



POULTRY



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LOANS



SPEND LOANS MORE JUDICIOUSLY PAGE 7



PSSSF touts investments in agriculture, dairy industry

By Guardian Reporter

THIS year's international farmers' exhibition (Nanenane) offers the public the chance to witness the various investments by the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) in the country's agricultural and livestock sectors, the fund has said.

James Mlowe (pictured), the fund's public relations and education manager, said at the on-going exhibition at the John Mwakangale grounds in Mbeya yesterday, that investments were an aspect of PSSSF responsibilities.

He listed the core responsibilities as registration of members, collection of members' monthly contributions, investments and payment of dividends, where it has invested in various areas.

A portion of its investments is located in industry, injecting funds in the ginger processing factory at Mamba Miamba in Same District, Kilimanjaro Region and Mponde tea factory in Lushoto District, Tanga Region.

PSSSF has invested in the Kisasa Nguru slaughterhouse in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region and at the Kilimanjaro International Leather Industries Co. Ltd



I work with the Vice President's Office in Dodoma. I arrived at the PSSSF pavilion and was served within five minutes

(KLICL), widening market outlets for local raw hides, he said.

He said farmers and livestock keepers are important stakeholders of the fund, asking them to visit the PSSSF pavilion to view opportunities provided by its investment in agro-processing, livestock and other industries.

PSSSF provides services to central government employees, local governments and organizations in which the government owns more than 30 percent of the shares, he said.

This year's exhibition theme, 'youth and women are a strong foundation for sustainable food systems,' was designated to unite efforts of the different sectors, he said.

"When we have enough food we build a strong workforce mostly of young people. Once employed in the public sector they become our members," he elaborated.

In the ongoing exhibition, apart from showing what the fund is doing, relevant services are also provided to members, with

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NHC: Review land laws to boost housing sector

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S land legislation should be reviewed to allow those who are in the Diaspora and foreigners buy properties in Tanzania, a leading developer has declared.

Hamad Abdallah, director general of the National Housing Corporation (NHC), made this observation at a detailed briefing for different media outlets in Dar es Salaam yesterday, affirming that asset values had grown rapidly since 2019.

Noting that they buy property for their own benefits and the country's benefits as well, he stated that many countries have done so as it is hugely beneficial, "taking into account that they cannot go with the properties bought here."

"It will remain here," he said, affirming that as of now 24 projects executed on a public private partnership (PPP) format worth 340bn/- have been approved by the board of directors.

"What is happening now is preparation for contracts by the office of the Attorney General so that implementation starts," he elaborated.



Upwards of 560 houses are being constructed in Kawe suburb in Dar es Salaam, to be implemented in phases costing a total of 466bn/-,

The more prominent real estate projects include the Morocco intersection in Dar es Salaam or Morocco Square, completed by 97 percent and booked by tenants and potential buyers.

Morocco Square has the most sophisticated shopping mall so far, with the entire project taking up 137bn/- investment, featuring office space on a 22-storey building which has 100 apartments, supermarkets and retail, cinema hall, conference venues, coffee shops, and a 13 storey hotel with 81 rooms.

The multibillion-shilling project once derided as a white elephant as it stalled for several years was revived in 2022 as the business atmosphere was being rekindled, he said.

Talks are underway for the revival of the Kawe project pegged at 711bn/- and the Golden Premium apartment project which has taken up 71bn/- so that the projects are on track again, he stated.

The government will recoup its money back once all the real estate projects are completed, as NHC will be collecting not less than 850m/- per month from tenants, with annual collections set at 9bn/-, he elaborated.

There is hence a need for the government to review land laws for Tanzanians in the Diaspora to buy land and develop it for the country's development.

Current land laws thwart those in the Diaspora wishing to buy land and properties like houses, which isn't healthy to the country's economy, he stated.

NHC total asset value grew at an average of 12percent since 2019 to reach 5.04trn/- as of mid-2023, he stated.

This was due to investment on buildings, undeveloped land and projects being developed in phases, while increasing revenues to 257.47bn/- in 2022 from the

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Bank of Tanzania governor Emmanuel Tutuba (L) briefs Vice President Dr Philip Mpango on the expected focus and reach of the National Financial Inclusion Framework for 2023-2028 which the VP launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: VPO

TCRA eyes ethical content TV project

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is organising a special programme to produce ethical content for 150 licensed district level broadcasting stations.

Dr Jabiri Bakari, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) director general, made this affirmation in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a media briefing on communication sector performance during the past year.

Addressing concerns about content from foreign sources, especially inappropriate foreign cartoons for children, he said the goal is to use existing local broadcasting infrastructure to build a society valuing ethics, traditions and Tanzanian culture.

TCRA is partnering with independent producers to produce quality children's



I think they need to adapt and change according to fast-changing media trends; digital media is overtaking traditional means, and they have to cope

cartoons for the local environment, for which it is recording traditional dances of 120 tribes in updated formats, he stated, noting that this initiative seeks to preserve the country's rich cultural heritage.

He said that the broadcasting sector is experiencing remarkable growth, fuelled by expansion of electronic content services, as of June 2023 it reported an impressive surge in registered broadcasting entities.

It had 66 television stations, 272 online TVs, 81 cable TVs, 225 radios and eight online radios, he elaborated, asserting that TCRA has been instrumental in promoting the broadcasting industry's growth by allocating radio frequency spectrum resources in 21 regions.

This effort enabled 30 service providers to establish radio broadcasting stations in various regions, where this presence played a significant role in fostering community development by providing education, information and entertainment, he said.

TCRA's responsibility extends beyond enabling broadcasting services as it is

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Four die in road crash involving 'Prado', truck

By Guardian Correspondent, Chalinz

FOUR people were killed on the spot following head-on collision of a Toyota Prado with a cargo truck (Scania) at Mapatano village in Mbewe ward of Bagamoyo District, Coast Region.

Regional Police Commander (RPC) Pius Lutumo (pictured) said yesterday that the Toyota Prado with registration number T 104 CBU was involved in a collision at midnight August 2 with the Scania truck, T881 DWU/ T888 DWU, where four people



in the Prado died on the spot.

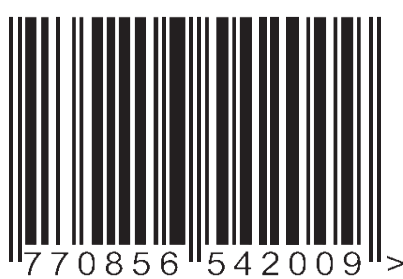
Preliminary investigations show that the Toyota Prado driver was at high speed when he tried to overtake, switching lanes without caution and thus hitting the truck, leading to the horrific accident, the RPC stated.

The private car was travelling from Dar es Salaam to Same District in Kilimanjaro Region and the truck was travelling from Arusha Region, he said.

The deceased are Neech Msuya who was chief risk officer at Absa Bank, Dayana Mageta, Nora Msuya who was a lecturer at Mzumbe University at the Dar es Salaam campus, and another female passenger yet to be identified.

The bodies were received at Lugoba dispensary in Chalinz Township for

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NHC: Review land laws to boost housing sector

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144.42bn/- recorded in the previous year, he said.

In the year 2021/22 revenues from rents increased to 90.76bn/- from 89.23bn/- the previous year, featuring revenues from house sales pegged at 29.33bn/- in the 2020/21 financial year, reaching 121.95bn/- in 2021/22.

Revenues from construction tenders increased from 25.60bn/- in 2020/21 to 43.98bn/- in fiscal 2021/22, with actual profits originating from its operations reaching 60.7bn/- in 2021/22 from 31.7bn/- for fiscal 2020/21.

NHC paid various taxes amounting to 32.4bn/- for fiscal 2022/23 and issued a dividend to the government pegged at 750m/-

, he said, describing it as the legal amount to be paid to the Treasury registrar for the year.

The increase in NHC buildings shows the solidity of the housing sector, in line with its 10 year strategic plan (2015-2025) which focuses on building more houses to facilitate economic growth.

This involves the construction of 5,000 residential and commercial buildings under the Samia Housing Scheme (SHS), chiefly in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma, while 30percent of the houses will be built in other regions.

Upwards of 560 houses are being constructed in Kawe suburb in Dar es Salaam, to be implemented in phases costing a total of 466bn/-, he added.

TCRA eyes ethical content TV project

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entrusted with ensuring that content aired by broadcasting stations adheres to journalistic ethics, upholds the law and promotes local culture and heritage, he stated.

TCRA's efforts in promoting local content have been evident in the creation of 14 national licensed stations that focus on producing programs dedicated to family and youth education, he declared.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Children the regulator will be coordinating the wide ranging ethical content project, he said.

Equally noticeable is the increase in the number of viewers using digital television receivers, where by June 2023 there were 3.3m digital television receivers, compared to 3.1m in July 2022.

Out of this number, 1.7m were digital terrestrial television receivers and 1.6m satellite TV receivers, he stated, pointing out that among the regions, Dar es Salaam led in digital television receivers (1.2m), followed by Arusha (275,449), Mwanza (262,380), and Mbeya (208,924). Songwe Region had the fewest digital television receivers at 1,357, he said.

Cable television services have also witnessed a steady rise, with the number of subscribers growing from 16,786 in 2018 to 19,671 in June 2023, he said.

Lake Zone regions have

embraced cable TV services, with Shinyanga leading the way with 2,803 subscribers, followed by Mwanza with 2,195, and Kagera with 1,770 subscribers.

Conversely, Kilimanjaro Region has 130 subscribers, Morogoro (120), and Coast (30) he remarked, explaining broadcasting sector growth as due to Tanzania's commitment to nurturing its media landscape.

It was also promoting local content and ensuring that its citizens receive valuable and culturally appropriate content, he declared.

Happy Kavishe, a resident of Dar es Salaam, applauded the government's move to promote growth of local content through broadcast media by ensuring the licensing framework becomes friendlier.

"The government's decision to scrap licensing for online content creators who focus on non-current affairs information should be applauded; I also believe that the growth of the entertainment sector is boosting the industry."

Dr Francis Ng'atigwa, who lectures Journalism and Mass Communication in St. Augustine University at the Dar es Salaam campus said media convergence remains the sole challenge for traditional media practitioners.

"I think they need to adapt and change according to fast-changing media trends; digital media is overtaking traditional means, and they have to cope," he added.

Four die in road crash involving 'Prado', truck

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certain procedures before being handed to relatives for burial services.

The RPC urged motorists and other road users to adhere to road safety regulations to avoid unnecessary accidents.

Reports show that 80 percent of accidents are caused by reckless drivers, 12 percent arising from mechanical problems of vehicles, six percent stemming from

weather disruptions arising from climate change. Only two percent of road accidents arise from poor infrastructures, experts affirm.

The Global Status Report on road safety by the World Health Organisation (WHO) says in a report that road traffic injuries are the leading killers of people aged 5-29 years. Every year road accidents cause the deaths of more than 1.35m people, disproportionately affecting the developing countries, it added.

CRB makes appeal to indigenous contractors to abide by tax laws

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

INDIGENOUS contractors have been called to professionally manage their firms by adhering laws regarding payment of taxes in time and hiring of suitable experts in various sectors to avoid unnecessary challenges facing them.

The call was made here on Wednesday by the Contractors Registration Board (CRB) Registrar, Eng. Rhobin Nkori at the opening of the training seminar for empowering indigenous contractors.

Nkori added that among the aims of the training seminar is to provide education to contractors regarding the ongoing tussle pitting them with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

"I am glad to see that one of the issues to be taught in the seminar regards taxes, as this will help us reduce the big ongoing tug-of-war between contractors and TRA," said CRB Registrar.

He also said some firms operate

under the names of the owners and this creates the tussle whenever the project is inspected by TRA through CRB, hence he called on owners of the firms to manage their companies well to ward off such challenges.

Nkori stressed that in order to build a good image for the country's contractors, the Board will continue taking legal steps against all contractors who violate work ethics.

For his part, the Director of Sonco Engineering Company Limited, Eng. Baraka Materu appealed to the government to have in place special strategies by involving indigenous contractors when implementing huge projects in order to build for them the capacity to implement them owing to new technologies that they will have to learn from the said projects.

The three-day training provided by CRB involved contractors from various areas of the country and aimed at exchanging experiences and empowering them in executing their responsibilities professionally.



Residents of Mahasa and Kabukuyungu villages in Kigoma Region gather outside the High Court in Kigoma yesterday ready to follow the proceedings of a case in which they have a stake - as advised by Justice Lamech Mlacha. The villagers have asked the court to grant a temporary order restraining the board of trustees of the Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) and the Attorney General from continuing to weigh the pros and cons of relocating them from contested areas. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PSSSF touts investments in agriculture, dairy industry

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retirees visiting the pavilion assured to meet "customer-oriented, honest and professional staff who are ready to serve them," he stated.

They will be able to get information regarding operations of the fund, while retirees will be able to verify their information through

fingerprints (biometric procedure), he emphasised.

Grace Kabemela, the chief accountant, assured members including pensioners that the fund is in a good condition to pay benefits on time.

"The law requires us to make sure that once a retired member

submits complete documents, he should be paid his lump sum benefits within 60 days. At PSSSF, we have set ourselves goals to pay retirees benefits within 30 days," he affirmed, noting the fund pays pension to beneficiaries on the 25th of each month.

Habiba Khalid Mhina, a fund

member who visited the PSSSF booth to get information about her contributions, commended officials for timely providing her with all the required information.

"I work with the Vice President's Office in Dodoma, I arrived at the PSSSF pavilion and was served within five minutes," she added.



Augustino Matutu (2nd-R), head of Azania Bank Limited's agriculture portfolio, briefs Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in Mbeya yesterday on how the bank has been supporting agriculture in the country. This was at the bank's pavilion at this year's edition of the Nanenane (Farmers' Day) Fair now in progress in the southern highlands city, with the bank the main sponsor. Photo: PMO

Tablets assembling factory wins praise from minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

DR Ashatu Kijaji, Minister for Industry and Trade, has said she is satisfied with the first new factory in Tanzania for assembling tablets and other communications equipment - TanzTech Electronics Limited.

The minister made the remarks here yesterday in her visit to the factory located at Njiro area during her working visit in Arusha Region.

Dr Kijaji said she is satisfied with the investment because it is one step in addressing the shortage of tablets in elementary and secondary schools.

"I commend you for the investment, I believe the tablets you will produce will help students to learn on better use of communication technology and other lessons," she said.

She added that the aim of President Samia Suluhu Hassan is to have investment opportunities in the science and technology sectors for the development of Tanzanians to be able to go in tandem with the digital world.

She also called on the Managing director of TanzTech Electronics Limited to improve its services by starting to produce items that go in tandem with the developing

market of science and technology.

She added that the tablets to be produced should satisfy educational needs for students as well as in offices and other institutions in the community.

"The government has put in place a good investment environment for investors and has given them opportunities to come to invest in the country and we are ready to work together with them," she added.

Gurveer Hans, the firm's director, said the factory was established in collaboration with the people of China who have great experience in issues of technology.

However, he said the factory has been officially registered and verified by Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA), Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), National Environment Management Council (NEMC) and Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) and will have the capacity to assemble smart phones, laptops, smart projectors, mini routers and electricity meters.

He mentioned other products as prepaid water meters, medical electronic stethoscopes and multi-parameter health monitors.

He said as for now it has the capacity to assemble 40,000 smartphones, 30,000 tablets 15,000 laptops and 10,000 smart projectors per month.



Nedrick Godfrey, an engineer with the Road Fund Board (holding handset), pictured yesterday demonstrating to visitors at the RFB pavilion at the Nananane (Farmers' Day) Fair now in progress in Mbeya city on an electronic monitoring system meant to relay road condition information swiftly by mobile phone. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt all out to make poultry industry more productive

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE government is set to transform the country's poultry industry from traditional keeping practices to beneficial modern one to create more employment opportunities for the youth and income generation the entire value chain.

Abdallah Ulega, minister for Livestock and fisheries made the remarks when launching a hatchery plant at the event held in Arusha on Wednesday.

Ulega said: "For now, our plans in the poultry industry is to transform the sector. We want to attain; cooperation from both sides - the private sector and the government."

According to Ulega, Silversands—the firm

producing chicks and chicken feed is to establish special plan that will collaborate with the Build a Better Tomorrow (BBT) Mifugo in support of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts to empower youth and women in the livestock sector for inclusive economic growth and reduce high interest loans in the community.

The minister said they have been in discussions with Silversands for them to support efforts to develop small poultry keepers, youth and women and this goes in tandem with the support to President Samia Suluhu Hassan in the BBT programme.

"Silverlands are ready to support this huge project, I thank them and inform all Tanzanians that now the firm is in unison

with BBT in regard to the poultry keeping industry.

"In that basis I welcome other investors in the industry to also unite with the government," Ulega added.

Arusha regional Commissioner, John Mongella said the government in Arusha Region will continue working together and oversee investments that are beneficial to the community to economically uplift Arusha residents.

Dr Ben Mushi, Silversands Board Chairman, said more than 100,000 poultry keepers have benefitted by the BBT Mifugo Programme and are ready to support President Samia's efforts to uplift the youth and women through the programme.

'Work on snags inhibiting people from accessing financial services'

By Francis Kajubi

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has tasked the Finance and Home Affairs ministries to work on factors barring people from accessing formal financial services.

He stressed the need for the Ministry of Home Affairs to ensure universal access to national identification cards from birth, a move which will also enable children under the age of 18 to legally own mobile money and bank accounts in their own names.

Dr Mpango gave the directive yesterday in Dar es Salaam when he graced the launch of the third phase of the National Financial Inclusion Framework 2023-2028. The public-private stakeholders' initiative that will be implemented under the theme 'Leave no one behind.'

He urged the two ministries to strengthen financial consumer protection against cybercrimes and halt digital market malpractices in order to create consumers' trust and confidence using digital financial services.

He urged the finance ministry in particular to focus on harnessing technology opportunities to reach the underserved population especially farmers, fisheries, small and medium businesses.

He further emphasized on the essence to reduce the cost for formal financial services by developing friendly regulations especially on collateral for ease of access to credit.

"I call upon the ministry of finance and the private sector to increase efforts in extending affordable shared payments infrastructure to enhance the use of formal financial services. There is also a need to enhance universal connectivity, to reduce reliance on cash transactions and push for competitiveness," he said.

He said financial inclusion is the key to integrating unbanked to the formal economy helping in poverty alleviation, stimulate public spending and embrace the living standards for all.

Referring the FinScope 2023 by the Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT) report he said the banked population has grown from 16.7 percent in 2017 to 22.2 percent in June this year, which he said it

is moving closely the target of 33 percent set to be achieved by 2025.

Despite the achieved progress in financial inclusion the remaining challenge is to fully include the entire population into formal financial services. In rural areas less than 10 percent of adults have access to banking services.

Minister for Finance Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said the framework will also focus on sub sectors of banking, insurance, capital markets and social securities.

According to him, in 2022 the financial sector assets grew at 17.2 percent while its contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) was 9.2 percent.

"Despite all initiatives by the government still there is low uptake of formal financial services. For instance, only ten percent of Tanzanians have taken insurance services and four percent have pension accounts while those investing in capital markets are less than one percent," said Dr Nchemba.

He said mobile money and microfinance services have registered a significant growth. The framework therefore has been developed to coordinate the public and private sector to address the financial inclusion barriers.

On his part, Emmanuel Tutuba, Chairperson National Council for Financial Inclusion and central bank's governor, said the second framework which ended December 2022 has recorded several achievements such as the increase of the percentage of adults who access formal financial services from 86 percent in 2017 to 89 percent in 2023.

The usage of formal financial services grew from 65 percent in 2017 to 76 percent in 2023.

"The notable increase was mainly attributed to high adoption of digital financial services, increased awareness of financial products and services and strong collaboration among public and private financial inclusion stakeholders," said Tutuba.

He asserted that the third framework sets out specific initiatives for women, youth, MSMEs, smallholder farmers and fishers and persons with disability to contribute to improving their participation in economic activities, subsequently their well-being and



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PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR TAILING STORAGE FACILITIES (TSF) DESIGN WORK

Mantra Tanzania Limited (Mantra), operating as a subsidiary of Uranium One, is focused on the potential development of a Uranium Mine at its Mkuju River Project (MRP) in the Namtumbo District of Ruvuma Region.

Now Mantra invites eligible companies to express their Interests (EOI) for provision of TSF Design Work to Mantra.

Interested Companies are requested, as a minimum, to submit the following:

- Detailed company information, corporate documents, Organization Structure and list of workers with CVs of key personnel.
- Details of completion of similar types of contracts in the last three years and similar contracts/agreements currently under execution under the headings:
 - a) Brief scope of work/item;
 - b) Value of work in USD;
 - c) Contractual Duration;
 - d) Clients name; and
 - e) Contact details of the Client (Mantra may approach the client directly for the feedback).
- Details of resources available in terms of the number of manpower, equipment etc. for providing similar services
- Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policies, procedures and statistics covering the last 4 years.
- Copies of Valid Quality Certifications / Accreditations, ISO certifications, If any.
- Company's financial performance documents (Audited Balance sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for last 3 (three) years. Latest financial statement should not be older than 18 months on the date of submission of response to Expression of interest.
- Current Tax Clearance Certificate from the relevant authority.
- Workers Compensation Fund Certificate.
- Corporate ownership including main shareholders by percentage.
- Approved Local Content Plan by the Mining Commission.

The interested bidders should submit a soft copy of their Expression of Interest (EOI) via e-mail address; mantra@uranium1.co.tz and the hard copy to the below address latest on 18th August 2023 at 16.00 hours.

Managing Director
Mantra Tanzania Ltd
Plot No. 1520, Masaki Ikon, Bains Avenue, Masaki
P. O. Box 23451, Dar es Salaam, Tel +255764700440.

217536901



Hakiki Stempu!



Linda Afya yako.
Hakiki stempu
kwenye kinywaji
chako mwenyewe!



Protecting environment vital duty, VPO staff told

By Guardian Reporter

ENVIRONMENT protection is distinct from other roles in public service as it ensures safety of not only the present but the future hence requires utmost dedication and diligence, workers in the Vice President's Office have been told.

A statement released yesterday by the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) quoted the minister in charge of the docket Dr Selemani Jafo telling those charged with environment protection to understand the importance of the work and double efforts and ensure sustainable management of the environment.

The advisory said Dr Jafo made the remarks when opening a working meeting of the VPO staff held in Dodoma.

He thanked and congratulated leaders and employees in general for pushing forward the environmental agenda through the management of various environmental principles and leaders.

"My fellow civil servants, I offer my sincere congratulations to you because you have made good use of your expertise in properly managing environmental protection through our various campaigns," he emphasized.

Also, Minister Jafo has encouraged the managers of the projects implemented

by the Office to continue managing them well so that they continue to bring productivity to citizens in areas with environmental challenges.

He has encouraged employees to live in love with each other and to fulfill their responsibilities by working efficiently and with self-sacrifice to leave a mark in their workplace and people will remember them.

Permanent Secretary in the VPO Mary Maganga encouraged the staff of the office to be creative in order to achieve great results in the implementation of their duties.

Along with congratulating the employees, he has also asked them to continue working with effort and knowledge because by doing so it will contribute to pushing development forward.

Also, he has given an opinion to employees through their creativity and skills to use the opportunity of available technology to improve the work environment and thus make work performance more productive.

"As you know, we have just started the new fiscal year and so I have very high expectations from you employees to see that you are working hard and that the Office is getting good results," stressed the PS.



Simanjiro district medical officer Dr Aristidy Raphael (in grey jacket, gesturing) makes introductory remarks at Loiborsiret ward health centre yesterday to welcome Manyara regional commissioner Queen Sendiga (in all-deep-blue) to the newly built facility. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey



TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICABILITY OF INTRODUCED WITHHOLDING TAX OF TWO PERCENT (2%) ON THE SALE OF MINERALS

The Finance Act, 2023 has amended the provisions of Section 83(1) of the Income Tax Act, Cap. 332 (herein referred to as ITA, 2004) by introducing withholding tax of two **percent (2%)** on payments made by buyers of precious metals, gemstones and other precious stones, supplied by the holder of a Primary Mining License (PML) or Artisanal Miner. The amendment became effective since **1st day of July, 2023**.

Based on the amendments, the actual payer of the tax shall be the Artisanal Miner or Holders of Primary Mining License (PML). In order to remit the tax to TRA, Licensed brokers shall withhold tax when making payments to the PML holders or the Artisanal Miners upon purchase of precious metals, gemstones and other precious stones at the mineral buying centres. When Brokers sell the minerals to the Dealers, there shall be no withholding tax on the payments.

Moreover, where Artisanal Miners or holders of PML sell the minerals direct to the Licensed Dealers, tax shall be withheld by the Licensed Dealers at the Mineral Markets and shall be required to be remitted to TRA.

It is worth-noting that the tax to be withheld shall be a final tax to the Artisanal Miner or Holder of PML as provided for under Section 86(1)(g) of ITA, 2004. This means that, an Artisanal Miner or holder of PML shall not be subjected to any further income tax assessment on the same income derived from the sale of mentioned minerals.

Note that TRA Officers shall be available at the Mineral Markets to facilitate issuance of control numbers for payment of the respective tax and provide clarification on the said tax when the need arises.

Licensed Brokers are urged to come along with particulars of the Artisanal Miners or Holders of PML to include their full names and Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), from whom tax has been withheld, in order to ensure that the tax to be remitted is reflected in the respective tax account of the seller (Artisanal Miner or PML holder).

Miners who will not have TIN, respective services shall be offered at the Mineral Buying centres, Mineral Markets, as well as at the TRA Regional Offices.

For further information, please visit your nearest TRA Office or use the following contacts to communicate with us: -

Website : www.tra.go.tz
Toll free numbers : **0800 750 075** or **0800 780 078** or **0800 110 016**
WhatsApp : **0744 23 33 33**
E-Mail : services@tra.go.tz

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BMH focus on more specialised services

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Dodoma-based Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH) now eyes for more specialised and super specialised services in an effort to be a medical tourism hub, it has been revealed.

Dr Alphonse Chandika, BMH Chief Executive Officer revealed this here yesterday when briefing journalists on Tuesday on the hospital's implementation of the development projects and prospects for the 2023/24 financial year.

According to Dr Chandika, the government's efforts to boost supply of medical oxygen in the country through BMH are one of the moves that have put it to another level.

The government had invested 1.5bn/- at the facility for construction of an oxygen plant which started generating oxygen in July 2022, and to date, the hospital is supplying oxygen to other health facilities in different regions in the country.

Dr Chandika said that in addition to meeting its oxygen demand, the hospital has managed to supply the essential medicine to their health facilities and earned 927m/- profit in a period of one year of its operation.

"The plant has generated the amount of money within just one year of its inception and we hope to more in the coming years" he said, adding that this is after deducting operation costs like electricity, water bills, salaries among others.

The 1.5bn/- was dished out by the government for the purchase and installation of oxygen generators, 560 medical oxygen gas cylinders and three-tonne van for supplying the oxygen, he said.

"This realization gives us the optimism that the plant will earn the facility more income and enable it to operate by its own source of income and help the hospital achieve the desire of being a medical tourism hub," said Dr Chandika.

He said the hospital supplies oxygen to health facilities, which include Morogoro, Manyara, Iringa, Tabora, Iringa and Singida regions.

The CEO noted that within one year, the plant has supplied 37,111- medical oxygen cylinders with capacity of 50 litres and 430 with capacity of between five and ten litres all worth 1.85bn/-.

He commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan's decision to disburse money to invest in the oxygen plant as the country is assured of the medical oxygen supply thus cutting down the cost the government would have incurred for importing the gas.

Moreover, he said, the hospital is among the beneficiaries of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Covid-19 emergency financial assistance under the Rapid Credit Facility and Rapid Financing Instrument.

The hospital, he said, received 2.64bn/- under the facility, which was spent in improving emergency services, ICU by increasing the room from six to 22 rooms by the end of the 2022/23.

In the 2022/23 financial year, the hospital also purchased digital x-ray machines, two ambulances; strengthen telemedicine's services and medical experts training, courtesy of the IMF funding.

The hospital, which attends between 800 and 1,200 patients daily, he said, has come up with an electronic system which is a solution to avoid long queues for people seeking medical services.



The plant has generated the amount of money within just one year of its inception and we hope to more in the coming years

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One on One with The Head of Investment Banking at Stanbic Bank Tanzania

Question: What does winning the Best Investment Bank award in Tanzania mean to the Bank and clients?

Elibariki Ndossi - Head, Investment Banking - Stanbic Bank Tanzania:

It's exciting but also rewarding to the efforts across multiple teams that work together to solution for our clients, not just within Investment Banking, but across various divisions including our support functions. I think it's commensurate to the effort that the team has put together to be able to support and provide these solutions to our clients. But I think more importantly, we would like to thank our clients who give us the opportunity to actually provide and craft bespoke solutions to meet their needs and requirements.

Our clients are at the centre of everything we do, and it is our priority to provide them with tailored solutions that truly enable them to achieve their investment needs.

Question: What does this win mean for the common citizen and the country?

Elibariki Ndossi: So, I think to the extent that we are able to drive and contribute towards the sectors which are driving growth, the trickle-down effect is actually quite substantial. This is because the key sectors we play in, such as the public sector and the private sector, supporting the government and the state-owned enterprises to conduct the big infrastructure projects that you see across roads, energy sector, education and health sectors etc, these directly trickle down to the common citizen.

And then on the private sector side, the investments that we are able to unlock for additional expansions, building capacities, etcetera, these enable these companies to actually provide better services and better products and in an efficient manner, such that at least at the end of the day, the common citizen does get benefits including direct/indirect employment, availability of quality products and services at affordable prices and the like.

Question: How does this win show testament to the Stanbic Bank purpose of driving growth for its clients and Tanzania?

Elibariki Ndossi: We are privileged as Stanbic Bank Tanzania to take part in driving the growth of the country and clients, because this is our home and what we do is provide exceptional services to our clients, to meet our their needs. We achieve this through extensive cross functional collaborations internally but also extensive engagement with external Stakeholders including our regulators, as they are key in making it possible for us to deliver the products and the services suited to our clients.

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**EXTRACT OF THE STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS
AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	2022 TZS '000	2021 TZS '000
Revenue	25,558,350	24,849,905
Cost of sales	(13,746,778)	(14,532,314)
Gross profit	11,811,572	10,317,591
Other income	161,109	28,999
Operating expenses	(4,631,715)	(4,877,395)
Trade receivables impairment release	(9,544)	-
Operating profit	7,331,422	5,469,195
Finance costs	(1,134,852)	(991,084)
Profit before tax	6,196,570	4,478,111
Income tax expense	(2,716,334)	(1,183,480)
Profit for the year	3,480,236	3,294,631
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income	3,480,236	3,294,631
Earnings per shares (TZS)		
– Basic	60.52	57.29
– Diluted	60.52	57.29

**EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	2022 TZS '000	2021 TZS '000
ASSETS		
Non-current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	36,086,300	26,927,827
Right-of-use assets	328,068	335,125
Intangible asset	225,258	296,478
Advances to suppliers	-	446,856
	36,639,626	28,006,286
Current assets		
Inventories	2,337,579	4,089,520
Trade and other receivables	6,879,076	5,019,850
Cash and bank balances	5,098,300	4,312,902
Asset held for sale	2,674,275	2,674,275
Advances to suppliers	2,370,249	923,077
	19,359,479	17,019,624
TOTAL ASSETS	55,999,105	45,025,910
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	5,750,596	5,750,596
Share premium	6,762,049	6,762,049
Retained Earnings	12,937,553	11,757,384
	25,450,198	24,270,029
Non-current liabilities		
Long term borrowings	8,813,437	11,927,120
Lease liabilities	59,627	59,817
Deferred tax liability	3,878,562	3,387,620
	12,751,626	15,374,557
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	3,721,310	2,115,619
Lease liabilities	11,386	11,385
Tax payable	1,004,532	208,976
Bank overdraft	7,350,103	-
Cylinder deposits	517,137	497,464
Current portion of loans	5,192,813	2,547,880
	17,797,281	5,381,324
Total liabilities	30,548,907	20,755,881
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	55,999,105	45,025,910

DPS asks insurance firms to woo back public trust

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has called insurance companies and other stakeholders in the sector to restore public trust in their services, saying there seems to be a lot of mistrust.

While a lot of reforms have been realized in the sector, not so much has changed on how the insurance companies and brokers serve their customers, especially in cases where compensations are sought.

Jenifer Omolo, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, made the call here yesterday when opening of the Tanzania Insurance Brokers Association (TIBA)'s 7th Annual Insurance Conference.

She noted that insurance service providers ought to find the shortest and easiest ways for aggrieved parties to submit requests for recompense and get timely payment.

Jenifer argued that there are often complaints from the insured on how strenuous it is to get compensation from insurers.

"As we advance to easier ways to apply for insurance covers, mainly through online registration, there is a need to adopt easier ways too

when it comes to compensation," she said.

Jenifer also observed that insurance services are crucial and that as many people as possible should be encouraged to enrol for services, noting that the government is doing a lot in creating opportunities for more investors in insurance, adding that the ongoing industrial push opens the door for more insurers.

On the envisaged agricultural insurance, the deputy PS noted that a lot of research needs to be conducted to ensure it does to lead public outcry.

She said this in response to the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA)'s Director of Supervision, Abubakar Ndwata who in his speech called for government cooperation on the introduction of the agricultural scheme.

Ndwata also noted that insurance service providers are operating within the government policies, regulations and laws, commending the existing cooperation.

He said the sector records an average of 12.8 percent growth annually, stating that the future of insurance in Tanzania is brighter.

"The demand for insurance

services is growing every day and this is an opportunity for more investors in the sector and help build the economy" he said.

He applauded TIBA for convening the meeting that brought together different stakeholders to deliberate on issues affecting the sector, share experiences and learn from each other.

Ndwata who represented the Commissioner of Insurance at the meeting called on the government to hasten preparation of the regulations on the law governing the sector.

Earlier, TBA President, Okoth Oloo, said the two days annual meeting with the theme 'The Power of an Inclusive Insurance Market' provided opportunity for stakeholders to share experiences and new approaches to adopt.

He emphasized on the importance of insurance brokers, stating that they help bridge the gap between insurers and insured. "Brokers help catalyze growth in the sector and boost development", he said.

The president applauded the cordial relation between the brokers and TIRA, which has made their operations workout smoothly.



Shadrack Maximilian, an environmental cleanliness officer with Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni municipality, pictured in the city yesterday making remarks at a seminar on clean energy for cooking seminar organised by local CSO Tanzania Women Empowerment. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Marijuana farms destroyed in DCEA operation in Morogoro

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

THE Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) has destroyed 500 hectares of marijuana farms and seized 131 bags of dried bags of the same in a week-long operation conducted in Morogoro region.

The operation was conducted in collaboration with other security organs including the National Service (JKT) Ruvu, during the eight days in the districts of Morogoro, Morogoro Rural and Mvomero.

Authority's Commissioner General Aretas Lyimo mentioned that in Morogoro Rural District the operation was conducted at Kisaki ward, Rumba village and Mbakana

village; it confiscated 70 sacks and 59 sacks of cannabis respectively.

During the period, a total of 120kg of cannabis seeds were also confiscated alongside the arrest of 18 suspects, according to the DCEA.

In the same vein, 120kg of seeds of such illegal crops were seized as well as 350 hectares of farms were destroyed.

Commissioner General Lyimo told journalists on Wednesday that in Mvomero district 139 hectares were smashed.

Lyimo said Marijuana farmers in the region have been cutting down trees to find more land for Cannabis production along rivers and other wetland areas.

"Farmers have diverging water

from rivers to cultivate marijuana, they have also been causing harm to the environment by controlling water from flowing their way," he said.

He said the farmers have been conducting the kind of farming in hard-to-reach areas saying however that the authority has been reaching out to such people.

He called upon people in the area to report to authorities on people who have been involved in the production of Khat and Marijuana to help in the war against drug abuse in the country.

"This war is for everyone, we need to address this challenge collectively, because these people are causing harm to the environment," he said.

According to the status of drugs report 2022, Morogoro is among the leading five regions in production of Marijuana in Tanzania.

ACT-Wazalendo is openly against democracy infringement in Niger

By Guardian Reporter

ACT-Wazalendo has condemned the recent coup in Niger terming it a grave violation of democratic principles and the rule of law.

Through its government oversight committee, the party said it stands united in the denunciation of any actions that undermine the will of the people and the democratic process.

"The people of Niger have the right to choose their leaders through free, fair, and transparent elections. It is crucial that their voices are heard and respected, and any attempt to subvert this process must be unequivocally

condemned," said Shadow Minister, Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Dr Nasra Nassor Omar.

The party urged the military Junta led by Abdourahmani Tchiani to halt the coup and restore the civilian rule elected democratically by the people of Niger.

"We call for an immediate restoration of constitutional order and the return to civilian rule in Niger. The future of the nation lies in upholding democratic norms and finding peaceful solutions to any political challenges," she added.

The party called upon the African Union (AU) and Economic Community of West African State (ECOWAS) and other international

communities to use diplomatic means to support the restoration of democracy in Niger.

"We call on the African Union to reject any External military intervention that may put peace at stake. We support efforts by ECOWAS and particularly the government of Nigeria under President Bola Tinubu for decisive actions taken thus far," she added.

ACT Wazalendo said it believed that the road to progress and prosperity of the majority can only be achieved through democratic governance, respect for human rights, and adherence to the rule of law.

"We urge the Tanzanian government not to recognize the military junta in Niger and other African governments led military juntas," she added.

Wheat farmers appeal for farming equipment and subsidised fertiliser

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

WHEAT farmers in Njombe and Mbeya regions say apart from benefiting from quality wheat seeds, they are still faced with lack of farming equipment for both cultivating and harvesting as well as subsidised fertiliser for the crop.

They have submitted the challenges to Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) at the ongoing Nananene Agricultural Exhibition at the John Mwakangale Exhibition grounds here.

Chairman of Safina group engaged in wheat farming in Makete District in Njombe Region, Neema Jimsony said apart from seeds researched by TARI, there are still other challenges they face regarding farming equipment.

Another wheat farmer, Erasto Mwakitumbula from Mbeya Rural district appealed to the government to be provided with subsidised fertiliser as it does in regard to other crops.

Speaking about the strategy to increase wheat production in the country, TARI Director General, Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo said as for now Tanzania plans to bring about a revolution in wheat cultivation

which the country is now forced to spend foreign reserves to import 900,000 tonnes of wheat every year to supplement domestic production of 100,000 tonnes.

He said through its strategy, the government has tasked TARI to increase the production of wheat seeds in order to create new farms in various regions of the country that cultivate wheat to save the country's foreign reserves.

Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo said they have already embarked on strategies to make sure by 2030 Tanzania becomes self-sufficient from wheat production including surplus for export.

He cited some of the strategies as including TARI to engage in the initial production of seeds that withstand drought and diseases in order to produce proven quality seeds to be distributed to farmers in wheat farming regions.

He said through the strategy, TARI will produce 2,500 tonnes of seeds that will in turn produce 50,000 tonnes of proven seeds of high quality which in turn can be planted in 400,000 hectares of farms aimed at producing more than one million tonnes of wheat to meet domestic demand as well as

for export.

"Our aim in TARI is to completely do away with the problem regarding the country's wheat shortage in order to save the much needed foreign exchange," said Dr Mkamilo.

He said already the production of the initial wheat seeds has begun at TARI farms in its various centres - Silian (Arusha Region), Uyole (Mbeya), and Kifililo (Iringa) and added that during 2022 50 tonnes was produced and this year, 250 tonnes has been produced with strategies still going on.

Dr Mkamilo said in order to abide by the government's directives, they plan to increase the acreage for wheat cultivation in the new farms in Tanga, Kigoma, Ruvuma, Geita and Morogoro regions.

For his part, senior wheat researcher at TAR-Silian centre in Arusha region, Ismail Ngolinda said already they have done research for the cultivation of the crop in regions with warmer and little rains to enable farmers to cultivate the crop.

He named other new regions with warmer climate and little rains earmarked for wheat cultivation as including Dodoma, Singida and Tabora regions.



PSSSF Public Relations and Member Education manager James Mlowe pictured in Mbeya yesterday displaying a sample packet of ginger powder produced by Mamba Ginger Growers Company Limited, a venture based in Same District and run jointly by the Fund and Ginger Cooperative Society. This was at the PSSSF pavilion at this year's edition of the Nananene (Farmers' Day) Fair now in progress in the southern highlands city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Makinda urges women to utilise loans for intended goals

By Correspondent Rose Mwalongo

WOMEN in Tanzania have been told to utilize loans for intended purposes instead of using the same to buy attires or go for kitchen parties as doing so will see them fail to repay.

Former Speaker of the National Assembly, Anne Makinda made the call in Dar es Salaam recently during her keynote speech to mark the Pan African Women's Day.

She said during the 2022 Population and Housing Census, the team realized that a lot of households were headed by women and thus they must work hard to support their families.

"Banks are scouting for people to provide loans to. Women should not be afraid of the money, but be keen on what they use it for.

Some women fail to repay bank loans because they spend it on social services and when required to refund they commit suicide. Women must make sure they have a reliable income," said Makinda.

In another move, Makinda called upon the Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) and other stakeholders to write a book on the late Leila Sheikh in a simple language for people to read and know her struggles.

Her statement came as part of the commemoration which had been conducted by WILDAF and Women Think Tank where among other things it meant to honour the late Leila Sheikh for her priceless contributions in women's rights.

During the day, various people shared their tributes to the late Leila with Dr Helen Kijo Bissimba, a

renowned human right activist and former LHRC ED describing Leila as an activist at heart due to getting into it at a very young age.

Leila wrote a book on Levina Mukasa, a victim of sexual harassment at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) who committed suicide. Leila also wrote for Sauti ya Sitti on the punch at the UDSM where eventually the forum was abolished," recalled Dr Bissimba.

The Pan African Women's Day is observed each year on July 31st to celebrate the contributions made by Tanzanian women in various spheres.

This year's event consisted of various presentations inclusive of the Marriage Act of 1971, Maputo Protocol, SOSPA as well as the legal landscape in protecting women's rights.

Dar Declaration: African leaders make vital commitments to investing in human capital

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN leaders from 43 countries agreed to step up efforts to strengthen the quantity, efficiency, and impact of investments in their people in the newly announced Dar es Salaam Declaration.

Sub-Saharan Africa scores the lowest of all the world's regions on the World Bank's Human Capital Index (HCI) yet faces a youth bulge that could be leveraged to supercharge African economies if the right policies and investments are implemented today.

The leaders met for two days at the inaugural Africa Human Capital Heads of State Summit convened jointly by the Tanzanian

government and the World Bank. The summit was a call to action at the highest level to the importance of investing in Africa's people as a core driver of innovation, productivity, resilience, and growth on the continent.

It also underscored the urgency of addressing Africa's young and rapidly growing population, and the need to create productive employment and functioning markets that can make the most of these changing demographics.

Africa's Human Capital Index (HCI) score of 0.40 means the region is only reaching 40% of its productivity potential. Many children and young people in Sub-Saharan Africa face significant barriers to realizing their potential

due to insufficient access to and poor quality of critical services such as health and education.

Today, about 89% of 10-year-olds are unable to read and understand a simple text. These challenges have been further exacerbated by various crises including pandemics such as COVID-19, conflict, and climate change-induced droughts and floods.

The Dar es Salaam Declaration constitutes tangible financial and policy commitments made by African leaders to prioritize investing in people with a focus on reaping a demographic dividend.

The declaration recognizes that Africa's most important asset is its people and there is no time to waste.



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NOTICE

28TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the 28th Meeting of the Shareholders of TOL Gases Limited will be held on a hybrid of physical attendance at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) and via ZOOM video conferencing on 25th August, 2023 at 9.00a.m to transact the following business:-

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Confirmation of Minutes of the year 2021 Annual General Meeting held on 19th August, 2022.
3. Matters arising from minutes of the year 2021 Annual General Meeting.
4. Chairman's Statement.
5. To receive Directors' Report, Auditors' Report and the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December, 31, 2022.
6. To approve Dividend Payment.
7. To approve Directors' Fees.
8. To appoint Auditors for the year 2023.
9. Election of Directors.
10. To set the place, date and venue of the next meeting.
11. Any other business (Duly notified at least seven days before the meeting)

Registration for participating in the ZOOM Video Conferencing should be done through phone no **0685750201/0685750203**.

member entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting is also entitled to appoint a proxy (whether a member of the Company or not) to attend and vote in his/her stead.

All proxy forms or letters appointing proxy must be lodged at the office of the Company Secretary at least 48 hours before the time fixed for the holding of the meeting or via email to mjuliana@tol-gases.co.tz/nlulu@tol-gases.co.tz

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

**CORNELIUS KASIYA KARIWA
COMPANY SECRETARY**

Directors: S. Mponji – (Tanzanian) – Chairman, J. Massawe – (Tanzanian), S. Selestine – TR – URT (Tanzanian), Prof. A. Temu – (Tanzanian), Eng. J. Machange – (Tanzanian), L.C. Kitoka – (Tanzanian).



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PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR DEFINITIVE FEASIBILITY STUDY (DFS) IV SERVICE.

Mantra Tanzania Limited (Mantra), operating as a subsidiary of Uranium One, is focused on the potential development of a Uranium Mine at its Mkuju River Project (MRP) in the Namtumbo District of Ruvuma Region.

Now Mantra invites eligible companies to express their Interests (EOI) for provision of DFS service to Mantra.

Interested Companies are requested, as a minimum, to submit the following:

- Detailed company information, corporate documents, Organization Structure and list of workers with CVs of key personnel.
- Details of completion of similar types of contracts in the last three years and similar contracts/agreements currently under execution under the headings:
 - a) Brief scope of work/item;
 - b) Value of work in USD;
 - c) Contractual Duration;
 - d) Clients name; and
 - e) Contact details of the Client (Mantra may approach the client directly for the feedback).
- Details of resources available in terms of the number of manpower, equipment etc. for providing similar services
- Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policies, procedures and statistics covering the last 4 years.
- Copies of Valid Quality Certifications / Accreditations, ISO certifications, If any.
- Company's financial performance documents (Audited Balance sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for last 3 (three) years. Latest financial statement should not be older than 18 months on the date of submission of response to Expression of interest.
- Current Tax Clearance Certificate from the relevant authority.
- Workers Compensation Fund Certificate.
- Corporate ownership including main shareholders by percentage.
- Approved Local Content Plan by the Mining Commission.

The interested bidders should submit a soft copy of their Expression of Interest (EOI) via e-mail address; mantra@uranium1.co.tz and the hard copy to the below address latest on 18th August 2023 at 16.00 hours.

**Managing Director
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There should be no let-up in war on substandard products

THERE is no denying that Tanzania is one of the countries that, for decades on end, have been home to all manner of cheap imitated, fake and otherwise substandard products both imported and made on our very own soil.

These items range from pharmaceuticals to clothes, electronic goods and building hardware, to mention but a few.

We have been witnessing this mess all but helplessly when we have set up several bodies ostensibly dealing with pre-shipment and post-shipment inspection, at times with overlapping duties.

In spite of what could be regarded as a water-tight imports vetting procedure, fake goods keep streaming in at a pace clearly betraying the fact that corruption is the vehicle that facilitates their proliferation.

Several locations in the country, arguably led by Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo market zone and "border post" regions like Arusha, Moshi, Kigoma and Mbeya, are widely known to have grown notorious for selling what are falsely perceived to be branded products.

In such areas, shops and a number of other outlets sell imitation products of every kind one could think of - and people, those in the low-income category in particular, understandably tend to go for them no matter what.

Of course, an obviously explanation is that the fake goods are usually cheaper than genuine or "original" ones commonly regarded as meant for people with bulgingly fat purses and wallets.

This hardly calls for elaboration, given the harsh social and economic realities that are the lot of many of our people, with family budgets so strained that household members find it difficult to make both ends meet.

In a way, some of the substandard imports may look good enough to serve as safety valves for those

members of society most in need.

However, all end up threatening public safety and health and wreaking havoc on the sales figures of local industries to the extent that some face constant possibility of closing shop.

For this reason, there is absolutely no reason to tolerate this flawed trade, because what it hamstring the country's economy.

Worse still, trade in imitated "versions" of genuine and therefore officially registered products amounts to gross trademark infringement.

A country that ignores the existence of such a danger invites unregulated trade, which evidently ultimately translates into lost domestic revenue and foreign exchange earnings.

We have kept being treated to instances of agencies like the Fair Competition Commission destroying consignment of all manner of counterfeit goods, yet the interventions have not proved much of effective deterrents.

There is a growing feeling that the penalties offenders face are grossly inadequate - that it was high time the authorities concerned took much tougher measures. But, of course, there is no consensus here.

Still, it would serve to remember cases where the use of things like imitated electrical appliances have led to tragedy - including disastrous house or factory fires resulting in loss of life and limb.

Likewise, the death toll on our highways has increasingly been blamed on motor vehicles being fitted with fake tyres, spares or accessories.

In fact, there is the case of a major commuter bus company that almost went into liquidation owing to unrelenting association with deadly road crashes.

The firm's proprietors blamed their misfortune solely - and in a way rightly so - on a huge stock of imported tyres that they eventually discovered were sub-standard.

This underscores the importance of heeding the proverbial advice: prevention is better than cure.

TARI can explore synergies for its 1m wheat tonnes plan

SHORTAGES first of grain and even of the money with which to import wheat or rice have led to some hard thinking for self-reliance in various aspects of the country's grain needs.

There is an auxiliary issue in the form of the strident undercurrent of how we can use land and geographical position to cater for the grain needs of the wider region, being carried into the bill for self-sufficiency plans.

Instead of relying on existing agribusiness firms to do the job, a research outfit steps in here - and it is the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI).

TARI has stated plans for using more than 400,000 hectares of farms in various regions in the next few years growing wheat, harvesting at least one million tonnes yearly to end import dependence.

There appears to be some freshness and even a sense of urgency about the idea, given the circumstances. But a second look would suggest that some shortcomings will likely come up: there is no doubt we needed wheat all along, but couldn't farm it.

What has changed is a disruption of the merry-go-round where all our wheat needs are fulfilled by large import consignments - where local producers, aware of their strategic or microeconomic failings, largely stand aside.

The question is how far these bottlenecks have been removed and the research agency is capable not just of producing the seeds but also of making assurances on the envisaged tonnage - and actually delivering.

It is at that point that the plan looks

too good to be true, for the simple reason that it makes it appear that there was no problem in the first place.

Incidentally, TARI moved into that mental disposition in the wake of government appeals for increased wheat production.

The TARI announcement mirrored similar dispositions among state agencies, where such orientation is issued in order to create a supportive climate of opinion and open doors to its facilitation. That is where the snag comes up: that it will rely too heavily on non-performing loans credit.

While it was clear what intentions the institute had in mind, the modality of transforming wheat farming to avoid imports set at over 900,000 tonnes each year was rather hazy.

Why is it that local farmers haven't especially worked to plant wheat locally except that they find the import price more favourable to what they would get with local costs?

There is a possibility that TARI may as well get the seeds as part of ministerial budget needs, while getting farmers to actually plant the crop is another matter, or TARI venturing into farming on its own.

It is this aspect that needs synergies, especially leveraging, to sweeten it. Leveraging finance is targeted lending where the lending agency has an interest in the project, in which case it stands between a loan and equity in that the lender can understand if the capital isn't recovered and repaid in the end.

It is much like a bond where, for instance the government gets farmers, especially local agribusiness firms.



How #EndSARS inspired Nigerian women into leadership

By Winifred Oduńoku

THIS piece is not focusing on the #EndSARS movement per se, but on the strategic role that women played in it and how they've proven to be capable of leading the nation.

While making this report, I spoke with notable figures involved in the #EndSARS movement, women involved in politics and civic participation, a women's rights activist and an academic professor on how women have proven their leadership capabilities through the movement, the factors hindering Nigerian women's participation in politics, and the way forward.

In October 2020, a nationwide protest broke out in a number of States across Nigeria. Protesters were demanding an end to the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) operative unit of the Nigerian Police Force, which rather than tackle violent crimes, was framing youths, getting them arrested and killed for inconsequential offences. The youths were being wasted and killed with impunity, without any justice served.

When there is a high unemployment rate in any country, the youths decide to carve out niches for themselves where they could thrive and survive, as it were. Yet, the federal government, through SARS was accused of harassing the youths.

The youths decided to speak up. Alas! A "sr sòkè generation" moniker emerged and, of course, the #EndSARS hashtags which trended the world and over with several Nigerians in the diaspora organising solidarity protests to support the movement.

A name that comes to mind when people talk about the #EndSARS protest is Aisha Yesufu, an activist and co-convenor of the #BringBackOurGirls movement.

"My motivation to join the #EndSARS protests was to support the people who were making demands for an end to police brutality. I felt that citizens were making demands for their lives to matter, and I needed to be there," Aisha Yesufu shared with me via a Zoom call.

She also stated that women have been involved in movements across Nigeria from the Aba women's riot, to the Egba women's protest, #BringBackOurGirls movement, and so on.

So when it comes to advocacy and activism, you always find women there. And this is something that requires selfless leadership.

"Seeing women lead and actively engage in the #EndSARS protest in 2020 made me feel immensely proud and inspired," said Adebawale Adedayo, a comedian and thespian, popularly known

as 'Mr Macaroni' and one of the Nigerian celebrities that steered the #EndSARS movement with his voice and platform.

Mr Macaroni joined thousands of protestors on the streets of Lagos in the early weeks of October 2022 to demand an end to SARS. Mr Macaroni, despite accusing the police of unlawful arrest alongside other young Nigerians who played strategic roles in the #EndSARS movement, didn't stop advocating change and making his voice heard.

I spoke with Chinemerem Onuorah, a development communication practitioner working as a communication and media officer for YIAGA Africa, a non-profit majoring in promoting democracy and development in Africa, who also participated actively in the #EndSARS protests.

"Aside from various social media posts I made in support of the movement, I was also on the streets of Abuja to join in the multitude demanding a change," Chinemerem narrated.

She added that she wrote two articles relevant to the #EndSARS movement as a way of lending her voice to the end of police brutality in Nigeria.

This is a pointer that many Nigerian women used the means available to them to power the #EndSARS movement. They participated physically and also provided support in other areas. Just like Chinemerem, we saw many women supporting the movement in ways that transcended Nigerians' expectations.

"There'll be some traction to the #endsars movement when women organised around it," Ozzy Etomi, a founding member of Feminist Coalition - a group of young Nigerian feminists working to promote equality for women in Nigerian society - tweeted on Oct 4, 2020, in the wake of the #EndSARS protests.

Her prognosis, it turned out, proved true as women like Rinu Oduala and Aisha Yesufu displayed audacious leadership in the Lagos and Abuja protests, respectively.

While these women were at the forefront of the protests, some others were at the 'back' ensuring that all things went well.

Feminist Coalition, as a group, played a huge role in steering the financial ship of the #EndSARS movement in Nigeria. They organised a fundraiser that amassed almost US\$200,000 within two weeks.

Lawyers, medics, and even chefs stood up to assist protesters, and the sense of responsibility portrayed by these women was beautiful to see, but more importantly, highly commendable.

Women's capability for nation building

"Women have always been at the forefront of societal change, and witnessing their strength and determination during the #EndSARS protests was a testament to their unwavering commitment to justice," stated Mr Macaroni.

He explained how he believes in encouraging society as a whole to embrace women's leadership and empowerment.

Aisha Yesufu also shared her thoughts on women's capability for nation-building. She opined that if women are leading so well in movements, activism, making demands, and protests, then they can replicate it in leadership.

"We must be able to find a way to channel that, to ensure that these women get into politics to put in their leadership towards building a working country," she said.

I also spoke with Grace Anuforo, a women's rights activist and founder of The Graciella Initiative, a non-profit working to end female illiteracy in Nigeria.

"We know about how women stood in the forefront of the #EndSARS movement, one of the most coordinated and effective human rights advocacies done in the history of Nigeria that produced a revolution," she said.

She added: "We see women chairing board meetings and so much more. This is how to fight for, and earn, our rights. Now, we have a few women in politics, which was not the case some years ago. Soon, we will have more and, one day, half the lawmakers will be women."

Anuforo commended efforts by Nigerian women in various parastatals, because, in her opinion, women have been proving that they are capable of being successful leaders. Rather than wait to let the Nigerian government throw dog bones at them, women are taking charge of their lives and situations.

And this is evident in how Rukayat Shittu, a twenty-seven-year-old political aspirant, contested and won a seat in the Kwara State House of Assembly in the just-concluded elections.

An audience with Rukayat brought hope to my heart as I shared in her excitement of winning the election despite being charged in court several times by her co-contestant.

She also reported that when they were jubilating and felicitating their victories, the State Governor challenged the five women elected into the Kwara State House of Assembly to gird up their loins for the journey ahead.

"He said 'Your community has given you their trust. I have also given you my trust. It is now up to you,'" Rukayat recounted.

She further shared how she felt about her win: "I feel so good and privileged. As I've been saying before, this is a rare opportunity for

such a young person, a Muslim, and a female in Kwara State. So I'm so glad that, by this time next month, we will get to start the work fully."

Women vs Nigerian political structure

Women have always had challenges to grapple with on the journey to making their marks in the political terrain. While there were people that showed her support in various forms, from prayers to monetary donations, challenges abound.

"We will see women that are not even in the election, like women's groups, not supporting fellow women that are contesting. And we say we're being sidelined, I think this is up to us." Rukayat noted, with great concern.

She said women would likely hinder the growth of their fellow women, "which has to change if we want to take our participation in politics seriously".

Frederick Odorige, founder of the Global Coalition for Security and Democracy in Nigeria (GSCDN) who led the #EndSARS solidarity protest in Hungary, similarly noted that women seemed to be their enemies.

"You know structures are deep. It's really difficult to pull down long-standing structures. We live in a patriarchal society. A society that sees it as an 'abomination' for women to be placed on an equal playing ground with men," stated Anuforo.

She agreed that the system has relegated women to the back, but showed optimism at how women are changing the narrative for themselves and by themselves.

Call to action

"What we need to do is to, first of all, get as many women as we can into the legislative arm of government because that's where the laws are made," shared Aisha Yesufu.

She said that when people are not facing the brunt of injustice, sometimes they hardly even recognize the injustice. Or even when they do, they can easily discard it. "And this is why it is important to get more women into the policy-making rooms so they can stand for the rights of their fellow women".

Odorige said there's much more to be achieved if women started supporting themselves, adding that the country's policies are not making it any easier for women to have a level play field to competitively run for political offices.

He said that the narrative would change if the first ladies of all 36 States and the country's First Lady came together and acted.

*** This story is part of the African Women in Media (AWIM)/LUMINATE Young Women in Politics Media Project.**

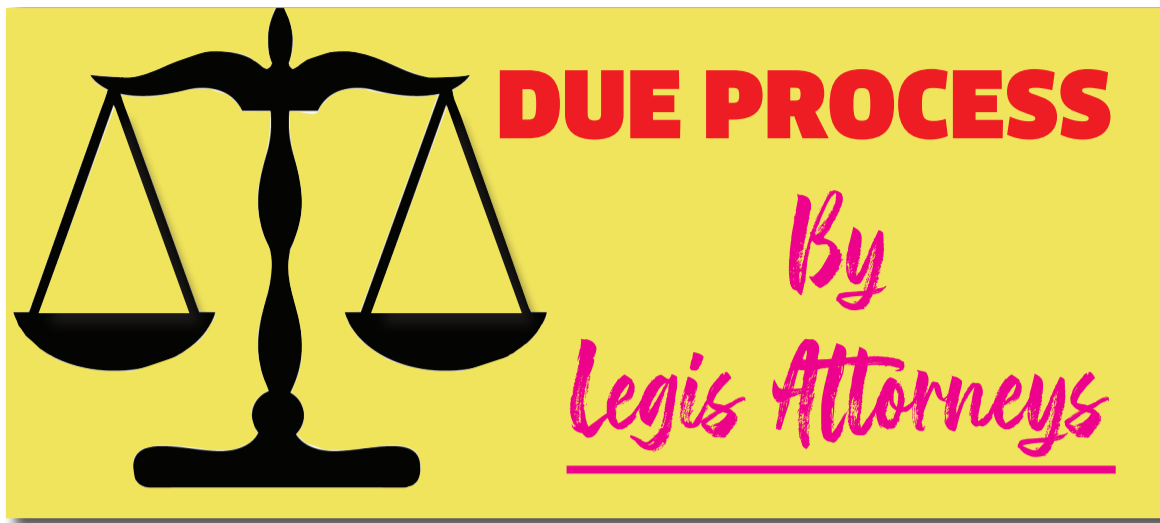
Malicious prosecution and conditions for award of damages

THERE are instances where by people are reported to have committed certain crimes, they get arrested and prosecuted only to be found not guilty by courts of law. If the alleged crimes are serious or unbailable, innocent people spend years in remand prisons and suffer huge losses.

This article intends to provide some highlights on what is required to be done for the claimant to be awarded damages in court for what is known in corridors of justice as 'malicious prosecution.'

Malicious prosecution is a tort of civil wrong in which a person initiates criminal legal proceedings without justification against another person with intention of achieving unlawful purpose using available legal machinery.

The way criminal justice system is designed in our jurisdiction, police are the primary authority to receive crime reports and thereafter investigate the alleged offences then present their findings to the office of director of prosecution at the National Prosecution Services for further observation or opinion on whether the case has been established against the accused or not.



If the answer is in the affirmative, the file is referred to the court of law. It is the court of law which is vested with constitutional mandate to determine the right of the accused namely whether he or she committed the offence or not based on the evidence presented in that court of law.

Once the court finds the accused not guilty, then he or she can move to a civil court and ask for damages under tortious liability based on the law of malicious prosecution.

For the court to award damages asked by a claimant or plaintiff, law requires him or her to prove five ingredients which were established through case law.

In the case of Yonah Ngassa vs Makoye Ngasa (2006) TLR 123, the court pointed out five ingredients which a claimant is required to prove cumulatively for the court to award damages due to malicious

prosecution.

The ingredients are (i) the proceedings were instituted or initiated by the defendant (ii) the defendant acted without reasonable and probable cause (iii) the defendant acted maliciously (iv) the proceedings terminated in the plaintiff's favour and (v) the plaintiff must prove the damage suffered as a result of the malicious prosecution.

If a plaintiff fails to prove any of the requirements, he or she would fail to get the claimed damages as decided in the case of Mbowe vs East Mengo Administration (1972) EA. 353.

Let's highlight a bit on each requirement. As a matter of procedure, all criminal disputes are instituted by government under the office of the Director of Prosecution, save for some instances where a private prosecution can be initiated by an individual,

However, at any time the director can take over. Therefore, it is the task of the claimant to be aware of the person who initiated the criminal accusation namely the actual initiator of the criminal charges.

There are moments when the name of a person who initiated a criminal proceeding is unknown because the only term used is the republic or director of public prosecution. In such circumstances, then claimant may proceed with those named such as the DPP along with the Attorney General but only upon issuance of a statutory notice of 90 days.

This happens rarely because every proceeding initiated by the republic, there is a person behind it unless the offence committed is considered to be of public interest.

It is also a matter of law that a claimant can sue any person provided he or she can

establish that the initiated the case him or her. So, it is upon the claimant to select who to sue so that he or she can be awarded remedy in a court of law provided he or she can establish cause action.

Second, the defendant acted without reasonable and probable cause phrase refers to an honest belief founded on reasonable grounds that the institution of proceeding was unjustified.

The case of Hicks vs Faulkner (1878) 8 QBD 167 page 171 defines reasonable and probable cause as "an honest belief in the guilt of the accused based on a full conviction founded upon reasonable grounds, of the existence of a circumstances, which assuming them to be true, would reasonably lead any ordinary prudent man and cautious man placed in the position of the accuser to the conclusion that the person charged was probably guilty of the crime imputed."

There is no hard and fast rules one can determine as to what constitutes honest belief. Rather, this is always depicted from each circumstance. What a plaintiff is required to show is that at the time of reporting the alleged offence, there were no facts available to substantiate that the

offence was committed and that any reasonable person would think that the plaintiff should not be found guilty by the court.

Third is that the defendant acted maliciously. Malice means ill motive or wrongful act done intentionally without just cause or excuse.

Facts should be available before the court of law with the view of depicting that the defendant either acted with an intention to inflict injury to the plaintiff or acted negligently in reporting without caring for the affairs of the plaintiff or acted without good faith.

Fourth ingredient is that the proceedings terminated in the plaintiff's favour. This is easy task to prove just by pleading and producing the court decision stating that the plaintiff is not guilty of the offence alleged to have been committed.

However, one should take note that existence of criminal proceedings being terminated in his or her favour alone cannot be sufficient because other grounds must be proved. In the case of Audiface Kibala vs Adili Elipenda and two others, in the Civil Appeal No 107 of 2012, the Court of Appeal said that the acquittal of an accused person in a criminal case may not necessarily mean that

he or she was prosecuted maliciously or without good and probable cause.

The fifth ingredient is the proof of damage suffered. There are two main types of damages: specific and general damage. For the specific damage, the claimant is required to plead and prove existence of loss incurred as result of the said malicious prosecution.

On the other hand, general damage is not mandatory but rather presentation of material facts that damages suffered are sufficient for the court to exercise its discretionary mandate to award the plaintiff general damages.

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

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

By Busani Bafana

CLIMATE change is making us sick. It has become urgent to build resilient health systems to secure humanity's well-being, says the special envoy for climate change and health of the World Health Organization (WHO).

"Climate change is unquestionably affecting our health every day," says Vanessa Kerry - a renowned global health expert and medical doctor - who was appointed the WHO Director-General's Special Envoy for Climate Change and Health in June.

She has a tall order to amplify WHO's climate and health messaging and conduct high-level advocacy on tackling climate change to secure global health.

Increasing disease burden

"The climate crisis is a health crisis," Kerry told IPS in an interview, calling for urgent action to mitigate and adapt to the climate challenge, which has increased the burden of disease around the world.

"Climate change poses a fundamental threat to our health. We are looking at the growing burden of disease, so urgent action is absolutely needed at this moment not only to address the pipeline of disease that is coming but to ensure that we can mitigate some of the causes of this poor health and adapt to the complex challenge."

According to the WHO, one in four deaths in the world currently is from preventable environmental causes. For example, around 7 million people die prematurely each year due to air pollution, which is more than the deaths during three years of COVID globally, Kerry said.

The WHO is already estimating an extra 250 000 deaths per year linked to climate change.

Climate change-induced extreme weather has spiked the incidents of infectious and communicable, and non-communicable diseases, while extreme heat has triggered a rise in cardiovascular diseases and mental illnesses.

Malawi and parts of Southern Africa have suffered serious cholera outbreaks. India faced health heat-related illnesses, a surge of malaria after the flooding in Pakistan last year, and a malaria outbreak in the United States, all linked to climate change.

Vector-borne diseases, including malaria, dengue, schistosomiasis, human African trypanosomiasis, Chagas disease, and yellow fever, are strongly affected by climatic conditions such as temperature, rainfall, and humidity. While water-borne and sanitation-

Climate change is making us sick, says WHO envoy



related diseases, such as cholera, typhoid, and dysentery, are a major contributor to global disease burden and mortality, according to the WHO.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) forecasts a 90 percent probability of the El Niño event in the second half of 2023, which is set to trigger a rise in global temperatures and more extreme heat in many parts of the world and in the ocean, said WMO Secretary-General, Petteri Taalas.

"The declaration of an El Niño by WMO is the signal to governments around the world to mobilize preparations to limit the impacts on our health, our ecosystems, and our

economies," Taalas said.

El Niño - a naturally occurring climate pattern associated with warming of the ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean - occurs on average every two to seven years, and episodes typically last nine to 12 months.

The IPCC finds that there is a more than 50 percent chance that global temperature rise will reach or surpass 1.5 degrees C (2.7 degrees F) between 2021 and 2040 across studied scenarios, and under a high-emissions pathway, specifically, the world may hit this threshold even sooner - between 2018 and 2037.

According to the IPCC Assess-

ment Report, climate change has adversely affected the physical health of people globally. Furthermore, extreme heat events have resulted in human mortality and morbidity, while climate-related food-borne, water-borne diseases, and vector-borne diseases have also increased.

Health at COP28

2023 is a crucial year for the intersection of climate change and health as the 28th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), more commonly referred to as COP28, will hold a first-ever day dedicated to health at the climate change conference in

the United Arab Emirates in December. This will serve as a critical opportunity to emphasize the profound significance of addressing climate change in relation to human health, Kerry said.

"My goal is to ensure our response to the climate crisis could be health-centered and try to mainstream it at COP negotiations," said Kerry, who believes in promoting public understanding of the climate crisis as a health crisis that must be managed now.

"I think people tend to associate climate change with just one aspect of health, like infectious diseases. But the truth is we see climate change impacting pretty much every aspect of health, communicable diseases to non-communicable diseases," she said.

The Paris Agreement of 2015 is seen as a public health agreement with the WHO highlighting that health considerations are critical to the advancement of climate action, and meeting the Paris Agreement could save about a million lives a year worldwide by 2050 through reductions in air pollution alone.

Kerry said, for instance, investment in reducing air pollution would save lives and prevent a future loss of almost \$50 trillion spent since 2010 in addressing this challenge.

"We also have an opportunity to re-frame how we think about what being healthy means and how that impacts both our environment and how we live," said Kerry, stressing the importance of meaningful investment in stronger health systems and a workforce capable of meeting some of the climate burdens.

Investing in health systems

Kerry said building resilient health systems through training health workers and investing in infrastructure is key to responding to climate change. Many health systems around the world are already under-resourced and understaffed. They cannot deal with the current burden of disease and what will come as the impacts of climate change grow.

"We also have an opportunity to re-frame how we think about what being healthy means and how that impacts both our environment and how we live," said Kerry, stressing the need for absolute dollars going into health and a health-centered climate smart response.

By Tanyalak Thongyojaroen

Press freedom under siege in Asia



Freedom of the press continues to erode in Asia, especially in authoritarian regimes where journalists are often targeted in broad daylight. Credit: UNESCO

IN Asia, freedom of the press continues to erode, especially in authoritarian regimes where journalists are often targeted in broad daylight.

More and more, journalists are put behind bars or face strategic lawsuits against public participation, otherwise known as SLAPP, for reporting what's actually happening on the ground.

Over the past three years, not only have several independent media outlets had their licenses revoked, but autocratic regimes across the region continue using a variety of tactics to prevent journalists from doing their job.

Social media is often used to humiliate, harass, and discredit journalists. Between May 2022 and April 2023, the International Federation of Journalists documented at least 19 online attacks and eight gender-based instances of violence against journalists in South Asia.

In China, the regime uses surveillance and other forms of intimidation to prevent journalists from reporting issues deemed critical of the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

To silence journalists and discredit their work, China has orchestrated a digital repression campaign, largely playing out on Twitter. The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) reported hundreds of spurious Twitter accounts – likely linked with the pro-CCP network – created with the sole purpose of targeting Asian female journalists and activists, including those living or working abroad.

Female journalists, in particular, experienced constant sexual harass-

ment and misogynistic trolling. They have been accused of being liars, traitors, or betrayers of their homeland.

In Burma, journalists are treated as criminals. "If you are covering human rights violations, [the regime] considers you like an enemy. And also, they consider journalism like committing a crime against the state," Burmese writer Kyaw Hsan Hlaing told the Human Rights Foundation (HRF).

"There are so many online threats journalists face, including through

Messenger, Facebook, and also Telegram. I received threats online and also direct phone calls, threatening that I will be arrested. This is after the military coup. That's why I had to sleep in many locations in Yangon. I had to move to other places."

Vietnam, one of the most repressive countries in Asia for journalism, implemented stricter online censorship, requiring big tech companies like Facebook and Google to remove articles and videos criticizing the regime.

Reporters and citizen

journalists using social media often see their accounts blocked or posts removed if they cover issues deemed sensitive by the regime. Moreover, Vietnam established Force 47, a virtual army with thousands of netizens tasked with "defending the ruling party" and attacking dissidents – including activists and journalists.

Last year, four Asian countries made it on Reporters Without Borders' Top Five worst jailers of journalists list. Unsurprisingly, China came in first

place, Burma second, then Iran, Vietnam, and Belarus. More than half of the world's imprisoned journalists were held in these five countries.

China, the biggest user of propaganda and systematic repression of the media, was ranked second to last on the World Press Freedom Index, only behind one of its closest allies, North Korea.

Last year, the CCP regime imprisoned at least 110 journalists, including Huang Xueqin, who reported on corruption and environmental pollution. Many imprisoned journalists are ethnic Uyghurs from the Uyghur Region.

In some cases, Chinese officials held journalists in pretrial detention. For example, Cheng Lei, a former TV anchor with CCP's state-run channel based in Beijing, CGTN, has been detained for more than two years. To date, Chinese officials have revealed neither the details of the charges against her nor whether she has been sentenced.

In Burma, the regime's attempt to silence journalists has resulted in an alarming number of ar-

rests of journalists, activists, and public figures. Since the military junta seized power in a coup in February 2021, at least 176 journalists have been arrested and four killed.

Many journalists were charged under Section 505(A) of the country's Penal Code, which criminalizes "causing fear, spreading false news, or agitating directly or indirectly criminal offenses against a Government employee." The law is vaguely defined and arbitrarily interpreted by the courts.

Like its neighbor, Vietnam uses vague laws to suppress journalists. The regime implemented heavy bans on reporting "sensitive topics," particularly issues related to human rights, the environment, and democracy.

In recent years, many activists and journalists have been charged under Article 117, which criminalizes "making, storing, distributing, or disseminating information, documents, and items against the State," and Article 331, which prohibits "abusing democratic freedoms to infringe on the interests of the State."

Among those detained was an independent journalist, Do Cong Duong, who reported on corruption-related issues and land seizures by the regime. Duong was charged under Article 331 and was originally sentenced to 48 months in prison, where he suffered from various illnesses.

Despite his family's repeated protests, officials refused to grant him the necessary care and medical assistance. When Duong finally received medical treatment, it was too late. He died in prison last year.

Dictators will stop at nothing to silence the most outspoken critics.

Journalism is one of the world's most dangerous professions. Under authoritarian regimes, dictators ceaselessly attempt to silence the media with violence, harassment, and arbitrary detention. And still, journalists continue to risk their lives to uncover and report the truth. HRF stands in solidarity with journalists who write truth to power.

Tanyalak Thongyojaroen is a legal and policy intern with the Human Rights Foundation (HRF).

IPS UN Bureau

Ukraine humanitarian response plan only 30 percent funded



The Humanitarian Coordinator for Ukraine, Denise Brown. Credit: UN

By Abigail Van Neely

CIVILIAN infrastructure is under attack in cities across Ukraine, and the need for long-term aid grows. However, the United Nations' 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Ukraine is only 30 percent funded, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Ukraine, Denise Brown, told journalists.

The response plan for the year calls for USD 3.9 billion to continue frontline deliveries several times a week, prepare Ukraine for winter, and support long-term recovery and rebuilding in the country. Brown said that funding meant to help at least 11 million Ukrainians has been inadequate due to unexpected demands.

Access to water for drinking and irrigation has become a key issue following the destruction of Ukraine's Kakhovka Dam. Top-floor residents have watched their downstairs neighbors evacuate flooded apartments. Several thousand people have been displaced due to water damage. Brown said that while the situation has been managed in the short term, the UN team continues searching for long-term solu-

tions to water contamination.

Brown highlighted that the need for trauma support is growing at a fast pace. While it is too early to assess the long-term psychological effects of the current war, a 2019 study found a high prevalence of PTSD and depression in Ukrainians displaced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2014.

The Black Sea city of Odesa has been attacked by Russia several times in the past weeks. The city is an important hub for the UN and the humanitarian community because it acts as a staging area for frontline responses, Brown explained. She recently traveled there to check on UN staff.

In Odesa, Brown visited the historical Orthodox cathedral. The Transfiguration Cathedral is in the center of a protected part of the city and within 700 meters of where most UN staff live and work. Brown learned that neighboring civilians had taken shelter in a bunker in the cathedral when an air siren went off, not knowing it would be hit. There was damage throughout the building, with one wing completely destroyed. A team of UNESCO ex-

perts has been deployed to further assess the condition of the cathedral. Brown said she was heartened to see community members gather to clean up broken glass.

"What I saw in Odesa last week with my own eyes is being repeated across many big cities in Ukraine," Brown said.

According to Brown, big cities with a UN presence nearby are regularly targeted. Whole neighborhood blocks have been struck, and entire buildings have come down. Attacks on infrastructure like critical ports have hurt civilian workers, Ukrainian farmers, and vulnerable people in the Global South who rely on grain from the region. Access to resources has been a particular concern since Russia's termination of the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

The UN continues to advocate for access to Russian-occupied territories for the purpose of providing aid. Brown said they have been denied due to "security concerns."

"The humanitarian situation hasn't changed... the only thing that's going to relieve that situation is if the war stops," Brown said.

IPS UN Bureau Report

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 HQJA 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 UMUJAWYO 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 MATUKO 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 MABELE 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

Solar energy improves lives in rural Zambia

LUSAKA

IN some parts of rural Zambia, especially remote ones off the national grid, access to electricity remains a luxury.

Things are beginning to change for the better thanks to solar energy use in rural communities, improving the academic performance of students, who can now study even in the evenings, and enabling crop cultivation to go on all year round, courtesy of solar-powered irrigation equipment.

In addition, access to solar energy has also increased business opportunities and made rural areas more attractive for people to live in.

Some rural dwellers have bought solar kits that often consist of lighting equipment, solar panels, batteries and a radio set. There are kits that also come with a TV set. The cost of solar kits depends on the capacity and size of the panels – a small startup solar kit costs about 2,000 Zambian Kwacha (about 107 U.S. dollars).

For Ketiwe Mapenda, a resident of Mwalubemba, a village in the Chongwe district of eastern Lusaka Province, life has improved significantly since her family invested in a solar kit.

“Solar power has brightened our nights. My children are able to study even at night, and I can cook and carry out other



A farmer waters plants using solar-powered irrigation equipment in Chibombo district, central Zambia.

chores after sunset,” said the 38-year-old mother of three.

People in the village used to rely on kerosene lamps and candles for lighting. Now they can turn to clean and reliable solar energy.

“It has also reduced incidences of houses catching fire and burning down as a result of mishaps in the use of kerosene and candles,” Mapenda said.

The benefits of solar energy extend beyond basic lighting needs. It has enabled the installation of refrigeration systems, transforming the way villagers store food and helping small businesses thrive.

“We used to lose a lot of food due to lack of refrig-

eration,” says Peter Mwila, who runs a grocery store in Namayani Village, west of Lusaka, the Zambian capital.

Mwila, 34, said having solar-powered refrigerators has increased traffic to his shop and propelled his business to greater heights.

“Sales have increased drastically since I got a refrigerator,” he said. “I have a lot of customers coming through to buy cold beverages and meat and products which I only started stocking after buying stock refrigerators.”

And John Banda, 21, a small-scale farmer based in Chibombo district, central Zambia, can now have his phone charged,

enabling him to get more opportunities in the agriculture sector.

“I no longer have to miss out on opportunities to market or sell farm produce because of lack of reliable means of communication, all thanks to the solar kit,” he said.

Access to clean and reliable energy such as solar has also slowed the pace for people to leave the countryside.

“People move to towns so that they can watch TV and be able to see streetlights. But villages now have those things in place, all thanks to solar energy,” said a 43-year-old Mable Mbewe, resident of Mumbwa district.



The Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT

Recruiting Internship Students

The Organization

The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) delivers research-based solutions that harness agricultural biodiversity and sustainably transform food systems to improve people's lives. The Alliance solutions address the global crises of malnutrition, climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation.

(<https://alliancebioversityciat.org/>)

With novel partnerships, the Alliance generates evidence and mainstreams innovations to transform food systems and landscapes so that they sustain the planet, drive prosperity, and nourish people.

The Alliance is part of CGIAR (www.cgiar.org) a global research partnership for a food-secure future.

We are recruiting internship students for various positions as per below details:

1. Interns - Field Beans Breeding Assistants (two (2) positions)

About the position

Field Breeding Assistants will be supporting improvement of existing plant varieties or support to create new ones to improve appearance, resistance to disease, yield, and other characteristics. The internship students may work in an academic or research setting.

Key Responsibilities:

- Support setting research aims and objectives.
- Support production of project plans and budgets.
- Support researching new methods of plant breeding.
- Support laboratory, screen house, and field trials activities.
- Support analyzing and interpreting data.
- Support in identifying the best varieties/species.
- Support in electing parent plants for crossbreeding.
- Support keeping records of research and findings.
- Support in presenting scientific findings and other work.
- Participate in making presentations.
- Support writing technical publications and reports.
- Coordinating and liaising with other plant breeders.

2. Internship Student- Molecular Laboratory Assistants (Two (2) positions)

About the position

The Molecular Laboratory Assistants Internship students will be supporting general laboratory operation and maintenance.

Key Responsibilities:

- Support in conducting research under the direction of the supervisor and assisting in daily laboratory operation and maintenance.
- Support proficiently handling standard laboratory procedures, including extraction of DNA and RNA, DNA quantification, assays for SNP, RAPDs, SSRs, AFLPs, and other markers systems, gel electrophoresis, protein purification, centrifugation, enzyme assays, isolation of DNA from agarose and acrylamide gels, isolation and purification of plasmid DNA, ligation and transformation of E. coli with DNA constructs, the maintenance of insect and pathogen collections, perform detailed observation of plant, insect and/or pathogen growth in growth chamber, as well as supporting collecting, processing and analyzing data.

Specific Qualifications and requirements

- The positions require knowledge of and experience with basic molecular biology methods, including DNA sequence and fragment analysis. Because methods and technologies in science change rapidly, the internship students also must be receptive to and adept at, evaluating and learning new technologies involving both biological and chemical methods.

3. Internship Student - Pathology Laboratory Assistants (Two (2) positions)

About the position

The Pathology Laboratory Assistant will provide support in studying the health of plants. He/she will help in identifying common bean diseases, pests, and other health problems a plant may experience.

Key Responsibilities:

- Support in tissue sampling and other routine tasks associated with experiments.
- Support in mechanical inoculation of virus, bacteria, fungi, oomycete, nematode and other pathogens in field, greenhouse, and growth chambers.
- Support the process of bioassays with insects/vectors.
- Support in routine data collection from various sized research projects and entry into enterprise systems.
- Support in preparation of clear, accurate, and concise reports of results, and communicating them to colleague or stakeholders.
- Perform or direct simple to complex molecular lab work.
- Perform data analysis using parametric and non-parametric statistical models.
- Review literature and stay up to date on the latest technologies.

General Qualifications and requirements:

- At least master's degree in relevant field of study or completing master's degree in relevant - field of study for each of the above positions.
- A successful internship student must be able to correctly operate and maintain specialized equipment such as thermal cyclers, spectrophotometers, water purification systems, and electrophoresis equipment.
- The internship student should be able to keep detailed computer and laboratory records and generate reports.

Terms of Recruitment

This is a nationally recruited internship position based in Arusha, Tanzania. The internship contract will be for 3-month period. The Alliance offers a multicultural, collegial research environment with competitive stipend; we believe that the diversity of our staff contributes to excellence. The Alliance is an equal opportunity employer and strives for staff diversity in gender.

Internship Duration: Three months (initial with possibility to extend further). **Desired start date:** As soon as possible. To apply: Please send your application letter & CV as one PDF document to t.lilja@cgiar.org copy to Teshale.Mamo@cgiar.org and L.Tango@cgiar.org by 10th August, 2023.

Alliance- Bioversity & CIAT is an equal opportunity employer. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.

We invite you to learn more about us at: <http://alliancebioversityciat.org>



THE UNITED AFRICAN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA

Plot No P9842, Vijibweni, Kigamboni Municipality

P.O. BOX 36246, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

E-mail: hr@uaut.ac.tz; admin@uaut.ac.tz

VACANT POSITIONS

THE UNITED AFRICAN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA (UAUT) is a private Higher Learning Institution founded by the Registered Trustees of Korea Church Mission (KCM) in 2012, with the objective of alleviating poverty and promoting growth through raising Tanzanian Christian leaders who are equipped with excellence in wisdom, knowledge and Christian virtues. The responsibility of the day to day running of UAUT is vested upon the University Council with the Vice-Chancellor as the main link between the Board of Trustees and University Council. UAUT is an accredited university.

PROGRAMME NAME: BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

VACANT POSITIONS

1. ASSISTANT LECTURERS (2 POSITIONS)

(i) Qualifications

- Holder of a Master's Degree and a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing with a minimum GPA of 4.0 and 3.5 respectively or
- Holder of a Master's Degree and a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and Finance with a minimum GPA of 4.0 and 3.5 respectively.
- Teaching language proficiency
- Graduates are highly encouraged to apply
- Working experiences in Higher Learning Institutions is an added advantage

(ii) Duties

- Undergoing training to PhD level
- Undergoing induction course in pedagogical skills for those who had none before
- Conducting lectures, tutorials, seminars and practical for undergraduate programmes
- Assisting senior staff in practical sessions, seminars and tutorials
- Preparing case studies
- Working in cooperation with senior members on specific projects
- Supervising special projects for undergraduate students
- Mentoring junior staff in all relevant academic matters
- Participating in curriculum development
- Participating in developing and managing of various university projects
- Undertaking research and publishing research results
- Preparing teaching manuals and compendia
- Attending/organizing workshops, conferences and seminars
- Any other relevant duties that may be assigned by the management

Send your detailed CV, Cover letter, Certificates (PDF) and Testimonials (if any) to: hr@uaut.ac.tz;

This advertisement is also on our website www.uaut.ac.tz

Deadline **25th August 2023**

Women shatter gender barriers in Uganda's fish farming industry

By Pearl Amina Karungi

IN a groundbreaking turn of events, women in Bugiri District, Eastern Uganda, have defied societal norms and broken into the traditionally male-dominated fish farming industry.

Through the Women Economic Empowerment Programme launched by UN Women, these women have not only mastered the art of fishing but also revolutionized their economic prospects.

Rose Nakimuli, a resident of Bugiri, vividly recalls her journey into fish farming. "When I was selected to be trained in fish farming, I embraced the opportunity. I approached it as a job," Ms. Nakimuli says with determination.

With the support of the UN Women project, she learned the ins and outs of aquaculture, swimming, and fishing, becoming a skilled fish farmer. Today, she proudly feeds her family and earns a decent livelihood from her newfound expertise.

Ms. Nakimuli is one of 1,400 women trained in fish farming. The Programme, initiated in 2019, has set ambitious goals to enhance women's income security, promote decent work, and empower them with economic autonomy by 2025. The success achieved in the fish farming industry in Bugiri District stands as a shining example of the program's impact.

With funding from the Government of Sweden and Standard Bank, UN Women partnered with the Bugiri District Local Government to support rural women in engaging in fish farming activities on the waters of Lake Victoria.

As a result, 28 cages brimming with Tilapia fish now stand as a testament to the women's unwavering dedication and determination.

Amina Nakiranda, the project's production manager, explains that it went beyond teaching women how to fish as the programme also equipped them with essential business management skills.

"Before this programme, many of us struggled with small businesses selling fresh produce or silver fish in local marketplaces," Ms. Nakiranda reveals.

"However, through the comprehensive training provided by the project, we learned how to run our businesses efficiently, from start to finish."

The cage fish project goes has strengthened the women's capacity in governance, financial literacy, and the entire fish value chain. Inspired by their achievements, the women established a private company called "Women Economic Empowerment Bugiri (WEEB)."

Immaculate Were, the CEO of WEEB, proudly highlights the transformational journey of these women. "Although 85% of the beneficiaries are illiterate, they have become specialists in various aspects of fish farming, including feeding, harvesting, preservation, marketing, and trading," Ms. Were remarks, adding that "Once a woman gets wealthy, that's wealth for the whole nation."

The project has also made significant strides in improving gender relations at the household level. With women contributing to the family budget and gaining financial independence, gender-based violence has notably reduced.

Judith, a member of the executive board



Women fishing in Lake Victoria. This is big change for the better because fishery sector is male-dominated in Uganda and the rest of East Africa. IPS

of WEEB, shares her experience: "The project has reduced gender-based violence because we no longer sit home and beg our husbands for everything. We are no longer burdens; the project has empowered us."

Beyond individual success stories, the fish farming project has made substantial

contributions to the national GDP. With an impressive production of 508.5 tons of fish, the women have generated sales worth UGX 4.3 billion (approximately \$1.15 million).

The project's impact extends further, with UN Women providing essential support, including accom-

modations for working women, daycare services for their children, and necessary resources such as shelters, fish nets, life jackets, and a refrigerated truck for convenient market access.

"Thanks to UN Women, today we feel like heroes," Ms. Nakimuli adds. "Even the men view us as heroes, because fishing used to be a

man's job and we are excelling in it. It also gives us income to cater for our households."

The journey of these resilient women serves as an inspiration, proving that with support and determination, barriers can be shattered, and new horizons can be explored.

Pearl Amina Karungi is Communications and Knowledge Management Officer, UN Women

Source: Africa Renewal: a United Nations digital magazine that covers Africa's economic, social and political developments.

IPS UN Bureau



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
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI II 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI II 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI II 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI II 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI II 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - KISWAHILI 09.00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11:00 AM MITAA WA MAGOMA 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15:00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18:00 HRS BONGO TEN 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.15 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00-05:00 MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18:00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MBAVU ZANGU 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS RAFIKI I 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00-05:00 MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

NHC SEES BETTER WAYS TO CURB RENT DEFAULTS BY TENANTS

By Guardian Reporter

The National Housing Corporation (NHC) is currently implementing a better solution that will help the oldest and largest property developer and manager in Tanzania, to end the challenge of rent defaults among its tenants, in its both residential and commercial properties.

Director General Hamad Abdallah said yesterday during the seminar with editors from different media organisation that the corporation now requires existing and new tenants to pay security deposits of 90 days, which is equivalent to three months' rent fees.

He said this will ensure that there shall be no debt in case the tenant is removed from the property due defaults, noting that a tenant will be entitled to the refund of the security deposit, after the end of the staying tenure.

"Tenants who have yet to pay their security deposits should do so before the end of December this year," he said.

As of July this year, the government's fully owned corporation through the Treasury Registrar, had an accumulated unpaid rent amounting to 23.5bn/-, of which 20bn/- are unpaid by commercial properties tenants and 3.3bn/- by tenants of residential properties.



NHC director general Hamad Abdallah

According to the DG, out of the unpaid amount of rent, 8.5bn/- are by individuals, 9bn/- by companies and institutions, and 3.3bn/- by the government institutions.

The DG said the corporation has also given the relief to debtors to start paying their accumulated rent debts in installments, while continuing to comply with their current rents obligations.

Abdallah explained that the corporation is expected to terminate the contracts with tenants who will fail to honour their obligations

of paying accumulated debts, and the action will go hand in hand with confiscation of their properties, which will be sold to compensate the defaulted rent.

NHC has also entered an agreement with the Credit Information Bureau, where the details of all defaulters will be reported and their information be recorded, he said.

In a bid to improve the condition of houses, NHC spent a total of 8bn/- during the last financial year to conduct routine maintenances to its 200 properties, which have 2,000 tenants.

During the current financial year, he said,

the state corporation has allocated a total of 7bn/- to conduct planning maintenance to its 101 properties in 15 regions of Tanzania.

NHC is currently collecting a total of 8.5bn/- per month from rent in its properties across the country and the amount is expected to increase to 10bn/- after the completion of new properties, which are under construction or refurbishment.

Speaking on how the government shift to Dodoma and the Covid-19 have impacted real estate in Dar es Salaam, the DG admitted that there are some effects, but they have not affected the corporation's cash flow.

"There is a cry in Dar es Salaam but productivity in Dodoma," he noted. "It is just a little percentage of our properties are vacant, and that has not affected our cash flow."

He said the vacant spaces are on office properties because of reduced spaces among companies due to the impact of Covid-19 as some of the tenants have reduced office spaces and opted to opt for "working at home" culture.

According to him, the current commercial properties vacant rate countrywide is just 2.5 percent, far beyond the highest standard rate of 20 percent.

However, he said there has been an im-

provement of business activities over the last two years, since the sixth phase government came into power, which has stimulated demands for properties for both commercial and residential purposes.

There is a mismatch in housing market in Tanzania as current demand is about 300,000 housing units per year, from both NHC and private developers, while the supply is less than half.

Currently, the country has a shortage of 3.8 million housing units, which means that under the current supply trend, Tanzania needs at 30 years to end housing shortages, without adding the annual growth of housing demands due to population growth.

Meanwhile, NHC is planning to issue the corporate bond at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE), as part of mobilizing financial resources to implement its various housing projects across the country.

The DG tipped yesterday that the issuance of the bond namely 'Nyumbani Bond' will be done within 12 months.

"We are in the plan of issuing the bond and the write up has already been submitted to the board of directors for scrutiny and approval," Abdallah said.

He said NHC is currently on tendering procedure to nominate an advisor.

By Guardian Reporter

NCBA Bank Tanzania has managed to record a net profit after tax of 11.5bn/- during the first half of this year, compared with a loss of 15.8bn/- recorded during the first half of last year.

Basic earnings per share also improved to 84/- per share during the first six months of this year, compared with a loss of 574/- recorded during the first half of last year.

The bank's managing director, Claver Serumaga, told The Guardian yesterday that the attainment of profit resulted from consistent implementation of the turnaround strategy referred to as the Targeted Operating Model (TOM) which focusses on 360 degrees support to corporate clients along with their value chains of SME suppliers.

"The bank was also aggressive on bad debt recoveries, as well as im-

NCBA clears losses, records 11.5bn/- profit in H1

proving staff welfare to improve productivity," he said.

During the first half of this year, the bank managed to recover 3.8bn/- bad debt, of which 1.08bn/- recovered during the second quarter.

Unaudited quarterly financial statement for the quarter ended in June shows both interest and non-interest incomes increased during the period reported, with operating income turned positive to 5.4bn/- from a loss of 13.4bn/- respectively.

Net interest income increased by nearly a third to 17.98bn/- during the first six

months of this year, compared with 13.80bn/- during the first half of last year, while non-interest income grew to 6.1bn/- compared to 4.7bn/- respectively. The increase of non-interest income resulted from the growth of foreign currency dealing and transaction gains, which nearly doubled to 2.6bn/- compared with 1.4bn/- respectively and slight increase of fees and commission to 3.5bn/- from 3.3bn/-.

Return on average total assets improved positively to 4.7 percent during H1, 2023 compared with -6.8 percent during similar period of last year,

while return on average shareholder funds improved to 42.6 percent compared to -66.8 percent respectively.

The bank's capital went up by nearly 13 percent to 57.4bn/- during the second quarter of this year, compared to 50.1bn/- recorded during the first quarter of this year.

Total assets amounted to 478.7bn/- during the second quarter of this year, from 499.1bn/- during the first quarter mainly due decrease in specific customer deposits (Cash letters of Credit).

Loan issuance decreased to 237.1bn/- during the sec-

ond quarter of this year from 245.5bn/- during the first quarter, while interbank loans receivable slowed to 76.6bn/- compared with 82.2bn/-.

The financial statement shows liabilities also went down to 421bn/- from 449bn/- respectively due to decreased accrued taxes and expenses payables and other liabilities.

Customer deposits slightly increased to 239.6bn/- during the second quarter of this year, compared to 231.6bn/- during the first quarter, while special deposits increased to 83.3bn/- compared with 81.5bn/- respectively.



Claver Serumaga

Chinese firm helps build power network in Thailand

BANGKOK

Supaporn Raknim, a 36-year-old resident of Thung Song County in Thailand's southern Nakhon Si Thammarat province, eagerly expects the early operation of new transmission lines constructed by China.

"Here, we experience power outages several times a year, especially during the rainy season, and sometimes it can last for half a day," she said, hoping her family will no longer be bothered by darkness and high temperatures due to power cuts.

On the hills of Sam Tambon stand brand new power transmission towers that symbolize the hope of stable electricity supply for residents in southern Thailand. Below these towers, the staff of China's Henan Electric Power Transmission & Transformation Construction are working meticulously.

According to Project Manager Ma Wenhe, the tower erection was completed in late July, and the wire installation is expected to be finished in October, with the entire project scheduled for completion and delivery later this year.

The Thung Song-Songkhla 500kV Transmission Line Project, known as the Thung Song Project, is undertaken by Henan Electric Power



The power transmission towers in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand.

Transmission & Transformation Construction. The 50-million-U.S. dollar power line spans 105 km from Nakhon Si Thammarat Province in southern Thailand to Phatthalung Province.

Xu Jian, deputy manager of the Overseas Engineering Division at the Chinese power company, said, "In line with the Electricity Generating

Authority of Thailand's 2030 vision, Thailand is committed to becoming a Southeast Asian electricity trading hub. The completion of the Thung Song Project will greatly promote regional power connectivity." "Ten years ago there was a widespread power outage in southern Thailand, and in recent years the local power demand has continued to increase.

That's why we decided to build the Thung Song Project and chose a Chinese company for the construction," said Chakrit Parnitchob, chief of the Transmission Line Construction Project Department for Foreign Power Transmission Line Construction for Independent Power Producers at the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand.

He said that during their collaboration the Thai side has acquired high-quality transmission lines and excellent project management experience. This serves as an example of friendly neighboring countries working together for development.

Since its first overseas project in 1985, Henan Electric Power Transmission & Transformation Construction has undertaken grid construction projects in Kuwait, Bangladesh, Zambia, Ethiopia, Laos, and many other countries. However, exploring international markets also means facing unknown difficulties and challenges.

"The Thung Song Project not only faces challenges from the high rainfall and difficult excavation of rocky terrain in southern Thailand but also has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with manufacturers unable to meet the original production plans and shipping costs rising," said Ma.

To ensure the smooth progress of the project, he and the suppliers have gone through 13 rounds of negotiations, while the Chinese colleagues have been persistently stationed at the construction site.

In the eyes of the Chinese overseas engineers, a sense of responsibility for their work coexists with yearning for their homeland.

Ma's wife is a nurse in the Res-

piratory and Critical Care Department at the First Affiliated Hospital of Zhengzhou University, central China's Henan province. During the COVID-19 pandemic when his wife fought on the frontline against the virus, Ma was thousands of miles away in Thailand. They only met three times in the years.

"Our children are still young and the elders are not in good health. But when you choose this profession, you must stick to it," Ma said, looking forward to returning home after the project's completion.

There is a picture painted by a Thai student near the completion schedule board at the project office. It depicts the national flags of China and Thailand flying between two transmission towers. This artwork was a gift from Thai students on the first anniversary of the Thung Song Project when Chinese workers donated stationery and sports supplies to a school in Nakhon Si Thammarat province.

Chinese companies are actively participating in international projects while striving to shoulder social responsibilities in host countries. "The Thung Song Project is not only a livelihood-improving project for the local community but also an extension of Chinese-Thai cooperation and friendship," Ma said.

BAHRAIN'S REAL ESTATE SECTOR CONTINUES GROWTH MOMENTUM

MANAMA

Bahrain's real estate sector continued to grow in Q2 2023, with similar increases in residential sales, rents, and office spaces, states a new report.

The Q2 2023 Bahrain Property Market in Minutes update by Savills found that the industrial warehousing sector also saw greater stability in rents, as government efforts to diversify the economy paid off.

However, retail rental rates have been under intense downward pressure over the past year, with prices falling by an average of 7 per cent, the report adds.

The demand for villas exceeded the apartment sector, and the inquiry levels and transactions were concentrated across the mid-range

segment.

Despite this preference for villas, the capital values have remained at the same level during the second quarter, and rates are estimated at BD603 per sqm.

However, values on a year-on-year basis have increased by 2.3pc.

The average capital values across the high-end villa developments have decreased by 1.2pc on a quarterly basis to BD600 per sqm. Apartment values in the low-end segment have remained stable on a quarterly basis whilst the mid-end and high-end segments have decreased marginally.

Retail rental rates have been under intense downward pressure over the past year, with prices falling by an average of 7pc to BD10 per sqm against the backdrop of



the sector's ongoing recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic as well as a sizable supply and demand imbalance.

The biggest adjustment has been in malls, where prices

are down 11pc year over year and average BD12 per sqm, down from BD14 last year.

In the industrial warehousing sector, the average monthly rent for medium units is currently at BD2.8 per sqm,

and BD2.7 per sqm for large units.

Savills anticipates that the sector will continue to grow in the medium term as greater emphasis is placed on supply chain, food security, and

onshore activities.

The demand for rentals across Bahrain has remained mostly stable in Q2 2023. Whilst rental values haven't moved much on a quarterly basis, those for low-end and mid-end apartments have decreased by 2pc to 6pc when compared to Q2-2022.

According to Hashim Kadhem, head of professional services at Savills in Bahrain, the kingdom's residential and commercial property sectors have benefited from a raft of positive policy measures, including the Economic Recovery Plan, the issuance of the Golden Licence, and the national jobs plan.

However, Mr Kadhem

adds that with recent estimates suggesting that the GDP will likely taper this year due to a drop in oil production and prices and a slowdown in the non-oil sector, which may also impact the property market to some extent, albeit with a lag. Savills has noticed that the capital values remained stable across the office development compared to Q1-2023.

"There was also a noticeable uptick in demand for LEED-certified office spaces, demand for which is anticipated to see an increase moving forward as companies aim to meet their ESG goals and requirements," Mr Kadhem added.

High interest rate worsens Nigeria's housing crisis

LAGOS

NIGERIANS' access to mortgages and investment in real estate has been negatively impacted by the Central Bank of Nigeria's frequent interest rate increases.

To tame the accelerating inflation rate in the country, the Central Bank of Nigeria has hiked the interest rate from 11.5 per cent in April 2022 to 18.5 per cent in July this year.

The increase in benchmark interest rate has been taking its toll on the country's economy, worsening its housing crisis. It has also made investors take a watch-and-see approach as the prices of buildings continue to skyrocket.

The price of cement, which is a major input in construction has risen by over 34 per cent to N4,700 as of mid-July Tuesday from N3,500 in January 2022.

The International Human Rights Commission claimed more than 28 million Nigerians lack access to decent and affordable housing. Similarly, the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria has stated that the country has at least 28 million housing gaps.

The country's housing shortage has worsened from 7 million housing units in 1991 to 28 million housing units last year.

The country's mortgage system has been struggling with slow growth in the last two decades, exacerbated by high-interest rates. Mortgage rates have surged to a range of 22 to 27 per cent per year from 20 to 24 per year. This has put considerable strain on the real estate sector, leading to challenges such as soaring building material costs, disrupted supply chains, and a dwindling number of potential buyers.

At a recent virtual forum organised by the Central Bank of Nigeria Financial System Strategy with the theme "Navigating Current Challenges in the Nigerian Mortgage Market", the focus of the discussions was on how to improve the funding status of the sector.

The Managing Director of the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria, Madu Hamman, noted that the CBN rate hike had not only increased the cost of borrowing in the sector but also affected the prices of building materials and other items, leading to high prices of housing across the board.

"FMBN, which manages the National Housing Fund, fixed the rate at single digit for contributors to the fund in order for them to have access to mortgage loans. But the contribution to the fund has not grown substantially to address the housing challenge in the country," Hamman said.

He emphasised the importance of seeking alternative sources of funds for mortgage origination across the country.

He said, "We need to engage government and regulatory institutions at the national level and encourage the provision of special intervention funds for the mortgage sector. It is only through such intervention funds that we will be able to cushion the effect of an increasing rate of interest within the mortgage sector."

He noted that if the sector continued to rely on what was obtainable from the capital market or the money market, it would not be palatable for borrowers and mortgage lenders.

According to the Executive Secretary of the Association of Housing Corporation of Nigeria, Toyé Eniola, the apex bank is helpless and will continue to have these challenges until a deliberate policy that would attract foreign direct investments is put in place.

He said, "What is driving the economy is the change in the forex rate and it is because we run an import-dependent economy. However, Premium Motor Spirits are the main driver of our economy and every sector, including individuals depends on it to run their business and their individual lives. Sadly, it is imported with huge forex.



US mortgage rate shock regains bite

NEW YORK

ENTERING 2023, the US housing market found its footing across many regions, achieving a semblance of stability after weathering a mild price correction in the second half of 2022.

A combination of factors, including mortgage rates slipping below the 6.5 percent mark, a shortage of available homes for sale, and the seasonal uptick in demand during the early spring months, contributed to this newfound equilibrium.

However, just as the housing market braces itself for the traditionally subdued fall and winter period, real estate professionals are closely watching the reemergence of a familiar threat: 7 percent mortgage rates.

On Tuesday, the average 30-year fixed mort-

gage rate ticked up to 7.13 percent. This figure stands in stark contrast to the sunnier days in February when the average 30-year fixed mortgage rate got as low as 5.99 percent. This latest jump puts mortgage rates just below the peak of 7.37 percent witnessed last October.

When considering current house price and income levels, researchers at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta estimate that affordability, or rather the lack of affordability, reaches levels comparable to the peak of the housing bubble whenever mortgage rates approach the 7 percent range.

This sudden resurgence of 7 percent mortgage rates prompts a pressing question that now hangs over the housing market: Are we poised for a resumption of month-over-month

home price declines, particularly as the market enters the historically subdued fall and winter?

After US home prices, as tracked by the Case-Shiller National Home Price Index, dipped 5.1 percent between June 2022 and January 2023, the index rebounded with vigor, showcasing a 4.2 percent surge from February 2023 to May 2023.

Housing economists are fairly divided as to whether the recent uptick in mortgage rates puts the housing market at risk for further house price declines.

Economists at firms like Morgan Stanley, Moody's Analytics, and Freddie Mac expect national house prices will decline enough in the second half of 2023 to wipe out all the national gains notched in the first half of the year.

Property economists at Capital Economics also believe month-over-month house price declines are about to resume.

Meanwhile, housing economists at AEI Housing Center, Zillow, and CoreLogic believe U.S. home prices have bottomed. In their eyes, the lack of homes for sale—which according to Realtor.com in June 2023 was 49.7 percent below June 2019 levels—will be enough to prevent further house price declines even if mortgage rates do remain elevated for a prolonged period of time.

And while housing affordability has deteriorated significantly, economists at AEI Housing Center say onlookers should remember that the resilient labor market—which boosts a historically low 3.6 percent unemployment rate—also acts as support for national home price growth.

Keep in mind that whenever a group like Morgan Stanley or CoreLogic says "US home prices", they're talking about a national aggregate.

On a regional level the story might vary, with some overheated markets like Austin continuing to fall while relatively more affordable markets like Scranton keep inching higher.



REAL ESTATE

Leos unveils luxury 15,000-sq-foot show apartment in Dubai

DUBAI

LEOS Developments, a leading international developer, has unveiled its luxurious 15,000-sq-ft show apartment set up within Business Bay in Dubai.

The Experience Centre features a highly anticipated Dubai show apartment, embodying the essence of the Leos brand with its exceptional design and craftsmanship, said the company in a statement.

A key highlight of the new Experience Centre is a cutting-edge 3D model gallery and grand amphitheatre for hosting events, which provides an immersive experience for visitors.

Leos upholds five core pillars - quality, craftsmanship, materiality, community, and detail - which are intricately woven into their projects, elevating the standards of modern living and fostering trust among their diverse clientele, said the statement.

Drawing inspiration from the UK's social spaces and the allure of Dubai, Leos has meticulously designed the interiors, creating a unique and inviting atmosphere.

The Experience Centre serves as a community hub for social and learning activities and offers valuable information about Leos' current and upcoming developments.

The launch was attended by senior officials of Leos and the Dubai Land Department, thus reflecting the strong collaboration and strategic partnership between the two entities.

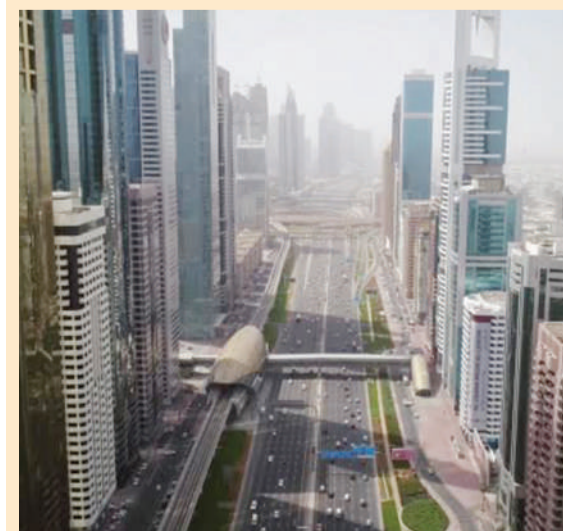
Leos Founding Director Rui Liu said: "We are delighted with the support we have received from DLD since launching our first development in Dubai. Our goal is to develop a strong, long-lasting strategic partnership that will lead to monumental milestones in the future."

Highlighting the significance of the event, senior DLD official Majid Saqr Al Marri said: "We are thrilled to have been part of Leos' experience centre inauguration. This marks the beginning of a fruitful collaboration as we work together on iconic projects that will shape the future skyline of the city."

The Leos-DLD partnership underscores their shared vision to create exceptional real estate developments and contribute to the growth and development of the city.

This strategic alliance paves the way for long-term collaborations aimed at delivering innovative projects that will enhance Dubai's architectural landscape, it added.

Senior Business Director (Middle East & Asia) Mark Gaskin, shared his excitement about the new Experience Centre, emphasizing its key focus on the needs of clients and the community.



CONSTRUCTION

ENDEAVOUR TO BUILD \$55M SOLAR PLANT AT SENEGAL MINE

DAKAR

Africa-focused gold miner Endeavour Mining has brought forward the construction of a 37 MWp photovoltaic (PV) solar facility at the Sabodala-Massawa mine, in Senegal, at a cost of \$55-million.

The solar plant will complement the 36 MW heavy fuel oil power plant, that is currently being expanded as part of a brownfield expansion at Sabodala-Massawa mine.

In addition, a 16 MW battery system will be constructed to regulate power supply and ensure fewer generators are required.

Endeavour says the hybridisation of the Sabodala-Massawa mine is aligned with its optimisation strategy and will realise a 15 percent pretax internal rate of return on the investment, based on the current reserve mine, and exceed 20 percent based on the additional resource conversion and exploration potential.

"Our relentless focus on cost and efficiency improvements has continued to identify optimisation opportunities across the portfolio, leading to our decision to move forward with the 37 MWp PV facility at our Sabodala-Massawa mine, thereby redeploying a portion of the proceeds obtained from the sale of our non-core mines," comments president and



Endeavour CEO Sebastien de Montessus

CEO Sebastien de Montessus.

Endeavour recently sold its Boungou and Wahgnion mines, in Burkina Faso, for \$300-million, as part of its strategy to focus on higher-quality assets.

The plant, which will significantly lower fuel consumption and power costs, while reducing emissions, will be commissioned in early 2025.

Meanwhile, commenting on the brown-

field expansion of Sabodala-Massawa and the Lafigue Greenfield project, in Cote d'Ivoire, De Montessus reports that both are on budget and on track to be commissioned next year.

The dual-listed miner is investing \$740-million on the two growth projects.

De Montessus also reports that Endeavour will meet its 2023 production guidance, which was adjusted to reflect the

sale of the Boungou and Wahgnion mines. The group is aiming to produce 1.06-million to 1.14-million ounces at an all-in sustaining cost (AISC) guidance of \$895/oz to \$950/oz.

In the first half of 2023, production from continuing operations decreased by 13 percent year-on-year to 511 000 oz, owing to decreased production at Houende and Sabodala-Massawa as an increased focus on stripping activity resulted in lower grade ore being processed, and at Mana owing to an increased focus on underground development.

Second-quarter output fell by 10 percent quarter-on-quarter to 268 000 oz at an AISC of \$1 136/oz.

The miner posted adjusted net earnings of \$54-million in the June quarter, down from \$65-million in the March quarter and \$109-million in the June 2023 quarter.

Endeavour also declared a first-half dividend of \$100-million, which on an annualised basis represents \$25-million more than the minimum dividend commitment for the year.

"Looking ahead, our goal is to increase our shareholder returns programme further once our organic growth projects are complete, to ensure that our efforts to unlock growth benefit all stakeholders," says De Montessus.

The construction sector and what it gets from links with technology

By Candice Clark

The construction industry has long been criticized for its lack of technological sophistication and resistance to labour-saving devices.

This hesitancy can be traced back decades, with anecdotes of workers throwing electric saws off rooftops and a general reluctance to embrace new technologies.

Despite the industry's reputation, there have been notable gains in the adoption of digital technology, particularly in the form of Building Information Modeling (BIM).

While the construction industry may not resemble the mechanized fabrication seen in other industries, there have been advancements in certain areas.

Autonomous earth moving machines and robotic devices like "Spot" the Robot Dog demonstrate the industry's potential for automation. Wearable exo-skeletal devices also garner excitement at construction shows, enabling workers to lift more weight throughout the day. However, the widespread deployment of robots in the industry has yet to materialize.

The slow adoption of robotics in construction is not due to fears of job displacement, but rather the high cost of these devices.

Large general contractors may have the funds to invest in robotics, but smaller subtrades cannot justify the expense.

However, digital technology has made significant progress, with investments in construction management software platforms and the use of BIM.

These technologies offer quantifiable cost savings and improve communication and collaboration among project participants.

Numerous studies confirm the industry's willingness to embrace digital technology.

According to a survey conducted by KPMG, 81 percent of engineering and construction respondents have either adopted or started to adopt mobile platforms, with a significant increase in the use of robotic process automation.

A separate survey of Canadian companies showed a similar commitment to technology, with 85 percent acknowledging that "disruptive technologies" could make their companies more competitive.

While the construction industry still faces challenges in adopting technology, there is a growing awareness of its potential benefits.

However, the vision of fully automated and worker-free construction sites imagined over a hundred years ago is still a distant reality.

The complexity of the construction process and the high cost of automation devices continue to impede widespread adoption.

Overall, the industry is making progress in embracing digital technologies, but there is still much room for growth.

Adani to buy cement firm Sanghi Industries

MUMBAI

INDIAN billionaire Gautam Adani's Ambuja Cements Ltd will buy a majority stake in Sanghi Industries Ltd as the tycoon's ports-to-power conglomerate looks to expand cement operations across the South Asian nation, according to people familiar with the matter.

The acquisition by Ambuja is likely to be announced as soon as Wednesday, two of the people said, asking not to be identified as the information is private.

Ambuja will probably buy out the owners of Sanghi, with the deal giving the company a roughly 50 billion rupees (\$606 million) enterprise value, according to the people. Adani Group and Sanghi

didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Reuters first reported that Ambuja reached an agreement to buy Sanghi.

If it goes through, the deal will propel Adani Group's plans to double annual cement making capacity by 2027 after closing the acquisition of Holcim Ltd's Indian assets last year, a purchase that made the conglomerate India's second-largest producer of the construction material. Sanghi has an annual production capacity of 6.6 million metric tons of clinker and 6.1 million metric tons of cement, according to its website.

The cement company is controlled by first generation entrepreneur Ravi Sanghi, who is the

firm's chairman and managing director.

This will be the first major acquisition by Adani Group after months of damage control following US short seller Hindenburg Research's allegations in January of years-long corporate malfeasance, which sent the group's stocks and bonds tumbling. The conglomerate has denied any wrong doing.

On Wednesday, Ambuja reported first quarter net income of 6.45 billion rupees, a 39 percent drop from the same period a year earlier, which missed the 8 billion rupees estimates by analysts surveyed by Bloomberg. The company's shares declined as much as 2 percent in Mumbai trading.



Indian billionaire Gautam Adani

IFC supporting Absa to expand green buildings financing in SA

JOHANNESBURG

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has joined forces with Absa bank, a South African financial institution, to promote the growth of certified green buildings in the country.

Through a loan of up to 4.5 billion South African rand (approximately \$236 million), the IFC aims to support Absa's strategy of expanding its green buildings finance portfolio.

This initiative will encompass the financing of new certified green buildings as well as green mortgages. By doing so, Absa will enhance accessibility to green building finance for both developers and individual home buyers.

As part of its climate strategy, Absa plans to utilize the investment to finance environmentally-friendly green buildings certified under the IFC's Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiency

(EDGE) program, as well as other similar green building certifications. These certifications aim to standardize the design and certification process for resource-efficient and climate-friendly buildings.

Green buildings present a significant low-carbon investment opportunity due to their potential for electricity savings and reduced water consumption. According to an IFC study, South Africa's green building demand offers a promising \$7 billion investment opportunity from 2016 to 2030. While the supply of green buildings is increasing in the country, the green building market is still in its early stages of development.

IFC estimates that this project will result in a reduction of over 12,000 tons of emissions annually. Additionally, the investment will contribute to South Africa's Na-



Green buildings

tionally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets under the Paris Agreement, which aims to achieve a 42 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2025.

"As a responsible corporate citizen, one of our strategic imperatives is to be an active force for good in everything we do, which is key to delivering true long-term value linked to our purpose," said Punki Modise, Absa Group Chief Strategy and Sustainability Officer. "The loan, which includes a performance-based incentive for clients, significantly enhances the resources we have available to support clients in making environmentally responsible and resource-efficient invest-

ments in commercial and residential developments, mainly focused on affordable housing."

"Increasing funding for green buildings in South Africa can help the country address power and water shortages and support sustainable economic growth," said Adamou Labara, IFC Country Manager for South Africa. "IFC's partnership with Absa will make it easier for developers and individuals to access green building finance and speed the development of environmentally friendly buildings in the country."

Under the partnership, IFC will offer performance-based incentives to partially cover the greening and

certification expenses for green buildings and mortgages financed by Absa. The benefits of this initiative will trickle down to end users in the form of reduced utility bills, including power and water bills.

Funding for these incentives comes from the IFC-UK Market Accelerator for Green Construction (MAGC) program, sponsored by the United Kingdom. The goal of this program is to promote green construction in emerging markets by encouraging financial intermediaries, like Absa, to introduce new green building finance products.

IFC will also provide advisory services to support Absa in enhancing its abil-

ity to originate and manage loans for the development or retrofitting of certified green buildings. By leveraging IFC's expertise, Absa aims to bolster its knowledge and internal capacity to expand its green buildings business segment further.

This investment builds on IFC's previous 2 billion South African rand (approximately \$124 million) loan to Absa in 2022, which was dedicated to supporting the growth of affordable housing finance in South Africa. The current initiative aligns with IFC's broader strategy of fostering climate change resilience in the country by investing in inclusive and sustainable projects.

WORLD

PM Sunak: UK climate record 'better than everyone else's'

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak defended his government's policies on the environment on Wednesday after criticism from campaigners, saying its record on cutting carbon emissions is better than other major countries.

Britain adopted the target of reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050 under former Prime Minister Theresa May and was quick to build up its renewable energy capacity in earlier years. But progress in onshore and offshore wind has been hampered by a raft of rule changes, prompting some developers to warn they will struggle to invest in Britain without improved incentives.

The government also approved its first new deep coal mine in decades in

December and on Monday Sunak said his government would grant hundreds more licences for North Sea oil and gas extraction.

Asked on LBC radio whether he was a "dangerous radical" for wanting increased production of fossil fuels, Sunak defended Britain's climate record.

He said Britain had decarbonized the quickest out of all of the G7 major economies. To back his claim, the government cited national inventory data submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

"We should not take any lectures from anybody about our record. Our record is fantastic. It's better than everyone else's," Sunak said during questions with LBC listeners.



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak (left) talks to a member of the staff during their visit to the Shell St Fergus Gas Plant in Peterhead, Britain, July 31, 2023 for the announcement of further measures to protect the UK's long-term energy security. AP

Polling released on Wednesday showed 67 percent of voters thought the government was handling environmental issues badly, the worst rating since mid-2019 when YouGov began tracking public opinion on the issue.

Sunak said he cared about Britain reaching the target of net zero by 2050 and wanted to leave the environment and the climate in a better state for his children.

But he added that even when Brit-

ain reached net zero, a quarter of energy would still come from fossil fuels, which should be sourced domestically.

"If I have to get that energy from halfway around the world and ship it here, it will come with three or four times the carbon emissions," he said.

"The right, sensible thing to do is to use the energy we have here at home as we transition to net zero, which we are going to do, but this is a part of doing that."

Agencies

G20's Culture Unites All campaign: Shared heritage, mutual respect

By Lily Pandeya

As a part of its hallmark campaign "Culture Unites All", the Culture Working Group (CWG) under India's G20 Presidency set a Guinness World Record for "the largest display of Lambani items". Nearly 450 women craftspersons created over 1,755 Lambani embroidered patches that formed a beautiful art installation in the Yeduru Basavanna complex close to the famous Virupaksha temple in Hampi, the capital of the 14th century Vijayanagara kingdom on the banks of the Tungabhadra.

This record aligns with the third priority articulated by the CWG of India's G20 Presidency, "Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy", which is an essential part of our global economy, impacting our social and cultural fabric.

The "Culture Unites All" campaign launched during the first G20 CWG meeting in Khajuraho is a call for action to celebrate the commonalities across the myriad cultures of the world that are distinct yet so connected. A promising initiative, it advocates for cultural diversity as a strength to be valued and a

magnetic force holding societies together.

This record as a part of the campaign, aims to spotlight locally known traditional arts and crafts such as Lambani embroidery on the global stage. It helps to support local economies as well as encourage their continuity by expanding opportunities for artisans. The exquisite embroidery tradition that thrives in numerous villages across the region is also a recipient of the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

This intangible cultural heritage element, practised and led by women of the Lambani community, serves as a significant source of livelihood and sustenance for the community. The uniqueness of this craft lies in the process of piecing together patches of discarded fabric through intricate stitching patterns, which are embellished manually. The Lambani patchwork embroidery exemplifies the many traditional sustainable living heritage practices of India and strongly resonates with the "Culture for LIFE" initiative of the G20 CWG of India, promoting an environmentally conscious lifestyle and concerted action towards sustainability.



It is noteworthy that the techniques and aesthetic sensibilities of the embroidery traditions of the Lambanis recur across Eastern Europe, West Asia and Central Asia. This is only logical given the historical movement of the nomadic communities across boundaries creating artistic linkages. Just as a patchwork quilt brings together disparate pieces of fabric into a beautiful whole, this world record strives to highlight our shared global heritage and the peaceful co-existence among diverse cultures and communities.

The CWG under India's G20 presidency recognises that cultural and creative collaborations can facilitate innovative solutions to complex global issues pertaining to climate change, health, economic growth and more.

Therefore, "Culture Unites All" is an attempt to uncover a tapestry of shared heritage, mutual respect, and the immense potential for cultural exchange to foster inclusivity, harmony, and sustainable development.

The creative sector is not only a major contributor to national and international economies, but it also profoundly influences social ecosystems, strengthens cultural identities, and fosters freedom of expression and cross-cultural dialogue. Regional embroidery traditions – kantha, kashida, phulkari, chikankari etc. – are vibrant facets of India's creative economy. As repositories of centuries-old cultural expressions, these traditions not only fulfil social and economic needs but also narrate stories of our col-

lective wisdom.

Cultural experiences consciously curated under this campaign enable empathy, deepen understanding, and promote peace. Be it the effervescent sand art displayed during the second CWG meeting in Bhubaneswar, or the Lambani Guinness World Record initiative in Hampi, the aim is to raise awareness and appreciate the dynamic artistic expressions of humanity.

As we move forward to the fourth CWG meeting culminating in the Culture Ministers' Meet scheduled in August at Varanasi, India aims to harness the potential of the "Culture Unites All" campaign as a catalyst for building consensus and attaining tangible outcomes.

The Indian Express

China calls on NATO to drop plans of expanding to Asia Pacific – Chinese diplomat

MOSCOW

CHINA calls on NATO countries to drop the Cold-War mentality and refuse from plans of expanding eastwards, Chinese Ambassador to Russia Zhang Hanhui (pictured) said in an interview with TASS.

"We insist that NATO meet the calls of the times, heed the calls of Asia Pacific countries for peace and development, adjust its erroneous attitude, drop the Cold-War mentality and refrain from moving to the Asia Pacific region," he said. He stressed that the Asia Pacific



regions is a "territory of cooperation and development rather than a chessboard for geopolitical games."

According to the Chinese diplomat, the region has managed to preserve long-term prosperity and stability and create an "Asia Pacific miracle" thanks to mutual respect, open cooperation, mutual benefit, win-win cooperation and the ability to resolve differences between the states of the region.

In his words, in the difficult international situation, Asia Pacific nations "value conditions for peaceful development that have been created through hard efforts."

"They see the real goal and understand the deplorable consequences of NATO's expansion to the Asia Pacific region," Zhang said. "They have always been strategically sober and have knowingly been maintaining peace and stability in the region."

"Countries of the region and people living here will never accept NATO's and other external forces' plans to 'get a grip' of the Asia Pacific region."

The Asia Pacific region is a venue for peace dialogue and rejects an Asia Pacific version of NATO and the NATOization of the Asia Pacific region," he added.

Agencies

Top Israeli court weighs in on Netanyahu's judicial overhaul

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S Supreme Court began hearing yesterday the first in a series of appeals against a judicial overhaul being unfurled by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his religious-nationalist coalition, which has set off an unprecedented domestic crisis.

A March amendment to a quasi-constitutional "basic law" limited conditions under which a prime minister can be deemed unfit, or incapacitated, and removed from office. The appellants - backed by Netanyahu's own attorney-general - want that voided.

The case being heard by three justices pits the Supreme Court against the Knesset, or parliament, situated shouting-distance away across a rose garden on a gentle Jerusalem hill.

"Clash Among Branches of Government - The First Test," read the main headline of the mass-circulation daily Israel Hayom.

Supporters of Netanyahu, who bounded back to a record sixth term in late December, cast Thursday's appeal - and others slated for next month - as a reminder of what they deem meddling by unelected judges in the democratic mandate of the coalition.



Critics see the Supreme Court as the last check on an executive working in lock-step with the legislature in a country that has no formal constitution.

That Netanyahu is on trial in

three graft cases has further fueled worries at home and abroad for Israel's democratic health. He denies any wrongdoing and has cast the criminal charges against him as a politicized witch-hunt.

"There's a desire here to create a judicial dictatorship," Foreign Minister Eli Cohen told public broadcaster Kan.

The appellant Movement for Quality Government in Israel argues that the March law "constituted another transition toward dictatorship" and "set a dangerous new precedent (whereby) the person possessing the premiership can change constitutional arrangements as convenient given the majority he has to hand".

On Sept 12, for the first time in Israel, the entire 15-justice bench will convene to hear an appeal against another basic law amendment -

this one curbing Supreme Court powers.

The legislation, ratified on July 24, removed the "reasonableness" standard of review which was among the court's tools to overrule government decisions. Critics of that amendment worry that it will encourage high-level corruption.

Both the incapacity and reasonableness amendments are part of basic laws that the court so far has refrained from quashing. Netanyahu has voiced hope that it will not do so now, and has been hazy on whether he would abide by any such ruling.

Turkey announces restrictions on using credit card for foreign travel

ANKARA

TURKEY'S banking watchdog has announced additional restrictions to support the country's tightening drive, including stopping permitting credit card payments by installment for foreign travel, like flights, travel agency fees and accommodation, Turkey-based Daily Sabah reported.

The decision which hit airline shares and was witnessed as curbing foreign currency outflows, was one of two measures announced by the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency (BDDK) on Monday.

It said these measures were among coordinated steps to strengthen financial stability, according to Daily Sabah report. Recently, the Turkish authorities have taken measures aimed at controlling high inflation and reducing domestic demand, with the central bank increasing interest rates by 900 basis points in two months in addition to other tightening measures, Daily Sabah reported.

Last week, Turkey's central bank announced new steps that included increasing the monthly maximum interest rate on credit card cash usage and overdraft accounts. It said that the increase was made to control inflation and balance domestic demand.

The measures came days after the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (CBRT) reduced its benchmark policy rate by 250 basis points to 17.5 per cent, the highest level since October 2021 and committed to more tightening.

The CBRT in the past two months has marked a reversal from an easing drive that saw that the bank slashed its official borrowing costs to 8.5 per cent from 19 per cent since 2021, Daily Sabah reported.

According to tourist operators, they have been hit by soaring costs and a decline in the Turkish lira in recent years. Tourist operators have said that the Turkish lira has lost half its value against the US dollar since end-2021, with travellers commonly using credit cards to finance trips.

Cem Polatoglu, spokesperson of a tour operators' platform, said, "Almost all of my clients were paying by installments," noting an average trip for two costs around TL 50,000 (USD 1,850). Polatoglu further said, "The number of people who can pay this amount in one go is very few," Daily Sabah reported.

ANI

AU, UN step up efforts to boost state-building process in Somalia

MOGADISHU

THE African Union and United Nations missions in Somalia have reaffirmed their support for Somalia's state-building process, the AU mission said on Wednesday.

Mohamed El-Amine Souef, head of the AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), and Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, head of the UN Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) visited Kismayo, a town in southern Somalia, where they met UN and ATMIS personnel to discuss ongoing offensive against the al-Shabab terrorist group, security and political issues.

Souef urged the personnel to continue to provide specialized training and knowledge transfer to Somalia's public servants to help increase the number of skilled personnel in various sectors.

"Somalia has made great progress, and that progress is due to the collaborative work with ATMIS and the UN in terms of improving security and fighting against al-Shabab militants. Today, people in Somalia can live safely," he said in a joint statement issued in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia.

Xinhua

Ghanaian president urges women, children to be heard in climate change discourse

ACCRA

GHANAIAN President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on Wednesday urged African countries to give women and children a hearing in climate change discussions to ensure inclusive and far-reaching decision-making.

Akufo-Addo made the call at the maiden Africa Women and Children Conference held in the capital city of Accra under the theme "Amplifying the Voices of Women and Children in Climate Action." "The women and children of Africa are indispensable in shaping effective climate actions to achieve the noble objectives set in the Paris Agreement on climate change," said Akufo-Addo. He said inclusive decision-making would help the continent to address the unique challenges faced by individual communities and engender a multifaceted and collaborative approach to dealing with the climate crisis. The president stressed women's uniqueness in assessing risks differently from men and prioritizing the welfare of their families and communities in resource management decisions, which could help champion eco-friendly behaviors, promote sustainable consumption and protect natural resources.

Xinhua

Return to grain deal possible, but requires fulfilling Russia's terms, says Kremlin

SOLNECHNOGORSK



RUSSIA may return to the fulfillment of the grain deal, but its terms must be fulfilled, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Wednesday.

"For this, European countries simply need to take a number of measures to remove restrictions - disconnecting Rosselkhozbank [Russian Agricultural Bank] from SWIFT and others," he said.

"They can be fulfilled quickly and [then] Russia will immediately return to the implementation of the grain deal," Peskov (pictured) added.

He stressed that Russia has been performing its responsibilities under the grain deal independently for far too long, while obligations to Moscow have not been met. "Russia has been fulfilling all its obligations [under the deal] unilaterally for far too long. And for far too long, the obligations to Moscow were not met, so it is now suspended," he said.

The grain deal ended on July 17. Last week, speaking at the plenary session of the Russia-Africa forum, Putin said that Russia had originally agreed to participate in the deal on the condition that its terms to remove illegitimate obstacles to the supply of grain and fertilizers from Russia to world markets would be observed. But none of these conditions was met.

In turn, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin noted that the grain deal could be resumed "in a new form," but this requires concrete action on the part of the West.

Agencies

Barrick reiterates 2028 for first production from Reko Diq copper-gold project in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan

BARRICK Gold Corporation president and chief executive Mark Bristow says with the updated feasibility study on the giant Reko Diq copper-gold project making rapid progress, the company is aiming to start production in 2028.

Speaking at the inaugural session of Pakistan's first Minerals Summit, Bristow said the signing of the New Reko Diq agreement last year was a landmark event in the development of a mining industry in Pakistan, a process which will be accelerated by the Minerals Summit.

"I hope the momentum created by this event will be sustained by successive efforts to unlock this sector's full potential and build its capacity by attracting other foreign investors to follow Barrick, to the lasting benefit of Pakistan and its people," he said.

"There is a growing demand for metals and minerals, especially copper, and the challenge for mining companies and their host governments is to ensure that these resources are extracted in a responsible and equitable manner. Barrick believes in the principle of mutual advantage and shares the value its operations create with all stakeholders, including its host countries and communities."

Bristow noted that Reko Diq was the latest manifestation of Barrick's partnership model, already successfully applied elsewhere in its global portfolio. Barrick owns 50 percent of Reko Diq and is developing and will operate the mine.

The Balochistan province, which hosts the deposit, has a 25 percent share and the federal government holds the other 25 percent through state-owned entities.

Reko Diq is expected to have a life of at least 40 years as an open pit operation with processing facilities capable of producing high-quality copper-gold concentrates in the amount of 80 million tonnes annually.

During peak construction the project is expected to employ 7,500 people and once in production it will create around 4,000 long-term jobs. As elsewhere in the group, Barrick prioritizes the employment of local people and host country nationals.

African Union's permanent membership in G20 positive development which PM Modi has advocated for, says former Tunisian prime minister

MYSURU



FORMER Prime Minister of Tunisia, Mehdi Jomaa on Tuesday said the African Union's permanent membership in the G20 is a positive development that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has advocated.

"The permanent membership of the African Union in the G20 is a very positive development that Prime Minister Modi (pictured) has advocated for," the former Tunisian Prime Minister said while speaking on Day 2 of the Think20 (T20) Summit in Mysuru on Tuesday. "Africa," he continued, "is well positioned to become an emerging multi-sector corridor which fosters innovation, development and multilateralism."

The T20 is an official Engagement Group of the G20, and serves as an "ideas bank" for the G20 by bringing together think tanks and high-level experts to deliberate on relevant policy issues. Observer Research Foundation (ORF) is serving as the T20 Secretariat during India's Presidency of the G20.

Jomaa further said that the G20 presents a unique opportunity to ensure a common prosperous future for all.

Meanwhile, Policy Advisor of the a2i Programme, ICT Division and the Cabinet Division of the Government of Bangladesh, Anir Chowdhury, while speaking on Bangladesh's efforts at innovating technology and data for development, said that while Bangladesh started the data journey late, it picked up pace during COVID-19 for symptom mapping and providing better access to vaccines.

"Companies now have task forces on AI to contend with the multifarious challenges that the ubiquitous technology brings," noted Mahima Kaul, Head of Public Policy, APAC, Bumble.

Founder and CEO, Girlhype Women Who Code, South Africa, Baratang Miya, while speaking on day 2 of the T20 Summit, said that the verification of content online will become an important question that will require answers as AI becomes more accessible.

"Who is going to lead the technology conversation - private companies, public enterprises, or academia and civil society? We need a confluence of all of them," averred Erin Watson, Founder and Managing Director, Baker & York, Australia.

Sharad Sharma, Co-Founder, iSPIRT Foundation, noted: "Techno-legal regulation is our true test of democracy in the emerging tech times marked by disruptive forces like AI."

In the session on Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) and shaping a new paradigm for sustainable development, Eenam Gambhir, Joint Secretary (G20), Ministry of External Affairs, pointed out India's efforts at putting development at the heart of all G20 processes.

"Even if we sit at the same table, we have differentiated responsibilities due to differentiated vulnerabilities," noted Gladys Lechini, Professor, International Relations, National University of Rosario, Argentina.

Sachin Chaturvedi, Member, T20 India Core Group and Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries, India, said, "New technologies and sustainable production are critical to enable a Lifestyle for Environment."

"India has been able to lower emissions only because of the lifestyle choices we have been able to make," he continued.

Over 200 participants from 35 countries and nearly 110 institutions are being hosted at the T20 Summit. The delegates include ministers, diplomats, policy planners, heads of think tanks and research institutions, civil society organisations, and eminent thinkers whose collective agency will ensure rich and diverse discussions at the Summit.

ANI

Solar energy improves lives in rural Zambia

LUSAKA

IN some parts of rural Zambia, especially remote ones off the national grid, access to electricity remains a luxury.

However, things are beginning to change for the better thanks to solar energy use in rural communities, improving academic performance of students, who can now study even in the evenings, and enabling crop cultivation to go on all year round, courtesy of solar-powered irrigation equipment.

In addition, access to solar energy has also increased business opportunities and made rural areas more attractive for people to live in.

Some rural dwellers have bought solar kits that often consist lighting equipment, solar panels, batteries and a radio set. There are kits that also come with a TV set.

The cost of solar kits depends on the capacity and size of the panels -- a small start-up solar kit costs about 2,000 Zambian Kwacha (about 107 U.S. dollars).

For Ketiwe Mapenda, a resident in Mwalubemba, a village in Chongwe district, in eastern Lusaka Province, life has improved significantly since her family invested in a solar



This photo shows a grocery store powered by solar energy in a village in Lusaka, Zambia. Xinhua

kit. "Solar power has brightened our nights. My children are able to study even at night, and I can cook and carry out other chores after sunset," said the 38-year-old mother of three.

People in the village used to rely on kerosene lamps and candles for lighting. Now they can turn to clean and reliable solar energy.

"It has also reduced incidences of houses catching fire and burning down as a result of mishaps in the use of kerosene and candles," Mapenda said.

Benefits of solar energy extend

beyond basic lighting needs. It has enabled the installation of refrigeration systems, transforming the way villagers store food and helping small businesses thrive. "We used to lose a lot of food due to lack of refrigeration," says Peter Mwila, who runs a grocery store in Namayani Village, west of Lusaka, the Zambian capital.

Mwila, 34, said having solar-powered refrigerators has increased traffic to his shop and propelled his business to greater heights. "Sales have increased drastically since I

got a refrigerator," he said.

"I have a lot of customers coming through to buy cold beverages and meat and products which I only started stocking after buying stock refrigerators." And John Banda, 21, a small-scale farmer based in Chibombo district, central Zambia, can now have his phone charged, enabling him to get more opportunities in the agriculture sector. "I no longer have to miss out on opportunities to market or sell farm produce because of lack of reliable means of communication, all thanks to the solar kit," he said. Access to clean and reliable energy such as solar has also slowed the pace for people to leave the countryside.

"People move to towns so that they can watch TV and be able to see streetlights. But villages now have those things in place, all thanks to solar energy," said 43-year-old Mable Mbewe, a resident of Mumbwa district.

China's H1 economic performance reveals quality growth, strong fundamentals

BY BAI YIFEI

THIS July, plums produced in Wushan county, southwest China's Chongqing municipality, were hitting major cities in China, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, via charter flights.

Last year, one flight was scheduled per day for 15 days, and this year, the figures increased to two and 20 respectively.

The expansion indicates growing domestic demand, as well as a trend of economic pickup.

China's National Bureau of Statistics recently released the country's half-year economic data. Despite a complex and volatile external environment, the Chinese economy achieved a good start in the first quarter and continued the trend of recovery in the following three months. China's GDP grew 5.5 percent year-on-year in the first half of 2023.

The continuous sound momentum for economic recovery demonstrated the country's huge development potential and capability to advance in adversity.

To understand the Chinese economy, one should focus on not only its growth, but also its structure and quality.

China's GDP growth in the first half of 2023 outpaced both the full-year expansion of 3 percent in 2022 and the 4.5 percent growth achieved in the first quarter this year. In addition, in the first half of this year, the added value of the service sector accounted for 56 percent of the GDP and final consumption contributed 77.2 percent to economic growth. The growth of investment in high-tech industries outran that of overall investment, and the structures of industries, consumption and investment were constantly optimized.

High-tech industries maintained sound growth; emerging industries kept growing; new business forms remained active. Green transition and economic growth have been well coordinated.

China's economy has maintained growth for four consecutive quarters and the Chinese market has kept releasing its vitality. This well proves that the country has built a more stable foundation for its economy and is seeing stronger momentum for growth. High-quality development is constantly advancing.

The Chinese economy should also be viewed with a global perspective. The United States, the eurozone and



The second jet of C919, China's self-developed large passenger aircraft, arrives at the Yangzhou Taizhou International Airport, east China's Jiangsu province, July 17, 2023. (Photo by Yu Xing/People's Daily Online)

Japan all reported economic growth below 2 percent in the first quarter of 2023. Even when the Q2 performance is taken into consideration, China's economic growth in the first half of this year was still fast among major economies.

It was a hard-won achievement that China secured economic recovery, stable commodity price and stable finance in the first six months of this year when the world still suffered from sluggish recovery, high inflation and slowed global trade growth.

Recently, multiple international organizations including the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development have uplifted their forecast on China's economic growth this year, which demonstrates the confidence of the international community in the prospects of the Chinese economy.

The enterprises are always in the best position to tell how the economy is developing. The development of foreign enterprises in China offer an important perspective on understanding the Chinese economy.

Multiple foreign companies have shown their confidence in China's economic performance through concrete actions. This year, U.S. carmaker Tesla announced that it will build a new mega factory in Shanghai, which will be dedicated to manufacturing the company's energy-storage product Megapack. European aircraft manufacturer Airbus plans to build its second production line at its site in Tianjin. Multinational pharmaceutical and biotechnology company AstraZeneca signed a deal to expand its investment in Qingdao, east China's Shandong province.

This indicates from the side that China enjoys broad market prospects and still remains a major engine driving the global growth.

People's daily

Recently, multiple international organizations including the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development have uplifted their forecast on China's economic growth this year, which demonstrates the confidence of the international community in the prospects of the

Malawi parliamentary delegation meets VP Jagdeep Dhankar

NEW DELHI

A parliamentary delegation from Malawi led by the Speaker of Malawi National Assembly Catherine Gotani Hara on her visit to India called on the Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankar at Vice-President House in New Delhi on Tuesday and discussed gender empowerment in strengthening democratic institutions.

"During their discussion, the two leaders underlined the strength of India-Malawi relations, centred on their shared faith in democratic values and pluralism. They recognised the role of gender empowerment in strengthening democratic institutions," tweeted Dhankar.

Earlier on Monday, the delegation from Malawi called on President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Welcoming the delegation to the national capital, the President said that both India and Malawi share cordial relations and there is immense scope for adding greater depth to the ties between the two nations.

Malawi's parliamentary delegation was led by the country's National Assembly Speaker Catherine Gotani

Hara.

During the talks with the delegation, President Murmu noted that India has been one of the largest trade and private investment partners of Malawi, and is also a preferred destination of Malawian nationals for health and education."

She was happy to note that India has a strong development partnership programme with Malawi and a number of projects have been implemented in Malawi in the areas such as infrastructure, health, water resources, capacity building and ed-

ucation," the MEA release said.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla welcomed the Malawi delegation in Parliament and said such bilateral parliamentary dialogue will strengthen India's multifaceted cooperation with the African country.

Observing that India and Malawi enjoy cordial and friendly relations, Birla recalled that bilateral relations between the two countries have taken a new direction under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Malawi

President Lazarus Mchumba Chakwera.

The Speaker also noted that the two Parliaments represent the expectations and aspirations of their citizens, and mentioned that realizing the expectations of a new India, India has constructed a new building of its Parliament.

Assuring India's support for Malawi's economic development, Birla stressed the need to encourage trade in agricultural products, especially cotton products.

ANI

Hockey clubs to battle it out in Black Mambaz tournament



Dynamos basketball team's player Selemani Khamis goes for a jump shot as his teammates seek to block him during drills held at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's courts in Dar es Salaam last week. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA



Dar es Salaam junior hockey players showcase their talent in a 7-a-side tournament hosted by Jakaya M. Kikwete Youth Park last month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Judo players to participate in Africa Judo Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THREE judo players will represent Tanzania in the coming Africa Judo Championships slated for next month in Casablanca, Morocco.

Judo Association of Tanzania (JATA) Secretary-General Innocent Mallya said the championships to be used as Paris Olympics qualification are slated for September 6-10.

According to Mallya, the trio carrying Tanzania's flag in the continental showpiece is Andrew Mlungu, Adam Mwakisoma, and Ahmed Magogo.

The official revealed that they are lately outside the country shaping up for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

Mlungu is in France while Mwakisoma and Magogo are training in Uzbekistan and the players will be accompanied by coach, Mallya, and Zaidi Hamisi Omari- the delegation leader.

"Our three judo players now training outside the country to prepare for next year's Paris Olympics will compete in next month's Africa Judo Championships-which will be held in Morocco and used as qualifiers for the Paris Olympics," he said.

He said the three will not come back home, instead, after the Africa Judo Championships they will return to their respective camps.

Mlungu's camp in France is sponsored by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) through the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) while Mwakisoma and Magogo are sponsored by the International Judo Federation.

Mallya recently disclosed that JATA's focus is now on overseeing domestic judo players' preparations for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

"After the Africa Zone Five Judo Championships, our focus now is on the preparations for the next year's Paris Olympics, we have three judo players who are expected to start preparations for the Olympics," he said upon the conclusion of the continental showpiece which took place in Dar es Salaam.

The JATA leader also hailed the government's plans to construct

a state-of-the-art Sports and Arts Arena in Dar es Salaam.

The official said: "Building the Sports and Arts arena is vital for the development of judo and other sporting activities in the country, we thank the government for this, it has come at a good time when many sports associations whose activities are conducted indoor face shortage of venues."

"A good example is judo (association) that had problems in securing a venue for hosting the just-ended Africa Zone Five Championships," he said.

The news of the construction of the modern arena was disclosed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports Saidi Yakubu at the closing ceremony of the continental judo championships.

He said the Sports and Arts Arena, which will be built in Kawe, Dar es Salaam with a capacity of 16,000 people, will be the biggest in Africa.

"Our President Samia Suluhu Hassan is very committed to sports development in the country, her government is doing a lot seeking to take this sector to another level and she has promised the nation that construction of the Sports and Arts arena will start very soon," he said.

The Zone Five Judo Championships hosted at Don Bosco Upanga witnessed Mainland Tanzania finishing second with five gold medals, Burundi lifting the top honour with six gold medals while Zanzibar took third place with one gold medal.

Mainland Tanzania's gold medals were won by Asiatu Juma (57kg event in women's category), Thomas Mwenda (66kg), Andrew Mlungu (81kg), Adam Mwakisoma (100kg), and Saleh Baraka (100+kg gold medal) in men's category.

The hosts also won three silver medals and four bronze medals, with Anangisye Pwele (73kg), Jeremia Makeme (100kg), and Danny Mkaima (100+) securing the silver medals for the country.

Laurent Mtaka (60kg), Philemon Kaberege (73kg), Hamis Mrutu (81kg), and Yohana Jiji (90kg) were bronze medallists for Mainland Tanzania.

By Guardian Correspondent

EFFORTS by the hockey fraternity in Tanzania to develop the game have once again got a boost given hockey clubs from all over Dar es Salaam are expected to take part in the Black Mambaz tournament to be held this weekend.

Tanzania Hockey Association (THA) Chairman, Kaushik Doshi said the Dar es Salaam-based hockey club, Black Mambaz, has organized the tournament that has brought together eight outfits.

The eight outfits from across Dar es Salaam have confirmed to take part in the first edition of the tournament that is sponsored by Lake Energies.

According to Doshi, the tournament held at Lugalo hockey ground is scheduled to get underway today and will

end on Sunday.

Doshi noted there will also be a mini event for ladies in which four teams- Twende Ladies, TPDF Ladies, and Buza Ladies that have fielded two outfits have confirmed to feature in it.

The teams that will feature in the showdown have been placed in pools A and B, with Twende Hockey Club, Buza, Black Mamba Cranes, and Tanzania People's Defense Force (TPDF) squad constituting Pool A.

Black Mamba Kobs, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete (JMK) outfit, Ngome, and Ukonga Strikers will be featured in Pool B.

The opening match will see the TPDF squad lock horns with Twende Hockey Club at 10 am, followed by a match pitting Ukonga Strikers against the JMK side.

Black Mamba Cranes will also begin their participation in the showpiece today,

confronting Buza in a duel slated to get underway at 12.30 pm.

TPDF outfit will return to action later on to confront Buza, a clash to be preceded by a duel between Ngome and JMK.

In the opening day's other clash, slated for the evening, Ukonga Strikers will lock horns with one of the tournament hosts, Black Mamba Kobs.

The semi-finals will be held on Sunday, with the first involving a club coming first in Pool A and confronting the second-placed squad in Pool B at 9 am.

The other knockout stage clash will have a top-placed squad in Pool B coming up against the second-place squad in Pool A.

The Black Mambaz tournament is a second showdown for the Dar es Salaam-based outfits, given the JMK Youth Park, organized the 7-a-side junior tournament for boys

and girls at the center's venue last month.

It witnessed 34 outfits consisting of primary and secondary school performers battling it out in the tournament, held annually under the supervision of THA.

Participating sides in the boys' event of the prestigious competition's U-16 category totaled nine and the girls' category had been made up of seven squads.

The boys' squads namely Buza Secondary School, Miburani Secondary School, Juhudi Secondary School A, Juhudi Secondary School, Ilala Secondary School, Kibasila Secondary School, Majani ya Chai Secondary School, Dar es Salaam Secondary School, and Kinyerezi Secondary School took on each other in the category's event.

Buza Secondary School, Miburani Secondary School, Juhudi Secondary School, Hock-

ey Queens, Ilala Secondary School, Majani ya Chai Secondary School, as well as Kinyerezi Secondary School, made the girls' category.

The U-14 category had 10 boys' outfits and eight girls' teams. Buza Primary School, Kibondemaji Primary School, Mzambarau Primary School, Amani Primary School, and Tungi Primary School were in the boys' showdown.

The category moreover involved DUCE Chang'ombe Primary School, Ukonga Primary School A, Ukonga Primary School B, Gerezani Primary School, and Lumumba Primary School.

Girls' U-14 showdown brought together Buza Primary School, Kibondemaji Primary School, Mzambarau Primary School, Tungi Primary School, DUCE Chang'ombe Primary School, Ukonga Primary School, Lumumba Primary School, and Gerezani Primary School.

Arusha appeals for help to form regional volleyball teams

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

ARUSHA now badly needs volleyball teams to start the regional league which is planned for next year.

Despite being a famous metropolitan, the city seems to have only three officially registered volleyball teams, one of which is simply a school club.

On the other hand, there are only three districts in the entire region that so far have recognized volleyball associations.

Districts with existing volleyball associations in the region include the Arusha Urban (city), Arusha Rural (ADC), and Karatu.

To address shortages of clubs, the Arusha Regional Volleyball Association is organizing a spe-

cial meeting of players, leaders of existing clubs, and the sport's other stakeholders.

The forthcoming meeting aims to look for ways of reviving volleyball and related activities in Northern Tanzania.

Delegates will also encourage unofficial volleyball teams to register as potential clubs.

According to the Arusha Regional Volleyball Association (AVA) secretary Emmanuel Barabojick, it is no longer possible for the association to organize volleyball leagues in the region because as per regulations all participating clubs must be fully registered.

"During the meeting, we intend to lay formal grounds for the organization of the Arusha

Volleyball League which should be coming up next year 2024," Barabojick said.

According to the regional volleyball association secretary, the region essentially has more than 10 volleyball clubs except three whereas the rest are not registered.

Arusha city has the Pentagon volleyball team for men and women, these essentially being the registered clubs so far.

The other registered club is the Orkeswa team of Monduli. The trio has been registered by the National Sports Council (NSC) and recognized by Tanzania Volleyball Association (TAVA).

The two sibling clubs from the Pentagon outfit sometimes rep-

resent the region in several national volleyball tournaments.

The Orkeswa team is essentially a sporting club for the Orkeswa Secondary School.

"The region also lacks qualified volleyball coaches and trainers," the AVA secretary disclosed, adding that the forthcoming meeting is also going to address this concern.

The general meeting for the regional volleyball association will take place from August 7-8 at the Arusha International Conference Center (AICC) Club located at Kijenge.

After the meeting, AVA will organize a special volleyball game whose schedule and participating teams are to be announced later.

Open University of Tanzania rolls out program for secondary school leavers

By Correspondent Miraji Msala

THE Open University of Tanzania (OUT) has prepared a special training program for female secondary school leavers who studied science subjects and achieved at least E and S grades in two of their special subjects.

Mohamed Maguo, OUT's Senior Lecturer also serving as the university's Communications and Marketing Director, unveiled the program in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

He mentioned the subject com-

binations eligible for the program as PCM (Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics), PCB (Physics, Chemistry, and Biology), CBG (Chemistry, Biology, and Geography), PGM (Physics, Geography, and Mathematics), CBA (Chemistry, Biology, and Agriculture), and EGM (Economics, Geography, and Mathematics).

Diploma graduates with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.9-2.0 and the ones with National Technical Awards (NTA) level 5/Professional Technician level II Certificate are equally eligible for application for

the program. Maguo said graduates with such qualifications will join the program, adding they will receive detailed face-to-face training as well as practical training for three months.

"These graduates are those coming from families with various challenges such as those located in marginal areas, poor families, people with disabilities, and orphans," Maguo disclosed.

"They will be given priority, given the reasons led to failure by the mentioned students to get direct qualifications to join higher

education, this project also aims to increase the number of female students in higher education in science, technology, engineering, and health," he explained.

He said the scholarship will be provided 100 percent by the government, including fees and other student and college expenses.

Maguo said applicants can come to OUT centers that are present in all regions of Mainland Tanzania Zanzibar, adding they can moreover find the form on the university's website, fill it and send it to the institution.

He said that applications will be received until August 5- the last day for receiving the applications.

"Graduates who will complete this program will be qualified to join the first degree in various colleges in the country," the OUT lecturer noted. Maguo pointed out: "Those graduates will have the opportunity to apply for loans through the Higher Education Student Loans Board while going for their degree studies."

"This project runs for five years and will involve the funding of 1,000 students. Every year, 200

students will be funded... this is 100 percent funding for female graduates," he said.

He explained that students who would not have either passed or met the criteria will continue with their studies normally and resit exams and scholarship for those failing pilot tests will be terminated.

He thanked the government through President Samia Suluhu Hassan for providing funds for the project to develop female children in science and technology studies.

Messi scores two more as Miami march past Orlando

MIAMI

LIONEL Messi made it five goals in three appearances for Inter Miami as he scored twice in a 3-1 win over Orlando City in the Leagues Cup round-of-32 on Wednesday.

Messi scored twice from close range to maintain his 100 percent winning record with Miami, who were winless in 11 league games before his arrival.

Messi will now head on the road with Miami for the first time with Sunday's match with FC Dallas in Texas offering a place in the quarter-finals of the tournament for top flight teams from Major League Soccer and Mexico's Liga MX.

Wednesday's Florida derby was not a game which will be featured in the Messi highlight videos but despite being frustrated by tight-marking for most of the game, the seven-time Ballon D'Or winner emerged the decisive figure once again.

A thunderstorm led to a 95-minute delay to the kick-off but when the game began, Miami picked up where they left off in their 4-0 win over Atlanta United last week - attacking with intent.

Robert Taylor, the Finnish winger, cut in from the left and chipped a perfect ball into the path of the on-running Messi who brought the ball down with his chest and volleyed home from six yards out.

But Orlando responded strongly and they drew level ten minutes later when a low shot from Ivan Angulo was pushed out by Miami keeper Drake Callender and Uruguayan Cesar Araujo pounced on the edge of the box to drive a low shot into the corner.

- Frustration -

Orlando were increasingly effective in closing down Messi and the Argentine showed the first signs of frustration when he picked up a yellow card for a foul on Wilder Cartagena.

Orlando coach Oscar Pareja had clearly given his team instructions to sacrifice possession to Miami to ensure they had enough players to crowd out and neutralise Messi and Busquets, and the approach was working.

Openings were limited for Messi and when he did get some space near the goal in the 32nd minute, after good work from DeAndre Yedlin, he squeezed his left-foot shot wide.

The Argentine had an opportunity with a free-kick from within his range, just before the break but his effort from over 25 yards out was comfortably tipped over by keeper Pedro Gallese.

Messi looked unhappy as he left the field at the break, perhaps by the physical nature of some of the marking he had received as much as the lack of space he had found in the game.

But Miami found a way to restore their lead without the involvement of their star man - 18-year-old Benjamin Cremaschi slipped a pass into the box to Martinez who feeling a slight tug from Antonio Carlos went down and won a penalty.

Orlando were unhappy with the decision but their protests were to no avail and Martinez, after a stutter and a shuffle, fired home.

Miami made sure of the win and progression to the last 16 when Taylor broke down the left and picked out Martinez at the back of the box who chested the ball and found Messi with a clever chip which the Argentine gleefully tucked away.

AFP

Time to take us seriously, says Jamaica's World Cup goalkeeper Spencer

MELBOURNE

GOALKEEPER Rebecca Spencer says Jamaica's historic run into the knockout stages of the World Cup will put pressure on football bosses at home to take the women's team seriously.

The Reggae Girlz dished up a defensive masterclass to get the point they needed against Brazil to reach the last 16 in Melbourne on Wednesday.

The 0-0 draw saw ninth-ranked Brazil dumped out of the tournament in the group stage, their poorest performance since an exit at the same early stage in 1995.

Lorne Donaldson's 51st-ranked Jamaica have defied turbulent preparations to reach the last 16 for the first time.

The team have been in open dispute with their football federation over a lack of support, including issues over pay and poor planning in the build-up to the World Cup.

"Obviously we fight a constant battle," said the London-born Spencer, saying the players felt they had "a point to prove".

"The better we do, the more pressure it creates (on the Jamaica federation).

"We hope that they're looking at us and taking us seriously now, which they should have been doing, and they can give us what we deserve out of everything."

Jamaica's next opponents will be the winners of Group H, to be determined later Thursday.

Colombia top that group ahead of the final round of games.

After strangling the life out of a disappointing Brazil and their legendary striker Marta, the Jamaica players celebrated with shouts of "We told you".

"We feel like we've been hugely underestimated," said Spencer, who plays for Tottenham Hotspur.

One of the players' gripes leading into the World Cup was their federation's failure to arrange friendly matches to help preparations.

AFP

Captain urges under-fire United States to raise game in World Cup knockouts

AUCKLAND

UNITED States captain Lindsey Horan has called on the holders to "raise the standard" heading into the Women's World Cup knockout phase but defended her team against criticism that followed their goalless draw with Portugal.

The two-time defending champions limped through to a last-16 tie against Sweden after holding on for a 0-0 stalemate against Portugal at Eden Park on Tuesday.

That result saw them advance from their group in second place behind the Netherlands with just one win from three games.

US women's team great Carli Lloyd hit out at their performance, calling them "lacklustre" and "uninspiring" in her role as a TV pundit.

Lloyd also suggested the holders looked arrogant, but Horan hit back.

"It is kind of frustrating for me to hear, especially knowing this team and knowing how much we put into every single game," Horan told reporters in Auckland yesterday. "It was a really good team that we faced. For me it is noise."

"Everyone is entitled to their own opinion and we know that is how it goes, but I always want to defend my team and say you have no idea what is going on behind the scenes."

Horan's 2019 World Cup-winning teammate Lloyd has since sought to play down her post-game comments.

"For anyone to question our mentality hurts a little bit but at the end of the day it doesn't really matter, I don't really care," said midfielder Horan, 29, who plays for French champions Lyon.

The USA's displays in New Zealand have raised doubts about their ability to cope with a multi-pronged European threat in the knockout stage.

- 'Find the joy' -

Sweden are up next in Melbourne, and the world's third-ranked team beat the USA 3-0 when the sides last met at the Olympics in Tokyo two years ago.

If Vlatko Andonovski's US team beat Sweden, they will return to Auckland for a quarter-final against either Japan or Norway. European champions England, Germany, France and co-hosts Australia are all in the other half of the draw.

"I think we are getting better and better but we need to raise the standard because all these European teams and all these teams around the world are catching up, are bringing a different aspect," Horan admitted.

"We can't just physically outdo teams, we actually have to be better with the ball, and be able to combine and play out. I think this team is fully capable of that. We are in a good place."

Sweden and the USA will be meeting at a sixth consecutive World Cup on Sunday, having been drawn in the same group in each of the last five editions.

The USA emerged 2-0 winners in 2019 when Horan scored the opener.

"We are going to move forward, it's a new tournament



Lindsey Horan

starting now, it's the knockout stages," said Horan, who urged her team to "find the joy in it a little bit more".

That sentiment was shared by her teammate Lynn Williams, the 30-year-old forward appearing at her debut World Cup and who was handed a first start against Portugal.

"We need to be joyful that we made it to the round of 16 and not diminish that accomplishment," Williams said.

"That was the name of the game the whole time, to get out

of the group stage, and that is exactly what we did. Of course we want to be playing better but tournaments are about results and we are getting results."

Meanwhile, Marta said Brazil's Women's World Cup exit at the group stage Wednesday was "not even in my worst nightmares" as the legendary attacker bid a heartbreaking farewell to the tournament.

The 37-year-old, arguably the greatest women's footballer of all time, started the game but could do nothing to help

Brazil get the goals they needed as their campaign ended in a toothless 0-0 stalemate with Jamaica.

Brazil and Marta are out in the group phase, their poorest World Cup performance since being dumped out at the same stage in 1995.

"It's hard to talk at a time like this. Not even in my worst nightmares was it the World Cup I dreamed of," said Marta, who looked as shell-shocked as she was upset. "But it is only the beginning, the Brazilian people ask for renewal, and there is renewal."

"The only old one is me, most of them (team-mates) are young girls with enormous talent, it's just the beginning for them. I end here, but they continue."

Marta - nicknamed "Pele in a skirt" by the late football great - will never win the World Cup to add to her many achievements.

Among them, she is the all-time leading goal-scorer in World Cups, men's or women's, but was unable to add to her tally of 17 in Melbourne.

"Marta ends here, there is no more World Cup for Marta," said the forward, who has been dogged by injury in the twilight of her career.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to have one more World Cup and very happy with what is happening with women's football in the world."

Coach Pia Sundhage said she expects Marta to carry on with her playing career "because she loves the sport". But she pointedly added: "Whether she is good enough for the national team, let's see."

"I am going to look for good players so it will be harder for Marta. We need to be better than today."

AFP

Herve Renard: From Saudi Arabia men's coach to France women's coach in four months

By Tom Garry

STANDING in his untucked, long-sleeved white shirt, arms behind his back and a reflective expression on his face, France manager Herve Renard gives off a calm vibe that is at odds with the chaotic nature of the nine-goal thriller playing out in front of him in Sydney.

Yet, as the coach who oversaw one of the biggest World Cup shocks of all time when Saudi Arabia beat Argentina at the men's World Cup last November, he is well-accustomed to major-tournament drama.

He barely even reacts when Panama, ranked 52nd in the world, take a surprise second-minute lead as Marta Cox curls in a stunning free-kick that, theoretically, could have knocked his team out. He is similarly unmoved as France respond to race into a 3-1 lead. His biggest reaction comes as France go 4-1 up on the stroke of half-time - he starts to clap and makes a rare foray to the edge of his technical area to slap goalscorer Lea Le Garrec's hand in celebration.

When the final whistle blows, with France winning 6-3 to top Group F and reach the last 16,

54-year-old Renard becomes the first man-

ager to oversee a victory in both the men's and women's World Cups. It also marks the first time the team he has coached has progressed to the knockout stages, following group-stage exits with Morocco's men in 2018 and Saudi Arabia in 2022.

Born in the foothills of the Alps, Renard is an experienced manager who used to be in charge of Cambridge United. He has also won the Africa Cup of Nations twice as a coach - first with Zambia in 2012 and then the Ivory Coast in 2015 - but the challenge of trying to guide France to their first major trophy is arguably his steepest one.

Despite their qualification to the last 16 and the six goals scored, he was dissatisfied with the display. He had rested several key players after their win over Brazil and said: "What I saw this evening wasn't good enough."

"In the second half, the girls weren't playing as they should have been playing. [Some of them] need to work a little bit harder and pull their socks up. We were 5-1 up, the game was in the bag - all my leaders were sitting on the bench. It will show the younger girls, you need to play to the very end."

He has only been

working with this squad since the end of March but he has been quick to make an impact after replacing Corinne Diacre, whose tenure ended in disarray as Wendie Renard, Marie-Antoinette Katoto and Kadidiatou Diani all went public with their refusal to play under her.

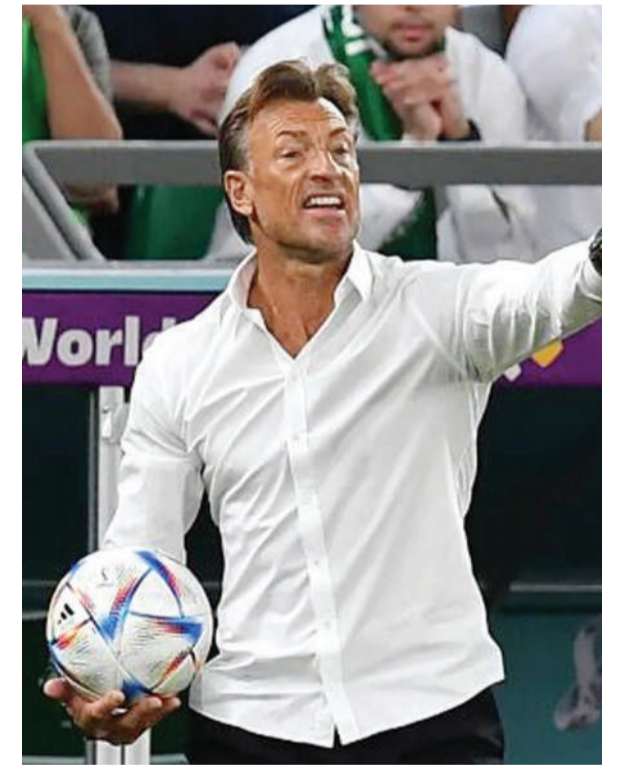
Diani hit a hat-trick on Wednesday and the mood in the camp appears transformed. Le Garrec, who was left out of the France side for more than five years under Diacre, said simply: "I am here because of him [Renard]. He has confidence in me, he trusts me. Even if sometimes he is hard on me, I want to play for him."

Despite how calm and composed Renard ap-

pears on the touchline, he is not always that way. His rousing half-time speech as Saudi Arabia manager seemed to inspire his team to stun Lionel Messi and co in Qatar, and he was at it again last week with another stirring dressing-room monologue, this time before France's win over Brazil.

But he is here with a clear aim: to win. As he looks ahead to the knockout stages, he concludes: "This is the real competition that's starting now, this is the do-or-die, the knockout stages. We know what we want, we know what we've come for. Now let's go and find it, all of us together."

THE TELEGRAPH



Herve Renard

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Captain urges under-fire United States to raise game in World Cup knockouts

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TONIGHT @ 9:00

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

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.

EATV FRIDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Movie
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 Movie
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kaili Za Wana
18:30 Skonga
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

eastafrika RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

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Banyana Banyana win boosts S.Africa's 2027 WWC bid

SYDNEY

SOUTH Africa's women's football squad 'Banyana Banyana's march to the second round of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup will serve as inspiration when a SAFA delegation meets with the football governing body in Sydney, Australia on Thursday to talk up South Africa's interest in hosting the global tournament in 2027.

The SAFA delegation, comprising of president Danny Jordaan, SAFA CEO Lydia Monyepao, 2027 Bid Committee chair Tumi Dlamini, Bid Lead Russell Paul, and SAFA Women's Head Romaney Pinnock, are in the Australian city to impress upon FIFA as to why South Africa needs to be awarded the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup.

The other bidding aspirants to host the tournament - Brazil, joint bids from Mexico and the United States, and then Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany - will also be in attendance to state their cases.

"This is the first time that the Bid Committee will meet with the leadership of FIFA since SAFA made its submission in March."

"While there will likely be other opportunities for meetings of this nature in the future, I strongly believe that first impressions last," Bid Committee chair Dlamini said.

"So, it is going to be critical for us to make the most compelling case for why the FIFA Women's World Cup must be hosted in Africa for the very first time."

"Other bidding nations will be present and we will likely be able to meet them and have engagements with them as well. But the most important thing is for us to keep our eyes on the ball, the big prize. Whilst it might be very tempting to see what their proposition is, our objective this week is to make a case for South Africa. And that is where our focus will be."

Dlamini said while it is still early days, the strong South African delegation would make their case to FIFA.

"I do not doubt that with the strong delegation that we have, ours will be a successful mission. Having said this, it is still early days in the bidding process. This first step, although crucial, is not by any means the most determining step. There is much still to be done by the Committee both at home and abroad in terms of our campaign."

"We have a lot to do with the support of the people of South Africa and the whole continent," she continued.

"It will also be crucial to make a compelling social case along with the business case for the World Cup to be hosted in South Africa. Like all major decisions being made by large institutions and corporations the world over, every business decision must be premised on the fact that such a decision will have a lasting social impact on society."

"There can be no better place than in Africa for FIFA to demonstrate its commitment to women empowerment and transformation of the life of a girl child." AGENCIES

Simbu all out to lift gold medal in 2023 World Athletics Championships



Tanzanian athlete, Alphonse Simbu.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN athlete Alphonse Simbu has set his eyes on winning a gold medal in the 2023 World Athletics Championships slated for August 19-27 at the National Athletics Centre in Budapest, Hungary.

Simbu won the bronze medal in the World Athletics Championships held in London in 2017 and is the second Tanzanian to win a medal in the competition.

Christopher Isegwe - who won a silver medal in 2005 in Helsinki, Finland - is the first Tanzanian runner.

Simbu revealed that he is determined to set a record-emerging as the first Tanzanian to win a gold medal in the World Athletics Championships.

He noted he is progressing

well with the preparation for the competition in Arusha under his coach, Anthony Mwingereza, whilst having great hopes of doing well.

Mwingereza revealed they are progressing well with training and have great hope that his athlete will do well in the biggest athletics

competition in the world that involves many stars.

Simbu is the only athlete from Tanzania in the competition given the country's other top athlete, Gabriel Geay asked to withdraw so that he can participate in another competition.

The athlete, who has been doing well in international

competitions, noted he has been training at his expense without any support from Athletics Tanzania (AT).

However, Luiza John, AT information officer, said the association has already handed National Sports Council (NSC) the preparation budget for Simbu and he will be reimbursed for all expenses he spends for the preparation.

Luiza appealed to the athlete to continue with his preparations without worries, as everything will go well and he will be reimbursed for his expenses.

The Budapest event is the 19th edition of the global showpiece, according to the history of the WA Championships.

The city of Budapest had previously shown interest in hosting the 2007 WA event but withdrew and it eventually was held in Osaka, Japan.

The World Athletics Championships (until 2019 known as the World Championships in Athletics) are a biennial athletics competition organized by World Athletics (formerly IAAF, International Association of Athletics Federations).

Alongside the Olympic Games, they represent the highest level championships of senior international outdoor athletics competition for track and field athletics globally, including

marathon running and race walking.

Separate World Championships are held by World Athletics for certain other outdoor events, including cross-country running and half-marathon, as well as indoor and age-group championships.

The World Championships were started in 1976 in response to the International Olympic Committee dropping the men's 50km walk from the Olympic program for the 1976 Montreal Olympics, despite its constant presence at the games since 1932.

The IAAF chose to host its world championship event instead, a month and a half after the Olympics.

It was the first World Championships that the IAAF had hosted separately from the Olympic Games (traditionally the main championship for the sport).

A second limited event was held in 1980, and the inaugural championships in 1983, with all the events, is considered the official start of the competition. Until 1980, the Olympic championships were also considered as reigning World champions.

At their debut, these championships were then held every four years, until 1991, when they switched to a two-year cycle.

NBC bolsters Singida Fountain Gate FC preps for 2023/24 season

By Guardian Correspondent

THE NBC Bank, the main sponsor of Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League, has handed over a new bus worth 470m/- to the league's outfit, Singida Fountain Gate FC.

The backing has signaled the lender's commitment to improving the NBC Premier League.

The bank's loan program has now benefited the second club participating in the country's premier league following in the footsteps of Kinondoni Municipal Council FC which benefited from the same initiative in February this year.

The ceremony for the bus handover took place at CCM Liti Stadium in Singida on Thursday, and notable figures such as NBC Bank's Director of Business, Elvis Ndunguru, and club's president, Japhet Makau, were in attendance.

The event coincided with the joyous Singida Big Day celebrations which ended with Singida Fountain Gate FC taking on AS Vita Club of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in an international friendly clash at the same stadium.

It ended with Singida Fountain Gate FC defeating AS Vita Club 2-1. Togolese mid-



The Director of Business at NBC Bank, Elvis Ndunguru (L), hands over the key of a brand new bus to Singida Fountain Gate FC president Japhet Makau as part of the bank's program to provide affordable loans to clubs participating in Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League. The bus, worth 470m/-, was handed over to the club at CCM Liti Stadium in Singida during the celebration of Singida Big Day on Thursday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

fielder Marouf Tchakei and Tanzanian winger, Dickson Ambundo, netted for Singida Fountain Gate FC, and Ngoma Manianga scored the consolation for AS Vita Club.

It was used as Singida Fountain Gate FC's build-up match for the 2023/24 CAF Con-

ederation Cup, which will witness the Tanzanian team competing for the first time in the continental inter-club showpiece.

Singida Fountain Gate FC will play against compatriots, JKU SC of Zanzibar, in the First Preliminary Round

of the continental inter-club showpieces' second tier.

Ndunguru elaborated on the significance of the bus, disclosing that it is part of NBC Bank's affordable loan program specifically designed for clubs in the league.

Singida Fountain Gate FC is

obligated to repay the loan within two years, benefiting from competitive interest rates.

"The bus, which is fully insured by NBC Bank, provides coverage for passenger safety within the East and Central African region (COMESA). It was acquired from Africarriers Co. Ltd in Dar es Salaam and boasts a seating capacity of 58 passengers," he mentioned.

Singida Fountain Gate FC president, Makau, expressed his gratitude to NBC Bank for the institution's commendable efforts in elevating the league to an international level.

He assured that the loan would be repaid punctually and offered his word to meticulously maintain the bus.

"This much-needed addition will now facilitate the transportation of our players, the technical bench, and fans to matches beyond our region... we are so thankful to NBC Bank for this important initiative," he said.

NBC Bank's provision of the new bus marks a significant stride forward in enhancing the overall operations and progress of Singida Fountain Gate FC in the league.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

