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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 9013 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER, 2023

Guardian BUSINESS NMB Bank disburses 1.8trn/- in loans to 168,900 women SMEs

UNDP donates drying fish racks to Bagamoyo and Pangani fishermen

IFC invests Sh 32 billion in Kenya's biofuel project

Dar students benefit from education on banking, financial management

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Lake Tanganyika is more than a basket of food for our communities and its basin is home to more than 13 million people

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday bidding farewell to Romanian President Klaus Iohannis, who had just wrapped up a four-day state visit to Tanzania. Photo: State House

DRC starts general election campaign

KINSHASA

TENS of thousands of candidates, including 26 candidates running for the highest office, yesterday officially launched a month-long election campaign in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in a tense political climate and against the backdrop of armed conflict in the east.

Opposition heavyweights did not hesitate to motivate their bases, while President Félix Tshisekedi, who is seeking a second term in office, held a series of inaugurations as his team trumpeted his achievements in a wide range of fields.

The president himself saw things through from day one, with a meeting at the Martyrs' Stadium in Kinshasa, while the previous election's leading candidate, Martin Fayulu, gave a ringing speech in a neighbouring province.

It is expected that on December 20 upwards of 44 million registered voters out of a population of around 100 million will be called upon to elect the president, and from over 100,000 candidates pick legislative, provincial and municipal seat winners.

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UN capital fund, EU in 9bn/- grant for clean cooking kits

By Carlos Banda

THE United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the European Union (EU) have provided 9bn/- in grants

to the Energy ministry for 44 enterprises engaged in the cook fund programme to boost the uptake of clean cooking technologies.

Judith Kapinga, the deputy minister,

said at the cheque handing ceremony over the weekend in Dar es Salaam that the cook fund programme is meant to

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Bagamoyo district commissioner Halima Okash (R, foreground, in black head-cloth), Hassan Maajar Trust chairperson Mwanaidi Sinare Maajar (to her right) and HMT deputy chairman Sharif Maajar (next to the chairperson) look on in Bagamoyo at the weekend as Jasmin Juma, a pupil at the historical coastal town's Majengo Primary School, learns how to use a computer. It was shortly after launch of a computer application classroom built with funding from trust. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Board seeks investors into sisal value chains

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Sisal Board (TSB) managers are seeking out investors for sisal processing plants, citing earning potential for a processed tonne of the crop as hovering between 0.8m/- and 1m/-.

Saddy Kambona, TSB director general made the call over the weekend at an investment, business and tourism symposium tied with the launch of the latest investment guide.

The government has shown its readiness to revamp the crop, which in 1964 brought the country 65 percent of foreign exchange earnings, which started to deteriorate with nationalisation of sisal estates and collapse of credit chains, followed by sharp world market price decline.

No other crop has proved as valuable ever since, with brief coffee world market surge for instance in 1976 meanwhile as restart of sisal estate investments was in the 1990s after privatisation.

TSB seeks move investments especially in different spheres of the crop value chain, he said, affirming that its future is promising, thus its current price and demand levels provide an opportunity.

TSB is ready to help investors by providing them with extension services on suitable sisal to be harvested, directing them to suitable areas for planting the crop and locating processing plants, he stated.

Efforts to raise sisal production that has declining for a long time were rekindled in 2019 with the government declaring sisal as a strategic crop, instituting a big push in motivating small farmers to get into sisal farming to restore its past glory, he elaborated.

The farmers' response to cultivate this crop is encouraging, with small farmers acreage increasing to 20,000 hectares, with the crop being in various stages of production.

This response provides a great opportunity for investment in sisal processing and

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UN capital fund, EU in 9bn/- grant for cleaner cooking kits

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accelerate adoption of clean cooking solutions by supporting entrepreneurs in the clean energy sector, to widen familiarisation.

The programme focuses on Dar es Salaam, Coast, Morogoro, Dodoma and Mwanza regions as a pilot phase, with other regions lined up for a new phase in future, she stated.

The cheques were handed to enterprises that were fully approved for the grant, expected to serve new beneficiaries in their respective areas over the next three years, she stated.

"With this support we are going to reach 503,119 new beneficiaries in their respective areas and create 748 direct and indirect jobs," she asserted, hailing the successful applicants set to implement the programme.

Cedric Merel, the EU head of delegation, said the project will enable a visible contribution to private sector investments in clean cooking energy, in view of rapid urbanisation locally and globally, where solutions for clean cooking are urgently on demand.

The new grantees join

16 initial recipients, with UNCDF acting as the fund managers and primary program implementer, offering on-going support to grant recipients.

It seeks to ensure effective fund utilisation, promoting technical capacity building and monitoring programme operations for accountability, he explained.

Immanuel Muro, the programme manager at UNCDF, said the agency is seeking to build a diversified energy mix, channelling resources towards clean cooking technologies that replace harmful cooking practices. This will ensure a more sustainable and resilient energy future for the country, he observed.

The cook fund provides financial and technical assistance to eligible entrepreneurs to accelerate market roll-out of clean cooking solutions (stoves and fuels) for improved social, economic and environmental conditions.

It finances capital expenditures and/or working capital for building internal capacity of businesses involved in the production, importation, distribution, wholesale or retail of stoves, fuels or related products and services, he added.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) acting CEO Kiula Kingu (L) exchanges documents with an M/S Sinhydro Company representative from China on Saturday after they signing an agreement on the implementation of a water infrastructure development project for South Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Govt cautions riparian states on Lake Tanganyika ecology

By Guardian Reporter

COUNTRIES bordering Lake Tanganyika need to take urgent action to curb excessive settlements and economic activities that damaging the water body, filling it with stand and occasioning biodiversity loss.

Dr Selemani Jafo, the Union and Environment state minister in the Vice President's Office (VPO) issued this appeal at the 11th ordinary ministerial meeting of the Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA) in the Zambian

capital of Lusaka.

VPO said in a statement on his remarks that it is every country's responsibility to curb the major threats facing the lake, chiefly ecological instability from environmental damage.

He said the situation in the lake is a result legacy of economic and social activities in the lake basin, including fishing, agriculture, breeding, settlements and mining.

"Lake Tanganyika is more than a basket of food for our communities and its basin is home to more than 13 million people," he said, noting that

it connects four surrounding countries, which have to cooperate in ensuring conservation if the lake's ecological endowments.

It is important to evaluate the progress made towards the sustainable use of resources and implementation of projects under the regional plan, he said, ahead of signing the protocol for the development of aquaculture in Lake Tanganyika and its basin.

The minister lauded the development partners for their efforts in enabling the sustainable management of Lake Tan-

ganyika with the projects they are funding, underlining the concern of the government over the issue of sustainable development of the Lake Tanganyika Basin.

He also congratulated Dr Collins Nzovu, the Green Economy and Environment minister for Zambia, in taking over as chairman of the ministerial conference relating to Lake Tanganyika.

Prosper Dodiko, the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock minister for Burundi, the outgoing ministerial conference chairman attended the meet-

ing, as well as Adrien Bokeke Djema, the Fisheries and Livestock minister for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), plus Sylvain Mukanga, Burundi national who heads the LTA secretariat as executive director.

Abdallah Hassan Mitawi, the VPO deputy permanent secretary, director of environment Kemilembe Mutasa and assistant director Dr Deogratius Paul accompanied the minister, with the ministerial conference grouping

Tanzania, Zambia, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



Tanzania Revenue Authority commissioner general Alphayo Kidata (L, foreground) leads a "Thanks to Taxpayers Walk" held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is the authority's Taxpayer Education and Communication director, Richard Kayombo. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Board seeks investors into sisal value chains

FROM PAGE 1

similar ventures, as the country seeks out long forgotten export markets, he said, noting that the government was firm in ensuring production improves.

It is vital that prospective in-

vestors use the opportunity to participate in the production of the crop to raise overall wealth and own income. he said, noting that TSB has drawn up strategies to revive the crop from the current 36,000 tonnes annually to 120,000 tonnes before the end of

the decade.

Local sisal production was started late 19th century by the German East Africa Company, having overall control of the territory from 1884 to 1900 whereupon a formal administration was set up over the territory.

Sisal was continually produced during the colonial period and was the territory's largest export for its cordage and carpets worldwide, chiefly grown in Tanga, Morogoro, Kilimanjaro, Coast, Lindi and Mtwara, he added.

DRC launches Dec 20 vast election campaign

FROM PAGE 1

The country's Independent Electoral Commission (CENI), saying it is determined to organise the elections on time, faces logistical difficulties across the 2.3m sq. km of land with limited road links.

Trésor Kibangula, a political analyst at the Ebuteli research institute, said there is a political agenda that wants elections to be held on time, but there are doubts about technical capacity.

Sylvain Lesoye, a priest interviewed in a commune on the outskirts of Kinshasa, affirmed that from an organisational point of view, the commission does not inspire confidence, referring in particular to the poor quality of voters' cards, whose inscriptions and photos have faded.

Political science lecturer Jean-Luc Kong said the CENI knows that this is a challenge it must take up as its credibility is at stake. "What's frightening is the crisis in the east," he asserted.

Violence by armed groups has been going on for almost 30 years in the region, which is experiencing a peak in crisis with the return to the scene of an erstwhile dormant rebellion (the M23), supported by neighboring Rwanda, which has seized large swathes of North Kivu Province.

Because of the conflict, two territories in the province will not be able to vote, but as the provincial capital, Goma, has not been seized by rebels, the process has not been compromised, he stated.

The president insisted that M23 rebels will not take Goma, a pain for his reelection drive as the return of peace was a priority in his campaign back in 2018, while also pledging to improve the daily lives of the Congolese people.

He pledged to diversify the economy, build roads and public buildings, and respect freedom of the press and expression, observers noted, affirming that the overall picture is mixed, with the opposition seeing it as catastrophic.

It paints a gloomy picture of the situation and immediately cries about organised fraud in the polls, referring to instance to Fayulu, who is widely seen to have had his victory stolen from him in 2018.

This time the candidate, once the favorite of the country's influential Catholic Church hierarchy, faces stiff opposition from Moïse Katumbi, a former governor of the once-troubled copper rich Katanga Province, and Nobel laureate Dr Denis Mukwege, winner of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on behalf of raped women, apart from two former prime ministers.

Key representatives of five opposition figures met in South Africa during the past week to discuss the possibility of a joint candidacy against the incumbent president, who is clearly the favourite in a single-round election.

A coalition was formed, and a common program adopted, but only by the emissaries of four candidates as the Fayulu camp did not sign up to the project.

Analysts say that voters are divided on the value of voting, as in the case of Eunie (20), a geography student, who will be voting for the first time.

She says she is happy to do so for the candidate of her choice, whom she expects shall work to improve living conditions.

As for Ezekiel, a 24-year-old student in business computing, says he's disillusioned. There will be fraud, just like in 2018, he says, snorting that he will not waste his time to go to the voting centre.



Emmanuel Mganda (2nd-R), a soil researcher with the Mlingano centre of the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute focusing on the production of improved sisal seedlings, briefs Industry and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji (in head-cloth) on soil testing at an exhibition in Tanga city at the weekend. Left is Tanga regional commissioner Waziri Kindamba. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Relief as primary school in Bagamoyo given well-equipped computer building

By Guardian Reporter

THE Hassan Maajar Trust (HMT) has handed over a computer building with thirteen computers to Majengo primary school in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region.

The donation is a continuation of HMT's intervention to improve the learning environment in schools.

HMT Chairperson, Ambassador Mwanaidi Sinare Maajar presented the building and computers to Majengo primary school Head Teacher, Magdalena Tiothem Amsi.

She said they have spent 32m/- to construct the building and another \$10,000 to purchase the computers with assistance from Nos Vies en Paratage Foundation (NVEP) which is sponsored by President and CEO of Barrick Gold Corporation, Mark Bristow. Amb Maajar said: "This is part of HMT's aim to adopt a school, improve the learning environment through construction or renovation of the infrastructure. We are now looking for partners to join forces to

renovate five buildings at Majengo primary school."

She said when HMT launched its campaign 'A Desk for Every Child' which succeeded in providing 10,000 desks, that benefitted over 30,000 students in 13 regions countrywide, it also saw the need to provide computer rooms to enable pupils to get the important computer skills. Speaking during the hand over event in Bagamoyo over the weekend, Bagamoyo District Commissioner, Halima Okash lauded HMT, for its decision to highlight and at the same time tackle the challenges to improve the learning environment in schools.

She noted that HMT's donation of desks, books (reading corners), construction of toilets and now a computer building is commendable as they are helping the government in improving the education sector.

Okash said the donations and various fundraising events such as dinner gala, charity walk and book sale the trust succeeded to a large

extent to raise awareness, acknowledging that the responsibility of improving the learning environment in schools cannot be left to the government alone. Representative from Barrick, Georgia Mutagahywa said: "NVEP and Barrick are delighted to have partnered with HMT considering the importance of IT in work and in individual development and the country's development in general. Barrick recognizes the need for children to learn IT early in life and hence the readiness to contribute towards this worthy project."

Majengo Primary School Head Teacher, Magdalena Tiothem Amsi, thanked HMT for providing the building and computers.

She said: "The building will enable students to learn in a friendly environment and have access to IT education—a worldwide requirement. The need for computers has long been a major challenge in our school, we are grateful for this support from HMT and Barrick", she added.

Miners want better road linking Arusha, Mirerani

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Manyara

ARTISANAL miners in Manyara want the road which links Arusha with the Mirerani Hills via Mbuguni be upgraded so as to provide a direct route from the city to the Tanzanite quarries.

That was among the issues raised over the weekend during the Mirerani Miners meeting with the Minister of Minerals, Anthony Mavunde who toured the gemstone producing sites.

The small-scale miners, who operate and trade from Arusha, explained that at the moment when shuttling between Arusha and Mirerani Hills they are forced to travel through the Kilimanjaro International Airport junction, which is a rather long journey.

It is 40 kilometers from Arusha to Kilimanjaro Airport Junction along the Moshi Road, where one has to travel for about 30 more kilometers towards Mirerani.

But according to the miners, more than 40 kilometers will be saved if the road between Arusha and Mirerani via Mbuguni in Meru District could be upgraded to al-

low direct link between the city and the mines. Simanjiro MP, Christopher Ole Sendeka also called for the road linking the Magufuli Gate, which is the entry into the mines, to the Mirerani Township, be paved to tarmac level.

"I am glad that the government has seen this importance as well because we understand a special budget has been set aside to this effect," said Ole Sendeka.

The legislator also advised that the roads inside the walled Mirerani Mines, most of which lead to the mining blocs, especially those operated by small scale miners also should be rehabilitated at gravel level, because the ongoing rains have rendered them impassable.

Manyara Regional Commissioner, Queen Sendiga said funds have been earmarked for the proposed rehabilitation of the road connecting the Magufuli Gate entry to the Block D mining site.

"We expect the works to commence during the next fiscal year whose budget has set aside the funds for the planned project," she revealed.

Minister for Minerals, Anthony Mavunde said there are concerted efforts to transform the mining sector in the country for it to operate on full scale.

"The Mining sector still generates ample revenues but only operates at less than 40 percent of its potential," he maintained.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Merging of Kinondoni and Kijitonyama branches

Akiba Commercial Bank Plc. is pleased to inform its customers and the general public that the Bank will merge Kinondoni and Kijitonyama branches effectively from 20th December 2023. This strategic decision is aligned with our objectives of optimizing our branch network for efficiency with enhanced customer experience through improved digital channels. As a result of this merger, the Kinondoni branch will be closed and all accounts currently held at the branch will be migrated to Kijitonyama branch located at Letsya Tower Building, Bagamoyo Road.

The Bank will ensure a smooth migration of our Kinondoni branch customers and stakeholders while maintaining excellent customer service.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your continued trust and loyalty. We value your banking relationship with us, and are committed to continue serving you with excellence.

For more information, please visit our website, www.acbbank.co.tz and social pages or contact your Branch Manager, Relationship Officer or our Customer Service Center number, **0746 811 510**.

Management



JOB VACANCY - CONSULTANT

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) mission is to protect the lands and waters upon which all life depends.

As a science-based organization, TNC uses innovative, on-the-ground solutions to the world's toughest challenges to create a world in which people and nature thrive. In the United Republic of Tanzania, TNC is working with communities, local government, and other stakeholders to advance community-based management of fisheries resources around Lake Tanganyika.

Studies from other places of the fisher communities including Lake Tanganyika itself, report less voice and engagement of women in leadership of fisheries and other natural resources management. TNC recognizes that mainstreaming gender in environmental conservation and livelihood development is inherently a social process that relies on engaging the needs and interests of both men and women.

To understand better the dynamics, The Nature Conservancy, through its Lake Tanganyika Program, wishes to hire a consultant to assess the current state of gender integration, key challenges, and opportunities related to advancing women's role in fisheries resources management and conservation in Nkasi District Council.

The purpose of this consultancy is to assess the **current women's leadership status, identify the leadership needs** of various women groups, and **propose needed leadership skills** that will enable them to form/join and participate in the conservation umbrella in fishing and coastal communities of Lake Tanganyika in Nkasi DC.

Interested and technical vendors are encouraged to reach out to TNC to get the full request for a proposal.

E-mail : procurement.lake@tnc.org

Indian community celebrates Diwali festival to foster happiness, prosperity

By Beatrice Philemon

INDIAN community in Tanzania yesterday gathered at Swami Vivekananda Cultural centre (SVCC) in Dar es Salaam to celebrate Diwali festival to promote happiness and prosperity.

India's Ambassador to Tanzania, Binaya Pradhan said that this year's Diwali fete marked with dazzling lights, fireworks display, mesmerizing cultural performances by Indian and Tanzanian artists, and delectable food. The Indian diaspora, diplomatic community, and Tanzanian friends joined in the festivities.

The Indian community and friends of India in Tanzania added lights and colours garnished with Indian cuisine.

The envoy also spoke about a number of issues that make Tanzania-India relations live as the introduction of IIT-Madras campus in Zanzibar, that will offer programmes in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence at the Bachelor's and Master's levels, with an inaugural batch comprising students from Zanzibar, mainland Tanzania, Nepal, and India. Of the students in the first batch, 40 per cent are women.

He also stated that India retains its position as Tanzania's largest export market. Over recent years, India extended a unilateral Duty Free Tariff preference scheme, wherein an impressive 98% of

Tanzanian products benefit from duty-free status in India.

"This partnership is exemplified by the swift ascent of Tanzanian avocados within the Indian market, signalling a promising future for even more accelerated bilateral trade growth," he said.

According to him, Indian investment in Tanzania has now exceeded \$3.74 billion. The favourable policy landscape combined with Tanzania's burgeoning economy has generated enthusiasm among numerous Indian companies to augment their investments in the country. He also noted: "We are pro-actively exploring the potential establishment of an Indian Industrial Park within Tanzanian borders, aiming to attract even more substantial investments from India."

India and Tanzania have fostered robust trade relationships as evidenced by their bilateral trade surging beyond the \$6.4 billion benchmark in the fiscal year 2022/2023.

Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights with its variations also celebrated in other Indian religions. It symbolises the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Diwali is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar months of Ashvin (according to the amanta tradition) and Kartika—between around mid-September and mid-November. The celebrations generally last five or six days.



ITV and Capital TV channel director Pius Paul (L) is gifted a souvenir by Tanzania Cigarette Public Limited Company director general and CEO Takashi Araki after making a familiarisation tour at the Dar es Salaam-based factory at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

African govts urged to use CAG offices to reach gender equality goals

By Carlos Banda

AFRICAN countries have been challenged to engage the Controller and Auditor General to initiate, track progress and achieve generation equality goals in all sectors. Dr Dorothy Gwajima, Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups made the call over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when wrapping up the three-day Regional Meeting on Financing for Gender Equality. The meeting brought on board minister of Gender and Finance from 22 African nations.

She said that through engaging the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) the other sectoral ministries will be inspired and implement strategies that align to the agenda of generation equality.

"In Tanzania, we have been able to connect with the Controller auditor general so as to stimulate all sectoral ministries to align with the agenda of generation equality. All the time they plan and implement they should be able to tell us to what extent they have been able to align with the agenda.

"And the CAG will be able to track and give remarks and go to

the parliament and tell the members what ministries have complied with the generation equality agenda and if the budget is in line with what we are planning to do as a country and globally," said Dr Gwajima.

She also added: "I call upon the ministers in attendance here to take this lesson and apply in their countries to align all their plans and indicators with the CAG so that we stop auditing money alone. Instead, there should be the same compliance in the agenda for Generation Equality program. I believe this sets a foundation for us to move

forward and to be measurable and be connected with other sectors and once we meet again, we will be able to tell the story on our implementation and make comparisons among countries.

Dr Gwajima highlighted the importance of the forum as it puts together the finance and gender experts to strategize on the best ways to increase gender financing initiatives in their countries hence reducing dependency on development partners and stakeholders to implement gender financing initiatives

Dr Maxime Houinato, UN

Women Regional Director for East and Southern Africa and Regional Director for West Africa emphasized that the issue of gender equality should take as a development issue not as a woman issue, highlighting that providing women with equal opportunities, boosts productivity in their respective countries and the region.

Antoinette Sayeh, IMF deputy regional director pointed out that estimates showed that gender gaps in education and informal labor market participation can significantly increase national GDP rates in Sub-Saharan

African countries, citing that, addressing such disparities demands a gender lens with a full range of economic policies, from expenditure and revenue administration and gender responsive budgeting systems.

The three-day high-level meeting concluded with a commitment to sustained action, ensuring greater availability to gender data, accountability and transparent reporting to achieve the goals set by Generation Equality Forum, providing a roadmap to guide future efforts to transform the economic and social status of women and girls in Africa.

Council's recommendations on agriculture to pay off

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) through its Working Group of Agriculture has rested recommendations meant to address challenges that were frustrating growth of agriculture, saying the sector stood a better chance of attracting more funding and increase production.

Speaking shortly after the Group members meeting in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture who double also as the Group Chairman, Gerald Mweli said the recommendations were viewed as healthier and suitable for the sector growth and development.

"The sixth-phase government under the stewardship of President Samia Suluhu Hassan has put in place a conducive and enabling environment in agriculture sector including issuance of loans and subsidies," Mweli said, noting that the government has been working on opinions of stakeholders and experts on how best the sector could be pushed forward and have a significant contribution to the national economy and also multiplier effects to its players.

Mweli called on continued and sustainable cooperation of private and public sectors, saying that through cooperation more challenges could be spotted and given solution for the betterment of the sector growth.

He said the recommendations floated by his working group among others would be discussed at the higher of TNBC since the motive behind was to build an inclusive, stable and sustainable sector that contributing greatly to the country's economy.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan's Administration was highly committed to see agriculture contributes dearly into the government coffers

yet raise economic status of many Tanzanians relying heavily in agriculture," Mweli said.

TNBC Executive Secretary, Dr Goodwill Wanga said the Council through the working group came up with solid recommendations which would be instrumental for improving business environment in agriculture sector.

"It is no secret that every Tanzanian can witness how the government has been working very closing with the private sector. TNBC eight working groups have helped a lot in looking at enabling environment of policies, laws and regulations," Dr Wanga said.

Dr Wanga said one of the recommendations was to complete the formulation of the 'Master Plan' of Agriculture that will incorporate policy, laws and regulations with view to enabling the sector's contributions in the national economy.

"We have agreed to help increase the value of agricultural crops before they are exported to enable the country earning foreign currencies," Dr Wanga said.

Earlier, a member of the Group from Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), Mercy Sila said the private sector was happier to work with public sector than it was a case before, commending achievements reached in agriculture sector.

"I take this opportunity to congratulate the Sixth Phase Government for taking deliberate measures and priority for Agriculture. For instance, the Government budget allocation to the Ministry of Agriculture has risen from billion 294 for the year 2020/21 to billion 970 in 2023/4," Sila explained.

According to Sila, the budget allocation increase to the Ministry of Agriculture was equivalent of 230 per cent which attested the government commitment towards reviving the sector deemed to be the backbone of the economy.



Haesung Lee (L), Director of South Korea-based Seltech, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam mid-last week on the company's plans to establish green houses for growing various crops at Chalinze in the Coast Region - principally with the aim of conserving the environment. She was taking part in a meeting on climate change which ended on Friday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Insurance firm unveils scholarship programme as it celebrates 25 years

By Guardian Reporter

AS part of marking its 25 years of operations in the country, Britam Insurance Tanzania has announced a scholarship program dubbed 'Britam Scholarship' that will initially provide financial assistance to two students pursuing a Degree course in Insurance and Risk Management.

The announcement was made by the company's Group Chairman, Kuria

Muchiru over the weekend at a ceremony attended by its board, management and government officials.

Muchiru said the scholarship program was a gesture of gratitude and would join a list of several other impactful partnerships and corporate social responsibility initiatives designed to improve the well-being of the Tanzanian people.

He said the company supports charitable initiatives with a particular emphasis

on enhancing access to education and healthcare.

Farai Dogo, Britam Insurance acting CEO said the firm prioritized product innovation, community impact, customer satisfaction and industry leadership in its quest to give its customers excellent experience and satisfaction.

"As we celebrate 25 years of service in Tanzania, we keep our eyes on the ball by building innovative insurance products tailored to meet the evolving needs of our cli-

ents, engaging in community initiatives and corporate social responsibility programs, building relationships with our stakeholders and clients, and strengthening our reputation as a leader in the insurance industry, setting benchmarks for excellence and professionalism, said Dogo.

He added: "Looking back, we have achieved significant milestones, and as we look to the future, we remain committed to providing innovative and relevant insurance

solutions to meet the evolving needs of our clients."

Established in 1998 with a team of just five employees, Britam Insurance Tanzania became only the second registered insurance company in Tanzania.

Besides its Dar es Salaam office, the company has strategic offices in five regions, including Arusha, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mbeya, and Mtwara, and a dedicated team of over 65 employees.

It has a strong team of ser-

vices of agents and sales force executives who serve as distribution channels spanning the length and breadth of the country.

To better reach and serve its customers, Britam Tanzania became a trailblazer in forming partnerships with mobile companies, notably Vodacom, through Vodabima, revolutionizing digital insurance offerings.

The company redefined the industry landscape by introducing insurance prod-

ucts through WhatsApp Messages, an innovation famously known as Easy Bima.

The ground breaking approach remains an enduring testament to the company's pioneering spirit, helping to expand distribution channels and elevating client customer experience.

Over the past 25 years, Britam has played a pivotal role in the insurance sector, contributing to the growth and development of the Tanzanian economy.



Jane Goodall Institute

TANZANIA
For Wildlife Research, Education & Conservation

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

About Us

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

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) is a reputable and rapidly expanding non-governmental organization committed to wildlife research, conservation, socio-economic development, and environmental education. The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) was founded in 2001 by Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE. The JGI Tanzania with its partners makes a difference through community centered conservation, chimpanzees research projects, youths' environmental education, the innovative use of science and technology, we work closely with local communities in Tanzania, inspiring hope through a collective power of individual action.

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support implementation of the new USAID funded project, USAID Tumaini Kupitia Vitendo is currently seeking to recruit suitably qualified and competent Tanzanians to fill the following vacant positions:

Job Position:	Zonal Roots & Shoots Coordinator
Project/Program:	USAID Tumaini Kupitia Vitendo & Roots & Shoots
Duty Station:	Central Zone, Dodoma
Reporting Line:	Roots & Shoots Manager

Job Summary

Zonal Roots & Shoots Coordinator is responsible for strengthening the capacity of Roots & Shoots clubs by developing young people's in protecting and conserving the environment, animals, and wildlife across all schools and out of school clubs in Iringa, Dodoma, Singida and Morogoro. The Coordinator is expected to build capacities of Roots & Shoots teachers, volunteers, and youth leaders to enhance the development of climate-responsible youth groups through the formation of a Roots & Shoots youths council which will enhance the quality and scope of youths in the discussion and delivering of Biodiversity education and youths-led climate activism, girls safe space, youth empowerments, leadership and coordination of Roots & Shoots Volunteers to ensure that club members in central Tanzania continue to be actively engaged using community mapping to identify local problems and solutions for a better environment, animals and human communities.

Zonal Roots & Shoots Coordinator will coach team of volunteers in the central zone to maintain a healthy program by raising young people's knowledge, awareness, passion, and participation to threats reductions on chimpanzee, habitats, biodiversity loss, and the climate change. The Zonal Roots & Shoots Coordinator will assist in achieving Intermediate Result - IR4 of the USAID TKV project and will work with the Roots & Shoots Manager and the National Coordinator of Roots & Shoots Tanzania to provide technical, supervision, coordination, and support Roots & Shoots program growth in central zone.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- Manage all Roots & Shoots activities in schools and out of school in Singida, Dodoma, Iringa and Morogoro through visits and outreach activities.
- Coordinate all Roots & Shoots activities related to TKV projects across the central zone regions, including coordination of events, training for matrons and patron teachers, and day today's coordination of volunteers and youth-led actions.
- Provide strategic Roots & Shoots program directions on Biodiversity education and youth-led climate activism to volunteers, teachers, and youth groups in central Tanzania.
- Assist the Roots & Shoots Manager to provide technical and coordination guidance to Roots & Shoots volunteers, matron, and patron teachers to ensure the project meets donor requirements for timely reporting; document and disseminate project successes, lessons, and best practices.
- To coordinate the design and production of biodiversity and climate change education materials and implementation of citizenship and Climate cards methodologies in the project schools
- To support the formation of Roots & Shoots Youth Council in central Tanzania.
- To coordinate youth empowerment trainings and coordination of youth-led actions in central Tanzania.
- In charge of all Roots & Shoots administrative work in Dodoma by ensuring equitable resources to facilitate the running of the Dodoma zonal office.
- Coordinate with Local and central government departments on issues related to youths, children, education, schools, biodiversity and climate change, and institutional networking.
- Participate in the development and publication of Roots & Shoots education and communication materials such as documents, newsletters, leaflets, calendars, posters, stickers, Books, reports, and other campaign materials.

Minimum Job Requirements and qualifications:

- o Bachelor's degree in social sciences, education, youth development, public relations, Natural Resources.
- o A strong, creative communicator and youth champion skills in life skills and youth development to create activism and enthusiasm in youths.
- o Excellent skills in youth spaces, safety, and coaching skills to enhance youth participation to climate and biodiversity solutions.
- o Knowledge of facilitating and organizing education training for teachers, and youth leaders.
- o A solid background in professional teaching of earth-related science, extracurricular designs, and practical Nature Interpretation Skills.
- o Strong skills in club coordination, events coordination, project management, and office administration.
- o Practical understanding of hands-on, conservation education, tree planting, innovative youth-led climate solutions, and community engagements.
- o Ability to perform and deliver under pressure, communicate quickly and effectively, and work on deadlines and minimum supervision.
- o Previous experience in managing environmental protection education, outreach, and expedition programs.

- o Computer literate and ability to use data analysis programs (SPSS), Word, Xcel, PowerPoint, Outlook, etc.

Job Position:	Forester
Program:	Roots & Shoots
Duty Station:	Kigoma
Reporting Line:	National Roots & Shoots Coordinator

Job Summary:

A Roots & Shoots Forester is responsible for strengthening the capacity of Roots & Shoots schools, and out of school youth groups to develop skills, hands on experiences in tree nursery establishments, tree planting, train teachers on regenerative activities, reforestation and tree planting actions, and empower communities to take part in village woodlot establishments, train village nursery attendants to produce 800,000 trees per year, to promote reforestation and restoration development activities.

The Forester will also be responsible to creatively think of ways to engage Roots & Shoots members, teachers and out of school youths promote conservation actions that aim to maximize environmental activism through the use of knowledge, compassion, and actions, together with a citizen science model across all school clubs and villages around Gombe National Park. She is responsible for building the capacity of Roots & Shoots teachers, VINAs, and youth leaders to enhance development of climate-responsible youth-led solutions and adaptive Nature based solutions using formation of youth groups, youth environmental councils and enhancement of the quality and scope of youth provision in Biodiversity education and youth-led climate activism, girls' safe space, empowerments, leadership, and coordination.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- Facilitate production of 800,000 seedlings in 10 project villages per year.
- Recruit VINAs, orient and train them with appropriate skills that will help them produce seedlings and manage village tree nurseries well.
- Coordinate with teachers, to enable each of the village Roots & Shoots start their own tree Nursery, a small school forests and support Schools' environmental conservation initiatives.
- Train Roots & Shoots teachers and coordinate clubs' supportive activities such as students study tours, excursions, education camping and competitions on environmental and climate change issues
- Coordinate procurement of tree nursery inputs, and ensure supply of seeds, inputs, and implements in each project nursery timely.
- Integrate applied GIS mapping in habitat restoration through the use of survey 123 to monitor the tree planting impacts in the restoration and regenerative activities.
- To conduct tree planting after care programme for all planted trees, monitor their survival development and integrate survival assessment of trees and seedlings with GIS mapping.
- To coordinate the design and production of tree planting and forest biodiversity education materials and for the project schools and villages
- To coordinate youth empowerment trainings and coordination of youth-led actions in tree planting and restoration actions in the project villages
- Support the work of Roots & Shoots Zonal Coordinators by ensuring equitable resources to facilitate and run Roots & Shoots clubs in the western Tanzania.
- Coordinate all Roots & Shoots project activities, and campaigns and ensure compliance and alignment of these activities Greenchoice' guidelines.
- Participate in the Roots & Shoots staff Management meetings, events, and reporting system.
- Publish Roots & Shoots education and communication materials such as documents, newsletters, leaflets, calendars, posters, stickers, Books, reports, and other campaign materials.

Minimum Job Requirements and qualifications:

- o BSC. in Forestry, Agro-forestry, Nature Conservation, Wildlife Sciences, Beekeeping sciences, Environmental sciences, Environmental ecology, or Natural Resources Management.
- o Certificate in Environmental Conservation Education or Education for Sustainable Development is an added Advantage.
- o Technical ability to read large volumes of texts, and designs, review documents, publish and narrate scripts and produce quality and clean documents.
- o A solid background in professional teaching of earth-related Science, extracurricular designs, and practical nature interpretation skills.
- o Strong skills in project management and office administration.
- o Practical understanding of hands-on, conservation education, tree planting, arboretum, botanical gardening, silvicultural practices, restoration, and regenerative activities.
- o Ability to perform and deliver under pressure, communicate quickly and effectively, and work on deadlines and minimum supervision.
- o Previous experience in Reforestation, Nature education, natural regeneration, tree planting, youth nature camps and youth led forest expedition programs will be an added advantage.
- o Computer literate and ability to use data analysis programs (SPSS), Word, Xcel, PowerPoint, Outlook, etc.

Application Procedure:

All applications should be submitted together with the most recent Curriculum Vitae (CV)/resume, copy of relevant academic certificates & transcripts, testimonials, three names of reputable referees, day-time telephone number or e-mail address, and should be sent to the following e-mail address: recruitment@janegoodall.or.tz

Only the final shortlisted candidates will be interviewed and provided with the interview feedback.

Deadline: Sunday, 26th November, 2023 before 5pm in the evening.

JGI Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer and considers all applicants on the basis of merit without regard to race, national or tribal origin, religious belief, gender, and marital status.

QUALIFIED FEMALE APPLICANTS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

PREQUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR PROVISION QUARRY OPERATIONS SERVICES AT TPLCPLC WAZO HILL DAR E SALAAM

INTRODUCTION

TPCPLC was established in 1966 with principal activities of manufacturing and selling cement. The company was nationalized in 1978 and later privatized in 1998.

The company is located 25km North from Dar Es Salaam City at Wazo Hill area in Kinondoni Municipal.

Tanzania Portland Cement Public Limited Company (TPCPLC) is in sourcing process for a supplier of quarry operations and is therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit expression of interest for the provision of service as per below details of the scope of work.

NB: The documents requested below must be submitted when expressing interest on this service. Qualified suppliers will be subjected to the TPCPLC vetting process.

Scope of work

TPCPLC REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
TPCPLC/PD/133/2023	1) Site preparation, mobilization and de-mobilization
	2) Production: Limestone, Red soil and Quarry sand including mining (drilling & blasting)
	3) Stripping overburden materials
	4) Internal handling of raw materials

INFORMATION REQUIRED:

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS		
COMMERCIAL		10%
1	Company profile	
2	Company Code of Conduct	
3	Company Code of Ethics	
4	Copy of Certificate of Incorporation/Registration	
5	Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	
6	Copy of 2023 BRELA search registration documents	
7	Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	
8	Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	
9	Copy of TIN Certificate and VAT registration number	
10	Copy of Current Business permit/trade license	
11	Company Shareholding Structure (Ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management and Shareholders.	
12	List of Directors	
13	Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	
FINANCIAL POSITION AND TERMS OF TRADE		15%
1	Audited and certified financial statements (2021-2022)	
2	Reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS		15%
1	OSHA Compliance Certificate	
2	Workers Compensation Fund Certificate	
3	Environmental Management Plan/Program/Policy	
4	Health and Safety Program	
OTHER POLICIES		5%
1	Hospitality/Sponsorship Policy/Procedure	
2	Policies/Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	
3	Policies/Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	
4	Human Rights Policy/ Procedure/program	
PAST EXPERIENCE		5%
1	At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	
2	Signed Contracts/Purchase Orders (proof of the above)	
3	Provide three recommendation letters from different Clients	
TECHNICAL CRITERIA		50%
1	Technical expertise in Quarry operations on Site preparation, mobilization, and de-mobilization Production: Limestone, red soil and quarry sand including mining Stripping overburden material. Two references of similar/like to like projects execution in recent three years.	

Interested Suppliers are requested to submit their expression of Interest (LOI) by referring the **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST REFERENCE NUMBER TPCPLC/PD/133/2023** of the service they intend to express interest on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to TPCPLC, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm's capability to provide the relevant service, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documents must be received by TPCPLC office via e-mail; peter.mohamed@twigacement.com not later than **17.00HRS, 24th November 2023**.

Mining firm launches campaign to eradicate malaria in Msalala DC

By Guardian Correspondent, Msalala

THE Barrick Bulyanhulu mine in Msalala District Council, Shinyanga region has launched a campaign to eradicate malaria dubbed: 'Zero Malaria', with a slogan: "It starts with me, you and all of us."

Held over the weekend in Bugarama ward, the campaign launching ceremony was attended by villagers surrounding the mine, Barrick employees and various government officials led by Msalala District Council executive director, Khamis Katimba.

Cheick Sangare, Barrick Bulyanhulu Mine general manager said that Barrick will continue to support the government's efforts to bring development to the people along with ensuring they have better health.

"Health is an important issue in any society, that's why Barrick has come up with a campaign to eradicate malaria to reduce the deaths of mothers and children who have become the biggest victims of this disease and I believe that if we all come together we will succeed in eradicating it," said Sangare.

He said that through this Barrick Bulyanhulu campaign, it will enable about 17,500 households to be reached in their homes by being sprayed with insecticides to kill mosquito breeding at the same time nets are distributed.



Msalala District Council director Khamis Katimba, (4th-R) and Barrick Bulyanhulu Mine employees display leaflets bearing messages on the war on malaria. It was at the launch of a malaria eradication campaign dubbed 'Zero Malaria Starts with Me, You and All of Us' held at Bugarama in the district in Shinyanga at the weekend. Fifth-right is the mine's manager, Cheick Sangare. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Khamis Katimba, Msalala DC executive director asked the people who will be reached by the campaign to cooperate

with the service providers who will reach their homes.

Giving an assessment of the infection of

the disease in the two wards of Bugarama and Bulyanhulu, Dr. Martin Mazigwa who is the Malaria Coordinator in the area said

the infection rate has decreased between 2020 and 2023 from 29.4 percent to 18.9 percent in the two wards.

Connect water to low-income earners, minister tells Dawasa

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) has been tasked to ensure low-income earners are connected to water service and give them a procedure on how to pay by installment.

Water minister, Jumaa Aweso made the call over the weekend in Dar es Salaam during the signing ceremony to hand over the project to the contractor M/S SINOHYDRO Company from China.

Aweso said that not all people have the ability to pay the cost of new connections on time because of difference in income, so for those who cannot afford, they should be given the procedure to

pay by installment so that all can benefit water services.

"Currently, the availability of water in many areas has improved, so it is good for every people to have full access to the service in order to achieve the government's ambition to provide water to every Tanzanians," he said.

"We should thank President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the large investment she made to provide enough funds for the completion of these projects and the distribution of clean water to the people in many areas, so we should make sure that people see the results of this investment for them to get water," the minister said.

Aweso also said that it is a big pro-

ject that will benefit about 450,000 residents of various constituency of Ukonga, Segerea, Ubungo, Kibamba, Ilala and Temeke.

He said that the project is very important because people of those areas have been facing water challenges for a long time, so he directed project contractor to ensure he implements the project on time so that the people can get water.

Segerea MP Bona Kamoli, thanked the government for continuing to invest a lot in water projects to connect many people with water, noting that the water project brings great hope to people of those areas who have been facing water challenges for a long time.

Bona also commended DAWASA

for the great efforts to design the project that will serve the residents of Segerea constituency.

Kiula Kingu, DAWASA acting chief executive officer said that the implementation of the water supply infrastructure in Southern Dar es Salaam will solve water challenge in the constituency of Ilala, Ubungo, Temeke, Ukonga, Ubungo and part of the Kisarawe constituency.

He added that the project is funded by the World Bank for 36.96bn/ and aims to benefit 450,000 people of the five constituencies.

"The implementation of the project is divided into two phases, where the first phase will benefit Kwembe, Kitunda, Pugu Station,

Kipunguni and Mzinga Wards," he said, noting that the second phase will serve the residents of Kivule, Kinyerezi, Zingiziwa, Majohe, Charambe, Kwembe, Buzza, Msongola, Msigani and Mbezi.

He said the project involves the construction of a 9 million liter water storage and distribution tank to be built in the Bangulo area, the construction of a 28-inch water pipeline for a distance of 10.8 kilometers.

Kingu also said that a 28-inch and 10-inch water supply pipe will be installed for a distance of 17.29 kilometers.

He said that in order to increase the availability of water to the people's residences, the Authority has

allocated funds for the implementation of various small projects, while for Kibamba constituency, the Authority has allocated 500 million for the implementation of a project to benefit 12,200 residents of Mbezi Makaba, Kitopeni and neighboring areas.

For Ukonga constituency, he said that the authority has allocated 222 million to implement a project that will benefit 19,144 people of Majohe, Kuchangani, Kivule and Mjimpya.

He said for the constituency of Segerea, the Authority has allocated 334 million to deliver services to the areas of Vingunguti, Kipawa, Stakishari and Majimboga and benefit 1,050 households.

NMB prioritises funding climate-friendly projects

By Guardian Reporter

IN the spirit of sustainable finance and impactful development, NMB Bank prefers financing projects with less negative implications on nature, a senior official at the bank has said.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam over the weekend Hellen Dalali said the lender's operations are now mostly pegged on eco-friendly aspects in order to lessen its carbon footprint and prevent other hazards of climate change.

She told a conference on nature-based solutions (NBS) to global warming that NMB prioritizes financing environment friendly and socially responsible projects because of their strategic role in sustainable development.

Dalali who is NMB's senior project manager responsible for sustainability said the impact of climate change is not only real but also a major risk whose effects are already being felt by businesses and economies across the world.

Commenting on the impacts of global heating during the introductory panel of the meeting, she said the financial sector has equally been affected hence the need to participate and adequately invest in climate action.

"None of us has been spared hence the need for everyone to be part and parcel of the climate change conversation," Dalali told the NBS Conference Tanzania 2023, which specifically focused on development of a robust local carbon trading market.

She said climate risks have necessitated NMB and other lenders to resort to new banking and operating practices to accommodate carbon reduction ambitions and meet other nature conservation requirements.

"Climate change is having significant impacts on businesses around the world, which in turn

has a ripple effect on economies and the financial sector given that the majority of these businesses are financed by banks," she noted.

According to her, the banks are not only focusing more on reducing their environmental footprint but also increasing climate, environmental and social assessments during credit onboarding exercises.

The green endeavour seeks to support efforts to mitigate the climate crisis at the corporate level and ensure that financed businesses and projects have minimal or no environmental impact, she explained. "Climate impacts from the banking sector perspective are experienced through climate risks which are categorized as physical risks and transition risks," Ms Dalali said, noting that the former mostly emanate from damages to property and assets.

The latter have more to do with regulatory changes required to transition to a low-carbon economy and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Citing the climate-related Financial Risk Management Guidelines issued last December by the Bank of Tanzania, she said transition risks mostly arise from changes in regulations, policy, technology and markets.

She also told the one-day conference that despite its negative impact, climate change offers abundant business opportunities, which Natural Resources and Tourism Minister Angela Kairuki who graced the event said include carbon credits that have become a flourishing enterprise in the country.

Highlighting the recent flotation of the NMB Jamii Bond and the tree planting campaign the bank launched early this year, Ms Dalali said banks can play a forefront role to unlocking these opportunities through green finance and sustainable funding.



Ardhi University's Research Institute on Building director, Dr Godwin Maro (C, seated), flanked by Sino Tan Kibaha Industrial Park chairman Jensen Huen (L) and Prof Yi Jun, secretary of China's Chongqing Vocational Institute of Engineering, shortly after the launch of a modern workshop at Kibaha in Coast Region on Friday. They are pictured with other Sino Tan staff. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Programme gets boost as UK Aid offers two vehicles

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has received two vehicles worth 250m/- from the UK Aid for monitoring and evaluation of the "Shule Bora" programme currently implemented in nine regions across the country.

Dr Franklin Rwezimula, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology received the vehicles and handed over to the Deputy Permanent Secretary, in the President Office, Regional Administration and local govern-

ment, responsible for Education, Dr Charles Msonde.

Speaking at the event, Dr Rwezimula thanked the UK Aid to support government efforts of improving through the targeted project.

"I would like to thank the UK Aid for their support. We hope it will help to improve the monitoring and evaluation of education projects and to also to know the challenges," he said.

Dr Msonde also said that the responsible ministry will continue collaborating with all

development.

Kemi Williams, Development Director, British High Commission, thanked Tanzania government for the collaboration shown to ensure the vehicles are procured to be used in the implementation of programme "Shule Bora".

Dr Aneth Komba, Tanzania Institute of Education (TET) director-general said that as implementers of the "Shule Bora" programme, it had already trained the teachers and leaders in education including teaching and learning base in teachers inclusivity.

The project is currently implemented in 67 district councils in nine regions of Tanzania Mainland namely- Kigoma, Katavi, Rukwa, Mara Simiyu, Singida, Dodoma, Tanga and Coast region.

Shule Bora is a UK aid funded Government of Tanzania education support programme designed to improve the quality, inclusiveness and safety of learning for all girls and boys in government primary schools.

Delivered in partnership with the Tanzanian government, Shule Bora is putting in place lasting reforms that will enable

every child to get the best start, to progress through primary, and complete their education - giving them the opportunity to fulfill their potential and contribute to Tanzania's growth and development.

According to PR-RALG, the UK Aid funded Shule Bora programme aims to improve the quality of pre-primary and primary schools in Tanzania.

The programme's Impact Statement is: Shule Bora will deliver improved quality, inclusiveness, and safety of learning for boys and girls



Maduhu Sayi Msekwa (2nd-R), who has won 10m/- cash prize through the ongoing Vodacom Tanzania Plc campaign raffle dubbed 'Sambaza Shangwe, Gusa Maisha', holds the dummy cheque presented to him by Mastha Shangwe (L) at a handover event held in Dodoma city at the weekend. Through the drive, customers can win several prizes every week, including motorcycles, TVs, smartphones and cash prizes by buying bundles, making payments through M-Pesa and downloading DJ Mixes via Mdundo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt appeals to Aga Khan Hospitals to reduce costs

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government has appealed to the Ismaili Community, which owns the Aga Khan Hospitals, to look into possibilities of reducing medical costs to allow Tanzanians with low incomes to access services at their facilities.

The request was made in Dar es Salaam yesterday by Home Affairs Minister, Eng Hamad Masauni who represented President Samia Suluhu Hassan at a function to celebrate the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, an event that was organized by the community. The event was also attended by delegates from other religions as well as government officials. Masauni was optimistic that the hospitals' management will work on the government appeal since it came from the Head of State.

"I commend the Ismaili Community in Tanzania for commemorating the birth of Prophet Muhammad. I have seen the combination of different groups; this is an indication of peace, unity, love and solidarity that Tanzanians have despite their difference in religions, tribes and origins.

He added: "We recognize the good work that you are doing as well as your great contribution to the sectors of health and education. Your investments contribute to the growth of the country's economy."

Masauni commended the Aga Khan hospitals for providing quality health care services. He said their facilities are renowned for offering good services.

The Diplomatic Representative of Aga Khan Development Network in the country (AKDN), Amin Kurji promised to continue working closely with the government in improving the health care services.

Kurji said the request to lower medical costs is in line with the government's determination to ensure universal health coverage.

He said that to get good treatment, one must have health insurance, which will help him or her to afford medical expenses. He said universal health coverage would help a good number of Tanzanians to access quality medical care at any cost.

"Not only for the Aga Khan hospitals but also other health facilities, we should all think of reducing medical treatment costs in support of the government's initiative. We have 36 facilities across the country; our hospitals are almost like referral hospitals; when people seek treatment somewhere else and they are not healed, they will always come to us," he said.

He said the ceremony was meant to emphasize human values such as compassion, tolerance, unity, and human development efforts, according to the teachings of the Prophet.

UTT AMIS schemes grow to 1.535trn/- in the financial year ended June 2023

By Guardian Reporter

THE UTT Asset Management and Investors Services PLC (UTT AMIS) has seen its schemes size grow to 1.535trn/- in the financial year ended June 2023, an increase of 54 percent from the 996.5bn/- size recorded in the year ended June 2022.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam at the weekend on the sideline of the company's annual general meeting, Simon Migangala, Managing Director, UTT AMIS attributed the performance to improved public confidence and awareness on the benefits of investing through collective investment schemes.

According to him, the Umoja Fund which is one of its six funds, is strong with its annual returns of 11.2 percent. Wekeza Maisha Fund recorded annual returns of 12.5, Watoto Fund had 12.4 percent and Jikimu Fund (14 percent) Ukwasi Fund had 12.5 percent and Bond Fund recorded returns of 11.3 percent.

Apart from providing huge investment avenues for small scale investors to participate and benefit from money markets, he said the fund is also paying dividend to the government

Regarding performance of the capital market as reflected through Tanzania Share Index (TSI), there has generally been good movement in share prices. TSI registered an increase of 4.1 percent from 3,928.5 on 30 June 2022 to 4,091.8 on 30 June 2023.

He noted that UTT AMIS is a collective investment scheme established to develop collective investment schemes in Tanzania; acquiring and keeping in-trust the shares of privatized enterprises and encouraging savings culture through wide participation in the ownership of distributed shares / units.

Casmir Kyuki, Chairman of the UTT AMIS Board said implementation of UTT AMIS five-year strategic plan that end in 2024 have been successful insisting that the company will continue with implementation of priorities set in the plan including improving existing products and services and identifying new business lines for the benefit of investors, shareholders and other stakeholders.

"UTT AMIS will also continue working on modernization of operations and ensuring that investors obtain the best returns that the market may provide. Use of mobile phones in obtaining services also makes investing and obtaining other services more convenient," he said.

The chairman said the company will also continue with the implementation of priorities set in the plan including improving existing products and services and identifying new business lines for the benefit of investors, shareholders and stakeholders.

Experts call for enhanced efforts to reduce new-born deaths

By Carlos Banda

HEALTH specialists have called for enhanced efforts by the government and development stakeholders in reducing the rate of neonatal deaths.

They suggested that construction of more neonatal units and ensuring availability of well-trained nurses would greatly reduce the deaths.

Speaking at the neonatal children's health forum held during the commemoration of the World Prematurity Day in Dar es Salaam on Friday, Prof Joy Lawn from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Co-Principal Investigator at NEST360 said to address neonatal mortality rates much more efforts are needed to focus on taking good care of pregnant women and new-borns through providing the right infrastructure and trained personnel.

"Tanzania is one of the best coun-

tries in Africa for reducing maternal deaths. Maternal mortality has really come down but the new-born mortality is a flat line. It has not changed for the last ten years," he said.

Prof Joy added: "It's only now just about 6 years before the sustainable development target is met in 2030. Tanzania is now at a death rate 24 per 1000, you need to get to 12 by taking good care of pregnant women."

Dr Nahya Salim, the Clinical Lead at Nest360 emphasized on the importance of innovative interventions to be rolled out in supporting health service providers to treat and attend to young babies. "We point innovation through innovators and engineers. We can learn how to solve problems arising in our health care centres and at our universities. Innovators can create small tubes of smaller sizes that can help to treat babies with respiratory disorders, provide medicines, etc. as

such tools are scarce in the market. It is important to cooperate with innovators to invent more equipment and machines that can help save the lives of the new-borns," she said.

Dr Honorati Masanja, Ifakara Health Institute (IHI), Chief Executive Director, said that drastic measures and strategies need to be undertaken in order to address the challenge of the shortage of well trained nurses who can attend to babies in neonatal care units.

"The shortage of well-trained personnel, particularly nurses, is a major problem. You may have the necessary tools and equipment but you may lack nurses to use them. The government is planning to add 2300 public health care servants to provide health care services to mother and child to ensure every district has nurses and neonatal care units in every hospital operating for 24-hours," he said.

Health sector urged to integrate with ICT systems for greater sustainability

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has implored the health and other sectors to abide by national frameworks and make sure their Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems are integrated.

Nape Nnauye, Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology made the remarks over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when closing the 3rd Tanzania digital health and innovation forum and exhibition 2023.

He commended the ministry of health for preparing frameworks related to the health sector.

Nnauye said that advances on artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, 3D printing, machine learning, internet of medical things, augmented reality, and block chain are essential in making healthcare sustainable; adding that once well designed can boost accuracy and efficiency.

"My Ministry is now in the final stage in preparing the Tanzania enterprise architecture framework, and I am aware that the Ministry of Health is among the early ministries who have prepared a similar framework," he said.

He said for the betterment of the country, the ministry has played a pivotal role in driving the

digital transformation agenda through the broader Digital Tanzania Project (DTP), funded by the World Bank. Currently, there are dedicated programs for advancing digital skills and specialized training on emerging technologies both within and outside the country.

"A promising use of AI is in developing pharmaceuticals faster; analysis of drugs predicted by the company's AI technology can now be completed in less than one day that would have taken months or years" he stated.

The government welcomes innovation in healthcare and wants to empower patients to efficiently guide the change to the old status quo, he added.

He explained that the adoption of digital technologies in healthcare is transforming how health services are delivered, improving access and enhancing the quality of care, improving accountability and reducing costs.

Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) Deputy Vice Chancellor- Planning, Finance and Administration, Prof Erasto Mbugi said they had an opportunity to listen to presentations and discussions on diverse cutting-edge health technologies.



RTI International (www.rti.org) is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to conducting innovative, multidisciplinary research that improves the human condition. With a worldwide staff of more than 4,000 people, RTI offers innovative research and development and multidisciplinary services.

USAID Tanzania Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity

RTI is currently implementing the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity that addresses dynamics that threaten habitat connectivity and the long-term persistence of biodiversity in Tanzania. This activity incorporates a series of interventions that support and strengthen government and civil society capacity for biodiversity conservation.

RTI is looking for a candidate to fill the Human Resources Manager position under USAID/Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity. The position will be based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Purpose of the position:

The HR Manager will be responsible for implementation of HR Strategies, effective delivery of HR services and management; interpretation and application of HR policies; rules and regulations; facilitation of internal procedures and process solutions to a wide spectrum of complex HR issues. He/She will support the formulation of solid HR strategies and implement the Project's human resources initiatives to attract, develop, motivate, and retain the most suitable talent throughout the projects and facilitate successful performance management.

Essential Responsibilities:

- Review, disseminate, ensure full compliance of HR policy guidelines and country employee handbooks in tandem with local labor laws, client rules and regulations, RTI policies, values, ethics, procedures and strategies, effective implementation of the internal control framework and proper functioning of the HR policy framework.
- Provide advice and information on RTI HR Policy adjustments changes in local labor law and regulations, implementation of employee handbook, strategic use of contractual modalities, application of entitlements, change management processes.
- Disseminate HR communication, priorities, and allocated tasks; and ensure strict adherence to procedures in selection and recruitment of temporary and longer-term staff.
- Organization of recruitment processes through the provision of input to short-listing process, screening of candidates, setting up and participation in interview panels including documentation processing for offers and deployment.
- In liaison with local country insurance brokers and RTI Regional Office track Private Medical Insurance (PMI) expiry dates and follow up on renewals.
- Maintain HR (including non-personnel) files; Track and compile the project leave schedules, setting up all staff absence by receiving and filing paid time off authorizations, performing the functions of absence monitoring and recording; Advise staff on their leave entitlements.
- Coordinate with Kenya Regional Office for the preparation of contracts of local national (LN) and other changes pertaining term of employment through timely preparation and submission of Personnel Action Forms or Offer Request Memos.
- Conduct preliminary Job Grading for HR and Chief of Party's review and approval, determines eligibility for salaries, entitlements, and benefits according to approved matrix, FSN and confirmed country benefits while applying staff regulations, rules, and other official provisions with consistency.
- Orientation and induction focal person; Provides information to staff members on their employment conditions and entitlements, including on-entry briefings, facilitate CCN orientation and file orientation reports as espoused in the project on orientation and induction.
- Ensure personnel files and database are well updated accurately maintained. Maintain RTI's projects manual and excel based personnel database and supporting use of its information by project staff for planning and administration purposes.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

Minimum required Education, Experience, Skills & Abilities:

- Bachelor's Degree and 6 years of experience in human resources management and/or master's degree and 3 years of experience in human resources management, or equivalent combination of education and experience
- Prior experience managing HR functions on donor-funded projects preferred.

Skills & Abilities

- Strong interpersonal/relationship building skills.
- Knowledge of the local labor law in Tanzania.
- Excellent knowledge of MS Word, Outlook, PowerPoint, Excel.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Strong influencing and coaching skills
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines under pressure.
- Ability to multi-task
- Ability to work independently and within matrix project and program teams.
- Attention to detail and accuracy.
- Culturally sensitive and respectful.
- Experience on USAID or other donor-funded programs a plus.

How to apply

RTI is an equal opportunity employer. Candidates may apply directly on RTI's careers site at <https://www.rti.org/careers> or submit an updated CV and cover letter to tuhifadhi_hr@rti.org. Please reference the position title in subject line. **The deadline for submitting application is 28th November 2023.**

ONLY SELECTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED

MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2023

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Could 'Global South' be to blame on slow investments, job creation?

THE condition of the world's poor - or 'poor' - countries has never left the agenda list in global economic dialogue.

However, experts will say it is more about what countries of the 'global north' say to one another on the issue than 'Global South' influencing such decisions. There are pros and cons in panel roots for either argument, but the issue is what the Global South is itself doing on the matter.

This is what came up lately as a number of countries met in a virtual summit chiefly to discuss how they could work together for a bigger and more effective role by the Global South in global economic cooperation. In remarks at the summit, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliva laid out the case for the international community to support the growth of the economies of developing countries in expanding the participation of its people in development.

In the first place, that formulation needs to be factored into its psychological elements or premises, as ordinarily everyone does in life with what is available and the best for one's own comfort or strategy. In that case, all choices of economic participation are personal, or local.

Yet, what the premier underlined was that decisions made elsewhere hugely affect what individuals can do.

This is essentially because personal choices are tailored to relate to what is possible in the market - for instance, one decides to trade in this or that commodity or service because there is some promise of demand. As is evidently the case, at least going by what is often witnessed in Dar es Salaam city, the degree to which those with funds to spare are investing in fixed assets and trades of one sort or another is staggering.

Indeed, there was a time when

restaurants and bars used to be full much of the time; now they appear all but abandoned.

The second 'Voice of Global South Summit', chaired virtually by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sat to discuss how the forum could ensure that developed countries played a greater role in shoring up the economies of developing countries to facilitate the flow of investments into the latter countries.

The issue was in part whether the global economy is aligned with the needs of developing economies, with a specific appeal to platform participants to formulate ways to address climate change challenges. Also cited were renewable energy, youth employment and women advancement. That the meeting brought together experts from scores of developing countries to discuss their challenges by airing their voices for onward relaying to the G20 summit slated for later this month implies that it was a vital opportunity.

The issue is whether it wasn't likely to be wasted on ways of obtaining more public finance while the West has numerous emergencies of its own. The most workable plan would be to figure out how to get massive private finance into developing countries. Briefing the summit participants in earlier remarks, the Indian leader noted that the platform had more than 100 member countries but all were still linked by largely the same needs and priorities.

That is why it is crucial that the leaders start looking beyond the aid matrix and delve into how large amounts of capital can flow and into a situation where rapid growth is possible, as was the case in South East Asia. Trouble is that most leaders operate with an anti-colonial mentality that 'entitles' the Global South to regrets, reparations and aid, not opening up for capital investments by property transfers.

Diabetes emergency calls for more than dietary guidelines to change it

PUBLIC awareness is almost always being put to some shock with respect to this or that state in relation to medical care, and this virtually across communities, nations and civilisations.

The shocks are of different weights and scales, though, and the one being put to the public towards the end of last week was particularly weighty.

It was that, tragically, each 20 seconds around the world a leg is amputated on account of diabetes. Picturing it altogether comes to something of a horror film, to think how many live through it.

For Tanzania, medical experts say that for every 100 diabetes patients, more than ten patients risk having a leg amputated - and this each year.

The horrifying data were tabled at a meeting of the Tanzania Non-Communicable Diseases Association (TANNCDA) trying to figure out how dietary guidelines can help the public cope with that emergency.

With the data, there is no doubt that broad sections of the public will be alerted to the danger - that suggesting that it will have an influence in dietary choices, for once.

Still, certain levels of policy-making in the agricultural and health sectors as well as a breadth of stakeholders have been working to find out anchors in how the public can be awakened to the health emergency.

They have prepared dietary guidelines for preventing NCDs generally, where it is anyone's guess which is the worst public emergency between diabetes, high or low blood pressure, the cancers and renal (kidney) or other forms of organ failure.

The ten individuals out of 100 who risk losing a leg are but the tip of an iceberg, as those living on constant medication, including kidney failure, are numerous as well, while the cancer problem wasn't at issue in the discussion.

While it is right and proper for dieticians and policy-makers to implore the public to take precautions, the whole issue of eating and drinking is so embedded into culture that it can hardly be resolved or righted by shocking data.

There is a degree to which shock alters habits but, statistically, the shock is felt more on those who weren't in the danger zone in the first place - that is, those predisposed to think about their health.

A crude view would have it that such data and the conclave itself talked to the converted, thus reaffirming faith, not change.

Thus far, it is unclear if experts agree at which point someone will likely alter habits for the sake of health. If it is youthful age, it may be because at that point a person is still susceptible to receiving views and taking them to heart.

It is said that after 35 years of age people seldom change from the ways or habits they have set up for themselves in life, and that is altogether bad news for the dietary guidelines campaign projections.

There is also room that even at a slightly more advanced age people can make rational decisions and improve lifestyles; in youth it is imitation, later, decision.

Policy-makers need both sets of behaviour change reflections - from awareness creating youth actions, say, on social media and adult decisions after hospital visits.

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What came first, the pain or the anxiety?

By Granola Mommie

AN estimated 20 per cent of the United States population suffers from a chronic anxiety condition, about the same number of people struggling with some kind of chronic pain condition.

I have struggled with anxiety and panic attacks for as long as I can remember. I remember lying on the floor in foetal position, wishing my parents would just hug me while I felt this out-of-control heart racing that would make me feel so scared.

Also, for as long as I can remember, I struggled with shoulder pain. I remember in my late teens getting shopping carts at stores I was only browsing at because of the pain my purse would cause in my shoulder.

Over the years I have noticed a connection between my physical pain and anxiety concerns. Days when my pain is worse, I have noticed that I am more anxious. When I have a higher-level pain day, I notice that anxiety seems to increase as well.

Connection between pain and anxiety

Pain and anxiety go hand in hand. Often it seems that one is not found without the other. Many people who suffer from chronic pain and chronic anxiety find that they cannot tell which one came first.

There is a phenomenon called the pain cycle, where the pain one experiences causes a reaction in the body, muscle tightening and guarding, decreased movement and then atrophy - or degeneration or weakening - of the muscles. The decrease in mobility contributes to more anxiety and emotional distress. The cycle continues until it is corrected.

In reality, the cycle can be started at any point in the loop. You may have an injury that resulted in loss of motion and caused muscle atrophy, the muscle guarding, that physicality in your body can lead to your brain perceiving an imminent threat and increasing feelings of anxiety.

It could also be that it begins with anxiety that causes muscle tension, muscle guarding, decrease in movement, and then that increases pain sensations in the body.

Pain perception and anxiety

Not only can the causes be one or the other but the perception of pain is also dependent on anxiety levels. The regions for pain and anxiety in the brain are overlapping. This means that the brain reads both in a similar way.

One example is this double-blind study, which showed that people reacted less severely to social rejection. The participants who consumed a pain reliever seemed less bothered by not being chosen to play a game than those who received a placebo - or painkiller.

That would indicate that the opposite is also true. If people who have heightened pain may have heightened



anxiety, those who have heightened anxiety may also have higher pain levels. That is not to say that we should all consume acetaminophen daily or at all for anxiety. It is an interesting finding that may help us better understand the connection between anxiety and pain.

Chronic anxiety and pain

Chronic pain as well as chronic anxiety conditions can mean that this loop is constantly cycling through. For people with chronic conditions, this cycle may be worse when one or the other parts of the loop get worse.

For example, let us say you have chronic knee pain caused by an injury several years ago, and most days it is manageable. But on this particular day, you also have a huge deadline that is looming over you from work. As you start going through your day, you notice that the knee is hurting more than that day as well.

The addition of the extra stress will increase the anxiety and cause more significant pain reactions and thus cause the whole cycle to be increased.

The perception of the pain increased, but the injury did not. The reverse is true as well: on a day that you have a positive thing happening, let us say a party and you are excited to attend, you may have a lessened perception of the pain in the injury.

The common denominator in this is the nervous system. In both pain as well as anxiety responses, the brain goes to fight or flight. It is attempting to protect itself. In acute situations, that may be helpful.

In chronic pain and anxiety

conditions, people become conditioned to adjusting their behaviour to avoid the painful stimuli - and that can increase the pain as well.

How can you find relief?

Knowing the connection is just the beginning and, to some extent, this is good news: It means that you can find relief in both areas by beginning to treat one.

Cognitive behaviour therapy. By getting a well-trained therapist in your corner that may help you to better manage your anxiety, you can help lessen the perception of pain in your body.

Even if the pain is the catalyst for the anxiety, treating the anxiety can help to calm the brain and lessen the nervous system response to the pain as well.

Sleep. Sleep problems and anxiety concerns are often connected. When you are anxious, you may struggle to get enough sleep.

Not getting enough sleep can increase your cortisol levels - which will cause an increase in anxiety. The increase in anxiety, as we discussed, will increase the pain perception.

But sleep also helps to lower inflammation in the body. When we sleep, our brain is working to clear and clean itself out. If that process is interrupted, it leads to higher levels of inflammation in the body.

Meditation and yoga. With meditation and yoga, you are not only training the brain to exist at a lower level of excitement, but you are also moving the body in ways that create relaxation and calm. Our brain is able to rest and our nervous system can start to calm down.

Avoid caffeine and alcohol. These substances are stimulating and can increase anxiety. They

may seem helpful in the beginning but, as they reach their half-life and the effects drop in the body, they can cause an increase in anxiety and pain.

Lower inflammation with an anti-inflammatory diet. Long-term studies show that diets high in inflammatory and processed foods are connected to an increase in anxiety and mental health disorders.

Inflammation in the body also can increase pain. By consuming a diet high in antioxidants, mono-unsaturated fats and lean proteins, you are helping to lower the inflammatory markers in your body.

Creating a life with less pain

Ultimately managing chronic conditions like pain and anxiety is a lifelong commitment. It requires a change in your lifestyle and a dedication to getting to know what works for your individual body as well.

The suggestions above are not a substitution for medical care. If you are experiencing chronic pain and chronic anxiety, it is important to be under the care of a medical professional to help you manage the condition.

Finding ways to decrease either the pain or the anxiety can be incredibly helpful in maintaining a quality of life that we all want and aspire to. No one deserves to live a life of pain, be it emotional or physical.

* A medium.com dispatch. Granola Mommie is a writer for Invisible Illness, a mother of eight and a functional nutrition counsellor passionate about nutrition and mental health as well as raising amazing humans.

It's time to ask (and answer) tough questions about maternal mortality

By Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

NO woman should die while giving life is a popular safe motherhood message used to create awareness about preventable maternal and infant mortality, and to advocate for increased deliveries at health facilities.

Granted, Tanzania has made strides in cutting the number of women who die while giving life but what is lacking is consistency in doing the job. For instance, while there was a 47 percent reduction of maternal mortality rate between 1990 and 2012 (870 and 232 deaths per 100,000 live births respectively), we did not make sufficient progress to attain Millennium Development Goal (SDG3) of reducing maternal mortality to 193 per 100,000 live births. Sadly, the deaths increased to 556 per 100,000 live births in 2015 and now stand at 238 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Another sad reality is reports of women for lack of money to pay for various medical fees. In a country where the health policy calls for a fee-free health care for pregnant women the lingering question is who is to blame for non-adherence to the policy?

Recently, the news that a pregnant woman and her baby died due to lack of surgical care at Kabuku health center in Handeni District, Tanga Region on 11 November 2023, after she failed to pay 150,000/- was very shocking and left a mind-boggling question for how long will it take to stop pregnant mothers from dying.

The usual victims of such recurring incidences at health facilities, are pregnant women who are not able to pay for medical services due to poverty, as was the case of the pregnant mother, Mariam Zahoro (30), a resident of Mumbwi village.

The deceased's mother, Hadija Athumani, was quoted as saying that they were harassed and insulted because they had no money to pay despite pleading for assistance unsuccessfully.

"I had nothing to do, just to watch her giving me her hand, saying, 'Mom, I am powerless and lam dying', and off she went," she said.

Reacting to the incident, Health Minister Ummu Mwalimu said that she received with regret the news of the death of a pregnant woman and her baby and that a team from the Office of the Regional Medical Officer, consisting of two specialist doctors (a gynecologist and obstetrician) was sent to investigate the matter.

Also, authorities in Handeni District Council announced suspension of three employees to give room for the investigation of what actually transpired and led to the avoidable deaths.

It's well and good that action is being taken, however, in many cases when these incidents occur, members of the public as well as some government officials give the impression that nurses and other healthcare workers are to blame for laziness, incompetence, and unkindness to patients, hence unnecessary sufferings and avoidable



One of the three intensive care ventilators donated to the Muhimbili National Hospital in July this year by Gadian Health Systems to strengthen health care in Tanzania (facebook, Muhimbili National Hospital)

deaths.

In fairness, we ought to hear the other side of the story. Could it be that the Ministry of Health speaks about free services to pregnant mothers and babies, contrary to the real situation on the ground?

The 2007 Tanzania Health Policy calls for free health services for the elderly, pregnant women, and children under the age of five. However, there are reports of patients in the said groups required to pay.

A nurse working in a public health facility here who requested anonymity said health workers are always unfairly blamed for not attending to expectant mothers who are unable to pay, explaining that they can hardly render optimum

life-saving care without necessary devices like gloves, scissors, needle holder, and artery forceps.

"Can surgeons perform procedures without required medical devices? They can't and charge master can't release the devices without seeing payment," she said.

"Even if a person with a very compassionate heart decides to provide them freely, what can they report to the officer in charge and if they take out of their pocket, how many patients can a nurse be able to help?"

SDG 3 aims to prevent needless suffering from preventable diseases and premature death by focusing on key targets that boost the health of a country's overall population. Its target is to see a global mater-

nal mortality ratio of less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030.

To reach the SDG target in 2030, government initiatives should be directed at improving health services by building many health facilities in the country, supplying medicine and equipment, alongside increasing the rate of training health workers while also specifying how expectant mothers can get health services free in line with 2007 Health Policy.

The National Multi-Sectoral Early Childhood Programme 2021/22-2025-26 (NM-ECDP) whose implementation is underway calls for coordinated efforts in ensuring children not only survive childbirth

but thrive. This can only be a reality if policies that safeguard the health and welfare of pregnant women are implemented fully.

It is time the relevant authorities ensured that reckless officials (if any) at the Ministry of Health and at sub-national level through the President's Office (Regional and Local Government) are held accountable for not executing their duties in line with the law, policies and national programmes. Every actor in their respective position is expected to carry out their duties diligently for the safety of mothers and babies.

In rural areas of our country, access to quality health services for pregnant women is constrained due to many reasons, including inadequate skills among healthcare providers, distance to health facilities, costs and inadequate obstetric diagnostic capacities. It is high time all key ministries implementing NM-ECDP play their part fully for the benefit of our country, particularly the vulnerable citizens, pregnant women and their babies.

Argentines choose between polar opposites in run-off

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

ARGININES voted yesterday in a run-off election to choose the man who will lead the South American country for the next four years.

Opinion polls put the two candidates, left-wing economy minister Sergio Massa and far-right libertarian Javier Milei, neck and neck.

Mr Massa won the first round with 36.7%, ahead of Mr Milei with 30%.

But polls suggest Mr Milei, who has promised to "blow up" Argentina's political system, has made gains since.

Polling gets under way at 08:00 local time (11:00 GMT) and closes at 18:00.

With 40% of Argentines living in poverty, high prices and skyrocketing inflation are by far voters' top concerns.

It therefore came as a surprise to many when Mr Massa, who has been at the helm of the ministry of the economy as the country's annual inflation rate reached a whopping 143%, beat Mr Milei into second place during the first round on 22 October.

But as he was short of the 45% of votes needed to win outright, Mr Massa now faces Mr Milei again in the decisive run-off.

The candidate who came third on 22 October, conservative Patricia Bullrich, has thrown her weight behind Mr Milei, and polls suggest most of her voters will back the self-proclaimed anarcho-capitalist.



Javier Milei and Sergio Massa have been battling it out in an acrimonious election campaign

And while a majority of surveys are giving Mr Milei a slight lead over his rival, Sunday's run-off looks set to be a nail-biting finish to an acrimonious election campaign.

Javier Milei, 53, is an economist whose anti-establishment rhetoric has gained him a loyal following especially among young voters disillusioned with traditional politics.

His Libertarian party, which he founded in 2018, is seen by voters as untainted by mistakes of the past and much of his appeal stems from the fact that voters are willing to give his radical proposals a chance

after decades of economic upheaval.

Mr Milei has promised to replace the local currency, the peso, with the US dollar, and said he would "blow up" Argentina's central bank.

He likes to court controversy on social issues, too, saying he will abolish sex education in schools, loosen gun laws and allow the sale and purchase of human organs. Prone to outbursts and swearing, he has even attacked Pope Francis, whom he accused of being a communist.

The flamboyant economist, who likes to appear at events wearing a leather jacket and wielding a

chainsaw, has devoted followers who mob him wherever he goes.

Sergio Massa, 51, a seasoned politician who led the Chamber of Deputies before becoming economy minister in the Peronist government in 2022, has been trying to convince voters that he has the experience to steer the country out of its economic slump. He says he is the man who will guarantee that Argentina's poor will continue getting welfare payments and subsidised public transport.

On social issues he is liberal, backing Argentina's recent legalisation of abortion. He has also warned

of the dangers of climate change, in contrast to Mr Milei, who is a climate-change sceptic.

And while Mr Massa has been trying to sway undecided voters by encouraging them to vote against Mr Milei - whom he portrays as a liability - he is unlikely to be able to win over a considerable proportion of Argentines who have told pollsters from company CB Consultoras that they are so fed up with his Peronist party that they "would never vote" for him. BBC

The carnage in Gaza: United Nation's 10-point humanitarian plan

By Martin Griffiths

THE reason I wanted to speak to you was to outline something very specific about Gaza, of course, which is about the approach being taken and planned by the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies to provide aid to Gaza.

A very specific thing - and the reason why I wanted to talk about this is because, of course - there have been allegations from certain quarters that we aren't ready, that we don't have the trucks, that we don't have the fuel, why shouldn't we use safe zones, and so forth. So, this is intended to demonstrate and to give some details, and I know that you've seen some of this already, of the approach that we plan to do.

Now, number one, we plan to follow the standard experience and procedures that humanitarian agencies have had all over the world. This is not new in itself. The extent of the suffering is insufferable, but the approach of humanitarian agencies, depending on the requirements of international humanitarian aid and support, is going to be the same in Gaza as it might be in Ukraine, in Sudan or elsewhere.

And I will describe what that might look like. And I'm saying this obviously in the context of the increasing flow of population down from the north to the south of Gaza. Clearly that's the perspective. That's the context in which I'm speaking.

So, I'll go through these 10 points:

First of all, to facilitate the agencies' efforts to bring in a continuous flow of aid convoys safely. The key word here is "continuous." Aid needs to be reliable, on the day, on the next day, on the next week. People need to know that there will be aid coming tomorrow or the next day. They need to know that they have time to consume these supplies because more is coming at the next moment.

Number two: Crucial, crucial for the logistics - is to open additional crossing points for aid and commercial trucks to enter into Gaza, including Kerem Shalom from Israel. Now, much has been made of the importance of the need to provide opportunities for commercial aid to get into Gaza. By the way, once again, that's a very common feature of the aspects of an urgent humanitarian program. Sudan was exactly the same, we had very similar points made in the early days, you remember the evacuation from Khartoum.

But it's particularly important in Gaza because of the total dependency of a population which cannot move outside the territory. So more crossing points, including that Kerem Shalom, which used to carry more than 60 per cent of the truckloads going through before this conflict, this recent conflict started. So please, Kerem Shalom. Please Israel, give us that for our crossing point.

Next, allow the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations access to fuel. Now, you've heard a lot about the need for fuel. I believe [Commissioner-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)] Philippe Lazzarini has also issued a (statement) this afternoon, saying that they received about 24,000 litres of fuel. I just want to say a couple of words on fuel, probably to repeat what you've heard elsewhere.

Number three, fuel is the driver of so many aspects of the humanitarian response. It's the driver of desalination. It's the driver of electricity. It's the driver of effective hospitals. It's the driver of trucks that will go from Rafah on entry to the distribution points. The 24,000 litres - most welcome, no question about it - is not enough to provide the fuel that we need daily to get to the whole of Gaza.

My understanding is that to cover the whole of the Gazan territory and therefore all of the people in need, we would need about 200,000 litres a day. Now, this has been happening for years. UNRWA has extensive experience in this. UNOPS [the UN Office for Project Services] has extensive experience also in helping make the distribution of fuel. And we understand the need for monitoring.

But the idea that we have been pursuing daily and nightly in negotiation with Israel, Egypt, and with the assistance of the United States, is to replenish the stocks in the UNRWA depot near Rafah and then take it from there to be used by trucks going around Gaza to where people are able to be.

Number four: This is bedrock, of course: enable humanitarian organizations to deliver aid throughout Gaza without impediment or interference. I haven't witnessed in my many, many decades of dealing with war, an occasion on which so much attention is being paid to the requirements of international humanitar-



UNICEF executive director Catherine Russell (right) visits Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, Gaza on November 14, 2023. Credit: UNICEF/ UNI470988

ian law, otherwise called the rules of war.

One of them is to allow people to go where they decide to go, they will decide where they're safe. They will decide when they want to move and not move. And the same goes for us - that we need safety to deliver aid to wherever those people go.

Number five: Allow us - humanitarian organizations - to expand the number of safe shelters for displaced people in schools and other public facilities across Gaza. This is an absolutely central part of UNRWA's preparedness - UNRWA, which thank God for UNRWA, is in existence and is still the buffer between survival and tragedy for so many people in Gaza. And it needs the opportunity to expand the number of safe shelters across the south.

For example, it could take an agreement with the Palestinian Authority to use PA schools to expand shelters for those fleeing south. We've all heard about the way in which UNRWA institutions, schools, hospitals and elsewhere are flooded with IDPs [internally displaced people].

We need to expand the numbers of such institutions in the south. I'm not saying that all the people will go all to these shelters where we raise the UN flag to say, this is a UN-protected institution. But it gives us at least a little bit more chance to help people be safe.

Number six: Improve a humanitarian notification mechanism. I expect it's familiar to most of you. But in all countries in conflict - whether it's Syria, Ukraine, Yemen, where I spent a lot of time, and indeed Gaza - for many, many years, the humanitarian community has used a no-

tification system, a humanitarian notification system, to deconflict specific places which are protected, either protected under humanitarian law - like hospitals, schools and other places - or to tell the parties this is where we will be moving, from A to B to C, to deliver aid.

We notify the parties, whether it's in Ukraine, or Gaza or elsewhere, of what our plans are, so that they are on notice not to attack us, to allow what humanitarian law again requires: the safe passage of humanitarian assistance.

Number seven: Part of the approach, in the south, is to set up, establish and work from relief distribution hubs. There will be people who take shelter, as I have already referred to, who can receive aid directly where they are. There will be other people who are in houses or moving around or other places to live in.

And we will need distribution hubs to which they can come or from which we can go to deliver food, medical supplies and other items to them on a continuous basis. I spent some time in the last year in Ukraine, for example, where these distribution hubs, especially through the winter, were key, the key part of a humanitarian operation. It should be no different in Gaza.

Number eight: Fundamental - allow civilians to move to safer areas and to voluntarily return to their residences in the north, if they so desire. The freedom of movement of civilians in war is a fundamental privilege and requirement of international humanitarian law. You will have seen various statements of my colleagues in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee about the idea of safe zones, opposing the idea of safe zones.

The United Nations has a history on

safe zones. We remember Srebrenica, we remember what happened then, and we know the requirements - legally and operationally - to make a zone safe, including, by the way, for example, that all parties should agree to this being a safe zone. So, we are not enthusiastic about such safe zones. But we also insist that, in any case, it is not for us or others to decide where people should go.

They should decide, if they want to decide to go to where is designated and is proposed as a safe zone, let it be. Let it be their decision, and we will, of course, provide assistance to them there. But we will not be part of an establishment of a safe zone which does not meet the requirements that we have found, through our own bitter experience, so demanding.

Number nine: Funding, boring as it is, \$1.2 billion of an emergency appeal for the operation. I think we are into [\$132] million so far. I was talking yesterday to Lynn Hastings, the Humanitarian Coordinator, based in Jerusalem, for the Occupied Territory, and I was asking her the question you write, which is: What do you really need now? She said fuel, money - money to fund the operation. We have incidentally around 460 trucks in Al Arish, in Rafah area, ready to go in.

And I am very grateful to hear today through the Secretary-General himself, that the Israeli Government has decided, and we thank them, not to put a cap on the number of trucks going in. We have the trucks, we need the fuel, and we need the money to fund the delivery. And then we can do the job that we are there to do.

Finally: Implement a humanitarian ceasefire. There has been a huge, huge discussion, particularly in the Security

Council and elsewhere, on the difference between truces and hudnas and pauses and ceasefire. I have spent 50 years dealing with different words to describe something which is essentially very, very simple: Silence the guns. Stop the fighting to allow the people to move safely.

Do it for as long as possible. Allow them to move safely on their own, not hindered and not pushed. And silence those guns long enough to give the people of Gaza a breather from the terrible, terrible things that have been put on them these last few weeks. This is very, very important.

So, these points together constitute for us an approach which we are applying - it's been going for some time - which we are applying for Gaza and we would apply elsewhere, if for example, the Occupied Territory became severely afflicted.

It's not new. It won't be perfect. It will be messy. It requires from the parties an adherence to humanitarian law and humanity. It requires from the international community funding urgently and quickly and requires from us and my colleagues the courage, which I think they have shown amply in these last few weeks, to go where others would not, but where the Gazans are and where they need their presence.

This article is based on a press briefing in Geneva on 15 November 2023.

Martin Griffiths is UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

IPS UN Bureau

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Cassava thrives in deepening Sino-African agri-cooperation

SANYA

INSIDE an agriculture demonstration center in the Republic of the Congo, machines are automatically cleaning, peeling, slicing and grinding cassava, turning the starchy tubers into flour.

For a long time, cassava crops in the central African nation have been manually peeled, and soaked in water before being dried and ground, a process that can take a few days.

Earlier this year, a cassava flour production line introduced from China was set up at the center in Brazzaville, with the capacity to produce 4,000 tonnes of high-quality flour annually.

"Now we no longer worry about not being able to dry cassavas when it rains. The production is done automatically under the roof," said Congolese minister of agriculture, livestock and fisheries Paul Valentin Ngobo. He added that the stable purchase price offered by the factory will also help increase the income of local farmers.

Cassava is an important staple food in Africa, but its output has long been bottlenecked by a lack of better varieties, advanced farming techniques and processing facilities. China, though not a large producer of cassava, is an important market for the crop and a global research powerhouse of cassava-related technologies.

Amid the booming agricultural cooperation between China and Africa in recent years, new cassava varieties, farming and processing techniques from China are quickly taking root in Africa through technical training and jointly-built demonstration bases.

At the just-concluded Second Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Agriculture held in the city of Sanya in Hainan Province, Chinese agronomists issued a plan to further expand

the area of new cassava varieties and advanced farming techniques to over 500,000 hectares in Africa.

According to the plan issued by the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS), the improved varieties and techniques are expected to raise the yield of the root crops above 17 tonnes per hectare.

Starch-rich cassava provides food for more than 200 million people in Africa and is an important food security crop for the continent long plagued by hunger and malnutrition.

However, due to a lack of good varieties and cultivation technologies, experts and officials said the per-hectare cassava yield in Africa was only about 8.5 tonnes in 2021, lower than the global average.

Chinese institutes, meanwhile, have risen to the forefront of cassava technologies amid the country's drive to ensure food security and to turn cassavas into an important industrial ingredient. The CATAS, for instance, has bred more than 20 high-yielding, disease-resistant cassava varieties, and developed various cassava cultivation and processing technologies.

Such new varieties and technologies have so far been popularized on more than 666,000 hectares of land outside China.

At the 59-hectare Congolese center built with Chinese support, an improved cassava variety has achieved an annual yield of 51 tonnes per hectare, 56 times that of local varieties, according to CATAS.

"Through cooperation, we've collected more than 900 samples of cassava germplasm resources from China and beyond. We then used them to develop good-quality hybrid varieties and shared them with our African partners," said Li Kaimian, vice head of the CATAS.



Li Keming (L), an expert from the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences, checks the growth of crop on a plantation with his Congolese colleague at the China-Aid Agriculture Technology Demonstration Center in Brazzaville, the Republic of the Congo.

The institute has now expanded the cassava cooperation to the industrial sector, having set up automatic production lines for cassava flour, biscuits and crisps in countries including Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda, Li said.

"Two major problems faced in Africa are the low per-hectare output of cassavas and the lack of processing to help the crops grown by small farmers enter the market," said Xie Jianghui, vice head of the CATAS. He added that the institute now has the dual goal of both revving up the cassava yield to bolster food security in Africa and raising small farmers' income to reduce poverty.

Cooperation in cassava farming represents the latest outcome of the burgeoning agricultural collabora-

tion between China and Africa.

Over the past decade, China has set up 24 agricultural technology demonstration centers in Africa and popularized more than 300 advanced agricultural technologies, which have increased local crop yields by an average of 30 to 60 percent, said Tang Renjian, China's minister of agriculture and rural affairs.

By the end of 2021, agricultural investment by Chinese enterprises in Africa had reached 12.8 billion yuan (about 1.77 billion U.S. dollars), growing at an average annual rate of 11.4 percent, Tang added.

As farm yields increase in Africa, the two sides are also deepening cooperation on trade to allow more African produce to enter the expanding Chinese

market.

In 2023, the trade volume of agricultural products between China and Africa is expected to exceed 10 billion U.S. dollars, nearly doubling that of a decade ago, according to Tang.

"China is the world's largest developing country, and Africa is home to the largest number of developing countries. China and Africa have long formed a community of shared future," said Liu Guodao, from the Chinese Society for Tropical Crops.

Liu said that China has a small tropical area, while Africa has a tropical area more than 60 times that of China. "Cooperation in tropical agriculture between China and Africa is a basic and concrete measure in reducing poverty and benefiting farmers."

Sub-Saharan Africa boasts over 100 world heritage sites

By Tom Page

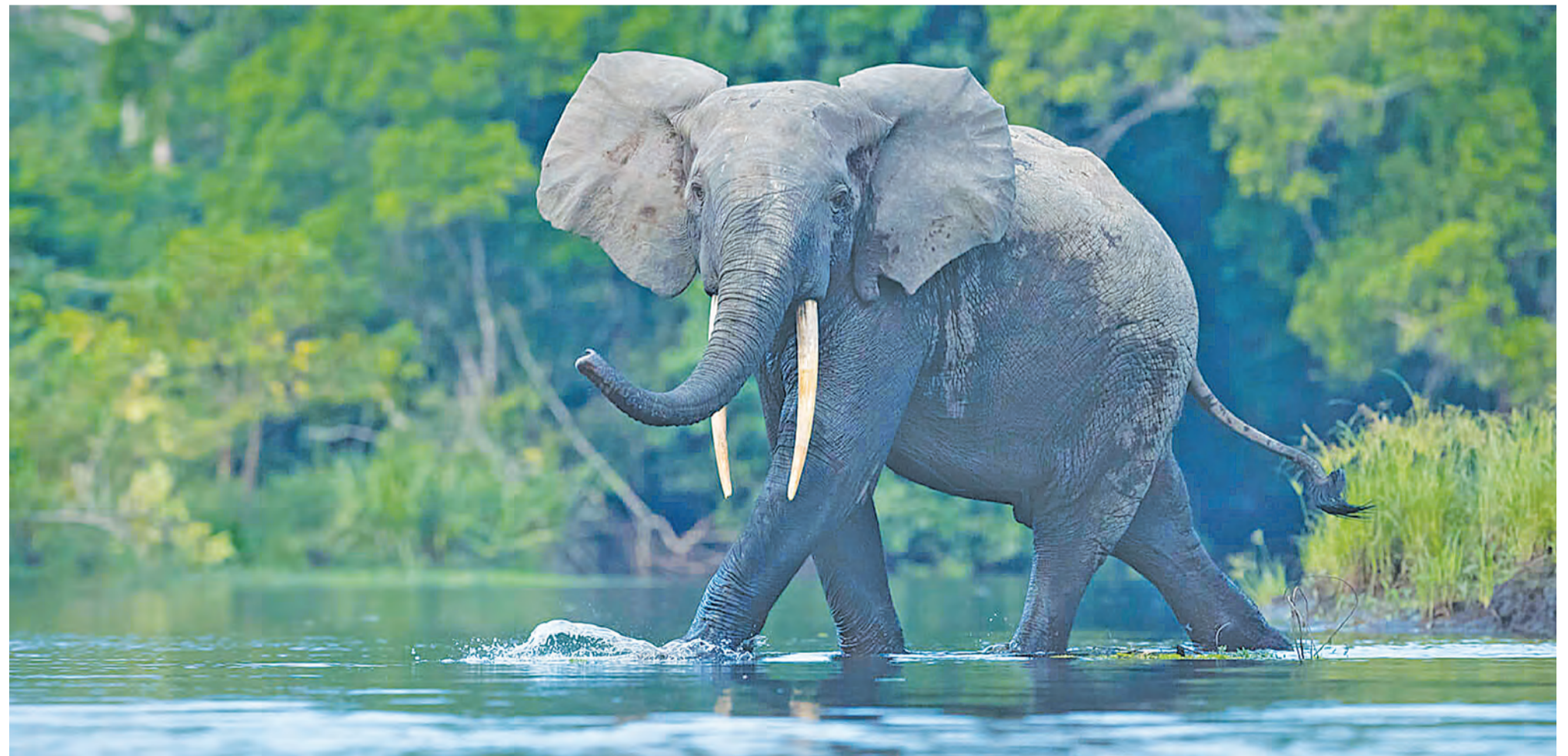
SUPPORTERS of Africa's cultural and natural heritage recently had cause to celebrate. At the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee in September, UNESCO announced five new locations had joined the list of World Heritage Sites, taking sub-Saharan Africa's total over 100 for the first time.

Rwanda's first two World Heritage Sites were named among 42 new entries worldwide. One, Nyungwe National Park, has a diverse topography including forests and peat bogs, and is home to the Eastern Chimpanzee, Golden Monkey and other endemic species. The other is a collection of sites in Nyamata, Murambi, Gisozi and Bisesero, memorializing the 1994 genocide that targeted Rwanda's Tutsi population.

Ethiopia's 215,000-hectare (531,000-acre) Bale Mountains National Park, which includes the continent's largest afro-alpine habitat, and Gedeo Cultural Landscape, home to 250,000 indigenous Gedeo people in the Eastern Highlands, were also inscribed on the World Heritage list, along with the Forest Massif of Odzala-Kokoua in the Republic of Congo, a vital habitat for the region's forest elephants.

But that good news was tempered by the understanding that the continent still has a long way to go when it comes to recognition of its heritage. Sub-Saharan Africa, home to 1.2 billion people, contains less than 10% of sites inscribed on the list. Moreover, Africa has a higher percentage of World Heritage sites in danger than any other continent, and 11 countries (Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia and South Sudan) do not have a single entry on the list.

There are currently 1,199 World Heritage sites, benefitting from the conservation agreements and tourism that come with that status. UNESCO lists 103 of those sites in its Africa region, which does not feature Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan and



An African forest elephant in Odzala-Kokoua National Park in DRC. The park, a new UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a stronghold for the animal.

Tunisia - countries that have a total of 42 World Heritage Sites - which UNESCO includes in its Arab States region.

To qualify, a site must be of "outstanding universal value" and meet at least one of 10 criteria, such as representing "a masterpiece of human creative genius," containing "superlative natural phenomena," or bearing "exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared." Africa is not lacking these. So why the historic under-representation?

Lazare Eloundou Assomo, director of World Heritage, says multiple factors have contributed. One is that some nations were slow to ratify the 1972 World Heritage convention, allowing them to submit applications for World Heritage status. (Somalia, for example, only ratified the convention in 2020.) Another factor is a historic lack of expertise and capacity in some countries to identify and nominate prospective sites, he says.

There's also no escaping the fact the nomination process can be long and expensive. It takes at least two years for a site to go from nomination to inscription on the World Heritage list, says UNESCO, and can demand resources that some nations simply might not have at their disposal.

African forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) in Lekoli River, Odzala-Kokoua National Park, Cuvette-Ouest Region, Republic of the Congo. (Photo by: Education Images/Universal Images Group via Getty Images)

To tackle these challenges, UNESCO has announced "Priority Africa," a plan to boost identification and preservation across the continent between now and 2029.

"This new strategy is bringing a new momentum," says Eloundou Assomo, pointing to previous global initiatives to bring balance to the World Heritage list, dating back to 1994.

"By 2025, we will make sure that most of the African countries that do not have a World Heritage Site have at least started preparing a nomination dossier," he says, adding he hopes that every African nation currently without a site on the list will have one by the end of the decade.

The World Heritage director - from Cameroon, and the first African to hold the position - says there are more local resources and expertise than ever before to help maintain heritage sites. UNESCO has also partnered with the African World Heritage Fund on a mentorship program to train professionals from a "younger generation, so that they can be the experts and caretakers of tomorrow," says Eloundou Assomo.

Another goal of the strategy is to work to reduce the number of African sites listed as "World Heritage in Danger." Human conflict and natural disaster, urban development, poaching, pollution and unchecked tourism can all pose a threat, says UNESCO. Fifteen sites in UNESCO's Africa tally are listed as in danger and UNESCO wants to work with its partners to halve that number by 2029.

In positive news, one site in Uganda, the 19th century Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi, in Kampala, was recently removed from the in-danger list after a 13-year effort to restore their indigenous architecture after a fire ripped through the tombs in 2010.

Eloundou Assomo says that even in the most challenging cir-

cumstances, "it is paramount to support African countries in their effort (to preserve their heritage)."

"World heritage is considered part of the soul of nations and soul of communities," Eloundou Assomo says. "Their destruction is the disappearance of some identity."

"If people protect (heritage sites), it helps people rebuild themselves ... They have what defines them; because they know their past, they can build for the future," he adds.

The six-year mission from UNESCO is but the blink of an eye for some of the continent's oldest and most venerated locations. While it is down to individual nations to submit applications for inclusion on the list, the director did let slip one place he'd like to see inscribed in the future: the Bissagos Islands. The archipelago off the coast of Guinea-Bissau is not only a biodiversity hotspot, it is also populated by a matriarchal society, and would become the nation's first World Heritage Site.

Eloundou Assomo stresses that countries should look broadly at what they might want to submit to UNESCO for consideration.

"You don't (need to) have an Eiffel Tower (to) propose a World Heritage Site," he says. "It's not only the monumental - there are a variety of sites everywhere in the world that have the potential to join the list."

Guns to gangs: 'Prove our stolen firearms were used in killings'

By Caryn Dolley

NATIONAL police commissioner General Fanie Masemola says members of class action proceedings - Western Cape families of people murdered with allegedly cop-smuggled firearms - will need to prove the guns were channelled via a corrupt officer.

If they cannot do so, he adds, they may not be classified as part of the class action.

Masemola's stance on the Western Cape lawsuit, which is still at an early stage, is part of an affidavit he signed in Pretoria on 2 October that Daily Maverick has seen.

'Prove cop corruption'

It suggests that, although the South African Police Service (SAPS) is not totally against the class action, it will be up to the 10 applicants in the case to prove that specific police corruption resulted in the shootings that affected them.

This could be tricky because that information probably resides with the SAPS.

Daily Maverick previously reported that a group of Western Cape families of individuals murdered with police-smuggled firearms - as well as survivors of such crimes - wanted compensation for what they had been through.

In May 2023, documents to apply for certification of the class action were lodged in the Western Cape High Court.

Gun Free South Africa (GFSA) was driving the proceedings, in which damages were being sought from Police Minister Bheki Cele. Masemola and provincial police bosses were also cited as respondents in the case.

Project Impi origins

The lawsuit hinges on Project Impi - South Africa's biggest firearm smuggling investigation - that led to the arrest of Chris Prinsloo, now a former police colonel who confessed to selling firearms that had been consigned to be destroyed.

Some of these weapons ended up with gangsters in the Western Cape.

According to Project Impi investigations, about 2,000 cop-smuggled firearms could be linked to the shooting of 261 children - as well as 1,666 murders and 1,403 attempted murders.

In 2016, Prinsloo was convicted and sentenced to 18 years in jail, but he served only four years of his prison sentence.

Meanwhile, in 2016, Project Impi collapsed and its investigators, including former policeman Jeremy Vearey, claimed SAPS bosses had undermined it.

Project Impi firearms are alleged to have affected nine of the 10 applicants in the class action lawsuit.



Marche Karelse of Manenberg weeps as she explains she is afraid every time she goes home as gun violence is so rife in the Cape Town suburb where she lives. Manenberg. (Photo Brenton Geach)

Ballistic evidence will be needed
In his affidavit in the case, Masemola says ballistic evidence will be needed for every claim against the SAPS, with proof that the firearms used in crimes had been

linked to Prinsloo.
He refers to various incidents, including one linked to Melanie Kiel, an applicant in the case who, in an affidavit of her own, says her son Dudley Richards was murdered in Mitchells Plain in 2013.

Masemola says he went through the ballistics reports in that case and an investigating officer's affidavit.

"No firearm was retrieved at the crime scene," he says.

"No link to any 'Prinsloo firearm' was established."

'No Prinsloo links'

Masemola also refers to another case, involving Simone Julies, whose two young sons, Mogamat Nazeer and Mogamat Moeneer, were wounded in October 2014 in Mitchells Plain.

The police boss says that after the shooting "no firearms were retrieved and the cartridge cases retrieved at the scene could not be linked to any firearm".

Masemola again adds: "No link to any 'Prinsloo firearm' was established."

He says for an applicant to be classified as a member of the class action lawsuit, "each will first need to prove that the injuries, which allegedly give rise to their claim for damages, did, in fact, arise from the use of a 'Prinsloo firearm'".

Until the applicants can prove that, they cannot be part of the class action, he adds.

"In each instance, apart from the events surrounding the shooting, applicants will be required to separately provide detailed ballistic evidence in regard to the firearms and/or cartridge cases and bullets relevant to their matter, in an attempt to establish that the firearm in questions was a 'Prinsloo firearm'," reads the affidavit.

Aside from selling police guns to gangsters,

Prinsloo was also involved in distributing military and heritage firearms.

Which gun is which?

Masemola, in his affidavit, says this means that even if an applicant can prove a Prinsloo firearm was used in an incident, it might not be clear that the gun emanated from the SAPS, or was from a SA National Defence Force or a heritage source. It is not yet apparent what will happen next in the lawsuit.

Daily Maverick has previously reported extensively on alleged police corruption involving firearms.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charl Kinnear, who was assassinated outside his Bishop Lavis home in Cape Town in September 2020, had been investigating how police colleagues in Gauteng were allegedly creating fraudulent firearm licences for suspected criminals.

'28s gang boss' is linked

Another case in which similar allegations have surfaced involves 28s gang boss accused Ralph Stanfield, who, together with his wife Nicole Johnson, was arrested at the end of September this year.

At the time of their arrests for charges including fraud, they were already facing accusations stemming from a criminal case that started developing in 2014.

That case is based on allegations that three (now former) police officers linked to the Central Firearm Registry - Priscilla Manganyi, Billy April and Mary Cartwright - issued gun licences to Stanfield and others who had no legal right to them.

This matter is expected to resume next month.

DM

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 26 -

15. Worldwide
16. a plateau
19. a devious or cunning stratagem
20. besides
21. of little depth
23. a utility vehicle in USA
24. female swan
25. the solution to a problem
26. a young girl

DOWN:
1. second largest port in Tanzania
2. the first couple in Biblical history
3. natives of Boeotia
4. a strange person
5. label again
6. self-confidence
7. half of two
8. in opposition to
9. a device controlling a flow of liquid from a pipe
13. a former measure of length
17. bastard wing
18. conscious or international actions
19. at what time
21. a bath containing hot aerated water
22. a rower

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

- DENY
- TRY , DUO
- LEECH
- DIVE
- THEY
- SOT
- NOISE
- LOT
- KIOSK
- KIND
- OLIVE
- MONO
- OILER
- SEED
- SHOE

Yesterday's solution

ACROSS:
1. modern name of Kazeh
6. a deep wide trench filled with water
10. a house or home
11. speakers of Polynesian language
12. used in sewing
14. gather a crop



RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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UNDP donates drying fish racks to Bagamoyo and Pangani fishermen

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) has donated the twenty drying fish racks to fishermen in Pangani and Bagamoyo districts to meet market requirements, improve quality and standards of dried sardines.

Prudence Constantine, the Director of Emergency Operation and Communications Centre in the Minister of State at the Prime Minister's Office said over the weekend in Bagamoyo district, Coast region that the donation is co-funded by the UNDP-Japan project.

He said 600 artisan fisheries (women and youth) in the Mafia, Bagamoyo, and Pangani Coast region were provided intensive capacity-building training on business management and entrepreneurship skills.

He said with support to three cooperative societies in Bagamoyo, Pangani, and Mafia for preparation of feasibility study reports and financial models for the Sardine Drying facilities.

The installation of 20 dry fish racks in Bagamoyo and Pangani will help fishermen meet market requirements and improve the quality and standards of dried sardines.

Constantine said UNDP supported Tanzania to establish a mechanism to oversee maritime safety and security activities to tackle illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, maritime pollution, smuggling, and trafficking.

In addition to the aforementioned initiative, the project will also provide a high-speed patrol boat to enhance the safety of the Indian Ocean coast.

The director urged all beneficiaries of the project to make the facilities more sustainable to empower women and youth businesses in Bagamoyo, Pangani, and Mafia.

Pangani Lord Mayor Akida Baholela said expressed gratitude for the assistance from UNDP and the Government of Japan, dedicated to supporting the youth and women in Pangani specifically Kipumbwi village.

"It is anticipated that 61 percent of trained males and 39 percent of trained

females will utilize the newly equipped 10 dry fish racks to dry 1,000 kilograms of fish," he stated

UNDP Head of Inclusive Growth Pillar Emmanuel Nnko said they have handing over 20 fish drying racks in Bagamoyo and Kipumbwi, to replace the age-old tradition of drying fish on the sand or floor.

"This initiative promises to enhance their fish products' quality and create opportunities for increased income, thanks to UNDP, institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP), PMO, and Japan's Government financial support. This partnership stands as a beacon of positive change, economic empowerment, and sustainable practices across three districts," he said

The Coordinator for Economic Cooperation at the Japan Embassy Chie Miyashita, expressed that the government of Japan is proud to support Tanzania's initiatives to expedite economic empowerment for women and youth and enhance the capacity of SMEs in Bagamoyo, Pangani, and Mafia.

She emphasized that the Embassy of Japan is dedicated to supporting women and youth in improving sustainable productivity, climate resilience, and the commercialization of fisheries.

The UNDP and IRDP have collaborated to develop feasibility studies and business plans for cooperatives in the districts of Pangani, Bagamoyo, and Mafia.

The main objective of the collaboration is to empower small-scale fisheries and enhance the value of sea crops such as sardines, seaweed, and sea cucumbers.

The business plans that have been developed for these three districts will enable access to financing from financial institutions, which will support the construction of the fisheries industry and enhance the value of sea crops for both the local and international markets.

The event was attended by senior representatives from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), UNDP, the Embassy of Japan, IRDP, and other stakeholders.

NMB Bank disburses 1.8trn/- in loans to 168,900 women SMEs

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank has dished out over 1.8trn/- to 168,600 women Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) during the first 10 months (January to October) this year cementing the bank's role in catalyzing sustainable economic growth.

This aligns with the bank's ambitious strategy that seeks to enhance women's economic empowerment across the country.

Speaking during a women networking event held by the bank in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, the NMB Bank Chief Shared Services Nyenyata Mejooli reiterated the bank's commitment to supporting financial inclusion for women adding that her bank believes that women empowerment is a catalyst to sustainable socio-economic development.

"At NMB bank, we are committed to bridge the financial inclusion gap and we will continue to work towards our aspiration by extending banking services to the under-banked across the country including women. So far this year, we have already



NMB Bank's Chief if Shared Services, Nyenyata Mejooli (C), has a word with the Chairperson of the National Women Empowerment Forum, Fatma Kange (L), at a meeting held in Dar es Salaam organized by the Bank and which brought together leaders of various women-led institutions. They are with NMB Bank Dar es Salaam acting zone manager, Ferdinand Mpona. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

opened 2.3 million accounts for women this year," Mejooli said.

Mejooli said that as part of fulfilling its commitment to women empowerment, her bank in November 2020, launched its 'Jasiri Bond' proposition, a platform that seeks to empower and drive financial inclusion for women

across various sectors not only in Tanzania but Sub-Saharan Africa as well.

"The proceedings of the bond aimed at providing affordable financing to women-led businesses and businesses that directly affect women," she added. Mejooli noted that the bank will continue rolling out financial literacy cam-

paigns across the country as part of its efforts to build capacity for various groups including women.

The NMB Bank Head of Business Alex Mgeni during the event noted that the bank has already embarked on plans to establish a national women database so as to ensure that it provides tailor-made

banking services to women across various sectors.

"We have already identified some of the key sectors and our quest is to ensure that we bring on board all the women in our database. This database will ensure that we provide both tailor-made and timely banking services to women," Mgeni said.

Dar students benefit from education on banking, financial management



NBC Bank chief operations officer, Alelio Lowassa (standing), speaks to students of Dar es Salaam Tambaza Secondary School, who participated in a short seminar on financial education and savings conducted by the bank at the school at the weekend. Also present were the Headmaster of the School, Hussein Mavumba (2nd R), teachers, and other senior officials of the bank. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

CROSS-section of Tambaza Secondary School students have benefited with education on banking issues and the importance of cultivating a savings culture, thanks to the initiative made by the National Bank of Commerce (NBC).

The bank's initiative aims to provide opportunities for the students to learn about financial matters in order to cultivate a culture of saving, develop entrepreneurial ideas, and understand how to use financial institutions to build their economy.

The seminar led by NBC's head of operations, Alelio Lowassa, accompanied by other senior officials from the bank, including the head of customer service, Salama Mussa, Director of Audit Department, Fulgence Shiraji, and other officials, took place in the school. The Tambaza Headmaster, Hussein Mavumba, and some teachers and students, hosted the event.

Lowassa stated that it is important because it aims to build financial awareness and skills in the young generation, including those who are expected to complete secondary education and pursue higher education, as well as those who will enter the workforce.

"Financial education for students is important because it enables them to understand early on how to manage and control their finances, create and follow budgets, and make sound financial decisions. It also teaches them the importance of saving, investing, and using credit wisely. We believe that these are the entrepreneurs, investors, and officials of tomorrow, so it is important to start preparing them early so that they can also learn how to use financial institutions to uplift themselves," she explained.

She said that the lack of financial and entrepreneurial education among students has been causing some of them to struggle to keep up with the economic pace in their communities when they graduate, resulting in them falling into the trap of poverty, especially when they can't find employment.

"This situation has been leading some of them to engage in drug abuse and other immoral activities within society," she said.

The training included presentations on various topics related to finance and entrepreneurship, as well as providing opportunities for the students to respond to and discuss various aspects related to the topics. Various prizes, includ-

ing jerseys from clubs participating in the NBC Premier League, footballs, and personal gifts, were handed over to the school management and different students. While at the school, bank officials also participated in a tree planting activity for fruit and shade trees in the school premises.

School headmaster, Mavumba, expressed his gratitude to NBC Bank for providing the training and emphasized its importance. He highlighted that this education would benefit the students, especially those about to graduate, by equipping them with knowledge about saving and entrepreneurial skills, even if they couldn't pursue higher education.

"These kinds of sessions are very important, unfortunately not all students have been able to receive it. Not all graduating students are successful in finding employment, but many of them decide to be self-employed. In such cases, entrepreneurship education and proper financial management can be more beneficial to them. Even those who continue with higher education find this education very helpful in saving and using the funds they receive from the government as student loans...we thank NBC for this education and

the various gifts they have provided us," he expressed his gratitude." He mentioned.

Speaking on behalf of their fellow students, Siti Omary and Erick Massawe thanked NBC Bank for providing the training and promised to put it into practice, especially in the field of saving. Furthermore, they pledged to continue being ambassadors to spread this education to other students due to its importance.

"We are very grateful to NBC for deciding to bring this important education to us. We believe that this education will also be provided to our peers in other schools because many of us are still facing challenges in understanding the importance of saving and lack entrepreneurial education. This is the reason why we have seen many of our colleagues struggling to start their own businesses after graduation and relying on employment," said Siti.

The step is just a continuation of the bank's efforts in education, where through its Wajibika programme; it has provided scholarships to 1000 students studying vocational training through VETA (Vocational Education and Training Authority) in the country.

IFC invests Sh 32 billion in Kenya's biofuel project

NAIROBI

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is set to invest Sh31.96 billion (\$210 million) in an agribusiness project by Italian firm, Eni Kenya.

The IFC said the investment in the form of a senior loan will support capital requirements by Eni Kenya towards the construction and operation of agri-processing plants in the country.

The project is projected to cost Sh32.41 billion (\$213 million) with the World Bank's private sector lending arm promising to help mobilise an additional Sh11.41 billion (\$75 million) from other lenders.

Eni has initiated a biofuel project in Kenya that involves the contractual engagement of third-party farmers and aggregators to supply oil seeds (feedstock) to Eni-owned agri-processing plants in Makuani and Kwale counties. Eni Kenya's third agri-processing plant is planned for construction in Nakuru county and a fourth at a location yet to be determined.

In the strategy by Eni Kenya, the seeds will be processed to produce vegetable oils for export to Eni bio-refineries in Italy and further refined into different bio-energy products (biofuels).

The firm will develop and oversee supply chains for the agri-hubs, includ-

ing 200,000 hectares of oilseeds production, and reaching over 200,000 smallholder farmers through contracted aggregators.

"The biofuels will be International Sustainability and Carbon Certification certified as advanced biofuels, being produced from "low indirect land-use change" feedstocks that do not compete with food production because these non-edible oilseeds, like castor and croton, are grown on degraded lands not suitable for food production and/or are grown in rotation/intercropping with food crops," the IFC said.

Testing the market Eni Kenya in October 2022 announced that it had shipped out its first batch of vegetable oil for biorefining, raising the prospects of its production hub in Makuani.

The firm exported the cargo to its Gela bio-refinery in Sicily as it targets to produce 2,500 tonnes of bio-fuel by the end of 2022 and 20,000 tonnes by the end of this year.

The shipment marked the pilot phase of Kenya's bid to produce aviation fuel and hydrogenated vegetable oil diesel and cut reliance on pure fossil fuels.

Production of biofuel is part of the global shift to clean fuels and reduce carbon emissions that have significantly polluted the environment.

Nigeria's current financial system favours the rich against the poor

LAGOS

At the backdrop of the surging inflation, financial market's response has indicated that low income earners are now at the receiving end while high net-worth individuals (HNIs) and big corporate organizations are reaping the benefits in investment income.

Recall that the National Bureau of Statistics, NBS, this week's figures on inflation shows 27.33 percent Year on Year (YoY) for the month of October 2023, the 10th consecutive monthly rise and also the highest inflation rate in 18 years.

The Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, in response to the development since this year, had triggered off its inflation targeting monetary policy strategy which includes raising Monetary Policy Rate (MPR).

Consequently interest rates have been on steady rise in the money market while liquidity remained high also.

Vanguard findings however, revealed that the HNIs and highly liquid corporate organizations have been cashing-in on the development to invest huge resources in financial assets especially in fixed income market as well as equities, raking huge returns since this year.

Fixed deposit rates have gone up on record highs averaging at 15 percent in the third quarter of this year while many fixed income securities are trending at 17 percent.

These are coming at the backdrop of CBN's high MPR rate which hit 18.75 percent in the third quarter with likelihood of further rise in the next Monetary Policy Committee, MPC, meeting scheduled for next

week.

Also returns on equity investments as at third quarter is on record high of 35 percent, one of the best worldwide, a development which appears strange because a rising fixed income returns usually leads to a declining return in equities.

But the low income earners have been constrained by the rising inflation which sapped their purchasing power and hindered their ability to save or invest.

Vanguard findings also show that while the HNIs and big businesses get higher interest rate on their huge cash deposits they also get lowest interest rate on loans and almost unlimited access to credit.

But on the other hand, low income earners and small businesses get low interest rate on their little savings and in some cases the interest is wiped out into negative by bank charges.

Moreover, they have little or no access to loans and the ones that could have some loan considerations are burdened with lending rates far higher than the prime rate the HNIs and big businesses get.

Consequently, economists warn about looming danger of escalating poverty amidst huge financial returns in the economy, with the institutionalization of the poor getting poorer while the rich get richer syndrome.

However, analysts who spoke to Vanguard explained the situation, giving diverse reasons why the situation emerged and is likely to remain or even worsen in the near future.

Reacting to the disparity in money market skewed against low income earners, David Adonri, Analyst and Vice Executive Chairman at Highcap



Securities Limited said: "Intermediators in the financial services industry aim at maximization of income and minimization of costs or risks. Except in the capital market where commission charges are statutorily regulated, pricing of services in the money market are unregulated.

"Usually, demand deposits (current and savings) are quite volatile and attract low interests but the rates on fixed deposits are much higher because of their longer maturity profile.

"Fixed deposits give banks more profit as they can be used to create less risky assets by the banks. The higher rate on fixed deposit serves as incentive to depositors to move their funds there.

"Risk and return underlies the charging of lower rate to prime depositors."

On the credit side, he maintained that the banks are safer with prime customers who are the HNIs and big corporate.

He stated: "The propensity for credits to prime customers to go de-

linquent is much lower compared to the higher risk inherent in MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) lending.

"To compensate for this higher risks, lenders charge additional risk premium.

"Interest rate and fees charged by Money Market intermediaries were deregulated several years ago. They are now market driven."

Negotiating power is in favour of big customers – CEO, Wyoming Capital

In his own comment, Tajudeen Olayinka, analyst and CEO, Wyoming Capital & Partners Limited, said: "Some factors are responsible for the observed disparity in the treatment of big customers and small ones by banks, namely: Negotiating power of depositors often favour high net-worth individuals and institutional investors who have huge amount of money to deposit with the banks because they are able to key into the liquidity management strategies of the banks.

"Tenor of fixed deposits in banks

is much longer and reliable for asset and liability management and profitability.

"Emergency liquidity support is possible with high networth individuals and institutional investors, as they bond easily to a desirous partnership arrangement with the banks.

"Small savers and low volume current account holders can withdraw money without notice, thus, disrupting smooth operations of the banks".

On the disparity in lending rates, he stated: "Banks need to manage liquidity in a more profitable manner, and so, lend to their prime customers, using their respective prime lending rates.

"Other customers, including MSMEs, receive credit facilities at Prime plus Risk-Weighted Rates. This is just natural. Prime customers are known to maintain steady and profitable cashflows.

"Regulators can only use moral suasion where they perceive abnormal situation in bankers-customers relationship, otherwise, market should be allowed to determine interest rate and allocate resources in the most efficient manner." "Over-regulation of interest rate can place enormous pressure on markets and put the economy in a state of disequilibrium."

Dwelling heavily on how the recent rising inflation as well as returns on money market investments is in favour of big players in the financial markets, analysts at Afrinvest West Africa, a Lagos based investment house, stated:

"For the fixed-income market, the average T-bills yield jumped 3.1 percentage points (ppts) in October to 11.4% while FGN Bond's average yield

rose 94 bases points (bps) to 15.4%.

"Looking ahead, we believe the expectation of continued inflation uptick in the near term and CBN's renewed embracement of orthodox strategy could help sustain yield uptick in both the primary and secondary Fixed Income market segments while driving an improvement in foreign investment flows".

Looking into the immediate future, analysts at WTI Financial Services, another Lagos based investment house, indicated that the imperative of counter-inflation policy would compel CBN to retain the interest rate environment.

They stated: "As per the scheduled calendar, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is slated to convene next week, November 20th - 21st, 2023. "Considering the country's negative real return due to the elevated inflation rate, we expect the committee to maintain its tightening stance.

"The CBN started using Open Market Operations (OMO) as a liquidity management tool, a move that increased the stop rate to 17.98% (1-year), thereby narrowing the gap with the MPR (18.75%).

"Furthermore, 364-day treasury bill rose to 16.75% (spot rate) in the last auction. The hikes in the fixed income market shows the monetary authorities wants to keep the Naira attractive to both local and foreign investors (FPI).

"The equities market might experience bearish trend due to higher opportunity costs in the fixed income market. The implication of higher interest rates for equities is the reallocation of funds by investors to capture higher yields."

Gugulethu latest South African mine to get 5G

Cape Town

Gugulethu, a recently established coal mine in South Africa, will integrate 5G technology into its operations as a result of a collaboration between Huawei, Menar, and MTN.

This comes as Gugulethu, in eastern Mpumalanga, gets closer to beginning production in early 2024.

Canyon Coal, a subsidiary of the private investment firm Menar, manages Gugulethu (which translates as "out treasure" in vernacular).

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) inked in Cape Town by Menar, mobile network operator MTN, and technology giant Huawei will allow the mine to install private 5G technology on its premises.

Menar's chief innovation officer, Cleavon Moothoosamy, stated that the MOU represents the company's commitment to embracing technology throughout its operations.

"We want to be at the forefront of mining innovation, and this partnership is a

bold step towards a future where technology and connectivity redefine the mining landscape," Moothoosamy added.

Following the signing of the MOU, the parties concerned are looking forward to further discussions, including the possibility of launching a three-phased project to install 5G connectivity on the mine campus and shafts, among other things.

"Huawei's technological infrastructure serves as the backbone of this venture and could enable us to leverage cutting-edge solutions to drive productivity and sustainable practises within our operations," he said.

MTN stated that it is happy to be taking the lead on the project by utilising its network and systems to support the growth and sustainability of its enterprise customers in South Africa, where 5G technology is gradually being adopted.

Tumi Chamayou, MTN's chief business enterprise officer, remarked that the network investment positions the operator to provide faster network access to its consumers.

Gugulethu is the Menar stable's second



mine to partner with MTN and Huawei.

Canyon Coal's Phalannwa Colliery in Mpumalanga reached an agreement in December 2022 that will see the mine embrace 5G technology.

"Importantly, 5G supports AI-based real-time analytics, enabling data-driven decision making, which is critical in the mining environment," said Jason Shao, Account Director at Huawei MTN KAD.

2Africa subsea cable to land in Lagos this month

LAGOS

Nigeria's deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, Benjamin Kalu, has welcomed the forthcoming landing of the 2Africa subsea cable in Lagos and Akwa Ibom states.

The lawmaker expressed his anticipation of the benefits it will bring, on Tuesday, while receiving a delegation, at the National Assembly Complex, from Meta Platforms (formerly Facebook). The senior company representatives present included Meta's vice president of Public Policy for Africa, Kojo Boakye, and Meta's director: West Africa, Adaora Ikenze.

Separately, speaking at the Global Tech Africa Conference yesterday, Abdulahi Kashifu, director general, National Information Technology Agency, confirmed that the cable will be landing in Nigeria, this month.

When completed, the 2Africa subsea cable project will encircle Africa, and, at 45,000km, will be the world's longest undersea cable to date.

The cable is backed by Meta, and its arrival follows on the heels of the 12,000km Google-backed Equiano undersea cable, which landed in April 2022.

In a statement, Kalu welcomed Meta's contributions to Nigeria's digital economy, particularly its investments in fibre optic cables, mobile partnerships, and business support for entrepreneurs and small and medium scale enterprises.

Kalu said: "The news of the 45,000km subsea cable landing is particularly exciting and commendable, given its potential socio-economic impact on the country."

Beyond the socio-economic update, Kalu said the investment in the 2Africa subsea cable landing will improve the quality of telephony services across the country.

Nigeria's Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy, Bosun Tijani noted in a recent report that the country requires new and increased investments for 95,000km of fibre optic cables to improve the quality of telephony services across the country.

Kalu identified that once the cable has landed there will be a need for further investments, as well as other regulations, to leverage the benefits it offers. He said that by January 2024, his office will be convening a sectoral policy dialogue, in collaboration with Advocacy for Civic Engagement Centre, focusing on information technology and innovation.

The lawmaker also noted that the Nigerian government will act responsibly in the deployment of AI, and that it would be done in a manner that guarantees national security.

He said: "As a government, we are committed to fostering innovation and responsible use of AI and emphasis on the responsible use of AI."

Capital importation by manufacturing sector rises 88.2 percent to \$861million

LAGOS

Total capital inflow into the Nigeria's manufacturing sector rose Year-on-Year (YoY) by 88.17 percent in the first half of the year ended June 30, 2023 (H1'23).

Findings from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data showed that inflow into the sector jumped to \$861.17 million in H1'23 from \$457.66 million in H1'22.

The data also shows that the share of inflow to the manufacturing sector to the total capital inflow for the six month period rose to 39.81 percent in H1'23 from 14.73 percent in H1'22, representing a 25.08 percentage point increase. Total capital importation in H1'23 stood at \$2.163 billion.

Inflow through the sector increased Quarter-on-Quarter by 136.2 percent to \$605.04 million in Q2'23 as against \$256.12 million in Q1'22. This also represented



58.73 percent of total capital imported in Q2 2023. The sectoral breakdown shows that the manufacturing sector recorded the highest inflow during the period followed by the banking sector, which attracted \$499.14 million.

The information and technology services, financing, and shares sectors ranked among the top five sectors of interest.

Commenting on the development, Ayorinde Akinloye, an economic and in-

vestment strategist, expressed surprise at the surge in inflow into the manufacturing sector, saying that it was more of an outlier.

He stated: "I don't think there's a broad economic explanation for what happened. It is likely a situation whereby a major piece of equipment was imported into the sector. You will recall that sometime in 2018, Aliko Dangote imported one equipment for his refinery and that sort of boosted imported capital and foreign trade as at that time. That may be what also happened in this case."

Akinloye, however, said that the fact that the surge seen during the period was an outlier would make it difficult to sustain the trend going forward.

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"The economic fundamentals that should aid improvement in capital importation through production and manufacturing are not there. Foreign Exchange (forex) remains a problem; the business operating environment also remains quite difficult," he said.

Africa's cities summit showcases ambitious urbanisation projects

KIGALI

The first-ever Africa's New Cities Summit, occurring from November 16-18, brought together industry experts to enhance collaboration within Africa and address the challenges of rapid urbanisation on the continent.

Acting as a forum for dialogue, the summit aimed to discuss, devise solutions for, and maximise opportunities related to urbanisation.

Organised by the Charter Cities Institute in association with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and the Africa Infrastructure Development Association (AfIDA), the summit is attracting global experts from various sectors of the international development community.

Participants include developers, builders, government representatives, and academics from Germany, the Caribbean, Tanzania, Nigeria, the United States, Zambia, and more.

After the opening ceremony on November 16, with welcome remarks by Kurtis Lockhart, Executive Director of Charter Cities Institute, and Nelly Mukazayire, Deputy CEO of the Rwanda Development Board, a cluster of upcoming projects participated in New Cities Investment Catapult Presentations. Visionaries and stakeholders judged and questioned presenters as they pitched to the panel.

The CEO of Bank of Kigali, Dr Diane Karusisi, and Kingsley Mbah, Senior Managing Advisor and Capital Markets Specialist at AfrEximBank, were among the panel of judges. So were Oliver Schaper, Design Director and Cities and urban Design Leader at Gensler, and Preston Mendenhall, Executive Vice President and Country Head, Kenya, at Rendeavour.

Among the presentations was Milan Heil-



Rwanda Development Board Deputy CEO Nelly Mukazayire delivers remarks during the Africa's new cities summit in Kigali last week.

mann, the project manager of CPS Africa, who shed light on the Fumba Town development in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

Heilmann began his presentation by emphasising the urgency of addressing Africa's rapid urbanisation. "By the end of the century,

Africa is set to host the three largest cities globally: Lagos, Nigeria; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; and Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo," Heilmann said.

"These cities are anticipated to each accommodate over 60 million people by 2100, accentuating the critical

need for housing solutions."

CPS Africa's flagship project, Fumba Town in Zanzibar, aims to tackle this challenge by providing affordable and dignified housing. The project has already made major strides, with more than 600 residential units built in Hobart Town on the west coast of Zanzibar. This effort has generated over 500 jobs, attracted over \$85 million in investments, and garnered interest from clients in over 60 countries worldwide. The future vision for Fumba Town includes constructing 5,000 residential units by 2032, creating 4,000 permanent jobs, and reaching an overall project volume of \$500 million.

The Enyimba Economic City is positioned as a key player in Nigeria's economic diversification efforts, aiming to leverage the country's large market, abundant raw materials, and a young and educated workforce. The economic city is strategically located to serve as a hub for manufacturing, healthcare, education, entertainment, lifestyle interventions, and aviation.

One of the critical aspects highlighted by the Founder and CEO of Crown Realities, Dr Darl Uzu's presentation, was the importance of securing government support and maintaining stability in the face of political changes.

"There's a need for a conducive regulatory environment," Uzu said, highlighting the challenges associated with changes in government.

"Enyimba Economic City aims to host a diverse range of industries, with a current focus on manufacturing. The project has already identified specific sectors, such as electric vehicles and battery production, as areas of interest."

The project, acknowledged by financial institutions like AfrEximBank, has formed

partnerships with international entities and established a financial model in collaboration with Tesla Young. Additionally, it has attracted Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) from China, India, and Indonesia.

Uzu also mentioned Enyimba Economic City's dedication to addressing climate concerns and emissions. The plans include quantifying the project's environmental impact and exploring potential financing through carbon credits.

For Craig Clulow, the Kigali Innovation City, a 62-hectare project supported by the Rwanda Development Board and Africa 50, is committed to creating an integrated mixed-use technology and innovation centre.

"At present, KIC's strategic focus is on technology and innovation, with an emphasis on the creation of a cooperative and cohesive environment," the CEO said during his presentation.

The project, he continued, "boasts partnerships with various stakeholders, including McKinsey, Surbana Jurong, and financial institutions like Qatar National Bank and Nedbank."

KIC has attracted global institutions like Carnegie Mellon University Africa, African Leadership University, and the University of Rwanda Biomedical Science, making it a unique hub for technological innovation education.

He also touched on sustainability, with KIC aiming for LEED Gold certification for its projects and demonstrating commitment to eco-friendly practices.

"Projects like the vaccine manufacturing plant and a pan-African internet exchange provider, PAX, have added to the diverse ecosystem KIC is building," Clulow concluded.

Irembo exec discusses protection of national infrastructure in the new e-government era

KIGALI

The Chief Product and Engineering Officer at Irembo, Patrick Ndjientcheu, on November 16, highlighted the challenges and strategic approaches to ensuring the security of critical national infrastructure in the era of digitized government services.

He was speaking on a panel discussion as part of the African Cyber Defense Forum (ACDF) 2023, taking place in Kigali from November 14 to 17. Ndjientcheu said that Irembo prioritizes security in all aspects of their work and integrates it into their design process.

"Monitoring their services continuously and being proactive in addressing potential threats are key practices in ensuring security," he said.

"We also ensure internal staff's adherence to security measures and implement a concept of 'zero trust' to avoid relying solely on intentions but rather on reliable functioning."

Discussing the top cyber security threats facing critical national infrastructure in Rwanda, Ndjientcheu underlined the Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS), a sophisticated attack that aims to flood a system with very high fake traffic in order to prevent legitimate users from accessing a certain platform.

Irembo set up standard security controls to block them.

According to Ndjientcheu, web application vulnerabilities and data

leaks are other top cyber threats.

"As digital platforms collect citizens' data, there is also a risk that compromised systems may leak data. As systems become more integrated, a vulnerability on one platform can be exploited to access data on another platform if the right protection mechanisms are not in place," he explained.

Ndjientcheu also highlighted the challenges to safeguarding critical national infrastructure in Rwanda, including the lack of highly skilled security talent.

He said: "Systems are built by people, and when they are highly skilled in security, it improves the security posture of their applications."

Other challenges are related to processes and supply chain dependencies.

"Designing and executing strong processes ensure that people consistently apply security controls," said Ndjientcheu. "Supply chain dependencies are also a challenge because, today, companies rely on complex and interconnected third-party systems to build, ship, and run digital platforms. Therefore, securing the supply chain from design to deployment is crucial to maintain cyber resilience."

To ensure security at Irembo, Ndjientcheu said, the first pillar is to empower their security team with the right skills, processes, exposure, and tools to protect their digital platforms.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE table with columns for day, time, and program titles. Includes sections for Saturday 18 Nov, Sunday 19 Nov, Monday 20 Nov, Tuesday 21 Nov, Wednesday 22 Nov, Thursday 23 Nov, Friday 24 Nov, Saturday 25 Nov, and Sunday 26 Nov.

WORLD

Netanyahu faces battles on multiple fronts amid mounting calls to free hostages

TEL AVIV

IN the midst of escalating pressure to secure the release of hostages held by Hamas, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces a multifaceted battle. Families and supporters of the nearly 240 hostages marched from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, demanding government action and expressing frustration at the limited meetings with Netanyahu, CNN reported.

Gil Dickmann, a relative of one of the abductees, urged the Prime Minister to prioritise the hostages' safe return, saying, "Right now, in Netanyahu's current political situation, this could be a real victory for the state of Israel."

As Israel's war in Gaza extends beyond six weeks, public opinion is turning against Netanyahu. Despite widespread support for the military campaign against Hamas, polls indicate a decline in favour of the Prime Minister and his coalition.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid called for Netanyahu's resignation, emphasising the loss of public trust. However, he stopped short of calling for new elections, suggesting that Likud should present an alternative leader.

"We cannot allow ourselves to have a prime minister who has lost the public's trust, whether from a social or a security point of view," Lapid told Israel's Channel 12, according to CNN.

Efforts to reach an agreement for a ceasefire and the release of hostages have faced challenges. Negotiations involve contentious issues such as the duration of a potential pause, the number of hostages to be released, and Hamas' demand for an end to Israeli drone surveillance over Gaza. The Israeli government's attempts to ease conditions for Gaza's civilian population have drawn criticism from within Netanyahu's right-wing coalition.

Finance Minister Bezale Smotrich criticised the decision to allow fuel tankers into Gaza, claiming it contradicted the views of the governing cabinet. Na-



tional Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir argued against providing "humanitarian gifts" to the enemy while hostages remained unvisited by the Red Cross. Some families advocate for an "everyone for everyone deal," proposing an exchange of hostages for Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails.

The families leading the campaign have tried to remain apolitical, but many blame Netanyahu for failing to anticipate the October 7 attack by Hamas. They accuse him of prioritising judicial reform over security preparations, considering the breach of Israel's security contract with voters. Despite the tragic outcome for some, there remains hope among the families for the return of their loved ones.

Criticism of Netanyahu's perceived lack of empathy and failure to take responsibility for security lapses has grown. Accused of spending more time with troops for photo opportunities than addressing past failures, Netanyahu faced backlash for blaming security chiefs for not warning him about the impending attack.

While expressing support for the security heads, he refused to answer questions about taking responsibility for the October 7 security failures. Many, like Asher Elyahol, one among the those marching on Saturday, express a desire for change, hoping for a new government once the war concludes and hostages are returned, CNN reported. **ANI**

Rabat, among the most attractive tourist destinations

RABAT

THE famous luxury travel magazine Condé Nast Traveler has just published a report on the best tourist destinations in the world, including Rabat, capital of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Rabat, one of the country's four imperial cities, has long been ignored by travelers attracted by the charm of Marrakech, Fez and Tangier. That could change this year as the city is in the midst of a cultural and artistic reinvention.

The first African Capital of Culture will soon inaugurate the Mohammed VI Tower, designed to be LEED Gold and HQE certified, and will be the tallest spire in Africa.

Better yet would be the opening of the new Grand Théâtre de Rabat, an unfinished masterpiece by legendary architect Zaha Hadid, which will include an 1,800-seat theater, an experimental performance space and a 7,000-person amphitheater, as well as green spaces and a restaurant.

This building will be the largest in Africa and the Arab world and will host symphony, ballet, opera and phil-

harmonic performances (all of the above are expected before the end of 2023).

For music fans, the city plans to organize the famous Mawazine Festival in 2024, after an interruption due to COVID-19, the largest musical event in Africa having attracted stars like Rihanna and Mariah Carey.

The welcome will be prestigious with the opening of the Fairmont La Marina Rabat-Salé and the Conrad Rabat-Arzana hotels, which offer a stay of luxurious comfort. Also, luxury travelers are impatient for the upcoming opening of the famous Four Seasons in Ksar Al Bahr and Ritz-Carlton Rabat Dar es Salaam hotels. **Agencies**

For music fans, the city plans to organize the famous Mawazine Festival in 2024, after an interruption due to COVID-19, the largest musical event in Africa having attracted stars like Rihanna

"SHOULD old acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne..."

Accompanied by melodious accordion music, a delegation of the U.S. Flying Tigers veterans and their descendants joined teachers and students from the Kunming Foreign Language School, a "Sino-US. Hump Airlift Memorial School", in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan province, in singing the song "Auld Lang Syne" during a visit to the school.

The song reminded Flying Tigers veteran Harry Moyer of the days when the Flying Tigers fought alongside the Chinese people against Japanese aggression

Flying Tigers veterans relive friendship between Chinese and American people during China tour

and forged a deep friendship.

Reliving that history and seeing the smiles on students, Moyer was moved to tears by the performance of the song in the auditorium of the Kunming Foreign Language School.

The friendship did not come easily, said Moyer.

Their visit to the Kunming Foreign Language School was part of a recent China tour organized by the Sino-American Aviation Heritage Foundation for members of the American Volunteer Group of the Chinese Air Force, known as

the "Flying Tigers," and their descendants.

The delegation visited Chinese cities including Beijing, southwest China's Chongqing municipality, Kunming, and Liuzhou city of south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, renewing friendship between the Chinese and American people.

Moyer told People's Daily that Kunming was the place he looked forward to visiting the most in this tour of China.

The city was where the Flying Tigers first took off to combat in

China, and also the starting point and logistics hub of the famous "Hump" air route, a vital airlift route over the Himalayas and the primary way the Allies supplied China between 1942 and 1945 in World War II.

In 1942, after Japan occupied Myanmar and cut off China's last international connection, the Flying Tigers blazed a new air route - the "Hump" route over the Himalayas. The route was extremely difficult to fly, but the fearless and selfless members of the Flying Tigers braved all challenges and

built an "air bridge" over Kunming. Back then, people in Yunnan also overcame tremendous difficulties to provide supplies for the Flying Tigers, and did their utmost to rescue downed members of the Flying Tigers, making the legendary American Volunteer Group a symbol of mutual assistance between the Chinese and American people.

During the visit to the Kunming Foreign Language School, members of the delegation watched the musical "Green Path and Rainbow: the Story of the Flying Tigers and

the Hump", which showed the Flying Tigers' adventure to open the "Hump" air route. The musical was voluntarily created by locals of Kunming.

As actors playing locals gave a thumbs-up gesture and praised the bravery of members of the Flying Tigers as "ding hao" ("top-notch") in local dialect, Moyer, sitting in the audience, also raised his hands and gave a thumbs-up to the actors on stage.

The American people speak a different language from the Chinese people, but the friendship

and emotions between the two peoples are connected, said Moyer's granddaughter Sarah Moyer.

Deeply touched by the performance, she said she will definitely pass on this sincere friendship.

At the Kunming Flying Tigers Museum, exhibits including pilot goggles, military oil stoves, and group photos of members of Flying Tigers and Chinese soldiers and civilians evoked memories of the Flying Tigers.

Jane Bonner Scott, daughter of Flying Tigers pilot Steve Bonner, couldn't help but shed tears as she saw her father's photos in the museum. **People's Daily**

Putin has information to talk about West's ongoing sabotage against Russia

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has intentionally said that Western countries may continue to carry out sabotage attacks against Russia's infrastructure, as he has information on the issue, Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"The president speaks about this for a good reason, as he has certain information, he has grounds to say so," the Kremlin spokesman said, when asked by journalist Pavel Zarubin, who post-

ed a video on his Telegram channel.

In early November, Putin said at a meeting on economic issues that the potential of the West's sanctions war against Russia "has actually maxed out is that the acts of sabotage on major global infrastructure may



come into play."

He recalled the sabotage on the Nord Stream gas system and the attempts to blame Russia for damage to the Balticconnector pipeline connecting Finland and Estonia.

The Russian president emphasized that it was crucial "to predict such risks in advance and to proactively respond to them" so as to ensure the stable operation of enterprises, companies, and their workforce as well as the reliability of Russia's foreign trade ties. **Agencies**

Xi Jinping: Don't politicize, weaponise trade issues

SAN FRANCISCO

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping reiterated his opposition to any attempt to politicize, weaponize or impose security implications on economic and trade issues while addressing the 30th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in San Francisco on Friday.

Xi also emphasized the need to promote exchanges and cooperation in the sector of science and technology, and work together for an open, fair, equitable and non-discriminatory environment for scientific and technological progress.

The meeting was chaired by US President Joe Biden and was attended by leaders and representatives of 21 economies in the Asia-Pacific region. A leaders' declaration was adopted at the meeting.

Xi said that since the establishment of mechanisms of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, the regional forum has always stood at the global forefront of openness and development.

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Xi said that since the establishment of mechanisms of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, the regional forum has always stood at the global forefront of openness and development.

As the world economy faces multiple risks and challenges, Xi said the APEC economies should work together to meet global challenges and fully deliver on the Putrajaya Vision of building an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community.

He called on the APEC members to stick to innovation and openness to boost regional development. "We must promote free and open trade and investment, support and strengthen the WTO-centered multilateral trading regime, and keep global industrial and supply chains open and stable," he said.

Xi underscored the importance of promoting regional economic integration, and called for accelerating the building of a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific and fully implementing the APEC Connectivity Blueprint to share in the opportunities of open regional development. "China applies the highest standards in implementing the agreement of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and has taken proactive steps to align its economic and trade rules with the high standards of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Digital Economic Partnership Agreement (DEPA) to accelerate the process of its accession to the CPTPP and DEPA."

The president also urged efforts to promote green and inclusive development that delivers benefits to all.

To accelerate the transition to green and low-carbon development, Xi said that the APEC members must deliver on the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy, making "green" a defining feature of Asia-Pacific growth.



Chinese President Xi Jinping addresses the 30th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held at Moscone Center in San Francisco, the United States on Friday. XINHUA

"China is making active yet prudent moves toward its goal of carbon peak and carbon neutrality, and is accelerating its transition to green development," he said.

While calling for putting development back on the center of international agenda, Xi said that China welcomes participation by all parties in the Global Development Initiative to deepen cooperation in poverty reduction, food security, industrialization and development financing, and to build a global community of development.

Xi reaffirmed that China remains committed to peaceful development and the ultimate goal of its development is to better people's lives, "not to unseat anyone". The Chinese modernization will bring the world more and greater opportunities for the modernization of all countries, he added.

Xi flew back to Beijing after the

meeting. Briefing media about the president's trip to San Francisco, Wang Yi, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and foreign minister, highlighted the fruitful achievements from the Xi-Biden summit.

He said that the two leaders' interactions matter to whether China-US ties can develop steadily, and also serve as the strategic guidance to the China-US relations.

Through this summit meeting in San Francisco, China-US relations are expected to continue developing in a stable, healthy and sustainable direction, Wang said.

However, it should be noted that China-US relations are complex and complicated, and there are still erroneous aspects in the US' perception of China, which still need to be corrected, he added. **Xinhua**



Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden take a walk after their talks in the Filoli Estate in the US state of California, on Wednesday. XINHUA



PM Modi to chair virtual G20 Leaders' Summit on Nov 22, building on New Delhi Declaration

NEW DELHI

AS announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the closing session of the New Delhi G20 Summit, India would be hosting a virtual G20 Leaders' Summit prior to the conclusion of India's G20 Presidency on November 22.

PM Modi made this announcement on September 10 during the closing ceremony of the G20 Summit that "India would be hosting a virtual G20 Leaders' Summit prior to the conclusion of India's G20 Presidency," the Ministry of External Affairs said in an official statement.

The virtual G20 Leaders' Summit will be chaired by PM Modi. Leaders of all G20 Members including the Chair of the African Union, as well as nine Guest countries, and Heads of 11 International Organizations, have been invited, the official statement added.

"It may be recalled that the New Delhi G20 Summit witnessed the unanimous adoption of the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration," the statement said.

The virtual summit will address key issues, select outcomes and action points from the New Delhi Summit, and review developments that have happened since then.

Moreover, the deliberations of the 2nd Voice of the Global South Summit, held on November 17, will also feed into the discussions.

PM Modi on Friday inaugurated a global centre for excellence for the Global South countries called DAKSHIN.

He noted that he had proposed setting up the centre during the first Voice of Global South Summit in January this year.

Laying emphasis on the importance of the Global South, PM Modi said that it has always existed geographically but it is getting a voice for the first time due to joint efforts. The summit concluded building on the momentum of the first summit and echoed the theme of the Indian philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam".

Meanwhile, the Virtual G20 Summit is also expected to "push for effective implementation of various G20 decisions, including through relevant national and international platforms," the MEA said in a statement.

"The Indian G20 presidency witnessed a refocusing on the challenges of growth and development. It was expressed as an action plan to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, a green development pact, reform of international financial institutions, promotion of digital public infrastructure and encouragement of women-led development. **ANI**



Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju with President of Mongolia, Ukhnaa Khurelsukh, at the launch of postal stamp on 19th anniversary of the death of Khusok Bakula Rinpoche, India's former Ambassador to Mongolia, in Ulaanbaatar on Wednesday. ANI

George Weah concedes defeat to rival in Liberia's presidential runoff

MONROVIA

LIBERIAN President George Weah conceded defeat to his political rival and opposition leader Joseph Boakai late on Friday, following the presidential runoff election held in the West African country on Nov. 14.

This concession by Weah comes even as the National Elections Commission (NEC), which oversees the elections in the country, has yet to declare the final results, with over 25,000 ballots still awaiting tabulation as of Friday.

"The results announced tonight (Friday), though not final, indicate that (Ambassador Joseph N.) Boakai is in a lead that is insurmountable," Weah said on national radio Friday night.

"A few moments ago, I spoke with President-elect Boakai to congratulate him on his victory and to offer my sincere commitment to working with him for the betterment of our beloved Liberia."

It is clear that former Vice President Boakai of the Unity Party is taking a



lead following the recent presidential runoff in the country.

According to results released so far by the NEC, with 99.58 percent of votes from the country's 5,890 polling places counted, Boakai has so far garnered 814,212 votes compared to the 785,778 scored by Weah, the standard-bearer of the ruling Coalition for

Democratic Change (CDC) party.

Data made available by the NEC on Friday indicated that the opposition leader is currently leading the incumbent president by 28,434 votes.

The total outstanding ballots for counting are 25,694, which would not be sufficient to catch up with Boakai, even if Weah receives all the pending

votes.

Boakai has secured 50.9 percent of the votes so far, while Weah has attained 49.1 percent, as mentioned by Davidetta Lansanah, head of the NEC, during a media briefing on Friday evening in the national capital of Monrovia.

In his radio broadcast on Friday, Weah expressed his commitment to a smooth transition of power and urged his supporters to remain calm and respectful of the democratic process.

He also pledged to support the Boakai administration for a more prosperous Liberia. "Tonight, the CDC has lost the election, but Liberia has won. This is a time for graciousness in defeat, a time to place our country above party, and patriotism above personal interest."

I remain your president until the handover of power, and I will continue to work for the good of Liberia," the Liberian leader said, adding "Let us heal the divisions caused by the campaign and come together as one nation and one united people."

The NEC, under immense pressure to deliver accurate and transparent results, assured the public that the remaining ballots would be meticulously counted, and the official outcome would be announced at the earliest possible time. In 2017, Weah defeated Boakai with 62 percent of the vote following a presidential runoff.

Xinhua

Protest in Spain against Catalan amnesty law draws 170,000

MADRID

ABOUT 170,000 people marched through Madrid on Saturday in the largest protest yet against an amnesty law which over Catalonia's 2017 separatist bid in order to form a government.

The demonstration, the latest in a series of protests in cities across the country against the amnesty, took place two days after Spain's Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez won a four-year term with the backing of Catalan and Basque nationalist

parties in return for agreeing to the law.

Protesters, many waving Spanish flags, demonstrated against the law which four judicial associations, opposition political parties and business leaders said threatens the rule of law and the separation of powers.

Alberto Nunez Feijoo, leader of the opposition conservative People's Party, and Santiago Abascal, leader of the far-right Vox party, also attended the march which was organized by civil groups.

After the rally, hundreds of people protested in the motor-

way near the Moncloa Palace, the prime minister's residence in Madrid. The A6 road was closed for about an hour during the protest but later reopened after the police cleared the area.

A small protest was held outside the Spanish Embassy in London.

The amnesty will cover about 400 people involved in the independence bid that came to a head in 2017, including separatists but also police involved in clashes with activists.

The independence referendum was declared illegal by the courts

and resulted in Spain's worst political crisis for decades.

The amnesty will be the largest in Spain since the 1977 blanket amnesty for crimes committed during the Francisco Franco dictatorship, and the first amnesty law approved in the European Union since 1991, according to Spain's CSIC research council.

Sanchez, who won a parliamentary vote to form a new government on Thursday by 179 votes in favor and 171 against, has defended the law saying an amnesty would help to defuse tensions in Catalonia.

Protesters, including neo-Nazi groups, have held rowdy demonstrations outside the Socialist headquarters in Madrid for 15 nights consecutively since the deal was announced. There have been clashes with police which left officers and demonstrators injured but in general the protests have been peaceful.

In a survey by Metroscopia in mid-September, around 70 percent of respondents - 59 percent of them Socialist supporters - said they were against the idea of an amnesty.

Agencies

THIS year marks the 30th anniversary of the first Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting. Over the past 30 years, China's deepening reforms and expanding opening up have gone hand in hand with the continuous expansion of Asia-Pacific economic cooperation.

Since 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping has attended or chaired APEC Economic Leaders' Meetings and delivered important speeches.

From "building an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future" to "creating and fulfilling an Asia-Pacific dream," and from "forging an Asia-Pacific partnership" to "building a high-quality Asia-Pacific connectivity network," Chinese ideas and proposals have sparked strong resonance in the Asia-Pacific region, making significant contributions to the stability and prosperity of the region.

China's opening up and development are closely related to the Asia-Pacific region. China has always been a staunch supporter and active promoter of Asia-Pacific regional economic cooperation, integrating its own development with regional development and driving the opening up of the whole region through its own opening up.

In 2022, China's trade volume with Asia-Pacific economies reached \$3.1 trillion, a year-on-year increase of 19.2 percent, accounting for 36.8 percent of China's total foreign trade.

During the same period, China's high-quality implementation of the

To make greater contributions to Asia-Pacific's stability, prosperity

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) resulted in a total of 12.95 trillion yuan (\$1.78 trillion) in imports and exports to other RCEP members, growing 7.5 percent from a year ago.

According to the Asian Economic Integration Report 2023 by the Asian Development Bank, Asia's economic recovery is driven particularly by China, which accounted for 64.2 percent of total growth.

China has been making continuous and concrete efforts to deepen trade and investment cooperation with regional economies, contributing its part to building an open economy in the Asia-Pacific.

It pushed for the launch of the process to build a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific at the 2014 APEC meeting in Beijing, and actively worked to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement. Furthermore, China has been actively promoting the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 3.0 with ASEAN members.

The 30th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, with the theme of "Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All," conveys the significance of green development and innovation for the Asia-Pacific region.

Under the active promotion by the Chinese government and the vigorous



A Chinese engineer (C) takes Philippine staff members to adjust solar panel racks in a solar farm built by Chinese enterprises in San Marcelino, the Philippines. Upon completion, the solar farm will become the largest of its kind in the Philippines. (Photo by Yang Huoran)

participation of Chinese enterprises, cooperation platforms such as the APEC Sustainable Energy Center and the China-Pacific Island Countries Climate Change Cooperation Center have gradually been established. Green development projects, including the Dzilam State Reserve located in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, have commenced, contributing Chinese wisdom and solutions to building a clean and beautiful Asia-Pacific region.

APEC Secretariat Executive Director Rebecca Sta Maria noted that China has demonstrated its determination to achieve sustainable development through practical actions and has fulfilled its international commitments in the field of sustainable development.

Leveraging the digital twin technology, Chinese scientists are providing more solutions for the protection of marine biodiversity in Latin American countries. By introducing technologies such as 5G, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence, Chinese companies are helping Thai hospitals achieve comprehensive intelligent transformation in their services. With the assistance of the China-ASEAN Information Harbor, the level of cross-border trade and economic services between China and ASEAN countries continues to improve.

China not only leads the world in technological innovation and digital economic development, but also actively promotes digital transformation in the Asia-Pacific region and even the world at large.

Economic collapse threatened Russia after start of sanctions, but it was averted - Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE Russian authorities were able to prevent the economic collapse that threatened the country after the introduction of unprecedented sanctions in 2022, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in an interview with the Moscow, Kremlin, Putin TV program.

"There was a threat of a collapse, we really had to mobilize all resources and internal forces in order to prevent this collapse," said the Kremlin representative, noting that the Russian economy was then hit by the burden of unprecedented sanctions.

"No country in the world has ever faced, and theoretically no country in the world is able to withstand such a blow," Peskov said.

He recalled that this happened after two years of the COVID pandemic, which was also a big blow to the economy. "Thanks to the rather insightful and wise decisions of the country's leadership, thanks to the titanic work of the government, it was possible to reach a plateau, stabilize [the economic situation] and then, in an absolutely unexpected way, enter a growth trend," the Kremlin official went on.

In his opinion, everything was done for this purpose, but one could have hardly imagined that the current growth of the Russian economy now would be almost 3% and not 2%, as the European Commission predicted.

"Now, of course, the task is to maintain these growth rates, as 3% is an insufficient growth rate, it must be higher, everyone understands this, we need to compensate for many gaps," Peskov said.

Agencies

As Hamas leaders are eliminated, senior figures likely regrouping in South Gaza

TELAVIV

HAMAS confirmed on Friday that Ahmed Behar, the terror group's number-three figure and highest-ranking person eliminated since October 7, was killed in an Israeli air strike earlier in the week.

The death of Behar and other senior figures suggest that Hamas has lost control over the northern Gaza Strip amid the attrition of its leadership.

The 76-year-old Behar, a member of Hamas's ruling politburo, was a close associate of Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

Israeli air strikes over the weekend targeted a number of other high-level Hamas figures, said Israel Defense Forces spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari on Saturday night.

Ahmed Randor, who commanded Hamas's northern brigade, and Ahmed Siam, the commander of Hamas's rocket brigade, were in an underground bunker struck by Israel, Hagari said. Randor is number three in Hamas's military hierarchy and helped plan the abduction of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit in 2006.

In another underground bunker hit by Israel were Asam Daliyis, head of the Hamas government, and Raoukhi Mushta and Sameh Sarraj, both of whom are close associates of Hamas's Gaza strongman, Yahya Sinwar.

Mushta was among the 1,027 security prisoners released by Israel in the Shalit prisoner exchange of 2011 and has been described as Sinwar's right-hand man.

Sarraj was the founder of Hamas offensive cyber unit which operates from Turkey and managed it remotely, from the Gaza Strip. Other senior Hamas personalities killed in recent days include Iman Siam who headed the terror group's missile array, Atsam Dealis, who served as the de facto Prime Minister of Hamas, and Matzafa Suaf, a publicist and senior journalist Hamas's service.

The Hamas politburo, which is Sinwar's main source of power suffered severe blows when seven of its people were eliminated, including Osama Mazini, who also served as chairman of the Shura Council of Hamas, Gamila Shanti, Zakaria Abu Ma'amer and Jawad Abu Shamala.

ANI

With slim win over Niger in away match, Taifa Stars looking even more credible

By Correspondent John Kimbute

TAIFA Stars head coach Adel Amrouche is in the mood to enjoy the honeymoon for a while longer, in the wake of a 1-0 win over a spirited Niger side in an away tie at the Stade Marrakech in Morocco, ostensibly the home ground of the Nigerien side.

The match is the third in which the Nigerien side has not been able to defeat the local side, and suffered back to back defeat since it also lost at him in the earlier AFCON finals qualifying tie. As Uganda gave way too, Stars romped home in the qualifiers; Taifa Stars were aggressive, earning five yellow cards.

While the city rivals' club sides fanfare with continental competitions could be gasped from investments the clubs have attracted to themselves, it appears that there is star over the national side that has to do with the slightly noticeable level of professionalism that the team is enjoying.

In the Saturday match, the scorer of the lone goal, Charles M'Mombwa at 56 minutes, is a fairly new name except to those who follow youth tournaments or upcoming players in foreign countries.

His effort was a sign that a new generation is coming up steadily to replace veterans like Mbwana Samatta and Simon Msuva, with nearly two decades in the squad.

As the two veterans are still playing well outside, they are not being included in the TFF-Amrouche plans for not relying on older stars, whose specific justification is an academic debate.

There is always a contention between the project mentality and first team concept in national sides generally, as each country arrives at a point where it has a generational defect where older players perform less and new players start replacing them.

Yet such stoppage has to start at club level, that one is no longer capable of playing at top level, for instance being dropped by top clubs.

There are numerous instances when top players, once their club roles are in sharp decline, opt to move out of national sides, and surprisingly, at times they see the need to reverse such decision and continue playing for the side.

With Taifa Stars there is a jumble of perspectives, that when it comes to Aishi Manula, the first time he is available for Simba SC he was given the task at the derby without prior less intense encounters to test his

match readiness.

The same happened with the national side in calling him up and giving him the number, sidestepping Ali Salum.

Were it that there is a project, it could have been applied in a reverse way as Ali Salum has shown he can handle big matches and tense moments, but he is clearly discriminated against or deliberately being looked up in both club and country.

At the same there is a daring effort, which incidentally has been successful so far, to look up the Simba SC defence line that has in a sense come under criticism for the 5G drubbing lately, but a fullback pair that is trusted to handle Al Ahly pressure and performs convincingly is not one that can be wished aside by the Taifa Stars selection mechanism.

They insist on players like Nickson Kibabage, who was a disappointment for Yanga against Ihefu, so indirectly sabotaging the national side.

Similarly, they insist on Beno Kkolanya and another despite having been dropped by Simba SC, implying that the Taifa Stars selection mechanism behaves like a club.

It is not interested in picking a list of 18 best players for the next encounter, adding players as seems fit on the basis of their club performances. They have a sort of project where excellent players are left aside or carted along by prejudices arising from the project mentality, as it has no time in and time out schedule for players, whereas an 18 best players guiding rule shows just who should come in.

Part of this mentality comes from the wish to win every game, and when a side fails to qualify for this or that finals, the project mentality comes back strongly, that we have not worked enough to raise talent and put them together for long enough to play as a team.

As a matter of fact clubs don't accept the idea of projects as it implies a club accepts to lose out one season and trust it will do better the following season.

Simba SC rejected that idea with Abdallah Kibadeni as the coach more than a decade ago and the national side has even less reason to have a project.

There is a sense in which Taifa Stars at this moment looks a bit like Young Africans SC, that it has been able to register wins with teams that were either not good enough or not spirited enough, and for that reason it believes its squad is the best.

Ignoring the Simba defence like of local players and just pick midfielders and at least one forward is faulty, and when we meet the likes of Morocco and Zambia these gaps could start showing their significance.

So far this is not the case and the technical bench along with supervisors at the federation offices have it their way.

How far this happiness will continue remains to be seen but it appears it will last, as the World Cup qualifiers, whichever way they go, won't erase AFCON groups success. By the time the finals end it will be a new situation with the playing list.

How Taifa Stars got the job done against Niger

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

TAIFA Stars are off to a positive start in the World Cup Qualifiers after a gritty performance to keep a clean sheet and earn three points against Niger on Saturday evening.

Debutant Charles M'Mombwa scored the lone goal in the 57th minute as Adel Amrouche's men beat their West African rivals for the second time this year. The result extended Taifa Stars' unbeaten run to four games.

Amrouche's men will now look to stretch their unbeaten run to five games when they take on Morocco in their next fixture tomorrow.

The Guardian takes a look at how each player performed during the encounter at Morocco's Stade de Marrakech.

GK: Aishi Manula - 7 - Stood strong but the Tanzania international in truth was rarely tested by Niger.

LB: Novatus Miroshi - 6 - Not a bad game from the Shakhtar Donetsk utility man. He produced some accurate passes which helped to prevent Niger's wingers from making a strong impact.

RB: Dickson Job - 6 - Was solid enough in defence but going forward did not offer enough.

CB: Ibrahim Bacca - 7 - Tanzania's most reliable defender in the evening. He was calm and composed in defence. He got his positioning right and kept the likes of Boubaacar Soumana



Taifa Stars squad during their 2026 FIFA World Cup African qualifiers Group E match against Niger at the Stade de Marrakech in Morocco on Saturday. Stars won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

and Kairou Amoustapha at bay.

CB: Bakari Mwamnyeto - 6 - The tall centre back was defensively okay as he showed tactical discipline and was composed. He will be hoping to do better in terms of his attacking output going forward.

DM: Haji Mnoga - 7 - Some lovely defensive work, close control and nice passing but also battled when needed.

CM: Sospeter Bajana - 7 - Worked his socks off and allowed others to get forward, but more than pulled his weight.

CM: Feisal Salum - 6 - He had

an okay game in the midfield. Did his job without influencing the game as he is used to. Withdrawn in the second half.

LW: Charles M'Mombwa - 7 - Showed wonderful bursts of pace and quick feet to unsettle Niger's defence. Got the match winner in a dream debut for Taifa Stars.

RW: Simon Msuva - 6 - Tried his hardest to get a yard of space on his flank but he was quickly surrounded by Niger bodies.

ST: Mbwana Samatta - 7 - Whether acting as a traditional

centre forward or a false number nine, Samatta pulled Taifa Stars to-and-fro. He was unlucky not to have scored when he thundered a free kick into the crossbar. Assisted Charles M'Mombwa goal.

LW: Dennis Kibu - 6 - Came on when Taifa Stars were trying to protect their lead. Was unusually going forward quiet but did his job of tracking back.

CM: Humid Mao - 6 - A little more steady than Feisal, but not by a wide margin.



Betway Tanzania's operations manager, Jimmy Masaoe (C) together with the company's marketing manager, Calvin Mhina (3rd L), the chief gaming auditor from the Gaming Board of Tanzania, Jehud Ngolo and Betway ambassadors, Idris Sultan (R), Geoffrey Lea (L) and Salama Jabir (2nd L) lift a dummy AFCON Cup as a sign of support to Taifa Stars. The photo was taken during the launch of Twende AFCON promo at Betway Tanzania's office in Dar es Salaam on November 16, 2023. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Betway Tanzania launches Twende AFCON Promo to support Taifa Stars

By Guardian Correspondent

FOOTBALL fans in Tanzania have a chance to win a trip of a lifetime with Betway Tanzania's Twende AFCON Promo.

The leading online sports betting brand is giving away four tickets to the AFCON 2024 tournament in Ivory Coast, where the winners will cheer on Taifa Stars, the national men's football team.

Taifa Stars have made history by qualifying for AFCON for only the third time since the competition began. Betway Tanzania is proud to support the team and celebrate this milestone with its

customers.

To enter the promo, customers need to register with Betway, deposit using any network, and place a bet on any sports fixture between November 16 and December 16, 2023. Every deposit will earn an entry into the lucky draw, where one of the four tickets could be yours.

Jimmy Masaoe, the country operations manager for Betway Tanzania, said:

"We are thrilled to be part of this historic moment for Tanzanian football. We love every football moment, and we want to share this excitement with our customers and all sports

fans. This promo is our way of supporting Taifa Stars and giving our fans a chance to witness their glory in Ivory Coast."

Calvin Mhina, the marketing manager for Betway Tanzania, also encouraged sports fans and Betway customers to join the promo and grab the opportunity to support the national team.

"This is a rare and amazing opportunity for football lovers in Tanzania. Don't miss this chance to win a ticket to AFCON and cheer on Taifa Stars. Register with Betway today and place your bets to enter the draw. You could be one of the lucky winners to travel to Ivory Coast and

witness history in the making," he said.

The Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2024 is scheduled to kick off in Ivory Coast from January 13 to February 11, 2024, and will feature 24 teams vying for the coveted continental football cup.

Tanzania, having qualified for only the third time after 1980 and 2019 since the establishment of AFCON, will commence its campaign in Group F against Morocco on January 17, followed by matches against Zambia on January 21, and DR Congo on January 24.



In the Saturday match, the scorer of the lone goal, Charles M'Mombwa at 56 minutes, is a fairly new name except to those who follow youth tournaments or upcoming players in foreign countries

France smash records in 14-0 win, Dutch, Swiss and Romania qualify for Euro 2024

PARIS

KYLIAN Mbappe scored a hat-trick in France's record-breaking 14-0 thrashing of 10-man Gibraltar as the Netherlands, Switzerland and Romania booked their places at Euro 2024 on Saturday.

Les Bleus set a new record margin of victory in European qualifying and a national record in Nice.

Ethan Santos' own goal and Marcus Thuram had already opened the floodgates before 17-year-old Warren Zaire-Emery scored.

That was Zaire-Emery's last contribution as the PSG midfielder was forced off with an ankle injury but a red card for Santos after just 18 minutes allowed the World Cup finalists to run amok.

Mbappe's penalty made it 4-0 and Jonathan Clauss, Kingsley Coman and Youssouf Fofana all scored before half-time.

Adrien Rabiot, Coman again and Ousmane Dembele kept the score ticking over before Mbappe struck twice to seal his hat-trick in style.

The France captain lobbed Dayle Coleing from just inside the Gibraltar half to register his 300th career goal aged just 24.

Olivier Giroud then came off the bench to grab the final two goals and ensure the history books were re-written.

But the scoreline will raise fresh questions over the need for such clashes between giants and minnows in a congested fixture calendar.

"We did everything to make this score happen. That is the ambition that there is in this team," said France boss Didier Deschamps.

Just one goal was enough to ensure the Dutch joined France in qualifying from Group B with a 1-0 victory over the Republic of Ireland.

Wout Weghorst's powerful drive separated the sides in Amsterdam in what is likely to be Irish boss Stephen Kenny's final competitive game in charge.

"In the end, it's about winning the game. We knew we needed the three points to qualify directly today, at home with our own fans," said Netherlands forward Cody Gakpo.

"We created a lot of chances, opportunities, but we have to score more goals and have more finesse in the final third."

- Romania, Switzerland qualify -

Romania reached just a second major tournament since 2008 by ending Israel's chances of automatic qualification with a 2-1 win.

Despite being forced to play what should have been a home fixture in Hungary due to the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, Israel went in front after just two minutes through Eran Zahavi.

But Romania hit back quickly to level through George Puscas and secured their place in Germany thanks to Iannis Hagi, son of Gheorghe Hagi who inspired the Romanians famous run to the 1994 World Cup quarter-finals.

Switzerland also qualified despite being held 1-1 at home by Kosovo.

AFP

Xi says 'not so sure' of Chinese football team's abilities

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has said he is "not so sure" of the abilities of the national men's football team, despite their recent victory over Thailand.

Xi made the rare off-the-cuff remark in an informal conversation with Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, according to a video posted Saturday by a Thai government account on X, formerly Twitter.

After evidently hearing for the first time that China had defeated Thailand 2-1 in a recent match, Xi said: "I think there was a lot of luck involved."

"Because now, about our national team -- I'm not so sure about their level," Xi said ahead of a meeting of APEC leaders in San Francisco.

"There are ups and downs," he added.

Xi has previously described himself as a football fan and said he dreams of China hosting and winning a World Cup one day.

But ambitions of developing the men's team into an international powerhouse have not come to fruition.

In September, hosts China fell 0-1 to Syria in a friendly loss mocked by frustrated fans and derided by state media as "another embarrassing defeat".

Chinese football has been in the grip of a major anti-corruption campaign that has seen numerous leading figures investigated or charged, including former national coach Li Tie.

The men's national team face a critical few months with the start of qualifying for the 2026 World Cup, and the Asian Cup in January-February in Qatar.

The long road to the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico began in earnest in Asia on Thursday with 36 teams in action.

AFP

World Cup 2026 qualifiers: Sadio Mane marks 100th cap for Senegal with a brace

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICAN champions Senegal began their 2026 World Cup qualifying campaign with a 4-0 victory at home to South Sudan on Saturday as South Africa and Tanzania also opened with wins.

The Teranga Lions set off at a blistering pace in their Group B fixture with Tottenham midfielder Pape Matar Sarr scoring after 40 seconds.

Sadio Mane scored Senegal's second just four minutes later on a night when he made his 100th appearance for his country.

Debutant Lamine Camara added a third for the hosts. The 19-year-old scored on the stroke of half-time and after the break the former Liverpool forward scored again - this time from the penalty spot.

With Senegal set to play Togo in Lome on Tuesday in their second qualifier, coach Aliou Cisse made a raft of changes just after the hour mark with Mane and Sarr amongst those substituted.

On a tough night for South Sudan's Bright Stars, Senegal had a late goal from Habib Diallo ruled out for offside.

Senegal are top of the Group B standings, ahead of DR Congo on goal difference after the opening round of matches.

Elsewhere, Tanzania enjoyed a 1-0 victory in an away fixture against Ni-



Sadio Mane was denied the chance of a hat-trick against South Sudan after Senegal coach Aliou Cisse took him off just after the hour mark. Agencies

ger in neutral Marrakesh at the start of their Group E campaign.

Australia-based striker Charles M'Mombwa scored for the Taifa Stars in the second half, on his debut for his country.

"South Africa off to winning start South Africa began Saturday's World

Cup qualifying action across Africa with a 2-1 win over Benin in Durban in Group C.

Al Ahly forward Percy Tau gave Bafana Bafana the perfect start. The former Brighton player struck in just the second minute to give his country a 1-0 lead.

Khuliso Mudau doubled the hosts' lead on the stroke of half-time.

Steve Mounie clawed one back for Benin in the 70th minute to make it a nervy end for the home fans, as South Africa held on to secure the victory.

South Africa are early leaders of Group C, a group which also includes Nigeria.

The Super Eagles, who were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Lesotho on Thursday, will be under pressure to get a win when they face Zimbabwe in Rwanda on Sunday in their second Group C qualifier.

Zimbabwe, like Niger, are among the 17 African nations who have been forced to play their home qualifiers at neutral grounds, either because they lack international-standard stadiums or for safety reasons.

Elsewhere, in round two of qualifying on Sunday, Burundi face Gabon, Algeria are away to Mozambique, Egypt have an away match against Sierra Leone and Sudan take on DR Congo.

Africa has a guaranteed nine qualifiers for the 2026 finals in Canada, Mexico and the United States, with all group winners booking a spot at the tournament.

BBC

Why Everton points deduction sent shockwaves through the EPL

LONDON

AN independent commission's decision to dock Everton 10 points for breaching Premier League financial rules could have seismic ramifications, and the fallout is being felt well beyond Goodison.

Stunned Everton fans may take some comfort from the sense they at least now know where they stand. But while the severity of the punishment meted out may have dismayed many, there is a very real danger that the situation facing the club could soon become even more serious.

The most obvious outstanding questions facing Everton are: whether the points deduction will ultimately condemn the club to relegation, and also, what the outcome of any appeal will be.

But it is clearly significant that the chair of the commission said he was "satisfied" that several rival clubs "have potential claims for compensation".

Leicester City and Leeds United (both relegated last season) and Burnley (relegated in 2022), are reportedly pressing ahead with plans to sue Everton for millions of pounds' worth of damages. They have a month to decide if they will pursue.

It would not be the first time such a scenario has unfolded. Back in 2009, for instance, West Ham agreed to pay Sheffield United a reported £20m in compensation as part of a settlement after a long legal dispute over the Carlos Tevez eligibility case. United had launched a claim after being relegated instead of the Tevez-inspired Hammers.

Whether clubs proceed with litigation in this latest case, whether it is successful, and what all this uncertainty may mean for Everton's pro-



A general view of a corner flag with a poppy logo ahead of the Premier League match at Goodison Park, Liverpool. Picture date: Saturday November 4, 2023. Agencies

posed sale by owner Farhad Moshiri to the US investment firm 777 Partners is unclear. But the doomsday scenario for the Toffees is that the club end up being ordered to pay more in compensation than the new owners can afford, and that administration follows, along with a further nine-point deduction, almost certainly condemning the team to relegation.

But the sense of turmoil does not stop there. This ruling comes at a time when the finances of other clubs are under scrutiny. Chelsea are under investigation by both the Premier League and the FA over potential financial rule breaches by the club during Roman Abramovich's ownership tenure.

Earlier this year Manchester City - the dominant force in the game - were hit with 115 charges for alleged breaches of the Premier League's financial rules. They deny wrongdoing.

Given Everton's punishment over one charge, many are now wondering about the scale of sanction these clubs could face - if found guilty, with 30-point deductions or even expulsion being mooted.

Three years ago in rugby, Saracens' enforced

relegation from the Premiership for breaking salary cap rules sent shockwaves across the sport. Could something similar really happen in football?

Such is the scale and complexity of these cases, it could be years until they are resolved.

But what is clear is that the ruling on Everton has added to the intrigue and pressure swirling around the Premier League's regulatory process as these controversies rumble on.

It does little for the reputation of the league that so many Everton fans - and some pundits - clearly believe the club is an easy target, and that with an independent football regulator on the

horizon, an example has been made of them.

Everton also believe the heaviest points deduction in the league's history is excessive for a £19m over-spend. The club insist various unexpected factors were reasonable mitigation for such losses, and contrast the 10-point deduction with the £3.5m fines applied to the six English teams that were members of the European Super League (ESL) plot in 2021.

The Premier League would deny any suggestion Everton have been singled out, of course, and would make the point that ultimately it was an independent commission that decided the punishment.

Many believe the profit and sustainability rules are there for a very good reason - to prevent clubs living beyond their means, and that it was time they were enforced after years of criticism that the league was too 'hands-off' when it came to regulating owners and levels of spending. Especially in the case of a club whose breach was "serious" and whose culpability was "great", according to the commission.

Clubs that have stuck by these rules will no doubt welcome the ruling, and praise the Premier League for establishing the regulations, and then defending the integrity of the competition by showing it is se-

rious about upholding them.

But the fallout and division that follows could be painful.

The old saying was that 'the table doesn't lie'. That where teams finish in the league is ultimately a fair reflection of their quality. The credibility of any sporting competition depends on this, especially one of the most popular in the world.

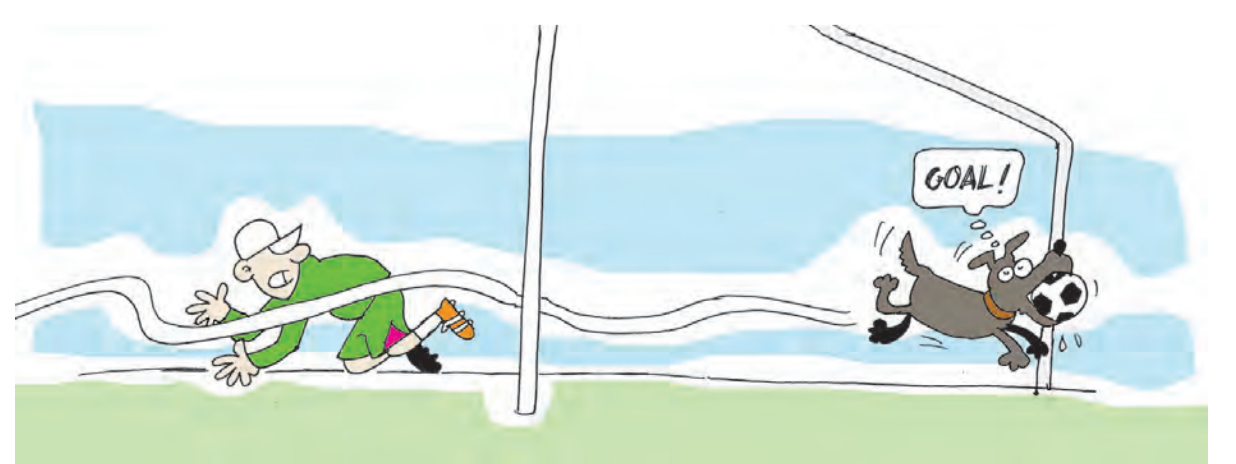
In the Premier League this season, that sense of fairness and justice has already been shaken by a crisis of confidence in officiating amid high-profile errors by the video assistant referee (VAR) system.

But what if teams' fates are now increasingly dictated by the calculations of accountants, the arguments of lawyers and the verdicts of commissions, rather than simply the performances of their players? What if past achievements stretching back years are now tainted by rule-breaking, and doubt is cast over titles and relegation battles? What if trust is dented?

Two years after the crisis sparked by the remarkable ESL break-away attempt, the fear is that the Everton ruling could mark the start of another damaging period of turbulence, infighting and litigation for English football.

BBC

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

World Cup 2026 qualifiers:
Sadio Mane marks 100th
cap for Senegal with a brace

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Netball camp to prepare for Africa championships now called off

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE national netball camp which was scheduled for last Saturday in Kibaha, Coast Region to prepare for the Africa Netball Cup, slated for later this month in Botswana, has been postponed indefinitely.

The national netball association (Chaneta) recently released the names of 12 players, the head coach and four officials who were to enter camp last Saturday at Filbert Bayi School in Kibaha, but the association secretary general, Rose Mkisi, said the camp has been postponed indefinitely due to uncertainty on the dates of the events.

She said there are unofficial reports that the Botswana National Sports Council (BNSC) has not given permission to the county's netball association (BONA) to host the championships.

Mkisi, in an interview, said: "There is uncertainty on the dates of the championships. This is coming due to unofficial information that BONA has not been given permission to host the championships, so we thought it wise to call off the camp and wait for the official communication from the organizers which is expected on Monday (today). Then we will know what to do and inform the general public of our next step," she said.

Initially, the championships were to be hosted by Uganda, but the country was stripped of the hosting rights.

The championships are slated from November 28-December 6 at the University of Botswana Indoor Stadium and teams which are expected to compete at the championships are South Africa, Malawi, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Burundi and the host Botswana.

Late last October, some Botswana media reported that BNSC had not granted permission to BONA to host the championships.

The media outlets quoted BNSC director for sport development Peaceful Seleka, who said that they were not in a position to host such an event.

He said the budget for this financial year had long been approved and did not include hosting of Africa Netball Cup. He said when applications to host events were done on time, they budgeted for them, which was not the case with the netball cup.

He said BONA only requested permission to host three months before the event.

"While we don't encourage that, had BONA demonstrated that they had funds to host the event, we would have possibly waived the two-year application requirement," he was quoted.

According to BNSC hosting policy, application to host a regional competition has to be done a year before while for continental and world competitions, two and four years in advance respectively.

BONA spokesperson Mokereste Mokereste was quoted admitting that Africa Netball made a 'last minute' request for the association to host the tournament.

He said the onus was on BONA and Africa Netball to make a plan on how to handle the issue since it was an emergency.

The Africa Netball Cup or African Netball Championships is a netball competition held every two years with teams across Africa competing for the top prize.

However, last week other Botswana media houses reported that BNSC has reconsidered BONA's request for permission to host the tournament on the basis that BONA, with the commission's assistance, obtained sponsorship amounting to 300,000 Pula (about 22,411 U.S. dollars) from Okavango Diamond Company for the hosting of the events.

The national netball team (Taifa Queens), which are currently ranked number 45 in the International Netball Federation (INF), have been inactive for many years but returned to the international scene last year and competed at the last edition of the Africa Netball Cup in South Africa.

At the South Africa Championships, Taifa Queens, which are coached by Hafidhi Tindwa lost all their matches. They first lost to Namibia, then South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

TOC urges national sports associations to form athletes' commissions



Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) secretary general Filbert Bayi speaks at the TOC Athletes' Commission annual general meeting (AGM) which was held in Kibaha, Coast Region last Saturday. Others from left are chairperson of the commission Khalid Rushaka and TOC president Gulam Rashid. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) has appealed to all National Sports Associations (NSAs) in the country to form commissions that will help to ensure that the athletes' viewpoint remains at the heart of the Olympic movement decisions.

The appeal was made on Saturday in Kibaha, Coast Region by TOC secretary general Filbert Bayi at the opening of the committee's Athletes' Commission annual general meeting (AGM) which attracted delegates from 27 national sports associations from both Mainland and Isles.

He said TOC has been funding the Athletes' Commission annual general meeting since its formation 17 years ago, but it is disappointing that many NSAs do not have athletes' commissions and those which have its leaders, members were not democratically elected by athletes from the respective associations but they were

appointed by leaders of the associations.

Bayi assured the delegates that TOC is ready to work with them (athletes' commissions) mainly on important decisions and recommendations which will be presented to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC), and the Association of Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA).

"The guest of honor, Gulam Rashid, who is TOC president, and delegates to the TOC Athletes' Commission annual general meeting, let me inform you that we have been funding the Athletes' Commission annual general meeting for the past 17 years. The Athletes' Commission is very important as it carries the voice of athletes in Olympic movement decisions.

"Delegates have a responsibility to advise the

national sports associations and speak on behalf of their fellow active and retired athletes and promote the welfare of fellow athletes among others," he said.

Bayi said that the TOC view is that if all national sports associations have athletes' commissions it will be easy to tackle and support the initiatives of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and be involved in the support of re-

tired athletes.

In his remarks, Rashid said members of the commission are ambassadors of their respective sports associations and they must refrain from bad behavior and be in the forefront in advising their fellow athletes on how to prepare for life after their sporting careers.

He also bemoaned the lack of youth teams among NSAs in the country, saying this is hindering the growth and development of sports in the country and he challenged the delegates of the AGM to advise their associations on the importance of youth teams.

The delegates at the AGM, among other things, discussed the outcome of the exposition of the previous annual general meeting in Morogoro.

Reports on the Africa Athletes Forum (AAF) and International Athletes Forum (IAF) which were held last March in Algeria and Switzerland last October, respectively.

In her video message IOC Athletes Commission chair Emma Terho asked athletes to make use of the available education opportunities which she said the IOC is offering.

She said the IOC career program (IOC ACP) was launched in 2005 and comprises three main axes which are Education, Life Skills and Employment.

TOC Athletes Commission chairman Khalid Rushaka thanked all the delegates who attended the AGM and asked them to maintain unity and togetherness

Coach Shime names in-form Twiga Stars squad to face Togo



Twiga Queens head coach Bakari Shime. (Agencies)

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA women's senior national head coach Bakari Shime has named 24 players for the first leg of CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) second-round qualifications slated to take place on November 30 at Chamazi Complex.

Twiga Stars qualified for the second round after thrashing Ivory Coast on penalty shootouts 4-2 following a 2-2 aggregate draw. The Ivorian side won 2-0 at their home ground while the local women's senior team bounced back by the same score line at home.

Togo qualified for the second round following their 13-0 aggregate win against Djibouti, beating them 7-0 away and 6-0 at home.

The Togolese side participated in last year's WAFCON as they faced elimination in Group B with just a single point, scoring three goals and conceding nine.

The Tanzania squad features a blend of in-form Tanzania-based players and experienced foreign-based players, including Oppa Clement who plays his soccer in Turkey with Besiktas.

Coach Shime has named 16 JKT Queens players following their participation in the CAF Women's Champions League and extraordinary performance in this year's CECAFA zone women's tournament.

WAFCON will comprise a total of 12 teams that will qualify for the group stages and automatically-qualified hosts Morocco. The teams were seeded according to the FIFA Women's World Ranking of June 2023 and their performance in the previous edition in 2022.

The second leg between the two sides is slated to take place in Kégué Stadium in Lomé, Togo on December 5.

The winners of the second round will secure automatic qualification for the 2024 WAFCON to be

hosted in Morocco.

The squad includes: Goalkeepers: Najat Abbas (JKT Queens), Zulfia Makau (JKT Queens) and Husna Mtunda (Yanga Princess)

Defenders: Julitha Singano (FC Juarez-Mexico), Anastasia Katunzi (JKT Queens), Happy Zebulon (JKT Queens), Chister Bahera (JKT Queens), Vaileth Nicholas (JKT Queens), and Fatuma Issa (Simba Queens).

Midfielders: Joyce Lema (JKT Queens), Diana Mnali (JKT Queens), Aisha Juma (Simba Queens), Winfrida Gerald (JKT Queens), Eto Hamisi (JKT Queens), Ester Mabanzi (JKT Queens), Amina Abdallah (JKT Queens), Janeth Christopher (JKT Queens), Stumai Abdallah (JKT Queens), and Eneka Kasonga (Eastern Flames, Saudia Arabia)

Attackers: Aisha Masaka (BK Hacken - Sweden), Oppa Clement (Besiktas -Turkey), Jamila Rajabu (JKT Queens) and Jamila Rajabu (JKT Queens)

Flexibles by David Chikoko

SORRY SIR, WE CAN'T SERVE YOU. OUR SYSTEM TELLS US; YOU ARE ON DIET

