



EMPOWERMENT



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Tribunal catches up with big 1994 genocide fugitive

By Special Correspondent, Arusha

FULGENCE Kayishema - one of the most wanted Rwanda genocide fugitives - was yesterday afternoon arrested in Paarl, South Africa.

Reports confirmed by International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) secretariat based jointly in The Hague and in the old tribunal offices in Arusha, said this arrest was a joint operation by the IRMCT office of the prosecutor via its fugitive tracking team and South African police authorities.

Kayishema is alleged to have orchestrated the killing of approximately 2000 Tutsi refugees - women, men, children and elderly - at the Nyange Catholic Church during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi minority in Rwanda. He has been sought after since 2001.

Serge Brammertz, IRMCT chief prosecutor was elated at the development, declaring that Fulgence Kayishema was a fugitive for more than twenty years. "His arrest ensures that he will finally face justice for his alleged crimes," he state, asserting that this arrest is a tangible demonstration that world commitment against genocide does not fade.

"Justice will be done, no matter how long it takes," he enthused, pointing out that the thorough investigation that led to this arrest "was made possible by cooperation of South African authorities.

An operational task team was set up by President Cyril Ramaphosa to assist the prosecutor's fugitive tracking team, he said, lauding the work of the directorate of priority crimes investigations, Western Cape Province crime intelligence, Interpol office in South Africa and the Home Affairs ministry in Pretoria. "Their exceptional skills, rigour and cooperation were critical for this success," the prosecutor emphasised.

Similar task forces in other African countries, notably Eswatini, Mozambique and Rwanda, especially prosecutor general Aimable Havugiyaremye, apart from the United States, Canada and Britain.

"Kayishema's arrest demonstrates yet again that justice can be secured, no matter the challenges, through direct cooperation between international and national law enforcement agencies," he affirmed, recalling the victims and survivors of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi and progressive Hutu sections of society.

Kayishema was indicted by the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in 2001 and charged with genocide,

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan has a word with her host, Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, during their tour of the just-launched 16-MW Kikagati-Murongo power project at Mbarara in Uganda yesterday. Photo: State House

Govt allocates land for 7.8trn/- likely projects

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

IN efforts to attract more investment projects, the government has in the past year approved 135 applications for 29,820.4 hectares of land for local and foreign investments, totaling 7.8trn/- in projected capital.

Dr Angelina Mabula, the Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister, made this affirmation in presenting 171.3bn/- estimates for fiscal 2023/24 in the legislature yesterday.

She said that the processing of the land plots allocation for investors was conducted from last July to mid-May, while the ministry was constantly receiving and approving allocation of land for investors.

This is meant to further stimulate economic growth, she said, pointing at key priorities for the next financial year, including strengthening systems to address land conflicts and increasing the pace of surveying plots.

Heavily investing in information and communication technology (ICT) systems in record keeping, service delivery

and access to land information, establishing a friendly environment for the acquisition of land for investment purposes plus strengthening land disputes resolution systems are major objectives, she said.

Planning, surveying and provision of title deeds will be speeded up to increase efficiency in collection of taxes and levies by mobile phone transactions, she elaborated.

The minister appealed to banks and other financial institutions to stop ignoring customary title deeds "as there are many people who have used the documents to secure loans for various economic projects."

Up to mid-May, a total of 60bn/- in loans had been issued by banks and other lenders using customary title deeds in 11 districts, listed as Mbozi, Iringa, Babati, Bariadi, Arumeru, Mbarali, Manyoni, Kilombero, Bagamoyo, Mbinga and Tandahimba.

Customary title deeds still have a big role in accessing credit, she said, citing the need for providing

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'Development priorities tied to the Indian Ocean'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR authorities have declared that Tanzania's development priorities are tied to the Indian Ocean, making the issue of its conservation an essential matter.

First Vice President Masoud Othman made this intervention when opening the 9th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) conference here yesterday, standing in for President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi.

He said speedy economic transformation

has to do with business related to the marine ecosystem and infrastructure, as potentially Zanzibar is a tourist paradise in the region.

"We are doing well in utilising imported natural gas and other energy sources," he said, noting that deep sea fishing will help transform the lives of fishermen and fish farming communities.

There is hence a need to enhance capabilities regarding sea ecosystem protection as we vie for sponsorship regarding the blue economy, he said, referring to its primacy in order to benefit the fishing communities.

"This will be a victory for the blue economy, and in the fight against the effects of climate change, achieve equality in the society and sustainable development goals," he remarked.

Women empowerment and gender incorporation in the blue economy is essential for attaining an inclusive economy

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'Tanzanian gas crucial for our steel industry'

By Guardian Reporter

UGANDAN President Yoweri Museveni has said that they rely on Tanzania as a rescuer in providing them with gas to run key economic activities, including making steel and domestic energy needs.

Speaking at the inauguration of the \$56m Kikagati-Murongo power project straddling the banks of Kagera River on the Ugandan side in the presence of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, he said gas generation in Uganda is not enough for current needs, and importing gas from Tanzania helps with the production of steel and fertiliser in particular.

He said this makes Uganda count on Tanzania for its gas needs, despite that otherwise Uganda has everything, save for sufficient supplies of gas. Uganda sends

oil and obtains natural gas, which cements traditional brotherhood, he declared.

President Samia said the 16-MW Kikagati-Murongo power project in Isingiro District in the western part of Uganda will strengthen ties between the two countries.

With construction starting in February 2018, the project was funded by the Netherlands Development Finance Corporation (FMO), Africa Renewable Energy Fund, Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund (EAIF) and the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG).

"Power generated is going to improve a number of aspects in this region, including business, communication and social engagements," she said, also pointing at improved transportation and social services.

"The power produced here will also

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more education to villagers, and ensuring that the Integrated Land Management Information System (ILMIS) becomes more effective.

Digital operations of the system will contribute to land tenure security and improve reliability of land transactions, she said. An efficient and reliable information system providing secure land administration services for customers is vital, the minister emphasised.

It will also improve public confidence in land administration services, integrate land administration, land registration and surveying, shifting land records and maps into digital format, she said.

In the next fiscal year, the ministry will start building 22 continuously operating reference stations (CORS) available on a 24 hour basis in 22 regional headquarters, she said.

A five-year \$150m (345bn/-) Land Tenure Improvement Project (LTIP) funded by the World Bank will be implemented to strengthen the national land administration system, "increasing tenure security for at least two million land holders, users and their families,"

she affirmed, with the project set to be concluded in fiscal 2026/27 financial year.

The project targets 14 regions, pegged at issuing one million certificates of right of occupancy (CROs) plus 500,000 certificates of customary right of occupancy (CCROs), plus one million residential licenses.

Seeking to eliminate much of the demand for houses especially in urban areas, the National Housing Corporation (NHC) will pursue affordable housing schemes.

The Samia Housing Scheme will be spread to various regions in the wake of Kawe area development in Dar es Salaam region, where construction was at 15 percent and set for completion during the coming financial year, she said.

By mid this month, a total of 231,321 hectare had been allocated for livestock pasture, 199,110 hectares listed as forest reserves, and 23,215 hectares identified as forest harvesting zones.

Similarly, 61,135 hectares had been cited for settlements, 1,999,591 hectares for farming and settlements, alongside 49,059 hectares earmarked for investments development, she added.

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improve many things in education, water and security in urban and rural areas," she further stated.

The government gives priority to projects involving collaboration with Uganda, she said, urging

bilateral cooperation teams to oversee the projects to ensure that they are implemented as planned.

This is what the Uganda authorities are doing, being ready to ensure that the projects are implemented as planned, she added.

Sukos Kova hands out fifteen oxygen concentrators to MNH

By Guardian Reporter

SUKOS Kova, a private institution, in collaboration with Peaceland of China, have provided 15 oxygen concentrators for testing the oxygen content in the human body valued at 16.5m/- to Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) (nine machines) Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) (three) and Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) (three).

Speaking after handing out the machines, Sukos Kova managing director, Suleiman Kova said health facilities are among those providing services at the national level, hence they need adequate equipment to save patients' lives.

"We have concentrated in providing

aid equipment to hospitals to help those affected by disasters as well as providing education to members of the public on how to protect themselves against disasters," he said.

Earlier, MNH Managing Director, Prof Mohamed Janabi said the hospital uses 80 to 120 oxygen cylinders per day while MOI and JKCI use 40 cylinders per day. "The machines will help MNH, especially in ambulances that carry patients in emergency cases as they are being taken to the hospital, hence they are essential in such environment," Prof Janabi said.

Earlier, JKCI Managing Director, Peter Kisenge said during outbreaks of respiratory diseases as it is currently, the machines are handy, even for patients at home.

46,000 TASAF groups save 7.9bn/- nationwide

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

MORE than 46,000 groups established through Tanzania Social Action Fund in the country have collected and saved a total of 7.9bn/- out of which 3.1bn/- is in circulation in the economy

Anzanukye Mselela, Project Officer from Households Saving and Economic Development said members of the groups have made small savings aimed at improving the households' economies and enhance their incomes.

He said the 3.1bn/- in circulation is used in entrepreneurial activities including buying and selling crops, small businesses and adding value to products. "Many small entrepreneurs have been showing the urge to

enhance their households' incomes, which is bearing fruits because the community will benefit from TASAF programme that aim to provide economic assistance of poor households," Mselela said.

The chairman of the Utulivu group from Kaliua district, Tabora Region, Salima Musa said they engage themselves in buying and selling farm crops including honey, one of Tabora Region's main products.

In order to succeed, she called on entrepreneurs to form groups and to make sure everyone is faithful for the sustenance of their groups.

In the same vein, Isdaya Damian, resident of Mwanga in Kigoma town said people who formed entrepreneurial groups have attained achievements in their businesses.

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as it requires cooperation from various stakeholders and layers of society..

Masoud Suleiman Makame, the Blue Economy and Fisheries minister, said the Union government recognizes IORA pledges as we move to enhance expectations in regard to the blue economy.

"All of us agree that in order for the blue economy to succeed, we need to merge our development priorities that are sustainable," he said, pointing at greater involvement of the community.

The participation of the private sector in our blue economy development agenda is equally vital, he added.



Puma Energy Tanzania general manager Fatma Abdallah (L) and the Director of Zanzibar's Karume Institute of Science and Technology, Dr Mahmoud Abdulwahab Alawi, exchange documents earlier this week soon after signing a partnership agreement under which the firm will extend 352m/- in support of a three-year graduate training programme aimed at developing science and technology in Zanzibar. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tribunal catches up with big 1994 genocide fugitive

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complicity in genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, and crimes against humanity for killings and other crimes committed in Kivumu Commune, Kibuye Prefecture during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

The indictment states that on 15 April 1994, Kayishema, together with other co-perpetrators, murdered more than 2,000 men, women, elderly and children refugees at the Nyange Church in Kivumu commune.

"Kayishema directly participated in the planning and execution of this

massacre, including by procuring and distributing petrol to burn down the church with the refugees inside. When this failed, Kayishema and others used a bulldozer to pull down the church building, burying and killing the refugees inside."

"Kayishema and others then supervised the transfer of corpses from the church grounds into mass graves over the next approximately two days," it further asserts.

Investigation leading to Kayishema's arrest spanned multiple countries across Africa and elsewhere, in strong cooperation with many national

law enforcement and immigration agencies, the prosecutor intoned.

During his flight from justice, Kayishema utilized many aliases and false documents to conceal his identity and presence. He further relied upon a network of trusted supporters, including family members, members of the ex-Forces Armées Rwandaises and ex-Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, and those aligned with the genocidal Hutu Power ideology, he elaborated.

"Kayishema was located and arrested through an analysis-driven investigation exploiting

multi-source evidence with both traditional and leading-edge methodologies," he said.

Kayishema's arrest marks a further step forward in the OTP's strategy to account for all remaining fugitives indicted for genocide by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Since 2020, the OTP fugitive tracking team has accounted for the whereabouts of five fugitives, including Félicien Kabuga, Augustin Bizimana, Protais Mpiranya, and Phéneas Munyarugarama. There are now only three outstanding fugitives, it added.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister Dr Angelina Mabula tables her ministry's Budget estimates for financial year 2023/2024 in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Fee-free education policy seen boosting number of school-going girls in Chemba

By Polycarp Machira, Chemba

THE number of girls attending schools in Chemba District, Dodoma Region has increased tremendously, thanks to provision of fee free education in the country.

The revelation was made here during the launch of the second phase project aimed at addressing barriers which hinder girls and boys from accessing education and thus reduce absenteeism.

The Tanzania Education Network (TEN/MET) Project Manager, Kenneth Nchimbi said that the research and evaluation conducted by his organisation through Women Wake Up non-governmental

organisation (WOWAP) in Chemba District revealed that the challenge of school absenteeism for girls has decreased.

He noted that challenge of female student absenteeism in our district has dropped to seven per cent in primary schools and five percent in secondary schools, and this is due to the government efforts to provide fee free education," he said.

"With the government's efforts to provide free education, incentives such as the distribution of bags with solar energy panels, learning opportunities and trips made by ambassadors have resulted into positive results, such as increase in the number of girls

attending school, improve their performance," he said.

He said that the research evaluation showed that the first phase of the project implementation has been successful by reducing the number of student drop out especially for girls.

The first phase of this project funded by Malala Fund has helped to increase the number of female students who stay and continue with their studies, the assessment shows that more than 95 percent of girls are in schools continuing with their studies.

He explained that the assessment was conducted in six schools in Chemba District and found that

girls' performance in national examinations has increased.

Nchimbi mentioned schools that were involved in the assessment as Kelema Maziwani Primary School, Kwa Mtoro Secondary School, Soya Primary School, Mrijo Secondary School, Millet Primary School and Soya Secondary School.

"Changes in perception was also noted as among the reason for decrease in girls drop out. Community members have understood the importance of encouraging girls to complete their studies and discourage early marriages," he said.

Nchimbi further said that there are few areas which need to be worked on, including training on life skills, public awareness, strategies to maintain school clubs and boys' involvement in school clubs.



Joseph Chilambo, a representative of the TIB Bank managing director, pictured earlier this week speaking during the laying of the foundation stone for Ijangara mini-hydropower project, which is being executed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) through Lutheran DKK Energy Company. The firm is based at Msiwiwe village in Makete District, Njombe Region, while the project is being implemented thanks to funding to the tune of USD 400000 as a TIB loan, a Rural Energy Agency subsidy and support by various other stakeholders. Left is ELCT Presiding Bishop Dr Fredrick Onael Shoo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

20 youths complete 7-month drone pilot course at Dar CATC

By Henry Mwangonde

TWENTY youths have graduated from a drone pilot training aimed at equipping them with skills to be used in the implementation of a project to strengthening plant health services in Tanzania for enhanced food safety, which seeks to address administrative and technical limitations relevant to plant health that deteriorate agricultural trade and endanger food security.

The students, who underwent the training for seven months at the Civil Aviation Training Centre (CATC) in Dar es Salaam, are employees of the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) and that of Zanzibar, the training is expected to be crucial in addressing challenges in the horticulture sector.

The Ministry of Agriculture in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the European Union (EU) launched a three-year project to increase access to safe and quality agricultural produce for national and international markets.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, TPHPA acting Director General Prof Joseph Ndunguru said that the project also would improve the quality of crops to meet the standards of international markets.

"We now stand a better chance to start exporting crop produce to the potential international markets, and our main focus is to increase our crop export value from currently \$1.2 billion annually to at least \$5 billion by 2030," he said.

He said the project will also address the challenges which exporters were facing including confiscation of exports in foreign markets due to lack of quality and standards.

A study in 2017 by the ministry of agriculture established poor awareness of plants health among local experts and farmers, as well as the absence of laboratories for plant health diagnosis and surveillance facilities.

He said that the mentioned challenges placed the country in an uncomfortable position to export agricultural produce to potential international markets.

Prof Ndunguru further gave an example of 2012 and 2017, where more than two consignments of agriculture products destined to the European Union (EU) market were intercepted for administrative non-compliance and evidence of undesired contaminants.

FAO Representative in Tanzania Dr Nyabenyi Tipo said that the project aimed at opening a new successful chapter for Tanzania to start enjoying exporting key economic cash crops to various destinations in EU countries, among others.

Cedric Merel, Head of Cooperation at EU Delegation in Tanzania said that through the project, Tanzania's performance and efficiency of phytosanitary will enhance.

He said the project aims to engage governments and donors in plant health activities, including research, outreach, and capacity building for national plant protection organisations to implement the required standards. In addition, the initiative seeks to increase awareness among donors.

"We now stand a better chance to start exporting crop produce to the potential international markets, and our main focus is to increase our crop export value from currently \$1.2 billion annually to at least \$5 billion by 2030"

MPs unhappy with government's pace of surveying, planning land

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament have expressed dissatisfaction with the government's pace of surveying, planning and registering land in the country saying that the situation was stimulating land disputes and affecting people's economic progress.

Contributing to the debate on the Ministry of Land, Housing and Human Settlement budget estimates for the 2023/24 financial year, the MPs sought for the government's robust measures to address the conflicts in order to enable Tanzanians live in peace both in rural and urban areas.

Bahati Ndingo, (Special Seats) said only 25 percent of Tanzanian land is planned and if the pace remains the same, it will take over 180 years to complete surveying and registration of the country's plots.

"We are not serious in surveying our land, this leads to a number of conflicts, so far only 2,868 villages have been surveyed and planned leaving a total 9,541 villages unplanned, something which fuels all these land conflicts," she said.

Mwita Waitara, Tarime rural MP wanted the government to be serious in the area of addressing land conflicts as the majority of Tanzanians are denied their rights to own land due to challenges in occupying the plots.

"Almost all wards in Mara region are facing land ownership conflicts, we have been decrying the same issue here every year and measures are taken very slowly, how are we going to enable our villagers to live in peace if we are not serious in resolving land conflicts," he lamented.

Mohamed Moni, Chemba MP said over 1,000 residents at Luboroti village are living a very difficult life

since 2014 after their farms were taken during review of village boundaries.

"My residents have now been left with the village and their farms are in the other side of Kiteto district in Manyara just because of the exercise conducted eight years ago to review boundaries, they have gone to the court and it was ruled that their farms should be given back but nothing has been implemented," he said.

Halima Mdee (Special Seats) said that leaders are using land conflicts as an advantage for them to conduct tours in various areas in the name of addressing the conflicts which is not true. "Leaders are not serious in this, they are only thinking of their interests and not prioritising addressing land conflicts, this is so hurting, what we are doing is not fair to poor Tanzanians, people are fighting day and night to get land to conduct their economic activities

and leaders are here not thinking on strong solutions to curb the challenges," she said.

Benaya Kapinga, Mbinga rural MP said villagers in Mkuani and Makuka villages are living a very desperate life after their farms were taken in 2017 due to the implementation of a project dubbed Participatory Plantation Forestry Programme - Panda Miti Kibiashara.

"Villagers are starving because of these campaigns that do not also engage leaders and residents of specific areas, people have lived there for many years engaging in farming and livestock keeping, but now their economic situation is intense because they have no farming area to produce food and commercial crops," he lamented.

He noted that Tanzania has not been able to tap many opportunities presented by its land resources because most of the land is not yet planned, surveyed and registered.



BARAZA LA TAIFA LA WATU WANAOSHILI NA VIRUSI VYA UKIMWI TAARIFA YA KUFANYIKA MKUTANO MKUU WA BARAZA

Kwa mujibu wa Katiba ya Baraza Sura ya Sita Kifungu 6.1. kinaelekeza Baraza kuwa kutakuwa na Mkutano Mkuu wa Baraza utakaoandaliwa na kuitishwa na Bodi ya Uongozi.

Kwa kuzingatia kifungu 6.1(iv), kwa niaba ya Bodi ya Uongozi wa Baraza napenda kutoa taarifa rasmi ya kufanyika Mkutano Mkuu wa Baraza. Mkutano huu unatarajiwa kufanyika tarehe 02 na 03 Mwezi Septemba 2023. Pamoja na agenda za kawaida za Mkutano Mkuu wa Baraza, mkutano huu pia utakuwa ni sehemu ya maadhimisho ya miaka 20 ya kuanzishwa kwa Baraza. Agenda zote za mkutano kwa wajumbe zitatolewa hapo baadae.

Kwa mujibu wa Kifungu kidogo cha 6.1(ii) Wajumbe wa mkutano huu ni pamoja na wajumbe wote wa Bodi walioko madarakani, wawakilishi wawili (2) kutoka kila mtandao wa Kitaifa wa WAVIU wa Vijana na Wanawake, Wenyeviti wa Konga na mwakilishi mmoja kutoka kila Konga kwa utaratibu huu; Ikiwa Mwenyekiti atakuwa mwanaume, basi mwakilishi atakuwa Mwanamke, au kinyume chake. (Ikiwezekana, mwakilishi awe ni kijana anayetokana na vijana WAVIU waliomo kwenye Konga).

Kwa vile gharama za kuendesha Mkutano Mkuu ni kubwa sana, na uwezo wa Baraza ni mdogo, wajumbe wanaombwa kuchangia gharama za ushiriki kama vile usafiri na posho ya kujikimu.

Tunaomba viongozi wote wa Konga waweze kushirikisha Uongozi wa Halmashauri husika na wadau wengine ili waweze kupatiwa msaada wa uwezeshwaji pale inapowezekana.

Tunawatakiya maandalizi mema.

Deo Rutatwa

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TRA inks agreement with IBFD to enhance capacity building for the tax body

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation which is the world's authoritative institution on cross-border taxation, training and research.

The inking of the Memorandum of Understanding took place in Arusha as the sideline event at the ongoing 8th Africa Tax Symposium 2023, being held at the Mount Meru Hotel.

Signed between the Commissioner for the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) Alphayo Kidata and Chief Executive Officer of the International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD) Jan Maarten Slagter, the agreement falls within the capacity building initiatives being undertaken by revenue authority.

Established in 1938, the International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD), is pre-eminent, independent and non-profit foundation experts on high-quality independent tax knowledge and research.

Many tax practitioners and institutions around the world depend on IBFD for data, training, research and consultancy.

The signing ceremony was attended by other distinguished delegates including Prof Victor Van Kommer, the Director of Tax Services and member of IBFD's Executive Board, as well as top officials from the Tanzania Revenue Authority.

"This is a special day in the history of capacity building initiatives in the Tanzania Revenue Authority," said the TRA Commissioner, Alphayo Kidata.

"This stems from the nature of our work and the challenges we face. Tax administration work, for which TRA is responsible, carries two major features, among many: First, it is a sensitive government function, in the sense

that it represents the exercise of a nation's sovereignty secondly, it is a highly complex and dynamic affair dealing with significantly challenging phenomena, in the form of complex and often unpredictable taxpayer behavior and society's ever increasing needs and expectations."

Commissioner Kidata pointed out that success, in such an environment, is dependent on deployment of a highly competent workforce at all levels-people with sound knowledge, relevant skills and right attitudes.

"This makes capacity building a necessary part and parcel of our daily activities in TRA."

The commissioner explained that when TRA's training arm, the Institute of Tax Administration (ITA), secures formal partnership with a world-class institution in the name of IBFD, in a capacity building mission, it indicates a very important step in the development of tax administration work in Tanzania.

The 8th Africa Tax Symposium 2023 taking place in Arusha aims at fostering a stimulating environment for proactive exploration of opportunities and solutions for securing a fair deal that provides for equitable global re-allocation of profits to market jurisdictions while protecting the tax base of African countries.



...it is a highly complexly and dynamic affair dealing with significantly challenging phenomena, in the form of complex and often unpredictable taxpayer behavior and society's ever increasing needs and expectations

Ten medical specialists return home from India

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TEN medical specialists who were in India with the Tanzania Medical Tourism Committee are returning home today with vast opportunities and expertise to make Tanzania the hub of medical tourism in the Sub-Saharan Africa.

The doctors and the entire delegation have been in India for 10 days where they visited and held talks with the heads of local hospitals about how their hospitals can cooperate with local hospitals in medical tourism.

The mission was under the National Medical Tourism Committee and was led by the Vice Chairman of the Committee, Abdulmalik Mollel, who is also the Executive Director of the Global Education Link (GEL) and Global Medicare, the aim being to find opportunities to make Tanzania a center for medical tourism.

The National Medical Tourism Committee launched in 2021 is led by the Director of the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), Prof Mohamed Janabi.

The creation of the committee is the vision of the President Samia Suluhu Hassan to make Tanzania the center of medical tourism in Africa due to the large investment she continues to make in the purchase of modern medical equipment in hospitals in the country.

Vice chairman of the committee, Abdulmalik Mollel, said some of the specialty doctors are from Muhimbili hospital, Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI), Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute (MOI) Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), and Muhimbili Mloganzila branch

and some social welfare people.

He said the director of MNH, Prof Mohamed Janabi, Director of ORCI, Prof Julius Mwaiselenge, Director of JKCI, Dr Peter Kisenge and Director of MOI, Dr Respicious Boniface together with the Medical Tourism Committee decided together to send the doctors to India as an effort to turn Tanzania into the center of medical tourism in Sub-Saharan Africa.

He said they decided to go with the doctors to India to look for opportunities that will contribute to making improvements and making Tanzania achieve its goals of becoming a medical tourism center in the countries south of the Sahara desert.

Mollel said that under the able leadership of the Minister of Health, Ummu Mwalimu, the government has made major reforms in the health sector by investing billions of monies to buy modern equipment, a situation that has been attracting other countries to come and learn from Tanzania.

"Minister Ummu has done great things in the health sector and has been advising us and guiding us on how to go about implementing the ambition of our President Samia Suluhu Hassan to make Tanzania a medical tourism center south of the Sahara desert," said Mollel.

"Prof Janabi instructed me to lead the delegation to bring about a revolution in the health sector to help not only attract those in need of health services in Tanzania but also outside the country," he said.

"On this trip, we aimed to see the systems they use for the provision of quality health services, technology, to check their generosity in health services and their willingness to cooperate with Tanzania in achieving medical tourism," he said.



Tanzania Revenue Authority commissioner general Alphayo Kidata (3rd-R) exchanges greetings in Arusha city yesterday with International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD) executive board director Prof Victor Van Kommer at the opening of 8th IBFD Africa Tax Symposium. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Improve procedures in issuing development funds from world financial institutions - VP

By Guardian Reporter

THE Vice President, Dr Philip Mpango has said it is important to strengthen procedures governing development projects and the responsibilities of the international financial institutions in order to incorporate changes that have taken place since the formation of the institutions.

Dr Mpango made the remarks Tuesday this week during discussions involving senior government officials in regard to the "improving sponsorship procedures on development projects and the responsibilities of world financial institutions" held

at the African Development Bank (AfDB) Annual Conference at the Sharm El Sheikh International Conference Centre, Egypt.

He said world financial institutions were created during the time that is different to now when the world is faced by various new challenges including climate change, natural disasters, pandemics, food scarcity and international conflicts including wars.

He added that the world's increasing population, especially in Africa must be taken into consideration in regard to the improvement of the international financial institutions because

Africa's representation in the institution does not commensurate with the continent's population.

He said it is better for the institutions' improvement to have in place adhering to priorities of the relative countries when providing sponsorship as well as stressing on the sustainable development goals.

Dr Mpango further said it is necessary to go through the difficult conditions and lengthy processes in dishing out development funds and called on the financial institutions to increase their capitals from various sources to correspond to the needs of the development countries.

According to him, there is a dire need to reduce lengthy processes

in accessing funds from the international financial institutions as well as supporting projects established by local investors in the private sector.

The conference has been attended by Heads of State and government from various countries led by Egyptian president Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, international organisations, finance ministers and central banks governors, civil society organisations, AfDB led by its President Dr Akinumwi Adesina, and various other stakeholders.

Meanwhile, Dr Mpango met and held discussions with Egypt's Prime Minister, Mostafa Madbouly, at Sharm El-Sheikh Conference Centre.

During the discussions various issues on relations between the two countries were raised, including the issue of energy and environment.



Amplife Electrics Ltd director general Hussein Somji (R) briefs Works and Transport deputy minister Godfrey Kasekenya (2nd-R, foreground) in Dar es Salaam yesterday on electrical appliances the firm was selling on the sidelines of the consultative meeting of works stakeholders organised by Tanzania's Contractors Registration Board. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Govt pledges to resolve four outstanding contentious issues

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

IN making sure the Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar continue to be sustained and strengthened, the government has said it continues with efforts to find solutions four contentious issues that still remain unsolved.

The remarks have been made here on Wednesday in Parliament by the Deputy Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Geoffrey Pinda on behalf of the Minister of state in Vice President's Office (Union and

Environment) when responding to a question posed by Special seats MP, Latifa Khamis Juakali.

Pinda said among the contentious issues remaining include the recommendations by the Joint Financial Commission, registration of motor vehicles and importation of sugar produced in Zanzibar for the Mainland market.

He named other challenges as including the allocation of funds accrued from Zanzibar government shares in the former East African Currency Board and Bank of Tanzania (BoT) profits.

"The four outstanding issues are in various stages of discussion and it is in the expectation of our two governments that all these challenges will be resolved so that we all benefit by the fruits of the Union," Pinda said.

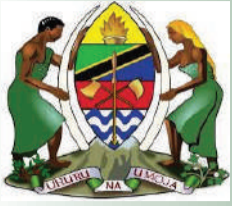
He added that in that basis, the ministry dealing in Union issues frequently meet to discuss the challenges facing their sectors and find solutions thereon.

It will be recalled that on December 6, 2022 a total of four contentious issues of the Union were resolved at the joint meeting

between the governments held in Dodoma.

The issues resolved include complaints by Zanzibar traders to be charged import duties twice on the imports to the Mainland through Zanzibar, income tax and withholding tax.

Others were the increase of TANESCO power charges to the Zanzibar electricity Corporation (ZECO) and issues regarding loans for the construction project of Abeid Amani Karume International Airport Terminal III in Zanzibar.



Occupational Safety and Health Authority



ILO commends Tanzania for well-established OSH systems

By Staff Writer

There is a common safety slogan stating that: "Prevention is better than cure"—meaning that it is easier to stop something bad from happening in the first place than to fix the damage when it has already happened.

This slogan clearly depicts the primary role of the Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA), which is, to provide guidance to workplace occupiers on how to institute Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) systems for preventing workers against occupational accidents, diseases and deaths that might occur due to prevailing hazards at respective workplaces.

The government of Tanzania established OSHA on 31st August, 2001 as part of its reforms under the Programme to Improve Service Provision to the public which was implemented under the Executive Agencies Act No. 30 of the 1997.

Thus, OSHA was established as a Government Agency for regulating occupational safety and health in Tanzania Mainland and was given the responsibility to ensure that employees work in safer environments which is free from occupational diseases and accidents as per laid down procedures and standards.

The Authority's main responsibilities include: To enforce the Occupational Health and Safety Act No. 5 of 2003, to advise the government on workplace safety and health issues as well as on policies, regulations and guidelines for safety and health management in the country including ratification of International Conventions on safety and health issues.

Others are to increase awareness of stakeholders' engagement in matters related to Safety and Health by providing a variety of training, including providing professional advice to stakeholders as well as conducting various researches concerning occupational safety and health issues in order to advise government on how to implement the mentioned legislation.

Why Government Established OSHA

Understanding the outcomes of the rapidly growing socio-economic activities such as industries, large-scale farming, mining, fishing, transportation etc. Tanzania found it necessary to be proactive against numerous hazards emanating from the mentioned activities by instituting resilient OSH systems to regulate the effects of workplace related hazards.

Furthermore, Tanzania as ILO member wanted to comply with the requirements of the OSH Convention, 1981 (No. 155) demanding all member states to institute competent authorities responsible to oversee safety and health issues as well as formulate, implement and periodically review a coherent national policy for occupational safety and health.

Article 4 of the C155 - Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155) states that: "Each Member shall, in the light of national conditions and practice, and in consultation with the most representative organisations of employers and workers, formulate, implement and periodically review a coherent national policy on occupational safety, occupational health and the working environment".

It further describes that: "The aim of the policy shall be to prevent accidents and injury to health arising out of, linked with or occurring in the course of work, by minimising, so far as is reasonably practicable, the causes of hazards inherent in the working environment".

This country's outlook regarding safety and health for Tanzanian workers was reiterated by President, Her Excellence Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan during World Workers' Day national celebrations for the year 2023 held in Morogoro Town. The President said:

"As a country, we care for our workers' safety and health and for that reason, we established OSHA to oversee all matters related to occupational safety and health, we formulated the National Policy for Safety and Health 2010 and plans are underway to elevate the status of OSHA making it more effective in implementing its functions. For instance, in this financial year, we are going to provide this Authority with 13 vehicles and employ 18 staff with the aim of easing execution of OSHA functions."

This statement of the Head of State not only speaks something about the existing political will but rather a confirmation that the Government loves its workers and is committed to protecting them against occupational accidents, diseases and work-related deaths.

From the previously explained OSHA main objectives, the Agency has stipulated various activities it performs on daily basis to include: registering workplaces; conducting general inspections and performing specific inspections such as electrical safety inspections,



Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability), Prof. Joyce Ndalichako who was the Chief Guest of the event to commemorate the World Safety and Health Day (centre), leads other guests at high table to receive marching workers (not in picture) as they arrived at Tumbaku Grounds from Chief Kingalu Central Market in Morogoro Town.



Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability), Prof. Joyce Ndalichako, addresses workers and employers who gathered at Tumbaku Grounds to commemorate the World Day for Safety and Health at work on 28th April, 2023.

pressure vessels and inspection of lifting appliances.

Other functions are to conduct Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Risk assessment at workplaces, scrutinization of workplace drawings to ensure that they meet OHS standards, conducting accident investigations, to conduct industrial hygiene surveys and measurements as well as providing technical advice on occupational health and safety issues in general.

On 28th April, Tanzania joined other countries in the World to commemorate the World Day for safety and health at work. The event was held at national level in Morogoro Region bringing together tripartite members in occupational safety and health issues, which are, the Government, Employers and Workers at Tumbaku Grounds where they made reflection of OSH status in the country and honoured workers who were injured or died

while exercising their day-to-day duties.

The national campaign for the World Day for Safety and Health at work commemorations in 2023 comprised several activities designed to promote and eventually increasing public awareness on safety and health matters among Tanzanians. The activities included OSH training to some industrial workers, small-scale miners, small-scale entrepreneurs as well as persons with disability, Awards for Occupational Safety and Health (AOSH) competition among workplace occupiers/employers who are effectively implementing the OSH Act, 2003, Occupational Safety and Health exhibitions for employers and workers to showcase OSH Management systems used to protect workers against occupational accidents and diseases at their workplaces.

Top in the list of the campaign activities was the mass gathering of employers and workers at Tumbaku Grounds on Friday 28th April, 2023. The event was officiated by the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability), Hon. Prof. Joyce Ndalichako who was accompanied by several government officials, parliamentarians and other executives.

Some of the leaders who attended the occasion are the Chairperson for the Parliamentary Committee on Social Welfare and Development, Honourable Fatma Hassan Toufiq, Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability), Prof. Jamal Katundu, Judge in charge of the High Court-Labour Division, Dkt. Yose Mlyambina, OSHA Ministerial Advisory Board Chairperson, Dr. Adelhelm Meru, Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) President, Comrade Tumaini Nyamhokya, Executive Director for the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE), Ms. Suzanne Ndomba-Doran and ILO Representative, Ms. Getrude Sima, who represented ILO's Country Director, Mr. Wellington Chibbebe.

The day started with workers' demonstration from Morogoro's Central Market dubbed Chief Kingalu marching towards Tumbaku Grounds which are just besides traffic lights of Iringa Road in Morogoro Town. The demo was led by JKT Mugalani Brass Band followed by OSHA staff and workers from different workplaces in Morogoro and neighbouring regions. Upon arriving at the grounds, marchers were warmly welcomed by the Guest of Honour, Prof. Joyce Ndalichako, Minister responsible for Labour Matters and other invited guests. The reception of the marching workers was sweetened by various entertainment groups

including comedians, traditional dancers, Waluguru Jazzy band and other musicians.

Given a common practice in marking the day, the invited guests including those from organisations forming OSH tripartism were given chance to address the gathered workers.

In his remarks for the commemorations, ILO Country Director, Mr. Wellington Chibbebe, who was represented by Ms. Getrude Sima, expressed ILO's satisfaction over Tanzania's highest commitment in protecting its workforce through its Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA).

"I would like to commend the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania through its safety and health agency for putting in-place solid strategies to ensure safety and health at work, and this is why Tanzania is one of the countries with an outstanding performance in the East African region, as we have witnessed neighbouring countries seeking to gain insights from us. ILO will continue to support the government, OSHA, tripartite and other stakeholders to ensure that all our workers go home safe after work," expounded ILO Director.

This ILO's Country Director remark follows a frequent visit by most East African and Southern African Development Community (SADC)

countries to OSHA Tanzania with the aim of learning how Tanzania has managed to establish good OSH systems including having established a competent authority, which is, OSHA for overseeing safety and health matters in the country. For instance, in May 2018 officials from the National Social Security Authority (NSSA) of Zimbabwe toured OSHA Tanzania. The major aim of their visit was to learn how the country administers Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) issues amid their plan to make reforms in the sector. Furthermore, a delegation of officials from Labour and Social Protection Ministry led by the Ministry's Principal Secretary, Geoffrey Kaituko, also toured OSHA for a similar purpose of learning how Tanzania succeeded in strengthening the OSH systems.

Also, in 2022 OSHA Tanzania secured a position in the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Desk for the (SADC) and currently OSH Expert from OSHA Tanzania is hosting the desk being the principal advisor of OSH issues to SADC member countries. Tanzania emerged a winner of the position among 16 SADC countries which enrolled a total of 48 OSH experts. The victory of Tanzanian expert has always been attributed to the well-established OSH systems of the country. The ILO also applauded OSHA for organizing OSH exhibitions for demonstrating best practices, OSH training seminars as well as the AOSH-2023 competition, noting that such activities were playing a vital role in enhancing compliances by motivating employers to improve OSH standards and investing in OSH infrastructure for improved productivity at workplace/enterprise and national levels.

Explaining about the year theme for the commemorations which states that: "A safe and healthy working environment is a fundamental principle and right at work", the Director said it meant that all Member States of the ILO, regardless of their ratification status of the fundamental Conventions, had an obligation to respect, promote and realize, in good faith and in accordance with the ILO Constitution, the principles concerning the fundamental right to a safe and healthy working environment.

The theme originated from the decisions made by the International Labour Conference in June 2022 that- "a safe and healthy working environment" is a fundamental principle and right at work and eventually making the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155) and the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187) as fundamental Conventions.

The government's commitment towards improving safety and health among Tanzanian workers was reiterated by the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability), Hon. Prof. Joyce Ndalichako in her speech of the World Day for Safety and Health at work at Tumbaku Grounds. She noted that:

"Your government led by President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan understands that safety and health at workplace is a fundamental right to every worker in this country. Our President has always been in the front line in ensuring that the national workforce is protected against occupational accidents, diseases and deaths through strengthening the OSHA Agency. Through OSHA, the government continues to enforce the implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health Act No. 5 of 2003, which among other things, ensures that all workplaces institute strong OSH systems for the protection of workers.



Kenyan delegation from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection led by the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Geoffrey Kaituko, in a meeting with OSHA Tanzania management team during their official tour in Tanzania in April, 2023.

Activists ask men to actively take part in helping to ensure a safer menstruation for girls

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

HUMAN Rights activists have asked men to actively take part in creating safe menstruation for girls and abandon cultural norms that regards the monthly period as taboo.

They made the call in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, when speaking at the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP)'s weekly Gender Development and Seminar Series (GDSS).

The seminar was on the importance of men to participate in menstruation issues, as a continuation of the Menstrual Hygiene Day, which culminates on May 28.

This year's Menstrual Hygiene Day theme: "Making menstruation a normal fact of life by 2030." The overarching goal is to build a world where no one is held back because they menstruate by 2030.

Dr Katanta Simwanza, public health specialist, gender, and social development expert said: "The situation causes the participation of men in the issue of menstruation to be low, despite the fact that they have to buy their wives and daughters sanitary pads during their monthly circle."

Dr Simwanza, said the issue of safe menstruation is a cross-cutting issue and that it concerns how all of them involve resources, money, time and other important things such as feminine towels which need money, and that men are involved because they are the providers for their families.

Dr Simwanza said that even when daughters go to school, they should have equipment to save themselves, and that their parents, especially men, should allocate money to buy such equipment.

"But menstruation is also about health, so a man should know when his wife is in her days, as it also a matter of hygiene, because if you don't take care of it, it can cause health effects," he said.

He said that if a man does not help his wife in terms of hygiene during menstruation and after menstruation, he might be at risk including of getting urinary tract infection.

"Until then, it is clear that the issue of menstruation is not only for women, but we are all involved in one way or another for the safety of the health of women, daughters and even ourselves," he said.

Dhaiya Mbagi, safe menstruation facilitator said that in the community, men are the ones who hold the family's economy and that it is important that they be motivated, allocate a budget for menstrual equipment.

"But it would also be appropriate in the stands, markets and elsewhere to have a cooperative environment to ensure women protect themselves when they have a menstrual emergency," Mbagi said.

One of the seminar participants, Theresia Lianjala, said traditions and customs are the source of men not fully participating in menstruation issues and that the time has come to abandon those traditions.

"In the past, menstruation was a matter of secrecy, because it was a shameful thing to make it public, that's why men were not involved and therefore they were not responsible for anything," said Theresia.

She said that the current environment is transparent, and that now men have to be properly responsible for allocating the budget to buy feminine towels for their wives and daughters.



Dhaiya Mbagi (L), a facilitator on issues relating to safe menstruation, speaks at a meeting held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday under the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme's weekly Gender and Development Seminar Series. This particular one was held as part of the run-up to International Safe Menstruation Day (May 28). Second right is reproductive health senior consultant Dr Katanta Simwanza. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Learn from veteran politicians, Z'bar women vying for elective posts urged

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

IN making sure women participation in the decision making bodies is increasing, women vying to contest leadership positions have been advised to begin learning from women politicians ahead of them in order to boost their confidence and courage to face obstacles as the 2025 elections near.

The advice was given here by veteran women politicians at a women forum organised by Tanzania Media Women Association - Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) and the Norwegian embassy aimed to bring together women politicians from various political parties in Pemba for exchange of experiences and empowering them to participate

in leadership positions and contest elections.

Mwana Masoud Ali, former Member of Parliament and Member of Zanzibar House of Representative from CUF for Mtambwe Constituency in Pemba said for women with the intention to contest, in order to succeed they must allocate their times to learn from women politicians ahead of them on how to address challenges they will face, including the patriarchy system.

She named some of the challenges as including bribery, the community negative concept on women regarding their ability to hold leadership positions, hence, she added, all these challenges need adequate preparations.

She added that if women planning

to contest in the 2025 elections will cooperate with and learn from women veteran politicians, it will assist them in strategies and confidence to win.

Meanwhile, Lela Nassor Khamis, former CCM MP said that respect and uprightness is an essential pillar for a woman needing to contest elective posts.

She said: "for a woman to be a leader you must respect yourself, you must value your gender, and if you do that no one will disrespect you."

"And you must display to your community all these beginning now, do not wait for the elections to arrive."

Meanwhile, Lela commended TAMWA-Zanzibar efforts for seeing the importance to empower

women who aim to contest for elective posts in 2025 as it will prepare them to understand their responsibilities as leaders before contesting.

Stara Khamis, a woman politician aiming to contest in 2025 elections said the opportunity given by TAMWA-ZNZ to women in educating them how to prepare themselves for elections has reached many women.

She said: "TAMWA-Zanzibar is providing the direction to us and the way to realise our goals in leadership."

"It is now our responsibility not to hinder these efforts, we must fight for leadership positions in order to realise our goals regarding gender equality in the leadership positions."

ILO commends Tanzania for well-established OSH systems



ILO Representative, Ms. Getrude Sima, presents ILO's remarks for the World Day for Safety and Health at work commemorations when she represented the ILO Country Director, Mr. Wellington Chibebe at the event in Morogoro Town on 28th April, 2023.



OSHA Chief Executive, Ms. Khadija Mwenda, presents a report on the national campaign for the World Day for Safety and Health at work commemorations during the climax of the event on 28th April, 2023 at Tumbaku Grounds in Morogoro.

The Minister responsible for Labour Matters further affirmed that Tanzania compliments the decision by ILO made during its 110th International Labour Conference in June 2022 that "a safe and healthy working environment" is a fundamental principle and right at work.

Prof. Ndlichako further noted: "showing how serious it was in ensuring that Tanzanian workers were free from occupational hazards regardless of where they worked, the government has recently included OSH issues in the Standing Orders for the public service, a move that will compel administrators in public offices to ensure that they comply with OSH requirements as instructed in the guideline book for the public service."

Speaking on the same occasion as she gave details for the 2023 national campaign for the World Day for Safety and Health at work, OSHA Chief Executive, Ms. Khadija Mwenda, said OSH agenda was a cross-cutting affair touching all sectors of the economy.

"Despite the fact that ensuring safety and health of workers is a legal requirement but it is now experiencing a paradigm shift towards being an issue with human right perspective. For that reason, more awareness and involvement of all concerned parties especially the tripartite members (the Government, Employers and Workers) are very much important if we are to attain goal 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) whose one of its targets is to achieve economic growth through decent jobs," stated OSHA Boss in her address to workers who gathered at Tumbaku Grounds for Safety Day commemorations.

Target 8.5 of the Global Goals requires that by 2030, all countries ought to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men,

including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

According to the OSHA Boss, her organisation is dedicated to ensuring that awareness on OSH issues increases significantly especially amongst small-scale and medium entrepreneurs, stating that the target would be achieved through the Authority's Incubation Programme christened Afya Yangu, Mtaji Wangu that focuses on facilitating the target group through offering them tailor-made training and technical advices depending on the nature of their activities.

"In this year we have continued executing our small-scale entrepreneurs' incubation programme that targets reaching the informal sector and as I'm speaking, we have offered OSH training to 3,748 small-scale entrepreneurs in their groups from different economic sectors including those in forestry industry, agriculture, mining, small industries and retailers including those with disabilities. The groups are from different regions in Northern Zone, Lake Zone, Southern Zone and Southern Highlands Zone. The regions covered under this programme include Songwe, Lindi, Iringa, Ruvuma, Mtwara, Geita, Dodoma, Dar es Salaam and Morogoro," underscored OSHA Chief adding:

"Basing on this year theme for the World Day for Safety and Health at work stating that: "A safe and healthy working environment is a fundamental principle and right at work" - I call upon all employers from all sectors of the economy to ensure that resilient OSH systems are in place at their workplaces for smooth running of their production activities. This is the only way of supporting the attainment of OSHA Vision, which is, to have a safe and healthier workforce for sustainable development of our Nation."



A cross-section of workers and employers follow leaders' speech (not in photo) during the climax of the World Day for Safety and Health at work held at national level in Morogoro Town.

KCB BANK

KCB Bank, through its Foundation and in partnership with GIZ, invested TZS 2.2 billion to support 960 youth employability through skills and enterprise development in Tanzania

Youth form a crucial and huge portion of the country's population. According to the 2022 census results, youth account for 34.5 percent of the total population, a slight decrease from 34.7 percent in 2012 (2022 Census Results by National Bureau of Statistics)

KCB Bank Tanzania, through the KCB Foundation, has taken a step further by coming up with several initiatives that address the problem of unemployment through skills and enterprise development. This is being implemented under the flagship KCB 2jijiri programme established in 2016 which has so far benefited 1,579 Tanzanians



The Prime Minister of United Republic of Tanzania Hon. Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa unveiling the KCB Foundation and GIZ partnership.

The 50/50 partnership worth EUR 846,000 equivalent to Tsh 2.2 billion (exchange rate as of October 2021) for the period from October 2021 to May 2023 aimed at upskilling youth with technical and vocational skills training through VETA (Tanzania mainland) and VTA in Zanzibar.

This partnership was launched on 16 April 2023 by the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa, who commended KCB Bank Tanzania and GIZ for unleashing youths' potential in the country.



On the same spirit, KCB Bank Tanzania through KCB Foundation entered into a partnership with the Germany Development Corporation (GIZ) to upskill 960 youth in Tanzania to curb unemployment challenge



Arusha



Moshi



Partnership Launch-Dar es salaam



Vitendea kazi



Mwanza



Morogoro



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Crucial lessons for Tanzania from notable South African experience

SOMETIME, just short over a year ago, The Guardian made a rare reference to a tour one of its senior editors once made to southeastern South Africa.

Among the high points of the visit was self-guided evening sightseeing in a modest building housing a rare institution and bearing a signpost reading: "Library for the Blind - We are on the same page".

A subsequent Internet search showed that the services offered by the institution, itself widely reckoned as uniquely South African, were of immense relevance and utility to the visually impaired - regardless of where they were to be found.

The services are also part of evidence of the unswerving selfless efforts of a people socially committed to striving, in collaboration with numberless and at times nameless others, for the removal of barriers to accessing information.

Surely, everything pointed to commitment to providing quality services to meet, as fully as resources allowed, the information needs of visually impaired or print-handicapped South Africans. This was especially considering that records showed that the South African Library for the Blind (SALB) was born of humble beginnings.

It began as a British nurse's personal collection of no more than a hundred Braille volumes plus financial, material and other support from well-wishers in what was then the tiny Eastern Cape township of Grahamstown during the height of the 1918 global influenza pandemic.

It is reported that SALB landed the first talking book machines from overseas in 1949, with the South African Post Office granting it and its members a free post concession some four years later.

It was declared a Cultural Institution and National Library for the Blind in 1968, setting up audio and Braille in-house production units in 1992 and entering production of digital audio books in 2004.

It is noteworthy that the library's mandate is in accordance with the

South African Constitution and a 1998 law - and is therefore legally in consonance with the values upon which the South African state is founded.

These values include respect for human dignity, advancement of human rights, accountability and democracy, while SALB also strives to make a contribution to the African continent generally by serving as a resource of advice and expertise in its focus area.

The library is legally mandated to provide a free and appropriate library and information service responsive to the needs of the visually impaired and print-handicapped users.

This is in line with its vision of adding value to the quality of life of these special-needs people by helping them access information to facilitate their participation in informed decision-making alongside taking pleasure in the enjoyment of recreational reading.

SALB says the achievements it has made over the years are largely courtesy of the immense sacrifice made by people and institutions moved by the plight of the visually impaired and therefore inspired by the need to build a better South Africa.

Despite its decades of existence, though, the library will likely still be experiencing a number of operational challenges - even problems. This would be hardly surprising, particularly in that few libraries enjoy handsome budgetary and other support these days.

But the mere fact that institutions of the kind exist speaks volumes about the degree to which communities and nations can go towards translating the concept of social responsibility into needs-focused action.

Tanzania has made noticeable progress in empowering the visually impaired and various other people with all manner of disabilities. Still, South Africa's SALB experience is undeniably worth learning from, as doing so could mean doing much better for the benefit of not only needy people but surely for the nation generally.

'Sustain' drive requires briquettes issue element

EFFORTS to beef up tree planting for environmental management are set for a boost with a project, assisted by Sweden by involving local communities in ecosystem oversight, dubbed 'Sustain'.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), along with the Netherlands development agency (SNV) and the Africa Wildlife Fund (AWF) are administering the three-year project. It will be implemented in Katavi, Morogoro and Rukwa regions, mobilising people to plant trees, etc.

Using locally available natural resources to fight the effects of climate change is important, with people being mobilised to engage in conservation activities like tree planting and beekeeping.

This is what the project's financiers are targeting, going by remarks made at the launch of the project by the VPO deputy permanent secretary, alongside senior officials of the Prime Minister's Office, the Vice President's Office and, as significantly, the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments).

There is a missing element, however. What the Swedish Embassy and other stakeholders are doing is to push the planting of trees and to diminish the cutting, but a contention of slogans or catchwords is hindering the use of least-cost resources to cut the use of firewood and charcoal.

There is a campaign about clean energy becoming the marketing tool for the use of natural gas, with an impression that regions must

gradually ban charcoal, so that people switch to natural gas - which can cause problems.

There is an ideological dichotomy between foreign and local activists on the energy use plane, where European activists are camping out against the East African Crude Oil Pipeline project as it is fossil fuel they want stopped for clean or renewable energy.

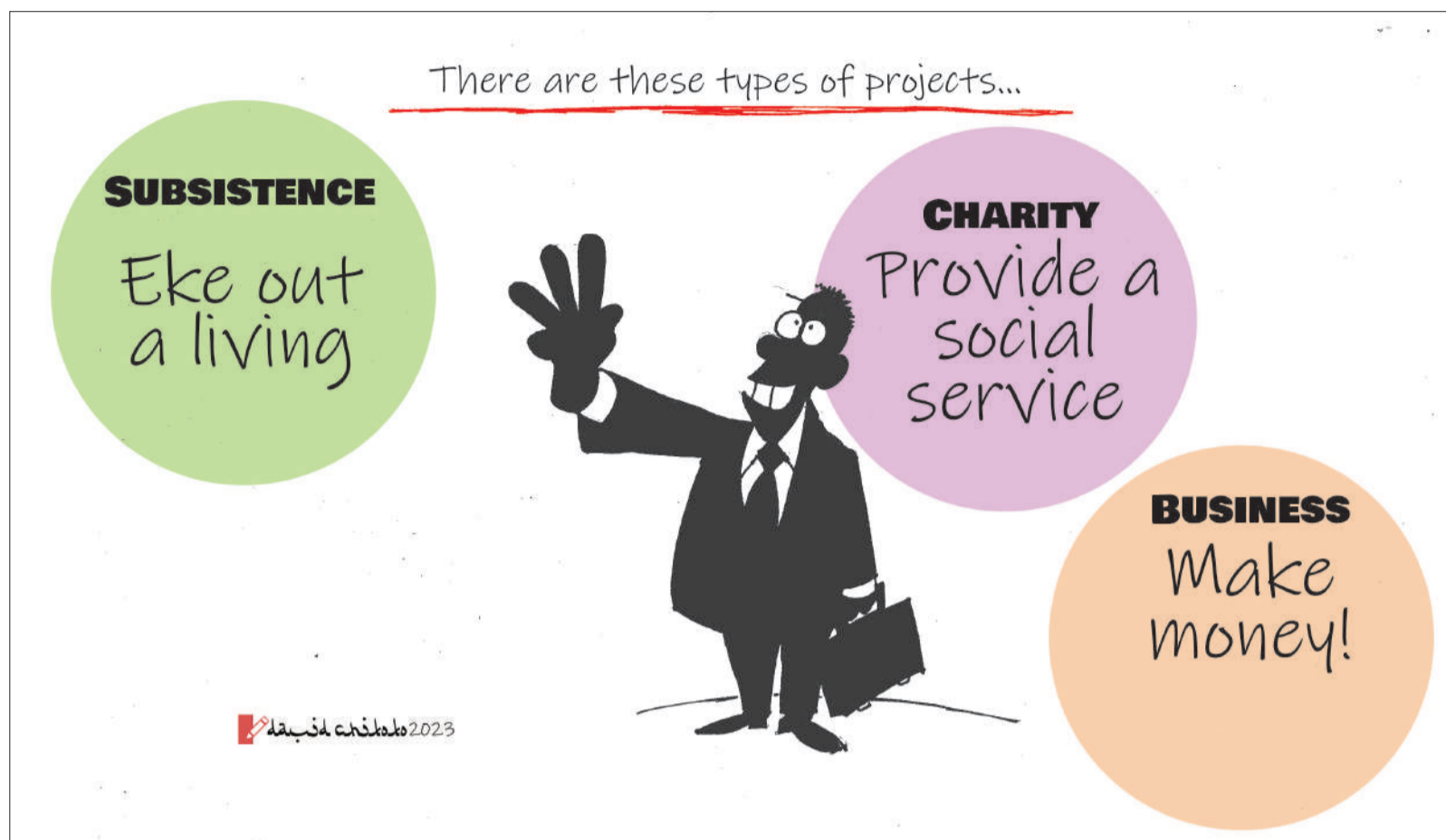
For their part, local activists in league with regulatory agencies are propelling the use of natural gas as clean energy - meaning clean at the domestic level, which is right. But it isn't really the problem the public faces.

While there are drawbacks with using either charcoal or coal, when it is moulded in such a way that it resembles charcoal in that it needs open air cooking to avoid the harmful gases such materials issue, this can't be the pivot of energy transition today.

Many users need to shift to energy that is less costly than gas, and the state can order tonnes of coal dust being mixed with wood residue or other combustible material, unusable tar, etc. This mixture makes briquettes sold cheaply to replace charcoal. But, too bad, just about no one is doing it.

The State Mining Corporation, which has controlling rights over the Liganga-Mchuchuma area, instead of allowing people to mine the coal and pay a fee to the government at times promises it is working on the project.

Still a charcoal producer taken out of trees can do the business far more effectively than a major state agency used to counting billions in its minerals engagement.



Just what does it take to rise into a CEO?

By Meagan Hill, Celia Huber, Ishaan Seth, and Kurt Strovink

PREPARING for the CEO role can be a challenge and a reward. These eight lessons drawn from more than 300 McKinsey Leadership Forum participants and the CEOs who advise them will benefit any top executive or aspiring CEO. Read on:

What does it take to become a CEO? Every year since 2006, the McKinsey Leadership Forum has convened an elite group of C-suite executives to tackle this and other key questions facing those near the very top of their organisations.

In candid dialogue with current and former CEOs, as well as McKinsey's own experts, participants discuss their aspirations, leadership philosophies, network building, career paths, and other factors facing those preparing for the role. Just over 300 leaders have attended the forum, with 88 participants becoming CEOs.

Here, we'll look at eight key lessons that we've gleaned from this uniquely rich data set, which showcases years of dynamic interactions between diverse personalities. To preserve the confidentiality of participants, we will not name CEOs, but we will weave in their insights throughout.

The CEO's job has changed considerably since 2006. Technological know-how has become a prerequisite of the job. External stakeholders demand much more attention than they once did.

As the Great Attrition makes clear, CEOs now must spend considerable capital addressing the health and well-being of their employees.

Attention to environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues, an acute focus on the very purpose of companies, and the call for CEOs to speak out on societal issues are all on the rise. The public nature of the job is greater than ever.

Finally, and perhaps most critically, we seem to be in an era where volatility is the norm, not the exception. Starting with the 2008 financial crisis, business leaders have had to deal with one game-changing external disruption after another.

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and amid geopolitical turmoil and the ongoing effort to combat climate change, CEOs of the future will need nimble courage to manage through constant volatility.

These new demands on CEOs have altered the process of preparing for the role. This is reflected in the following eight observations.

There are now more, and increasingly diverse, pathways to

becoming CEO, rather than just the one or two approaches where candidates all tick the same boxes.

The participants at the Leadership Forum are ready to turn to their peers and leadership veterans for support in different ways than they have in the past. And there's a much greater focus on personal, emotional and psychological readiness.

The result: it's more complicated than ever to prepare for the CEO role. But the rewards to be gained from examining your own strengths and weaknesses are greater than ever, whether your ultimate destination is to become a CEO or simply to become a better leader.

You're never ready

Almost all CEOs who participated in the forum tell us that they thought they were well-equipped for the job, given their experience leading significant business units or functions - only to realise that the job required muscles and expertise they had never developed.

For example, a leader with a strong operating background was challenged to run enterprise-wide initiatives. An expert at strategy with little previous exposure to directors found himself learning the intricacies of engaging the board as his key partner. A CEO with stellar functional experience started building her operating muscle.

"There were a lot of things that I didn't know, so many things that I had never worked on," one CEO told forum participants.

A purposeful preparation process helps you identify those areas that may prove most challenging. During forum sessions, participants have found it helpful to measure their readiness against the six key elements of a CEO's job: setting the direction, aligning the organisation, mobilising through leaders, engaging the board, connecting with stakeholders, and managing personal effectiveness.

Within each of these elements are a range of responsibilities; for instance, setting a corporate strategy means creating a vision, but it also means making the final call on allocation of capital.

"The more you know and understand the key business levers and the financials associated with all those levers, the more effective you can be," said the CEO of one leading telco, adding: "I learned those on the job. I wish I had known more about them ahead of time."

During the forum, participants have access to a range of resources, including a unique self-assessment tool. Working with this tool as a foundation, forum participants can start to get a clear view of where they stand against the myriad challenges of the top job.

What's true for rising CEOs is true for any leader: there are always

ways to round out your experience and qualities. Taking a considered approach to CEO preparation doesn't mean turning yourself into a perfect candidate.

Our research, and the feedback from CEOs who have since graduated from the forum, suggests that there is no such thing. But a successful preparation process will help you intentionally design the next steps of your professional journey, ensuring that you are building capabilities in a way that adds to the breadth of your qualifications.

This kind of intentionality is critical for any leaders preparing themselves for their next challenge at any stage of their corporate journey.

Develop insight and edge from a diverse 'kitchen cabinet'

In volatile times, the competitive value of true insight rises. This is true for tier-one executives as business leaders and as CEO candidates. Yet one of the most important - and most challenging - aspects of being a top leader is getting expert, unvarnished and diverse insight into yourself and the world around you.

"I always believed in business that you should have an environment where people can tell you the good and the bad," said one CEO, adding: "You have to want to know it all."

At the Leadership Forum, candidates relish the opportunity to network with peers across industries. They tell us that seeking feedback from a wide range of sources is now the norm. Within their companies, they want to hear from people far outside the senior team.

One CEO explained: "You have to learn the business from the ground up. You have got to go to the people who live the work every day to understand it."

So they reach out to customers who engage with salespeople; suppliers whose needs affect everything from retail touchpoints to investment allocation; external stakeholders; leaders from other industries; and experts on geopolitical, regulatory and technological issues.

To stay abreast of a business environment where external pressures are constant and constantly changing, they need better insight from a more diverse range of people.

CEO candidates want a similarly broad range of views about themselves, but getting such honest insight can be difficult. It's often said that being a CEO is the loneliest job - perhaps the second loneliest is being a CEO candidate.

Family and friends can provide intimacy and knowledge of your personal strengths and challenges, but seeking out the professional

perspective and counsel you need is a sensitive task.

Rising CEOs describe the feedback of peers as invaluable to understanding how they should continue to prepare themselves. But they worry about seeming overly careerist as they seek out such feedback, and they know that some of the people whose advice would be most helpful, such as the incumbent or board members, are simply inaccessible.

The sensitivity of the task might make it tempting to forge ahead without the feedback. But the process of finding and listening to the right diverse group of people will do more than give you invaluable insight; it's also good training for the sensitive collection of insight that will be central to your success as a CEO leading a team of people with a range of conflicting needs.

Ready your value creation thesis

What will you deliver? What is your promise? To put it bluntly, how will you double the company's market cap in five years?

Rising CEOs must offer a clear and detailed vision of how they will transform the company they hope to lead. They need to specify a handful of decisive moves they will take to execute that vision. And they must show, whatever their experience, that they can create value across the widest canvas - that of the entire company.

Sometimes, this value creation thesis becomes a blueprint for a CEO's first 100 days. When one food industry CEO visited the Leadership Forum, he told participants that he had a four-point plan ready when he ascended to the top job: rethink partnerships, crack the China and India markets, rationalise the portfolio, and launch the next wave on digital. It was a classic value creation thesis: bold and comprehensive, with clear actions that were taken up immediately.

Rising CEOs at the Leadership Forum have found it helpful to detail this thesis on a "placemat": a slender document that serves as a forcing mechanism for a set of complicated decisions whose answers depend largely on the state of the company.

Many candidates have gone on to use this placemat as part of their presentation to the board during the selection process. For those who do rise to the top, it has also proved useful as a way to align their top teams and mobilise the organisations.

*** A dispatch by McKinsey & Company, global management consulting firm founded in 1926 that offers professional services to corporations, governments and other organisations. To be continued.**

Concept of contempt of court and set conditions for liability

THE concept of contempt of court has many definitions but all refer to willful disobedience of court authority or interference with its power to administer justice or disruption of proceedings likely to jeopardize fair hearing or enforcement of court orders.

In dealing with contempt of court, courts always invoke discretionary power vested upon them but mainly with the paramount condition that judicial authority and dignity should be protected from being attacked by superfluous criticism or willful disobedience of orders.

Contempt of court has its own history from way back in the 18th century in England where a King was given mandate of protecting his judicial powers when discharging his judicial function.

Initially, the said powers were exercised by him and later on, the same was extended to a panel of judges of the court with purpose of ensuring judicial mandate is not interfered with.

The power to hold a person to contempt of court is not limited to parties who participate in court proceedings but rather extends to those who are not in proceedings but only upon showing that they interfere with court's authority.

Contempt can be attacks to the presiding judge or judicial officer in the course of discharging judicial function or to the court as institution itself.

There are two types of contempt namely civil contempt and criminal contempt. Civil contempt is willful disobedience of court orders while the court is discharging its authority on civil proceedings while criminal contempt is a more complex one because it covers varieties of issues in different forms either by words or written or signs or actions but all aim to scandalise or lower judicial authority and interference or obstruction of administration of justices.

Courts must be extremely careful when exercising discretionary powers in contemptuous proceedings as the same mainly attack two fundamental constitutional principles: rights to person liberty and right to freedom of expression.

In other jurisdictions such as India, power of the court is regulated by the constitution and prescribed procedure of the act of parliament. Article 129 and 215 of the constitution state that power to deal with contempt proceedings is vested to higher courts and the court is required to exercise its discretion power within guidelines spelt in the act of parliament namely the Contempt of Courts Act of 1971. It provides for the procedures and other issues related to contempt proceedings.

Although there are no specific laws dealing with the issue of contempt of court in Tanzania, there are some provisions of other laws which empower courts of law to deal with contempt proceedings against either party to a case or those who are not involved in the case or proceedings.

These are such as Section 114 and 124 of the Penal Code Act Cap 16 R.E 2019 or Order 37 Rule 2(2) of the Civil Procedures Code Act Cap 33 of 2019. Existence of the above legal provisions is insufficient to cover the subject. Rather, it just points out or gives power to courts to deal with such proceedings but substantively power to deal with such contempt proceedings is entirely left to the discretion of courts.

However, some guiding legal principles were established through case laws which are required to be looked at when a court opts or is moved to invoke its discretionary powers to deal with a contempt proceeding.

One thing which needs to be noted is that the nature of contempt proceedings is criminal regardless of whether it emanated from a civil proceeding or criminal but standard of proof is beyond reasonable doubt as in the case of *Re Bramblevale Ltd (1969) 3 ALL ER. 1062* and *Knight vs Clifton (1971) 2 ALL ER*



378.

The purpose of contempt proceedings is not to punish the person or the respondent by imposing a fine or civil prison but to ensure court orders are complied with.

Therefore, courts have developed four major conditions which are required to be proved before an order of a court can be issued as referenced in the case of *Misc Civil Application No 357 of 2021 between Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency & Other vs the Managing Director of City Bank Tanzania Trading DMCC*.

The conditions are (i) existence of valid court order whereby the said order must be in existence and issued in certain date by the court and not mere allegations. The said order can either be an injunction, interim order or any other order issued by a court of law.

Another one is (ii) knowledge of the order by the respondent. The alleged offender must have been aware of the existence of the order issued by the court. Court orders are not statutory laws which require compliance by every person regardless of whether the person has knowledge of the same or not. Rather, it is a specific order which

issued to a certain group of people which requires them to comply hence knowledge of the existence of the said order is of paramount importance.

Next is (iii) the ability of the respondent to render compliance. Not every order can be complied with by a respondent because some orders cannot be carried out when issued by court. Courts are required to issue orders in such a way that they can be complied with. For example, a court cannot issue an order to respondent not to eat.

And (iv) willful disobedience of court order. Sometimes a court can issue an order while the respondent may disobey or violate the same unknowingly. Therefore, courts normally look at the intention of respondents before holding them in contempt.

The applicant is duty-bound to prove to the court beyond reasonable doubt in line with the above established principles that a court order was issued and served to the respondent but did not disobey willfully.

It is always initiated formally by

way of application either through chamber summons supported by affidavit containing clear facts as to why the order was violated or under very special circumstances and with leave of the court but can be brought by way informal or oral application.

In criminal contempt, disobedience of court authority or disrespect of dignity of the court can either be direct or indirect. Direct means it is done before a judge or magistrate when in the process of dealing with a case or during court proceedings.

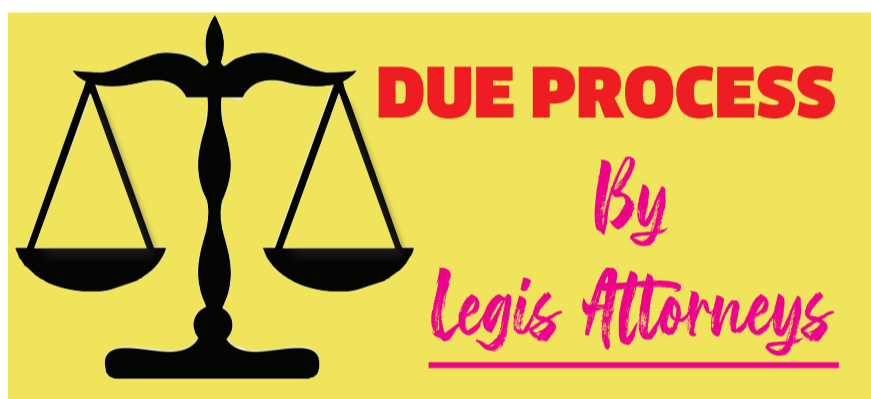
A good example is when a witness does not cooperate during hearing or when an advocate or any other person uses abusive language to undermine the authority of the court in administering justice. Indirect contempt happens outside without the presence of a judge or of magistrate. In a bid to continue protecting the authority of the court, citizens are required not to make comments outside the court or make utterances which have the effect of undermining the authority of the court in administering justice.

A good example here is when analysts comment on validity of a

court order or its competence through media. To do it without undermining the authority or amounting to personal attack of a particular judicial officer, it should be done in smart way.

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

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



Msondo: The popular initiation rite blamed for keeping girls out of school

By Correspondent Gaudensia Mngumi

IN most parts of Ruvuma, Mtwara and Lindi regions, a woman is not accorded respect without attending what is known there as msondo. This is a popular training and initiation to mark rite of passage into adulthood among the Yao people who are scattered across southern Tanzania.

This training is designed to prepare brides before marriage and the age of admission is normally 14. However, there is disquiet in some quarters because it now seems to do more harm than good because even girls as young as eight are admitted in several intakes.

"Girls are taught how to live with a man in married life and the training is administered to girls by adults," said Pankras Luoga, an Assistant Lecturer at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) who has been monitoring its trends in Tunduru District, Ruvuma Region.

"Sadly, even young girls aged eight participate in msondo classes during hours or days that they are supposed to be in school. As a result, many girls miss their right to education," he said.

Luoga added that the content and method of delivery is too graphic for children, noting that since the training is focused on preparing girls for adult life, during the course the girls are referred to as 'mama' which invokes motherhood. To test their readiness at the end of training, candidates are left to fend for themselves for a period of time without involvement of their parents or guardians.

After the training and passing that test, follows the big day: an initiation ceremony which is of great significance among the Yao because the girls are recognized as adults since they know how to live with and take care of a man. Those who graduate gain high status, respect and value but there is a catch: a man can now ask for their hands in marriage.

Luoga said that in general, the training was well intended in the prehistoric period but not now when the age bracket of its candidates are of school going age and basic education is free.



"In fact, there were, and still there are, good things about the course and dances but it now targets the wrong candidates because children need to focus on education and not how to entertain a husband," he said.

The cultural relevance of the training and the different circumstances makes participation in the training a psychological challenge for girls and disorienting them from achieving their educational goals, he added.

Edna Mgunda, the Kijana Jiongeze project manager in Tunduru District, which is part of Dar es Salaam-based Centre for Counselling, Nutrition and Healthcare (COUNSENUH),

said the training is a stumbling block against girls' education.

She said that in the implementation of the project, they established that msondo training is one of the main factors that hinder girl child's education by diverting candidates' attention from school to a wife's responsibilities.

"We found out that the training undermines girls' confidence in class because they feel as if they don't belong there. We now work to ensure that they join upper primary and secondary school but first we have to boost their confidence and foster their self-esteem," she said.

"Because the trainings normally take place during school calendar, and given the adult content, the result is that young girls conduct themselves as grown-up women and some engage in sexual relationship and drop out of school."

According to Mgunda, the tricky part is that when these initiated young girls choose to drop out of school or get married, those expected to intervene first—parents and guardians—go silent since they are the ones who take children for msondo.

"After the initiation, young girls strongly but wrongly believe that

they are ready to be in charge of their homes with their husbands. Many go ahead and start love affairs and some actually get married at tender age," she said.

To reverse the situation, Mgunda recommended that the government and other education and child rights stakeholders should intervene and ensure that msondo is regulated and not offered to girls of school going age.

"Times have changed, so should some aspects of our customs and traditions lest we destroy future generations in the name of keeping the same," she said.

How Wagner Group, mercenaries with a wider agenda, impact civil society

By Fawzia Moodley

THE Wagner Group, a shadowy mercenary group that has been operating for many years in African countries such as Sudan, Mali, the Central African Republic, and other mainly Francophone countries, has again been thrust into the limelight due to its involvement in the Ukraine war on behalf of Russia.

Wagner is believed to have a presence in 18 countries in Africa - and its influence goes far beyond security matters.

Julian Rademeyer of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime told DW.com, "Wagner itself has developed over time as an organization that's gone from being a purely private military contracting entity into a multiplicity of business alliances and relations and a network of companies. Some of them are front companies across the countries in which they operate on the African continent."

He sees the Wagner Group as primarily a Kremlin military tool to boost Russia's economic and military influence in Africa.

Rademeyer's colleague and lead author of a study titled Russia's military, mercenary and criminal engagement in Africa, Julia Stanyard, told IPS, "The Wagner Group is unique as an organization in the breadth, scale, and boldness of its activities. However, our study also shows that Wagner did not emerge in a vacuum: The group's activities and characteristics reflect broader trends in the evolution of Russia's oligarchs and organized crime groups, their respective relationships with the Russian state, and their activities in Africa."

"The group comprises a network of political influence operations and economic entities such as mining companies."

"It appears to target unstable governments embroiled in civil wars and forms alliances with the ruling elite and offers them military support and weapons."

This is exactly what happened in the CAR, where the government has been fighting multiple rebel forces since December 2020. A beleaguered President Faustin-Archange Touadéra reached out to Russia shortly after taking power in 2016.

"He received Russian military instructors and weapons, and Wagner mercenaries soon followed," says CIVICUS, a global alliance promoting civic action.

In return, Wagner receives economic and mining concessions. According to the New York Times, the group has been involved in mining operations in the CAR, where it has secured contracts to mine gold and diamonds.



Founder of Wagner private mercenary group, Yevgeny Prigozhin (here pictured with fighters), claims that Bakhmut is now in Moscow's control. However his claims are disputed by Ukraine.

Stanyard says: "The group comprises a network of political influence operations and economic entities such as mining companies."

While the governments and sections of their population have welcomed the group, Wagner's been accused of gross human rights abuses, with local communities reporting forced labour and sexual violence.

Human Rights Watch says it has collected compelling evidence that Russian fighters have committed grave abuses against civilians in the CAR with complete impunity since 2019. The HRW interviewed 40 people between February 2019 and November 2021 about abuses by men speaking Russian.

Stanyard's research substantiates the allegations of abuse: "Wagner Group has been accused of using whatever means necessary to achieve its aims, including criminal activity."

Russia officially does not recognize mercenaries, but Wagner boss Yevgeny

Prigozhin, a Russian oligarch, has close ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Significantly, on Sunday, May 21, Putin reportedly congratulated the Wagner mercenary force for helping in what he called the "liberation" of the eastern Ukrainian city of Bakhmut. Reuters quoted Putin from a statement on the Kremlin's website, saying: "The Head of State congratulated Wagner's assault groups, as well as all members of the units of the Russian Armed Forces who provided them with the necessary support and cover on their flanks, on the completion of the operation to liberate Artyomovsk (Bakhmut)."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, however, said Bakhmut had not been occupied by Moscow.

Wagner's activities go beyond promoting the military and economic interests of the Kremlin.

Stanyard says the group is also involved in promoting Russian propaganda and interests by "targeting the social media profiles of Kremlin critics - spamming them with pro-Putin and

pro-war comments."

Britain, in particular, has expressed concern that among the targets are "senior UK ministers' social media accounts, alongside other world leaders."

"The operation has suspected links to Prigozhin," she says, quoting a UK report exposing the misinformation campaign by Russia.

The Wagner Group's involvement in Africa has raised concerns about the role of private military contractors in the continent's conflicts. While some African governments have welcomed its presence, others are concerned about the lack of oversight and accountability.

In 2019, the African Union adopted the African Standby Force Concept of Operations, which seeks to strengthen the capacity of African states to respond to crises and reduce their reliance on external actors. However, the implementation has been slow, and there are concerns that the Wagner Group and other mercenary groups will continue to operate with impunity.

CIVICUS warns that Wagner's involvement is "contributing to the closing of civic space. In the CAR, with his position bolstered, Touadéra has further repressed dissenting voices. Humanitarian workers and independent journalists are among those subjected to violence and intimidation by Wagner forces."

Likewise, in Mali, French media outlets have been banned and "the junta banned the activities of civil society organizations that receive French support, at a stroke hindering civil society's ability to help people in humanitarian need due to the conflict and monitor human rights abuses."

The issue of private military contractors in Africa is not limited to the Wagner Group. Other companies, such as Academi (formerly known as Blackwater), a private firm hired by the U.S. that became synonymous with civilian killings in the Iraq war, have been involved in conflicts in the continent, often with little oversight or accountability.

Dyck Advisory Group (DAG) was also involved in Mozambique in areas where the country is trying to deal with the Islamist insurgency. DAG claimed to have worked closely with the government to keep the insurgency at bay before the Southern African Development Community (SADC) sent deployments to Cabo Delgado province. Wagner was reportedly also involved in the conflict but left after experiencing a number of losses.

The use of private military contractors has raised questions about the role of states and the responsibility of corporations in conflicts, as well as the need for greater transparency and accountability.

IPS UN Bureau Report

By Andrew Firmin

It's time for democracy in Thailand as voters back change

THAILAND'S voters have spoken. In the 14 May general election, they overwhelmingly backed change. Two major opposition parties won 293 seats in the 500-member House of Representatives.

The party that unexpectedly came first, Move Forward, quickly announced it had formed a coalition with the runner-up, Pheu Thai, and six others, accounting for 313 seats. So if democracy is respected, when parliament next meets, the Move Forward-headed coalition should become the government and its leader, Pita Limjaroenrat, prime minister.

But there's a problem: Thailand's powerful military. Over the past century, Thailand has had 13 military coups, most recently in 2014. At the last election in 2019, widely considered neither free nor fair, junta head Prayut Chan-o-cha donned a civilian suit and held onto power.

But this time, voters made it

abundantly clear they don't want the military in power. Now Thailand stands at a fork in the road: will a new, democratically elected government be allowed to take power? Or, as before, will the military intervene to stop it happening?

A biased system

There's a powerful tool at the military's disposal. Under the new constitution it introduced in 2017, the prime minister needs to win the approval of a majority vote of the combined House of Representatives and Senate. The Senate has 250 members - all appointed by the military.

This means 376 votes are needed across the two houses, leaving the new coalition short. The military minority might still be able to retain its grip, using Senate votes to disregard the reality of its lack of support.

The appetite for renewal Move Forward spoke to has been expressed on the streets for years - despite the government unleashing violence and criminalising protesters. Young people have been at the forefront of protests, demanding democracy, military reform and - challenging a long-held social taboo - stronger limits on the monarchy's power.

Royal reform has historically been kept off the political agenda. In part this was because the previous king, Bhumibol Adulyadej, reigned for over 70 years and was broadly respected. But the same doesn't go for his successor, Maha Vajiralongkorn, a billionaire playboy who spends much of his time in Germany. Vajiralongkorn expects a bigger say in government, and the military has been happy to comply. He insisted that clauses to protect royal power be included in the 2017 constitution and in 2019 took control of two army regiments. One of his first acts was to assume direct control of the crown property bureau, with a reported value of US\$40 billion.

But Vajiralongkorn is buttressed from criticism by Thailand's notorious *lèse majesté* law, which makes it illegal to defame, insult or threaten the monarch. The government has used this law extensively against protesters. At least 242 people have been charged with *lèse majesté* offences since 2020. Altogether over 1,800 people are estimated to have been detained under Thailand's suite of repressive laws, with hundreds of child protesters criminalised.

Spotlight on political parties

Move Forward directly reflects the concerns of the youthful protest movement. Its proposals include reform of the *lèse majesté* law and closer scrutiny of royal spending. It wants to 'demilitarise' Thailand, including by scrapping military conscription, cutting military budgets and making the army more accountable and transparent.

These are ideas that break new ground in Thai politics, and many of the electoral roll's three million new voters embraced them. Move Forward compensated for its lack of resources through intensive social media use and by encouraging its young supporters to engage with their older family members. Through such means, Move Forward went beyond the youth vote: it won almost every seat in Bangkok, traditionally held by pro-military and pro-royal parties, and also performed well in areas that usually back Pheu Thai.

Runner-up Pheu Thai is a more established force, dominated by the economically powerful Shinawatra family, which has long been at odds with the military. Both parties have relatively youthful figureheads - Limjaroenrat is a 42-year-

old and Paetongtarn Shinawatra is 36 - offering a sharp contrast with the old military order, represented by 69-year-old Prayut. But beyond that, it isn't the most natural of alliances, with the two brought together more by what they oppose than anything else.

Having expected to win the election, Pheu Thai may face the temptation of cutting some other deal that excludes Move Forward - although an alliance with pro-military parties would anger many supporters. Even if the two stick together, they might have to come to an arrangement with some pro-military parties, notably Bhumjaithai, which came third. But Move Forward ruled out any deals with parties involved in the current government, while Bhumjaithai has made clear its opposition to any *lèse majesté* law changes. The cost of compromise would likely involve dropping this, disappointing voters who invested their hopes in change and confirming continuing military and monarchical influence.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

UN chief says African free trade area a sure catalyst for sustainable growth

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has highlighted the vital role of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in the sustainable development of the continent.

"Guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063, we must ramp up our efforts and harness the full potential of trade and industrialization to advance sustainable, inclusive growth," the top UN official spoke on the final day of the annual Africa Dialogue Series in New York, where the focus this year was on accelerating implementation of AfCFTA - set to be the largest in the world.

"The African Continental Free Trade Area is set to be an engine of that growth," noted Guterres.

"The robust growth that many African countries experienced before COVID-19 was lost to the pandemic," the secretary-general said, highlighting the need to scale up efforts towards a single trade market on the continent.

The pandemic brought high food and energy prices, made worse by the Ukraine crisis, exacerbating poverty, inequalities, and food insecurity, the UN chief said. Governments have also faced rising interest rates, which increase the potential for debt, while climate change has created deadly floods and



UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres speaks at a press conference in the UN headquarters, New York.

drought, contributing to the risk of hunger. The full implementation of AfCFTA could generate income gains of up to 9 percent by 2035, according to the latest estimates. This would lift up to 50 million people out of extreme poverty and reduce income inequalities, he added.

The secretary-general stressed that realizing the AfCFTA promise calls for

action across four critical areas, starting with boosting access to financial resources and investment.

"We need a fundamental reform of the global financial system so that Africa is represented at the highest level," he said.

Barriers that hold back intra-African trade and production capacities must also be broken down, including through

eliminating tariffs, building "made in Africa" supply chains, and harmonizing regulations that would enable investment. His third point focuses on energy and digital infrastructure, which are vital for African countries to build their manufacturing capacities and harness the full potential of innovation and entrepreneurship.

"We need to power Africa's industrialization and leverage technology to leapfrog outdated infrastructure and head straight towards the fourth Industrial Revolution," said Guterres.

The continent is also blessed with resources that could make it a leader in clean energy, he added, and the sector could generate more than 6 million jobs by mid-century. Yet Africa has received just 2 percent of global investment in renewables over the past decade. His last point underscores investing in "human capital," with Africa's vibrant, young and innovative population representing both a dynamic workforce and massive market.

"Creating decent jobs, particularly for women, and promoting education, training and lifelong learning is the best way to ensure Africa's people fully contribute to the continent's digital revolution and sustainable growth," he said.

The African Dialogue Series brings together policy and decision-makers, experts, academics, civil society representatives, young people and other stakeholders to examine challenges and opportunities impacting the continent.

AfDB-funded enterprise produces affordable vegetables using urban rooftop hydroponics

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA is highly vulnerable to climate change, and its impacts flooding, droughts, cyclones, sea-level rise are already driving shifts in how Africans grow food, live, and earn their livelihoods.

Yet, most of the climate funding for the continent goes toward climate mitigation rather than adaptation. This is a problem, partly because adaptation creates well-paying jobs and diversifies economies, strengthening societal resilience. Agriculture is one sector where adaptation promises immense potential.

For example, Soupah Kitchen & Grocery Technology Company, a woman-led agribusiness based in Ibadan, Nigeria, is unlocking innovative solutions to climate change to advance the continent's energy transition.

With support from the African Development Bank, the Global Centre on Adaptation, and its Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP), Soupah Kitchen uses resource-smart technology to control the environment for growing lettuce, kale, leafy green, and herbs. The start-up produces cheaper and

healthier vegetables through hydroponics on Ibadan rooftops than those grown on rural farms.

Ifeloluwa Olatayo, Soupah Kitchen's CEO, was among 15 winners of the 2021 African Youth Adaptation (YouthADAPT) Solutions Challenge organized by the AAP, a joint initiative of the African Development Bank and the Global Center on Adaptation. Olatayo said, "Our resource-smart technology is designed to grow up to three tonnes of fresh food within a 650 square-meter area. It will enhance the urban landscape and improve the air quality in our cities."

She added that Soupah Kitchen farms could sustainably plant with 95% less water than traditional farms without chemical fertilizers. Yields from the company's farm are 30% larger than those of conventional farms and are produced in half the time.

Using vertical hydroponic technology, Soupah Kitchen can cultivate 1,600kg of vegetables within a 26-day cycle.

A desire to expand her business and impact led Olatayo to apply for the YouthADAPT program.

"With the YouthADAPT op-

portunity, my enterprise received funding of \$100,000. This has been enormously helpful, and the investment made thus far in our implementation plan has had a demonstrable impact in strengthening our climate-conscious mission. The one-year accelerator program has enabled me to learn about the best financing options to scale our impact," Olatayo said.

Soupah Kitchen plans to tap into blockchain technology to replicate and scale up the technology in other African countries.

In addition to the YouthADAPT funding, Soupah Kitchen received €10,000 from the Netherlands Embassy in Nigeria as a Food Connection Challenge Winner.

In recognition of the private sector's critical role in closing financing gaps for green growth and building climate resilience, the African Development Bank Group has chosen as the theme for its 2023 Annual Meetings, Mobilizing Private Sector Financing for Climate and Green Growth in Africa.

The Annual Meetings kicked off on May 22 and is ending today in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.



Ifeoluwa Olatayo, founder of Nigeria's Soupah Kitchen & Company, inspects the condition of vegetables in her hydroponic farm

Horn of Africa region may experience dry weather in upcoming rainfall season

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

DRY weather will be experienced in the greater Horn of Africa region from June to September, amid the risk of worsening an already precarious food security situation, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an East African bloc, said in its latest prediction released.

The IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC), based in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, said Djibouti, Eritrea, central and northern Ethiopia, northern Uganda, much of South Sudan and Sudan will receive depressed rains from June to September.

Guleid Artan, director of the ICPAC, noted that June to September rainfall season contributes more than 50 percent of annual total rainfall in the greater Horn of Africa region, adding that if suppressed, they could escalate the food crisis.

"The conditions we forecast could very well increase food insecurity in the region," Artan said.

Depressed rainfall, coupled with warmer than usual temperatures, are likely to affect crop productivity,

with the risk of crop wilting and a hastened decline in pasture and water availability, Artan added.

Noting that 49 million people in the IGAD region were still food insecure, Artan urged governments and relief agencies to mobilize resources in a bid to avert a humanitarian crisis.

Most parts of the Horn of Africa region recorded above-average March to May rainfall, bringing some respite to communities reeling from five consecutive failed rainfall seasons in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, according to Hussen Seid Endris, a climate modeling expert at the ICPAC.

Seid warned of a likelihood of El Nino weather phenomenon between July and September in the Horn of Africa region, characterized by warm temperatures and depressed rains.

He clarified that the severity of the El Nino season in the region, associated with record high temperatures, is yet to be ascertained, adding that adequate preparations to minimize its negative impact on livelihoods were critical.



A child is seen in a drought-affected village in the town of Laisamis, Marsabit County, Kenya.

Khartoum is falling - Global community must move fast to protect children

By Joyce Chimbi

As unprecedentedly fierce armed battles play out on the streets of Khartoum, more than 600 people are dead, thousands injured, and over 1 million displaced.

The fighting, which broke out suddenly on April 15, 2023, between the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces and Sudanese Armed Forces, is Sudan's third internal war - and has exacerbated the humanitarian crisis the region was already facing.

More than 220,000 people have crossed the borders. Without a ceasefire, it will get even worse as a protracted crisis is in the making. UNHCR projects that this number could reach 860,000 as conflict escalates.

Education Cannot Wait's Executive Director Yasmine Sherif came face-to-face with the effects of the brutal conflict during a recent high-level field mission with UNHCR, UNICEF, the Jesuit Refugee Service, and local partners to the border regions of Chad and Sudan, where they witnessed the impacts of the war. In these remote places, large numbers of incoming refugees - a majority of women and children - have settled in flimsy temporary homemade tents. Children are particularly vulnerable and urgently need the protection and support that emergency education interventions provide.

"What we saw is appalling, a heartbreaking dire situation growing very fast. In just two days, the number of refugees grew from 30,000 to 60,000, and 70 percent of them were school-age children. But I am encouraged by the commendable work that UNHCR is doing on the ground."

The UN's global fund for education responded with speed to the escalating Sudan refugee regional crisis by announcing a new 12-month USD 3 million First Emergency Response grant. Sherif says this is a catalytic fund to help UNHCR and its partners, in close coordination with Chad's government, kickstart a holistic education program.

Before the new crisis erupted in Sudan and despite Chad being one of the poorest countries in the world, Chad was already hosting Africa's fourth largest refugee population.

"Chad is second to last on the Human Development Index, only before South Sudan. The government of Chad is showing very progressive policies and generosity. They have very little resources, and yet they still receive refugees and provide them with much-needed security," she observes.

Sherif lauded the government's progressive policy on refugee inclusion within its national education system, stressing that it serves as a model example for the whole region. The new grant brings ECW's total investments to support vulnerable children's education in Chad to over USD 41 million. ECW and its partners have

reached over 830,000 children in the country since 2017, focusing on refugee and internally displaced children, host communities, girls, children with disabilities, and other vulnerable children.

Funding is urgently needed and critical to implement the regional refugee response plan, which includes an estimated cost of USD 26.5 million for education. While Sudan shares borders with seven countries, including the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Libya, and South Sudan, nearly all of them are dealing with protracted crises or effects of years of a protracted crisis and require urgent funding to meet the needs of refugees.

"The refugees we met in eastern Chad are in a dire situation. They fled their homes with barely anything and are in very remote and hard-to-reach areas where infrastructures are scarce, and temperatures rise above 40 Celsius. Without emergency relief from international organizations such as UNHCR and UNICEF, it would be difficult for them to survive for long," she explains.

Despite the government's best efforts, Chad is dealing with multiple successive shocks, such as climate-induced disasters, large-scale internal displacement, and the Lake Chad and Central African refugee crises, which have eroded the delivery of basic services.

"ECW has made various investments in Chad, including a multi-year resilient program for vulnerable refugee and internally displaced children and their host communities, and other marginalized children in Chad, that has been going on for three years and will be renewed next year. We have also provided USD 2 million in response to the floods or climate-induced disasters affecting Chad," Sherif says.

"We are now providing this catalytic USD 3 million funding to help UNHCR to provide immediate access to holistic education to the new cohort of refugees arriving from Sudan. ECW's holistic support enhances school infrastructure and provides school feeding, quality learning materials, mental health, psycho-social services, teachers' training, and inclusive education approaches. We hope this will inspire other donors and contributors to meet the remaining financing gap."

Chad's education performance indicators are among the lowest in sub-Saharan Africa, with 56 percent of primary school-aged children out of school.

UNHCR and its partners in Chad require USD 8 million to implement the education component of the regional refugee response plan. ECW has provided about 40 percent of the budget; the international community should assist with the remaining 60 percent. Sherif hopes that additional support will also be forthcoming for UNICEF and partners to cater to the host communities, who also need support to access quality education.



Yasmine Sherif, Executive Director of Education Cannot Wait, speaks with a young Sudanese refugee in Borota during a field visit with UNHCR near the border with Chad. Credit: ECW

Incoming refugees live in precarious conditions, lacking the most basic facilities, and need urgent assistance and empowerment. As conditions become increasingly dire, ECW funding will provide access to safe and protective learning environments for incoming refugee girls and boys and support the host communities.

The depth and magnitude of

this conflict on children and adolescents are such that their learning and development will most certainly be impaired if immediate access to education is not provided. ECW support offers an opportunity for holistic education to mitigate the debilitating long-term effects of war on young minds.

Fleeing children and adolescents will need immediate psycho-

social support and mental health care to cope with the stress, adversity, and trauma of the outbreak of violence and their perilous escape. They will need school meals, water, and sanitation.

"To the international community, we must act now. This is a moral issue; we must prioritize and show solidarity. Our support must be generous. The world cannot

afford to lose an entire generation due to this senseless conflict," Sherif stresses. ECW and its strategic partners are committed to reaching 20 million crisis-impacted children and adolescents over the next four years. To this end, ECW seeks to mobilize a minimum of USD 1.5 billion from government donors, the private sector, and philanthropic foundations.



Yasmine Sherif, Executive Director of Education Cannot Wait, speaks with a young Sudanese refugee in Borota during a field visit with UNHCR near the border with Chad. Credit: ECW

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One **Radio One**

LIFEZONE METALS IN TALKS ON NICKEL OFFTAKE CONTRACTS

NAIROBI

BHP Group-backed Lifezone Metals, which is developing a nickel mine in Tanzania, is negotiating supply deals with several electric vehicle manufacturers and battery makers as the race for energy transition metals intensifies, its CEO said.

The process run by RBC Capital Markets to sell yet-to-be-produced metal from Lifezone's Kabanga Nickel project has attracted strong interest from EV and battery companies, some of which have been to the mine site, CEO Chris Showalter said.

He declined to provide names, and said no agreements had yet been reached.

Lifezone Metals, which plans to list in New York this year via a blank-check acquisition deal that values the firm at around \$1 billion, owns the Kabanga nickel and cobalt mine and refinery in north-west Tanzania.

BHP currently holds a minority stake in Kabanga and has an option to raise its interest in the mine to 51 percent and subsequently become its operator, Showalter said.

The global miner is pivoting back to Africa after exiting the continent in 2015 when it spun off South32. The Tanzanian government also holds a minority stake in Kabanga.

Via the deals currently under discussion, Lifezone could sell its share of output, equivalent to 40 percent of the metal produced at



the facility, to help raise the capital it requires for the mine's development, Showalter said.

"Primarily what we are looking for is a prepayment structure," Showalter told Reuters. "In our view this would

replace the more traditional project finance portion of the project funding."

EVs and battery manufacturers wanting to secure supplies from the mine could have to compete for offtake rights, Showalter, a former investment banker, said.

Nickel, key to growth in electric vehicles, is used in lithium-ion batteries, and helps vehicle manufacturers to use less cobalt.

Indonesia currently accounts for around 40 percent of the world's nickel supply, with much of it controlled by Chinese companies.

With BHP's backing, there is potential to expand on plans to produce about 60,000 tons of refined nickel from initial expectations of about 40,000 tons, Showalter said.

Mining is expected to start toward end of 2026.

Located in far north-western Tanzania, approximately 120 km south-west of Lake Victoria and within a few kilometers of the Burundi border, the Kabanga deposit is acknowledged to be one of the largest and richest undeveloped

nickel sulfide deposits known at present, of unmatched scale and grade.

The world's nickel resources are currently estimated at almost 350 million tons.

Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Russia and Canada account for more than 50 percent of the global nickel resources. Economic concentrations of nickel occur in sulphide and in laterite-type ore deposits.

The five largest nickel mines in Africa are Mogalakwena Mine, Nkomati Mine, Union Mine, Impala Mine, and Thembelani Mine, cumulatively produced approximately 35,868 tonnes of nickel, 28.68 mmtpa of ROM in 2021.

Nickel steel is used for armour plating. Other alloys of nickel are used in boat propeller shafts and turbine blades.

Nickel is used in batteries, including rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries and nickel-metal hydride batteries used in hybrid vehicles. Nickel has a long history of being used in coins



World's first Bugatti residences launched in Dubai

DUBAI

BUGATTI Residences, the first-ever residential project by the French luxury carmaker in the world, was launched in Dubai on Wednesday night by the UAE-based family-owned developer Binghatti, as the demand for branded as well as uber-luxury residences continues to lead the local real estate market in the post-pandemic period.

Located in Business Bay, the 43-floor uber-luxury project will house 171 mansions and 11 sky mansion penthouses with each sky mansion penthouses occupying the entire floor.

With prices starting from Dh19.09 million, inspired by the year of the founding of Bugatti in 1909. All the units will have a view of the Dubai Water Canal on each and Burj Khalifa-Downtown on the other side.

The first Bugatti residence will house a Riviera-inspired beach, private pool, jacuzzi spa, fitness club, chef's table, private valet, private members club and two garage-to-penthouse car lifts.

Interestingly, the ultra-high-net-worth residents of Bugatti Residences by Binghatti will be able to drive into the lift and then to straight into their floor as each unit will have a dedicated parking space. The highest penthouse

will have 20 slots for parking.

One of the floors will have exhibition space for special cars of people living there, too. The project is scheduled to be completed within three-and-a-half years.

According to a report released by Savills, Dubai is the top location for branded residences globally, based on the supply of completed and pipeline schemes.

By volume of pipeline, the US, UAE, Vietnam, and Mexico are forecast to add the largest number of schemes - more than 30 schemes in each country by 2027.

"When you open the door of a Bugatti and sit inside, you know instantly that it's very special; something truly incomparable. With Bugatti Residences, we wanted to translate this feeling

into a highly exclusive retreat in the Heart of the Metropolis. Every great brand that has made a global impact on the planet - be it through a car, a watch, or any luxury item - begins with a rooted design ethos and a clear philosophy towards a specific lifestyle. We have built the Binghatti brand along similar pillars," said Muhammad Binghatti, CEO of Binghatti.

Mate Rimac, CEO, Bugatti Rimac, said many firms reach out to them for Bugatti branded products such as phones, bicycles and scooters but they rejected them in order to protect the brand's identity and uniqueness.

"We were discussing real estate for quite a while and a lot of people were coming to us but we never found a partner that meets our standards.

When Muhammad Binghatti reached out to us, then we found that they were the right partner and Dubai is the right location. They have the right expertise and financial strength - ticking all the boxes. The most important thing is they are really standing behind this project - not just managers running the project but the entire Binghatti family," said Rimac.

Binghatti said all of the company's projects meet the highest sustainability standards. "We want to take the experience that people enjoy at Palm Jumeirah and French Riviera and plant it in the heart of the metropolis. We want to integrate car experience into the project," he added.

Musk buys \$50,000 tiny home to use as a guest house

MICHIGAN

BILLIONAIRES usually shop for grand mansions, but Elon Musk is not the usual billionaire. In 2022, the Tesla Inc. CEO made headlines by revealing that he owns a tiny home made by Boxabl, a company that specializes in making prefabricated modular housing units.

Musk said he uses the tiny home as a guest house. But the unit, called the Casita, comes with plenty of features, including a full-size bathroom, kitchen, appliances, tall ceilings and big windows. Coming in at 361 square feet, the Casita can be assembled in an hour and starts at around \$49,500.

Real estate investing has experienced a surge in popularity in recent years. Income investors are drawn to the asset class because it gives them the potential to collect a steady stream of rental income.

At the same time, real estate has historically shown resilience in the face of inflation. When inflation occurs, the price of raw materials and labor goes up, so constructing new properties becomes more expensive. And that, in turn, contributes to the appreciation of existing property values.

And you don't need to buy a house to get a piece of the action. These days, there are online real estate investing platforms that allow retail investors to own a fractional interest in a well-balanced property portfolio and earn passive income.

Elevate Money Inc. is one of these platforms - it was created with the mission of making real estate accessible to all. The platform is open to all investors and has paid 20 consecutive monthly dividends with a 6.5% annualized yield. And now, it's going to allow investors to capitalize on the boom in tiny homes, too.

Elevate Money has partnered with Boxabl, securing the first right to purchase a minimum of 10% of Boxabl's monthly production of Casitas. Given the long line of people eagerly waiting their turn to buy these tiny homes, this is a significant opportunity.

The company is putting this advantage to good use. Elevate Money is launching its newest real estate investment trust (REIT)

- the Future of Housing Fund - to develop and own affordable housing communities populated by Boxabl Casitas.

"With the upcoming launch of the Future of Housing Fund and our partnership with Boxabl, we will create home communities that are affordable and appealing to all Americans," said Elevate Money's CEO Harold Hofer in a statement.

According to data from the Mortgage Bankers Association, the median mortgage payment for applicants was \$2,093 in March, up 1.6% from \$2,061 in February.

Simply put, houses are not very affordable in America.

"The affordability index hit a new survey high last month, with both the typical purchase application amount and monthly payment rising on a monthly and annual basis," Mortgage Bankers Association Associate Vice President Edward Seiler said in April.

The blunt reality is that the Federal Reserve has implemented significant interest rate hikes to tame rampant inflation. And mortgage rates have gone up as well, meaning homebuyers have to grapple with larger mortgage payments.

When you buy a home, you have to factor in more than just the mortgage payment. Homeowners are also on the hook for property taxes, insurance, maintenance and repairs.

Prefabricated homes like the Casita, on the other hand, can be considerably cheaper to own and maintain, making them an attractive option. Given this backdrop, the partnership between Elevate Money and Boxabl could create a new economy for affordable housing.

At the same time, this transformative collaboration has the potential to open up exciting opportunities for investors. If you are looking to diversify your portfolio and tap into this burgeoning market, you might want to do a bit more research on the Future of Housing Fund before its expected launch this summer.

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CONGO TO HIKE STAKE IN COPPER, COBALT VENTURE WITH CHINA

KINSHASA

THE Democratic Republic of Congo aims to boost its stake in a cobalt and copper joint venture with Chinese firms to 70 percent from 32 percent, on concerns the deal gives away too much of Congo's resources with little benefit to the country.

The plan to boost Congo's stake and have greater control in managing the Sicominex venture - currently dominated by the Chinese firms - was detailed in a document seen by Reuters, that outlined Congo's demands ahead of talks to overhaul a \$6 billion infrastructure-minerals agreement.

Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi, who is set to visit China, instructed his government on May 19 to move ahead with the talks after Congolese stakeholders "consolidated their position" on the 2008 deal.

The lopsided pact, Congo says, leaves it little means to control the operations of the venture, and the resources and revenue that are leaving the country.

He ordered the creation of an ad hoc commission in March to harmonise the negotiating positions of the Congolese institutions in charge of supervising the execution of the deal.

The commission included representatives of the presidency, the government, state auditor, the General Inspection of Finance (IGF), the Agency for Supervision, Coordination and Monitoring of Collaboration Agreements signed between the Democratic Republic of Congo and private partners, state miner Gecamines, and civil society.

Two members of the commission, who were not authorised to speak publicly, confirmed the authenticity of the document and the conclusions, which have not been reported before.

The sources said the conclusions would serve as the basis for Congo's talks with the Chinese companies.

Congo's government and the presidency did not respond to requests for comment.

The commission said Congo should seek a greater share in Sicominex because the 2008 agreement did not take account of an estimated \$90.9 billion worth of reserves that Gecamines brought to the deal, according to the document seen by Reuters.

Chinese companies Power Construction Corporation of China, also known as Sinohydro, and China Railway Group Limited, did not respond to requests for comment.

Sinohydro Corp and China Railway Group Limited had agreed to build roads and hospitals in exchange for a 68 percent stake in Sicominex, the cobalt and copper joint venture with Congo's state mining company Gecamines.

Congo is the world's largest producer of battery material cobalt, and a major copper producer.

The commission said Congo should seek a 60 percent stake in Sicominex for Gecamines and its subsidiary, a non-dilutable 10 percent stake for the state, and 30 percent for the Chinese companies, to make the joint venture deal fairer for Congo.

COMPENSATION SOUGHT

It said the amount earmarked in the previous deal to finance infrastructure, around \$3 billion including interests, was insufficient compared with the value of mineral reserves given up by Gecamines.

"We estimated that the loan envelope for infrastructure should increase from \$3 billion to \$6 billion," one of the sources said.

In the initial deal, \$3 billion had been earmarked for developing the Sicominex joint venture, and another \$3 billion for infrastructure in Congo.

In the renegotiation talks, compensation would be brought up, the source said.



DR Congo President Felix Tshisekedi

"We are going to ask for a lump sum compensation of \$2 billion, among other things because Sicominex sold the minerals at half price to the Chinese companies ... well below the market price," the source said, adding that the fine will be for all damages Congo has suffered.

"It is estimated that 90 percent of the Congo's mining exports go to China, but its contribution to GDP does not exceed 30 percent," said Jean-Pierre Okenda, director of extractive industries for Resource Matters, an NGO which is calling for greater transparency in the negotia-

tions. Tshisekedi is expected to raise the issues during his trip to Beijing. However, "the real negotiations with the Chinese side will only start when the president returns," one of the sources told Reuters.

Hong Kong construction workers reject the gov't plans to import foreign labour

HONG KONG

OVER 80 per cent of Hong Kong construction workers disagree with moves to import foreign labour, according to a survey published by a union on Wednesday. Its chairperson has claimed that the labour shortage is just an "illusion."

The government is considering setting a special programme allowing the construction industry to hire foreign labour without the approval of the Labour Advisory Board - a non-statutory body that advises the Commissioner for Labour on labour matters - according to Ming Pao and HKO1 last month.

The Hong Kong Construction Industry Employees General Union (HKCIIEGU)

conducted a survey between April 20 and May 3, interviewing 608 construction workers. The result showed that 81.3 per cent of respondents disagreed with moves to import labour, whilst 76.8 per cent thought that the policy would lead to local unemployment.

The survey also found that 39.3 per cent of respondents said they believed that there would be more accidents, whilst 70.5 per cent feared a drop in salary.

Ho Ping-tak, the chairman of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Bamboo Scaffolding Workers Union said: "Maybe someone is creating an illusion of a labour shortage... If there was a reasonable salary, construction period and working environment, how would it be difficult to employ staff?"

He said that the expected construction period for finishing a floor of a building had been shortened from seven days to four. "The construction periods are severely unrealistic and [employers] treat staff as robots... If the construction periods are further shortened to two or three days, I believe that there would still be a labour shortage, even if all the workers from the Greater Bay Area come to

Hong Kong."

Ho added that the environment at construction sites was poor, and workers had to hold their breath when they use toilets.

According to the HKCIIEGU, there are more than 600,000 registered construction workers in the city, which Ho said was enough. Wong Ping, chairperson of HKCIIEGU, also claimed that there were a lot of labourers who wanted to seek help from the union to find employment.

After a three-tier warning system to help protect workers from heatstroke was introduced last Monday, the union said there was a low compliance with the warning system, which is not legally-binding.

The warnings, issued by the Labour Department, have three tiers: amber, red and black, indicating three levels of heat stress and different rest arrangements for workers. In severe cases, workers are recommended to down tools.

For instance, when there is an amber warning, workers with a "very heavy" workload-like scaffolders - are recommended to take 45 minutes of rest after working for 15 minutes

every hour.

The amber warning was issued on three consecutive days last week. But Ho said that he did not know of any workers that were asked to rest. He added that employers or supervisors would say: "You decide on your own. Our construction will continue anyway."

He said developers should allow the delay of the construction project if there are heatstroke warnings.

The union urged the industry to improve health and safety measures for construction workers and boost salaries in order to tackle the labour shortage. It also suggested the government could stagger construction projects in an organised way, to avoid too many developments beginning simultaneously.

Dubai firm to construct low housing projects in Nigeria

LAGOS

KARDA Construction, headquartered in Dubai, has been awarded a \$500 million contract to construct low housing complexes in Nigeria.

KBC International, a Dubai-based real estate developer, has come to an agreement with the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) to construct affordable housing complexes in Abuja, Nigeria for US\$500 million. This alliance will confront Nigeria's growing housing gap, which is predicted to elevate by over 60 per cent by 2050 because of population growth and urbanisation.

Senator Venga Ashafa, managing director of the Federal Housing Authority, asserted that the federal government will remain supportive of private property developers in the provision of affordable housing for Nigerians. KBC International's trip to FHA was to affirm the collaboration for Nigeria's budget-friendly housing that will be accessible nationwide.

Senator Winger Shafar, who referred to FHA as the leading housing delivery agency in Nigeria, declared, "The Federal Government is making progress towards filling the housing deficit gap in the country.

Our organisation is the most competent in terms of housing delivery in Nigeria as president and you won't obtain a better deal than the one from Federal Housing authorities. That is the reality of the situation. We were thrilled to come across you and we would be delighted to collaborate with you."

The Director of KBC International remarked that the partnership would be mutually beneficial. "That is our mantra, and we are here to see it through. Our primary focus is solely on Africa. Concerning the housing shortage in Nigeria, it is the desire of the average citizen to own a home. At this point, we are in the beginning stages and have implemented the staff amendment of FHA.

The considerable cooperation we have received thus far has enabled us to commence the implementation of the low housing developments across the nation, beginning in the Warri Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory."

The collaboration of KBC International with FHA will be instrumental in tackling Nigeria's housing crisis, providing Nigerians with accessible and comfortable homes nationwide.



Babati District Council executive director Anna Mbogo (2nd L) and Arusha entrepreneurs have a feel of cultural tourism products from the beneficiary of the Skills Development Fund from Tanzania Education Authority during the Vocational Education exhibition held in Arusha city recently. Photo by Correspondent



Affordable housing project in Nigeria

African construction market to grow 7.5pc in five years

MUMBAI

THE African construction market is valued at US\$380.5 billion in the current year and is expected to record a CAGR of more than 7.5 percent during the next five years to 2027, report by the India headquartered Mordor Intelligence has said.

The COVID-19 outbreak negatively impacted the market in 2020. Over the next two years, growth is expected to remain affected due to the economic downturn caused by the pandemic across Africa's residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors.

Despite near-term challenges, the medium- to long-term outlook remains positive. Over the short term, investment in the construction industry may be driven by government spending in the infrastructure

sector, the report says.

"The African construction industry is the target destination for most large economies because of accruing benefits, such as the availability of natural resources, huge investment opportunities in energy and infrastructure, cheap labor, and a fast-growing consumer market," it says.

"African cities are changing with several major projects, ranging from magnificent skyscrapers to megacities built from scratch." These multimillion-dollar construction projects in Africa are giving its cities a much-needed transformation.

Developing infrastructure has been a focus of many governments to meet the needs and requirements of a growing population, making construction the largest sector in Africa.

TECHNOLOGY

VANCOUVER PORT EXPANSION PROJECT COMPLETE, SAYS DP WORLD

VANCOUVER

THE US\$260mn Centerm expansion project at DP World Vancouver has been completed according to DP World.

The project aims to increase port throughput by 60 percent and position British Columbia as a leader in sustainable trade.

The newly expanded terminal can now handle 1.5m TEUs a year, compared to 900,000 TEUs previously, while adding 15 percent to the terminal's overall footprint.

As per DP World, the project reduces the terminal's environmental impact by adding capacity for container ships to connect to electrical shore power and converting its diesel yard cranes to electric ones.

It further reduces greenhouse gas emissions by eliminating wait times for vehicles at train crossings and building to LEED and Envision certification sustainability standards.

"This expansion represents a significant investment in the future of international trade, and we are honoured to continue to play a vital role in connecting Canadian businesses to markets around the world, while contributing to sustainable economic growth and prosperity for all," said Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World.

The expansion was completed by Centennial Expansion Partners (CEP). DP World and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority also celebrated the 100th anniversary of the port's marine terminal operations.

These two events are said to high-



light British Columbia's (BC) ongoing leadership in sustainable trade, technological innovation and introducing Canadian goods to new markets supported by partners such as DP World in Canada, the statement added.

The 100-year anniversary marks an opportunity to celebrate the ongoing commitment of DP World employees, and the ILWU (International Longshore and Warehouse Union) handling over 20m loaded twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs).

Along with its partners, DP World said it is making the global supply chain more resilient, establishing Canada's leadership in sustainable trade and exporting Canadian goods to global markets.

DP World continues to support and advance the long-term growth of Canada's ports and terminals, including the Port of Vancouver, through new technologies and commitment to innovation and sustainable trade infrastructure.

As the country's gateway to over 170 trading economies around the world, Vancouver handles one in every \$3 of Canada's trade in goods outside of North America. This enables the trade of approximately \$305bn in goods, while the port's activities sustain 115,300 jobs, \$7bn in wages, and \$11.9bn in GDP across Canada, the statement pointed out.

Bin Sulayem remarked, "The 100th anniversary of terminal operations on the west coast is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Canada's rich maritime and port history and look ahead to a future that includes DP World's industry-leading technology and innovation in supply chains."

It's also a chance for us, along with our employees and partners, to celebrate a responsible, sustainable, strategic approach to managing Canada's network of ports and terminals."

DP World said that it has committed to investing US\$500mn globally over the

next five years to help cut its carbon emissions by 700,000t to become a Net Zero carbon enterprise by 2050.

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority also completed the South Shore Access Project earlier this month in partnership with the Government of Canada and with funding from the National Trade Corridors Fund.

The final part of the South Shore Access Project, including upgrades to Waterfront Road and the removal of road and rail conflicts in the area to connect terminals directly to the Trans-Canada Highway are now complete.

Robin Silvester, President and Chief Executive Officer, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority stated, "Expanding the footprint of the Centerm container terminal and improving road and rail links in the area will increase container trade capacity and resiliency at the Port of Vancouver in the near term."

He concluded, "As recent years have shown, a robust container sector is critical for Canadian exports and for reliable access to the goods Canadians depend on every day from markets around the world—and these projects represent an important piece of the puzzle when it comes to enabling Canadian trade."

We'd like to thank our project partners including DP World and the federal government for their support and collaboration, as well the local community and south shore tenants for their patience and understanding during construction."

The firm has committed to investing US\$500mn globally over the next five years to help cut its carbon emissions by 700,000t.

China's Nanchang province realises housing 'disaster'

NANCHANG

THE rows of towering buildings crowding the banks of the Gan River are a testament to the real estate boom that transformed Nanchang in eastern China from a gritty manufacturing hub to a modern urban centre.

Now those skyscrapers are evidence of something very different: China's real estate market in crisis, reeling after years of overbuilding. As China's economy prospered the last two decades, Nanchang, the capital of Jiangxi Province, erected sweeping apartment complexes and gleaming office towers to meet the increasing demand for homes and workplaces. It pursued urban expansion with a motto that underscored its growth-at-all-costs approach: "Advance eastward, extend southward, expand westward, integrate northward, and prosper in the middle."

But the country's prolonged real estate slump has exposed cracks in cities, like Nanchang, where years of nonstop building have created too much supply. By one measure, nearly 20 percent of homes in Nanchang sit vacant – the highest rate among 28 large and midsize Chinese cities.

Nanchang illustrates the enormous challenges policymakers face in trying to revive China's economy. During past downturns, Beijing turned to real estate and infrastructure spending to jump-start the economy. But this time, it won't be an easy fix. Developers are saddled with debt, cities are teeming with empty dwellings, and local government finances are depleted from years of paying for Covid testing.

Many of Nanchang's newest apartments remain empty because developers ran out of money and did not finish building already-sold units. Some homeowners are refusing to pay mortgages until their apartments are finished, a nationwide act of dissent that has rattled the Chinese Communist Party.

Over the last year, Beijing and local governments have unleashed incentives to lure home buyers back, urging banks to lend liberally and rolling back curbs that were put in place pre-pandemic to cool an overheated housing market.

New-home prices in China's 70 biggest cities rose in each of the first four months of the year, reversing a yearlong slide during the height of Covid restrictions. But the nascent rebound is losing steam. Growth in housing prices slowed in April.

And the recovery has not been evenly dispersed. Prices have roared back in bigger cities like Beijing and Shanghai. In second-tier cities, like Nanchang, the rebound has been more muted, and even nonexistent in smaller cities.

A Test for Xi Jinping

The leader wants to insulate China from what he sees as threats from the West. He also wants to promote his country as deserving of foreign investment and clout. Can he do both?

Youth Unemployment Crisis: One in five people ages 16 to 24 are unemployed in China – and millions more will enter the crowded job market when they graduate from college in June.

The Electric Vehicle Race: China dominates the supply chain for electric car batteries. It may take decades for the world to catch up.

Barbecue City: Zibo, a once-obscure chemical manufacturing city in Shandong Province, has suddenly turned into China's hottest tourist destination.

China's housing problems are more pronounced outside the top cities because overbuilding has been more pervasive in smaller cities, according to a paper from Kenneth Rogoff, an economics professor at Harvard, and Yuanchen Yang, an economist at the International Monetary Fund.

Dr. Rogoff said that China's housing boom was predicated on "fast growth forever," but that in many smaller cities, the economy had not kept pace with the housing build-out.



By one measure, nearly 20 percent of homes in Nanchang sit vacant.

"China has been building real estate and supporting infrastructure at a breakneck pace for decades," he said. "Eventually you run into diminishing returns."

China's housing boom started in the late 1990s in the biggest cities before spreading to smaller urban areas like Nanchang in the 2000s. In 2000, China built around two million apartments. By the mid 2010s, it was building more than seven million apartments a year. Real estate quickly became the backbone of China's economy, accounting for around a quarter of all activity.

The sector created jobs, supported the finances of local governments that rented land rights for new buildings and provided one of the few reliable investment options for ordinary Chinese people looking to accumulate wealth. As the economy became more reliant on real estate, Xi Jinping, China's top leader, cracked down on debt-laden developers and declared that "homes are for living in, not speculation."

In places like Nanchang, there was more construction than population growth alone could sustain. In the decade before 2021, the annual amount of housing construction in the city roughly doubled while the population increased 25 percent.

Kuang Wei, a real estate agent for existing homes in Nanchang, said prices in the more remote part of the city where he works had declined steadily, down 25 percent since 2019.

He expects prices to fall further because so many people are trying to sell. Some are looking to upgrade to newer apartments, while others want to unload investment properties before

an expected property tax is enacted. Kuang said around 80 percent of his clients still refused to cut prices, hoping that the market will rebound.

"The market now is not like what it was many years ago," he said.

Nanchang's 20 percent residential vacancy rate was higher than the 12 percent average among a nationwide sample, according to an August report by China's Beike Research Institute. Soaring vacancies garnered a lot of attention because they confirmed that China's real estate woes were more widespread than Beijing had let on.

After publication, Beike deleted the report, saying that it had collected information "incorrectly" and that the data "did not reflect the actual situation."

Traditionally, Nanchang's economy relied on manufacturing and construction. It has tried to bring in better-paying digital economy and technology industry jobs without much success.

Known as the city where Chinese Communist Party rebels first defeated the Nationalists nearly a century ago, Nanchang is surrounded by other cities that are more compelling options for offices.

Nanchang had the same number of buildings higher than 200 meters, or roughly 60 stories, as Beijing in 2022. However, Beijing's population was three times larger and was the second-biggest city by economic output. Nanchang, by comparison, is 36th. In 2021, the commercial real estate firm JLL said the office vacancy rate in Nanchang was 40 percent.

Cinderella Fang, 28, was born and raised in Nanchang. When she was growing up, most apart-

ments were in low-slung walk-up buildings, and there were no planned communities. She said the area near her childhood home had transformed into a sprawl of 30-story apartment complexes.

After going to a university in Beijing, Ms. Fang returned to Nanchang in 2019 hoping to find some work and possibly buy an affordable home. But she moved to Shanghai after a month, because the only job she could find in Nanchang was a marketing position that paid one-third of what she made in Beijing.

"The job market in Nanchang has not been very good," Ms. Fang said.

Other transplants to Nanchang were drawn to the prospect of reasonably priced apartments and strong public schools – only to encounter developers who could not deliver the homes they promised.

Shortly after her daughter was born in 2019, Andie Cao, who lives and works in Shanghai, bought an unfinished apartment in Nanchang. It was closer to her hometown in the Chinese countryside, and she planned to move after the developer was set to finish the project in late 2021.

But the developer ran into financial problems and stopped construction in July 2021. After continuing to pay the mortgage for a year, Cao and other homeowners staged a mortgage boycott last July.

Cao said that the salespeople had also told her that the apartment was in one of Nanchang's more established districts with good schools, but that it was actually zoned for a neighboring, less developed area on the city's outskirts.

WORLD

Florida Governor DeSantis launches 2024 presidential bid

WASHINGTON

FLORIDA Governor Ron DeSantis on Wednesday announced his entry into the 2024 US presidential race, vowing to lead a "Great American Comeback."

DeSantis made the announcement in a video posted on Twitter. "We need the courage to lead and the strength to win," DeSantis said. "I'm Ron DeSantis, and I'm running for president to lead our great American comeback."

His campaign filed paperwork with the Federal Election Commission declaring his candidacy earlier Wednesday.

DeSantis is considered the top challenger in the Republican primary to his one-time ally, former US president Donald Trump, who formally announced his entry into the presidential race months earlier. According to polls, Trump has been in the lead over other GOP figures.

DeSantis, 44, has an Ivy League educational background. He studied history at



Florida Governor Ron DeSantis speaks during an event on his nationwide book tour at Adventure Outdoors, the largest gun store in the country, on March 30, 2023 in Smyrna, Georgia. AFP

Yale University and soon after went on to Harvard Law School. Once a naval officer, DeSantis was first elected to Congress in 2012. He was elected as Florida governor in 2018 and was re-elected in 2022.

Agencies

India unstoppable now, country moving ahead with the speed parallel to Vande Bharat- PM Modi

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday said that India is being watched with great hope by the world today and that the country has made remarkable progress in strengthening the economy, battling poverty and combatting the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Prime Minister said that from all over the world people want to come to India to see India and understand its essence. In such a situation there are excellent opportunities for states like Uttarakhand, said the Prime Minister who flagged off the inaugural run of Vande Bharat Express from Dehradun to Delhi via video conferencing.

The Prime Minister said, India is unstoppable now and said that it is advancing and will continue to advance at a speed parallel to that of Vande Bharat.

"India is being watched with great hope. The world wants to come to India to see India, and to understand the essence of India, in such a situation there are excellent opportunities for states like Uttara-

khand. Vande Bharat train is also going to help Uttarakhand in taking full advantage of this opportunity," he added.

He said that the Government has transformed Indian railways and the dream of high-speed trains has now become a reality.

The Prime Minister said that Devbhoomi Uttarakhand will become the centre of attraction for the spiritual consciousness of the whole world in the coming days.

"Devbhoomi will become the centre of attraction for the spiritual consciousness of the whole world in the coming days. We have to shape Uttarakhand's development as per future demands," said PM Modi.

The prime minister said that work on the Char Dham Grand Project with a cost of Rs 12,000 crore is going on at a fast pace.

"Work on the Char Dham Grand Project with a cost of Rs 12,000 crore is going on at a fast pace. Since 2014, we have transformed the Indian railways. We began by making the dream of high-speed trains a reality. 6000 km of railway



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supporters gather outside the Palam airport to welcome him on his arrival to India post concluding his three-nation visit to Japan, Papua New Guinea and Australia, in New Delhi yesterday. ANI

lines are electrified every year compared to 600 km before 2014," said PM Modi.

Congratulating the people of Uttarakhand he said this train will connect the country's capital with Devbhoomi at a faster speed.

"This train, running between Delhi and Dehradun, will connect the country's capital with Devbhoomi at a faster speed. Now the time on the train journey between Vande Bharat between Delhi-Dehradun will also be reduced considerably," said PM Modi.

The train is the first Vande Bharat introduced in Uttarakhand.

"Delighted to flag off the Delhi-Dehradun Vande Bharat Express. It will ensure 'Ease of Travel' as well as greater comfort for the citizens," the prime minister tweeted.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav thanked PM Modi said that this time arrangements up to Rs 5000 crores have been made for railways in Uttarakhand.

"Today is a very fortunate day. PM is giving a big gift of Vande Bharat to Devbhoomi today. 10 years from today, when it came to the

development of railways, Rs 187 crore was received from the central government and when Modi ji came in 2014, he immediately arranged funds for Uttarakhand. Arrangements up to Rs 2000-4000 crore were made for railways in Uttarakhand and this time they have made arrangements of Rs 5000 crore," said Ashwini Vaishnav.

The train has been built indigenously and is equipped with advanced safety features including the Kavach technology. It has world-class amenities and heralds a new era of comfortable travel experience, especially for tourists travelling to the state.

An official release said that Indian Railways is on a quest to completely electrify rail routes in the country guided by the vision of the Prime Minister of providing cleaner means of public transport. ANI

UN chief says African free trade area catalyst for sustainable growth

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday highlighted the vital role of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in the sustainable development of the continent.

"Guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063, we must ramp up our efforts and harness the full potential of trade and industrialization to advance sustainable, inclusive growth," the top UN official spoke on the final day of the annual Africa Dialogue Series in New York, where the focus this year was on accelerating implementation of AfCFTA - set to be the largest in the world.

"The African Continental Free Trade Area is set to be an engine of that growth," noted Guterres. "The robust growth that many African countries experienced before CO-

VID-19 was lost to the pandemic," the secretary-general said, highlighting the need to scale up efforts towards a single trade market on the continent.

The pandemic brought high food and energy prices, made worse by the Ukraine crisis, exacerbating poverty, inequalities, and food insecurity, the UN chief said.

Governments have also faced rising interest rates, which increase the potential for debt, while climate change has created deadly floods and drought, contributing to the risk of hunger.

The full implementation of AfCFTA could generate income gains of up to 9 percent by 2035, according to the latest estimates.

This would lift up to 50 million people out of extreme poverty and reduce income inequalities, he added.

The secretary-general stressed that realizing the AfCFTA promise



calls for action across four critical areas, starting with boosting access to financial resources and investment. "We need a fundamental reform of the global financial system so that Africa is represented at the highest level," he said.

Barriers that hold back intra-African trade and production capacities must also be broken down, including through eliminating

tariffs, building "made in Africa" supply chains, and harmonizing regulations that would enable investment. His third point focuses on energy and digital infrastructure, which are vital for African countries to build their manufacturing capacities and harness the full potential of innovation and entrepreneurship.

"We need to power Africa's

industrialization and leverage technology to leapfrog outdated infrastructure and head straight towards the fourth Industrial Revolution," said Guterres.

The continent is also blessed with resources that could make it a leader in clean energy, he added, and the sector could generate more than 6 million jobs by mid-century.

Yet Africa has received just 2 percent of global investment in renewables over the past decade. His last point underscores investing in "human capital," with Africa's vibrant, young and innovative population representing both a dynamic workforce and massive market.

"Creating decent jobs, particularly for women, and promoting education, training and lifelong learning is the best way to ensure Africa's people fully contribute to the continent's digital revolution and sustainable growth," he said.

Xinhua

China, Russia vow to bolster ties

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping reiterated on Wednesday China's readiness to work with Russia to support each other on issues concerning core interests, and he called for enhancing all-around bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Xi made the remarks during a meeting in Beijing with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, who made an official visit to China on Tuesday and Wednesday at the invitation of Premier Li Qiang.

Xi asked Mishustin to convey his sincere greetings to Russian President Vladimir Putin, and he recalled his successful state visit to Russia in March, when the two presidents outlined a blueprint for the development of China-Russia relations and bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Consolidating and developing China-Russia relations is not only the shared aspiration of the two peoples, but also the overarching trend of the times, Xi said.

He emphasized that China is willing to work with Russia to firmly support each other on issues concerning their core interests, and to strengthen mutual coordination within multilateral frameworks, such as the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS and the G20.

Both sides should continue to tap the potential for economic partnership, consolidate and expand fundamentals of cooperation in the fields of energy and mutual connectivity, and create more growth points, he added.

China is willing to work with Russia and other countries of the Eurasian Economic Union to boost the synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative and the Eurasian Economic Union, advance the building of a more open regional market, and ensure stable and unimpeded global industrial and supply chains, Xi said.

Trade between China and Russia hit a record high of \$190.27 billion in 2022. Between January and April, bilateral trade exceeded \$73.1 billion, up 41.3 percent over the same period of last year, according to data from the General Administration of Customs.

Furthermore, energy cooperation continues to be a major stabilizer for the bilateral ties.

During the meeting, Mishustin conveyed Putin's warm greetings and best wishes to Xi, saying that Xi's historic state visit to Russia in March opened a new era of the Russia-China comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination.

Russia is willing to work with China to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, fully utilize the regular meetings between the two prime ministers and relevant cooperation mechanisms, and deepen pragmatic cooperation in various fields, he said.

The prime minister added that Russia stands ready to work with China to promote the multipolarization of the world and consolidate the international order based on international law.

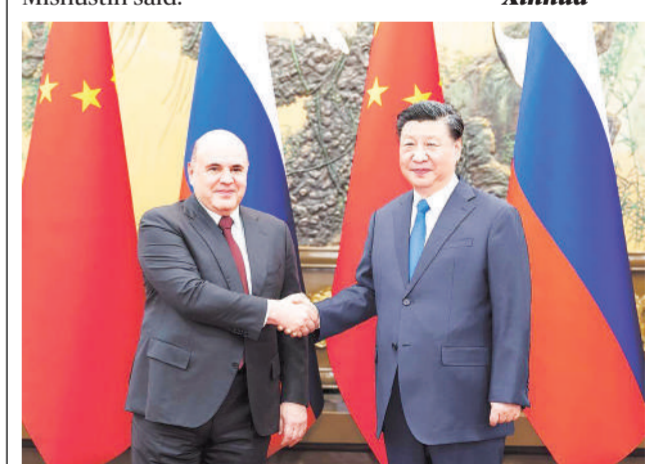
Premier Li gave Mishustin a grand welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Wednesday before they held official talks. They also witnessed the signing of an array of cooperation documents.

Noting that strong resilience, great potential and broad prospects remain in pragmatic cooperation between the two countries, Li said that China is willing to work with Russia to optimize the trade structure, further enrich trade categories, expand cooperation in the fields of agricultural service trade and digital economy, facilitate trade and businesses, and improve customs clearance efficiency.

Li called for strengthening subnational cooperation, promoting people-to-people exchanges, and expanding collaboration in such fields as education, science and technology, culture, tourism, sports and health.

Mishustin hailed the fruitful cooperation between the two countries, saying that the Russia-China relationship enjoys special, exemplary significance in international relations.

Against the backdrop of the turbulent international situation, Russia is willing to work with China to effectively respond to the new challenges faced by both countries, Mishustin said. Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mikhail Mishustin at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Wednesday. XINHUA

MODERN cities are complex and open systems. In recent years, the rapid development and wide application of the digital twin technology are bringing new ideas and solutions to China's urban planning, governance and management.

And how traffic congestion has been relieved near the Peking University People's Hospital in Beijing's Xicheng district is a great example.

It was recently found that the long lines of cars stuck near the hospital have disappeared, and the traffic on surrounding roads has got better. It used to take more than an hour for a vehicle to wait in line before entering the hospital during peak hours, but now it takes only

Digital twin technology builds 'smarter' cities

around 10 minutes.

This is attributed to a comprehensive traffic management system adopted by the urban management committee of the district, which shows parking resources and the distribution of shared bikes around the hospital. Based on the system, traffic managers are able to make rational recommendations on drop-off locations, intelligent dispatch of shared bikes and shared parking resources of the hospital.

The digital twin technology can simulate various factors and data of cities. Cao Xinchu, vice president of CECloud, a cloud service

platform developed by China Electronics Corporation, told People's Daily that a digital twin city is a virtual city built in cyberspace by digitalizing various factors of a physical city with the Internet of Things technology.

The virtual city is formed based on building information modeling and the 3D geographic information system of the physical one, Cao added.

The construction of digital twin cities has entered a "fast lane" in China. Last year, the market hit 5.1 billion yuan (\$730 million) in the country, with a compound annual growth rate of 50 percent.

Creating a virtual city that corresponds to the tangible one can make urban management more efficient and is conducive to the city's sustainable development.

Jinan, east China's Shandong province, has adopted a four-dimensional information visualization system that monitors the geological environment. By obtaining information about the stratigraphic structure, lithology and karst development features, the system offers guidance on the suitability analysis of urban rail transit lines.

Based on hydrological data, meteorological data and information of urban drainage facilities,

the urban management system of Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong province, launches visualized flooding simulations at flood-prone points with the help of urban hydrology model and electronic map, thus providing references for flood control and disaster relief.

Lankao county of central China's Henan province has developed an intelligent algorithm, which can deduce the operation results of different urban regulation strategies online.

Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu province has collected comprehensive and high-precision data of

ancient architectures so as to better protect and repair them.

The Xiong'an New Area in north China's Hebei province is planning and building a virtual city with the physical one simultaneously.

While digital twin cities are seeing prosperous development, they also bring new challenges.

"Digital twin cities need to store, process and present massive multi-source heterogeneous data with various types and large volumes, which is a test for the platform's support capacity and network bandwidth. Besides, the visualization and real-time browsing of a huge load of spatial-temporal data,

as well as the real-time updating of various types of other data also call for a high cost in hardware, time and manpower," Cao explained.

Zhou Hongyi, founder of Chinese Internet security company Qihoo 360, said digitalization is a booster for urban management, but it also magnifies issues such as data security and privacy protection.

As digitalization accelerates in urban public services, economy and industries, as well as livelihood sectors, cities will highly rely on networks, software and data. Zhou explained, adding that digital security should be made into an integral part of urban infrastructure construction.

People's Daily

Why Turkey's election is being closely followed in Africa

TURKEY'S influence in Africa has been growing massively over the past 20 years and whoever wins Sunday's presidential run-off will have to consider where next to take the relationship.

Short presentational grey line
Ever since Recep Tayyip Erdogan took power in Turkey two decades ago, first as prime minister then as president, he has taken an increasing interest in Africa.

He saw economic, military and diplomatic opportunities.

The bond between Ankara and the continent is likely to only get stronger if the president is re-elected.

His rival, Republican People's Party leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu, has his eyes set on Europe and the West and is less likely to make Africa a priority.

"Mr Kilicdaroglu stressed the need for recalibrating relations with the West and said he will try to revive the accession process to the European Union," says Serkan Demirtas, Ankara bureau chief for Hurriyet Daily News and a Turkish foreign policy expert.

"In an interview, he even said that a 180-degree turn is to be expected when it comes to foreign policy. But he fell short of detailing how these changes will impact the relations with key countries in the world."

However, Ece Goksedef from the BBC's Turkish service points out that Turkey's foreign policy towards the continent would take some time to recalibrate, so it is unlikely it will change that drastically given the strong foundation of this new relationship.

When did Turkey-Africa relations take off?

The seeds for the enhanced co-operation between Africa and Turkey were planted during Mr Erdogan's stint as

prime minister, which began in 2003.

Mr Erdogan saw a potential economic boon. "In the early 2000s, the Turkish economy witnessed continued growth and was looking for new markets," says foreign policy expert Mr Demirtas.

"A diverse market with more than 50 countries and more than 1.2 billion people offers lucrative opportunities for Turkish exporters and businessmen."

Turkey's annual trade with the continent increased from \$5.4bn (£4.4bn) to \$34.5bn between 2003 and 2021, according to figures from the Turkish foreign ministry, led by chemicals, steel and cereals. The Turks were keen to stress that this was not an exploitative relationship and in 2013, then Prime Minister Erdogan said on a visit to Gabon that "Africa belongs to Africans, we are not here for your gold".

What about military interests?

Arms deals - also referred to as "drone diplomacy" - are a clear money-maker for Ankara.

After proving its worth in Libya, Armenia and Ukraine, the Bayraktar TB-2 drone is now being presented as the perfect weapon to target the mobile and nimble jihadist groups hiding in West Africa's Sahel region.

This March, a dozen of the drones arrived on the tarmac of the airport in Mali's capital, Bamako.

In the presence of Malian junta leader Col Assimi Goita and a handful of Turkish diplomats, Mali's defence minister welcomed the new batch of the weapons saying that they "can help make artillery and air strikes more accurate".

In addition to Mali, Turkey has sold drones to Burkina Faso, Togo and Niger - the four Sahelian nations are desperate to combat the rise of Islamist militants in the region. Turkey has also



Turkish President Erdogan (L) and Senegalese President Macky Sall (R) appeared together at the opening of a stadium in Dakar last year. File photo

engaged in talks with Benin, which until recently was untouched by the Islamist insurgency but is now witnessing a rise in attacks and intrusions on its territory.

Morocco, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Somalia are also all known customers of the Turkish-manufactured armed drones. While China still dominates this market on the continent, Turkey offers a more affordable option with a shorter waiting list.

Turkey also offers other military hardware. Armoured and mine-clearance vehicles, sensor and surveillance systems and rifles have also been part of the many arms deals Turkey has recently signed with African countries.

In total, 30 states on the continent have some sort of security-related agreement with Turkey - 21 of them were ratified in 2017 - according to a report by the German Institute for International and Security Affairs. Turkey has built a military base in Somalia's capital, Moga-

dishu, and is involved in the training of more than 20,000 Somali special forces.

As well as being fully invested in counter-terrorism initiatives, Ankara has also increased its humanitarian aid to countries like Nigeria, Mauritania, and Niger.

How has diplomacy shifted?

Outside the military and trade deals, Mr Erdogan has been very active cementing the Turkey-Africa relationship.

In 2005, Turkey became an observer member of the African Union before being elevated to the role of strategic partner three years later. Turkey says there have been 50 official visits to about 30 African countries since 2014. President Erdogan has visited Senegal four times - as often as he has been to China or Germany.

And where he goes, a business delegation goes with him, resulting in key infrastructure projects being awarded to Turkish companies, like the Dakar Olympic swimming pool or the Kigali Arena in

Rwanda, East Africa's biggest stadium.

More recently, Uganda has terminated its contract with a Chinese firm in charge of building a railway to the Kenyan border and is considering a deal with a Turkish company instead.

Turkey-Africa summits have always been well-attended by continental heads of state.

Perhaps the most telling fact is the number of Turkish embassies on the continent. It has 44 across Africa - similar to the US with 49 and France, 46, although some way behind China's 53.

What else is Turkey offering Africa?

Turkey has also tried to increase its soft power on the continent.

The recent expansion of its footprint is undoubtedly the launch of TRT Afrika. Turkey's public broadcaster TRT banked on the withdrawal of several competitors in the region to launch this digital news platform in French, English, Swahili and Hausa.

But perhaps the biggest cultural impact comes from Turkish soap operas, which have become huge hits in several African countries - from Ethiopia to Senegal.

Turkey is also involved in charitable work in different countries, spearheaded by Tika, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, which funds schools, religious institutions and medical facilities.

In Somalia, Mr Erdogan enjoys popular backing because of the support he has given the country. Under his rule, Turkey's government built one of the biggest hospitals in Mogadishu, which was named after him.

There are also Turkish-built hospitals in Libya and South Sudan.

Agencies

Technologically advanced military crucial to protect country's interests- Defence Minister

NEW DELHI

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh yesterday said that a technologically advanced military is crucial to protect the interests of the nation.

He was addressing the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) scientists and other senior officials during the inauguration of a two-day 'DRDO-Academia' conclave in New Delhi on Thursday. He stressed that for a country like India, it becomes vital to have such a military as it faces a double threat on borders.

"Today we are one of the largest armed forces in the world, the bravery and valour of our military are praised all over the world. Countries across the world express their willingness to conduct joint exercises with our armed forces. In such a situ-

ation, it becomes imperative that we have a technologically advanced military to protect the interests of the country. For a country like India, it becomes very important because we are facing a double threat on our borders," Singh said.

Underscoring the significance of the theme of the conclave "DRDO-Academia Partnership - Opportunities and Challenges", Singh said, it is a dire need that DRDO and Academia to work in partnership with each other to find solutions to the challenges being faced by us in the 21st century. "This partnership will prove helpful in making India a leading nation in defence technologies," he said.

He underlined that the path to acquiring advanced technologies through research and development (R&D) which plays a key role in the develop-



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh receives a memento during the CII Annual Session on 'Future Frontiers: Competitiveness, Technology, Sustainability, Internationalization', in New Delhi yesterday. ANI

ment of any country.

"Unless we do research, we will not be able to adopt new technologies. R&D has the ability to convert ordinary substances into valuable resources. It has been a key factor in the development of civilizations throughout

history," Rajnath Singh added.

He expressed confidence that as the partnership between DRDO and Academia reaches new heights, the fruits of this partnership will unlock the potential of many new resources, which will benefit the entire

country.

Elaborating on the benefits of the DRDO - Academia partnership, Defence Minister stressed, through this synergy, the DRDO will get a skilled human resource base from eminent institutions like IISc, IITs, NITs and other universities from across the country as these institutions, nurture a large pool of talented and skilled youth.

He also urged the DRDO scientists and academia to deliberate on the option of deployment of the scientists of DRDO as faculty in the academic institutions for a specific period, which will give a new perspective to our Academia, whereas the intellectuals of Academia can also serve on deputation as a scientist within DRDO. On the occasion, he felicitated eminent scientists who have made outstanding contributions in the area of Aeronaut-

ics, Armaments, Life Sciences and Naval systems and other DRDO requirements through the grant-in-aid DRDO projects. He also released a Compendium of invited talks about thrust areas for academia in understanding the requirements and opportunities in DRDO.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman of DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat and senior officers of the Ministry of Defence and academia were present on the occasion.

The two-day conclave aims to create an interface between DRDO's requirements and Academia's capability by a synergistic dialogue between DRDO Directors, scientists and academicians. It is being attended by about 350 senior academicians across the country.

ANI

G20 in Srinagar: Step towards projecting J-K as international film shooting destination

SRINAGAR

THE G20 summit in Srinagar is a step towards projecting Jammu and Kashmir as an international film shooting destination.

The three-day Tourism Working Group Meeting of G20 delegates in Srinagar on May 22, 2023, commenced with the side event on "Film Tourism for Economic and Cultural Preservation." Participants deliberated upon the importance of film tourism and its impact on the economy and culture. They unanimously agreed upon the fact that J-K is the best place to shoot the films.

They exuded hope that the scenic locations of Union Territory would be explored by the filmmakers in times to come and the G20 meeting would give a fillip to film tourism in the region.

It may be recalled that till 1990, Kashmir was the second home for Bollywood. Way back in 1949 late Raj Kapoor shot some sequences of his film Barsaat in Kashmir, taking its serene beauty to the audi-



A G20 delegate being welcomed with a 'tilak' ahead of the 3-day G20 meet, at Jolly Grant airport in Dehradun on Wednesday. ANI

ence. After that Kashmir became the focus area of many film producers. In the 1960s and 1970s, several Bollywood films, including 'Kashmir Ki Kali' (1964), 'Jab Jab Phool Khile' (1965) and 'Bobby' (1973), among many others, were shot in Kashmir. The songs of these films remained favourites for generations to come.

However, after insurgency broke out in J-K in the early nineties the filmmakers were compelled to snap ties with the region due to uncertainty and chaos that prevailed due to the violence orchestrated by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists and the separatists.

Due to the insurgency cinema halls were burnt, artists and others who were associated with the film industry were threatened.

Bollywood made a comeback to J-K post-2000 when films like 'Mission Kashmir' and 'Haider' were shot in Kashmir. But the return was incomplete as the sporadic violent incidents like grenade throwing, cross-firing and stone-pelting continued.

On August 5, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government took a historic decision to abrogate Article

370, a temporary provision in the Constitution, and merged J-K completely with the Union of India.

The move marked the beginning of peace returning to J-K, especially Kashmir. It ended the hegemony of Pakistan-sponsored terrorists and separatists.

The breaking out of a new dawn in the Himalayan region led to J-K embarking on the journey of peace, prosperity and development.

J-K Film Policy 2021

In August 2021, the government launched a new 'J-K Film Policy' with an aim to develop the Union Territory as the first choice of film shooting destination for filmmakers and to bring back the golden era of filmmaking to the strife-torn region.

The new film policy led to the creation of a vibrant film ecosystem. Filmmakers from across the world were invited to visit J-K and explore the pristine beauty of the region.

At the same time, they were also offered a host of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, besides world-class facilities.

The government set up a 'single window clearance mechanism; prepared equipment, location and talent directories, besides offering a host of incentives for filmmakers coming to J-K.

The new policy also maximized the potential of promising local talent and created livelihood opportunities for many others.

The 'J-K Film Policy 2021' was drafted after consultations with the experts and an in-depth study of progressive film policies of other states, UTs and abroad.

Suggestions from renowned people in the Indian film industry were also incorporated while formulating it.

ANI

China criticises G7's double-talk on decoupling

BEIJING

CHINA has called on the Group of Seven not to abuse trade and investment restrictions and deliver on their commitments to not decouple from China, the Ministry of Commerce said yesterday.

Shu Jueting, a spokeswoman for the ministry, said at a news conference China has played a responsible role to inject certainty into a world of turmoil and transformation, and provided new growth drivers to the global economy.

China brings cooperation and opportunity to the world, not confrontation and risk, she said, adding any acts to push forward "de-sinicization" in the name of reducing risks push aside cooperation and opportunity.

As an important force in stabilizing global industrial and supply chains, China will continue to be a trusted and mutually beneficial trade partner for all countries, expand its high-level opening-up and benefit the world with its high-quality development, she said.

Joint efforts should be made to reject unilateralism, protectionism, bullying, economic coercion, acts of decoupling and severing supply chains to keep global industrial and supply chains stable and promote the recovery and development of the world economy, she said.

China firmly opposes Japan's export



controls on 23 types of chip-making equipment, Shu said, calling it an abuse of export control measures which goes against free trade and international rules.

Such misconduct will seriously damage the interests of enterprises in China and Japan, sabotage economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and impair a secure global semiconductor industrial and supply chain, she said.

The Japanese side should follow international rules and maintain sound economic and trade cooperation by correcting its actions without delay, she said.

China will reserve the right to take all necessary measures to resolutely safeguard its rights and interests, Shu said.

Xinhua

WFP appeals for \$10 mln USD to ramp up food aid in Horn of Africa

NAIROBI

THE World Food Program (WFP) on Wednesday appealed for 810 million U.S. dollars over the next six months to scale up humanitarian assistance for millions of people in the Horn of Africa who are trapped in a hunger emergency.

WFP Regional Director for Eastern Africa Michael Dunford said the funds will help the WFP keep life-saving assistance going and invest in long-term resilience in the Horn of Africa.

"Conflict, climate extremes and economic shocks: the Horn of Africa region is facing multiple crises simultaneously. After five consecutive failed rainy seasons, flooding has replaced drought, killing livestock, damaging farmland, and further shattering livelihoods," Dunford said in a statement issued in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

The WFP warned that the Horn of Africa is lurching from crisis to crisis, adding that the longest drought in recorded history has given way to rains and flash flooding. "And now the outbreak of conflict in Sudan is forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes," Dunford said.

The WFP said that by the end of 2022, it was distributing food assistance to a record 4.7 million people in Somalia but in April, funding shortfalls forced it to reduce this to 3 million people.

It warned that without additional funds, further cuts will have to be made in emergency food assistance caseload in Somalia to just 1.8 million by July. This, it said, means that almost 3 million people will not receive support despite their continuing needs.

According to the WFP, when the region's long-awaited rains arrived in March, they should have brought some relief, but instead, flash flooding inundated homes and farmland, washed away livestock, and closed schools and health facilities, forcing more than 219,000 people from their homes in southern Somalia, where 22 people were also killed.

The WFP said the drought of the last three years has left more than 23 million people across parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia facing severe hunger, with mortality and malnutrition rates remaining unacceptably high and consecutive failed harvests and high transport costs pushing food prices far beyond the reach of millions in the region.

Dunford said the WFP's rapid expansion of life-saving assistance helped prevent famine in Somalia in 2022. "But despite the emergency being far from over, funding shortfalls are already forcing us to reduce assistance to those who still desperately need it," he said.

Agencies

SPORT



Dar es Salaam Secondary School's students put their skills to show in football at the Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's ground yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Les Wanyika to drag Dar musicians to court over stolen songs

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TWO popular Bongo Flava artists Naseeb Abdul, nicknamed 'Diamond Platinumz' and his former Wasafi WCB mate Rajab Abdul Kahali, popularly known as 'Harmonize', will soon be served with a court summons over pending lawsuits from popular Kenyan dance music troupe, Les Wanyika.

The two teen-popular artists are alleged to copy, plagiarize, and sampled songs belonging to the classic Les Wanyika band without permission.

One of the band's personnel, Sijali Zuwa, said in Arusha the two Tanzanian teen-boppers have been copying and producing horrid renditions of Les Wanyika's biggest hit, 'Sina Makosa,' recorded in 1978.

Zuwa and the entire Les Wanyika Band are currently in Arusha performing at the Festival of Major African Sports and Culture (FESTAC).

The musician pointed out that the artist who calls himself 'Harmonize,' copied the 'Sina Makosa,' hit wholesale in 2022.

Harmonize never bothered to change any part and used the cover version of the Les Wanyika hit to earn money against the law.

Previously 'Diamond Platinumz,' also sampled the same 'Sina Makosa' hit using a line from the song in his 2017 track 'Zilipendwa'.

The song 'Zilipendwa' also attracted a lawsuit from Msondo Ngoma Music Band when it was released in September 2017.

Apparently, 'Diamond Platinumz' stole the

trumpet tunes and lines from the song 'Ajali,' by Msondo Ngoma Music Band recorded in 2005 during the reigns of the late TX Mushi William.

Sijali Zuwa who was born in Morogoro and now lives in Kenya, is one of the few remaining band members left from the original Les Wanyika line-up of 1978.

Zuwa who plays in the band's brass section joined Simba Wanyika in 1977, then a very young man.

A revolution in the band saw an exodus of several musicians who left to form an off-shoot ensemble, which became the all-time popular Les Wanyika.

It was during the Les Wanyika days that the band belted popular hits such as 'Kasuku,' 'Pamela' and the highly contested 'Sina Makosa,' which was penned by rhythmic Professor Omar Shaaban, featuring the baritone-voiced Issa Juma on lead vocals.

Other popular Les Wanyika hits include the other East African anthem 'Afro,' 'Safari ya Samburu,' and 'Sioni Wala Sisikii,' penned by John Ngereza.

Many of the troupe's founding members, including John Ngereza, Omar Shaaban, and Issa Juma, all Tanzanians from Tanga, have passed on.

Another Les Wanyika member, Shuaib Ole Monduli who was born in Arusha, returned to Tanzania in 1997, turned into a solo gospel singer, and died at the Mount Meru Hospital in Arusha in 2000 after a short illness.

Lakers hoping LeBron James decides to continue career after playoff elimination

LOS ANGELES

THE Los Angeles Lakers hope LeBron James will decide to continue his career after he recovers from the difficult end to their season.

James didn't meet with the media on the day after the top scorer in NBA history said he needed time to think about his basketball future following the Lakers' elimination from the Western Conference finals.

The 38-year-old James has skipped his team's postseason media exit interviews before, but his decision Tuesday left Lakers fans hanging about his intentions with his enigmatic comments following a four-game sweep by the Denver Nuggets.

General manager Rob Pelinka and coach Darvin Ham said they'll speak with James soon about his future.

"We all know that (James) speaks for himself, and we'll look forward to those conversations when the time is right," Pelinka said. "LeBron has given as much to the game of basketball as anyone who has ever played. When you do that, you earn a right to decide whether you're going to give more. ... Obviously, our hope would be that his career continues, but we want to give him the time to have that inflection point and support him along the way."

Despite James' 40-point performance, including a career playoff-best 31 points in the first half, the seventh-seeded Lakers were swept by the top-seeded Nuggets with a 113-111 defeat in Game 4 on Monday

night, ending James' attempt to win his fifth career championship in his 20th NBA season.

Ham joked: "Coming off a tough loss like that, the work we've put in this season, I think I was ready to retire after last night, too."

Pelinka and Ham declined to speculate on whether James' frustration stemmed from his persistent foot injury, which could conceivably require surgery to correct fully. He missed a month of the regular season down the stretch, but returned to his usual heavy workload before the playoffs.

James had been largely healthy throughout his NBA career until he reached his mid-30s in Los Angeles, where he has missed significant chunks in four of his five seasons.

"When there's any injury, you seek multiple medical opinions, and there were some that doubted whether he could play again this season," Pelinka said. "For him to end the season playing virtually 48 minutes and posting a virtual 40-point triple-double as a player in the 20th year of his NBA career is staggering."

The Lakers all said they understood why James would question his future after an outstanding performance in defeat. "I feel like that's human nature, to be his age and be playing at the level he's playing at," Troy Brown Jr. said. "Personally, I feel like because of his love of the game, he will continue to play. But I don't blame him at all."

SPORTS

Aucho focused on winning titles after missing NBC Premier League best midfielder nomination

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S Yanga defensive midfielder Khalid Aucho has expressed satisfaction despite missing out on the nominees of a prize for the Best Midfielder for the 2022/23 NBC Premier League season.

Aucho, also turning out for Uganda's national team 'Cranes', disclosed he is jovial to be part of Yanga due to the team helping him achieve his big goals in football-clinching titles- while insisting individual accolades can wait because he is patient.

The player's mind is set on the trophies after the Awards Committee of the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) made the selection of contenders for various categories of awards while his name is missing.

The combative midfielder said he is not shocked by his name's absence from the list of contenders for the Best Midfielder of the Season.

The player pointed out: "Individual awards are not the priority, this is our time to focus on the two difficult games in front of us to ensure that we win the CAF Confederation Cup title for the first time while we are part of this team."

"After the list of players vying for this season's awards was released, I have spoken to the (Yanga) leaders to explain to them that this should not put our morale down, let us focus on the two finals that are in front of us, individual awards are also good but more important are the team titles," Aucho stressed.

The midfielder who has been a key player in Yanga's squad said he wishes to see his team win both Azam Sports Federation Cup and CAF Confederation Cup trophies to set a great record for themselves in football as opposed to taking individual awards.

"For instance, if I win an individual award, it is for me, the team does not get enough credit for it, but if I am among the players who will succeed to clinch Africa's second-best tournament title with Yanga it is a great record that will be written down for generations," the player disclosed.

"Every player has his goals, I like to be a player who brings success to his team like



Khalid Aucho

winning titles, reaching a big stage in the competition, which I was able to achieve in the two seasons I played for Yanga," Aucho noted.

Yanga's CAF Confederation Cup success has seen the side progress to the final to lock horns with Algeria's USM Alger, with the first leg slated to take place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday and the return leg set to be held in Algeria on June 3.

Aucho will miss the first leg of the final after he was booked when Yanga faced South Africa's Marumo Gallants in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup semi-final rematch played at the latter's backyard last week.

Yanga knocked Marumo Gallants out of the semi-finals having garnered a 4-1 victory over the two legs.

The booking nevertheless has hardly dampened Aucho's spirits as he delights in the fairytale run he and Yanga are enjoying.

"I'm happy to be in the finals of the CAF Confederation Cup. It's not easy but we have managed to get there," the midfielder revealed.

Aucho is not even thinking about missing the first leg, considering his focus is firmly on winning the trophy.

"We have been thinking about winning it and we have

worked a lot for it. It's our ambition now to go on and take the cup," the midfielder disclosed.

This campaign is also Aucho's first time to reach the quarterfinals of one of CAF inter-club competitions, and now the final.

"It's an achievement for me and I'm so proud of that," the Cranes midfielder said.

Aucho added: "It has been down to teamwork and discipline and our ambitions, we have supported each other and whoever plays we all support them, the Yanga dream continues."

Coach Nabi credits Hamad for defensive prowess

By Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

YANGA head coach Nasredinne Nabi has given kudos to central defender Ibrahim Hamad alias 'Bacca' for his prowess in the heart of defense since joining for the club in January.

The Jangwani Streets big guns have already won 2022/23 NBC Premier League silverware, marking the 29th time in their club history to lift the domestic soccer high-profile showdown.

The squad has further made it to this season's CAF Confederation Cup final as well as the Azam Sports Federation Cup final.

Hamad has played a total of 630 minutes in the continental showdown and witnessed Yanga conceding only one goal since he broke through at center back position when the outfit drew 1-1 Real Bamako of Mali in the Group D clash that took place in Mali.

The footballer took the pitch when Yanga came out victorious against Real Bamako (2-0), US Monastir (2-0), TP Mazembe (1-0) Group Stage.

The Jangwani Streets side garnered impressive outcomes in Group Stage, finishing top and booking a place in the quarterfinals.

The quarterfinals witnessed Yanga again notching good results against Nigerian outfit, Rivers United, winning 2-0 in the first leg and notching a 0-0 draw in the rematch to book a place in the semi-finals.

South African club Marumo Gallants was Yanga's opponent in the last four, in which the latter won a 2-0 win in the first leg at home and later won 2-1 away.

Before knockout matches the Jangwani Streets outfit allowed four goals in Group Stage, including losing 2-0 away to US Monastir, then winning 3-1 against TP Mazembe and drawing 1-1 with Real Bamako, while the most goals allowed were from free kicks.

"There are very big changes in our defense line, now it is careful and has minimal mistakes that existed and Bacca's presence has also been strong due to being careful and focused on high balls, the challenge that was hurting us now seems to be gone," Nabi said.

The coach stated: "Our defenders play together, they continue what we instruct them in practice, it's a joy to have them



Ibrahim Hamad

together and I believe they are getting stronger and understanding each other day by day."

Hamad appreciated his club for building confidence in him and allowing him to prosper.

"Yanga's quality has made me strong, it has challenged me to prepare well mentally and boost my competence, central defensive area is an area that needs a high level of attention because if one makes a mistake, it can cost the

team," Hamad noted.

"When I came to Yanga, I found defenders playing well and gave myself time to get a chance and now I am thankful that I am playing," Hamad added.

Hamad noted: "I think the big secret is to commit and sacrifice for the team, if you look at us, we all do that and each one in his role makes sure he doesn't make mistakes and, even if it happens, he either corrects them quickly or someone else does it, I think our unity is the big secret."

One year on, Paris Champions League final chaos leaves scars

PARIS

AS Paris steps up preparations for the 2024 Olympics, memories of the chaos that marred last year's Champions League final in the French capital remain raw for supporters of the clubs involved.

The game between Liverpool and Real Madrid at the Stade de France, in the northern Paris suburb of Saint-Denis, on May 28, 2022, was won 1-0 by the Spanish team.

Yet the occasion was overshadowed by the fiasco outside, with kick-off delayed by 37 minutes as fans struggled to get into France's national stadium after police funnelled them into overcrowded bottlenecks as they approached.

They then fired tear gas towards thousands of supporters locked behind metal fences on the perimeter to the stadium.

One year on, fans who were there remain traumatised by the experience.

John Marquis, a Liverpool fan from Guernsey who had tickets to attend the match with his daughter, never made it inside the stadium.

"It was after half-time when it really turned nasty," said Marquis, adding that he felt "the whoosh of a baton that missed my skull by millimetres".

- 'Life-changing' -

He says he has not watched Liverpool since, and struggles with panic attacks and in crowded environments.

"It has literally been life-changing," he said.

"I have been diagnosed as suffering from PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder).

"I no longer have the strength or ability to follow Liverpool FC. I have and will never watch Liverpool FC again."

Like many Liverpool fans, the experience at the Stade de France brought back memories for Marquis of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster, which cost the lives of 97 of the club's supporters.

"Of course a lot of the people who were there (in Paris) were already at Hillsborough in '89 and it re-triggers obviously," Peter Scarfe, who survived that disaster but watched the Stade de France final on television, told AFP.

Scarfe called for people to be held responsible for the Paris chaos and said it was "frightening" that the same stadium will be the centre-piece of this year's Rugby World Cup and the upcoming Olympics.

"What we didn't get 34 years ago was accountability," he said.

"This time that's what people are pushing for. They want accountability. They want the world to recognise that there were huge mistakes made."

The French authorities initially tried to blame Liverpool supporters and claimed an "industrial scale fraud" of fake tickets was the problem.

A French Senate enquiry later

found that poorly-executed security arrangements were the cause of the mayhem.

- Lessons for UEFA -

An independent report published in February then found that European football's governing body UEFA bore "primary responsibility".

UEFA apologised and promised to reimburse the tickets of all Liverpool fans and other spectators affected by the trouble.

But will the Switzerland-based body learn lessons from that night?

Earlier this month it outlined a "comprehensive action plan" with details of how it would "enhance existing safeguards" for fans attending future UEFA club competition finals.

This season's Champions League showpiece between Manchester City and Inter Milan will be held in Istanbul on June 10.

"When people arrive at the stadium, the idea is to avoid a situation where the only people they could speak to are riot police officers," Roman Evain, executive director of Football Supporters Europe, who has worked with UEFA on the subject, told AFP.

However, UEFA remains dependent on host cities and countries when it comes to policing.

Some observers are hardly reassured by the venue for the Champions League final, particularly with memories of what happened at the 2019 UEFA Super Cup between Liverpool and Chelsea at the city's Besiktas stadium.

"An hour and a half before the match, the Turkish commander decided to replace the stewards set up to frisk supporters, with police," said a source with knowledge of the inner workings of football's ruling bodies, adding that they "did not speak English and confiscated scarves and flags".

- Olympics fears? -

It may be a while before UEFA brings one of its showpiece matches back to France.

French authorities were criticised for a heavy-handed response to supporters, based on incorrect assumptions that fans posed a threat to public order.

That raises questions about how they will handle crowds at the Rugby World Cup later this year and the Olympics, even if policing methods were never likely to be the same.

The Stade de France debacle damaged the country's reputation internationally.

Authorities are therefore now preoccupied with ensuring France can successfully host a safe Olympics.

Paris has a new police chief, with Laurent Nunez replacing Didier Lallemand who eventually paid the price for the bungled Champions League final.

"We are working better with the police," said a member of the management of the Stade de France.

AFP

Iniesta to leave Japan's Kobe but determined to play on

TOKYO

BARCELONA legend Andres Iniesta said Thursday he will make an early exit from Japanese side Vissel Kobe but intends to keep playing aged 39.

The Spanish World Cup winner's contract with Vissel runs until the end of the year but a tearful Iniesta said he will leave in July after seeing little action this season.

Iniesta has made only three substitute appearances totalling 38 minutes this term for Vissel, who are three points clear at the top of the table.

The midfield maestro said he did not know where his next move would be, but ruled out retiring.

Widely considered one of the greatest players of his generation, he has been linked with a non-playing role at Barcelona.

"First I want to finish my time here properly and then see what options are available to me," he told reporters, pausing to wipe away tears at times.

"I want to keep playing and then retire while I'm still active. That's difficult for me to do here, so I want to find a place where I can eventually retire."

Iniesta joined Vissel in 2018 after making more than 600 appearances for Barcelona, where he won the Champions League four times and claimed nine La Liga titles.

He signed a three-year deal with Vissel on a reported annual salary of \$30 million, which he extended in May 2021.

Iniesta won Japan's domestic Emperor's Cup in 2019 and led Vissel to the semi-finals of the Asian Champions League a year later.

But the team were embroiled in a relegation battle last season and fired a succession of coaches before eventually finishing 13th in the 18-team division.

Iniesta said leaving Vissel was "one of the hardest decisions of my career".

"I always thought I would retire here, but things haven't gone as I wanted them to," he said.

"For the past few months I've trained hard with the intention of contributing to the team, but I started to feel that the coach had different priorities."

Iniesta will play for Vissel in a friendly against Barcelona at Tokyo's National Stadium on June 6.

AP

Dodgeball, spot the difference and Arteta's practical jokes: The story of Arsenal's season

By Sam Dean

IN the euphoric moments that followed Arsenal's most dramatic victory of the season, Mikel Arteta encouraged his players and staff to go out and enjoy themselves. They had just beaten Bournemouth 3-2, with a 97th-minute winner from Reiss Nelson prompting perhaps the wildest celebrations the Emirates Stadium had ever seen, and Arteta wanted each of them to savour the moment.

Bukayo Saka was among the players who went into central London that March evening. He headed for a meal at Novikov, a high-end restaurant in Mayfair. It is a trendy sort of place, often frequented by footballers and other celebrities, and you never know which famous face you might spot on a nearby table.

One person Saka did not expect to see, though, was his manager. But there was Arteta, enjoying a night out of his own, in that exact same part of the capital at the exact same time. A complete coincidence and, strangely enough, it was not the only time this happened over the course of the season. Arteta and Saka are aligned in their views of football and, evidently, they also share an interest in fine dining.

For Arteta, who said after that victory against Bournemouth that he believes in fate, these unscheduled meetings might well have felt like more than coincidence. At the very least, it was another sign that he and Saka were on the same page, and their laughter at the weirdness of it all will only have helped to build a relationship that was already strong.

Stories like this, of social lives overlapping and friendships being strengthened, provide a reminder of Arteta's tender age. The Spaniard is unquestionably the boss at Arsenal but, at 41, he is not that much older than his players. He only retired from playing in 2016 and his memories of being in the dressing room remain fresh in his mind.

Arteta, it should be said, is not as close to all his players as he is with Saka. But one of the reasons for Arsenal's success this season - an unexpected title challenge, and a long-awaited return to the Champions League - is that the Arsenal manager has been able to get inside the heads of his players, to find out what makes them tick, and helps them perform.

In management speak, this would be called "creating a winning culture". In practical terms, it is about setting the tone and changing the mood, and knowing when to work hard and when to have fun.

Take Arsenal's pre-match activities, for example. Arteta often comes across as unflinchingly serious in his media duties but he knows that enjoyment is important, too. Throughout the season, he and his coaching staff have therefore encouraged his players to play games - including things like dodgeball and "spot the difference" - in the hotel before a match.

"Looking the players in their eyes

One of the more memorable of these games took place in October, in the hours before a north London derby against Tottenham Hotspur. The premise was simple: the squad was told to hide coins in the shoes of a few players, while the coaches left the room. Arteta and his staff would then return and look their players in the eyes, before guessing who had the coins stashed in their trainers.

It was presented to the players as a chance for the coaches to demonstrate how closely they know them. By simply looking in their faces, the coaches said, they would be able to tell who was hiding something. And, when the moment of truth came, the coaches were spot on. They had a whole squad to choose from, and they did so correctly.

The players, obviously, were in disbelief. How could the coaches have known? Then came the big reveal: Arteta and his assistants had been watching through CCTV cameras the whole time. A sneaky trick, yes, but one that prompted hilarity and washed away any tension that the players might have been feeling ahead of one of their biggest matches of the season. A few hours later,



The Arsenal squad huddle around a replica of the clock that sits atop the Clock End at the Emirates Stadium in the dressing room after their win at Fulham. (Agencies)

Arsenal won 3-1.

Clearly, such practical jokes are not the secret of Arsenal's success on the pitch. But Arteta is obsessed with the little details and tiny margins, and he will no doubt argue that it all adds up to a happier environment and better performances. He wants the club to be a friendlier, warmer place, and further evidence of this can be seen in the latest addition to the training ground: A chocolate-labrador called Win.

"Something had changed at the club

Arteta is often the first to arrive at the club's London Colney headquarters. He wakes early, sometimes before 5am, and on those days he is the man to open the doors at the training base. These hours are precious, giving him time to think and plan in peace. No disturbances, no knocks on the door.

The Arsenal manager will often go for a walk on his own at the training ground, to mull things over. He also likes to read books about leadership, psychology and success. He is part of a group of coaches from different sports, including the NFL and rugby union, who swap tips and share their experiences over Zoom meetings.

Within the squad, meanwhile, it was clear from the start of pre-season that something had changed at the club. Players could sense a different hunger and ambition, fuelled by their failure to secure a top-four finish last season, and the arrival of Gabriel Jesus and Oleksandr Zinchenko altered the dynamic of the team.

From the moment they stepped through the doors, Zinchenko and Jesus told their new team-mates to dream big. They had won the league at Manchester City and they were convinced that Arsenal had what it took to do the same.

On the tour of the United States last summer, a feeling grew that something special might be possible. The wider footballing world did not read too much into a 4-0 friendly win over Chelsea, but Arsenal's players did.

In the US they worked hard at building togetherness: A table plan ensured that everyone mingled with different players and staff each day, defender Gabriel Magalhaes led the initiation ceremonies for some of the new faces and sporting director Edu encouraged all new signings to learn English as quickly as possible.

With Zinchenko and Jesus in the side, and with William Saliba looking imperious at centre-back throughout the summer, Arsenal hit

the ground running at the start of the campaign. By the time the season paused for the World Cup, they had won 12 of their 14 matches in the Premier League.

The World Cup, and an injury to Jesus, did not slow them down. Eddie Nketiah stepped up in the absence of the Brazilian - the players sang Nketiah's name in the dressing room following his winner against Manchester United in January - and Leandro Trossard offered a new attacking option following his move from Brighton.

Throughout it all, certain players took the lead. At the start of the season it was Jesus, then it was Saka. Martin Odegaard, too, has enjoyed an exceptional campaign. With 15 goals, Odegaard is the club's joint top-scorer and he has embraced the role of captain.

Odegaard often speaks with Arteta [usually in Spanish] during matches and, behind the scenes, he has happily fulfilled his duties as captain. Before the under-18s played in the FA Youth Cup final in April, Odegaard made sure to visit the team to wish them luck. When the new artwork around the Emirates Stadium was unveiled, Odegaard was there to meet supporters and club legends.

To be clear, the Norwegian has had help. He is part of a three-man leadership group with Granit Xhaka and Jesus (who was promoted to that role within a few weeks of joining) and, together, they offer a balance. Odegaard is the more softly spoken and measured of the three, while Xhaka is the more forceful and strident. Jesus, as a personality, sits somewhere in between.

On the pitch, there were times at the start of 2023 when it felt as if Arsenal were riding a wave of emotion that would never crash. Late wins against United, Aston Villa and Bournemouth added to the sense of belief, and created a feeling among the supporters that this team would somehow always find a way through. The atmosphere at the Emirates, according to some long-time observers, was better than it has ever been.

Of course, it was not to be. And now, with City confirmed as champions after Arsenal's late-season collapse, it seems clear that the turning point of their campaign came on March 16, when Arteta's side faced Sporting Lisbon in the Europa League. Within the space of 12 first-half minutes, Arsenal lost both Saliba and Takehiro Tomiyasu to serious injuries.

At various points in the campaign, Arsenal had shown themselves capable of thriving without Jesus, Zinchenko, Thomas Partey and even - briefly - Odegaard. To lose Saliba, though, was a blow of savage proportions. With Tomiyasu's absence meaning that Ben White had to remain at right-back, Arsenal's defensive structure subsequently disintegrated.

In 10 league matches without Saliba, Arsenal have conceded 18 goals and won only four times. In that same time, City have won every league match they have played. As Arsenal stumbled, they were hunted down and overtaken by a bigger, stronger and better beast.

The accusations of "bottling" the league title have not sat well with Arteta or his players. Clearly, there is a feeling of intense disappointment and sadness at their inability to hold off City's charge. But there is also perspective, and Arteta has been quick to remind the team of how far they have come this season.

The challenge now, for Arteta and his players, is to prove that this season's push for the title was not a one-off. It helps that - they are young (the second-youngest team in the division) and that so many of their players are expected to improve.

Gabriel, Aaron Ramsdale, Gabriel Martinelli and Saka have all signed new contracts, and Arsenal hope there are more extensions to follow. This season may have ended in pain, but that does not erase the joy of the journey, and within the club there remains a feeling that the best is yet to come.

THE TELEGRAPH

“

I would be happy if Dortmund became champions" Maassen said on Tuesday, but added Augsburg would "give everything" to win on Sunday

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Dodgeball, spot the difference and Arteta's practical jokes: The story of Arsenal's season

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Florent Ibenge

Ibenge tips Yanga to win 2022/23 CAF CC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SUDANESE champions Al Hilal Omdurman's head coach Florent Ibenge has tipped Tanzania's Yanga to win the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final against Algeria's USM Alger.

The two clubs will take on each other in a two-leg fixture scheduled to take place on Sunday and June 3.

Ibenge, who last season won the CAF Confederation Cup silverware with RS Berkane of Morocco, noted Yanga has a great chance to win the showdown this season due to the type of players the club is made up of.

The tactician disclosed some of the outfit's footballers have in the past won the continental tournament's top honour, while several others have made it to the tournament's final.

He added that, if Yanga concedes a loss in the final, then it will be unfortunate, but they have a lot of potential to win it this season.

The tactician revealed: "I know Young Africans (Yanga) very well, and that is due to the type of players they have this season, I know most of them, I used to coach them at AS Vita."

Some of the players that Ibenge has trained and now serving Yanga are Fiston Mayele, Tuisila Kisinda, Yanick Bangala, Bernard Morrison, Jesus Moloko, and Djuma Shaban all of whom had earlier served AS Vita.

Ibenge and Kisinda won the last season's CAF Confederation Cup trophy while serving RS Berkane.

"I don't see whether they have anything to lose in this CAF Confederation Cup, they have a lot of potential to win this trophy with the quality they have shown this season, if they lose the final then it will be a good campaign for them still," the coach noted.

"The main thing that the players need is they ought to be decisive on home soil before playing away, although Yanga has proved to be dangerous even in away games this is a final match... it has a different approach and atmosphere," Ibenge added.

Neither Yanga nor USM Alger has ever won an African inter-club tournament title hence this is a golden chance for both of them to put their hands on it and make a new history that will stand forever.

The two teams meet at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam this Sunday for the first leg match of the CAF Confederation Cup final, with both sides keen to grab the silverware.

In the semi-finals, Yanga earned 40m/- from President Samia Suluhu Hassan's motivation package after scoring four goals in their two assignments against the South African club, Marumo Gallants.

Yanga fans will be in good mode after President Samia pledged to purchase 5000 tickets for fans to enable them to cheer the outfit in the first leg match of the CAF Confederation Cup final against USM Alger on Sunday.

Various tickets have already been purchased by officials and public figures to help fans show up in numbers.

With the CAF Confederation Cup final in hand Yanga, is moreover looking forward to clinching the Azam Sports Federation Cup silverware to put a cheer on the ice for the historical season.

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The two teams meet at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam this Sunday for the first leg match of the CAF Confederation Cup final, with both sides keen to grab the silverware.

Chama wastes chance to win the NBC PL Midfielder of the Season award

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC midfielder Clatous Chama has received a three-match suspension and fined 500,000/- for intentionally fouling Ruvu Shooting player Abalkassim Suleiman.

Chama has made the list of five midfielders competing for the NBC Premier League Best Midfielder of the Season award.

Bruno Gomes (Singida Big Stars), Mzamiru Yassin (Simba SC), Saidi Ntibazonkiza (Simba SC), and Stephane Aziz Ki of Yanga are equally battling for the award.

With this ban, the Zambian midfielder has ultimately limited his chances as Ntibazonkiza's numbers are ahead of him as of now.

Simba SC came up against the Coast Region squad in this season's NBC Premier League match played at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam ended 3-0 in favour of the former.

A statement obtained by The Guardian from the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) says the incident took place far from where the ball was played, making it difficult for the referee who took charge of the game to notice it.

It further describes it was deemed as a deliberate action from Chama to Kassim insisting that the punishment is under section 41:5(4.2) of the league's players' regulations.

The encounter moreover witnessed Ruvu Shooting formerly being relegated to the Championship League.

After the game, social media platforms were awash with a clip showing Chama stepping dangerously onto the foot of his colleague.

As such, he is going to miss two of his side's last matches of the season and the opening tie of the 2023/24 Premier League.

As a result of the punishment, Chama will miss both games to end the season starting with the game against Polisi Tanzania on June 6 and Coastal Union on June 9 which will be played in Dar es Salaam.



Tanzania's Yanga forward, Fiston Mayele (R), seeks to get the better of South Africa's Marumo Gallants defender Tshepo Gumede as the clubs faced each other in a 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup semi-final return-leg match at Royal Bafokeng Stadium in South Africa last week. Yanga defeated Marumo Gallants 2-1. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Mayele eyes CAF CC Golden Boot accolade

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's talisman Fiston Mayele has vowed to increase his chances to win the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Golden Boot prize in the upcoming two-legged finals fixtures against Algerian outfit, USM Alger.

Mayele was adamant that his club ought to put in a convincing performance whilst the attacker finds USM Alger's back of the net to have him win the top goalscorer's award.

The first leg is expected to take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday and a reverse match is slated for June 3 in Algeria.

Mayele is, alongside South Africa's Marumo Gallants striker Ranga Chivaviro, the current top goalscorers in the competition with six goals apiece.

The Congolese goal-getter, therefore, is better placed to clinch the Golden Boot at the end of the contest.

"I am happy to be one of the top scorers in the CAF Confederation Cup because previously, I only managed to score three or four goals and had never netted six goals, I am grateful for my achievement this season," Mayele said.

He also pledged to score in the upcoming two-legged final encounters if he gets a chance while admitting that it has been a good season for him in domestic and international competitions.

Mayele, lately leading the NBC Premier League Golden Boot race with 16 goals, helped his club win the Community Shield, defend the Premier League title, and reach the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final before earning his team a ticket to play in Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final.

The former DR Congo's AS Vita out-and-out striker scored an 84th-minute winner to earn Yanga a ticket to play in the ASFC final against Azam FC in Tanga.

He is therefore searching for a brace of Golden Boot awards of the campaign as he is too close to clinching the Premier League's top scorer prize as he lately enjoys 16 goals to his name with two matches to spare.

"The 2022/23 season has been the best season in my career as it made me excel in domestic and continental level assignments," the attacker noted.

Mayele highlighted that this is a perfect season for him and his DR Congo teammates to win the CAF Confederation Cup. The player pointed out: "We narrowly missed it while playing at AS Vita, and this is another opportunity to win the title in Tanzania."

"It will be a historic achievement for all Tanzanian football and we will be happy to be part of it," Mayele said.

Without a doubt, this will remain Mayele's remarkable season of his football career based on the achievements he has so far gained which have propelled him to popularity in and outside Tanzania.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV WEDNESDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 MJADALA (r)
13:30 Movie
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 Movie
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
16:00 Hot Spot
16:30 Zote Kuntu
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid Week Movie
23:00 KURASA
23:05 Club Bangers

UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

eastafrika 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