 goals, 12 assists for club and country when we did the interview. No-one had scored more in the Big 5 European leagues this season, which is spurring his dream of becoming the first Frenchman since Zidane, 23 years ago, to win the prestigious award.

"It's been a dream since I was really young," he says. "It is a motivation, too. Just to make it onto the list of 30 nominees is already satisfying."

"It has always been an objective, always in the back of my mind. When Cristiano Ronaldo won it in the past and got it on the pitch at the Bernabeu, I was happy for him, of course. Happy to be in his team and then you have to think: ah yes, I want to win it too."

"I can say that I've never been so close to winning it thanks to my performances, what I've been doing in the past three or four years here," he continues.

The Ballon d'Or is not an obsession for Benzema; it is an ambition. Like playing for Real Madrid, "the biggest club in the world" was always an ambition of his. Like winning with Real Madrid -- winning three La Liga titles, four Champions Leagues -- and cementing his place in the club's history, with 201 goals since arriving at the club in 2009. Like playing for France again and winning trophies with his country, becoming an idol for the younger generation. The striker born and bred in Lyon has achieved all of that.

"They are stats, and nowadays, we talk a lot about stats. But me? What I love and what I enjoy is that today, we look at my stats but also at what I am doing on the pitch. On passes, on movement, on actions, on controls, on runs, that's what I am loving the most. In the past three or four years there is this consistency, especially in big games, when my team needs me, I am always there, helping them. That's what fulfills me the most."

"I play freely, I play the football I love."

The love of the game is something that comes up a lot -- that pleasure will always be the main reason he's still playing at the top level. But perhaps most important in all of this is that Benzema is finally getting the recognition for everything he's been doing at Real Madrid for many years, often overlooked during the Cristiano Ronaldo era.

"I knew what I was bringing to that team. Today, we can say that I am bringing more in terms of stats, but my game has not changed," he says. "Of course, I appreciate the recognition today. When everyone in the football world acknowledges what I'm doing at the moment and I've been doing for one, two, three or four years, the consistency, it makes me proud."

As Luka Modric leaves the training ground and walks past Benzema, he could not help himself: "Balon de Oro," he says, smiling. The Croatian maestro knows what he is talking about. He won it back in 2018, at the same age Benzema is now.

Everyone at Real Madrid, from current players to former legends, is backing Benzema in the race for the ultimate solo prize. He's not unique in that he's getting better with age; look at Ronaldo or Zlatan Ibrahimovic, both of whom have scored more since turning 30 than they did before. Benzema is the same.

So what's behind his late brilliance? The talent's always been there. There is the more "invisible" part of the game, not measured by stats, but maybe the biggest key for Benzema was the departure of a certain megastar. Ronaldo's exit from Real Madrid in July 2018, helped open a path for the French forward, but he doesn't talk about his time with the five-time Ballon d'Or winner with bitterness or frustration.

"When you play with a guy who scores 50 or 60 goals a season, of course you're at the service of the team, but you're at the service of the player too. I had to adapt. I had a very good connection with him. Once he left, it was down to me to take a step forward and show that I could make the difference too," he continues. Benzema has been carrying this Real Madrid side ever since, hitting 74 league goals since the start of the 2018-19 season.

Of all the players who have ever played this game, if there was one he could team up with today, it would be the Brazilian striker Ronaldo. Benzema grew up idolising Ronaldo, "the greatest" according to him.

"Ronaldo is only forward for whom I would

accept to be on the bench! It is thanks to him that I started doing step-overs, the same movements as him even if he did them 1,000 times quicker. He made me love football. There was Zizou [Zidane] as well, but in my position, Ronaldo is the one who revolutionised the role of a forward. For me, he is the complete forward, a role model, and if you want to learn something on a striker, you have to watch R9."

"I don't think it's just me [who feels this way] -- it's everyone."

To see Ronaldo posting a message in support of him for the Ballon d'Or race with the photo of their first meeting, in 2009, was special. "Look how young I am..." Benzema says.

"When I came here in Madrid, I was a bit on my own. It was tough. It is really tough. It is down to my mental strength. For me, as long as I am not an undisputed starter, I am not performing or people don't appreciate my game, I won't give up -- I won't let go. We are all more or less the same [at Madrid], football-wise. We can all make a pass or score a goal. But the mental element is finishing a game, enjoying it for a bit and then already thinking about the next game, how to prepare, how to play. That's my approach."

"As soon as I finish a game, whether it was good or bad, I already think about my recovery and what I will do in the next match. Straight away. We play one evening at 9 p.m. and the next morning, it's forgotten," he says. "[Real Madrid] is a great club. It is demanding, the pressure

is at the highest. I can't rest on my laurels and say oh it's OK, last season I scored 30 goals so this season, I will take it easy. It doesn't work like this, and that's what motivates me every time.">

So what does the future hold for Benzema? His contract expires in June 2023. He's got plenty of time to think about what he will do next, though he doesn't seem to be stressed.

"I take year by year. As long as I have this desire, this joy, and I am loving football, I continue. I don't look at age or what is happening. It is all down to how I feel physically. I will never force it. I am 33; I will turn 34 in December. I continue to play, I feel better and better, so I have to continue. And to make the most of it," he says.

"I like the USA. Football is getting better and better there. But am I telling you I will sign there? Right now, I am in Madrid," he says, smiling again.

After almost an hour together, also talking about music, French TV series (recent favorites: "Validé" and "Family Business") and President Emmanuel Macron's performance in the charity football match he played in the day before our interview, Benzema can finally go for lunch. Later, he will add two more gym sessions at his house, a special recovery treatment, more massages and more preparation for the games to come.

Benzema's path to the top, staying there this long and getting this close to the Ballon d'Or, is not because of coconut water. It's because of all of that.

ESPN



SPORT

Karim Benzema is Real Madrid's MVP

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Taifa Stars rise three places in FIFA rankings



Senior national football team, Taifa Stars. PHOTO: TFF

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Taifa Stars' impressive form in the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers recently has seen them move up significantly in the latest rankings released by the world football governing body.

Coach Kim Poulsen's men registered an away victory in Group J of their World Cup qualifiers against Benin and currently top the standings with two games to play against DR Congo and Madagascar.

In the latest FIFA rankings released yesterday, Taifa Stars are in 139th place.

These are two places up the last rankings that were released

in September, as they leapfrogged Turkmenistan and Rwanda.

Tanzania amassed eight points but could have climbed higher had they not lost at home against Benin in their 2022 World Cup Qualifiers' tie early this month.

On the African continent, Taifa Stars are currently ranked in 36th place and they will be hoping to get into the top 30 shortly.

Taifa Stars will be back in action in November when they take on DR Congo at home and Madagascar away in the final fixture of the qualifiers.

Poulsen and his men know that there is no room for a slip-up in those two matches, with second-placed Benin and third-placed DR Congo looking to finish top of the group to progress to the next round of qualifiers.

Benin dropped to 83rd after claiming a 1-0 victory against Taifa Stars but lost by the same margin the return leg in Cotonou.

Other Group J opponents, DR Congo and Madagascar are now ranked 67th and 99th respectively.

Meanwhile, Uganda is still the top-ranked East African region, climbing

to position 82nd after back-to-back wins against neighbours Rwanda.

At the continental level, Senegal remains at position 20th in the world to make the country's squad an outright top-ranked African team.

Tunisia, a second-placed African nation, moved one place up to position 27th, followed by Morocco and Algeria. Nigeria completes the top five nations in Africa.

On the global scene, Belgium remained the top-ranked side, followed by Brazil, France, Italy, and England.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV FRIDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SLEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs. Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planef Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Boxers travel to Serbia for AIBA World Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THREE Tanzanian boxers will travel to Belgrade, Serbia at night to compete in the International Boxing Association (AIBA) World Boxing Championships slated for next week.

The event ends on November 6. Tanzania Open Boxing Federation (OBFT) secretary-general Luke-lo Wililo, who will head the delegation, mentioned the boxers making the trip as Yusuf Changarawe, Alex Sita, and Kassim Mbundwike, while David Yomba Yomba is the team's head coach.

He mentioned Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) as the main sponsor of the team while National Sports Council (NSC) has sponsored allowances for the team and presented the pugilists with tracksuits.

Other sponsors are 255 System CO, who have issued the boxers with travel and sports injury insurance kits, and Dodoma Shades and Canvas who helped in processing the team's visas to Serbia.

The OBFT official thanked all for the support which he described as timely.

"All is set for the team's trip to Serbia, it will depart the country on the night of Friday, we are very hopeful that the team will do well at the event," he said.

He said opponents of local boxers will be known on Sunday at the draw which will be held during the technical meeting of AIBA.

In the past AIBA World Championships, OBFT had failed to field boxers in the showdowns due to financial constraints the federation experienced.

The AIBA World Championships last took place in 2019 in Ekaterinburg, Russia, but Tanzania did not field boxers in the showpiece.

Seleman Kindunda is the last domestic boxer to have represented the country at the AIBA World Boxing Championships. He competed at the 2013 edition, which took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The Serbia event will be overseen by Serbia's President, Alexander Vucic, who heads the Local Organizing Committee (LOC).

AIBA president Omar Kremlev is reported to have said the AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships will show determination to provide boxers around the world a platform to achieve their full potential.

"We are confident that the tournament will be conducted safely because of the successful implementation of COVID-19 countermeasures throughout the year," he said.

2021 Guru Nanak Motor Rally to solely feature Tanzanian drivers

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

PRACTICALLY, all participants of the 'Atlantic' Guru Nanak Rally 2021, to be flagged off in Arusha on Sunday, are Tanzanians.

It is yet to be known why there are no participants from outside the country this year.

That is except for Ravi Chana, a navigator from Kenya, who co-drives with Manveer Birdi for

the Birdi Team, in the Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution IX car Number 30.

A total of 16 cars have made it into the forthcoming Guru Nanak Rally, manifest and there will be 11 Subarus, many being different versions of Impreza models.

Organized by the Arusha Motor Sports Club (AMSC), the 2021 Tanzania National Rally Championship's round seven racing also features four Mitsubishi Lancer

vehicles.

And as it seems, the odd one out is the only Metro MG (2WD) entry, a car with Number 21, on its doors. The MG is to be driven by Gurtal Bhogal of the Walaps 13 Rally team.

The Guru Nanak Rally will be flagged off at the Sikh Union Club in Arusha on Sunday.

Afterward, the 16 cars with their 32 personnel, in the GNR race will tackle 138 kilometers of the wild terrains in Monduli District of Arusha.

Event coordinator, Manmeet Singh, who is also the AMSC Chairperson, said the rally base will be stationed at the Tanzania Military Academy (TMA)'s Dhababu Resort.

Even though during last year's Guru Nanak Rally, foreign drivers topped the bill, this year neither Kenya nor Uganda has fielded drivers for the event.

Kenya had brought five rally drivers last year and even managed to take the overall trophy for their trouble.

As it happened the 2020 Guru Nanak Rally Winner was the Kenyan driver, Karan Patel, who handled his Ford Fiesta machine well, being navigated by Tauseef Khan in its cockpit.

Patel first won the rally in 2018 with James Mwangi in a Mitsubishi Lancer Evo10.

Ian Duncan with co-driver Tej Sehmi was the first runner-up, in last year's event, while Randeep Singh and Zubayr Piredina finished the 2020 race in the third position.



Tanzanian rally driver, Tufail Amin, features in this year's National Rally Championship held in Dar es Salaam in July. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TUFAL AMIN

National wheelchair tennis squad in need of financial backing

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S national wheelchair tennis team has sent a passionate appeal to sports stakeholders to help the squad get \$9,500 to field six players in the coming Puma Engineering International Tennis Federation (ITF) competition slated for next month in Abuja, Nigeria.

The appeal was made by the national wheelchair tennis team head coach, Riziki Salum, saying they are looking for sponsors who can help the team compete at the event.

The tactician disclosed: "Players are undergoing training in readiness for the Nigeria competition, but one thing which is painful to them is that they are in suspense as they don't know if they will compete at the event."

"Leaders of Tanzania Wheelchair Tennis Association have reached out to many stakeholders looking for financial support, we are just keeping our fingers

crossed so that we can get the money we want," he said.

The players earmarked for the trip are Voster Isaya, Albert Chuli, Jumanne Nassoro, Lucy Julius, Rehema Said, and the player who will emerge victorious in a playoff clash pitting Monica Boniface against Pendo James.

He said the Puma Engineer ITF Wheelchair Tennis Championship is expected to bring a lot of excitement to the Tanzanian players, as it is the first time the country is seeking to field players in the event.

He said ITF will pay half of the cost while the Wheelchair Tennis Association has been tasked with looking for the other half of the cash.

Salum said the Nigeria event would serve as a springboard to the country's readiness to outdo all major rivals particularly Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, Tunisia, and Kenya for future Wheelchair Championships.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

