



BUSINESS BoT leaves monetary policy for 2023/2024 unchanged

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Govt prunes mobile cash transfer levy

Export credit guarantees, forex bureaus set for revival

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has decided to revive loan guarantee funds managed by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to promote private sector participation and improve the environment for doing business. Tabling the 44.4trn/- budget estimates for the 2023/24 financial year in the National Assembly on Thursday, Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba named the revived

As of May 2023, the government had granted licenses to eight bureau de change with 36 branches, 24 branches in the Mainland and 12 in Zanziba

funds as the export credit guarantee scheme, and the small and medium enterprises credit guarantee scheme. He said the move will enable manufacturers and entrepreneurs to access loans from local banks for working capital, equipment and ordering raw materials to produce high-quality goods for export at competitive prices. A total of 600bn/- is expected to be used in setting up the facility, where BoT will provide 280bn/- and the World Bank extend a concessional loan for \$150m, he said. Pointing out that this initiative will increase production of goods and exports, he said it improves the investment and business environment particularly in sectors that earn significant amounts of foreign currency like tourism and mining.

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan swears in Police Commissioner Benedict Michael Wakulyamba as Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: State House

MPs praise waiver of technical college fees

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

REMOVING tuition fees for Form Four leavers selected to join technical colleges like the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT), the Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) and the Arusha Technical College (ATC) has proved one of the most popular moves in the fiscal plan unveiled on Thursday.

MPs speaking in separate interviews with this paper soon after Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba tabled the 44.388trn/- budget estimates for fiscal 2023/24,

commended the government for a fiscal plan touching the lives of extensive sections of the population in tax relief. The outlined measures will greatly help bring relief to the population and bolster moves to create competitive and inclusive economic growth, they said.

Bonventura Kiswaga (Magu) said various moves in the budget estimates focus on key sectors of agriculture and employment creation, in extending free education to technical and vocational college level. Ritta Kabati (Special Seats) said that extending free education to those

joining vocational colleges will not only provide relief to parents but also encourage more school leavers to join the colleges. This way the country will have more skilled youths, she said, similarly praising the decision to procure vehicles for entitled civil servants by loan, as it reduces chances of misusing public funds. Saashisha Mafuwe (Hai) hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan for several measures to transform the country's economy, underlining that the budget brings hope to Tanzanians. "It shows how President Samia is fully committed to improving

the country's economy as well as helping the poor," he said. Selemani Zedi (Buke) hailed the move to start providing loans to students selected by the government to join colleges that provide priority programs such as science, health, technology and teacher training. He similarly appealed to the government to outline new sources of revenue to ensure it caters for key development projects and other initiatives to achieve development objectives.

Sophia Mwakagenda (Special Seats-Opposition) cited this year's budget as one of its

kind as major focus has been directed to extend relief to numerous groups starting with children, youth to elders, contributing to the fight against poverty. Mohamed Mchengerwa, Rufiji MP and the Natural Resources and Tourism minister, said that the budget has touched expectations of the majority of Tanzanians especially in taxes and levies, with chances of really stimulating economic growth. The multiplicity of measures set out by the government in the tourism sector are going to attract more investors and boost tourism arrivals, he added.

By Henry Mwangonde

MOBILE cash transaction levy for sending and receiving money electronically is being altered to remove charges for the sender.

Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba introduced this measure when delivering the fiscal plan for 2023/24 fiscal year in the National Assembly on Thursday, affirming that the government will amend the transaction fee schedule, inserting a 50 percent levy increase for withdrawals.

Noting that it is a move that responds to a long held public outcry related to excessive charges in cash transfers, he said the measure is intended to remove double taxation in one transaction, stimulating electronic payment transactions. The measure is billed to increase government's revenue by 16.7bn/-, he said, highlighting other measures to increased efficiency in financial services.

He said the Bank of Tanzania, liaising with financial service providers, is reviewing charges imposed on electronic transactions with intent to reduce charges and increase the use of formal electronic transactions.

Greater use of mobile transfers will help reduce the use of cash, thus accelerating the building of a digital economy, he said.

Furthermore, the daily levy imposed on each SIM card based on the ability of users to recharge the balance is to be scrapped to stimulate the use of electronic transactions, he said, as part of BoT moves to increase the use of electronic systems in transactions.

This includes upgrading national payment systems like completing the Tanzania Instant Payment System (TIPS) and putting it into use, fostering stable management of payment systems, he said. Improvement of payment system infrastructure is vital in achieving the goal of citizen inclusion in the formal financial system and the gradual transition to a digital economy, he stated.

Back in fiscal 2021/22 the government introduced the Electronic Money Transaction Levy Regulations 2021 under the National Payment System Act, Cap 437.

The measures provoked a massive outcry with appeals to review the levies and seek alternative sources of revenue, with the government promising to revise the measures for a friendly implementation model.

The government reviewed the electronic money transaction ley to remove charges on bank-to-bank transactions after receiving views from various quarters, pursuing efforts to set up a better model for the transaction levy, analysts noted.

Investment regulators to use single-window point

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government is finalising the establishment of a new electronic system, the Tanzania Electronic Investment Single Window (TeIW), integrating operations of several institutions involved in facilitating investments. Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, availed this move when tabling national budget estimates for fiscal 2023/24 in the legislature on Thursday. He said the agencies include the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Disability), the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development,

To address bureaucratic red tape that traders and investors face, I propose regulatory institutions to start using a single window payments system for collection of fees, levies and penalties

the National Identification Authority (NIDA), and the Tanzania Immigration Department. Others are the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA), the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) and the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS). Still others set to be included in TeIW are the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA), the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (TANESCO) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The TeIW system will benefit

investors for online registration of businesses without necessarily meeting the respective service providers in office, receive required services quickly and obtain investment permits within three days, he said. Investors have been struggling to access smooth services in the regulatory authorities and related institutions due to various challenges that the government is working to solve, he stated. "To address bureaucratic red tape that traders and investors face, I propose regulatory institutions to start using a single window

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Investment regulators to use single-window point

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payments system for collection of fees, levies and penalties," he told MPs, referring to the need to establish inspection procedures to facilitate business without negating core regulatory functions.

With effect from July 1, 2023, regulatory authorities will be prohibited from suspending business operations in view of alleged violation of various requirements, he said.

He referred to an emerging tendency for regulatory authorities to suspend business, offices or factories after conducting inspections and attesting to breach of regulations.

"For whatever reason, suspending businesses has an adverse impact on our economy as it affects employment, business prosperity and government revenues," he declared, emphasizing that this tendency is contrary to efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to improve the business environment.

Despite that investors bring capital, technology, employment, increase government revenue and promote economic growth, experience shows that they still face obstacles rather than facilitation from public institutions, he said.

Some responsible officials become obstacles, slowing the pace of investment by foreigners instead of unlocking the potential that foreign investment harbours," he stated.

"We devote more effort in controlling rather than facilitating private sector development," the minister admonished, underlining that it is vital to acknowledge private sector contribution in creating employment opportunities, poverty eradication and economic growth.

"I urge my fellow Tanzanians to facilitate the growth of the private sector," he appealed, proposing amendments to various laws, rules and regulations to take legal action against a business owner instead of suspending business operations.

The shift aims at protecting employment, business income and boosting the economy, which increases government revenues, he stated.

Clearing and forwarding of cargo at the port has procedures that restricts the importer from clearing cargo when assessed tax is disputed, which discourages business and usage of the port of Dar es Salaam Port as a business gateway in the East and Central Africa region, he said.

"To overcome these shortcomings, I propose the introduction of a procedure that will enable importers of goods with objections to the assessed tax to pay undisputed tax and release the goods.

"In addition, a special procedure will be introduced under the East African Customs Law that will protect government revenue and enable businesses to operate," he stated.

However, if the disputed amount is found to be in favour of the government, "a businessman will be subjected to pay the delayed taxes, fines, jail time or both," he cautioned.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi exchanges greetings with Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla, Unguja Urban-West regional commissioner Idrissa Kitwana Mustafa and Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation deputy minister Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk at Zanzibar's Abeid Amani Karume International Airport shortly before leaving for Germany to represent President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the World Special Olympics. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Export credit guarantees, forex bureaus set for revival

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Monetary policy will be used to maintain price stability, stimulate economic growth and increase competitiveness, with expectations of enhanced thus improving efficiency in the Interbank Foreign Exchange Market," he said. The government is finalizing procedures for purchasing gold from small and medium sized miners to increase the country's foreign exchange reserves

and strengthening the mining sector, he said. Purchases of gold through the central bank will facilitate establishing a national gold reserve that will eventually offer competitive prices to miners and strengthen the national currency, he stated. Moves to strengthen the business environment include addressing challenges of foreign currency trading, like taking decisive action to solve complaints of bureau de

change owners over the tax assessments during a draconian exercise in fiscal 2018/19. "Thus, the government reviewed that assessment and 8.9bn/- was refunded to some bureau de change owners through settlement of outstanding tax arrears," he elaborated. "As of May 2023, the government had granted licenses to eight bureau de change with 36 branches, 24 branches in the Mainland and 12 in Zanzibar,"

he specified. Bureau de change applications are being received and licences issued to qualified operators, while the central bank encourages financial service providers to introduce foreign exchange automated teller machines, he affirmed. Reviewing the Bureau de Change Regulations of 2019 would further strengthen the business environment by improving licensing conditions for establishing such outlets,

he said. This will expand the scope of provision of foreign exchange services and establish a hierarchy of bureau de change based on the level of capital, to cater for high demand and low demand customer zones, he said. It is a system that will enable tourist hotels nationwide to provide foreign currency exchange services to customers, the minister added.



Newly appointed ambassadors and presidential aides take the ethics oath at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: State House

Sudan war death toll surges past 2,000 as fighting enters 3rd month

KHARTOUM

SUDAN'S devastating war raged on into a third month Thursday as the reported death toll topped 2,000 and after a state governor was killed in the remote Darfur region. Since April 15, the regular army headed by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan has been locked in fighting with paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commanded by his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo. The fighting has driven 2.2 million people from their homes, including 528,000 who have fled to neighbouring countries, says the International Organisation for Migration. "In our worst expectations, we didn't see this war dragging on for this long,"

said Mohamad al-Hassan Othman, among more than one million civilians who have fled heavy fighting in the capital Khartoum.

Everything in "our life has changed," he told AFP. "We don't know whether we'll be back home or need to start a new life."

The death toll has risen above 2,000, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project's latest figures which cover fighting until June 9.

In long-troubled West Darfur state, the violence claimed the life of Governor Khamis Abdullah Abakar, hours after he made remarks critical of the paramilitaries in a telephone interview with a Saudi TV channel.

Agencies

BirdLife, partners initiate moves to tackle wildlife poisoning in E.Africa

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

BIRDLIFE International and its Partnership Network in East Africa have made the first step towards establishing the East Africa Wildlife Poisoning Response Network (EAWPRN) to tackle wildlife poisoning in the region, following a workshop held in Arusha, early this week.

Wildlife poisoning is a significant threat to vultures and

other raptors, in East Africa and elsewhere, accounting for about 61% of vulture deaths across Africa. While vultures play a vital role in our environment keeping it free of decaying carcasses, these majestic birds have experienced catastrophic declines around the world, with populations of all African vulture species plummeting by 70-97% over the last 50 years driven by poisoning, belief-

based use, electrocutions, and collision with power infrastructure among others.

The workshop, which brought together 21 delegates from Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda, is part of BirdLife and partners' work to protect vultures through direct conservation actions, influencing policy and raising awareness about the plight of vultures, where notable progress has been

achieved.

"The East Africa Wildlife Poisoning Response Network is a crucial initiative in safeguarding wildlife and addressing the threats posed by wildlife poisoning. By promoting collaboration, capacity building, and research, the network will push towards the conservation of vultures and other wildlife and maintain the ecological balance in East Africa," said Padzai Mats-

vimbo, Preventing Extinction Programme Coordinator, Africa at BirdLife International.

To combat this threat, BirdLife partners have implemented various measures, including training community volunteers, rangers, and authorities on how to respond to poisoning incidents. In Southern Africa, the BirdLife Partnership network is also facilitating the establishment of Vulture Safe Zones

(VSZs) that provide areas free from threats like poisoning and electrocution, specifically designed to protect vultures in their most vulnerable habitats.

EAWPRN brings together a wide range of stakeholders, including BirdLife Partners, raptor conservation experts, species conservation groups, and protected area management organizations in the region.

"Due to fragmented efforts

and limited coordination between stakeholders, some countries lack the specialised training, resources, and capacity required to effectively respond to wildlife poisoning incidents. Therefore, there is need for a coordinated and effective response to mitigate the impacts of wildlife poisoning incidents in East Africa," said Emmanuel Mgemwa, Executive Director, Nature Tanzania.



Health minister Umyy Mwalimu (2nd-L) presents a Best Blood Donor award to Young Africans Sports Club (Yanga) resident Hersi Ally Said (R) at a World Blood Donor Day (June 14) event held in Dodoma city on Wednesday. Hersi received a trophy following recent donations by Yanga members and supporters of a total of 600 units of blood. This year's campaign slogan for the Day is: "Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often." Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

Global environmental facility allocates 80bn/- for implementation of management projects

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

TANZANIA has been allocated \$33.39 billion (80bn/-) by the Global Environmental Facility for the implementation of various environmental and climate change management projects for the period of four years (2022/23 - 2025/26).

Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, the Minister for Finance and Planning revealed this in the National Assembly when tabling the national budget estimates for the 2023/24 financial year.

He however wanted sectoral ministers to prepare and implement Environmental and Climate Change related projects so as to enable the country to benefit from the financial support.

He noted that Tanzania, like other countries, is facing risks due to the effects of climate change caused by carbon emissions.

"It is worth noting that Tanzania's economy largely depends on productive activities including agriculture, livestock, fishing and tourism which are mostly affected by climate change. It is evident that climate change has negative effects on economic growth, food security, production and industrial development," he noted.

The minister said the government continued to take various measures to deal with the impacts of climate change, particularly the implementation of the National Environmental Master Plan for

Strategic Interventions (2022 - 2032).

He further said the government has continued to negotiate with Development Partners to increase funds to deal with the effects of Climate Change.

Tanzania is currently implementing the National Climate Change Strategy 2021-2026 which aims to enable the country to effectively adapt to climate change and participate in global efforts to mitigate climate change, whilst also achieving sustainable development.

This include promoting use of low-emission energy technologies, policies to conserve energy usage by industries, improved livestock management and food stuffs, greater efficiency in the transport, mining, agriculture and waste management industries as well as afforestation and reforestation policies

Meanwhile, the minister said the government will conduct a detailed assessment in a participatory manner by involving livestock keepers throughout the country in finding the best ways to capacitate and strengthen effective management of grazing areas and livestock infrastructure as recommended by the sector.

"The government recognizes the challenges facing pastoralists in the country. The availability and access to pasture, water, grazing land and low livestock productivity remains a challenge. Livestock should never be a curse nor should it be a cause of poverty in our country, livestock

'Climate change adaption affecting workers' jobs'

By Beatrice Philemon

CLIMATE change and other forms of environmental degradation have already caused net negative impacts on jobs and work productivity.

Employers therefore, have been advised to look into alternative ways to pay salaries to workers whose jobs have been affected by climate change as a good number of jobs originate from ecosystem services and

natural environments that are both prone to climate change.

Anna Mbise, Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (FES) project officer made the call recently when speaking at a climate change breakfast discussion that involved Civil Society Organisation (CSOs) including government officials. It was organised by Women Action towards Economic Development (WATED) with funding from Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action and Both ENDS.

"Jobs rely directly on ecosystem services including farming activities, fishing and forestry, tourism and all those that rely on natural processes, such as pollination, air and water purification, soil renewal and fertilization, pollination, pest control and others to mention a few," she said.

She said employers should take action in these areas because millions of jobs are now lost due to climate change, majority of women who work in the

agricultural sector especially in big farms have lost their job and are out of work.

She said the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) and other workers unions should come up with new comprehensive strategies and policies that will guide them to support workers when they lose their jobs due to climate change effects.

Mbise called on the Civil Society Organization (CSOs) to think how Tanzania will address the effect of climate change instead

of depending on foreign aid.

Highlighting on livestock keepers, she said pastoralists should be educated on how to cope with climate change as well as its advantages and disadvantages.

Evansia Shirika, Environment Officer in the Vice President's Office called on CSOs to visit the office to get the new guidelines for environmental conservation, management, climate change and other issues.

She said CSOs can also be linked with development partners who

are ready to work with them.

"We always want to work with CSOs but sometimes we don't have your contacts. You link-up with the ministry to benefit with the various opportunities," said the official, noting they are preparing a database of CSOs across the country to easily reach them.

Fortunata Manyeresa, Tree of Hope Director said the VPO office should coordinate and have mechanisms that will help them to know each CSO and their activities.

Govt to issue loans to students studying science

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government will start issuing loans to students studying science and priority courses in public colleges across the country to facilitate availability of experts to compete in the fourth industrial revolution.

Speaking when tabling budget estimates for 2023/24 financial year, Finance and Planning Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said the plan goes in line with changes in the country's education policy which emphasizes on vocational education.

"The government will start issuing loans to student in middle colleges pursuing priority courses and this is aimed at producing ore experts in areas which the country is focusing on to boost employment," he said.

The Minister proposed for the removal of tuition fees on O-level students joining in institutions such as the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT), Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) and Arusha Technical College - ATC.

He said the government aims to provide practical education at all levels starting from primary schools, which will enable young Tanzanians to be self-employed or employed and thus, make a significant contribution to the national economy.

"The priority programs as science,

health, technology and education," the minister said.

He said the government has continued to allocate more funds to finance the program, whereby until April 2023 a total of 661.9bn/- have been disbursed.

Furthermore, the minister added that the government has provided loans worth 1.41 trn/- to higher education students as well as continued to improve universities and colleges infrastructure including vocational training and community development.

"The fee free Primary and Secondary Education program has constantly been improved where the government has implemented a historic phenomenon by waiving the fees for advanced level secondary education which has reduced stress to students, consequently, has enabled them to focus on studies," he said.

Other milestones achieved in the education sector, according to the minister include construction of 27,235 classrooms for primary and secondary schools of which 15,000 were built using Rapid Credit Facility (COVID-19 funds).

"In addition, 8,000 secondary school classrooms were constructed for 160bn/- disbursed to accommodate increased number of Form One students' intake.



CCM Secretary General Daniel Chongolo lends a hand in the making of bricks for use in construction work at Kingiti Ward Secondary School in Mpwapwa District, Dodoma Region, yesterday while on a visit to Kibakwe constituency. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

National annual development plan to focus on the productive sectors

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE implementation of the National Annual Development Plan 2023/24 will strongly focus on the productive sectors that have a wide-reaching impact on the majority of citizens, the Parliament heard yesterday.

Presenting to the Parliament, the Economic Survey 2022 Report and the National Annual Development Plan 2023/24, Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, named them as agriculture, live-

stock, and fisheries, which also create employment opportunities for the majority of Tanzanians.

He noted that the Plan aims to complete projects that were stipulated in the Third National Five-Year Development Plan 2021/22 - 2025/26, which is the last in the implementation of Vision 2025. On financing the Plan 2023/24, he said it is estimated that a total of 14,077.2 bn/- will finance development projects.

Out of this, 10,795.1 bn/-, equivalent to 77 percent of the development budget, is from domestic sources


and 3,282.1 bn/- equivalent to 23 percent of the development budget is from external sources.


"These funds will be mobilized from tax and non-tax revenues, grants, concessional loans and commercial loans", stated the minister.

In increasing private sector involvement as an engine for project implementation, he said the government will ensure that all projects attractive for private sector investment are implemented through Public Private Partnership

(PPP). Dr Mwigulu also said the implementation of the 2023/24 Development Plan anticipates the positive outcome of bolstering national economic growth, improving both economic and social infrastructure particularly in healthcare.

Others areas include education, water and electricity, as well as controlling the inflation rates, enhancing the investment and business environment, attracting private sector involvement, enhancing societal well-being and livelihood as a whole.

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MAMLAKA YA ZIADA	
SHAURI LA RUFAA NO. 13 YA 2023	
NEHEMIA SAMWEL NYADHI.....MRUFANI DHIDI YA	
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ALI HUMAID.....	MJIBU RUFAA WA 2
SALIM HUMAID.....	MJIBU RUFAA WA 3
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Environment stakeholders plead for control of importation of products generating waste

By Guardian Correspondent

ENVIRONMENT stakeholders have called upon the government to control importation of some waste generating products, especially from European countries and the United States instead of increasing taxes as they are among the sources of environment degradation.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam, an investment expert on environmental matters from the Jielimishie Kwanza institute, Henry Kazula said most of the waste comes from products imported from developing countries which include electronic goods and second-hand clothes.

Kazula said that research conducted at various markets showed that the imported products contribute in generating wastes that destroy the environment.

"Some imported shoes are of poor quality; allowing such products to enter the country damages the environment. The matter remains one of the challenges towards environmental conservation because the products are used in a short period," he added.

Kazula said that as stakeholders they are happy with the government decision to increase levy on imported old vehicles, saying the measures will enhance environment protection efforts.

"This will discourage people from importing old vehicles; our country is not a dump, we need to control im-

ports to save the environment," he said, calling upon the government to make sure funds allocated for environment conservation are also given to the stakeholders dealing with environmental conservation issues.

Social Welfare Officer from Temeke Municipality, Linda Munisi said that waste that enters the country and destroys the environment include used cars.

"These cars emit dirty air that causes air pollution and may ultimately cause health problems to the people including lung cancer. There are many hazardous wastes that enter the country, including phones and computers," she said.

She said the government should strive to reduce taxes on products that are manufactured in the country to discourage imports.

Munisi said that non-governmental organizations have been striving to provide education and help in formulating policies that will help in making decisions on the control of some imported goods from abroad for purposes of reducing health risks that may be caused by the products.

A Consultant on environment and climate change, Hilaly Ballonzi said it is important to talk about issues that affect the environment and have existed for a long time. He said the government should also look at imported computers because some are used for three months and cannot be repaired.



Musoma Rural legislator Prof Sospeter Muhongo (2nd-L, in white T-shirt) pictured on Wednesday witnessing the digging of a trench in Tegeruka ward in which to lay pipes in implementation of a project meant to pump water from Lake Victoria through Tegeruka and Mugango wards to Butiama District. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AFIC commend govt decision to enact, implement gender responsive laws, policies

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC) has commended the government's decision to enact and implement gender responsive laws and policies that aims to improve the safety of journalists especially the females.

Charity Komujurizi, AFIC monitoring and evaluation coordinator, told journalists yesterday in Dar es Salaam that gender responsiveness should be depicted in state institutions promoting media freedoms

and safety in three countries.

She said centre together with fellows from Uganda and Kenya conducted a survey between 2016 and 2021 whereas indicators showed that threats to journalist's safety in Tanzania are gendered.

The survey titled 'Gendered Dimensions of Journalist's Safety' was conducted based on UNESCO Journalists' safety. She said the coordinator showed that journalists in Tanzania work in unsafe conditions.

"Male journalists tend to be more

vulnerable to physical abuse in the line of duty in the form of arrests, unlawful detention, and abductions that their women colleagues, while female journalists are exposed to more sexual harassment than their male counterparts," she said.

Komujurizi said the report recommends for newsrooms to adopt gender-responsive mechanism to tackle the high prevalence of sexism and sexual harassment, and misogyny in the newsrooms.

She said newsrooms should

involve a deeper analysis of the gender dimensions of the safety of journalists from different contexts and perspectives and adopt frameworks that take the lived experiences of journalists seriously, the impacts and aspects related to the safety of female journalists.

"Female journalists in Tanzania face a growing threat-both in frequency and magnitude-of online harassment especially prevalent on social media, where sexist comments, sexist ribaldry, and sexist reproaches (including body-sham-

ing) are suffered by female journalist much more often and with greater severity than male journalists," she said.

Sylvia Daulinge, the planning and strategy manager at the Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) said: "We have a lot to do including advocacy and building capacity to female journalists."

She however questioned the way how journalists help each other when harassments are reported saying concerted efforts are needed from journalists and stakehold-

ers at large to end the problem.

Media Institute of Southern Africa-Tanzania Chapter (Misa-Tan) board chairperson Salome Kitomari highlighted the need to change approaches advocating issues related to harassment.

She said the safety of journalists in the country is still a big challenge especially salary and working environment adding that there is a big gender gap noting that there is only one female director in media houses.

CAG to conduct investigative Babati District Council audit

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

THE Controller and Auditor General (CAG), Charles Kichere has said any time from now he would descend on Babati district Council for investigative audit to satisfy himself on the billions of shillings claimed to have been embezzled by the Council.

CAG Kichere made the pledge here on Wednesday when he met with and held talks with Babati district councillors who were deliberating the CVAG Audit Report for FY 2021/22.

"This audit does not aim to remove anyone, it is just to satisfy myself in identifying those involved in the reported audit query raised.

"I have decided to conduct this inquisitive audit, not a special audit from the request of Manyara Regional Commissioner, Queen Sendiga after seeing that the region faces many shortcomings regarding embezzlement of public funds," CAG Kichere said.

Kichere further said he decided to come personally to the Council to see how it gets a dubious Audit certificate, as when he received the report from his assistants, he reserved his doubts.

He said even when his assistants conduct auditing, they are often denied cooperation, including nonproduction of vital documents they require.

"You are denying us the right to be provided with requested documents, they are sometimes tendered after considerable delay to the point of doubting them as fabrications," he explained.

Earlier, Manyara regional Commissioner Queen Sendiga, spaking at the meeting said the Dubious Audit Certificate received by the Council did not satisfy her at all.

She said officials who contributed to getting the certificate should be made answerable, and added that the Council received 35 Audit Queries, whereby 10 of them were old and 25 others new ones.



Cosmas Yusufu (with microphone), a Standard Six pupil at Dar es Salaam's Ukombozi Primary School, briefs Tandale ward community development officer Rehema Kajiru (to his left) yesterday on a map of Africa he has made from soda bottles and beer caps. It was at an event to mark the International Day of the African Child. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Masasi town health projects face budgetary constraints

By Guardian Correspondent, Masasi

HEALTH projects valued at 1.5bn/- in Masasi Town Council, Mtwara Region have not been completed for FY 2021/22 for allegedly budget-

ary constraints in the council. This was revealed at the special Councillors meeting whose chief guest was the Mtwara regional Commissioner, Col Ahmed Abbasi.

Reading the CAG Audit report for the Council, Acting CAG for

Mtwara Region, Mary Wembe said during the 2021/22 audit it was discovered that health projects valued at 1.5bn/- had not been completed due to budgetary constraints.

She said the CAG's opinion in regard to the query was that the

management should make all efforts for the implementation of the projects which should be completed in time so as to finalise the outstanding audit queries. She added that the audit also discovered that some health projects that have not

been completed include dispensaries and various building projects implemented by the Council.

The Auditor also said during auditing, it was also found out that education project in one ward valued at 573.9m/- has

also not been completed, also allegedly due to financial constraints.

For his part, Mtwara Regional Commissioner Ahmed Abbasi said that the Council is supposed to work professionally, especially when implementing

development projects so that they are completed in time. He said if work performance is good in the financial management, even the Council's various unfinished projects will be easy to complete and in time.

African hospitality investment forum ends amid hopes for tourism rebound

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

THE 2023 edition of the African Hospitality Investment Forum (AHIF) concluded in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi Wednesday, with policymakers, industry leaders, and experts agreeing that the tourism sector in the continent is on a recovery trajectory amid the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

Kenya hosted the premier gathering of investors in the continent's hospitality and travel sector on June 12-14, attended by an estimated 500 delegates from more than 40 countries. Held against a backdrop of eased COVID-19 travel restrictions globally, the three-day event cast a spotlight on emerging opportunities in the rapidly evolving hospitality sector of Africa.

During his remarks at the forum's opening Monday, Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi said Africa's tourism industry is poised for an accelerated post-pandemic recovery, aided by conducive macroeconomic policies, product diversification, and targeted marketing. "The tourism sector in the continent is rebranding after the COVID-19 pandemic slump to increase the number of arrivals," Mudavadi said.

Participants attend the official opening of Africa Hospitality Investment Forum (AHIF) in Nairobi, capital of Kenya, on June 12, 2023. (Photo by Charles Onyango/Xinhua)

Among the participants at the forum are ministers of tourism from Kenya and Zimbabwe, leading investors in the industry, executives from international hotel chains, service providers, and experts.

Matthew Weihs, the managing director of Bench Events, the forum's convener, said the forum provided a platform for showcasing untapped opportunities in Africa's hospitality industry to potential investors.

According to Weihs, the continent's travel and tourism sectors are ready for take-off, fueled by investors' confidence in a continent that has not experienced major political or economic shocks.

Weihs added that the diversity of natural wealth in Africa, including wildlife, coastal beaches and tropical grasslands, good climate, and famed hospitality of its local communities, has been luring foreign tourists to the continent in large numbers.

The hospitality industry in Africa is gradually returning to its pre-pandemic levels, supported by fiscal incentives from the government, a high number of domestic travelers, and investments in new high-end hotels, said Pat Thaker, the editorial and regional director for Middle East and Africa at The Economist Intelligence Unit.

Thaker noted that the projected increase in the number of outbound Chinese tourists will benefit African countries, adding that the pandemic was a wake-up call for the continent to enhance the resilience of its domestic tourism market.

She suggested that investors in Africa's tourism sector should heighten vigilance amid threats posed by geopolitical tensions, global inflation, climatic shocks, and volatility in the commodities market.

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has said Africa currently receives a 5 percent share of global tourism, but the numbers are expected to rise exponentially.

According to the UNWTO, 47 million tourists returned to Africa in 2022 after a high of 69 million in 2019, amid projections of 134 million visitors by 2035, making the continent the fastest-growing tourist destination after the Asia Pacific region.

During the forum, industry leaders agreed on the importance of leveraging digital technologies, addressing supply chain issues, and diversifying product portfolios to meet the needs of young travelers.

Abraham Muthogo Kamau, the vice president of Africa at Toggle Market, a developer and operator of cross-border multi-tenant supply chain infrastructure, said the continent's hospitality sector stands to gain from local sourcing and digitization in order to reduce operational costs.



National Irrigation Commission director general Raymond Mndolwa addresses residents of Ishinsi, Ndurumo, Msingi and Kidi villages in Mkalama District, Singida Region, at Wednesday's launch of an irrigation scheme project. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

US inaugurates programme to boost Z'bar horticulture sector

By Guardian Reporter

THE US government through the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in partnership with the government of Zanzibar has launched a new program aimed at strengthening Zanzibar's horticulture market systems and promoting economic development.

The Feed the Future Tanzania Kilimo Tija Activity in Unguja and Pemba Islands will sustainably increase economic opportunities in horticulture, with a special focus on including and empowering youth.

The project works with public and private sector associations, youth-led and women-focused institutions, and national and local government authorities to enhance the horticulture market system and unlock economic opportunities, particularly for youth.

The Kilimo Tija project has budgeted 2.3bn/- in support of the horticulture sector in Zanzibar in 2023/24 to drive economic development in the horticulture sector and lay the foundation for sustainable development and prosperity. It is expected to benefit at least

500 micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and 8,000 farmers in the isles.

The launch of Feed the Future Tanzania-Kilimo Tija in Zanzibar highlights USAID's unwavering commitment to support horticulture economic growth in both Unguja and Pemba islands.

USAID Tanzania Feed the Future Coordinator Dr Tor Edwards emphasized on the growing partnership for the two governments and horticulture sector success as witnessed in increasing supply of nutritious food and boosting the economic growth for Zanzibar.

"A decade ago, Zanzibar was importing most of its horticulture products from the mainland and other sources, but now almost 80 percent of horticulture products are produced in Zanzibar," noted Edwards. "Horticulture in Zanzibar is thriving as local farmers are increasingly providing the hotel industry with valuable horticultural products," she said.

The launch included the handover of motorcycles and soil test kits to block extension officers working under the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources,

and Livestock in Zanzibar.

Targeting Tanzania's Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) regions of Iringa, Mbeya, Morogoro, and Njombe, along with Zanzibar's Unguja and Pemba islands, USAID Kilimo Tija's primary goal is to sustainably increase economic opportunities in horticulture market systems, with a special focus on including and empowering youth.

The project works with public and private sector associations, youth-led and women-focused institutions, and national and local government authorities to enhance horticulture market systems and unlock economic opportunities, particularly for the youth.

The project will between 2022 and 2027 support 2,500 micro, small, and medium enterprises, and tens of thousands of smallholder farmers, especially youth.

The initiative seeks to achieve a remarkable 15 percent annual revenue growth for the enterprises, over \$100,000 in sales of produce from smallholder farmers, over \$20 million in new investment leveraged, and the creation of at least 7,400 new jobs.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED



ADDENDUM TO SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (SPN) FOR RE-TENDERING

IFB Number:	PA/001/2021-2022/HQ/W/21
Employer:	Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO)
Project:	P-TZ-FAB-004 – Malagarasi Hydropower Project
Project Title:	Procurement of Plant Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 49.5 MW Malagarasi Hydropower Plant - Lot 1
Country:	TANZANIA
Loan No. / Grant No.:	ADB: 200200004853 & AGTF: 5050200001151
Procurement Method:	Open Competitive Bidding (International) (OCBI)
OCBI/LCB No:	PA/001/2021-2022/HQ/W/21
Issued on:	17 th June 2023

1. We refer Tender Adverts for the Tender in subject issued on 24th May, 2023 through Newspapers and TANESCO website;
2. Interested bidders are hereby informed that, site visit for this Tender is Mandatory and all interested bidders are required to visit the site for familiarization of the site. In that regards, the Employer has organized a second site visit at the proposed Malagarasi Hydropower Plant on Monday 26th June, 2023 from 9:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M, East African Time followed with pre-bid meeting on 27th June, 2023 at TANESCO Regional Office from 10:00 A.M to 12:30 P.M, East African Time.
3. This second site visit is for those interested bidders who did not visit the site on 6th June, 2023 and pre-bid meeting on 7th June, 2023, those who attended the site visit and provided with the site visit certificates are not required to attend.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from TANESCO regarding the second site visit at the address below from 09.00 A.M to 16.00 P.M East African Local Time:

The Secretary - Tender Board,

Street Address:

Umeme Park Building, Ubungo, Ground Floor,

Tender Room, Room No. 305,

City: Dar es Salaam,

Postal Address: P. O. Box 9024,

Country: Tanzania.

Telephone: +255 22 221 0231

Mobile: +255 764 496 926 / 718 825 994

Email: sec.tenderboard@tanESCO.co.tz;

and pmuprojects@tanESCO.co.tz

5. Interested bidders are highly advised to visit the site in order to comply with the requirement of the Tender governing this procurement proceeding.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

TANZANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LTD (TANESCO)



Hidaya Chikawe, coordinator of Women Paralegal Aid Unit in Liwale District, conducts legal literacy training earlier this week for residents of Mtawango village. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Air Force Chief of staff named chair of Ethiopian Airlines directors board

ADDIS ABABA

THE Ethiopian government has appointed the Chief of Staff of the Ethiopian Air Force as chairman of the board of directors of the national airline Ethiopian Airlines, Africa's leading airline in terms of fleet and passengers, announced on Monday.

General Yilma Merdessa, who had been on the board of directors since January 2021, replaced Girma Wake, 79, a veteran of the airline and of the African aviation sector, on 8 June, Ethiopian Airlines said in a statement published on Monday.

The 100 per cent state-owned national airline did not specify the reasons for the departure of Girma, who joined Ethiopian Airlines in 1965 where he had held various positions, and whose Board of Directors he had chaired since March 2022.

Considered an emblematic figure in the African airline sector, he was CEO of the Ethiopian airline from 2004 to 2011, a period of strong development.

After chairing the Board of Rwandan national airline RwandAir between 2012 and 2017, Girma was recalled to the Board of Ethiopian Airlines in December 2018.

"His contribution to the growth and

success of the airline group has been immense and will occupy a special place in the history of the group" Ethiopian Airlines, stressed the company in its statement.

General Yilma has commanded the Ethiopian Air Force since 21 June 2018, appointed to his post by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed two months after he came to power.

Founded in 1945, Ethiopian Airlines claims a fleet of 144 aircraft, says it serves 131 destinations and carried 8.6 million passengers in the 2021-2022 financial year, making it the continent's leading airline in all its sectors.

It reported a profit of 937 million dollars for the 2021-2022 financial year.



General Yilma has commanded the Ethiopian Air Force since 21 June 2018, appointed to his post by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed two months after he came to power

AfDB approves \$107.8m to promote Tanzania's green, resilient recovery from Covid-19 impacts

By Guardian Reporter

THE Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group has approved a \$107.8 million loan to Tanzania to bolster governance and industrial competitiveness and reinforce social inclusion.

The budget support loan will underwrite Tanzania's Economic Competitiveness and Social Inclusion Programme (ECSIP), an initiative to drive Tanzania's sustainable recovery from the effects of the

Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The programme has three components: promote reforms that will enhance domestic resource mobilisation and strengthen public expenditure and procurement systems; enhance the management of environmental resources and the investment climate; and improve social protections and livelihoods of vulnerable groups, including small and medium enterprises and women and youth.

Patricia Laverley, the Bank Group's Tanzania country manager, said, "This operation will allow the bank to deepen policy dialogue with other development partners on domestic resource mobilization; public financial management reforms; strengthening anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing measures; industrial development and competitiveness; as well as strengthening social protection through reprioritization of public expenditures in Tanzania."

Over the last ten years, the bank has supported the Tanzanian government to implement reforms that have made the country more attractive to business and investment.

However, global economic headwinds threaten the country's fiscal progress.

Average growth—nearly 7 per cent before the Covid-19 pandemic—is estimated to have slowed to 4.8 per cent in 2022.

The program is expected to di-

rectly benefit several government ministries and entities, including the ministry of community development, gender, women and special groups, and the revenue and public procurement regulatory authorities. Businesses across mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar are expected to gain access to more investment opportunities to enable them to expand.

The ECSIP aligns with the bank's Tanzania Country Strategy Paper 2021-2025 and Ten-Year Strategy,

which runs through 2023. It also advances the bank's Strategy for Economic Governance in Africa (2021-2025) and the Climate Change and Green Growth Action Plan (2021-2025)

As of 28 February 2023, the Bank's portfolio in Tanzania comprised 21 sovereign and three non-sovereign operations with total commitments of \$2.65 billion. Eighty-six per cent of these operations are in the infrastructure sector, notably energy, transport and water and sanitation.



Omari Issa, chairman of Izaku agricultural marketing cooperative society of Segala in Chamwino District, in Dodoma Region, shows journalists earlier this week high-yield sunflowers grown in the ward from improved seeds. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TBS calls upon stakeholders in food sector to adhere to quality, safety rules

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standard (TBS) has called upon stakeholders in the food sector to adhere to quality and safety rules to ensure the availability of safe food in the country.

Dr Athuman Ngenya TBS director general made the call recently in Dar es Salaam when opening a seminar involving stakeholders in the food system value chain.

The stakeholders met to discuss the role of national, regional and international safety standards on ensuring that safe food reaches the consumer.

The seminar was organized as part of the celebration to mark the World Food Safety Day which is commemorated on every June 7.

Dr Ngenya said safe food is a necessity for all adding that for one to have good health, there is need to eat quality food saying the effects of consuming non-quality food is expensive.

"Unqualified food has been linked to various health complications including stunting in children and the increase in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)," he said.

He said according to the World Health Organisation, one in every 10 people are affected for consuming food which is unsafe and 420 people die for the same.

He said the effects of consuming unsafe food is heavy in developing countries with most victims being children under the age of five.

"The standards are there to lead producers to produce safe food which is suitable for local and foreign consumers," he said, noting that due to their importance, the standards are mandatory which need every stakeholder to get involved through adherence so that the foods are safe globally.

He added that in ensuring the availability of safe and quality food, there is need to consider better methods of production and good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) as well as (Good Hygienic Practice - GHP).

AMCOS to sign agreement with CPB next week to sell sunflower seeds

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole, Dodoma

IZAKU Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society (AMCOS) in Segala ward, Chamwino District, Dodoma Region will next week sign an agreement with Cereal and Other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB) to sell its sunflower seeds.

The agreement will enable the AMCOS to sell its 12,000,000 kilos of sunflowers to the board. The harvests are a result of efforts by more than 10,000 farmers from three villages—1 zava, Kimeji and Umoja all from the District.

Speaking to journalists who visited their farm in Chamwino District, Chairman of Izaku AMCOS, Omari Issa said they are expecting to get 14.4bn/- of which 3bn/- will go to the AMCOS and the rest to farmers. The board purchases a kilogram of sunflower seeds at 1,200/-.

Elaborating, he said farmers will get 1,100/- per kg while Izaku Amcos will get 25/- per kg. He said that 35/- per kg will be deducted to cover transport costs and 30/- per kg will go to Chamwino District council.

He said Izaku is a sunflower crop coop-

erative where its members were cultivating the crop using old methods but after the funding from Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT) they have been able to revolutionize the crop and they are harvesting more.

He said their aim is to have modern sunflower oil processing machines. He said small farmers cultivate 3,000 acres while big farmers cultivate more than 30,000 acres.

He said that last season sunflower seeds fetched good prices at the market but prices have now dropped due to the gov-

ernment's decision to allow businessmen to import cooking oil.

"We had a shortage of edible oil in the country; the government decided to allow traders to import them. Currently, we have a lot of cooking oil that has resulted in sunflower seeds' price drop," he said.

According to him, the support from AMDT has enabled farmers to use certified seeds thus producing quality sunflower seeds. He said through the AMDT they have been able to get more than 50 planting machines which have contributed to job creation among young Tanza-

nians.

He said with the machines, farmers were able to cultivate and plant more than 2,170 acres of sunflowers this season. He said the training provided to farmers enabled them to increase productivity from three bags per acre to 10 bags per acre.

"Farmers are happy because they have a reliable market; previously, farmers were selling their sunflower seeds to middlemen, ending up getting little money," he added, noting they have established illustration farms in each of the three villages.



Nachingwea district commissioner Mohamed Hassan Moyo (3rd-R) with CCM Lindi regional chairman Hassan Jarufu (2nd-R) on Wednesday when handing over fertiliser and other agricultural inputs issued by President Samia Suluhu Hassan for free distribution to Nachingwea farmers. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Sudanese women recount the horror of rape

KHARTOUM

ZEINAB was trying to flee war-torn Khartoum in order to seek safety. But paramilitary fighters she met didn't let her nor women embarking on the same journey escape unharmed.

In mid-May, one month after fighting broke between Sudan's army chief and his deputy (head of the paramilitary group RSF) Zeinab says, herself, her sister and other women who were fleeing Khartoum in a minibus were raped.

The vehicle transporting them was stopped at an RSF checkpoint. There, fighters separated the female from male passengers.

Terrified, they were marched into a warehouse where a man "in civilian clothes who seemed to be their commander" ordered

Zeinab to the ground.

The woman tried to hide her younger sister, in vain. As she attempted to resist she was soon obliged to give up, she recounted her ordeal from another country where she found refuge.

"I was pinned down" one man pointing a rifle to her chest "while the other raped me," Zeinab told AFP. "When he was done, they switched. They wanted to keep my sister with them. I begged them on my hands and knees to let her go."

"I was sure we were about to die," she told AFP, revealing, her younger sister and two other women, one with an infant daughter, were all raped.

Dozens of women have reported similar attacks – in their homes, by the roadside and in commandeered hotels – since the war erupted

in mid-April between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

Zeinab and the other women raped on that fateful day were eventually allowed to leave and escaped to Madani, 200 kilometers away, where they reported the attack to police and went to a hospital.

"We're not the first people this has happened to, or the last," she said.

Sudan's war has claimed at least 1,800 lives and displaced more than 1.5 million people.

The horrors of the conflict have been compounded by a wave of sexual violence, say survivors, medics and activists who spoke to AFP.

Most have requested anonymity or, like Zeinab, used a pseudonym for fear of reprisals against them and others.

Financial institutions tasked to issue sunflower farmers with low-interest loans

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendopole, Dodoma

FINANCIAL institutions have been tasked to equip sunflower farmers with low interest loans to make them boost crop productivity and make the country cut importation of edible oil.

Evalyne Thompson, the director of the Kibaigwa-based Eso Oil Company, made the call here yesterday when speaking to journalists on how the Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT), helped raise the crop for various farmers in the country.

Eso Oil Company engages in sunflower cultivation and produce edible oil for local and in-

ternational markets.

Evalyne said that if farmers are empowered by being given loans that do not hurt, they have a great ability to help the country by cultivating large fields of sunflowers so that the country can be self-sufficient in cooking oil.

The director grow sunflower in a 200-acre sunflower farm based in Kibaigwa area, Dodoma Region. Evalyne uses her own tractor to cultivate her farm and also support her neighbors with an agreement to sell the crop to her at the market price.

"However, our biggest challenge is the capital to improve our agriculture, so if the government or financial institutions

help me with cheap loans, I will be able to cultivate large fields and cultivate farms of my neighbours and then buy their produce in bulk by doing so I will increase my income and they will also increase their income," she said.

She said that her factory was previously processing 80 bags of sunflowers per day but after being empowered by the Agricultural Development Denmark Asia (ADDA) with the second milking machine, she can now process up to 200 bags in one day.

She said the biggest challenge they face in their daily activities is the lack of reliable electricity because the area has many small fac-

ories but they fail to work because many times they without electricity.

"Even as we speak now there is no electricity and we can stay like this until tomorrow without electricity and even if it come back it might be small in a way that we can not operate and we have been burning our motors from time to time so we are asking for reliable electricity here," she said

He said his factory is registered with the Small Industries Organization (SIDO) and has been awarded a quality mark from the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) due to compliance with production standards.

Another sunflower farmer,

Khadija Rajabu Iddi, who is the owner of the Nyarega Sunflower Oil factory in Kibaigwa, said that if they are empowered with loans, they will expand their activities and contribute to the availability of oil in many areas of the country.

She said she started production in 2010 when started cultivating sunflowers and then bought a sunflower milking machine while she was in a rent buildings in the area of Kibaigwa.

She said ADDA enabled her to add a sunflower processing machine which to a large extent has enabled him to improve her activities by gaining the ability to process more sunflowers.

"In addition to that, ADDA also enabled me to get entrepreneurship train-

ing and we have met many farmers who are currently selling me their sunflowers and I have found many markets to sell sunflower oil, the business has continued to grow day by day."

She said that earlier they had the challenge of brokers who were between the buyer and the farmer but now she buys sunflowers directly from the farmers and there is no middleman like before.

"We are asking financial institutions and banks to provide us with cheap loans that will enable us to expand our activities by cultivating more acres because when we get more harvests, we get more oil and we increase the income of the Tanzanians we work with," she said.

UNESCO launches Phase II of flagship programme across sub-Saharan Africa

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

UNESCO in collaboration with ministries of education and health from 33 sub-Saharan African countries, is launching the second phase of the landmark 'Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future (O3) Programme.'

As the largest school-based programme on education for health and well-being in Africa, the ambitious O3 Programme plans to equip 44 million adolescents and young people with good quality, accurate, and rights-based sexuality education, and school violence prevention programmes. The programme aims to build adolescents and young people's agency to make healthier and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

The O3 Programme responds to the region's most pressing challenges. Young people (aged 10 to 24) constitute 32% of SSA's population, and they face significant obstacles such as high rates of school dropout, new HIV infections, gender-based violence (GBV), and early and unintended pregnancies (EUPs). While knowledge about HIV has improved, further progress is still needed to promote safe behaviour.

According to the latest available DHS data, the percentage of adolescent girls and boys who correctly respond to five basic questions about HIV is below 40 per cent in most countries. Gender disparities in education persist, with many children unable to access formal education or remaining out of school due to EUPs, child marriage, HIV, and GBV.

"We are grateful to Programmes like O3 and O3 PLUS and the generous support from funding partners, UNESCO and UN Zanzibar for joining hands with the government of Zanzibar to make our children excel

in their education journey with the appropriate knowledge, skills, and competencies required for preventing HIV, reducing early and unintended pregnancies, and eliminating gender-based violence,"

declared H.E. Lela Muhamed Mussa, Minister of education and Vocational Training in Zanzibar.

The O3 Programme has made a profound difference during its first phase directly impacting over 34 million young people. Through comprehensive teacher training initiatives, over 500,000 teachers have been equipped to provide effective sexuality and life skills education. Focused on higher and tertiary education settings, the O3 PLUS project launched, in 2021 has benefited 88,000 students addressing their unmet need for sexuality education and access to SRH services.



Mkinga District Hospital pharmacist Jonas Mbwambo (R) leads a sensitisation drive yesterday on the proper use of medicine by motorbike taxi riders. It was in implementation of Pharmacy Week activities in the district. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

China-Africa scientific alliance pays to Africa's anti-desertification drive

NAIROBI

A STRONGER collaboration between Chinese and African scientists has reinvigorated ongoing endeavors to combat desertification, restore landscapes across the continent, and accelerate its transition towards a greener future, said a Kenyan scholar.

Chinese and African scientists have been in lockstep to

confront desertification and other ecological crises, said Robert Gituru, director of the Sino-Africa Joint Research Center (SAJOREC), which is located on the main campus of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in central Kenya.

China-Africa scientific research, which is embedded in the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, has helped

local efforts to halt the further spread of deserts in the continent caused by human activity and climate change, said Gituru.

Commending China's move to infuse green ethos in the Belt and Road infrastructure projects across Africa, he said that the continent is benefiting from the Asian country's practices on regenerating ecosystems.

"The green Belt and Road brings to us the thinking that in all our human development, always remember to incorporate environmental sustainability, whether it is in the construction of infrastructure, or in legislation," Gituru said.

Since its official launch in 2013, SAJOREC, which sits on 40 acres of land and has an expansive botanical garden,

has been at the forefront of fostering collaborative research between African and Chinese scientists in diverse fields like agriculture and biodiversity conservation.

Thanks to the establishment of SAJOREC, Kenyan scientists have been able to publish an inventory of the country's rich flora and fauna, which is critical to generating tourism revenue,

Gituru said.

With the Chinese-funded research center, African scientists have been enlightened on cutting-edge but affordable technologies that promote drylands management, he added.

Through collaborating with their Chinese partners, African scientists could also improve their capacity to harness microorganisms to

control desertification, said the expert.

Rapid economic development in China that aligns with ecological renewal has been an inspiration to African scientists in their quest for a solution to desertification and loss of species worsened by the climate crisis, Gituru said.

"I would be happy if the rest of the world and Africa

SATURDAY 17 JUNE 2023

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Rescheduling VAT set to ease trade environment, cut bribes

VAT change is expected in the trading atmosphere in the wake of a move to change the Value Added Tax registration threshold from 100m/- to 200m/-, as hundreds of thousands of traders will no longer be hassled over tax remittances.

This is effectively what the Finance and Planning minister told the legislature in his presentation of the government's fiscal plan for 2023/2024. Plenty of the contesting of the work of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) was tied to this bracket, as quite often they don't need electronic devices to monitor sales.

While this trade bracket is substantial, the wider impact is how the change affects the trading atmosphere as a whole, in the fact that when relatively big traders are not being put to circles and shop closures by TRA inspectors, traders will be seen differently. Local authorities will begin to grasp the fact that tax or licence fees are at best contributions to local government income, but the more important feature is that trade provides services to the neighbourhood or those in transit, assuring employment for those operating it. It is already a social need.

The changes in VAT - and they were not few - were part a fiscal plan that clearly aims at reducing tax hassles while uplifting needy sectors in pushing up agriculture, crop processing and industries using local raw materials. VAT is to be exempted on inputs used to manufacture insecticides and pesticides used to kill ticks and mites (acaricides). Noticeably, the minister set out government intention to gradually increase the VAT threshold to 500m/-, which basically implies that VAT will be applicable at wholesale centres. The rest will have contributed to local authorities by other means, in-

cluding licences, local levies.

There were other remarks which were unlikely to be splashed on front pages of newspapers or 24 hour news casts for major television or radio outlets, namely following up on Diaspora and foreign investors' needs. It is a move to introduce residence permit lasting 10 years on a renewable basis, by the basic criterion of depositing investible funds of a specific threshold. There is just one safeguard that the minister underlined, namely that such a person ought not be a threat to national security, which relates evidently to international criminality like drugs, trafficking of arms, people or money laundering. It can attract the vast Diaspora.

The minister plaintively sought to admonish layers of civic authorities and those in upper levels of leadership generally not to hinder people wishing to sell fixed property. He said quite audibly and repeatedly that people should be allowed to make money by selling their property to anyone who asks, making fun on the issue of 'being paid port money.' This way people will let go of their traditional ramshackle dwellings to get cash to move elsewhere, set up farms or businesses.

There were also other moves that foster equity and accelerate business in the mining sector, by exempting VAT on the supply of gold, diamonds, tanzanite and other gemstones at buying centres for metals, minerals and gemstone houses designated by the regulator. There is also a move to zero rate VAT on locally manufactured fertilizer, while introducing income tax at the rate of two percent of payments made to artisanal and small miners. How far this will cut minerals smuggling across borders is unclear, but it is more accommodating.

Financial inclusion is a key enabler to reducing poverty

THE benefits that digital and financial inclusion bring when linked to remittances in helping remittance families achieve their own SDGs. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), as custodian of the The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), aims at ensuring support of the observance and dissemination of resulting actions in the framework of the institution. In that timeframe, through a spotlight on yearly themes aligned to the global development agenda, the campaign aims at strengthening and guiding stakeholders in focusing on the new trends and priorities that make remittances count more.

IDFR 2023/24 campaign focuses on promoting digital technologies to enhance financial inclusion in Low - and Middle - Income countries (LMICs), and to work towards achieving the cost reduction target of 3 per cent as mentioned in SDG 10.

The IDFR and the United Nations commend the determination and resilience of the human spirit as evidenced by migrant workers. Further, the UN calls for governments, the private sector, development organisations and the civil society to promote digital and financial solutions for remittances that foster greater social and economic resilience and inclusion.

The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) is a universally-recognised observance adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and celebrated every year on 16 June. The Day recognises the contribution of over 200 million migrants to improve the lives of their 800 million family members back home, and to create a future of hope for their children. Half of these flows go to rural areas, where poverty and hunger are concentrated, and where remittances count the most.

Through this observance, the United Nations aims to bring greater awareness of the impact that these contributions have on millions of households, but also on communities, countries, and entire regions. The Day also calls upon governments, private sector entities, as well as the civil society, to find ways that can maximise the impact of remittances through individual, and/or collective actions.

The IDFR is now fully recognised at the global level, and included as one of the a key initiatives to implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Objective 20), also calling for the reduction of remittance transfer costs, and greater financial inclusion through remittances. The Day also promotes achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and furthers the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Within the framework of the Global Forum on Remittance, Investments and Development (GFRID) Summit 2023, hosted by IFAD, the UN Office of the Special Adviser for Africa and the World Bank from 14 to 16 June, this year's observance will take place at the UN Office at Nairobi on the last Summit day, on Friday, 16 June.

The high level plenary will be followed by thematic sessions, focusing on the benefits that digital and financial inclusion bring when linked to remittances in helping 1 billion people achieve their own SDGs.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has not only triggered large-scale humanitarian, migration, and refugee crises, it has also added downside risks to the global economy that is still dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. The direct effects of a decline in remittance flows and the indirect effects of rising food, fuel, and fertiliser prices have increased the risks of food insecurity and rising poverty in many low-income countries.

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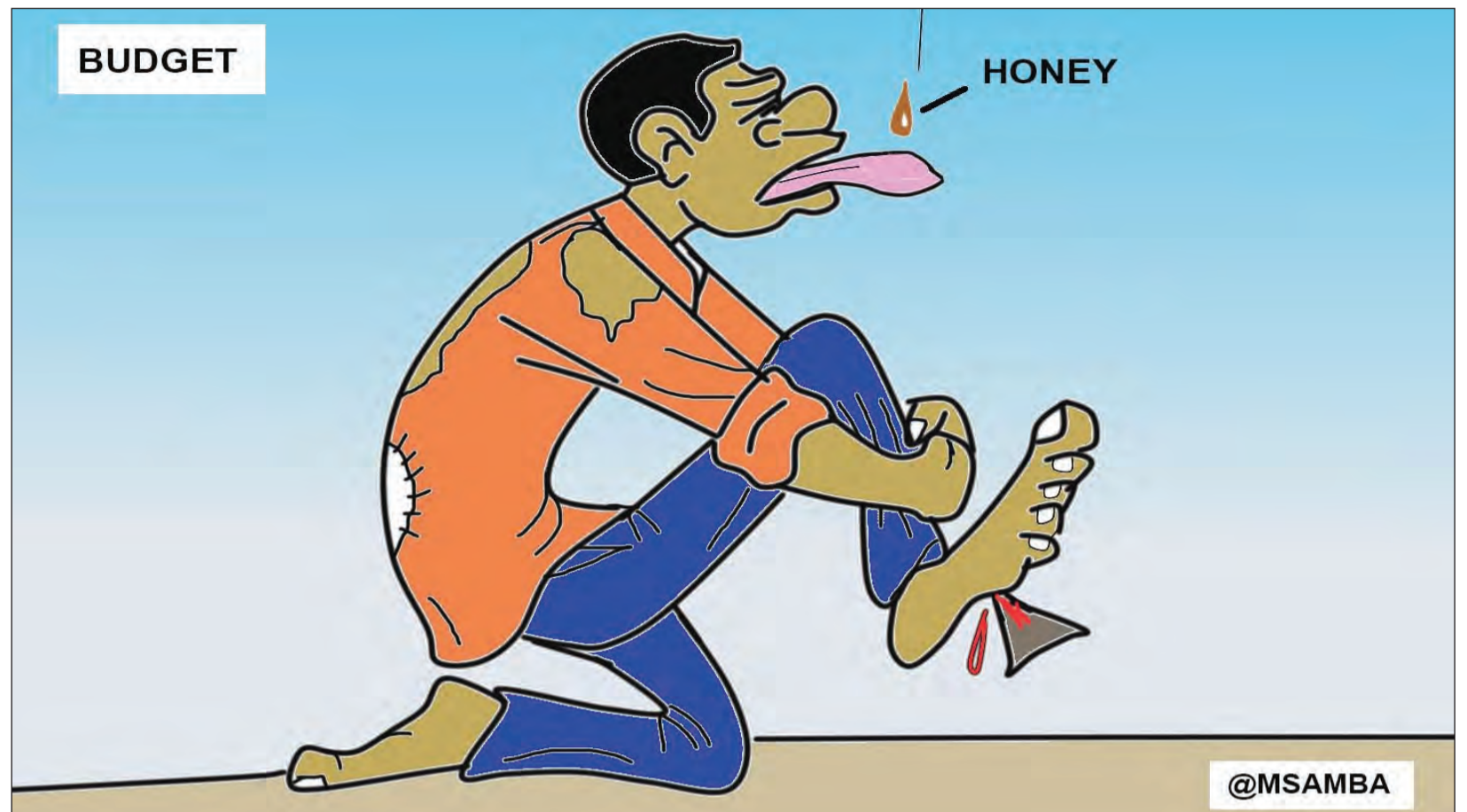
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Climate disasters do really have major consequences for informal economies

By Catherine Wilson

IN the Pacific Islands and many developing and emerging countries worldwide, the informal economy far outsizes the formal one, playing a vital role in the survival of urban and rural households and absorbing expanding working-age populations.

Informal business entrepreneurs and workers make up more than 60 percent of the labour force worldwide. But they are also the most exposed, with precarious assets and working conditions, to the economic shocks of extreme weather and climate disasters.

In 2016, Category 5 Cyclone Winston, the most ferocious cyclone recorded in the southern hemisphere, unleashed widespread destruction of Fiji's infrastructure, services and economic sectors, such as agriculture and tourism. And in March this year, Cyclones Judy and Kevin barreled through Vanuatu, an archipelago nation of more than 300,000 people, and its capital, Port Vila, leaving local tourism businesses with severe losses.

It is now three months since the disasters. But Dalida Borlasa, business owner of Yumi Up Upcycling Solutions, an enterprise at Port Vila's handicraft market, which depends on tourists, told IPS there had been some recovery, but not enough. "We have had two cruise ships visit in recent weeks, but there have only been a few tourists visiting the market. We are not earning enough money for daily food. And other vendors at the market don't have enough money to replace their products that were damaged by the cyclones," she said.

Up to 80 percent of working-age people in some Pacific Island countries are engaged in informal income-generating activities, such as smallholder agriculture and tourism-dependent livelihoods. But in a matter of hours, cyclones can destroy huge swathes of crops and bring the tourism industry to a halt when international visitors cancel their holidays.

Climate change and disasters are central concerns to the Commonwealth, an inter-governmental organization representing 78 percent of all small nations, 11 Pacific Island states and 2.5 billion people worldwide. "The consequences of global failure on climate action are catastrophic, particularly for informal businesses and workers in small and developing countries. Just imagine the struggles of an individual who relies on subsistence and commercial agriculture for their livelihood. Their entire existence is hanging in the balance as they grapple with unpredictable weather patterns and unfavourable conditions that can wipe out their crops in a matter of



seconds," Rt. Hon Patricia Scotland KC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, told IPS. "It's not simply a matter of economic well-being; their entire way of life is at stake. The fear and uncertainty they experience are truly daunting. But they are fighting. We must too."

The formal economy in many Pacific Island countries is too small and offers few employment opportunities. In Papua New Guinea, an estimated four million people are not in work, while the formal sector has only 400,000-500,000 job openings, according to PNG's Institute of National Affairs. And with more than 50 percent of the population of about 8.9 million aged below 25 years, the number of job seekers will only rise in the coming years. And so, more than 80 percent of the country's workforce is occupied in self-generated small-scale enterprises, such as cultivating and selling fruit and vegetables.

But eight years ago, the agricultural livelihoods of millions were decimated when a record drought associated with the El Nino climate phenomenon ravaged the Melanesian country.

"Eighty-five percent of PNG's population are rural inhabitants who are dependent on the land for production of food and the sale of surplus for income through informal fresh produce markets. In areas affected by the 2015 drought, especially in the highlands, the drought killed food crops, affecting food security," Dr Elizabeth Kopel of the Informal Economy Research Program at PNG's National Research Institute told IPS. "Rural producers also supply urban food markets, so when supply dwindled, food prices increased for urban dwellers," she added.

In Vanuatu, an estimated 67

percent of the workforce earn informal incomes, primarily in agriculture and tourism. On the waterfront of Port Vila is a large, covered handicraft market, a commercial hub for more than 100 small business owners who make and sell baskets, jewellery, paintings, woodcarvings and artworks to tourists. The island country is a major destination for cruise ships in the South Pacific. In 2019, it received more than 250,000 international visitors.

Highly exposed to the sea and storms, the market building, with the facilities and business assets it houses, bore the brunt of gale force winds from Cyclones Judy and Kevin on 1-3 March. Tables were broken, and many of the products stored there were destroyed. Thirty-six-year-old Myshlyn Narua lost most of the handmade pandanus bags she was planning to sell. The money she had saved helped to sustain her family in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, but it would not be enough to survive six months, she stated in a report on the disaster's impacts on market vendors compiled by Dalida Borlasa.

The country's tourism sector has suffered numerous climate-induced economic shocks in recent years. In 2015, Cyclone Pam left losses amounting to 64 percent of GDP. Another Cyclone, Harold, in 2020 added further economic losses to the recession across the region triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"To address the climate emergency and protect the lives and livelihoods of people, particularly those in the informal sector, countries must fulfil their commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement. They must work to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and

provide the promised US\$100 billion per year in climate finance," said the Commonwealth Secretary-General. She added that climate-vulnerable nations should also be eligible for debt relief. Meanwhile, the Commonwealth Secretariat is working with member countries to improve their access to global funding for climate projects. And it is calling for reform of the global financial architecture to improve access to finance for lower-income countries that need it the most.

At the same time, the International Labour Organization predicts that the informal economy will continue to employ most Pacific Islanders, and the imperative now is to develop the sector and improve its resilience.

In PNG, the government has acknowledged the significance of the informal sector and developed national policy and legislation to grow its size and potential. Its long-term strategy is to improve the access of entrepreneurs to skills training, communications, technology and finance and encourage diversity and innovation within the sector. Currently, 98 percent of informal enterprises in the country are self-funded, with people often seeking loans from informal sources. The government's goal is to see informal enterprises transition into higher value-added small and medium-sized businesses and to see the number of these businesses grow from about 50,000 now to 500,000 by 2030.

In Port Vila, Borlasa and her fellow entrepreneurs would like to see their existing facilities made more climate resilient before they face the next cyclone. She suggested that stronger window and door shutters be fitted to the market building and the floor raised and strengthened to stop waves and storm surges penetrating.

When it's better to free 10 criminals than condemn one innocent person

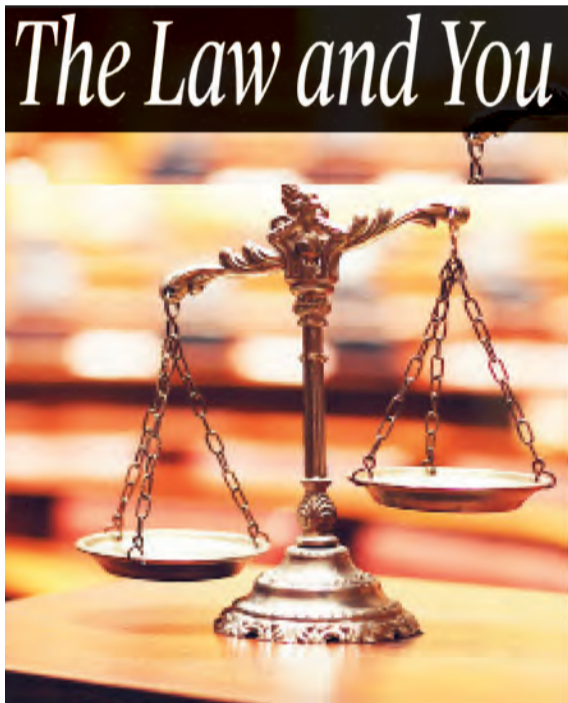
By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at the constitutional right to work. We did this in relation to what some spouses do after marriage, especially when a husband tells his wife that there is no need to be employed (if it happens that the wife is employed) because what he gets is enough to cater for family needs.

In most cases, married women have been giving in to safeguard the marriage, but with some costs. Behind it is a control mechanism in the sense that you can only control another person if you deprive that person of the means of earning a living and make him or her depend on you financially. Therefore, we concluded that there is a need to improve marital relationship and trust to avoid costly consequences for both parties (husband and wife).

Today, I invite you to revisit criminal justice, which we once covered in previous columns, but this time with another legal aspect. If you may recall, there was a time we said that there is a legal maxim which says: "Better that 10 guilty persons escape, than that one innocent [person] suffer." This maxim was formulated by English jurist William Blackstone (1723-1780) in 1769. It is called "the Blackstone ratio". Over the years and even before the 18th century, other eminent legal authorities expressed it differently.

Madison, Wisconsin, lawyer Bruce Rosen said: "It is better to let nine guilty [persons] free than to convict



one innocent [person]." Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) put it that "it is better a 100 guilty persons should escape than one innocent person should suffer."

In English history in the 9th century, King Alfred (849-899) is said to have a judge hanged for having executed a defendant "when the jurors were in doubt about their verdict, for in case of doubt one should rather save than condemn." A century later, the laws of King Ethelred (837-871) provided that 12 thanes (knights) and a reeve (a representative of the king) would "swear on [a] relic ... that they [would] accuse no innocent [person] nor conceal any guilty one."

In 1471, English Chief Justice John Fortescue (1385-1479) suggested: "Indeed, I would rather wish 20 evil doers to es-

cape death through pity than one [person] to be unjustly condemned."

In the 17th century, Matthew Hale (1609-1676) suggested "for it is better five guilty persons should escape unpunished, than one innocent person should die." Sir Edward Seymour (1633-1708), in 1696, favoured the ratio of 10. He reportedly declared, "I am of the same opinion with the Roman, who, in the case of Catiline, declared, he had rather 10 guilty persons should escape, than one innocent should suffer."

The maxim had become part of the common law by 1802 and by 1823 it had become a maxim of English law and was cited in many judicial opinions. Some proponents of the maxim had put the ratio to as high as 5,000 - suggesting that it is better to let 5,000 guilty persons free than make one innocent person suffer imprisonment or execution.

The maxim's origin is the biblical book of Genesis (18:16-32) in which Abraham intercedes for Sodom. Genesis 18:32 Abraham says: "I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be 10." "I will not destroy it," God replied, "for the sake of 10."

The idea of tracing this legal maxim is to show the legal position in many jurisdictions when it comes to implicate a person in a criminal offence. In criminal justice, the prosecution is required to prove beyond reasonable doubt the commission of a criminal offence and it is only after this that the court can indict a guilty party.

In a recent case of Chacha Samson Itembe Machubi (appellant) v Republic, which is a criminal appeal No

249 of 2020, the appellant was charged with murder contrary to sections 196 and 197 of the Penal Code (R.E. 2019) in Musoma, Mara Region and was convicted of the offence and sentenced to suffer death by hanging as provided for in section 26(1).

Aggrieved by both the conviction and sentence, he appealed to the Court of Appeal of Tanzania, advancing five grounds. One of them had to do with the court assessors' opinion.

After going through the evidence of both parties (the prosecution and defence counsel), the appellate court cited the case of Mulokozi Anatory v Republic, Criminal Appeal No 124 of 2014 (unreported), in which the court stated: "We wish first to say in passing that although the word 'may' is used implying it is not mandatory for the trial judge to sum up the case to assessors, but as a matter of long established practice and to give effect to section 265 of the Criminal Procedure Act that all trials before the High Court shall be with the aid of assessors, trial judges sitting with assessors have invariably been summing up the cases to the assessors."

The Court of Appeal continued that where there was inadequate summing up to assessors, their opinion could not be said to have been based on the proper apprehension of evidence of witnesses in relation to the principles of law governing reliability of such evidence.

The Court of Appeal referred to another case of Geoffrey Ntapanya and Another v Republic, Criminal Appeal No 232 of 2019 (unreported), which cited a decision of the defunct Court of Appeal for Eastern Africa in the case of Washington Odindo v Republic [1954] 21 EACA 392.

The then defunct EACA had stated: "... the opinion of assessors has the potential to be of great value where the assessors fully understand the facts of the case before them as it relates to the relevant law. That, where the law is not explained and the assessors are not drawn to salient facts of the case, the value of their opinions is invariably reduced."

Furthermore, considering that the offence the appellant was charged with was committed at night, the appellate court stated that in cases depending on visual identification, there is a threshold on conditions favouring a correct identification which has to be met.

Accordingly, the Court of Appeal nullified proceedings in criminal sessions case No 7 of 2020, quashed the conviction against the appellant and ordered the appellant be released forthwith from prison unless he was otherwise held for other lawful causes. It suffices to say that in the eyes of the law, justice has to manifestly be seen to have been done and it is better to release the guilty than condemn the innocent.

Today's proverb: "Many find fault without an end, and yet do nothing at all to mend."

The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at tmagobe@gmail.com

Here are six types of fear that can stand between you and success (2)

By Luther Mugosha

OUR previous piece on this topic ended with how to prepare your mind so as to make practical use of desire. When this philosophy is fully absorbed, one can accurately foretell what the future holds in store for them.

The rule is clear that if you demand riches, determine what form and how much will be required to satisfy you and have clear roadmap to follow towards that end without diversion.

People have clear ideas of what they can do to succeed in life but because of fear, many do not even start and end up dying with the ideas that could have changed their lives and their communities for the better. If you neglect to make a start no one is to blame but you. For, this responsibility is yours and yours alone.

The harsh reality is that if you don't succeed in life, no alibi will save you from accepting the responsibility and no wealth will come your way by itself. It is important to learn to control your state of mind. It is something that one assumes. It can't be purchased, it must be created.

Fear of poverty is a state of mind, nothing else. But it's sufficient to destroy one's chances of achievement in any undertaking. This fear paralyzes the faculty of reason, destroys the faculty of imagination of the mind, kills off self-reliance, undermines enthusiasm, discourages initiatives, leads to uncertainty of purpose, encourages procrastination, wipes out enthusiasm and leads to impossibility.

Further, this fear takes the charm from one's personality, destroys the possibility of accurate thinking, diverts concentration of effort, it derails persistence, turns the willpower into nothingness, destroys ambition and beclouds the memory. Also, it kills love and assassinates the finer emotions of heart, discourages friendship and invites disaster in a hundred forms, leads to sleeplessness, misery and unhappiness.

The obvious truth that we live in a world of overabundance of everything the heart would desire, with nothing standing against us and our desires except lack of definite purposes. The fear of poverty is without doubt the most destructive of the six fears. It has been placed at the head of list because it is difficult to conquer. Nothing brings a person so much suffering and humbleness as poverty. Only those who have experienced it understand the full meaning of this.

It's not surprising that a person fears poverty through a long line of inherited experiences a person has learned. For instance, some people can't be trusted where matters of money and earthly possessions are concerned.

Some people are so eager to possess wealth such that they can acquire it in whatever manner be it legal or illegal. But there is no better experiencing than en-

joying wealth acquired legally through hard work and determination to succeed.

That is why before you embark on any undertaking, self-analysis is important to disclose weaknesses which one does not acknowledge. This form of examination is essential to all who demand of better life more and not poverty.

Remember, as you check yourself point by point, you are both the court and the jury, the prosecuting attorney and the attorney for the defense and that you are the plaintiff and the defendant. Face the facts squarely. Ask yourself definite questions and demand direct replies. When the examination is over, you will know more about yourself.

If you don't feel that you can be an impartial judge in this self-examination, call upon someone who knows you well to serve as a judge while you cross-examine yourself. You are after the truth. Get it, no matter at what cost even though it may temporarily embarrass

you. The majority of people when asked what they fear most would reply "I fear nothing" but this reply is mostly inaccurate.

The truth is many people are bound, handicapped, whipped spiritually and physically through some form of fear. So, subtle and deeply seated is the emotion of fear that one may go through life burdened with it without recognizing its presence. Only a courageous analysis will disclose the presence of this universal enemy. When you begin such analysis, search deeply into your character.

Here is a list of major symptoms of fear which you should look at as you cross-examine yourself. One is indifference. This is commonly expressed through lack of ambition, willingness to tolerate poverty, acceptance of whatever compensation life may offer without protest, mental and physical laziness, lack of initiative, imagination, enthusiasm and self-control.

The second symptom is indecision. This is the habit

of permitting others to do one's thinking while staying on the fence. Its danger is that one person cannot think and decide in the best interest of another person. The third is doubt. This is generally expressed through alibis and excuses designed to cover up, explain away or apologize for one's failures, and sometimes expressed in the form of envy of those who are successful, or by criticizing them.

And the fourth one is worry. This is usually expressed by finding fault with others, a tendency to spend beyond one's income, neglect of personal appearance, scowling and frowning intemperance in the use of alcoholic drinks and sometimes through the use of narcotics, nervousness, lack of poise and self-consciousness. (To be continued)

Luther Mugosha is a psychologist and author of motivational books based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0626 267 969.



A climate finance goal that works for developing countries

By Richard Kozul-Wright

AFTER years of failing to meet climate finance commitments, the new climate finance goal under discussion this week in Bonn is critical, but without supporting reforms of the global financial architecture we risk repeating past mistakes.

As cities across North America are covered with clouds of smoke caused by wildfires in Canada, negotiations on the New Collective Quantified Goal for climate finance continue in Bonn.

This goal will replace the climate finance commitment set in 2009, which aimed to mobilize \$100 billion per year for developing countries by 2020. The \$100 billion commitment, which in any case has not been met, will expire in 2025.

\$100 billion is a fraction of what is needed

It's commonly understood that the \$100 billion goal is a fraction of what is needed to support developing countries to achieve climate goals in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

In the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) recent analysis of financing needs, developing countries require at least \$6 trillion by 2030 to meet less than half of their existing Nationally Determined Contributions.

By comparison, official data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) assessed total climate finance flows from developed to developing countries at \$83.3 billion in 2020, and Oxfam estimates that the real value is about one third of that, around \$21 billion to \$24.5 billion.

Furthermore, climate finance continues to be predominantly delivered as loans, including a large share of non-concessional financing, exacerbating sovereign debt issues that have been growing across regions and income groups.

New goal must respond to demonstrated needs

Instead of being based on arbitrary targets, the new goal must rigorously quantify and respond to countries' demonstrated needs and be tracked based on an agreed methodology that can prevent the double-counting and significant overstatements of the past.

Developing countries face the double challenge of simultaneously investing in development and in climate mitigation and adaptation, while addressing the costs of loss and damage.

The scale of this challenge is staggering when close to



Residents flee floods in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Credit: Shutterstock/Sk Hasan Ali

900 million people in the world don't have access to electricity, and more than 4 billion people don't have a social safety net they can rely on.

But advancing green industrialization and diversification, raising public investment and social protection, and preparing and responding to multiplying climate disasters all depend on increasing access to finance.

UNCTAD's estimate in 2019 was that delivering both climate and development goals demanded \$2.5 trillion of annual financing for developing countries, a number that will have risen since then due to the pandemic and ongoing

economic and financial shocks.

Financing options that are fair, sufficient and politically feasible are achievable and UNCTAD has recommended reforms to the global financial architecture that would help deliver climate and development finance at the appropriate scale.

Four priorities for climate finance UNCTAD outlined four priorities at an event entitled "Options for Scaling Climate Finance" co-hosted by the German development agency GIZ and The Energy and Resources Institute at the Bonn Conference on 6 June.

The first and most urgent priority is debt distress: 60% of low-income countries are in, or on the edge of, debt distress and are spending an estimated five times more on debt servicing than on climate adaptation every year, undermining future resilience and growth prospects.

Debt-creating instruments are not a sustainable climate finance option in the

current context. Instead, these countries need urgent debt relief. A longer-term goal should be to establish a multilateral debt workout process that can help countries break the vicious debt and climate cycle.

This also implies increasing grant-based sources of financing, however both Official Development Assistance and climate finance flows have been decreasing in real terms. As well as reversing these trends, multilateral sources of financing must be scaled up.

A second priority should be to consider innovative ways to deploy the IMF's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) to maximize their climate and development impact while retaining their benefits as a conditionality-free, debt-free source of liquidity.

This could include rechanneling SDRs to multilateral development banks (MDBs), addressing allocation issues to ensure SDRs go to where they are needed

most, or considering more ambitious approaches such as new SDR asset classes with specific purposes such as climate resilience.

Another source of additional financing is the global network of hundreds of government-backed development banks at all levels - multilateral, regional and national - as the most direct way to increase the availability of development finance.

These banks have a long-term horizon and counter the pro-cyclical tendencies of private finance, as well as local knowledge and expertise to forge solutions across countries and regions. Climate finance from MDBs cannot only target the technical part of transitions, but also support communities with managing the social and economic costs of a green transition.

Developed countries can use their shareholder power to increase the capitalization of their MDBs, while MDBs and regional development banks could seek new members to get additional capital, following the example of the New Development Bank (NDB), to support more green investments.

The fourth consideration is how to mobilize private finance towards climate goals. As well as using incentives, there needs to be discipline in the form of regulatory measures to drive productive investment and alignment of private finance flows with the Paris Agreement.

While new climate-related instruments such as environmental, social and governance financing, green bonds and climate-debt-swaps may signal recognition of climate change, they continue to be far smaller in scale than required.

Also, there is a clear and evidenced risk of greenwashing that necessitates increased regulatory oversight, otherwise these tools will become distractions that exacerbate financing challenges.

As UN Secretary-General António Guterres said in response to the North American wildfires, "we're running out of time to make peace with nature, but we cannot give up."

The financing options outlined here offer a starting point to ensure that a new goal for climate finance can meet the challenge of the moment, supporting all developing countries to achieve their climate goals.

Richard Kozul-Wright is Director of the Globalization and Development Strategies Division, UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Geneva.

IPS UN Bureau

Massive fish deaths strike Kashmir's lake, threaten livelihoods

By Umar Manzoor Shah

ABDUL Lateef Dar, a 45-year-old man living on the outskirts of Kashmir's renowned Dal Lake, relies on the lake's fish for food and income.

On the morning of May 26, 2023, Dar followed his usual routine, preparing his fishing tools and heading toward the lake. Initially, he noticed a few lifeless fish floating on the lake's surface, which he considered a common sight. However, as the morning haze lifted, Dar looked at the lake with horror. The lake was filled with thousands of dead fish, resembling dry and withered branches. Dar urgently called out to fellow fishers and showed them the distressing scene.

Soon, hundreds of fishermen and their families gathered along the lake's shore, witnessing the devastating scale of the fish mortality.

Dar recounted how he began fishing with his father at 14, relying on the lake for his livelihood. He expressed

deep anguish at the devastation. Overnight, thousands of fish had perished, dealing a severe blow to his livelihood and that of countless others who depend on fishing and selling fish in the market.

"But I have never ever seen such devastation - it's like a doomsday. Not hundreds but thousands of fish are dead overnight. This is the heaviest blow to my livelihood, and there are thousands like me whose livelihood is directly dependent upon catching fish and selling them in the market. What will we sell now, and what is there to catch?" Dar lamented.

The Hanjis community has lived around Dal Lake for centuries, and its main occupation is fishing. They are considered the poorest community in the valley - and they only own a few belongings and live a simple life. Because of their reliance on fishing since ancient times, the community, estimated at about 40 000 people, is more vulnerable than the others in Kashmir's local populace.

In Srinagar, Jammu, and



Thousands of dead fish in Dal Lake, Kashmir, are of concern to fishers, who make a living off the lake. Credit: Umar Manzoor Shah/IPS

Kashmir, Dal Lake is a famous and iconic body of water with enormous cultural and ecological value. It is frequently referred to as Kashmir's "jewel."

The formation of Dal Lake is believed to have been caused as a result of tectonic action and glacial processes. It is surrounded by magnificent mountains and has a surface area of around 18 square kilometers.

The mass fish deaths widespread panic among the locals and particularly those families whose livelihood is

directly dependent on the lake. The region's government said its scientific wing had made an initial examination to ascertain the cause of fish mortality and said the deaths were caused due to "thermal stratification" - a change in the temperature at different depths of the lake.

Bashir Ahmad Bhat, the most senior officer of Kashmir's Lakes and Conservation Management Authority, told IPS that the samples had been collected more analysis is ongoing.

"Although we have collect-

ed samples for a thorough analysis, the fish (seemed to have) died as a result of heat stratification, a common occurrence. There is no need to be alarmed; fish as little as two to three inches have perished. We have collected samples of the dead fish in the research lab of our department to find out the precise reason why the fish in the lake died; we are awaiting the official results," Bhat said.

However, for experts and research scholars, fish mortality in the water body could be a prelude to more troubled times ahead.

Zahid Ahmad Qazi, a research scholar, told IPS that the spike in pollution level is severely affecting the lake's biodiversity and is causing huge stress to the lake's fish fauna. He says the unchecked construction around the lake and liquid and solid wastes going into the lake's water has begun to show drastic impacts.

A research paper published by the Indian Journal of Extension Education in 2022 highlighted the same fact.

"Over the years, the water quality of Dal Lake has deteriorated, causing adverse impacts on its fish fauna. The endemic Schizothorax fish populations have declined considerably owing to the pollution and introduction of exotics. At the same time, the total fish production of the lake has not increased much over the last few decades. The lack of proper governance, policy regulations, and coordination between government agencies and fishers adds more negative impact to this," the research paper concluded.

The Department of Lakes and Waterways Development Authority, tasked with the protection of the lakes in Kashmir, indicated there were various plans underway to save the Dal Lake and its biodiversity. The department, according to its officials, is uprooting water lilies with traditional methods and weeding the lake using the latest machinery so that the surface is freed from weeds and its fish production increases.

However, in 2018 research done by Humaira Qadri and A. R. Yousuf from the Department of Environmental Science, University of Kashmir, the government, despite spending USD 3 million on the conservation of the lake so far, there has been no visible improvement in its condition. "A lack of proper management and restoration plan and the incidence of engineering but ecologically unsound management practices have led to a failure in the conservation efforts," reveals the research.

It concluded that conservation efforts have proved to be a failure. It adds that the apathy of the managing authorities has resulted in the deterioration of the lake.

"There is a need to formulate a proper ecologically sound management plan for the lake encompassing all the environmental components of the lake ecosystem and thus help to conserve the lake in a real ecological sense," the research stated.

IPS UN Bureau Report

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Africa's land and forest restoration initiative gathers pace in Malawi

By Charles Mpaka

IN front of his rural home in the district of Thyolo in southern Malawi, Douglas Tana grows maize on a tenth of a hectare, or a quarter acre. Before 2010, he used to harvest at most 250 kilograms (550 pounds) of the grain, a staple crop in Malawi, during years of good rains and after applying a combined 25 kg (55 lbs) of nitrogen and phosphorous inorganic fertilizer.

"Put simply, in the bigger picture, it was a thankless effort ... And I had no faint idea that there was a way to produce more from this piece of land. So, I was resigned to the idea that 250 kgs was the maximum I could get," he told Mongabay.

However, that story of low-yield frustration changed in 2010 when the World Agroforestry Centre (known by the acronym ICRAF) introduced small-scale farmers, like Tana, to conservation agriculture and intercropping their maize with soil-improving trees.

Tana was one of the 75 farmers who put the methods into practice. The results are clear today.

Now, Tana's field is a bush of lush, flourishing *Gliricidia sepium* offshoots – a tree in the bean family – rising from decade-old stumps and prospering among dry stalks of harvested maize and other plants. In the

undergrowth lie the residues of decomposed mulch from prior years.

Standing tall on one edge of this small farm is a 12-year-old *Faidherbia albida* tree, known locally as msangu. Indigenous to Africa, the tree has nitrogen-fixing properties and enriches degraded soils.

Unlike in the past, Tana doesn't need to apply inorganic fertilizer anymore; he doesn't till the field either, as he used to do. And when he plants his maize, he no longer suffers the headache of weeding, because the mulch of maize stalks and twigs from the coppicing of the *G. sepium* suffocates weeds. Coppicing means to cut and use the new shoots from stumps of trees. These have reduced both his costs and labor requirements, Tana said.

And now the rewards: These methods have transformed the productivity of his small piece of land from 250 kg of harvest in 2010 to between 700 and 900 kg (1,540-1,980 lbs) of maize every year today.

"It is unbelievable how things have transformed, how I have become food secure from a piece of land this small," he said.

Sustainability to scale

Tana's new farming methods are among the practices Malawi is promoting in the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative



A farmer's natural regeneration field intercropped with *Gliricidia* in a village on the edge of a forest.

(AFRI00). In 2015, African countries committed to restore 100 million hectares (250 million acres) of degraded forest and land by 2030.

Herbert Mwalukomo, executive director for Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA), a Malawi NGO, told Mongabay that when African countries launched the initiative there were already a few examples of best practices in forest and land restoration.

In Malawi, for example, there were cases of agroforestry, farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR), community management of natural forest lands, and many others, he said.

"But they were not to a scale. What this AFRI00 initiative is doing is to get the earlier practices more organized and promoted. There is now involvement of more partners including the private sector," Mwalukomo said. He added the government provided vari-

ous frameworks for the backbone of the initiative.

Under the AFRI00, Malawi has committed to restore 4.5 million hectares (11.1 million acres) of deforested and degraded landscapes by 2030 through investing in agricultural technologies, community forests and woodlots, soil and water conservation, river- and streambank restoration, and forest management.

On agriculture technologies, for instance, Malawi plans to increase tree cover on degraded cropland and pastures in agricultural landscapes through practices such as farmer-managed and assisted natural regeneration, direct seeding, and planting of agroforestry trees and shrubs.

A 2022 progress report on the initiative found that between 2016 and 2021, 917,014 hectares (2.27 million acres) of land and forest had been put under restoration – with agroforestry

accounting for 63% of that total area across 15 countries. The report was released by the African Union Development Agency and New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), the secretariat of the AFRI00.

In the case of Malawi, the government has not released any figures on its progress so far. In March year, the government set up a national forest monitoring system at the Department of Forestry headquarters. This center is expected to be the database for all restoration initiatives in the country.

"[Malawi] expects to validate this information further this year with the AFRI00 State Report for 2023," said Tangu Tumeo, forests, landscapes and livelihoods program officer at the IUCN, the global biodiversity conservation authority.

Tumeo said that according to his organization's Restoration Barometer in 2022, Malawi has put about 1.7 million

hectares (4.2 million acres) of land and forest under restoration today, almost 40% of its goal.

"The goal [of restoring 4.5 million hectares by 2030] is achievable," she said.

Stella Gama, director of forestry in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change, one of the lead ministries in the AFRI00 initiative, said Malawi will accelerate efforts aimed at promoting sustainable forest and land management.

"We have in place the right policies drawn under Sustainable Development Goals and the global and continental agenda," she said. "We are rehabilitating degraded and deforested forestlands through the implementation of the National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy, National Charcoal Strategy, REDD+ Strategy, Malawi 2063 Vision and various existing programs."

Zimbabwe registers record tobacco sales

HARARE

ZIMBABWE has reported record tobacco sales as the southern African nation reestablishes itself as one of the leading growers in the world, and yet the small-scale Black farmers now selling their crop mostly to China are "heavily indebted" and seeing "minimal" benefits, according to an association that represents their interests.

Critics say the farmers are not benefitting as they should from Zimbabwe's tobacco boom, largely because of a contract system that locks them into unfavorable loans and prices, often with Chinese companies operating under the state-owned China National Tobacco Corporation, the largest cigarette maker in the world.

China buys most of Zimbabwe's tobacco to feed its huge market. While other companies and local merchants are also involved in the contract system in Zimbabwe, it is dominated by Chinese firms and their agents.

The Zimbabwean government announced Wednesday that the country, Africa's top producer and among the top 10 in the world, has so far sold 261 million kilograms of tobacco since the selling season opened in March, more than the previous record of 259 million kilograms in 2019.

It praised the numbers as proof of the success of a controversial and often violent land reform process that began more than 20 years ago. Starting in 2000, a few thousand white commercial farmers were forced off their land, which was then redistributed to tens of thousands of landless Black farmers.

Acting Information Minister Jenfan Muswere said that Black farmers given land under the reforms now made up 60% of the 150,000 farmers who grew tobacco this season. Overall, small-scale Black farmers contributed 85% of the crop, "demonstrating that government policies in the agriculture sector are sound and continue to bear fruit," Muswere said.

But the government's celebrations were offset by the Tobacco Association of Zimbabwe, which represents the farmers.



Zimbabwe recorded record tobacco production in the 2023 marketing season.

"This is a momentous achievement for the sector: it shows that farmers are working hard. But the benefits to farmers are minimal," said George Seremwe, president of the association. "It is worrying that most farmers are heavily indebted."

"We would be happier if this tobacco success story translates to improved livelihoods for farmers," Seremwe told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Tobacco production in Zimbabwe plummeted from a high of

about 240 million kilograms in 1998 to less than 50 million kilograms a decade later, according to government figures, following the eviction of white farmers who accounted for the majority of growers.

It has firmly rebounded in terms of production volume, and China's involvement is largely responsible.

Under the contract system, the government-run China National Tobacco Corporation and its subsidiaries loan seeds, fertilizers,

food and money to the Zimbabwean farmers. The farmers, in turn, are obligated to sell their tobacco crop to those firms or their agents, who generally set the price, although a regulatory body in Zimbabwe does provide a price guide.

Around 95% of Zimbabwe's tobacco crop is financed through the contract system.

And while production is increasing, farmers say their position is not improving and the contract system is a debt trap as prices sometimes drop or they receive reduced inputs while still having to make the same repayments on loans. Farmers are now losing prized assets like livestock after failing to make their repayments, Seremwe said.

The situation for Zimbabwe tobacco farmers is set amid recent scrutiny of how China's unforgiving lending tactics have brought hardship to some developing countries. The Chinese embassy has defended the country's role in reviving Zimbabwe's tobacco production "by offering zero-interest loans and free tech-services" to farmers.

Yet authorities in Zimbabwe now seem to accept there are problems with the contract system, not least because most of the proceeds of tobacco sales leave the country to repay loans from foreign companies. The Zimbabwean government has promised to advance \$60 million to farmers next season under a plan that seeks to increase local funding of the crop's production from the current 5% to 70% by 2025.

China - African youth forum set to kick off on June 30 for mutual development

By Godsgift Onyedinefu

THE China-Africa youth forum on innovation and entrepreneurship is set to kick off on June 30, this year to foster consensus among youths from China and Africa and facilitate pragmatic cooperation for the mutual development of China-Africa youth.

Youths are seen as the hope and future of China-Africa relations, thus, the Forum which has the theme of 'Stimulate Enterprising Spirit for Innovative Development' will hold at Changsha International Conference Center.

The China-Africa youth forum on innovation and entrepreneurship will begin June 30, 2023 to foster consensus among youths from China and Africa and facilitate pragmatic cooperation for the mutual

development of China-Africa youth.

Youths are seen as the hope and future of China-Africa relations, thus, the Forum which has the theme of 'Stimulate enterprising spirit for innovative development' will hold at Changsha international conference centre.

The forum is sponsored by the All-China Youth Federation, organised by the People's

Government of Changsha City, the Administrative Committee of Hunan Xiangjiang New Area, and the Hunan Youth Federation, and co-organized by the Commerce Bureau of Changsha City, the Commerce and Market Supervision Bureau of Administrative Committee of Hunan Xiangjiang New Area and the Changsha Youth Federation.

As one of the regional forums of the World Youth Development Forum 2023 and one of the nine major side events of the Third China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo, the forum aims to foster consensus among youth from China and Africa and facilitate pragmatic cooperation for the mutual development of China-Africa youth.

About 200 participants will

be invited, including representatives from the United Nations and African institutions in China, heads of youth organisations in African countries, representatives from Chinese and African innovation and entrepreneurship institutions, and young entrepreneurs from China and Africa.

At the forum, youth repre-

sentatives from China and Africa will share success stories around the two topics: 'Cultural Industry Boosts Innovative Development' and 'Digital Technology Boosts Youth Entrepreneurship.' Youth Stories in China-Africa Innovation and Entrepreneurship will be released, and the China-Africa Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Base will be inaugurated.

Kenya's hits and misses on journey to eliminating plastic waste

By Joyce Chimbi

PLASTIC bags were a part and parcel of life in Kenya. More than 100 million plastic bags were used annually in Kenyan supermarkets alone...

"Every food market, big or small, used plastic bags to wrap raw or cooked food items for their customers. We could not imagine a life without plastic bags.

Worse still, in 2017, a government study raised the alarm that plastic waste was entering the food chain as at least 50 percent of livestock in peri-urban areas had ingested plastics.

It takes more than 100 years for plastic bags to degrade, says Patrick Mureithi, an independent environmental researcher and activist.

In a groundbreaking move in 2017, the government banned single-use plastic bags. The ban includes severe penalties of fines between USD 20,000 and USD 40,000 and one to four years for noncompliance.

When the UN Member States agreed to start negotiating a new global treaty in 2022 to end plastic pollution in a historic move to protect wildlife, the environment, and humans from the severe, harmful effects of plastic pollution, Kenya was already well on the way.

"The single-use plastic bag ban was one of three approaches that the country is using to tackle plastic pollution. Other strategies are improvements to solid waste management as well as administrative and budgetary responses that include giving businesses incentives for recycling plastic."

But recent studies show Kenya has not made significant inroads in improvements of solid waste management. A recent report titled Making Policy Work for Africa's Circular Plastics Economy found that despite the ban, in Kenya, "there has not been a noticeable reduction in the overall amount of plastic waste."

According to the Kenya Plastics Pact (KPP), an ambitious, multisectoral collaborative initiative to address plastic waste and eliminate plastic pollution, an estimated 22,000 tonnes of waste is generated in Kenya per day, and at least 20 percent of it is plastic.

Kenya's daily plastic consumption through items such as single-use straws, plastic bottles, and containers is averaged at a high of 0.03 kilograms per person.

Estimates show the amount of plastic that becomes waste across the country is 0.5 to 1.3 million tonnes per year, of which only eight percent is recycled. The rest is landfilled, incinerated, or released back into the environment.

According to KPP, approximately 80 percent of plastic packaging materials used locally are made of imported virgin polymers processed into packaging domestically. And, to a lesser extent, domestically recycled materials, with only around 20 percent of packaging, are being imported in the form of packed or made products.

Additionally, of the total plastics produced in the country, an estimated 36 percent are used in packaging. Of the 36 percent, at least 85 percent end up in landfills and unregulated dumpsites. The Sustainable Waste Management Act of 2022 does not provide a clear definition of recyclable.

In this regard, KPP recently released the Design Guidelines for Recyclability in Kenya to ensure that 100 percent of plastic packaging is reusable or recyclable by 2030. The guidelines were signed and endorsed by key stakeholders such as plastic packaging manufacturers and prominent fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) brands.

They were also endorsed by committed small and medium businesses, informal waste pickers' associations and recyclers, influential industry associations, environmental NGOs, advocacy groups and civil society, and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

First, of their kind, the guidelines are centered on addressing plastic waste and pollution at the source. Re-



Kenya is dealing with a serious solid waste management crisis. An estimated 22,000 tonnes of waste is generated in Kenya per day, and at least 20 percent of it is plastic. Credit: Joyce Chimbi/IPS

thinking how plastic packaging can be designed, used, and reused in a more circular manner, as opposed to the linear business-as-usual system of take-make-waste plastic.

"A plastic circular economy is a sustainable economic model where

plastics remain in circulation for a much longer period and out of the environment. In a circular system, plastics are reused and recycled at the end of their lifespan," Omondi explains.

He says creating a plastic circular economy will

have significant positive implications for species, ecosystems, and overall socio-economic systems, including Kenya's extensive Indian Ocean coastline, estimated at 1,420 kilometers.

Government estimates show that in the coastline

County of Mombasa alone, at least 3.7 kilograms of per capita plastic waste ends up in the ocean. Unmitigated, experts such as Mureithi warn that there could be more plastics than fish in the Indian Ocean by 2025, where more than 1,300 billion

pieces of plastic find their way annually.

These guidelines are a step in the right direction, providing recommendations to decision-makers on how to design plastic packaging to be compatible with current and future projections of mechanical recycling infrastructure. To keep up with a dynamic world, the guidelines will be updated and amended in response to changes in the collection, sorting, recycling technologies, and infrastructure within the country.

IPS UN Bureau Report



Despite a most efficient ban on single-use plastic bags, studies show there has not been a noticeable reduction in the overall amount of plastic waste. Credit: Joyce Chimbi/IPS

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

BUSINESS

BoT leaves monetary policy for 2023/2024 unchanged



Outgoing Central Bank of Kenya governor Patrick Njoroge.

Kenyans abroad to buy bonds via mobile

NAIROBI

Kenya will roll out an electronic over-the-counter trading platform for government securities, enabling investors to start buying and selling Treasury bills and bonds online in the coming days, the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has said.

Outgoing CBK governor Patrick Njoroge said the modernised Central Securities Depository (CSD) would be launched in "less than a month", more than a year from the initial timeline of June 2022.

Works on the electronic over-the-counter (OTC) secondary market platform for government securities, funded by the World Bank Group, started around September 2020 and was expected to go live a year ago.

Dr Njoroge said the platform would help tap more than Sh400 billion wired back home by Kenyans abroad annually into government debt.

Presently, the bulk of remittances go into household budgets like settling medical and education expenses, rent and household utilities, among other bills.

"The CSD provides a new and easy way to invest in government securities and will, therefore, be beneficial to the diaspora. They don't need to come back to Kenya to make investments in the T-bills, T-bonds, among others," the CBK chief told the opening session of the Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development (GFRID) in Nairobi.

"They will register CSD online from wherever they are, mitigating the current inconvenience of having to come physically to the Central Bank. Importantly they will also be able to invest in the government of Kenya securities online on their phones."

The government borrows from the domestic market through short-term Treasury bills, which are repayable within a year and longer-dated bonds, with the latter currently tradeable on the Nairobi Security Exchange's fixed income board.

T-bills, in the meantime, are not listed and can only be sold by rediscounting (selling them back to the Central Bank). The one-year T-bill is, however, tradeable in an OTC market at the CBK.

We Effect, Sida to promote foods system equitability

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu Dodoma

WE Effect Organisation has launched a five years program through the financial support from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) focusing on enhancing resilience and strengthening equitable food systems within communities in Tanzania.

The new program known as Livelihoods and Right to Food (LRF) will also be implemented in Kenya and Uganda and will contribute towards the realization of the right to food for women, men, young people and children through the enhancement of resilience and strengthening of equitable food systems among communities.

The launch of the 9.3bn/- valued programme held yesterday by Deputy Minister of Agriculture Antony Mavunde, who urged on the best use of the funds.

"The Livelihood and Right to Food (LRF) program has a holistic approach, focusing on enhancing resilience and strengthening equitable food systems within communities," said Mavunde.

He advised local civil society organization and cooperatives, responsible for implementing the programme to reach out to their entire members in order to educate them about the objective of the program and helping the society by providing organized, empowered, assertive, and resilient communities with sustainable livelihood opportunities.

"The programme aims to create lasting positive change," said Deputy Minister.

We Effect Regional Director George Onyango said that through the initiative, they will strengthen the capacities of local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), cooperatives, and member-based organizations, enabling them to reach out to all their members and empower communities with civic rights education and efficient service delivery.

He said the LRF program encompasses six result areas, each addressing critical aspects of food security and improved livelihood which are equitable food systems.

Onyango said, they will promote sustainable, modern, and effective production and farming methods, including agro-ecology and work to improve access to agricultural, financial, extension, and advisory services.

The project is also targeting to strengthening the right to land for habitat and other productive resources for enhancing accessibility to food in vulnerable and marginalized communities as well as adequate housing.

"Our efforts will focus on increasing access to collective or cooperative secure legal tenure for housing construction, the aim to improve participation in housing-related decision-making at national and community levels and facilitate increased, equal, and equitable access to relevant financial services for affordable housing," Onyango said.

Sustainable livelihoods are committed to strengthening economic opportunities, purchasing power, and sustainable livelihoods of information individuals living in poverty.

This includes enhancing the participation of smallholder farmers in agriculture value chains, addressing post-harvest practices, and promoting crop and animal insurance.

"Through this program, we will strive to create and enabling economic and political environment for cooperatives and civil society organizations and work towards strengthening the institutional capacity of partner organizations, including access to appropriate information and communication technology," he said.

He added that the initiative will focus on bolstering climate and social resilience for organizations and their communities, including disaster risk reduction and early warning systems, advocacy for climate justice.



Foreign investors injected 14.8bn/- in the buying of sshares and moved out 7.78bn/- through selling shares. FILE PHOTO

By Guardian Reporter

Bank of Tanzania (BoT) will continue implementing a less accommodative monetary policy during the next financial year (2023/2024) to achieve low and stable inflation and support growth.

The Monetary Policy Statement (MPS) for June published yesterday by BoT say in the first half of the next financial year, the monetary policy will be implemented by using current monetary target framework.

The targets under current monetary target regime include growth of reserve money of 10.1 percent, growth of extended broad money of 10.1 percent and private sector credit growth of 16.4 percent.

"The implementation of

monetary policy will also aim at achieving monetary targets set out in the International Monetary Fund Extended Credit Facility," the policy document says.

BoT says in the second half of next financial year, the interest rate-based framework will guide the conduct of monetary policy.

The shift to the new monetary policy framework is meant to address the weakening of the link between money supply and the ultimate policy variables (inflation and output) due to the proliferation of financial innovations and the weakening of monetary policy transmission under the monetary targeting framework.

"Therefore, the shift to an interest rate-based monetary policy framework represents an improvement to address challenges observed under the monetary targeting framework,"

BoT says.

"The policy objectives and monetary policy instruments will remain the same. Changes will only be in the manner in which the Bank will be implementing the monetary policy, using policy rate as operating target rather than reserve money."

The targets for the second half of 2023/24 under the new monetary policy framework will be announced in the Monetary Policy Statement, Mid-Year Review, which will be released in February 2024, it says.

Under both monetary policy frameworks, the BoT says will ensure the adequacy of foreign exchange reserves of at least 4 months of imports, closely continue to monitor global and domestic economic conditions and take appropriate interventions to maintain inflation within

the target, while safeguarding economic growth and financial stability.

In an effort to ensure a smooth transition to the new monetary policy framework in January 2024, the BoT says will continue implementing reforms aimed at improving the model framework and forecasting 44 capabilities, engaging stakeholders to improve data quality and availability, and increasing awareness of the new monetary policy framework.

In addition, supportive financial market infrastructure will be improved to enhance efficiency in the distribution of liquidity amongst banks.

The central bank has also noted that both interest rate and exchange rate policies will continue to be determined by the market forces, in the line with country's economic policies.

DSE indices gain as share prices appreciate

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) share indices closed green on Thursday this week, following the appreciations of share prices among five companies, both locally and cross listed.

The Daily market report shows the Tanzania Share Index (TSI), which measured the performance of locally listed companies gained by 6.86 points to close at 4,103.03 points on Thursday close, while the DSE All Share Index (DSEI) increased by 9.48 points after closing at 1,936.71 points.

Other sectors indices including Bank, Finance and Investment (BI) and Industrial & Allied (IA) appreciated 16.39 points and 4.48 points respectively during the day, to close at 3,963.70 points and 5,109.32 points respectively.

CRDB Bank Plc share price increased by 1.12 percent after closing at 450/- on Thursday, compared to 445/- on Wednesday close, while East Africa Breweries Limited (EABL) share price went up by 1.48 percent to 2,740/-, compared with 2,700/- respectively.

The market report shows Jubilee Holdings Limited (JHL), the cross listed company share price appreci-



DSE stock broker participates in an online trading session. File Photo

ated by 0.64 percent after crossing at 3,160/- and KCB group share price gained by 1.96 percent to close at 520/-. The struggling Tanga Cement Company (TCCL), which its take-over move is still pending, also joined the bandwagon of gainers after its share price closed 4.55 percent higher at 1,840/- on Thursday close, compared with 1,760/- on Wednesday close.

Nation Media Group (NMG), which its board announced recently a 10 percent stake buyback, was loser, following its share price decreased by 2.86 percent to 340/-.

Total turnover of 136.7mn/- was recorded during the reviewed session, following the transactions of 229,269 shares traded in 90 deals.

Top mover was CRDB Bank, which transacted

155,173 shares valued 70mn/- traded in 54 deals at a price ranging from 445/- and 465/- per share, followed by NICO, which traded 27,477 shares valued 11.5mn/- traded in eight deals at a price a price ranging from 415/- and 420/- per share.

Other top movers were Tanga Cement Company Limited (TCCL), which transacted 24,481 shares valued 44.9mn/- traded at

a price ranging from 1,720/- and 1,900/- per share in five deal, followed by DCB Commercial Bank, which its counter recorded a turnover of 2.8mn/- following transaction of 19,040 shares traded at a price of 150/- per share in five deals.

The market activities were dominated by local investors, in both selling and buying shares by 100 percent.

Govt vows to recapitalise three strategic banks



By Guardian Reporter

The government is expected to recapitalize its three strategic banks in order to boost their capital and enable enough liquidity to enhance lending to the productive sectors of the economy.

Finance and planning Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (pictured) announced this measure, targeting the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB), TIB Development Bank and Tanzania Commercial Bank (TCB) when presenting the 2023/2024 financial year's budget to the parliament in Dodoma.

The minister said the government has put in place strategies to recapitalize TADB and TIB Development Bank to the tune of 235.9bn/-, after assessing the banks' conditions.

"The recapitalization of these banks will continue for five to ten years, based on their performance with an ultimate goal of having a capital of not less than 1trn/- in each bank," he said.

In addition, the minister noted that TCB was provided with 101bn/- for lending to the private sector in order to boost productive sectors.

In his audit report for the financial year 2021/2022, the

Controller Auditor General (CAG) highlighted over poor credit supervisions, poor management of expenditures, low liquidity, declines of profitability as major challenges facing the said government owned banks.

"I reviewed the operations of four government banks including TIB, TADB, and TCB and found various measures needed to be taken, in order to rescue these banks," the CAG report noted.

The CAG audit report noted that during 2022, TIB Development Bank reported the growth of pre-tax losses of 131.07bn/-, higher than

10.57bn/- recorded in 2021, due to increase of Non-Performing Loans (NPLs), while TADB recorded a decline of profit to 15.64bn/- in 2022 compared with 16bn/- in 2021.

"My review on NPLs levels among three state banks including TIB, TADB and Azania, found that the rate was ranging from 5.86 percent to 20.32 percent, while during 2021, the rate of NPLs for TCB was 9.87 percent, higher than regulatory benchmark of not more than 5 percent," the CAG audit report said.

The CAG audit report showed that during 2022, TIB Development Bank had the

ratio of capital adequacy to total assets of 1.4 percent from 4.4 percent in 2021, which is far less than regulatory requirement of not less than 13 percent.

"I recommend that the government should take immediate measures to address issues facing these banks, including capital injections, reduce NPLs to reach the required levels," the CAG report said.

The CAG also found that there is poor supervision of credits at the TADB and TCB, which may result into the growth of NPLs rate.

A third of children facing stunting in Tanzania, says govt

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

Three out of ten under five children in Tanzania are currently stunted, as the country is experiencing poor nutritional uptakes.

This was confirmed this week by Mwita Waibe (pictured), the Assistant Director of Nutrition Services from the President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) during a meeting of stakeholders and the government to discuss poor nutrition in the country, in Iringa region.

The session was aimed at discussing various interventions implemented in Iringa region and the whole country at large.

He said that currently the stunting rate for children under five is 30 percent nationwide, meaning that out of 100 children there are 33 stunted children.

Waibe explained that basically these children are challenged in learning, producing or bringing productivity in the development of the country.

"Poor nutrition uptake is affecting the development of the country and causing an increase in medical costs," Waibe said.

Iringa region is leading with the highest rate of stunting with 56 percent among children below five years of age.

In that situation, it becomes difficult for them to learn and even during adulthood they also have the challenge of producing, the issue goes from generation to generation.

This challenge has made many stakeholders to look at the government and also create an enabling environment to allow development

stakeholders to contribute in fighting against poor nutritional standards.

"As you can see we are with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition - GAIN, they were here for two years, but they will continue to support us," Waibe said.

GAIN had one of the programs or interventions to increase nutrients in crops biologically (CBC), and they were mainly focused on producing dietary maize and beans.

"This has been an important intervention in the country because there is anemia in young men and under five years old, as well as mothers who are of childbearing age, to ensure they get nutrients and minerals," he said.

Waibe said the office of the President-RALG is responsible for managing various operations or interventions, as in September 2022, President Samia Suluhu Hassan signed an agreement

to encourage, motivate and manage the implementation of nutrition interventions to increase the speed of eradicating malnutrition.

Administrative Secretary of Iringa Region Eng. Leonard Masanja said the state of stagnation in the regions of the southern highlands, including Iringa, is increasing.

Masanja said that the situation is due to the behavior of some citizens for failing to use these foods correctly, causing stunting and malnutrition in children under five years to increase.

In 2022, nutrition stakeholders together with the government developed and launched a school food delivery guide that emphasizes the use of foods with added biological nutrients in crops (CBC) and industries



Mwita Waibe

such as salt, cooking oil, wheat flour, corn flour and beans of nutrition.

The Commercialisations of Biofortified Crops (CBC) project manager, Edwin Josiah explained that the project aims to improve and use crops that

have been supplemented with biological nutrients in the nine regions of the project in mainland Tanzania.

The main crops in the project include nutritional corn which contains nutritional yeasts of vitamin A and beans

rich in iron and zinc.

He said that the project has gone through the two main ways of schools and markets to increase the consumption of nutritious foods for school children and even at home.

Norway produces world's first ever aluminium from green hydrogen

OSLO

Norsk Hydro has made the world's first batch of aluminium using green hydrogen in a step toward decarbonising the production of the metal.

The Norwegian producer replaced natural gas with green hydrogen during a test at its extrusion plant in Navarra, Spain, it said in a statement on Thursday.

Hydro's renewable hydrogen company, Hydro Havrand, conducted the trial in partnership with Fives North America Combustion, an engineering firm with expertise in hydrogen burner technology.

For more than a century, Hydro has been searching for new uses for the vast amounts of hydroelectric power that Norway generates each year.

The company first found success making artificial fertilizers via a pioneering electrochemical process, and later focused its attention on aluminium, which is one of the world's most energy-intensive industrial commodities to make. Now, it's betting that hydrogen could prove even more lucrative.

"Green hydrogen can remove hard to abate emissions from fossil fuels in processes where electricity is not an alternative, both in the aluminium industry and in other heavy industries," Per Christian Eriksen, head of Hydro Havrand, said. "This test is part of developing commercial fuel switch solutions and to demonstrate that hydrogen can be used in aluminium production."

Hydro will publish a final report from the test in the fall. The aluminium produced in the test will be used to make the world's first extruded profiles using hydrogen.

"It's a very powerful message to our customers rather than a powerpoint on net zero 2050 which everyone has," Paul Warton, executive vice president for Hydro Extrusions, said in an interview. "We can say this is how we will do it."

Green hydrogen is one of the most promising emission free fuels to address the hard to abate industry emissions. In the aluminium industry, green hydrogen can replace fossil fuel used for high temperature heating processes.

I&M Bank, Mastercard launch multicurrency prepaid cards

By Guardian Correspondent

I&M Bank Tanzania has partnered with Mastercard to launch a suite of Debit and Multicurrency Prepaid Cards.

These cards will enable customers to make seamless transactions in both domestic and international markets.

The bank will be launching I&M Debit Gold Card for personal banking customers and I&M World Elite Card for high-net worth clients.

I&M Bank Tanzania will be the only bank offering World Elite Debit Cards in the Tanzanian market to affluent customers, giving them exclusive access to a range of unique benefits, privileges and experiences that can be accessed at home and abroad.

I&M World Elite Exclusive Mastercard Debit card is designed to provide exceptional services exclusively to I&M clients in collaboration with a wide range of international companies and premium retailers worldwide.

It offers extra value while main-

taining world-class security and reliability underpinned by Mastercard's trusted technology.

The new technology, which includes contactless payment, ensures a fast and secure checkout experience, whilst also empowering consumers to choose how they want to pay.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during the signing ceremony, Zahid Mustafa, Chief Executive Officer for I&M Bank Tanzania said, "We are delighted to be working with Mastercard, a leading financial technology powerhouse. This solution will enable both account and non-account holders to transact in both local and foreign currency - safely, securely, and seamlessly. The cards come with advanced security features (PIN and EMV chip) that allows contactless payment (Tap and Go) to ensure that customers transact safely and securely in the vir-

tual environment".

"Over the last decade, there has been considerable progress and a shift in the payment landscape as we know it and as such, we have had to be agile in our approach and develop innovative solutions that address consumers' pain points. The World Elite Exclusive Mastercard Debit card, a first of its kind in Tanzania, will offer unmatched benefits and convenience to Tanzanians through the Mastercard Priceless platform," says Shehryar Ali, Country Manager, East Africa, Mastercard.

Priceless services and experiences include exclusive access to the concierge service, privilege membership, premium travel insurance, travel packages, and access to a suite of airport lounges around the world.

On the other hand, the I&M Multicurrency Prepaid



Zahid Mustafa, Chief Executive Officer for I&M Bank Tanzania

Mastercard card will be available in 10 currencies and is intended for customers seeking local and international foreign payment solutions, whether they hold an account at I&M or not.

All that is required is a

national identity card or copy of passport and work permit copy to sign up for the I&M Multicurrency Prepaid Mastercard and start transacting in the local or international markets.

Customers can use Prepaid

or Debit Mastercard cards on local points of sale (POS) machines, online, e-commerce platforms and ATMs. They can withdraw cash, pay for monthly subscription bills such as Netflix, Spotify

and iTunes, and purchase goods and services for their entrepreneurial projects on E-commerce platforms with ease.

"Mastercard is committed to driving financial inclusion and providing digital solutions that help customers make safe and seamless transactions. By providing consumers with access to secure and convenient payment solutions such as this, we believe that this partnership will help drive economic growth and improve the lives of millions of Tanzanians," adds Ali. "We are proud to collaborate with I&M Bank to enhance the drive to access financial services, enabling more people to enter the digital economy and as a leader in the payments technology industry, we will continue to provide our customers with the best solutions and experiences".

Why South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa is leading Ukraine peace mission

NAIROBI

SEVEN African leaders have travelled to Ukraine and Russia on a peace mission, hoping to work towards ending the war, which has badly affected living standards across the continent.

The delegation from South Africa, Egypt, Senegal, Congo-Brazzaville, Comoros, Zambia, and Uganda was expected to meet with President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday and President Vladimir Putin today.

But the timing of the visit seems off. It comes just as Kyiv is launching its much-vaunted counter-offensive.

So, what can this mission actually achieve?

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa offered no timeline or proposals when he made the announcement last month, joining a crowded field of would-be peacemakers that includes China, Turkey and the Pope.

"What is the strategic thrust of this intervention?" asks Kingsley Makhubela, a South African risk analyst and former diplomat. "It's not clear. Is this a photo op by African heads of state?"

The mission is an unusual burst of activism given Africa's largely hands-off approach to a conflict that many here see primarily as a confrontation between Russia and the West.

It is also a rare attempt at diplomatic intervention outside the continent - a "welcome development" given Africa's growing demand to have a bigger voice at the UN and other international organisations, says Murithi Mutiga, Africa director at the International Crisis Group (ICG) think-tank.

The man who has prepared the ground, Jean-Yves Ollivier, has talked

about modest goals.

He heads a UK-based organisation known as the Brazzaville Foundation, which focuses primarily on peace and development initiatives in Africa, although his long-standing links to Congo-Brazzaville's authoritarian leader have made him a controversial figure.

Mr Ollivier has stopped commenting publicly about the trip since the dates became official. But in previously published interviews he has laid out his approach.

He said the aim was to start talking rather than to resolve the conflict, to begin a dialogue on issues that do not directly affect the military situation and build from there.

One of them is a potential swap of Russian and Ukrainian prisoners of war.

The other is to try and find solutions to issues that matter to Africa, like grain and fertiliser.

The war has severely restricted the export of grain from Ukraine and fertiliser from Russia, intensifying global food insecurity. Africa, which depends on imports of both, has suffered the most.

Mr Ollivier said the African leaders would seek to persuade the Russians to extend the fragile agreement that allows Ukraine to ship grain through the Black Sea.

And it will urge Kyiv to help find ways to ease restrictions on the export of Russian fertiliser currently being held up in ports.

There are indications, however, that the leaders "seek to offer a more substantive deal between the two sides", says Mr Mutiga.

US pressure on South Africa

The delegation has been designed for breadth and balance, with mem-



The African leaders travelled to Ukraine by train from Poland

bers from different parts of Africa who have different views on the conflict.

It includes four presidents, Egypt's prime minister, and representatives from Uganda and Congo-Brazzaville.

South Africa and Uganda are seen as leaning towards Russia, while Zambia and Comoros are closer to the West. Egypt, Senegal and Congo-Brazzaville have remained largely neutral.

But recent developments in South Africa appear to be influencing the venture.

Mr Ramaphosa's government has come under growing pressure from the US because of its alleged support for Russia's war. This centres on claims of an arms shipment to Moscow, which South Africa has denied.

The Biden administration is waiting for the outcome of Pretoria's official investigation, but a bipartisan group of US lawmakers wants the White House to punish South Africa by reconsidering important preferential trade benefits.

"I think [the mission] is now aligned with a need for South Africa to explain itself," says Alex Vines, director of the Africa Programme at London's Chatham House

think-tank.

Dr Vines says the Americans are no longer trying to make Africa choose sides in the conflict as they did when Russia first invaded Ukraine.

Many African states have maintained a non-aligned position, a stance the US acknowledges is rooted in the history of the Cold War and does not necessarily mean support for Moscow.

Washington now "advocates true non-alignment", he says, "hence the pressure on South Africa at the moment to prove that it's truly non-aligned".

Mr Ramaphosa has been a driving force in getting the trip into shape, nailing it down with calls to Mr Putin and Mr Zelensky, and briefing UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

Although neither Russia nor Ukraine have shown any interest in peace talks, both have an interest in this visit.

Moscow has been cultivating influence in Africa as a counterweight to the West and is hoping to showcase that in a Russia-Africa summit in St Petersburg next month.

Ukraine has been trying to catch up on African diplomacy from a standing start. It

recently sent its foreign minister to the continent to plead its case and would welcome another chance to do so.

The Ukrainians "will probably try to persuade the African mediators not to attend the summit", says Dr Makhubela.

"The Russians want to show that they are not isolated. But their interests are... mutually exclusive. That's why this is going to create a dilemma for African heads of state as to whether they go to St Petersburg," he adds.

Analysts see the summit as an important indicator of Africa's relations with Russia, but not an ideological one.

"Africans are transactional in this," says Dr Vines, noting that the biggest worry of guerrilla fighters in Mozambique he had spoken to recently was the cost of living because of "this distant European war".

"It's not their war," he says.

That is in fact one of the few advantages the African leaders could bring to the peace table as mediators, according to Mr Mutiga, should the parties ever decide to sit at it.

BBC

Pope Francis orders aide of Pope Benedict to leave Vatican

VATICAN CITY

POPE Francis has ordered Archbishop Georg Gaenswein, the private secretary and long-time aide of the late Pope Benedict, to return to his native Germany by the end of the month without any new assignment, the Vatican said on Thursday.

A Vatican statement put an end speculation about what role Gaenswein, a powerful figure in the Vatican for more than a decade before Francis sidelined him after a personal falling out, would have in the Church.

Former Pope Benedict died on Dec 31, nearly a decade after he resigned in 2013, the first pontiff to do so in 600 years.

Gaenswein is 66 and it is exceptionally unusual for someone of that relatively

young age and rank not to have an assignment, giving the pope's decision a sense of banishment.

The two-line statement said Francis "had disposed" that the 66-year-old Gaenswein return to his diocese of Freiburg "for the time being".

Nearly all papal secretaries in the past have either been assigned to lead dioceses or made cardinals or given some other high-profile post. Gaenswein is nine years short of the normal retirement age of 75 for bishops.

He has met Francis several times in the past months about his future and there has been speculation in Catholic media that he was hoping to land a diplomatic assignment as nuncio, or ambassador, to a country.



This photo shows Archbishop Georg Gaenswein (left) as he signs official documents in front of the coffin of the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI at St. Peter's Basilica in The Vatican on Jan 5, 2023. (PHOTO / AFP)

Gaenswein declined to comment when contacted by Reuters on Thursday.

He was Benedict's personal secretary from 2003, when Benedict was still Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, and remained at his side for nearly 20 years, nearly 10 of them after Benedict resigned.

In a book called "Nothing But The Truth - My Life Beside Benedict XVI" and sent to reporters by its publisher only hours after Benedict was buried on Jan 5, Gaenswein rattled the Vatican by describing what he says were strains while two men wearing white lived within its walls.

Gaenswein and Francis fell out in 2020 when Gaenswein was at the centre of a messy episode concerning former Pope Benedict's role in a book about priestly celibacy that many saw as an attack on Francis' authority.

Agencies

Let it bee: Women on mission to keep them buzzing

MEXICO CITY

"KNIFE," Adriana Veliz says with the concentration of a brain surgeon.

Shrouded in a white bee suit, she lies stretched out on the ground in one of Mexico City's most buzzing districts. Taking the knife, she pries open the side of a light post and flashes a glowing red lantern on a humming bee hive.

Veliz is on a mission to save the approximately 20,000 bees inside.

She heads a group of mostly women who are working hive by hive to relocate bees that would be exterminated if they remained in Mexico's crowded capital city.

The group, Abeja Negra SOS, was born in 2018 when Veliz - a veterinarian working for the city government at the time - noticed that when authorities received calls about beehives, the automatic response was to exterminate the bees.

She and other colleagues began looking for an alternative. "We do these rescues because it's a species that's in danger of extinction," said Veliz, who works for Abeja Negra SOS. "We give them a second chance."

Globally, bee populations have been decimated in recent decades. The United States alone is estimated to



Adriana Veliz searches for the queen bee during a rescue mission in Mexico on Tuesday. (PHOTO / AP)

have lost around 25 percent of its bees in the past 40 years.

The drop is often blamed on human causes: the use of damaging chemicals, destruction of natural habitats and climate change.

Over the past five years, they have relocated around 510 hives, with an average size of about 80,000 bees.

Late on a recent Thursday night, Veliz peers into the hive the size of a small melon lodged inside the street lamp. Tonight, they are lucky, she says.

This is a small colony and it's calm, Veliz explains, referring to the hive as "hippie bees".

As they go, they search for the queen, a key element to rehabilitating the bees and assuring the colony gets relocated smoothly.

Once a hive is safely stored inside the box, the group takes the bees to the rural outskirts of the city, where they can recover and grow strong.

They later donate the bees to local bee farmers or release them into the wild.

The team has run into hurdles because they charge a bit more than \$300 for removing a hive, mainly to cover logistical costs.

For many in the city, it's still easier to call firefighters to exterminate bees for free.

THE FUTURE WE WANT:

Tune in for China-Africa Youth Forum on Innovation & Entrepreneurship

YOUTH is the hope and future of China-Africa relations. With the theme of "Stimulate Enterprising Spirit for Innovative Development", the China-Africa Youth Forum on Innovation & Entrepreneurship will kick off on June 30, 2023, at Changsha International Conference Center.

The forum is sponsored by the All-China Youth Federation, organized by the People's Government of Changsha City, the Administrative Committee of Hunan Xiangjiang New Area, and the Hunan Youth Federation, and co-organized by the Commerce Bureau of Changsha City, the Commerce and Market Supervision Bureau of Administrative Committee of Hunan Xiangjiang New Area and the Changsha Youth Federation.

As one of the regional forums of the World Youth Development Forum 2023 and one of the nine major side events of the Third China-Africa Economic and Trade

Expo, the forum aims to foster consensus among youth from China and Africa and facilitate pragmatic cooperation for the mutual development of China-Africa youth.

About 200 participants will be invited, including representatives from the United Nations and African institutions in China, heads of youth organizations in African countries, representatives from Chinese and African innovation and entrepreneurship institutions, and young entrepreneurs from China and Africa.

At the forum, youth representatives from China and Africa will share success stories around the two topics: "Cultural Industry Boosts Innovative Development" and "Digital Technology Boosts Youth Entrepreneurship".

Youth Stories in China-Africa Innovation and Entrepreneurship will be released, and the China-Africa Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Base will be inaugurated.



About 200 participants will be invited, including representatives from the United Nations and African institutions in China, heads of youth organizations in African countries, representatives from Chinese and African innovation and entrepreneurship institutions, and young entrepreneurs from China and Africa

How Yanga ended Azam FC season with unexpected, spectacular victory

By Correspondent John Kimbute

If pundits were to be trusted, this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) would have gone to the club backed by the tournament sponsors, not because of gratitude but data on the ground.

It was evident that Young Africans SC (Yanga) players had overworked themselves in a brazen week of flying to Algiers, proceeding to Mbeya with hardly a stop in Dar es Salaam and then proceeding the following day or two to Tanga.

Their opponents, Azam FC, were, by contrast, doing preparations all the time, without stress.

If this recipe for the match was sufficient, the winner ought to be Azam FC as the outfit had more training time and greater fitness having been in that environment for the better part of one week.

Yet this advantage was thrown to the winds for an unclear reason, whereas the side had earlier defeated ambitious Simba SC, which was never at the top in the Premier League run and could not have been said to be overconfident.

But an explanation was given, that Simba SC had their minds elsewhere, in the continental run.

One bit of guesswork is all the same unlikely, that there was a change of playing atmosphere for the better, as Azam FC had just completed the signing of ace midfielder Feisal Salum, and he must have started training with his colleagues for several days.

Anyone with an inkling of wave behaviour knows that playing partners affect one's game, what sort of position to



Yanga's winger, Tuisila Kisinda (R), battles for possession with Azam FC's midfielder, Isah Ndala, during this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final that took place at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga on Monday. Yanga beat Azam FC 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

be in when combining with such a fellow, etc.

In that case, his abrupt removal from the first eleven alters the pattern.

Yet such a factor would be more than hidden from view as no pundit was heard to suggest that the new signing ought to have been there, or has already blended well with other players, etc.

It may be that Azam FC players have not been talking about it, and indeed they may not even know that the presence of the midfielder had already started to affect them psychologically.

But that is entirely hypothetical and may not make an actual tactical situation, affecting the tempo of the game, etc.

It is not irrelevant to seek reasons why the Chamazi Street-based side did not rise to the occasion, in a match where Yanga was likely to work hard but not excessively.

There was, of course, the pride of another silverware but as the likely beneficiary was going to be Azam FC rather than Simba SC, the level of contention was not

as high.

Still, Yanga, the Premier League winners, may not have wished for another slip-up rather soon after the 2-0 loss to city archrivals, Simba SC, sealing the image of being lucky.

So at the level of prestige, there was a reason for Yanga to fight a bit more than they were expected to do, taking the place of Azam FC which the Jangwani Street side star player Fiston Mayele is on record saying the Chamazi Street side pushes too excessively to win in such matches.

Yet from what pundits observed from the match it was Azam FC which looked like it was satisfied and not wishing to battle too hard.

That has at least one explanation, that it is third-placed in the Premier League standings and assured of a CAF Confederation Cup run, with its city rivals both starting in the CAF Champions League and thus there was no real prize to the tie.

On balance, it would appear that Azam FC had less to fight for in comparison with Yanga, as

within the city rivalry it defeated Simba SC not so long ago while Yanga had a painful defeat while riding high in continental duty.

This win by Msimbazi Street outfit's players assuaged somewhat their unfavorable standing before a wide section of soccer fans and, admittedly, a breadth of officialdom, that their archrivals had far more success than themselves. They have neither silverware nor medals to show off. A different lining sort of crosses the horizon when it comes to levels of individual motivation on the part of the two sides in the CAF Confederation Cup final, that is, concerning being retained in the team for the next season.

Azam FC has been changing coaches midseason and looks like it will try to settle down and build the side during pre-season fixtures, and not much of registration is being discussed in that context.

That is not the case for Simba SC which is already on the prowl, and Yanga is not likely to be far behind since they now can entertain real ambitions.

This situation could be a secret why those left in the attack in the absence of Mayele and Stephane Aziz Ki wished to prove their abilities, even the head coach, Nasreddine Nabi, is officially expected to make his situation known within a short period as the season has now properly ended.

He was reported to have remarked that he is devoted to Yanga but wishes to win cups, in which case he may have one of the well-equipped North African teams needing his services, and the deal has been cut already.

That way no one can be said to be safe, while a few of the top Yanga players have big sides in Africa seeking after them, making the recruitment season a heated environment there compared with their title opponents.



FC Saint Eloi Lupopo's Tanzanian forward, George Mpole.

George Mpole goes for intensive training ahead of 2023/24 Linafoot

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN forward, George Mpole, now playing for DR Congo's FC Saint Eloi Lupopo is under intense preparations for the 2023/24 season of the country's Linafoot after sudden suspension of the league.

Mpole joined FC Saint Eloi Lupopo during the mini-transfer window from the NBC Premier League outfit, Geita Gold FC.

The striker found his goals stalled after the DR Congo top flight, also known as the Ligue 1 Vodacom, was canceled six months after it had got underway due to a lack of sponsorship.

The attacker said that he awaits the new season to kick off while he sets his eye on any opportunity that will see him move to another outfit if FC Saint Eloi Lupopo will be willing to do a deal.

The goal-getter noted: "I am working hard during the offseason to shape up for next season, most top-tier leagues have come to an end."

"I have been preparing more for the next season because it is not far, at the moment I have been training twice a day, for example in the morning I go to the gym and in the evening I do other football training, the aim is to keep myself fit," Mpole pointed out.

Mpole, commenting on moving to another team, stated: "It depends on the offer, whenever a good team and offer knocks on FC Saint Eloi Lupopo doors and terms happen to be suitable, I am willing but at the moment my mind is set on team's goals and mine for next season."

The decision was made over the past two months after numerous meetings between Congolese Association Football Federation (FECOFA), clubs and Linafoot officials failed to

solve the resumption of the league which postponed fixtures in late December 2022.

Mpole arrived when FC Saint Eloi Lupopo was participating in this season's CAF Confederation Cup, however, he did not play for the outfit in the continental showdown because he had already played for Geita Gold FC in the qualifications stages last season.

The goal-getter noted: "My expectations of playing successfully have been flawed, first I arrived when the team was playing in the CAF Confederation Cup, which by regulations I was allowed not to play, I was on the podium most of the time, even though I was training with the team."

Mpole added: "At that time, the league was stopped to give a chance to participate in the CAF inter-club showdowns, I had not settled well, and the Premier League was canceled, with all these happening so fast I had to adjust to these changes."

DR Congo's four representatives in 2023/24 CAF inter-club tournaments will be submitted at a later date and may include the clubs which took part in this season's CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup.

AS Vita Club, the 2022/23 Linafoot's leading outfit with 28 points from 10 matches, joined last season's champions TP Mazembe in this season's CAF Champions League.

FC Saint-Eloi Lupopo and DC Motema Pembe took part in the CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage and were joined by TP Mazembe who had crashed out of the CAF Champions League preliminary stages.

All four of DR Congo's representatives were negatively impacted by the lack of domestic football and the quartet failed to progress beyond the Group Stage.

Aucho leads Yanga players in celebrating Nabi

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA midfielder Khalid Aucho has led his teammates in celebrating the departing head coach Nasreddine Nabi.

On Wednesday night, the club announced that the Tunisia-born tactician had requested to leave after the expiry of his contract to seek a new challenge.

The gaffer has been with the Jangwani Street side for two years and won the domestic treble twice with the team.

Nabi has been linked with a move to South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs following his success in the two years he has been with Yanga, winning the Mainland Tanzanian Premier League title back-to-back.

Apart from Aucho, Kennedy

Musonda, Kibwana Shomari, Salum Abubakar, and Dickson Job are some of the players that took to their social media accounts to celebrate the coach, terming him a father figure, a brother, and a great friend.

The 58-year-old coach took charge of Yanga in April 2021, coming in to replace Burundian Cedric Kaze who had been fired after a series of less convincing results then.

Nabi's reign at the club, with Kaze serving as his assistant, was a successful one as he managed to win six trophies.

They are two Premier League titles, two Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) titles, and two Community Shield titles, ending age-old rival Simba SC's four-year dominance.

He moreover managed to guide Yanga to the final of the CAF Confederation Cup for the first time which culminated with the outfit losing to Algeria's USM Alger via the away-goal rule.

The two-leg final witnessed the clubs locked to a 2-2 draw, which went in favour of USM Alger which had cruised to a 2-1 victory in the first leg. Yanga's statement noted: "Young Africans SC's management would like to inform the public that it has reached an agreement to part ways with its coach Nasreddine Nabi after the coach asked not to extend a new contract."

"Coach Nasreddine Nabi's contract with Young Africans SC has ended at the end of this season," it said.

"After the end of the contract,

Young Africans SC leadership met coach Nabi for negotiations to sign a new contract, but Nabi asked to leave to find a new challenge," it disclosed.

"A Young Africans SC head coach, Nabi has managed to win two NBC Premier League titles, two Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) titles, two Community Shield titles and lead our team to the final of the CAF Confederation Cup."

"Young Africans SC leadership thanks Nabi for his contribution throughout the period he worked for our team and wishes him all the best in his journey."

"In addition, Young Africans SC leadership has started the process of finding a new coach to replace coach Nasreddine Nabi," it revealed.

Kikwete to participate in 2023 JKT Marathon

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

FORMER President, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, is expected to participate in the 2023 JKT Marathon scheduled for June 25 at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma.

The 21.1 km race, which will bring together athletes from various places as well as other runners, will have the athletes beginning the showdown at the Jamhuri Stadium and head to Iringa St. John Road, and return to the venue.

Director of Education, Culture, and Sports for National Service (JKT), Erasmus Bwegoge, said during an occasion for showcasing sports equipment to be used in the race that the event will celebrate 60 years of JKT.

He noted that preparations for the race have already been completed while insisting sports stakeholders and the rest should come

out to register and participate in the showdown.

"Preparations for the event have already been completed, we ask people to continue registering to participate," Bwegoge pointed out, adding Kikwete will participate in the 5km race.

Bwegoge also said that there will be a 10km race for men and women and a 5km race, with the showdowns' winners getting medals and cash prizes.

According to him, the 5km event's winner will get a medal while in the 10km race, the winner gets 500,000/-, the runner-up walks away with 300,000/-, and the third-placed runner is set to be presented with 200,000/-.

An athlete finishing fourth will receive 150,000/- while the fifth-placed athlete will walk away with 100,000/- and the athletes ending sixth to 10th will each be presented with 50,000/-.

In the 21.1 km race, the winner will get 1m/-, the second-placed runner will rake in 800,000/- and the third-placed runner will receive 600,000/-.

The fourth winner in the race will be presented with 400,000/-, the fifth will be awarded 200,000/-, and the sixth to 10th competitors will each get 100,000/-.

Bwegoge said that the winners in all races will be awarded medals, urging people to come out to participate in the showdowns.

He also said that the equipment for runners who registered to participate in the events will be presented to the performers from today to June 24.

The equipment includes certificates, badges, and identification numbers for the participants. According to Bwegoge, there will further be a week of exhibitions that will start on July 9.



Dar es Salaam's footballers are pictured putting their skills to show at training at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park venue recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Spain morale is sky high after Italy win - coach

MADRID

SPAIN coach Luis de la Fuente said his team's morale was "sky high" after they beat Italy on Thursday to reach the Nations League final against Croatia.

La Roja snatched a late winner through Joselu after Italy's Ciro Immobile cancelled out Jeremy Pino's opening goal.

The coach had been criticised heavily after his first two matches in March, the second of which was a defeat by Scotland.

"(I feel) satisfaction and pride, I think we played an extremely high-level game," De la Fuente told reporters.

"We followed what we had prepared to the letter. We're happy and our morale is sky-high."

The coach handed Robin Le Normand his debut after the French-born defender obtained Spanish nationality in May, and the Real Sociedad player impressed despite conceding an early penalty for handball.

"We have seen him so many times, I was very calm, he's shown he's top draw, he's cool-headed, he's another player for the cause and the future of Spanish football," said De la Fuente.

"He is very calm, he doesn't get nervous in tough situations. There was the accidental situation, he had the bad luck of hitting the ball with his hand.

"(But his level) doesn't surprise us, that's how he is, he's very good."

Italy coach Roberto Mancini said he wished he had approached the second half with more attacking intent.

The coach stuck to the 3-5-2 formation he opted for at the start and watched his team fade as Spain took control.

"I think it is a significant defeat because I care about it and I would have liked to have made it to the final," said Mancini.

"We could have gone to a back four, knowing we would have given them a bit more ball than they ordinarily have.

"Maybe we could have taken up a higher block and been more attacking. We dropped off too much in the second half, absolutely."

AFP

Indonesia fans vexed after Messi pulls out of friendly

JAKARTA

INDONESIAN fans of Lionel Messi expressed dismay Friday after the star pulled out of a friendly in Jakarta, including one making a 12-hour boat and plane journey to the game who accused organisers of false advertising.

People have rushed to snap up more than 60,000 tickets for the sell-out Monday clash between Indonesia and World Cup winners Argentina after Messi's face was plastered across advertising for the event.

But following days of speculation, fans in the football-mad country received bad news on Thursday that their hero would not play.

"I'm feeling sad and disappointed, mixed emotions," 31-year-old shop owner Surya Wijaya Ang told AFP from the remote island of Banda Neira in the eastern province of Maluku.

"This was the biggest chance for me to see Messi play in person."

On Thursday the Argentina side beat Australia in another friendly in the Chinese capital Beijing, with head coach Lionel Scaloni confirming that Messi would not make the Indonesian leg of their Asian tour.

Having become a major fan of Messi during the star's time at Barcelona, Ang has amassed a collection of around 200 jerseys adorned with his name.

He is planning to take a boat to the eastern Indonesian city of Ambon before catching a four-hour flight to Jakarta to attend the match.

Ang sold seven shirts from his wider jersey collection to pay for the 1.2 million rupiah (\$80) match ticket, a steep price in the lower-middle-income country.

- 'Marketing strategy' -

The Messi fanatic is aggrieved and said organisers had seemingly promised an appearance by the superstar.

"Messi is an icon and you can say that 90 percent of the tickets were sold because of Messi," he said.

"This was a marketing strategy for them."

Other Indonesians took to social media to convey disappointment, with one offering to sell two tickets "because Messi is not coming".

A video posted on Twitter showed a fan singing a guitar ballad with the lyrics: "Why don't you come to Indonesia? Why you don't come, oh Mr Messi?"

Another wrote: "This is the end of my idolising him... we won't beg him to come."

Indonesian football has been enduring a year of crises with a deadly stadium crush and losing the rights to host the FIFA Under-20 World Cup.

AFP

The 'problem' Kylian Mbappe faces after disrupting the entire transfer market

By Miguel Delaney

PARIS Saint-Germain had long

expected Kylian Mbappe's letter, such as his overt dissatisfaction with how everything was going, but that was emphatically not the case with the rest of Europe. Monday's news that the French star would not be signing his one-year contract extension caused "a scramble" around the continent's top clubs.

"Nobody was prepared for this," one well-placed figure says. It instantly saw a number of sporting departments do a lot of investigation on Tuesday, to see if any deal might be possible. That's the power of Mbappe, who has probably succeeded Leo Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo in becoming one player who clubs will drop everything for.

It also speaks to that power that the player's camp didn't even feel the need to reach out to potential suitors beforehand. There were no backdoor soundings here. The door was instead blown off, with Mbappe himself then casually insisting he would still see out next season with PSG.

That is dependent on a range of circumstances. Mbappe's decision came down to some simple factors, though.

While the primary issue was the club's failure to progress at Champions League level, he is also conscious of how globally sidelined he is for most of the club season. Mbappe only re-



Man City face the same problem signing Mbappe that they did when pursuing Messi. Agencies

ally plays in about eight high-profile matches a year outside of tournaments, if even that. It is why so much is built up to those Champions League last-16 games.

An irony is that this is a world PSG have also created. Their 2011 takeover fostered an almost one-team league in France, that just doesn't command attractive broadcasting offers outside the country or Qatari station BeIn Sport. Mbappe destroying Ajaccio and Guingamp may make for a nice highlight reel on social media, but the interest for most fans doesn't last beyond the time it takes to scroll up the feed.

It's all the more incongruous a situation given that Mbappe is the first player to truly realise the power that the Messi-Ronaldo era afforded

the most famous players, especially those of his class. He gets it even more than they do.

As such, he needs a move for the benefit of his life ambitions, not just his football ambitions.

One increasing complication is that Mbappe faces a very modern dilemma. Just like Messi in 2021, his sheer value has actually limited his options.

There are only a handful of clubs who could afford him in the current market.

They are Manchester City, Chelsea, Manchester United and Real Madrid. New Financial Fair Play constraints meanwhile limit that further.

When one "big-six" executive was asked on Tuesday whether his club would be interested in pursuing a move, they

just laughed. "Don't be ridiculous."

City have a long-standing interest in Mbappe from 2017, but they - again - have the issue that came up with Messi in 2020 and 2021. It would take a complete rearrangement of their squad in order to accommodate him.

This is really a profound illustration of FFP's positives, even as there is so much debate about the regulations. They are visibly preventing the same small group of clubs hoarding even more players.

Many might consider that a bit of a joke given Chelsea's movements over the last year, but they almost need to sell an entire starting XI before they can even think of Mbappe.

United offer a more

interesting option, especially as they are actively looking for a No 9 - especially a fast one - and could come up with the budget. The issue is that it would prevent strengthening elsewhere, which raises another great variable in all of this. There remains the uncertainty of the sale of the club, as Qatar seek to buy United through Sheikh Jassim. PSG president Nasser Al Khelaifi's involvement in discussions is now well known.

Mbappe going to a Qatari-owned United could offer a clean solution for a lot of involved parties here, if not necessarily for the wider game. It would also display a further issue with state involvement in the sport, way beyond FFP.

There are still a number of circumstances that need to change for that prospect to become a serious one, though.

All of which again leaves Madrid as the most serious option. That has long felt like his career destiny, and the Spanish club have taken longer-term steps that make it even more likely. Madrid have spent the last few years reshaping their budget for more vintage Bernabeu outlay, and this had already been anticipated as the first summer window since 2019 where they go big.

Even they didn't expect this Mbappe news, though.

It has caused a rethink in their transfer plans, with that already from another rethink after the surprising departure of Karim Benzema for Saudi Arabia. The idea in the last

two weeks had been that Madrid would bring in Jude Bellingham and a two-year option like Harry Kane - with that move more advanced than many had anticipated. Tuesday instead brought intensive talks about what to do next.

Mbappe is there to be signed. Florentino Perez may have had a bit of a huff when the player rejected them for PSG last summer, with some Bernabeu executives even making empty claims about the French star never being allowed to play for Madrid in the future, but Monday night ensured all of that was forgotten in a flash.

The main problem may be political rather than financial. Such is the current relationship between Madrid and PSG that Perez does not want to give the Qatari-owned project any money in terms of a fee, and PSG do not want to sell to Madrid.

The French champions are "livid" at the entire situation, particularly with Mbappe himself.

They had long realised the need to restructure the club - especially in the wake of the Champions League defeat to City in 2020-21 - and the idea had been to do exactly as their French star wanted. They were actually going to go for a Madrid-style realigning, seeking to go for younger talent in a high-pressure style, with the Parisian Mbappe the centre of this.

He has now disrupted all of that, while disrupting the entire transfer market.

THE INDEPENDENT

US 3-0 win over Mexico now cut short by homophobic chants on night of 4 red cards

LAS VEGAS

FOUR players were ejected and the match was cut short by the referee after repeated homophobic chants Thursday night.

The United States' 3-0 victory over Mexico for a spot Sunday in the CONCACAF Nations League final against Canada will be remembered as much for the ugliness as for two goals by Christian Pulisic and one by Ricardo Pepi.

Americans Weston McKennie and Sergio Dest were ejected by Salvadoran referee Ivan Barton along with Mexicans César Montes and Gerardo Arteaga during the testy second half.

"These are rivalry games. These are derby games. Things like this happen across the world and in no way am I embarrassed," B.J. Callaghan said after his first game as U.S. interim coach. "It comes from a good place. They care about each other so much in that locker room that they're standing up for each other. Sometimes does it have an issue where we take a red card? Yeah, but

when you know where it comes from, you can accept it and it's a learning lesson for us."

Play was halted in the 90th minute because of homophobic chants. When action resumed, 12 minutes of stoppage time were signaled but resumed chants caused Barton to end the match in the eighth minute added minute.

FIFA fined Mexico 100,000 Swiss francs (\$108,000) in January for anti-gay chants by fans at two games.

"In terms of the chant, I want to make it very clear first and foremost, for our beliefs and our culture, it has no place in the game," Callaghan said. "It has no place in our value system."

McKennie and Dest are suspended for this final. Luca de la Torre and Joe Scally are possible replacements.

"It's definitely a blow," Tim Weah said. "It comes with the game. I know the red cards are definitely a bummer, but it happens. Aggressive match tonight."

Striker Folarin Balogun made his debut after the 21-year-old decided to play for the U.S. over England and Nigeria.

"The boys told me it was going to be intense, but I'm definitely still shocked by the events," said Balogun, who at one point was shoved to the field. "I was just on the floor because I was in pain, but when I looked up I just saw so many people around and I knew my teammates were just trying to defend me."

Making his first start for club or country since April 15, Pulisic put the U.S. ahead in the 37th minute and doubled the lead in the 46th. He has 25 goals in 59 international appearances, including four goals against Mexico. Pepi

scored in the 79th, five minutes after replacing Bologun.

With its first three-goal victory over Mexico in 23 years, the U.S. stretched its unbeaten streak against El Tri to six (three wins, three draws), matching the Americans' longest, from 2011-15.

The U.S. went ahead when Gio Reyna poked the ball off Montes and then while prone, poked it forward off Jorge Sánchez. Pulisic burst behind the defenders, took a pair of touches and from the edge of the 6-yard box slotted the ball past goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa.

McKennie started the move toward the second goal with a long pass down a flank to Weah, who crossed. A sprinting Pulisic got behind Israel Reyes and Sánchez, stabbing the ball in with his left foot from 6 yards.

Montes was given a straight red card in the 69th for kicking Balogun while the two were challenging. McKennie was given a red card two minutes later for placing a hand on Sánchez's neck during the ensuing arguing and shoving.

Pepi scored his seventh international goal, receiving a pass from Dest, taking a touch and rounding Ochoa. Dest

and Arteaga were sent off in the 86th for shoving each other.

"There was moments on both teams that we could have handled better," Callaghan said.

Notes: Reyna, his hair dyed blond, made his first start for club or country since March 27, also the last time Dest and goalkeeper Matt Turner had appeared in any match. ... Canada beat Panama 2-0 in the opener on goals by Jonathan David in the 25th and Alphonso Davies in the 69th. Mexico and Panama meet in the third-place match.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Salah creates goal as Egypt win secures Cup of Nations place

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Amrouche announces Taifa Stars' squad for crunch AFCON Qualifiers' match against Niger



Taifa Stars players are pictured in a training session at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam early this week, shaping up for a 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers' tie against Niger slated for tomorrow at the stadium. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA's senior national football team head coach Adel Amrouche has announced a provisional squad for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) Qualifiers' match against Niger set to take place in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

Speaking during the squad announcement in the city yesterday, Amrouche insisted on a desire to bring in new young players as part of the plan to build for the future.

The Belgo-Algerian coach noted: "We have some new players and dropped others to give a chance for the youth U-20 players, Azam FC goalkeeper, Ayub Idrissa, and Morris (Abraham) the former captain of the national U-17 side."

"We tried to bring the age of the squad down so that we can prepare for the future with the new players," Amrouche said.

He disclosed: "There are no surprises. This is what we have in the league, we are pleased with the progress of the young players, and we appreciated both Yanga and Simba SC for their good performances this season, which is good for our football."

"When our players play at the high level, it is good for the national team," Amrouche added.

The Tanzania squad's encounter with Niger, the fifth clash of Group F of the 2023 AFCON Qualifiers, is a must-win fixture for the former.

A win will hand Taifa Stars seven points and enhance their chance of qualifying for the biggest continental showdown at the national level for the third time.

The 1-0 loss to Uganda in Taifa Stars' previous home match was a bitter pill. They needed to register a win to pocket maximum points that would make them comfortable on the table, but unfortunately, they lost.

It will be a third game in charge for Taifa Stars head coach Amrouche, who has secured one win (1-0) versus Uganda in Egypt before losing by a similar margin to the same opponent in Dar

es Salaam.

As such, it is another ample opportunity for him to guide the Tanzania squad to success ahead of the side's last campaign match against Algeria, to be played in Algiers.

Goalkeepers: Metacha Mnata (Yanga), Beno Kkolanya (Simba SC), Vuai (KMKM), and Zubeir Foba (Azam FC).

Defenders: Datus Peter (Kagera), Dickson Job, Kibwana Shomari, Bakari Mwamnyeto, Ibrahim Abdallah (Yanga), Mohamed Hussein, Kennedy Juma (Simba SC), Novatus Dismac (Zulte, Belgium), Abdi Banda (Chippa, South Africa) and Lameck Lawi (Coastal Union).

Midfielders: Himid Mao Mkami (Ghazl, Egypt), Adolph, Aziz Andambwile (Singida Fountain Gate FC), Muzamiru Yassin (Simba SC), Mudathir Yahya (Yanga), Ayoub Idrissa Bilal (Ankara, Turkey), Ben Starkie (Basford Utd, England), and Morris Abraham (Spartak Subotica, Serbia).

Forwards: Simon Msuva (Al Qadsiah FC, Saudi), Abdulhamis Suleiman (Azam FC), Kibu Dennis (Simba SC), John Tiber, Bernard Kamungo (FC Dallas, USA), Adi Yusuph (Brackley Town, England), and Mbwana Samatta (KRC Genk, Belgium)

5 EATV Sports

TONIGHT @ 9:00

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHIAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Bongo Hit
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS LIVE
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

eastAfrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Mt. Kilimanjaro Marathon set to attract over 50 runners

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

MORE than 50 Tanzania and foreign runners are expected to participate in the 30th edition of the oldest and most consistent marathons in the country, the Mt. Kilimanjaro Marathon.

The 2023 Mt. Kilimanjaro Marathon is a Fun Run that started in 1991 to back the government's efforts to promote Tanzania's tourism in and outside the country.

Speaking during the marathon's launch in Moshi yesterday, the Race Director, Daniel Mvungi, stated that it will take place in the region on June 25.

Mvungi disclosed that the marathon was founded by Marie Frances in 1991, noting she had traveled to Tanzania to speak to authorities about starting a marathon in Moshi, at the base of the mighty Mt. Kilimanjaro.

"The officials approved the idea and Mt. Kilimanjaro Marathon was inaugurated, because Marie is an American citizen, the United States Embassy in Tanzania also supports her efforts in bringing tourists and runners to Moshi," Mvungi noted.

"An official from the embassy always attends the 'pasta' party and hands over awards at the presentation ceremony," he explained.

He added that some of the families of the embassy's officials located in Dar es Salaam participated in the activities.

According to Mvungi, the 10km race is designed to draw attention from members of the community to various tourist destinations in Tanzania.

"The marathon is also designed to draw attention to members of the community on the importance of helping the needy people in their community by initiating and supporting some charity projects for education, health, and other humanitarian supports," Mvungi pointed out.

The founder and president of Mt. Kilimanjaro Marathon, Marie, explained that the Mt. Kilimanjaro Adventure and Tanzania's government had in 2010 issued her honorary citizenship and named a street in Moshi, 'Marie Frances Blvd'.

"The City fathers of Moshi also gave her a key to the city, Tanzania's Ambassador to the USA has written many letters asking all citizens of the USA to attend this marathon," she explained.

Marie further explained that apart from participating in the race, foreigners from various countries will climb Mt. Kilimanjaro to its highest peak, Uhuru (5,895m ASL).

They will also visit some tourist destinations in the northern circuit including Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Crater, as well as Zanzibar beaches for sustainable tourism.

She stated: "I will bring a group of tourists from various nations in the world who will, apart from participating in the Mt. Kilimanjaro marathon, climb Mount Kilimanjaro to its highest peak."

The race's founder added: "It is an expedition that has been organized by Moshi-based CristalZoo Tours, I always promote Tanzania."

"I have worked there now for over 33 years... I am the oldest tourism businesswoman from the USA to keep on selling Mt Kilimanjaro Marathon and tour," Marie revealed.

Yanga eyes partnership with Kenyan Premier League outfit Bandari FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KENYA Premier League club, Bandari FC, and its Tanzanian counterpart, Yanga, have commenced negotiations that will see them enter into a football partnership geared toward strategic engagement in various areas.

The development was discussed when the Kenyan club's vice-chairman and long-serving football stakeholder, Twaha Mbarak, met Yanga's president Hersi Said during this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final between Yanga and Azam FC at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga on Monday.

Mbarak said: "Bandari FC continues to strive for excellence, it is fantastic to learn from Yanga, we are looking to pick up all we can from a club that is arguably one of the best on the African continent as its management and performance is way above there, courtesy of the vibrant Hersi Said."

"He has made Yanga become a shining example of how proper organizational structure is healthy for a top side with the ambition of continuously challenging for top honours in modern football," the Bandari FC leader noted.

"We aim to continue to share knowledge and experience, as well as building the relationship in terms of exposing our players and technical bench to the Yanga systems," he said.

"Our engagement will revolve around club management, activities

for fans, digital transformation, marketing, sales, economic control, and international development."

"With how Yanga is structured, it is evident that they will continue to dominate the Mainland Tanzania Premier League which has now been rebranded to NBC Premier League as they continue their ascendancy to the top of African football and, if we emulate them, we'll follow suit and become continental heavyweights," he added.

On and off the pitch, Yanga, Tanzania's oldest club that boasts 27 Premier League titles, has lately fashioned a fearsome reputation on the continent.

The side retained the ASFC title after beating Azam FC 1-0 at the Mkwakwani Stadium, the second title to have been lifted by the Jangwani Street-based giants this season.

Yanga also won the NBC Premier League title besides settling for the runner-up spot in this season's CAF Confederation Cup, having lost to Algeria's USM Alger on the away goals rule despite the 2-2 aggregate outcome in the two-leg final.

Said is believed to have orchestrated Yanga's revival when he took over the reins.

Overhauling Yanga's fortunes would not be a walk in the park, considering that the team previously barely afforded to keep its best players.

Taking stock of the problems faced by the troubled club in 2020 was the first port of call and Said did so with a

civil engineer's precision.

The Yanga president disclosed: "We signed an agreement to produce kits for the club, it solved two issues- they got money and sorted out the kit issue. We did a good launch, we understood that it's not business if your partner is not doing well, so, we decided to do more for the club and signed players."

"The next thing we did was change the place they camped before games... we gave them a good hotel, we secured a contract for a proper training ground," the revered engineer-cum-administrator said.

"The club couldn't pay salaries, afford accommodation and transport costs, players were terminating their contracts, they travelled by bus to games," Said recalled.

"It was unsustainable the club was living on donations, and we had to call fans to hire transport, air tickets, and sign players. I happened to be the Chairman of the Yanga Family, whose responsibility was to solicit funds," he revealed.

In May this year, Twaha-the former Football Kenya Federation vice-president- was appointed to the Board of Trustees of Kenya Premier League side, Bandari FC.

In a letter written by the Kenya Ports Authority Managing Director William Ruto, the club moved to tap the experience of the respected sports administrator and Mombasa businessman.

"Because of your vast experience in football administration both at the

Coast region and at the national level, I am convinced that you have the requisite skills, passion, and expertise that will add value to the management of the club," Ruto wrote in the appointment offer.

He is dreaming big weeks after taking over, disclosing: "The plan is to ensure that the team becomes a big competitor domestically and internationally."

"We want to ensure that Bandari FC competes in African championships while targeting special competitions between us and regional powerhouses like Yanga and Simba SC," Mbarak said.

According to the official, the strategy will ensure that the team is heard and popularised in Kenya and internationally.

After parting ways with coach Antony Kimani who was with the team for over one year, Bandari FC is in the process of acquiring a new highly qualified tactician who will steer the team's ambition from next season.

Among those whose services are being chased after including former national team 'Harambee Stars' head coach Francis Kimanzi, current Tusker FC tactician Robert Matano and former Kakamega Homeboyz and Ulinzi Stars gaffer Bernard Mwalala.

They are currently under the stewardship of a top Football Kenya Federation instructor Twahir Muhidin, who previously guided the side before in the same capacity.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

