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AG asks High Court to reject 2022 dual citizenship petition

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Attorney General (AG) has submitted three objections to ask the High Court to throw out proceedings on dual citizenship, citing irregularities in the oaths of the applicants and violation of section 4 of the Basic Rights and Duties Enforcement Act, 1995.

Hearing of the proceeding was expected to commence yesterday at the High Court in Dar es Salaam before a panel of three judges, Obadia Bwegoge, Hamidu Mwanga and Mustafa Ismail, chairing the panel, who was not present.

The state side has filed objections that the oaths have problems as signatures were not included, while applicants are alleged to have violated the provisions of section 4 of the Act in seeking to create constitutional rights.

Constitutional petition number 18, 2022 was filed at the High Court by six members of the country's Diaspora, listed as Shabani Fundi, Patrick Nyelesa Nhigula, Restuta Kalemera, Nkole Muya, Emmanuel Emmanuel and Bashir Kassam against the AG.

The petition is challenging the ambiguity of the 1995 Citizenship Act section 7 (1), (2) (c), (4) (a) (6) which they claim are violating their constitutional rights, asking the court to declare that the articles are invalid and violate their Constitutional rights because they discriminate against their inalienable natural right which is citizenship by birth.

Peter Kibatala, the applicants' lawyer, submitted that eligible respondents to the claim had already filed their responses in writing, along with a preliminary objection.

Explaining the state objections outside the court, he said that those required to respond to the petition claim that there are legal defects in affidavits of the petitioners.

"They have also claimed that documents were not signed by the applicants as well as their advocate, and that the case violates the mandatory provisions of section 4 of the Act, in seeking new constitutional rights. The court intends to hear those objections first before the main case, setting the hearing for

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ATCL set for more China, India flights



CRDB Bank Plc group CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (C) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday signing an agreement with Information and Communication Technologies Commission director general Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga (R) and Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (Costech) director general Amos Nungu for the implementation of a programme dubbed IMBEJU whose thrust is on the economic empowerment of innovative businesses for women and young people in Tanzania. Story on Page 3. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

AIR Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) said yesterday that it plans to increase its inter-continental flights, landing in China twice a week and four times a week in India, starting early next month.

Ladislau Matindi, the managing director, told journalists in Dar es Salaam of the plans by the airline, especially with the arrival of a new cargo plane. The plans seek to grow the airline's services from the current three flights to India, and one to China each week, he stated.

The company has 11 planes, with two planes grounded for technical faults, in which case ATCL is in a position to start operating an additional flight to India, he said, while adding one flight to China as well, he explained, noting that the flight permission the airline requested has been granted. ATCL had a difficult period during the COVID 19 pandemic as the restrictions in China were draconian, now largely removed, he said, noting that ticket prices

“ We have 11 planes recently bought by the government and one dating past decades and

VP roots for human rights, good governance in Africa

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA has declared its support for efforts towards justice, democracy and human rights in the African continent.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango, appearing for President Samia Suluhu Hassan to inaugurate the 2023 judicial year for African Court on Human and People's Rights here yesterday, said that Tanzania attaches great

importance to the work of the court.

He told the court's official opening of the country's wish for the realisation of 'The Africa we Want,' through good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law, noted in aspiration 3 of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

"The fact that Tanzania hosts the African Court on Human and People's Rights demonstrates the country's dedication to the continent's

efforts in ensuring justice for all," he declared.

Lady Justice Imani Aboud, the court president, highlighted that during the commemoration of the court's 15th anniversary in 2021, the court set a specific objective of enhancing its visibility and engaging with stakeholders.

"It was thus agreed that the court would convene a solemn ceremony at the commencement of the first

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went up a lot during the COVID crisis but had now slid back to normal. The increase in flights to China signals a decrease in prices as difficult conditions are no longer being observed in China. "We have 11 planes recently bought by the government and one dating past decades and since 2017 it has not been working as it needs major repairs," he said, elaborating that two of the other planes are not working as they have engine problems, a common problem with airlines generally.

The company expects to receive a Boeing 767 cargo plane at the end of March, which the government decided to buy due to demand for cargo airfreight, he said.

Two other planes are expected to arrive later in August and others expected at the end of the year. This will vastly enhance operational capacity, he said. A large 787 Dreamliner capable of carrying 262 passengers is similarly expected in due course, tied to ATCL intentions to enter the European market by 2024, he added.



American Peace Corps volunteers in a group photo after moments after jetting into Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Songwe River Basin: Bilateral entity inked

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA and Malawi have formed a joint commission to regulate economic activity along the River Songwe Basin straddling the two countries' border.

Maryprisca Mahundi, the Water deputy minister, yesterday launched the Songwe River Basin stakeholders' forum, also inaugurating the Songwe River Basin Commission.

She said the body was formed in order to collaborate in finding solutions emanating from the development of its resources on either side, for the benefit

of the two countries.

A forum on the river basin has been set up on either side for discussions on convenient ways to develop its resources, along with means of developing cooperation between the two countries.

The river is important for both sides, one among a number of rivers straddling the border zone, she said, urging stakeholders to develop the budding effort at cooperation.

This will enable either side to benefit from river resources

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Peacekeepers donate books, sports equipment to students

By Guardian Correspondent, Bangui

TANZANIAN peacekeepers serving on the United Nations' mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) have donated books and sports equipment to students as part of commemorating the education and cultural day.

Speaking at the handing over, Assistant Commander of the batch (TANBAT6) Major Kassim Abdallah Haji said that the donation is a continuation of different community events including provision of training to entrepreneurs groups on how to increase income.

Major Haji said the aim of the donation is to contribute to their education as well as improving their talents.

"Our target is to contribute to the education sector and promote children's talents through sports," he said, adding sports help to refresh the brain of students thus enabling them to have good academic performance.

The Officer In-charge for Education at Beriberati Region, Matri Jodani, commended efforts by TANBAT6 that are aimed at promoting education development.

He said the donation came at the right time and that it will also help to promote students' talents which are one of the priorities in their region.

"I'm happy for Tanzanian peacekeepers serving in our nation; we commend your participation in this important event and decisions to assist our children," he said.

"The donated equipment will motivate students to do better in their studies and love sports as well," he added.

Currently, more than 2,600 Tanzanian military and police personnel are serving in six UN operations, performing a range of vital tasks such as protecting civilians and community policing.

The UN deployed a transition team to set up MINUSCA and prepare for a seamless transition of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA.

As of September 30th 2021, it had more than 15,000 troops, police and civilian personnel on the ground.

For the year 2022, there were six peacekeeping missions taking place in different parts across the world such as the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Western Sahara (MINURSO), Western Sahara, MINUSCA, Central African Republic, and MONUSCO, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Others are the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), Golan, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), Cyprus, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Lebanon, United Nations peacekeeping mission for South Sudan (UNMISS), South Sudan to mention a few.



Advocate Peter Kibatala (R), counsel for members of the diaspora with a constitutional case on dual citizenship pending in the High Court in Dar es Salaam, in consultation with his clients outside the courtroom yesterday shortly after their case was adjourned.. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

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May 2, he said, not far from his counterpart, state attorney Ayub Sanga who leads the respondents' legal team. Applicants residing abroad were represented by Liberatus Mwangombe, alighting from Washington DC to participate in the hearing, he said. In their oaths, the applicants assert

that they are Tanzanians by birth who left the country for the United States, Britain and Canada where they live and work, while also obtaining citizenship. They claim that they have been affected by the fact of being denied various rights in their country of birth after obtaining citizenship in another

country. "We are Tanzanians by blood and we wish to continue to be Tanzanians, but some articles of the Citizenship Act deny that right. Some of the rights that we lack in our country of birth include not having the right to own land and that when we visit the country we end up living in relatives' houses or

hotels," the affidavits intoned. They are also crying for the right to choose leaders or participate in vying for various public leadership positions in the country, all of which will be put to preliminary hearing on May 2, if they are valid claims for actual proceedings in substance.

VP roots for human rights, good governance in Africa

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Opening of the judicial year provides a forum for interaction and discussions with officials of member states and other organisations, chiefly inter-governmental, quasi-governmental and non-state actors, with intent to reflect on the work of the African Court for the year, she said.

The inaugural year ceremony is also meant to enhance the visibility of the African Court among key human rights stakeholders in the breath of the continent, she further noted.

Stakeholders get updated on activities that the African Court will conduct in reflecting on the challenges facing the African Court and the African justice system, she asserted.

Within this event, experts will be devising ways of tackling the challenges by sharing lessons and experiences with key judicial officials and other stakeholders on the key thematic issues, the court president intoned.

The specific objectives reflecting the judicial nature of the ceremony was further demonstrated by the targeted audience at the ceremony, chiefly member states' delegates and members of judicial bodies in the local and international spheres.



Dr. John Philip (R), a former Rotary International district governor, has a word with Ukerewe district executive director Emmanuel Shelembi Luponya at the weekend when handing over 170 school desks. Photo: Correspondent Rose Jacob

'MOI received 1,724 patients with brain tumours in 5 years'

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) received 1,724 patients with brain tumours and related complications in the last five years calling upon the general public to go for regular check-ups.

The hospital receives 340 patients per year and an average 25 to 30 patients per week with the same challenge according to managing director

Respicious Boniface who was speaking to journalists on a camp which the hospital is holding on brain tumour surgery.

The five day camp which will go together with a symposium has been organized by MOI in collaboration with the University of Colorado in the United States of America and will involve medical students specializing in tumour surgeries.

"The investment by the ministry of health to

purchase investigation machines has led to an increase in the number of patients contrary to what was happening in the past," he said.

He said the camp was aimed at sharing new and modern techniques of surgery saying science changes with evolving technology hence the need for Tanzanian specialists to join the fray.

He said brain tumours have no specific causes but said people who work in mining sites for a long time usually develop such kinds of

complications with signs being headache, stroke and body pains.

The head of Policy and planning in the ministry of health Edward Mbagi said the work of the ministry was to plan and create policies for further investment and development of the sector.

"The aim is to ensure that health services reach out to the people and at a high quality level, today's event is part of the implementation process of the health policy 2007," she said.

Songwe River Basin: Bilateral entity inked

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where farming and fishing activities need to be supplemented by various services that have to be established, she stated.

The basin covers a 4,203 square km area, incorporating seven administrative districts on the border zone of the two countries, in which case extensive supervision will be needed, the policy overseer noted.

The districts involved are Mbozi, Il-eje and Mbeya on this side of the border along with Chitipa and Kalonga on the other side, she specified, noting that the government expects to establish a joint project for hydro power generation by building dams that will also be used for irrigation and domestic water supply.

Tanzania and Malawi are friendly countries cooperating for a long time, hence the Songwe River basin link will further cement ties between us, she stated.

Pamela Temu, a ministerial official, said the meeting was meant to exchange ideas between the two sets of stakeholders, with a view to pooling efforts in seeking out financing for developing the river basin.

Establishing projects to benefit the people is among initial steps being taken up in developing the river basin resources, along with building a dam for electricity generation and fish farming, the official observed.

The second phase of the project will involve setting up services like water supply, building health centres and schools, plus improving roads, she said.

Irrigation systems are also fingered in the project, for cultivation of rice in particular, she added, with Lake Nyasa Basin director Eunice Engbert pointing out that River Songwe is one of eight principal rivers flowing into Lake Nyasa.

CRDB Bank, partners sign agreement to support startups

By Guardian Reporter

IN a bid to support the government effort to promote inclusive economy, CRDB Bank Plc has signed an agreement with the national ICT commission (ICTC) and Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) through its IMBEJU programme to support youth and women startups.

Speaking during the signing of an agreement, CRDB Bank

Plc group CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela said the cooperation will support the government efforts in achieving economic empowerment, specifically youth innovators in different sectors of the economy.

"In ensuring that this programme is efficient and reaches more targeted youths, we have decided to find like-minded partners. ICTC and COSTECH have been doing good jobs

which reflects the readiness of our government to promote businesses and innovation thinking; so we proud for this important milestone," he said.

The ICT commission executive director Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga said the signed agreement with CRDB Bank is expected to enable access to seed funding for startups in ICT sector as well as improving innovative business ideas, which will help in creating jobs. COSTECH

director general Dr Amos Nungu said the signed agreement with CRDB Bank is expected to connect IMBEJU programme and other programmes managed by two institutions which are promoting business innovations including MAKISATU programme, which will all promote business growth for startups in different sectors.

Meanwhile, during the agreement signing ceremony held yesterday in Dar es Salaam,

Nsekela also introduced the newly formed CRDB Bank Foundation which has been established to initiate and implement innovation programmes, sustainability and inclusive which are aimed at socio-economic welfare like IMBEJU programme. He introduced the director of communication Tully Mwambapa as the founding managing director of CRDB Bank Foundation.

Speaking for the first time on

her appointment, Ms Mwambapa has called on youths with innovative ideas to grab opportunities offered by CRDB Bank Plc through IMBEJU programme in partnership with ICT Commission and COSTECH.

"The agreement we have signed today, give us a capacity to collaborate with ICTC and COSTECH to identify innovative startups which need supports. I call upon youths to use identification systems by these institu-

tions in order to benefit from this opportunity," she said.

She also invited youths to participate in a special empowerment seminar organized by the bank on March 11th this year at Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre, where the programme will be officially launched in public.

The guest of honour during the official launch of the programme will be the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa

Employees face wrath for encroaching forests

By Grtrude Mbago

THE government has said stern measures will be taken against officials colluding with people encroaching forests and water sources.

Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Mohamed Mchengerwa made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday when he met leaders and officials of the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) where he also handed over 40 special motorcycles so as to strengthen protection of the country's forests.

He urged them to refrain from the acts, insisting not to tolerate such people.

"During my tenure, I will not entertain officials in the ministry who practice 'business as usual'. You should start assessing yourselves if you can go with my speed," he said.

He said that the Vice President Dr Philip Mpango recently warned that there were some officials within the government who are contributing to the destruction of forest resources and water sources, something which he, as a minister, will supervise well to eradicate the behaviour.

"Let me be clear on this, we will not go together in this journey with people who are not here to work, those who take business as usual, these people should start assessing themselves, change their behav-

our or else be ready to be punished," he said.

He cited forest officials in the regions of Dar es Salaam, Coast and Morogoro to take the statement seriously and make immediate changes as they are the ones who are pointed fingers on violation of environment protection laws.

He also directed TFS to invest heavily in public awareness which include educating residents surrounding forest reserves so as to jointly fight destruction and illegal harvest of resources.

"We need to invest in continuous provision of public education and involvement of stakeholders on issues related to the environment and forest projects, engaging host communities will greatly help in unearthing those who practice illegal harvesting of forest resources," he added.

He said that apart from tourism, natural forests play a vital role in sustainable development, climate change mitigation, and climate change adaptation.

He added that participatory management of forest resources and products needs coordinated efforts from the government, stakeholders and community working together to fight deforestation and the improper use of the resources.

TFS chief executive officer, Prof Dos Santos said that the motorcycles will greatly help strengthen operations to control for-



Shinyanga Regional Police Commander Janeth Magomi (in uniform) leads several officers under her command in donating blood at the Shinyanga regional referral hospital's Polisi Jamii Fitness Centre yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

est destruction activities as they will enable officials to penetrate to all parts of the forests.

"We will strengthen efforts to protect our forests and with these new tools, we will be able to penetrate in various areas so as to ensure that our forests are safe," he said.

He said that there are a number of nature reserve forests in the country endowed with attractive species of plants, animals and insects, emphasizing that TFS will

continue supervising to ensure that the resources are protected.

Some of the nature reserve forests as Amani in Muheza-Tanga, Mount Rungwe in Mbeya, Udzungwa Scarp Nature Forest Reserve (Morogoro and Iringa), Nilo Nature Forest Reserve (Tanga), Magamba Nature Forest Reserve (Lushoto-Tanga), Chome Nature Forest Reserve (Kilimanjaro), Minziro Nature Forest Reserve (Kagera), Mount Hanang Nature Forest Reserve and

kingu Forest Nature Reserve in Morogoro.

Let me be clear on this, we will not go together in this journey with people who are not here to work, those who take business as usual, these

PUBLIC NOTICE

Reco Engineering Company Ltd located in Changombe Dar Es Salaam announces to individuals and companies who brought their work to us and have not come to pick it up for a long time despite the several reminder but all ended in vain that they should come to pick up their work within one week from the date of this announcement else the company will not be responsible for the loss of property or any damage arising after this announcement.

Kindly note that when you are coming to take your property you have to bring copy of customer order for property verification subsequently the storage cost will be applied.

DOCG

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR REFERENCE NO. MST-TZ-20230220

Daqing Oilfield Construction Group Co., Ltd. (hereinafter as DOCG), as a CONTRACTOR for Storage & Terminal of EACOP Project, invites experienced and reputable contractors that have demonstrable capability, willingness, ability and availability to perform related works to express their interest in providing various services in the description to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

There are three (2) packages planned for Storage and Terminal as follows:

- Package-1: Provision of cleaning, cooking, laundry, and housekeeping services related services to EACOP Team. (Ref: MST-TZ-20230220-001)
- Package-2: Supply Pest control (Ref: MST-TZ-20230220-002)

Should you be interested in participating in any or all of the packages please provide below minimum requirements that clearly specify the package(s) of interest, including the reference number(s).

Package-1: Provision of Provision of cleaning service, cooking service, laundry related services, and housekeeping services to EACOP owners at temporary camps in compliance with Western catering standards.

The services include but not limit to, the following:

- Provision of laundry and cleaning services.
- Provision of cooking services.
- Provision of housekeeping services.

Minimum Requirements:

- Proof of business registration and business license for Tanzania
- Registration with the Tanzania Tax Revenue Authority
- Proof of Tanzania Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available
- Good Financial capacity to deliver the services as required.

Interested companies with the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest in English language by sending the above documents to tz_adm@docg.cn (not exceeding 20Mbs) or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on **6th March, 2023**. Subject of the email should be **EOI for MST-TZ-20230208-001/002- COMPANY NAME**.

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will receive, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), a detailed pre-qualification questionnaire for further evaluation by Company. **DOCG reserves the right not to consider companies that submit an incomplete dossier.**

Note: Only prequalified companies will receive invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.

DOCG

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: PROVISION OF DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MANGROVE HABITAT RESTORATION AND NET GAIN PROGRAMS FOR TANGA REGION. REFERENCE NO. REQ-00000157

East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) LTD invites experienced and reputable companies to express their interest in providing **Mangrove Habitat Restoration Services and Net Gain Programs for Tanga Region for the EACOP project.**

The project involves the construction and operation of an underground and cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale, Hoima District in Uganda, to the Chongoleani Peninsula near Tanga in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline will be 1,443 km, of which 296 km will be in Uganda and 1,147 km in Tanzania.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES

EACOP's project marine facilities at Chongoleani Peninsula include a Marine Storage Terminal (MST), a 2Km jetty and a load-out facility (LOF). A small area of seagrass habitat will be impacted by the construction and operation of the jetty. A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been prepared. It provides preliminary quantification of the impacted areas. A specialist company/consultancy/organization is needed to undertake design and implementation of a Mangrove Habitat Restoration and Net Gain Program and improve understanding of reasons for die-back in Sigi River estuary, with lessons learnt applicable to all future restoration. The desired approach includes Community Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR), that includes local stakeholders and other groups from the outset, such as local communities, government institutions and civil society organizations. Restoration decisions will be based on scientific data to ensure validity in relation to prevailing social and environmental conditions and predictable future dynamics.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Companies or organizations expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Proof of registration as institutions whose activities are linked with community participatory activities (e.g. Marine Habitat Restoration, etc.) in Tanzania.
- Brief description of experience and capacity to design and implement mangrove restoration programs, research on mangrove dieoffs, working with, and building capacity of coastal communities, establishing mangrove seedling nurseries, conducting experimental research, monitoring and mapping mangrove restoration.
- Job references that show experience of doing similar work within the last five years.

Profile of key personnel to be involved in the project, including personal certifications, level of qualifications, experience and capacity to deliver the required services.

Appropriate licensing, if any, from relevant in-country authorities for the provision of the services.

Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.

Application for registration with the EVWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (ELSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.

Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company Definition.

Financial capacity to deliver the services required, including submission of financial accounts for the past three years.

Evidence of a QHSE Management system, organization, and process in compliance with applicable local and industry standards for similar works.

Proof of Anti-corruption, Anti-bribery, Compliance and Human Rights policies.

Companies with the ability, capacity, and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest through email, together with the documents stated in the above section, to procurement.tz@eacop.com, (max. email size 20Mb) before **17:00 hours East African Time (EAT) on 2nd March 2023**. Email subject must be: 00000157_Provision of Design and Implementation of a Mangrove Habitat Restoration and Net Gain Programs based on best criteria and methods in the Tanga Bay. Statements of EOI should be no more than ten (10) to twenty (20) pages long. All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English.

Note: EACOP LTD will review and assess the documents provided by companies that have expressed interest in accordance with this EOI and conduct evaluations based on internal criteria to determine which companies will be included in the list of pre-qualified companies. Only the pre-qualified companies will receive, by signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), an invitation to bid as a continuation of the call for tender process. EACOP LTD reserves the right at its sole discretion to make the decision to select or reject a company and maintain its decision without having to give reasons to the company concerned.



Studiored Public Relations Ltd manager Hilton Mpondela (L) receives the Best PR award from University of Dodoma lecturer Mauya Mbilinyi at the PR Excellence Awards - 2022 organised by the Public Relations Society of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Call for revocation of licences of firms involved in liquor smuggling

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ALI Makame Issa, Zanzibar's activist on human rights and good governance, has said licences for liquor dealers who involve themselves in smuggling should be revoked to protect government's revenue.

Issa made the remarks when addressing reporters here at the weekend in regard to MGW 2014 Enterprises, the firm accused of smuggling liquor into Zanzibar on February 12 this year and stored it in its warehouse at Amani, in Unguja urban west Region.

"Smuggling of goods causes loss of revenue to the government, hence tax collecting authorities should take stern measures against these crimes," he said.

Elaborating on the issue, he said only three liquor firms were issued with licences to import liquor in Zanzibar - Scoch, One Stop Centre and ZMMI that had won the tender in accordance to the 2020 Zanzibar Liquor Act.

However, he said apart from these three firms, TPDF have also been bringing in liquor, the practice that does not augur well in overseeing the liquor Act.

"The law passed by the Zanzibar House of Representatives

only says three firms are permitted to import liquor and if there is the need for the TPDF to also import the drink, then the law should be sent back to the House for amendment," he said.

The activist further said the aim for enacting the 2020 law aimed to plug avenues for tax evasion as well as to control liquor trade in the Isles.

He however commended the Zanzibar economic Crimes Act (ZAECA) for pledging to address the liquor smuggling issue.

He said it pains to see the Zanzibar Liquor Board failing to oversee the law accordingly.

He also praised the Zanzibar President, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi for steps he is taking against embezzlement of public funds and assets since coming to power in 2020, and added that the foundations for good governance were strengthened.

Speaking on the issue, the Supervisor of MGW 2014 Enterprises, Ali Seif vehemently denied that his firm was involved in smuggling even though vehicles were seen offloading liquor consignment at the firm's warehouse on the morning of February 12 this year.

"There is a trade war being waged and big traders hate to see small traders succeed, we buy the liquor we distribute from firms authorized to import it," he added.

Mbeya police launch Road Safety Week

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya Region have officially launched the Road Safety Week by embarking on inspecting goods and passenger vehicles to fight frequent road accidents in the region.

The launching took place along

Shamwengo slope near the city of Mbeya where frequent accidents have been happening due to the narrow highway's steep gradient with many sharp bends.

Mbeya regional Police Commander Benjamin Kuzaga called upon the public and transporta-

tion stakeholders to fully participate in preventing road accidents that can be avoided.

RPC kuzaga also called upon drivers of motor vehicles to abide by road safety laws when driving their vehicles to avoid accidents.

He said many accidents that hap-

pen have caused deaths, and injuries including permanent disabilities to the victims and property.

"As we launch this day, I appeal to you all to work together, drivers in particular should abide by road safety laws, avoid overtaking without taking precautions," said RPC

Kuzaga. He also called upon police vehicle inspectors to ensure they adhere to professionalism when inspecting the vehicles by making sure all vehicles found with defects are not allowed to travel until the said defects are rectified.

He said the police will bar all

vehicles with defects to proceed with their journeys irrespective of the status of owners and that legal steps will be taken against all those who will be found violating road traffic laws.

RPC Kuzaga said the police, through their vehicle inspectors, will be reminding drivers of vari-

Chinese construction firm DOCG due to pass on skills, technology to Tanzanians

By Special Correspondent

Enhancing and transferring knowledge, skills, and technology are top priorities in developing countries' foreign investment policies as part of their drives to become self-sufficient once foreign specialists leave.

We, Daqing Oilfield Construction Group Company Limited (DOCG), are a Chinese company that has won a tender to build four crude oil storage tanks and terminal infrastructure for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project (EACOP) at Chongeleani in Tanga city.

We have demonstrated our commitment to assisting Tanzanians in gaining knowledge and skills in oil and gas technological development by leveraging our many years of experience in that sector.

We have set aside 48,020 hours during the tank building period and 34,440 hours during the crude oil terminal construction period of training to transfer knowledge and skills to Tanzanian workers.

Our storage tanks have a capacity of 100,000 cubic meters of crude oil and the terminal are set to be completed in the first quarter of 2025.

A total of 170 young people will be trained at the Tanga and Arusha VETA centres, while 20 Tanzanian youths who were attending a Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) course have completed their training. Ten of the 20 passed an interview held soon after and have landed jobs with DOCG and a subcontractor.

Clearance of 70 acres of jungle, temporary fencing of property and renovation of an access road has begun at the site where the tanks and the terminal are being built. Implementation of the local content requirement with regard to employment, this varies according to the intensity of the workload, but at the management and technical levels local content accounts for 56 percent. However, it is 100 per cent for non-skilled workers, with the entire local workforce expected to come from around the company's project site at Chongeleani. With the increasing intensity of labour, employment has risen to between 600 and 700 from 250 as recently as last month.

As a next step, the company is determined to assist Tanzanians in acquiring international skills and standards in the globally fast-expanding energy sector.

DOCG has meanwhile begun conducting Training of Teachers courses, with a view to improving the skills of Tanzanian instructors so that vocational schools can have trainers with international certification.

The company is also determined to build an Industrial Enhancement Centre to expedite the training of local management staff, with an extra two opportunities set aside for local management staff to study overseas.

DOCG Project Manager Guo Liyong sees the training of Tanzanian staff as critical to improving their skill levels and enabling Tanzania to reap greater benefits from the EACOP Project, while the young people trained in the process will have the opportunity to join the company or even compete in global job marketplaces.



Officials of the DOCG (standing in the back) with the Guest of Honour, Michael Mjinja, Commissioner for Petroleum and Gas (sitting in the front line, in the middle.)



Commissioner for petroleum and gas, Michael Mjinja cutting the tape to launch the employee skill enhancement program



Health, safety and environment trainees in the backline in a group photo with the Guest of Honour, Michael Mjinja (sitting in front in the middle wearing a blue suit)

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WATER**



**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)**

**PROJECT NAME: TANZANIA SECOND WATER SECTOR SUPPORT
PROJECT (WSSP-II)**

Loan/Credit/Grant No. IDA 59490

20th February 2023

ASSIGNMENT TITLE: Consultancy Services for the Assessment of Feasibility, Design and Construction Supervision of a Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) system to increase Water Resilience of the City of Dodoma.

REFERENCE NO.: ME-011/WB-WSSP-PI50361/328245/2022/23/C/19

1. This request for expression of interest follows the General Procurement Notice for the project that appeared in the United Nations Development Business; Issue No. WB5803 – 12/16 of December 21, 2016.
2. The Government of Tanzania has obtained an IDA Credit (US\$225 Million) for the Second Water Sector Support Project (SWSSP) and part of the proceed would be used for proposed Consultancy Services for the Assessment of Feasibility, Design and Construction Supervision of a Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) system to increase Water Resilience of the City of Dodoma. The Project shall be implemented by the Ministry of Water (MoW).
3. The consulting services ("the Services") are likely to include, but not limited to:
 - 3.1 Delineation of the recharge areas for the Makutupora aquifer and collection of data, identification of interventions;
 - 3.2 Analysis of alternatives and feasibility Studies for interventions to enhance the recharge in the Makutupora Aquifer and improving management of the Makutupora Aquifer. This would include, but not limited to the following activities:
 - 3.2.1 Identify 3 potential options for MAR techniques (potentially cumulated) to enhance recharge and estimated for each the expected gain in volumes and operational costs (including technical skills);
 - 3.2.2 Identify potential aquifers in the vicinity of Dodoma City;
 - 3.2.3 Improvement of Makutupora pumping system.
 - 3.3 Selection of chosen options and elaboration of feasibility studies.
 - 3.4 Preparation of Environmental Assessment and Environmental Management Plan, Social Impact Assessment and Resettlement Action Plan and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)
 - 3.5 Determine Cost Estimates, (Benefits and Economic and Financial Analysis) and Operation and Maintenance (O&M) - Cost Recovery and Water Tariff)
 - 3.6 Preparation of detailed designs and preparation of bidding documents for proposed interventions
 - 3.7 Supervision of construction works, including enhancement, recharge and drilling.
4. The MoW now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:
 - 4.1 Core business and years in business.
At least fifteen years of experience in development, design, and construction supervision of groundwater development and management projects as a core business, should have expertise in Ground Water, Environment management, health and safety and site management of Managed Aquifer Recharge;
 - 4.2 Relevant particular experience, which should specifically include: -
 - 4.2.1 Experience in Consultancy services related to enhanced aquifer recharge or MAR systems; and
 - 4.2.2 Experience in aquifer mapping, geophysical survey, groundwater assessment and management, detailed design and preparation of tender document of groundwater studies of similar nature and complexity.
 - 4.3 Experience of having worked in similar geological environment
 - 4.4 Technical and Managerial capability of the firm. (Provide only the structure of the organization, general qualifications and number of key staff. Do not provide CV of the staff. Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.
5. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9, 1.10 of the World Bank's Procurement Guidelines for Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest and unfair competitive advantage.
6. Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. For firms participating in JV, each member of JV should independently meet the requirement of Eol criteria. For firms participating as Association of lead and sub consultant, only the experience and qualification of lead firm will be assessed as per Eol criteria.
7. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank Guidelines: "Selection and Employment of Consultant by World Bank" dated January, 2011 revised July, 2014.
8. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 8:00 to 15:30 hours, Monday to Fridays inclusive, except on public holidays. Further information including Terms of Reference (TOR) are also available at www.maji.go.tz, go to document depository – WSSPII.
9. Expression of Interest marked "CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF FEASIBILITY, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION OF A MANAGED AQUIFER RECHARGE (MAR) SYSTEM TO INCREASE WATER RESILIENCE OF THE CITY OF DODOMA" should be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by courier) by 20th March 2023 on or before 11:00 hour's local time.
10. Electronic Submission is not allowed.

Physical Address is:
The Secretary Ministerial Tender Board
Ministry of Water,
Kolon Building adjacent to DUWASA Head office, PMU Offices,
Chimwaga Road,
40473 Dodoma, Tanzania
E-mail: pmu@maji.go.tz

**Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Water**



INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

PRE-QUALIFICATION NO: REPOA/Q-01/GDS & NCS/2023

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS

FOR

**The Supply of Goods and Provision of Non- Consultancy Services for
Financial Years 2023 and 2024**

REPOA is an independent, not for profit research organization established in 1994. REPOA's mission is to engage in policy research and dialogue that promote socio-economic transformation for inclusive development. The organization has three main objectives: to conduct and disseminate evidence-based research outputs to inform national policies and strategies; to strengthen the capacity of researchers and research users to enhance evidence-informed policymaking; and to contribute valuable inputs to enhance strategic engagement of development partners, international agencies, CSOs, and other non-state actors in the national development process.

REPOA invites applications for prequalification from interested suppliers (including current suppliers) for the supply of Goods and Provision of Non- Consultancy Services for the period between January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2024, as listed in Table 1.

TABLE 1: SUPPLY OF GOODS AND PROVISION OF NON- CONSULTANCY SERVICES

CATEGORY A: GOODS AND SUPPLIES

SN	Quotation description	Quotation Reference Number
1.	Office Stationery and Supplies (OSS)	REP/T01/2023/OSS
2.	Supply of ICT equipment, accessories, computer software, and hardware (ICT)	REP/T02/2023/ICT
3.	Cleaning materials, and other supplies (CS)	REP/T03/2023/CS
4.	Office furniture and fixtures (FF)	REP/T04/2023/FF
5.	Supply of Air Conditioners (AC)	REP/T05/2023/AC
6.	Supply of vehicle tires and accessories (TA)	REP/T06/2023/TA
7.	Office kitchen groceries and utensils (OKGU)	REP/T07/2023/OKGU

CATEGORY B: NON-CONSULTANCY SERVICES

SN	Quotation description	Quotation Reference Number
8.	Local and International Air Travel Reservations and Ticketing (AT)	REP/T08/2023/AT
9.	Provision of hotel accommodation and conference services - all regions in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar (AS)	REP/T9/2023/AS
10.	Catering services (CAT)	REP/T10/2023/CAT
11.	Printing of various documents including Publications, Policy briefs, Research reports, Books, etc. (PP)	REP/T11/2023/PP
12.	Provision of vehicle service and maintenance (VS)	REP/T12/2023/VS
13.	Provision of vehicle rental/hire services in Tanzania's mainland regions and Zanzibar (VR)	REP/T13/2023/VR
14.	Transportation of Printed materials and courier services (CS)	REP/T14/2023/CS
15.	Provision of internet services (IS)	REP/T15/2023/IS
16.	Provision of media performance monitoring services (MD)	REP/T16/2023/MD
17.	Provision of staff team building	REP/T17/2023/STB
18.	Servicing of General electronic equipment and devices, ICT equipment including printers, laptops, desktops, tablets, routers, etc. (S-ICT)	REP/T18/2023/S-ICT
19.	Maintenance of Air Conditioners (MAC)	REP/T19/2023/S-MAC
20.	Maintenance of office generator (MOG)	REP/T20/2023/S-MOG
21.	Printing of branding materials such as Brochures, Banners, T-shirts, pens, notebooks, and any other materials (PBM)	REP/T21/2023/S-PBM
22.	Provision of office cleaning, and gardening (CSG)	REP/T22/2023/S-CSG
23.	Provision of other strategic media & communication services for institutional & projects visibility, i.e., graphic designing, social media handling, website redesigning, photography, and videography, etc.	REP/T23/2023/S-OMS
24.	Provision of Insurance brokerage services excluding medical and life insurance (IBS)	REP/T24/2023/S-IBS
25.	Provision of office fumigation (OF)	REP/T25/2023/S-OF

1. Interested candidates may obtain pre-qualification/registration of supplier's documents from at REPOA Dar es Salaam office during working hours: Monday to Friday (8.00AM - 1.00PM).
2. The pre-qualification/registration of the supplier's documents are available on **Wednesday, the 22nd of February 2023 from 12:00 NOON** at a non-refundable fee of TZS. 100,000.00 (Tanzania Shillings One Hundred Thousand Only) or any other freely convertible currency per Lot. Payments will be made in cash and obtain an official receipt(s).
3. All applications shall be submitted at REPOA's Tender Box in the Dar es Salaam office at or before **20th March 2023 at 1200 NOON**. Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the bidders who choose to attend or their representatives at the REPOA, Dar es Salaam Conference Room.
4. Late submitted pre-qualification/registration of supplier's documents, incomplete documents, electronic documents, and documents not opened at the pre-qualification opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

All applications should be addressed to:

**The Executive Director,
REPOA,
Plot 157 Mgombani / REPOA Street,
Regent Estate,
P.O. Box 33223,
Dar es Salaam**

Tel: +255 22 2700083

REPOA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and is not bound to give any reasons for its decision.

Zanzibar govt to ensure teachers are armed for higher proficiency

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government has said it will ensure it provides teachers with better teaching practices to enhance their skills in order to achieve better students' pass marks in examinations.

Zanzibar Deputy Minister for education and vocational training, Ali Abdallah Gulam made the remarks here at the weekend at the event to hand over certificates to science and math teachers that had undergone training for better teaching practices through the programme to enhance secondary education quality.

He said in order to increase students' exams pass marks there should be better foundations in the education provision environment, by building modern infrastructures, refurbishing decrepit classrooms, building new schools and improving teachers' benefits.

He said the Phase VIII Zanzibar Government is making these efforts to improve education infrastructures in order to increase exam pass marks.

He said the training provided to teachers is important, hence stressed on them to use the training according to its intended aims.

"There is a habit for some teachers who after

being provided with the training, after a short time they apply to be transferred to other ministries," he said, adding that this habit was not good because the government spends a lot of money to prepare teachers, but after a short time they transfer to another institution.

Meanwhile, the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Khamis Abdallah Said explained the project has cost the government 23bn/-, saying the sum was huge hence better results therefrom have to be attained.

Said added that President Hussein Ali Mwinyi wants to see examination pass marks improve in the science subjects and called upon teachers to do all what they can to enhance the pass marks.

He said the training provided have already started to bring positive results as there has been an increase of 700 of Division I in Form IV examination results in Zanzibar this year which he said is unprecedented.

Earlier, John Masenza, Senior Manager for the project to improve secondary education in Zanzibar said the project is five-year sponsored by the Good Neighbour institution.

He said the training involved 1,357 teachers whose aim is to empower them in order to enhance their teaching capabilities.



Minerals deputy minister Dr Steven Kiruswa (L) has a word with members of the Kinyo Farmers & Salt Works and Twikome Salt Kinyo Chakulu groups in Uvinza District, Kigoma Region, at the weekend on the activities they are engaged in - including salt processing. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Legal aid providers reduce cases referred to courts - LSF boss

By Guardian Reporter

LARGE numbers of individuals and institutions providing legal aid in every region and district countrywide has helped to reduce cases being referred to courts.

Lulu Ng'wanakilala, Legal Services Facility (LSF) Chief Executive Officer made this disclosure at the weekend when speaking in Dar es Salaam at the meeting

tasked to implement Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign 2023.

Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign 2023 was unveiled February 15 this year in Dar es Salaam by the minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Dr Damas Ndumbaro.

The special meeting was coordinated by the constitutional and Legal Affairs ministry by involving a task force that incorporated

stakeholders from the government and private institutions with the main aim in seeing the implementation of the campaign's three main areas.

The aim of the Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign 2023 aims to provide education to the public on issues of rule of law and human rights, empower stakeholders in the justice provision chain and improve the systems, policies

and laws in order to strengthen the provision of justice in the country.

Lulu, who is also the Vice Chairperson of Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign 2023, said that 60 per cent or 90,000 cases brought to legal aid providers every year are resolved by the legal aid providers. "This shows if these systems for providing legal aid are improved through this campaign to

a great extent they will bring huge benefits and enable the people to get their rights in time," Lulu said.

She said that the country's legal aid including the government setting aside financial resources through the legal aid fund will make the services sustainable," she elaborated and appealed to all stakeholders in the legal aid provision sector including the government NGOs, development

partners, private sector and media organisations to unite efforts in the campaign in order to bring positive changes in the legal aid provision sector and the lives of the members of the community in general.

The Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign 2023 was unveiled February 15 this year and will run for about three years in both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.



Dar es Salaam Regional Medical Officer Dr Rashid Mfaume addresses owners of health centres in the region at a workshop held in the city at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Poultry farmers challenge manufacturers to come up with superior animal feeds

By Correspondent James Kandoya

POULTRY farmers have called upon manufacturers of animal and chicken feed to conduct a study to come up with the best food formula that meets the recommended quality standards.

They aired their views in Dar es Salaam recently during a seminar on best use of fertilizers and animal feeds that was organised by the Iringa based-Shafa Mills.

Sosthenes Vicent, from Kibaha District in Coast Region claimed animal and poultry feed producers have been producing low quality feeds which affects the growth of chicken, thus having low weights.

"Sometimes you buy expensive chicken feeds hoping to get recommended weight after one week but even when the feed is over the weight remains the same, this hinders our efforts to provide consumers with the quality product," he said.

Najma Ghani, blamed manufacturers for producing low quality feeds, thus affecting their business.

"We thank Shafa Mills for coming up with new products that according to them meet the recommended quality standards," she said.

Shafa Mills Director General, Mohamed Nasir urged poultry keepers to feed their chicken as recommended to realize the targeted quality of products.

"The increased demand of soya beans in China has contributed to skyrocketing prices of the product, thus pushing up prices of animal and poultry feed. This has prompted producers to change their production formula and opt for sardines," said Nasir.

The price of a 50 kilogramme of starters for broiler chicks has risen from 68,000/- to 75,000/- as a result of an increase in soybean prices in Malawi and Zambia from where feed manufacturers in Tanzania import.

As a result, the demand for chicks by farmers declined because they are unable to buy feed for them due to rising prices.

However, producers said there was a need for the government to open up more borders so that soybeans can enter the country at affordable prices as producers have for many years relied only on those two source markets.

Statistics show that soybean production increased to 22,953 tonnes in the 2018/2019 farming season: equivalent to a 77 percent rise - with the biggest soybean producers being in Ruvuma, Morogoro, Iringa, Mbeya and Rukwa regions.

Data from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries shows that the number of chicken population in the country has increased from 83.28 million in 2020/2021 to 87.7 million today, about 40.36 million of which are indigenous breeds.

Research finds more mosquito breeding grounds in Kilombero valley

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilombero

RESEARCH done by the Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) in Kilombero District, Morogoro region has found the increase of mosquitoes breeding grounds in the Kilombero river Valley with the mosquitoes being able to mutate every now and then, thereby calling for extra support towards their efforts to control them and continue with research.

IHI Chief Researcher, Issa Mshani said the Kilombero valley has become the hub of mosquitoes breeding ground with many of the parasites cited as malaria carriers.

Mshani made the revelations at a meeting of IHI scientists and community leaders from the Kilombero Valley held at Ifakara in Kilombero District that focused on showing the scientists various scientific activities and stress-

ing their importance to the community.

He said last year's world statistics on deaths from malaria show that there are more than 600,000 deaths and 95 per cent of them happen in countries of Africa South of the Sahara.

"In various areas of the Kilombero River Valley we have discovered breeding grounds for mosquitoes who collect together in huge numbers in evenings and as experts we are continuing to

make in-depth studies on these breeding grounds in order to fight human malaria infections," said Mshani.

He said they visited various areas of the river valley and issued many scientific publications and added that now they "were researching or learning about mosquitoes' habits that can be used to fight them as their habits change from time to time."

Officials from various areas of Kilomb-

ero river valley including the Chairman of Malinyi Town, Humaya Mohamed and others at different times said they have taken various steps to educate the people in the area to protect themselves from the mosquitoes.

They advised the people, in particular livestock keepers to take more precautions as they have the habit of sleeping in the open to guard their livestock without mosquito nets.

Serengeti DAS salutes Azania Bank for equipment donation

By Guardian Reporter

BANKS and other private companies have been urged to emulate the spirit of giving back to the community being exercised by Azania Bank Tanzania Limited.

Serengeti district administrative secretary Qamara Qamara said over the weekend after receiving an assortment of information communication and technology valued at over 6m/- from the Dar es Salaam based bank that the donation will help improve performance at Kenyamonta primary school which is facing shortage of various learning materials.

"We from the government appreciate this donation which will go a long way in assisting teachers to prepare in house examinations for students who are heading into national examinations," Qamara said.

He said the donation which consisted of printers, computers, photocopy and binding machines, among others will ease the burden of preparing inhouse examinations but also allow students to learn some ICT skills.

Qamara pointed out that the public school which has 779 pupils is facing tough times due to shortage of educational materials hence called on banks and other private companies to assist as a way of giving back to the community.

The Serengeti DAS challenged teachers and

pupils of Kenyamonta to make good use of the equipment so that it lasts longer but also improves performance of the school in both regional and national examinations.

In remarks after presenting the equipment, ABL's Lamadi branch manager, Muhidin Mjuvi said the bank was convinced to donate to the public school after receiving a request showing need for such equipment to improve efficiency.

"As a Tanzanian financial institution, we saw the need to support government efforts to address various challenges that communities face in the area of education," Mjuvi said while adding that the move is part of the Tier I bank's corporate social responsibility investment.

In a vote of thanks, Serengeti District Council chairman, Ayub Makuruma paid tribute to ABL's management and staff saying representatives of Kenyamonta primary school used to travel more than 60kms to Mugumu or Musoma town to seek stationery services including printing, photo copying and binding.

"I am sure that this donation will certainly improve performance of the school to emerge as one of the best in Serengeti district," Makuruma said. Serengeti district has 133 public primary schools.



Serengeti district administrative secretary Qamara Qamara (2nd-L) receives ICT equipment from Azania Bank Limited's Lamadi branch manager, Muhidin Mjuvi, at a ceremony held at the district's Kenyamonta Primary School on Friday. Witnessing the event are Serengeti District Council chairman Ayub Makuruma (L) and members of the school's community. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt issues 199bn/- for construction of states' telecommunication towers

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is investing heavily in the communications sector through construction of telecommunication towers, open Wi-Fi in social services, tele-medicine and upgrading of networks through digital Tanzania.

Speaking to reporters here, UCSAF chief executive officer, Justina Mashiba said the government has issued 199bn/- for the construction of telecommunication towers in 1,242 wards countrywide.

She said telecommunication towers have already been installed in 1,087 wards and installation work for the remaining 155 wards continues.

Mashiba said so far, the installation of communications coverage facilities (towers) has reached out to 96 per cent of the country's population and the remaining will be reached through the Tanzania digital project.

Moreover, she said, the country is also working on upgrading telecommunication networks from 2G to 3G for improvement of socio-economic development through information and communication technology.

"The geographical coverage of 2G is 69 per cent, 3G is 55 per cent and 4G is 36 per cent, therefore, we are working on upgrading the 2G to 3G," said the UCSAF CEO.

In facilitating the upgrading work, the government will provide UCSAF with 111bn/-, whereas the tender to that effect has been floated, and it was opened on January 31st, 2023.

Through the Digital Tanzania project, 763 towers will be upgraded as the government wants to see all citizens have access to internet services for socio-economic development.

Moreover, open Wi-Fi centres will be set in six areas in the pilot project at Nyerere Square, University of Dodoma-CIVE college, Tabora market, Kiembe Samaki in Unguja, Buhongwa market and Lungemba social welfare institute at the cost of 174m/-.

She said 50-patients have benefitted with telemedicine services through district and regional hospitals in Ruvuma, Tanga, Katavi, Nzega, Chato and Zanzibar that were provided by Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), MOI and JKCI.

In the education sector, UCSAF has been improving the information and communication technology infrastructure of public schools.

Under the education sector, UCSAF has availed ICT equipment for 16-schools for children with disabilities and 575m/- have been spent, she said.

Moreover, 811 schools have been given ICT equipment. In the 2022/23 financial year 150 schools will be given the equipment and 1.95bn/- has been budgeted for the mission.

Also 600 girls have attained training on ICT, as 3,465 teachers in schools benefitted with the IT equipment and attended computer literacy training.

UCSAF have improved radio sensitivity areas along the border regions.



The geographical coverage of 2G is 69 per cent, 3G is 55 per cent and 4G is 36 per cent, therefore, we are working on upgrading the 2G to 3G



TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE

ONLINE RETURN FILING AND PAYMENT FOR NON-RESIDENT ELECTRONIC SERVICE PROVIDERS/SUPPLIERS

The Government through **The Finance Act, 2022** amended the **Income Tax Act, Cap 332** and the **Value Added Tax (VAT) Act, Cap 148** to accommodate taxation of Non-Resident Electronic Service Providers/Suppliers in Tanzania. Furthermore, the specific Regulations on administration of Non-resident electronic service Providers/Suppliers were enacted namely, **The Income Tax (Registration of Non-resident electronic service providers) Regulations, 2022** and **The Value Added Tax (Registration of Non-Resident Electronic Service Providers) Regulations, 2022**.

Regulation 6(1) of the Income Tax (Registration of non-resident electronic service providers) Regulations, 2022 and Regulation 6(1) of the Value Added Tax (Registration of non-resident electronic service suppliers) Regulations, 2022 respectively, provide for online filing of tax returns.

Accordingly, this Public Notice seeks to inform all registered Non-resident electronic service providers/suppliers that an online simplified return filing and payment portal has been developed and is ready for use. Thus, all registered non-resident electronic service providers/suppliers are required to use this portal to fulfill their return filing and payment obligations. **In case of Digital Service Tax (DST), return filing shall be for every month from the month of July, 2022 onward while in the case of Value Added Tax (VAT), return filing shall commence with the returns for the month of February, 2023 whose due date is on or before 7th March, 2023. Penalty and interest rising from belated returns above shall be waived.**

The online tax return filing portal and a user manual for the same, can be accessed through <https://taxpayerportal.tra.go.tz/#/> and <https://www.tra.go.tz/> respectively.

We look forward to working together in improving service delivery to foster voluntary compliance.

For further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us through; Website: www.tra.go.tz Toll Free: **0800750075** or **0800780078** WhatsApp: **+255 744233333** Email: service@tra.go.tz or huduma@tra.go.tz Social Media: Facebook: *TRA Tanzania* Twitter: *@tratanzania* Instagram: *tratanzania*

"Together We Build Our Nation"



A.J. Kidata

Commissioner General

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2023

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Africa's child vaccine drive laudable, despite challenges

MIXED assertions have been coming from the current African Union summit where, on the sidelines, an accord was being drilled out to revamp routine immunisation across the continent. The key explanation was that there were massive disruptions in the wake of the COVID-19 emergency, but this was to avoid better truths, like immunisation essentially being a donor-funded project. That is why one had to read carefully between the lines to figure out what was actually agreed, as it stands midway between own efforts and donor assistance.

Current figures floated by agencies of the United Nations indicate that 8.4m children in Africa were left out of immunization services in 2021 as the pandemic thwarted childhood vaccination programmes owing to disrupted deliveries. This rather negatively compares with 18m children whose inoculation was skipped in the rest of the world, during that year, which at least shows the problem wasn't uniquely African. There were really negative factors.

What the summit agreed is likely to have been somewhat modest by UN parlance, as top officials of UN agencies talked of the leaders endorsing a declaration on 'building momentum for routine immunization recovery in Africa.' The purpose is to revitalize the vaccination pace in all countries, for universal access to immunization to reduce child mortality, morbidity and disability. The public was again reminded that universal immunisation would help member states to achieve health sector sustainable development goals.

Some officials of the various departments of the African Union Secretariat went a step further and insisted that "Africa's leaders hold a mandate to secure sustainable financing toward increasing access to immunization and work with communities to strengthen immunization systems." One can see all problems lined up there, in a nutshell, as leaders need to 'secure' funds rather than plan for such a drive, sufficiently. That doesn't mean total donor dependence but it also intimates that donor financing is part of what is expected, even principally.

As usual, humanitarian issues of this sort are rationalised on the basis of UN-based development objectives, in the sense of having tied ourselves to be part of these global objectives, not really because they are central to our own goals or objectives. So when donors lag in fulfilling what we here know as obligations to assist or otherwise cover immunisation it will be halted, in which case the point will become clearer to UN agencies to invest more in pursuing the sustainable development goals. SDGs is something we are funded to agree to be involved.

Child immunisation also faces, yes, teething problems in communities where it needs to be carried out, hence the need for African leaders to "work with communities to strengthen immunization systems." Planning for vaccines delivery to the nearest health centres might not actually work, in a range of situations, as a range of village notables see the exercises as foreign inspired and with hidden agenda. Leaders need to mobilise key notables to get the message across.

Skipping VAT over charter flights: Further details on the issue needed

IT was altogether to be expected that government plans to extend a value added tax (VAT) exemption on charter air services ignite celebration among aviation stakeholders. There is no doubt as officials of the Tanzania Air Operators Association (TAOA) were saying over the weekend that the move will help to unlock the potential of aviation and tourism as a whole. That is altogether valid but it isn't everything there is to the matter, chiefly regarding equitable taxation.

The background is a Bill Supplement issued on 20th January 2023 proposing an extension of VAT exemption on the supply of air charter services up to 30th June 2026. This shift effectively repealed the removal of the amnesty executed on 30th December 2022, a situation that may not have gone without a struggle as noticed in recent shifts in top responsibilities. Skipping VAT on charter flights is like leveraging finance to attract more investors, but some will say it isn't equitable, that rich people pay little amounts of money; a lack of strategy.

Stakeholders had ample opportunity to explain the good reasons for removing the exemption, underlining that it carried serious negative implications on the tourism industry. Maintaining the prevailing exemption thus works well for ensuring that the tourist visitations boom that we have been experiencing I maintained. Removing charter flight VAT exemption amounted to what in idiom it is known as 'killing goose that lays the golden eggs,' as just a goose.

So we have been learning that chartered flights and tourism are intimately related, as tourism depends on aviation to bring in visitors while aviation banks on tourism to generate demand. Left at that, it would appear that the fiscal law arises from the need to cater for that

sector alone, which obviously isn't the case. It means we had to stoop low to accommodate expectations of charter flight firms and tourists, without a prior idea of equity in tax payments, and by how much. Radicals will object to the move but realists will see it as necessary.

Stakeholders say that traditionally, air charter services were treated as exempt supplies as provided under both the VAT Act, 1997 and in the 2014 version. Still the Finance Act for 2022 provided for this exemption to be ended with a grace period of six months, as it to allow charter flight firms to organise themselves or brace up for a different set of rules. Their clients wouldn't stand it and it was no point holding the sector's rapid growth to ransom for that reason.

TAOA executives say the move to remove VAT exemption was basically counterproductive, adverse to the theme and tone of 'Tanzania: The Royal Tour' documentary which has boosted interest in visiting the country. Again, the government has put plenty of prestige in projecting attracting five million visitors by 2025, at least more than half of that number. Removing that sweetener could have ignited more ripple effects than the sums involved.

If as stakeholders say by reaching 5m tourists we would earn upwards of \$6bn in potential revenues, the pain of losing VAT on air charter services pale away in significance. This reinstating exemptions goes a long way in driving up the charter flights and tourism generally, as tourism is the country's largest foreign exchange earner. It contributed an average of \$2.6bn annually, equivalent to 25 percent of all exchange earnings, and 17 percent of the national gross domestic product, with 1.5m jobs dependent on the sector. We can bear with it, can't we?

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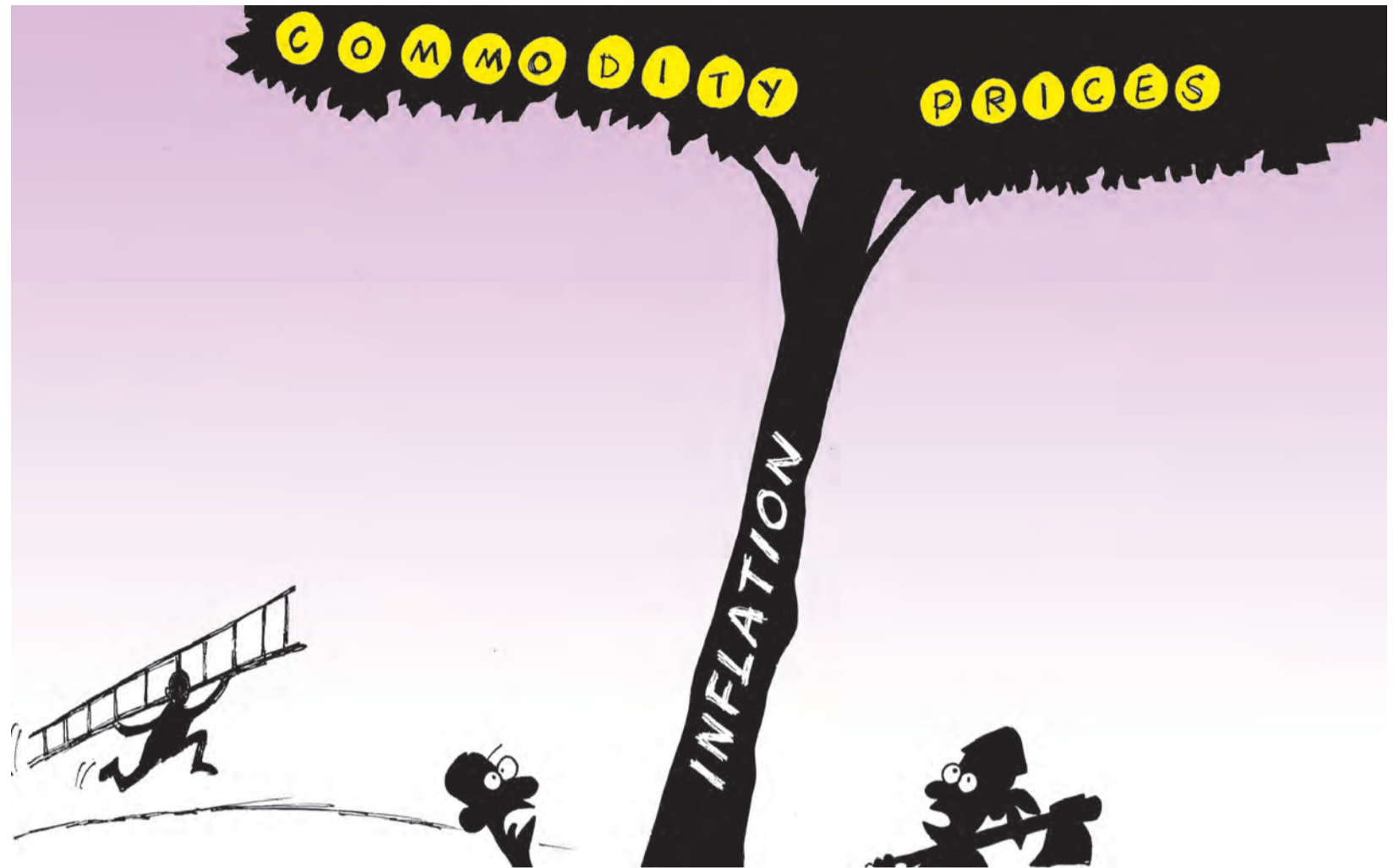
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How ambidextrous leaders manage through volatile times (2)

By Michael Birshan and Ishaan Seth

WHEN uncertainty reigns, the best leaders play both defence and offence. That requires honing three types of competitive edge: insights, commitment and execution.

Strategic courage is never more important than in times of high volatility because that is when tomorrow's winners are decided. In this episode of the Inside the Strategy Room podcast, two gurus discuss how to develop three types of competitive edge necessary to lead boldly in today's uncertain times, based on their recent article co-authored with McKinsey global managing partner Bob Sternfels.

The experts are Michael Birshan, global co-leader of the Strategy and Corporate Finance Practice, and Ishaan Seth, who co-leads McKinsey's Banking and Securities Practice globally. This is an edited transcript of their discussion with Boston-based Sean Brown, global director of communications for the Strategy & Corporate Finance Practice. Excerpts:

Question (Sean Brown): You mentioned that having a perspective is a prerequisite to commitment, which is your next edge. First, what exactly do you mean by commitment?

Ishaan Seth: At its core, building an edge in commitment requires having the courage and conviction to make decisions that are bold, material and made with sufficient resource allocation. Resources are sticky - budgets, capital and operational spending, sales and marketing dollars, human capital. The tendency to allocate roughly the same amounts to the same executives and businesses year on year is exceptionally high. But what we have found conclusively, backed by data, is that companies able to dynamically reallocate resources to higher-yielding, higher-growth, higher-potential opportunities outperform their peer groups.

Our book, *Strategy Beyond the Hockey Stick*, dives into this in detail, but there are five areas where boldness matters statistically. Resource reallocation and creating a performance management mechanism that allows you to move resources flexibly is a big one, but so are programmatic M&A, outspending your peers in terms of capital investment, being at the top of your peer group in productivity, and delivering gross margin growth at a level higher than your peers, which we call differentiation. On these five moves, it's not enough to be making them - you need to make them at a level that matters. It's not about directionality; it's about materiality. And your likelihood of outperforming your peers

is far higher if you deploy two or three of these moves.

What role do divestitures play in these resource reallocation choices? Executives often struggle more with a decision to sell than a decision to buy.

Ishaan Seth: It's useful to have a formal mechanism to reassess the business portfolio, whether that's once a year or every two or three years. Where are we truly the natural owners of the business? As part of these portfolio reviews, some organisations look to trim 5 or 7 per cent of their portfolios every year. It may not be divesting an entire business but perhaps putting it into maintenance mode versus growth mode and calibrating the level of spending to that. Another approach to weighing divestitures is to analyse the company the way an investor would. We routinely do activist investor "tear-downs" with clients, where we look at their companies outside in, based on public data, and push the management teams on questions around the portfolio make-up. And divestitures almost always come up.

How should leaders conduct those hard conversations on resource reallocation?

Michael Birshan: The first step is getting transparency of where those resources are. You need a corporate resource map with sufficient granularity - 20 or 30 cells; in some cases, as in consumer goods, as many as 400 value cells - highlighting not just capital or operating expenditures but anything that is precious to you. It may be marketing expenditure, talent or management time. Then, you need to measure, which may show you how little your resources move. Take three business units: business unit A gets 10 per cent of the resources; business unit B, 20 per cent; business unit C, 30 per cent. That leaves you with 40 per cent up for grabs (although usually that number is closer to 5 per cent). Seeing that "up for grabs" score and how much resource movement there has been over time is very helpful.

Finally, I emphasize the importance of seeing talent or capital as enterprise assets. They are not owned by one part of the company but should be stewarded by the leaders of the enterprise as a whole.

Ishaan Seth: I would add that de-allocating resources takes real discipline. Forced ranking and stack ranking can help so, as a management team, you can review the bottom 10 per cent of business-

es from a return standpoint. Then you debate whether you should redeploy resources to those businesses, making sure to eliminate bias or being swayed by whoever is pitching the proposal in the room. You could have blue teams and red teams present different cases or formal counter-anchors whose job is to push and pressure-test findings. These tactics are effective at eliminating social discomfort, since peers don't enjoy poking holes in one another's business plans.

How do business leaders know whether they are committed enough? What kind of questions should they be asking their teams?

Michael Birshan: We sometimes talk about our "billion-dollar beliefs". That gets at the question of what truly matters and where the returns on insights and commitment would come from. When we work on scenario planning, we often talk about the critical uncertainties - things that are unknown but the difference between going left and going right is hugely important, so you need to spend more time on that. What are the trend breaks? Where is the future going to be different from the past?

The final edge, on execution, is important in any type of environment. What makes it particularly valuable now?

Michael Birshan: What's different is that because of volatility, you may have to execute rapidly - go left at one point and then pivot rapidly to the right. That's where the execution edge comes in. One area is the technology stack and how modern and modular your IT infrastructure and digital capabilities are. Technical debt is a bit like dark matter: you can observe its presence, but you can't directly see it. With our digital and analytics colleagues, we assessed more than 500 companies on their technical debt and found those in the top quintile (= any of five equal groups into which a population can be divided according to the distribution of values of a particular variable), with the least technology debt, were growing revenues 20 per cent faster than the bottom quintile and 10 per cent faster than average. Clearly, if you need to pivot, it is not helpful to have your computer saying "no" each time.

Another area of execution edge is organisational speed. The ability to execute quickly correlates with the maturity of the organisation's agile practices. The question to ask is: "How quickly can I mobilise my people to move in a different direction?" A third aspect of ex-

ecution is the good, old-fashioned art and science of getting stuff done. An initiative being "in progress" can mean many different things. Is it an idea? Is it an idea with a business case? Is there a clear implementation plan signed off on by the relevant stakeholders? Have all the steps been implemented to enable value to flow? This isn't rocket science, but organisations that excel at executing have a vocabulary and cadence (= pace) around how they talk about getting things done.

You've talked a lot about the importance of being bold. Are there qualities that distinguish corporate leaders whose companies are particularly bold and resilient?

Michael Birshan: Our colleagues' book *CEO Excellence* is a great store of insight on this, but one quality I would highlight is curiosity. I think curiosity is crucial in periods of volatility because that's the mindset that underpins the insights edge. The second is a propensity to "act and adjust" rather than "watch and wait". That is often led from the top and is hugely important. "Let's do something. If we need to pivot, we will pivot." The top team's effectiveness also plays a role. Organisations sometimes struggle not because they don't know what to do but because they are arguing and lack trust in the management team.

Ishaan Seth: I would add speed, which Michael touched on around execution. Leaders who are ambidextrous, who are playing offence and defence, establish a higher metabolic rate for their organisations. They don't want to see things done in months; it's weeks or days. Another aspect is role modelling the behaviours we described, from being reliable on commitments and meetings to pushing and challenging on resource allocations to calling out overly consensus-driven behaviour. Finally, the best leaders are open to insights from all parts of the organisation and from the outside, opening the aperture on how and where they listen.

*** Michael Birshan is a senior partner in McKinsey's London office and Ishaan Seth a senior partner based in New York. Sean Brown, global director of communications for the Strategy & Corporate Finance Practice, is based in Boston. This is the second and final part of a McKinsey & Company dispatch. We ran the first part in Friday's (Feb 17) issue. - Editor.**

By Phillip van Niekerk

Twilight of an era as Nigeria's compelling election closes in, chaos and uncertainty spawn deeply troubled decision making

How else does one describe the Central Bank's declaration, without proper organisation, that the entire set of notes in circulation - 2.7 trillion naira (\$5.86-billion) - is not money anymore, while printing less than one-tenth of the new notes to replace them?

In a country where only 40 per cent of people have bank accounts and less than 10 per cent use digital money, it is surely a bad joke to tell people to use digital currency.

Or worse, it reeks of Marie Antoinette's famous "let them eat cake" line.

Dr Jibrin Ibrahim, the director of the Centre for Democracy and Development, described the puzzling decision as a "currency confiscation programme, seizing banknotes from the public and refusing to give it back to them".

It was a dagger to the heart of the Nigerian economy, a largely cash-run informal sector. Without cash, people were not able to buy food or do their daily business. Banks shut their doors and were stormed; some were burnt down by angry crowds.

The debacle may have been rescued by three northern governors - from Kaduna, Kogi and Zamfara - who asked the supreme court to declare the Central Bank's plan illegal. The ruling is expected on Wednesday.

Governor of Kaduna state, Nasir el-Rufai, who is one of President Muhammadu Buhari's closest allies, said he felt compelled to ask why any government would incite its own electorate by taking their money away on the eve of an election. He concluded that "it is very clear that there is a hidden agenda. How evil or how dark that agenda is, only God knows."

Speaking to the Premium Times newspaper, El-Rufai said that though the policy was "cloaked with the intention of reducing money laundering", the actual agenda was "to bring trade and commerce and exchange to a halt and make it impossible for the elections to take place or ignite protests so that the entire democratic structure will

collapse or lead to an uprising that will invite the military to take over".

In this scenario, the election would be delayed and an interim government would assume control.

Spanner in the works

The obvious question is to what end was this spanner thrown in the works?

Premium Times, the country's leading investigative newspaper, blamed the debacle on Central Bank governor Godwin Emeifele and called for his immediate sacking.

But El-Rufai pointed the finger at non-state actors, "those around Buhari", for pushing the policy because they feared losing power and privileges.

"These are people that prefer to be under the radar but are constantly plotting to preserve power on their own terms," he said.

Buhari came to power eight years ago, promising to clean up the corruption of the Goodluck Jonathan government, but portions of the Nigerian elite have shown a distinct unwillingness to change their ways and the level of rent-seeking these days could possibly be worse than ever.

Read in Daily Maverick: "A \$50bn overdraft is set to become Nigeria's debt"

El-Rufai blamed those who benefit from the subsidies, the costliest of which is for fuel which accounts for more than the total amount the federal government spends on education, health and social protection; it disproportionately benefits Nigeria's rich class.

The World Bank complained in November 2022 about the waste, saying the subsidies are not accounted



Campaigners for Nigeria's ruling All Progressive Congress at a rally in the Ojodu district, ahead of general elections in Lagos, on 6 February 2023. Nigeria will hold its general election on 25 February while the state elections are scheduled for 11 March.

for in the budget which "makes them difficult to track and scrutinise".

Another major scam that is conducted in full view is that of the two-tier exchange rate, in which the insistence by the Reserve Bank's Emeifele that exporters convert their dollar earnings into naira at the much lower official rate has been disastrous for traders. The wide spread between the tightly controlled official rate and a parallel real-life market provides endless opportunities for those with connections to profit from the round trip.

Then, there are the oil thieves. An estimated 200,000 to 300,000

barrels of oil per day are currently stolen in Nigeria - mainly by tapping directly into pipelines - amounting to about a fifth of the country's total production. Such a massive criminal enterprise, which is bleeding the country dry of revenue and foreign exchange, is only possible with the connivance of some in the military and high-level political and oil industry insiders.

The effect of this oil theft is felt throughout the economy. Oil and gas are still 80% of government revenue, so diminishing oil revenues have forced Nigeria to rely ever more on debt to finance its budget. More than 60% of the Nigerian budget is currently

UN expresses alarm over Zimbabwe's new bill to curtail the operations of NGOs

By Frank Chikwore

Despite criticism from opposition legislators in Parliament and some civil society groups, President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government is forging ahead with its plan to enact the Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Amendment Bill that would severely restrict civil space and the right to freedom of association in the country.

With Zimbabwe only a few months from general elections expected around mid-year, some opposition parties and civil society organisations have accused Mnangagwa's administration of doing more to close the democratic space and doing too little to promote fundamental human rights, warning this could result in the country heading for another disputed election.

The PVO Bill, which now awaits Mnangagwa's assent before it becomes law, recently sailed through the National Assembly and the Senate - Mnangagwa's ruling Zanu-PF party enjoys a majority in both legislative houses.

The United Nations Human Rights Special Rapporteurs released a statement from Geneva, Switzerland, this week expressing concern that the oversight regime in the bill for civil society organisations provides for "disproportionate and discretionary powers" to the newly established Office of the Registrar of PVOs, without independence from the executive arm of government. The UN experts warned that actions considered to be in breach of certain provisions in the bill will lead to criminal prosecution with penalties ranging from heavy fines to imprisonment.

the bill is to counter terrorism and money laundering in Zimbabwe, the restrictions contained therein will have a chilling effect on civic society organisations - particularly dissenting voices. By enacting this legislation, authorities would effectively be closing an already shrinking civic space," reads part of the UN experts' statement.

Meanwhile, the UN experts, in 2021, submitted an analysis of the bill to the Zimbabwean government concluding that the proposed amendment was incompatible with international human rights obligations - in particular the right to freedom of association.

Musa Kika, the executive director of the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, warned that if signed into law, the legislation would result in many citizens failing to access most of their basic needs.

"The [PVO] bill is potentially the most consequential bill in recent times for ordinary citizens, many of whom rely on NGOs for food, education, healthcare and WASH [water, sanitation and hygiene] services. So the effect would be felt on and by the citizens mainly. For NGOs, it simply means that many will not be able to do their day-to-day work to contribute to the work of the government and to support communities.

"It also means that many NGOs will not be able to monitor the government and to monitor and to observe the elections - which is really what the government is trying to achieve," said Kika.

Fadzayi Mahere, the spokesperson for the opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) party, described the proposed enactment of this legislation as an attack on the country's democracy.

"This proposed enactment of this draconian law is a dark spot on our democracy. Far from being



Sairos Netsambo, an 82-year-old Zimbabwean opposition activist, celebrates in court after being granted bail by a Harare magistrate on 27 January, 2023.

a 'new dispensation', Mr Mnangagwa has demonstrated a penchant to declare war on freedoms and stifle freedom of assembly and association.

"The PVO bill will destroy civic space in Zimbabwe and confirms Zanu-PF's paranoia as all available data points to victory for advocate Nelson Chamisa and the CCC. It is damaging to the citizens' ability to form organisations for humanitarian and other civic purposes," said Mahere.

Serious repercussions

Elisabeth Valerio, president of the newly formed United Zimbabwe Alliance political party, said the bill was retrogressive and had serious repercussions for the holding of free and fair elections in Zimbabwe.

bill opens the door for over-regulation and interference in the activities of NGOs working in governance, electoral education and human rights. It will be used to thwart the efforts of those working to redress Zimbabwe's unfair restrictions on political rallies and peaceful assemblies as well as those working against political violence and human rights violations," warned Valerio.

Dozens of activists from the

main opposition Citizens Coalition for Change have been arrested since the beginning of the year on "trumped up charges" for allegedly holding illegal meetings with the intent to promote public violence, while two Zanu-PF members who had attempted to disrupt a CCC meeting in Gokwe were hospitalised this week after they were attacked by suspected CCC members at the opposition party's meeting.

A video of CCC members being assaulted with logs in Murehwa district in Mashonaland East by a group of suspected Zanu-PF activists went viral recently, although the police have only arrested three people in connection with the violence.

Mahere accused Zanu-PF of inciting violence in the country as elections draw close.

Mahere told Daily Maverick: "This [violence] is borne out by the repeated incitement to violence by top Zanu-PF leaders who have called for the CCC to be crushed like lice, for President Chamisa to be killed and for the homes of our members to be burnt.

'Elections, not war'

"The Constitution makes it the obligation of the police service to

who once accused the MDC Alliance then led by Chamisa of post-election violence in 2018, said some unnamed private voluntary organisations were mobilising funds for some opposition parties.

"We are cognisant of the fact that some of the civil society organisations are mobilising funds for some opposition parties and we believe that the PVO Bill is in order and this calls for these organisations to account for the funds that they received and how they have used them. It is important for any government under the sun to be able to do that and monitor the activities that are happening in their own countries.

"The bill is very important for territorial integrity, securing the future of this country and ensuring that all civil society organisations are actually functioning towards the purposes for which they are registered to function," said Masarira.

However, she said her party was disturbed by the Zimbabwean government's deregistration of some civil society organisations without performing any due diligence.

"We have some reservations on the way some civil society organisations were just blocked from operating without due diligence, for example, Jairos Jiri Foundation. So it is therefore important for the task force that was given the mandate to be looking into the accountability issues and the other contentious issues to be able to do due diligence to organisations that are actually providing services to people with disabilities, the vulnerable, etc."

Justice Minister Ziyambi Ziyambi told Daily Maverick that his ministry was happy that the bill had sailed through Parliament.

"I think it is a progressive piece of legislation and parliamentarians as representatives of the people passed it after serious debate in the National Assembly and Senate and we now wait for presidential assent before it becomes law," said Ziyambi.

Efforts for a comment from Mnangagwa's spokesperson, George Charamba, were fruitless as several calls to his mobile phone went unanswered.



A return of non-alignment was evident at the March 2022 UN General Assembly special session on Ukraine. Fifty-two governments from the global south did not support western sanctions against Russia. CREDIT: Manuel Elias/UN

Many states in the global south use non-alignment to avoid creating the power rivalries between US, China

By Prof Adekeye Adebajo

AN African proverb notes that “when two elephants fight, it is the grass underneath that suffers”. Many states in the global south are, therefore, seeking to avoid getting caught in the middle of any future battles between the US and China. Instead, they are calling for a renewal of the concept of non-alignment. This was an approach employed in the 1950s by newly independent countries to balance between the two ideological power blocs of east and west during the era of the Cold War

The new non-alignment stance is based on a perceived need to maintain southern sovereignty, pursue socio-economic development, and benefit from powerful external partners without having to choose sides. It also comes from historical grievances during the era of slavery, colonialism and Cold War interventionism.

These grievances include unilateral American military interventions in Grenada (1983), Panama (1989) and Iraq (2003) as well as support by the US and France for autocracies in countries like Egypt, Morocco, Chad and Saudi Arabia, when it suits their interests.

Many southern governments are particularly irked by America's Manichean division of the world into “good” democracies and “bad” autocracies. More recently, countries in the global south have highlighted north-south trade disputes and western hoarding of COVID-19 vaccines as reinforcing the unequal international system of “global apartheid”.

A return of non-alignment was evident at the March 2022 UN General Assembly special session on Ukraine. Fifty-two governments from the global south did not support western sanctions against Russia. This, despite Russia's clear violation of Ukraine's sovereignty, which southern states have historically condemned.

A month later, 82 southern states refused to back western efforts to suspend Russia from the UN Human Rights Council.

These included powerful southern states such as India, Indonesia, South Africa, Ethiopia, Brazil, Ar-



The Non-Aligned Movement, however, suffered from the problems of trying to maintain cohesion among a large, diverse group. Many countries were clearly aligned to one or other power bloc.



gentina and Mexico.

The origins of non-alignment

In 1955, a conference was held in the Indonesian city of Bandung to regain the sovereignty of Africa and Asia from western imperial rule. The summit also sought to foster global peace, promote economic and cultural cooperation, and end racial domination. Governments attending were urged to abstain from collective defence arrangements with great powers.

Six years later, in 1961, the 120-strong Non-Aligned Movement emerged. Members were required to shun military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact, as well as bilateral security treaties with great powers.

Non-alignment advocated “positive” - not passive - neutrality. States were encouraged to contribute actively to strengthening and reforming institutions such as the UN and the World Bank.

India's patrician prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, is widely regarded to have been the intellectual “father of non-alignment”. He regarded the concept as an insurance policy against world domination by either superpower bloc or China. He also advocated nuclear disarmament.

Indonesia's military strongman, Suharto, championed non-alignment through “regional resilience”. South-east Asian states were urged to seek autonomy and

prevent external powers from intervening in the region.

Egypt's charismatic prophet of Arab unity, Gamal Abdel Nasser, strongly backed the use of force in conducting wars of liberation in Algeria and southern Africa, buying arms and receiving aid from both east and west.

For his part, Ghana's prophet of African unity, Kwame Nkrumah, promoted the idea of an African High Command as a common army to ward off external intervention and support Africa's liberation.

The Non-Aligned Movement, however, suffered from the problems of trying to maintain cohesion among a large, diverse group. Many countries were clearly aligned to one or other power bloc.

By the early 1980s, the group had switched its focus from east-west geo-politics to north-south geo-economics. The Non-Aligned Movement started advocating a “new international economic order”. This envisaged technology and resources being transferred from the rich north to the global south in order to promote industrialisation.

The north, however, simply refused to support these efforts.

Latin America and South-East Asia

Most of the recent thinking and debates on non-alignment have

occurred in Latin America and south-east Asia.

Most Latin American countries have refused to align with any major power. They have also ignored Washington's warnings to avoid doing business with China. Many have embraced Chinese infrastructure, 5G technology and digital connectivity.

Bolivia, Cuba, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Venezuela refused to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Many of the region's states declined western requests to impose sanctions on Moscow. The return of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva as president of Brazil - the largest and wealthiest country in the region - heralds the “second coming” (following his first presidency between 2003 and 2011) of a champion of global south solidarity.

For its part, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has shown that non-alignment has as much to do with geography as strategy. Singapore sanctioned Russia over the invasion of Ukraine. Indonesia condemned the intervention but rejected sanctions. Myanmar backed the invasion while Laos and Vietnam refused to condemn Moscow's aggression.

Many ASEAN states have historically championed “declaratory non-alignment”. They have used the concept largely rhetorically while, in reality, practising

a promiscuous “multi-alignment”. Singapore and the Philippines forged close military ties with the US; Myanmar with India; Vietnam with Russia, India, and the US; and Malaysia with Britain, Australia, and New Zealand.

This is also a region in which states simultaneously embrace and fear Chinese economic assistance and military cooperation. This, while seeking to avoid any external powers dominating the region or forming exclusionary military alliances.

Strong African voices are largely absent from these non-alignment debates, and are urgently needed.

Pursuing non-alignment in Africa

Africa is the world's most insecure continent, hosting 84% of UN peacekeepers. This points to a need for a cohesive southern bloc that can produce a self-sustaining security system - Pax Africana - while promoting socio-economic development.

Uganda aims to champion this approach when it takes over the three-year rotating chair of the Non-Aligned Movement in December 2023. Strengthening the organisation into a more cohesive bloc, while fostering unity within the global south, is a major goal of its tenure.

Uganda has strong potential allies. For example, South Africa has championed “strategic non-alignment” in the Ukraine conflict, advocating a UN-negotiated solution, while refusing to sanction its BRICS ally, Russia. It has also relentlessly courted its largest bilateral trading partner, China, whose Belt and Road Initiative and BRICS bank are building infrastructure across the global south.

Beijing is Africa's largest trading partner at US\$254 billion, and builds a third of the continent's infrastructure.

If a new non-alignment is to be achieved in Africa, the foreign military bases of the US, France and China - and the Russian military presence - must, however, be dismantled.

At the same time the continent should continue to support the UN-led rules-based international order, condemning unilateral interventions in both Ukraine and Iraq. Pax Africana would best be served by building local security capacity in close cooperation with the UN, promoting effective regional integration and fencing off the continent from meddling external powers, while continuing to welcome trade and investment from both east and west. The Conversation

Adekeye Adebajo, Professor and Senior research fellow, Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship, University of Pretoria

President Samia restored Tanzania's aura on the international global stage

By Guardian Correspondent, Addis Ababa

“WHEN Tanzania speaks, the whole world stops and pays attention.” Such is the extent and influence of the Soft Power diplomacy that Tanzania has traditionally wielded on the global stage since gaining independence from Britain over six decades ago.

Tanzania's unique geopolitical and global influence can be traced way back to the Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, who catapulted the East African nation to the world stage as the Mecca of Africa's liberation movement and the global voice of reason.

But in recent years, as the leadership of the day pursued a somewhat inward-looking foreign policy, Tanzania's participation in international affairs slowly waned and the country went MIA (missing in action) in several high-level multilateral engagements.

Cometh the hour, cometh the woman

At a moment when Tanzania's relationship with the world and its commitment to multilateralism was being questioned, President Samia Suluhu Hassan, East Africa's first female leader, rose to the occasion.

Since taking office in March 2021, President Samia began re-engaging the world in earnest one elbow

bump and handshake at a time. From Beijing to Brussels. Dakar to Davos. Doha to Dubai. London to Los Angeles. Nairobi to New York. President Samia has been on a breath-taking diplomatic whirlwind.

Pressing the diplomatic reset button

Over the past two years, the President attended dozens of meetings at diplomatic and economic capitals, including Addis, Accra, Bujumbura, Cairo, Kampala, Kigali, Kinshasa, Maputo, Washington and Wisconsin.

Repairing old ties, cementing existing relations and building new alliances. President Samia has been a woman on a mission.

She has skillfully led Tanzania's delegations to high-powered meetings of global diplomatic and economic significance, hence effectively restoring Tanzania's position as a geopolitical and global diplomatic powerhouse.

Tanzania's own diplomatic Ronaldo

To borrow a football analogy, just as Cristiano Ronaldo has single-handedly transformed the Arab league from obscurity to one of the worlds most watched foot-

ball leagues, President Samia has managed to change the perception of how the world views Tanzania for the better.

She has scored a hat-trick of goals by achieving economic and political stability, an investor-friendly atmosphere and a flourishing tourist industry that have attracted impressive volumes of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows within just two years.

Pundits see Samia's quietly confident leadership as only the beginning of a historic period of growth and prosperity in all social, political and economic sectors in Tanzania.

Her fellow African leaders and the world at large have their eyes on her, carefully observing how she is making this giant leap of change.

Many developing countries are watching and learning as Tanzanians continue to support the President's development initiatives in infrastructure, water, education, health and energy sectors.

On the global stage, the aura and respect that Tanzania has commanded over the years is firmly back, thanks to President Samia's diplomatic charm offensive.



AU says adequate resources needed to achieve goal of eliminating malaria in Africa by 2030

By Guardian Reporter

MEMBER states of the African Union have been urged to ensure strong political commitment, leadership, robust partnership and increased investments to reach the goal of eliminating malaria in Africa by 2030.

Presenting the African Union Malaria Progress Report 2022 at the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa over the weekend, Chair of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, President Umaro Sissoco Embaló said that since 2000, malaria incidence and mortality have declined by 37 percent and 59 percent, respectively.

Embaló said as a result, 1.5 billion malaria cases and 10.6 million malaria deaths have been averted over the past two decades in Africa.

“We must redouble our efforts to achieve the goal of eliminating malaria in Africa by 2030. Sustained political will, increased resources, and a shared sense of urgency are needed to make this goal a reality,” said President Embaló.

He added: “We must work together to ensure that every African has access to life-saving malaria interventions. We must redouble our efforts to achieve the goal of eliminating malaria in Africa by 2030.”

Amb Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development at the AU Commission said: “The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for strong and resilient health systems. Investing in ending malaria saves lives and builds stronger health systems that can respond to future pandemics.

This report reminds us of the urgent need for increased investment and commitment from member states to reach the goal of eliminating malaria in Africa by 2030.”

Dr Corine Karema, RBM Partnership to End Malaria Interim CEO said there is a growing number of threats towards the goal of eliminating malaria which include the malaria parasite becoming increasingly resistant to anti-malarials and mutating to evade detection by rapid diagnostic tests, as well as emerging resistance to insecticides among malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

“Ensuring that the current malaria interventions are effectively used and tailored to the local context, that new tools needed to address these threats are developed and rolled out as quickly as possible with increased malaria funding and coordinated partnership is crucial at this critical juncture to end malaria for good,” said Dr Karema.

According to the report, progress against malaria remains stalled for the last few years. Most member states are off-track to achieving the African Union's bold and ambitious targets to defeat malaria by 2030.

In 2021, Africa continued to bear the highest malaria burden, with 96 percent of all malaria cases (238 million cases) and 98 percent of all malaria deaths (603,877 deaths) occurring in Africa in 2021.

Nearly 77 percent of malaria deaths were among children under 5. This burden undermines our collective social and economic development efforts and is a barrier to achieving the objectives of Agen-

da 2063 for socio-economic transformation.

Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and biological challenges, in 2021, malaria mortality declined by 3.4 percent.

Countries demonstrated solid political commitment, innovation, and resilience, maintaining their essential campaigns so that more nets than ever before were delivered to countries, more chil-

dren were reached through seasonal malaria chemoprevention, and indoor residual spraying campaigns continued as planned.

However, disrupted access to health facilities and supply chain disruptions have impacted malaria case management and access to essential services such as antenatal care, leading to lower coverage of intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

Telephone: +255 26 2324455
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Website: www.mwtc.go.tz

Mtumba,
S.L.P. 2888,
40470DODOMA,
21-02-2023

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

1. The general public is hereby notified that there will be a movement of special load from Dar es salaam Port to Kilombero by vehicle with registration number:

T 305 CZS / T 572 EAZ
Of Mainline Carriers Ltd. The journey is scheduled to start on 22nd February 2023

2. Special load dimensions:
Length - 23m, Width - 4.30m, Height - 4.80m

3. Route: From Dar es salaam Port to Kilombero via Mikumi Travelling time will be only day time (06:30 am - 06:00 pm)

We regret for any inconvenience caused.

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21-02-2023

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

1. The general public is hereby notified that there will be a movement of special load from Dar es salaam Port to Kilombero by vehicle with registration number:

T 176 DFC / T 837 CHN
Of Mainline Carriers Ltd. The journey is scheduled to start on 22nd February 2023

2. Special load dimensions:
Length - 23m, Width - 4.30m, Height - 4.80m

3. Route: From Dar es salaam Port to Kilombero via Mikumi Travelling time will be only day time (06:30 am - 06:00 pm)

We regret for any inconvenience caused.

KIAMBATISHO NA. 3

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF MINERALS

TENDER No. TALAWANDA/01/2023

RE: TENDER NOTICE FOR JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF TWO MINING LICENCE AREAS

- According to the requirements of section 15(1) (b) and section 71 of the Mining Act, Cap. 123, the Minister for Minerals has decided to designate the areas described as per geographical coordinates attached hereto as **Appendix A** as areas for which he invites applications by tender for Mining Licences.
- The Ministry is seeking a strategic investor (Tanzanian Company) with the financial and technical capability to promote the expeditious and beneficial development of the mineral resources in the described areas.
- Therefore, the Ministry for Minerals invites bids from eligible applicants for the development of limestone mining projects in Talawanda Village, Bagamoyo District, Coast Region.
- The requirement for tender is not limited to the foregoing conditions, it includes aspects described in a Qualification Criteria as per **Appendix B**.
- The selection of the successful bidder will be based on the criteria as set out in **Appendix B**.
- All tender applications shall be referred to the Mining Commission for advice to the Minister and the Minister shall consider the competing bids and select the bidder who will be announced as the successful bidder.
- All tender applications (one original and two copies of the tender documents) must be submitted and delivered to the Mining Commission no later than 24th February 2023 before 1530 hours.

Dr. Doto M. Bitako (MP)
Minister for Minerals

Appendix A: Description of the Area

No.	Area Code	Type of Mineral	Area	Location	Proposed Licence Type			
1	Area 1	Limestone	9.54 km ²	Talawanda, Bagamoyo	Mining Licence			
Coordinates of the Area (Arc 1960)								
Order	Lat Deg	Lat Min	Lat Sec	N/S	Long Deg	Long Min	Long Sec	E/W
1	6	28	12.90	S	38	30	0.00	E
2	6	28	13.00	S	38	30	0.00	E
3	6	28	13.00	S	38	30	0.78	E
4	6	28	30.00	S	38	30	0.78	E
5	6	28	30.00	S	38	30	0.00	E
6	6	28	27.00	S	38	30	0.00	E
7	6	28	27.00	S	38	30	0.78	E
8	6	28	37.30	S	38	30	0.78	E
9	6	28	37.30	S	38	28	0.00	E
10	6	28	13.62	S	38	28	0.00	E
11	6	28	12.90	S	38	29	44.71	E

No.	Area Code	Type of Mineral	Area	Location	Proposed Licence Type			
2	Area 2	Limestone	6.71 km ²	Talawanda, Bagamoyo	Mining Licence			
Coordinates of the Area (Arc 1960)								
Order	Lat Deg	Lat Min	Lat Sec	N/S	Long Deg	Long Min	Long Sec	E/W
1	6	28	12.70	S	38	29	37.30	E
2	6	28	13.62	S	38	28	0.00	E
3	6	27	0.00	S	38	28	0.00	E
4	6	27	0.00	S	38	29	37.30	E

QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

The submitted bids should indicate the following as per Appendix B.

Key Components	Requirement
Applicant Information	The applicant has to submit certified copies of the following: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proof of Company Incorporation in Tanzania (Memorandum and Articles of Association). List of Current Company Directors and Shareholders and Proof of their Nationalities. Company Profile and Physical Address in Tanzania
Financial Capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax Clearance Certificate. Capital Structure (debt/equity ratio) of the bidding company. Filled in Integrity Pledge Form. The company should not have defaulted in any Mineral Right in Tanzania. Applicants will pay a non-refundable fee of TZS 20 million.
Technical Capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proof of capital investment of not less than USD 5 million. Submission of audited financial statements of the recent three consecutive years under IFRS compliance. Proof of source of funds (Owner's, Equity, Stock Exchange, or Loan) to enable the company to invest and develop the project to production. Any other financial information to support the tender application.
Legal Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience in operating similar or related projects in the exploration and mining of limestone. An undertaking to submit a project feasibility study related to the mining area within 6 months after the grant of a mining licence. An undertaking to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Certificate of the area within 6 months after the grant of a mining licence. Proposed Work Plan. A commitment to start mining in 18 months after the grant of a mining licence.
Environmental Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A declaration of compliance with the relevant laws related to the mining industry in Tanzania. Any other relevant information in support of the proposal.
Local Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A commitment to protect and manage the environment up to the mine closure phase per the applicable environmental standards. The successful bidder will be required to prepare a mine closure plan and post a rehabilitation bond per the Mining Act, Cap. 123. Prepare a Succession Plan for experienced professionals in these fields (Mining, Resource Geology, Engineering, Financial Management, Safety, Health, and Environmental matters); and implement a technology transfer programme. Procurement of goods and services in Tanzania as per the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018. Any other information relevant to support the proposal

Tender notice should be submitted to the Ministry of Minerals within seven days from the date of publication of this newspaper.

By Special Correspondent

When the United Nations began negotiations on a legally binding treaty to protect and regulate the high seas, one diplomat pointedly remarked: "It's a jungle out there"—characterizing a wide-open ocean degraded by illegal and over-fishing, plastics pollution, indiscriminate sea bed mining and the destruction of marine eco-systems.

Although the origins of the proposed treaty go back to 2002, the initial negotiations began in 2018, with a new round scheduled to take place February 20 through March 3.

The discussions will include four elements of the 2011 package that have guided the negotiations, namely marine genetic resources (MGRs), questions on benefit-sharing, area-based management tools (ABMTs), marine protected areas (MPAs), environmental impact assessments (EIAs), capacity building and the transfer of marine technology (CB&TT).

Without a strong Treaty, says Greenpeace, it is practically impossible to protect 30% of the world's oceans by 2030: the 30x30 target which was agreed at COP15 in Montreal in December 2022.

Dr Laura Meller, Oceans Campaigner and Polar Advisor, Greenpeace Nordic said:

"The oceans support all life on Earth. Their fate will be decided at these negotiations. The science is clear. Protecting 30% of the oceans by 2030 is the absolute minimum necessary to avert catastrophe. It was encouraging to see all governments adopt the 30x30 target last year, but lofty targets mean nothing without action."

"This special session taking place so soon after the last round of negotiations collapsed gives us hope," she said.

"If a strong Treaty is agreed on the 3rd of March, it keeps 30x30 alive. Governments must return to negotiations ready to find compromises and deliver an effective Treaty. We're already in extra time. These talks are one final chance to deliver. Governments must not fail," she declared.

Dr Palitha Kohona, former co-Chair, UN Ad Hoc Working Group on Biological Diversity Beyond



Fish swim in the Pacific Ocean in Australia

The last-ditch effort to save a high seas treaty from sinking

National Jurisdiction, told IPS even though the goal of the UN Preparatory Committee is clear, the details have bedevilled negotiating parties.

As during previous negotiations on shared global resources, he said, it is the difficulty involved in making compromises on the "key issues of financing and monetary benefit-sharing from Marine Genetic Resources" exploitation that has prevented the conclusion of the much-anticipated binding legal instrument.

"While the conservation of marine biological diversity is a priority for the globe, and is consistent with the SDGs, the developing world feels (with considerable justification) that they should also have access to the wealth that is expected to flow (gush) from the exploitation of marine genetic resources."

Past negative experiences of missing out on new and lucrative developments, colour the thinking of the developing world. If both sides are to emerge with a win/win

outcome, compromises will have to be made, he argued.

"The precedent of the Sea Bed Authority and the many environmental treaties could be adapted to the needs of the proposed treaty. Imaginative and ambitious thinking is required".

Given the dire situation confronting the oceans and the unimaginable consequences for humanity of a collapse of the biological resources of the oceans, (small scale fisherfolk, especially in poor countries are crying for a positive outcome, where the protein intake comes mainly from the oceans), "let us hope that pragmatic compromises could be arrived at the next round of negotiations", said Dr Kohona, a former Sri Lankan Ambassador to the UN and current envoy in Beijing.

More than 50 High Ambition Coalition countries promised a Treaty in 2022 and they failed. Many of the self-proclaimed ocean champions from the Global North refused to compromise on key issues such as financing and monetary benefit

sharing from Marine Genetic Resources until the final days of talks. They offered too little, too late, said Greenpeace.

The sticking points which must be resolved are on finance, capacity building and the fair sharing of benefits from Marine Genetic Resources. Resolving these impasses depends on the Global North making a fair and credible offer to the Global South

Asked about the primary issues holding up the final treaty, James Hanson, a Greenpeace spokesperson, told IPS finding an agreement will largely depend on a fair agreement on the finance behind supporting developing nations to implement the Treaty (how much money, and who will be paying?) and finding a fair compromise on the sharing of monetary benefits from marine genetic resources.

The key to resolving these issues will be High Ambition Coalition countries returning to the table with a credible and timely offer on both issues. These countries are the ones which have committed

to delivering a Treaty, and so the onus is on them to compromise to get a Treaty over the line.

China also will have a crucial role to play as a power broker, holding significant sway over many developing nations. China's welcomed flexibility at the last round of talks on ABMTs is encouraging, and we hope this continues at this next round of talks.

China's position on MGRs is still at odds with the EU's, and this impasse must be resolved through compromise on both sides.

Asked whether he expects the outstanding issues to be resolved in the current sessions, Hanson said there seems to be willingness and desire from all sides to deliver a Treaty at this last round of talks.

"The progress made last time, and this special session being called so soon after the last round of talks failed, gives us hope. We encourage countries to return to the table with willingness to compromise and seek agreement, for the sake of the oceans," he declared.

Pepe Clarke, Oceans Practice Leader at WWF International said: "For most people, the high seas are out of sight, out of mind. But the ocean is a dynamic mosaic of habitats, and the high seas play an important role in the healthy functioning of the whole marine system."

With two-thirds of the ocean falling outside national waters, a High Seas Treaty is an essential precondition for protecting 30% of marine areas worldwide, he noted.

"We have a chance to achieve a global, legally binding agreement that would address the current gaps in international ocean governance. We're optimistic the COP15 biodiversity agreement will provide the shot in the arm needed for governments to get this important agreement over the line," Clarke noted.

The waters beyond national jurisdiction, known as the high seas, comprise nearly two-thirds of the ocean's area, but only roughly 1% of this huge swathe of the planet is protected, and even then often with little effective management in place.

The high seas play a key role for many important species of sharks, tuna, whales and sea turtles, and support billions of dollars annually in economic activity.

Jessica Battle, Senior Global Ocean Governance and Policy Expert, who is leading WWF's team at the negotiations, said overfishing and illegal fishing, habitat destruction, plastic and noise pollution, as well as climate change impacts, are all rife in the high seas.

"Heavily subsidized, industrial fishers seek to exploit and profit from ocean resources that, by law, belong to everyone. It's a tragedy of the commons."

She said a legally binding High Seas Treaty would help to break down the current silos between isolated management bodies, and result in less cumulative impacts and better cooperation across the ocean - it would create a forum where all ocean issues can be discussed as a whole.

"The high seas, the wildlife that migrates through these waters, and the climate-regulation functions of the ocean need urgent protection from both current and new threats, such as deep sea mining," declared Battle.

Act on the Taliban and secure our right to education, Afghan women and girls plead

By Special Correspondent

It has been more than 500 days since the Taliban regime in Afghanistan shut down schools and shattered the education dreams of girls and women like Somaya Faruqi, who has been forced to leave her homeland to continue her education.

Faruqi, a student and engineer, has appealed for global intervention in securing the right to education for the millions of girls and women stopped from attending school and university after the Taliban regime that took power in the war-scarred nation in September 2021 closed girls out of school.

"Exactly 514 days ago, my heart was shattered along with the dreams of millions of girls in Afghanistan after the Taliban took over the country; they unleashed terror upon us, tearing apart families and our homes and leaving us hopeless and in a world that no longer feels like our own," Faruqi, a Girls' Education Advocate and Captain of the Afghan Girls Robotics Team, said at the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) High-Level Financing Conference in Geneva, Switzerland this week, calling on the world to take decisive action against the Taliban.

ECW, the UN global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises, convened a two-day conference to marshal support to raise \$1.5 billion to roll out its four-year strategic plan to support children and adolescents affected by crises to learn in safety and without fear. The conference seeks to mobilize the resources to meet the educational needs of the



Mehreen Saeed Faruqi (born 8 July 1963) is an Australian politician and former engineer who has been a Senator for New South Wales since 15 August 2018.

222 million children and adolescents in crisis.

International correspondent and author Christina Lamb, who moderated a panel discussion on Afghanistan, highlighted that war and natural disasters posed a challenge to children's education and dominated the news agenda. Today Afghanistan was one country that has dropped out of the headlines where girls and women need help more than any other place on earth.

"Two decades of educational

progress has literally been wiped out in 18 months by the return of the Taliban and the devastating restrictions that have been imposed on women and girls," remarked Lamb, who has been reporting on Afghanistan for over 30 years as a foreign correspondent.

"Afghanistan today is the only place on earth today where girls are banned from high school ... one Afghan girl recently told me, 'Soon they will say there is a shortage of oxygen, so only men are allowed to breathe.'"

Describing education as the key to unlocking the limitless potential in every child, Faruqi—now a refugee in the United States—lamented that millions of children are today deprived of their basic right to education because of the Taliban's quest to suppress women's rights.

Calling the denial of education a "tragedy beyond measure," Faruqi says girls and women in many parts of the world are in a predicament—from the banned education in Afghanistan to child marriages in Ethiopia to the insecurity of

girls in schools in Nigeria.

"222 million children are missing the opportunity of education, and it means that we are missing 222 million for incredible talent; future leaders, the scientists, the writers and the doctors, the engineers, and many more," she said, adding that, "We can't afford to waste any time and the hope of all these children is on you the leaders and donors to support and help to fund the education system in every crisis-affected country ... solidarity without action cannot do anything."

Pakistani education activist and 2014 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai recalled the time she was unable to attend school when the Taliban banned education in her country and fears that the world will forget the plight of Afghan women and girls.

"We should not accept the excuses given by the Taliban; what is the justification given by the Taliban ... it is time for world leaders to unite and become one voice for Afghan women and girls. It is time we find ways in which we ensure that the Afghan people and children are not left behind," Yousafzai said in a video message to the ECW conference.

Education Cannot Wait's Director Yasmine Sherif said that about USD 70 million had gone to education in Afghanistan, and nearly 60 percent of that funding has gone to supporting girls.

"We have an ongoing program that has continued—it did not stop," Sherif said at a press briefing, noting that there was a short suspension after the Taliban issued the decree banning education for girls, but the education program had now resumed.

"We have informal discussions with the de facto Ministry of Education, and we are able also at the local community level, through our partners, to continue deliver-

ing education to girls, and we will not stop," said Sherif, adding that the program to support secondary girls education was soon to launch a USD 30m investment.

"We have informal discussions with the de facto Ministry of Education, and we are able also at the local community level, through our partners, to continue to deliver education to girls, and we will not stop."

Fawzia Koofi, a Women's Rights Activist and Former Deputy Speaker in the Afghan National Parliament, called on the world to put pressure on the Taliban to respect transformation in Afghanistan and secure the rights to education for girls and women.

"We should take the situation of Afghanistan as a global humanitarian crisis," Koofi urged, requesting the international community to provide study opportunities to Afghan women and girls outside Afghanistan.

Gordon Brown, UN Special Envoy for Global Education and Chair of ECW's High-Level Steering Group, said the fight for girls and women in Afghanistan must not be lost.

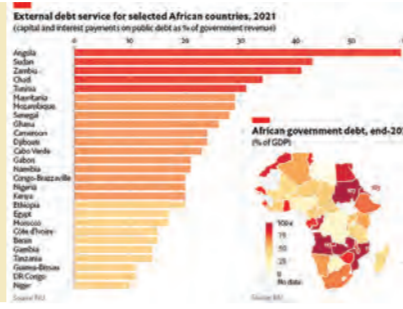
"It is absolutely fundamental that no regime nor religious order nor dictator should prevent a girl having a right to an education; that is why we must turn words into action now," Brown said, urging the world to stand in solidarity with all the girls demonstrating against the Taliban and support community schools.

Faruqi appealed to the global audience: "We have to work together and fund the education system because every child and every girl deserves to live a life at least by having the simplest human right, which is education. Words without action are not enough. This is a real and meaningful action that can make a positive difference."

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Guarantee companies are unlocking African infrastructure finance

LAGOS

Nigeria may be Africa's largest economy – its powerhouse, even – but power cuts remain a frequent occurrence. The country's grid has only half the capacity required to serve its 210mn inhabitants reliably.

Fixing that will require massive investment – which president Muhammadu Buhari, whose tenure ends in May, has sought through multilateral financing and Chinese-backed loans denominated in US dollars. But, for now, that still leaves many businesses reliant on expensive, dirty diesel generators for back-up power.

A similar story of inadequate infrastructure is repeated throughout Africa and across multiple sectors: transport, agriculture, water distribution and waste management. So, too, is the story of seeking overseas money – and of producing equally disappointing results.

Now, though, a new generation of finance initiatives is starting to tap domestic sources of capital, by using a mix of government money and overseas development funding to create local currency guarantee companies.

Shareholders, including governments and private sector financial institutions, back these companies to provide a guarantee that money loaned to projects will be repaid. Guarantors charge borrowers a fee for taking on this risk – some aim to turn a profit for their shareholders; others aim primarily to achieve policy objectives while preserving capital.

Proponents argue that such schemes can unlock lending from local pension funds, insurance companies, and the like, for projects that commercial banks are reluctant to finance. And this may be particularly beneficial for environmental, social and governance-oriented projects – such as renewable energy infrastructure.

Because the guarantees are expressed in local currency, a significant source of risk is removed. In recent years, the weakness of Nigeria's naira against the dollar, coupled with the country's multiple exchange rate windows, has made it harder to repay foreign debt.

Some advocates are impatient for wider usage of this mechanism. "Can we please stop fixating on cross-border financing and start looking at domestic savings as a potential source – in local currency – to fund infrastructure assets?" says Philippe Valahu, chief executive of the Private Infrastructure Development Group, a finance organisation.

PIDG – which describes its goal as "high development impact" – is one of the backers of InfraCredit Nigeria, an infrastructure guarantee facility established in 2017. Since then, InfraCredit has provided N128bn (\$278mn) worth of local currency guarantees across several portfolio projects, including green bonds for hydro power.

InfraCredit is also funded by the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority, Nigeria's sovereign wealth fund, and InfraCo Africa – a finance vehicle backed by the UK, the Netherlands, and Switzerland – which became the third investor in 2020, pouring in \$27mn.

Nigeria is not the only country to benefit from such schemes. In November 2022, InfraCo Africa announced that it would invest \$15mn in a new guarantee facility in Kenya, alongside \$5mn from Cardano Development, a finance company incubator and fund manager.

"We see various businesses here seeking to grow to serve domestic demand, but all facing the same problem that they cannot borrow in Kenyan shillings cost effectively or with a route to scale," says Louis LaPaz, the Cardano Development representative responsible for the Kenyan facility. "Over the last few years, it's been interesting to get cheap dollar debt – but, with the current environment of raising interest rates, that's about to get a bit ugly."

Kenyan infrastructure projects, including in green energy facilities, largely rely on US dollar-denominated loans from banks, which rarely offer the long maturities ideally required for successful developments, argue executives from InfraCo. They anticipate that, after three years of operations, they will have mobilised Ksh12.6bn (\$100mn) of local currency guarantees for climate mitigation and adaptation projects, paving the way for further expansion.

"Local currency guarantees will enable institutional investors such as pensions and insurance funds to invest into high-quality assets whilst also supporting businesses to secure the finance needed for them to deliver vital new infrastructure," says Claire Jarrett, InfraCo Africa's chief investment officer. According to OECD data from 2020, Kenyans hold about \$13bn in pension funds, equivalent to just over 13 per cent of the country's GDP.



Australian firm invests \$50mn in Kabanga nickel mine project

By Guardian Reporter

AUSTRALIAN firm – Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited (BHP) has invested US\$50 million in Tembo Nickel's Kabanga Nickel project in Ngara.

This initial tranche of funding included 40 million US dollars for Kabanga Nickel and 10 million for Lifezone Limited. The Kabanga Project will be using Lifezone Limited's hydrometallurgy technology ("Hydromet" that replaces smelting) at the Multi Metals Processing Facility to be installed in Kahama.

This initial investment gave the giant miner an initial 8.9 percent stake in Kabanga.

BHP's return to Africa after a long absence (2015) and

through Tanzania was a clear signal to the world and mining community that Tanzania has not only much sought after mineral resources but that it has garnered investor confidence for a fair return and win-win agreements with government.

Towards the end of 2022 in mid-December, Lifezone Metals, Tembo Nickel's ultimate parent company that comprises of Kabanga Nickel Limited and Lifezone Limited announced its intention to list on the New York Stock Exchange.

This listing will give Lifezone Metals access to one of the world's largest sources of funds, adding more momentum to the further development of the Kabanga Nickel project. This proposed listing will not result in any change in

control of Tembo Nickel.

Tembo Nickel a subsidiary of Lifezone Metals was formed in a framework agreement in January 2021 by Kabanga Nickel Limited and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. The Government has a 16 percent shareholding.

Tembo Nickel will benefit from the metal expertise of Lifezone Metals using its Hydromet technology to refine the high purity nickel in a much more economic and environmentally friendly manner. It will also gain considerably from the financial and technical expertise of BHP.

"Tembo Nickel will definitely be a game changer in terms of skills transfer for the Tanzanian job market and introduction of a new refinery technology in Tanzania, which

will also serve as a metal refining hub for the region," said Tembo Nickel Country Manager Benedict Busunzu.

Recent test results show Kabanga Nickel's concentrate is amenable to the Hydromet technology, further supporting that will mean in-country beneficiation of metals.

BHP recently completed the investment of the additional US\$50 million. This increases BHP's interest in Kabanga Nickel Limited to 17 percent. The second tranche will go towards further resource definition drilling and the definitive feasibility study.

"Our partnership with BHP provides additional funding and enhances our engineering expertise," Lifezone Metals CEO Chris Showalter has

stated. DRA Global Limited has been appointed lead for the definitive feasibility study consulting engineer with Orewin as the lead mining consultant.

The Tembo Nickel valuation and asset survey is now 98% completed, paving way for the next steps in the process towards compensation and early works.

The Kabanga Nickel project is believed to be the largest and highest quality development-ready nickel sulphide deposit in the world and is expected to start production in 2026.

Production estimates are in the order of 65,000 tonnes a year over 30 years, of which 40,000 tonnes will be nickel and 25,000 tonnes copper and cobalt by products.

What does Vodacom's spectrum acquisition mean for customers?

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority released additional frequencies for auction last year in the 700MHz, 2300MHz, 2600MHz and 3500MHz bands.

The government was able to generate US\$187.5 million in revenue from telecom companies that bid on the spectrum.

The spectrum auction created a lot of buzz in the media and technology business community, but customers are wondering why such a development is so important, considering that the available networks already meet their needs for communication and browsing.

Spectrum refers to the invisible radio frequencies that wireless signals travel over.

Those signals are what enable us to make calls from our mobile devices, tag our friends on Instagram, order a ride on Paisha, pull up directions to a destination, and do everything on our mobile devices.

Spectrum distribution and availability are crucial for the country's economic development agenda and for the achievement of the National ICT Policy.

Spectrum is a scarce re-

source and with over 5 operators it's easy for spectrum to get congested.

Tanzania boasts millions of mobile subscribers and internet users, so, Telcos cannot always meet the demands of ever-growing customers and services usage without additional spectrum.

Tanzania has set targets to increase availability, penetration and use of telecommunications services, making spectrum availability crucial to the mobile industry.

Vodacom Tanzania, one of the companies that participated in the spectrum auction acquired blocks in the 700MHz, 2300MHz and 2600MHz bands. Since the acquisition, the leading technology communication company has been busy developing its acquired spectrum.

"We immediately started deployment of the acquired spectrum, by expanding bandwidth of L700 congested sites to get additional capacity to carry 4G traffic and reduce congestion in areas where customers were complaining. This means our customers are now able to enjoy an improved internet experience," said David Nnyari the Radio Planning Manager at Vodacom Tanzania.



The TCRA revisited the allocation of 3500 MHz band and Vodacom was allocated contiguous band from its existing band which was previously in small discrete band allocation. File Photo

According to David, the company is deploying the 700MHz spectrum countrywide with an aim to improve internet experience and browsing speeds while they deploy 4G on the 2300MHz spectrum in major towns to ease congestion with a target to complete the expansion by the end of February.

"We intend to effectively use all the 700MHz, 2300MHz and 2600MHz spectrum blocks that we acquired to contribute to the country's mobile broadband infrastructure, meet the ever-increasing demand for data services and accelerate our vision to digitize Tanzania. Our customers can certainly expect improved voice and data experience," he added.

One customer, Pauline John a resident of Kibada, Kigamboni said they have seen improved internet experience and browsing speeds in the past months which for her translates to efficiency in her business.

"We have been having network issues in Kigamboni since I moved here in 2015, connecting to the internet is an issue, the speed was so slow, and the buffering was frustrating. We had complained to our service provider a lot and they would try this and that, but the situation remained the same," narrates Pauline.

The lake zone is one of the areas that has benefitted from the 2300MHz spectrum which

has been deployed by Vodacom Tanzania in metro towns.

Customer experience in the region was reportedly marred by complaints due to lags & buffers in internet use and call congestion, especially at night when there is high data utilization.

"Thanks to the spectrum available to us, we have done some major site upgrades from 2G to 4G and our customers are enjoying improved data and voice. We have seen double-digit traffic growth for 4G and speed tests indicate satisfactory speeds for the customers in towns like Kigoma, Kahama, Geita and the little isles such as Ukara" said Nnyari.

Old arguments for debt cancellation for African countries no longer apply

ACCRA

Two decades ago, the world was in the grip of a great debate over debt and debt cancellation in Africa.

Total public debt stock had climbed to nearly \$300bn by 2002 from \$40bn in the two decades prior. Jubilee Debt Campaigners insisted on immediate cancellation. The Pope concurred.

Today, Africa's external debt alone exceeds \$700bn. Campaigners are back asking for cancellation. And the Pope again concurs. It would seem as if nothing at all happened in the intervening 20 years. Yet quite a bit did.

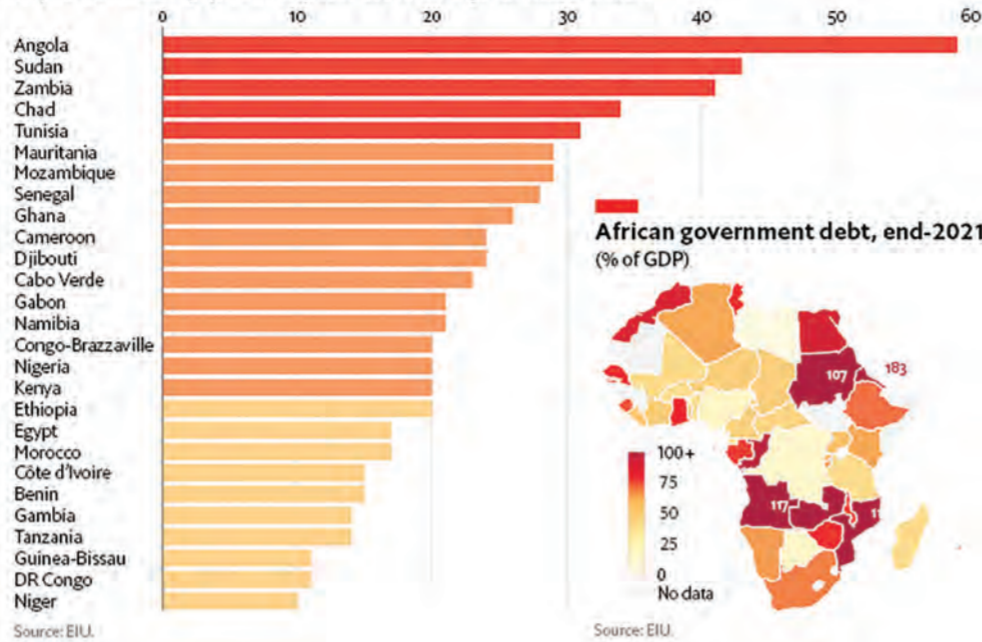
After intense criticism of earlier designs and subsequent brainstorming, additional resources were injected into the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) set up by the Bretton Woods institutions and their rich country partners in 2005. Nearly \$125bn, to be precise.

Between 2000 and 2015, 31 African countries (out of 36 beneficiary countries) had substantial portions of their total debt wiped out. For example, both Malawi and Liberia saw 90 per cent of their external debt cancelled. Sierra Leone received about 95 per cent relief.

Bigger economies like Ghana experienced a lower, but still impressive, decline in debt stock of about 70 per cent. It is surprising, in view of these facts, to see a brand new debt cancellation campaign ignore lessons learnt from previous rounds of debt relief and their impact on economic growth and transformation.

Some African countries – including Kenya, Angola and

External debt service for selected African countries, 2021 (capital and interest payments on public debt as % of government revenue)



Nigeria – were considered ineligible for HIPC for various reasons. None of them are among the countries, all big HIPC beneficiaries, that have been compelled to seek debt restructuring recently.

Unmissable in this fuzzy picture, however, are the major shifts that have occurred in global development financing. Three decades ago, sub-Saharan African countries owed roughly 80 per cent of their debt to the so-called official creditors – rich countries and multilateral finance institutions. Today, I estimate the countries with the biggest debt burdens tend to owe more than 70 per cent of their obligations to domestic private investors, international bondholders and not-so-rich countries such as China, India and Turkey.

Consequently, whatever the merits of the debt cancellation campaigns, yesterday's arguments seem ill-fitting today. Ghana's dramatic debt restructuring effort of recent weeks began on the domestic front last December. It has involved pensioners and trade unions adamant that not a penny from their bond holdings will go to support the government's debt relief efforts.

Seventy-five per cent of Ghana's debt servicing expenses cater for domestic creditors. What would be the point of debt cancellation that failed to address this reality?

Now that Paris Club and Bretton Woods creditors are responsible for a significantly lower proportion of the debt, some campaigners are focusing more on commercial creditors in the west.

While it is true that rich banks do hold some African sovereign bonds, quite a lot are also held by institutional funds whose money comes from ordinary pensioners and workers. It is safe to say that a cancellation campaign in the current circumstances will have to do more than suggest that the credi-

tors won't miss the money. The humanitarian argument about how high debt servicing takes away money from social services remains compelling, especially in countries such as Ghana and Nigeria where debt service costs are approaching 70 per cent of domestic tax revenues.

But questions do arise about where the returns on the borrowed billions have gone. Ghana's leaders, for instance, have faced widespread criticism for prioritising a "national cathedral", complete with a "Bible museum" and "biblical gardens", that could cost upwards of \$1bn, in the middle of a struggling debt restructuring exercise.

Despite repeated assurances to the IMF, which has provided a bailout to the country roughly every four years since independence, to pass all public spending through a national accounting platform, nearly 90 per cent of Covid-19 expenditures bypassed it.

investors to cut their holdings of the nation's sovereign bonds by 66.3 billion yuan last month. Abridged is positive on China's five-year bonds but short 30-year debt based on expectations the economic reopening will be accompanied by an accommodative monetary and fiscal stance, said James Athey, investment director of rates management at the money manager in London.

Chinese bonds may continue to be a beacon of stability in 2023 without currency hedges, but "as we are expecting recession and ultimately rate cuts in the rest of the world, we see higher-yielding and more attractive duration opportunities in the likes of the USA and Mexico," he said.

The cost for dollar-based investors to hedge yuan bond holdings has been negative since May. Taking this hedging into account, yields on Chinese government debt are higher than those of comparable Treasuries, but that has done little to reverse the outflows.

Some investors are waiting for a better entry point to buy the nation's bonds, and this may come about if yields rise as the reopening leads to quicker economic growth and inflation.

If the 10-year yield climbs to around 3%, "we probably start to nibble back around those levels again" to take advantage of the volatility, said Brad Gibson, head of Asia Pacific fixed income at AllianceBernstein in Melbourne.

China's 10-year bonds yield 2.92 percent, compared with 3.82 percent for similar-maturity US Treasuries. That yield discount was one factor spurring foreign

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Micro, small and medium entrepreneurs urged to register their businesses

By Beatrice Philemon

SMALL and medium entrepreneurs engaged in different sectors are being advised to have registered companies to help them benefiting from business opportunities through African Continental Free Trade Area as well as accessing credits from banks.

Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC)'s Chairperson Mercy Sila (pictured) said this on Friday last week at the Women Entrepreneurs Financial Access dialogue organized by TWCC with funding from European Union, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and Women entrepreneurship for Africa.

"As TWCC, we encouraged small and medium business owners to register their businesses in order to be recognized in local and export markets," she said.

According to her, unregistered women businesses suffer the risk of all sorts of harassment, as there will be no evidences to support their complaints.

Apart from that, women entrepreneurs have been urged to be creative and with big ideas, that will enable them tap into new markets available in African Continental Free Trade Area.

Highlighting on challenges facing women entrepreneurs, she said they lack of

capital and reliable markets to sell their products.

Currently TWCC is focusing on empowering women through clusters and is connecting them across the country to ensure women in the same sector have the opportunity to network, share experience and increase partnership along the value chain.

So far TWCC has 21 women clusters at national level engaged in manufacturing, horticulture, textile and handcraft industry, food processing sub-sector, tourism, micro finance, and fishing, agriculture, health, ICT, cosmetics, accessories and livestock keepers sub sector.

She called on women entrepreneurs in all areas where they are to utilize business opportunities and tenders available within the country because the government has been set-aside 30 percent of their budget for Special Groups (SGs) to enable them do business with the government.

For his part, Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA)'s director of research, policy and advocacy, Dan Tandasi said women face more hurdles in getting funding or loans compared to men because were left behind when it comes to education especially women in rural areas and majority of them are not knowledgeable in financial issues.

"Due to this impediment, financial literacy is needed not only to improve women's management of their personal and household finances, but also to empower them to choose and access appropriate financial services and products from the financial institutions as well as to develop and manage entrepreneurial activities," he said.

Also majority of them do not own property and land that prevent them accessing business loans.

"As result, there is much more to be done where laws restricting women's access to inheritance, land ownership and other assets persist. Legal frameworks that grant women equal property rights are a crucial first step in empowering women, socially and economically," he said.

Apart from that, women should be promoted to be in higher positions in banking industry because it will be easy for them to understand what women need from the banking industry and later on come up with new products that will be suitable for the business they have.

Financial literacy training will empower women especially in rural areas to make smart financial decisions, provides the knowledge and skills they need to manage money effectively, budgeting, saving, borrowing, and investing.



Oil prices rise on China demand hopes, supply

SINGAPORE

Oil prices rose on Monday amid optimism over China's demand recovery, concerns that underinvestment will crimp future oil supply and as major producers keep output limits in place.

Brent crude rose 70 cents, or 0.8 percent, to \$83.70 a barrel by 0720 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude for March, which expires on Tuesday, was at \$76.89 a barrel, up 55 cents or 0.7 percent. The more active April contract was up 0.8 percent at \$77.14.

The benchmarks settled down \$2 a barrel on Friday, and closed lower by about 4 percent last week after the United States reported higher crude and gasoline inventories.

"Brent and WTI prices are up slightly this morning after selling off on recent hawkish Fed commentary, following stronger than expected CPI and PPI data released in the

US," said Baden Moore, head of commodities research at National Australia Bank.

While last week's announcement that the US will sell 26 million barrels of crude oil from its Strategic Petroleum Reserves adds some downward pressure to the market, global supply looks to be "flat to down" versus the previous corresponding period after factoring in production cuts by Russia and OPEC+, added Moore.

He was referring to the agreement by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies, a group known as OPEC+, last October to cut oil production targets by 2 million barrels per day (bpd) until the end of 2023.

Russia plans to cut oil production by 500,000 bpd, or around 5 percent of output, in March after the West imposed price caps on Russian oil and oil products.

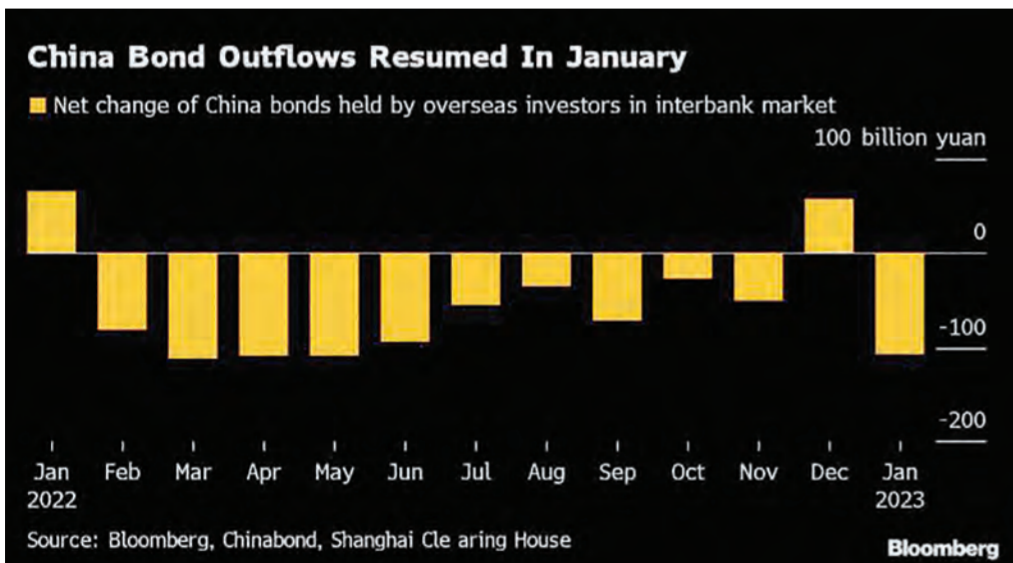
"In that context, we continue to see a re-opening of China, and a rebound in China and global jet demand to drive upside risk to prices," Moore said. China is the world's largest crude oil importer.

Analysts expect China's oil imports to hit an all-time high in 2023 due to increased demand for transportation fuel and as new refineries come onstream.

China, along with India, have become top buyers of Russian crude following the European Union embargo.

At the same time, future oil supply shortages are likely to drive prices toward \$100 a barrel by the end of the year, analysts from Goldman Sachs said in a Feb. 19 note.

Prices will move higher "as the market pivots back to deficit with underinvestment, shale constraints and OPEC discipline ensuring supply does not meet demand," they wrote.



China bond outflows resume as foreigners return to selling

BEIJING

Overseas funds returned to selling China's bonds in January after a one-month pause, underscoring the relatively unattractive yields on yuan-denominated debt as Beijing keeps monetary policy loose to support growth.

Foreign holdings of Chinese onshore bonds in the interbank market including sovereigns, policy bank debt and other fixed-income securities slid by 106.5 billion yuan (\$15.5 billion) to 3.28 trillion yuan, the lowest since 2020, according to Bloomberg calculations based on data from the China Central Depository & Clearing Co. and Shanghai Clearing House. That's also the biggest outflow since May.

The figures had been high-

ly anticipated since December's data showed overseas investors added to holdings of China's bonds after record outflows through most of last year. Global funds are looking to see how the nation's debt and the yuan react to the country's reopening from Covid Zero and the outlook for monetary policy as the central bank seeks to bolster the recovery.

There are a number of positives for Chinese bonds this year including an improving economy that may boost sentiment toward the nation's assets, while they may benefit from passive flows amid a recovery in global debt due to being an index component. Among the negatives, they may be at the risk of asset reallocation as investors seek higher-yielding assets, while the policy divergence

between China and the US damps demand for the Asian country's securities.

Index tracking and reserve-allocation inflows into China bonds should resume this year, but active investment flows are unlikely to return until China bonds' negative yield gap to Treasuries turns positive, or the yuan strengthens, said Linan Liu, head of Greater China macro strategy at Deutsche Bank AG in Hong Kong. Outflows are likely to persist until overseas demand picks up in the second half, which should help boost the annual inflow to 250 billion yuan, she said.

China's 10-year bonds yield 2.92 percent, compared with 3.82 percent for similar-maturity US Treasuries. That yield discount was one factor spurring foreign

Finance Minister: India will continue with its struggle hold back inflation

NEW DELHI

The Indian government and the central bank are taking steps to control inflation, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman (pictured) said on Monday, as retail prices have again risen above comfort levels.

Among other moves, the government has increased the import of edible oil as required to rein in inflation and provided free grains to the poor since the COVID-19 pandemic, and would "continuously monitor prices," Sitharaman said at a post-budget industry interaction in Jaipur.

Last week, India's annual retail inflation rate rose above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) upper tolerance band for the first time in three months to 6.52 percent in January, as prices rose for food products such as cereals and wheat.

RBI has targeted keeping inflation between 2 percent-6 percent.

The RBI will take necessary steps to manage inflation within "expected limits," said Sitharaman, who was accompanied by other finance ministry officials including the chief economic adviser.

Economists have said the soaring prices of cereals such as wheat and rice were a concern for the Indian economy even though the January inflation data may have overstated the extent of the increase.

Some Asian and western countries that have been providing subsidized food and energy since the pandemic started, calculate consumer price index-based inflation using a weighted average of a segment of the population that pays market price for such items and those who don't, said country's Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran.

Since India does not do that, the "stated increase in grains price is not exactly what all consumers bear, therefore stated inflation rate overstates the underlying inflation rate," he said.

In its last monetary policy decision on Feb. 8, RBI raised its key rates by 25 basis points and surprised the markets with its hawkish stance.



European shares flat as Telecom Italia now drags eurozone stocks

FRANKFURT

European shares were flat on Monday, with the sustained gains in miners on bets of a demand recovery in China countering a fall in Telecom Italia that led the decliners in eurozone stocks.

The pan-European STOXX 600 index was flat after opening marginally higher.

The basic resources index climbed 1.4 percent after prices of industrial metals rose on hopes of a recovery in demand from top consumer China and on support from global mining supply disruptions.

That also boosted oil prices, lifting European energy stocks by 0.3 percent.

The EURO STOXX index, which houses major companies in the eurozone, dipped 0.1 percent.

Telecom Italia (TIM) shares dropped 3% as a government-sponsored offer rivalling KKR's bid for the former phone monopoly's prized grid failed to materialise over the weekend.

Global markets were bogged down for much of last week after hotter-than-expected US inflation data added to a growing pile of evidence that aggressive rate hikes have not yet cooled prices to the Federal Reserve's satisfaction.

"It seems like a little bit of a pause to assess what's going on and a lack of direction really," said Daniela Hathorn, senior market analyst at Capital.com.

"We're still not sure about everything that's going on with the latest data showing that the US economy might not be slowing as much as we thought. So, people are still trying to digest what that means."

It was a quiet day of trading in Europe, with US stock markets shut on Monday for the Presidents' Day holiday.

Austria's Raiffeisen Bank International fell nearly 7 percent after Reuters reported the United States' sanctions authority launched an inquiry into the lender over its business related to Russia.

Forvia, the European car parts maker born from Faurecia's takeover of Hella, forecast stable 2023 sales, sending Faurecia nearly 4.0 percent higher to the top of the STOXX 600.

The European autos and auto parts sector index rose 0.6 percent.

Inflation Reduction Act: Good for the planet but bad for diplomacy

By Taylor Pearce

Since it was signed into law in August 2022, reception of the US Inflation Reduction Act has been divided across the Atlantic. For Americans, the bill is a ground-breaking step towards financing the sustainable transition. From a European perspective, however, the landmark legislation appears more like an industrial policy plan shrouded in protectionism.

Arguably, it is both. The IRA provides \$391bn in state expenditures, subsidies and tax incentives to US companies for their transition to clean energy and to promote innovation in clean technologies. This has proven controversial for European leaders. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen stated in a December 2022 speech that the European Union 'must take action to rebalance the playing field where the IRA and other measures create distortions'. Subsequent communications from the Commission have criticised the legislation for its discriminatory practices as it unfairly disadvantages EU companies.

What are the controversial elements? First, there are the pragmatic issues on trade and investment affecting foreign producers' access to the US market. The manufacturing of electric vehicles remains a salient issue for Europe. To qualify for the federal tax credit under the clean vehicle provisions of the act, 40% of the critical mineral and battery components for vehicles produced before 2024 must be made in the US or a country with which the US has signed a free trade agreement. This threshold increases by 10 percentage points annually, reaching 100% in 2028.

Amid political tensions between Brussels and the Donald Trump administration, the ambitious Transatlantic Trade and Investment Part-



Taylor Pearce

nership negotiations stalled in 2017. But in the absence of an FTA with the US, EU member states do not qualify within these provisions. This has led to renewed negotiations, with European leaders seeking to mitigate 'competitive disadvantages' to Europe caused by the IRA.

Second, it has been a point of pride for Europe that the continent has led in sustainability and climate legislation for the past decades. The EU taxonomy for sustainable activities and the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation have paved the way for global initiatives like the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclo-

tures and the International Sustainability Standards Board. In addition, the EU has long been a proponent of multilateral trade agreements via the World Trade Organization, rather than bilateral and exclusionary deals.

But the unprecedented level of state-funded climate financing facilitated by the IRA has EU leaders playing catch-up. EU heads of government met in Brussels on 9 February to plan their response. The tone of their answer will depend on the perception of European policy-makers. If market distortions are seen as an unintended consequence of an oth-

erwise welcome effort to advance climate efforts, deepening transatlantic co-operation seems feasible. But if the IRA is seen as an intentional effort on behalf of the US to antagonise Europe and upset the 'level playing field', it could induce a tit-for-tat response. This would certainly undermine co-operation at the global level on climate ambitions.

Finally, the IRA is forcing the EU to reconsider its state aid competition law, which prevents member countries from adopting state-driven, strategic investment growth models pursued most famously by many East Asian economies and, increasingly, by the US. It remains to be seen whether they are able to reach an agreement which would allow EU countries to relax state-aid rules to support green investment.

For now, many officials remain hopeful that there is a 'win-win' solution to be found. At an OMFIF roundtable, a European policy expert maintained, 'We've decided to take a glass-half-full approach for this piece of legislation, and we are convinced that it's a good thing that the US is investing into renewables and achieving carbon neutrality.' They asserted, 'our self-interest is not as asymmetric as some make it out to be,' and that the 'EU welcomes access to US subsidy schemes for commercial vehicles'.

Despite this narrative, failure to resolve some of the key tensions could put transatlantic relations on ice. In an increasingly fragmented international economy, protectionism in the form of state aid may be good for the planet, but it will make reaching multilateral progress on climate change much more difficult.

Taylor Pearce is Economist at OMFIF, an independent think tank for central banking, economic policy and public investment, providing a neutral platform for public and private sector engagement worldwide.

Bar owner from Scotland sees business thrive after optimised COVID response



A bar in Nanjing

NANJING

Ian Ross, a Scotsman who runs a bar in the historical Qinhuai District of Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province, is delighted to see business pick up following the country's optimized COVID-19 response.

"Our business greatly increased during and after the Spring Festival holiday. We have been so full, at times we had to turn people away due to the lack of seats," said Ross, adding he hired three new staff members to serve the continuous stream of customers.

"I have also seen quite a number of new people from other countries who have recently arrived in the city. Compared to last year, there has been a rise of about 80 percent of customers in the bar," Ross said.

Ross has been in Nanjing for around 20 years after first arriving in the city in 2003 to work for a Scottish oil company. He opened an Irish bar called Finnegan's Wake in 2008.

Ross said he opened the bar with the simple intention of providing foreigners in Nanjing a place to enjoy Western food and beverages. "We chose to open an Irish bar because Ireland has promoted itself very well through Irish bars in major cities in the world. Nanjing is no different. It is a big international city," Ross said.

At the beginning, Ross struggled to connect with people as smartphones were considered a luxury by most residents. So he promoted his bar by handing out flyers and sending emails to potential customers.

Ross's bar serves both Western cuisine and a wide selection of wines and strives to offer a welcoming atmosphere to every customer that walks through the doors.

"So for foreigners, it is to get the food that they want. For the Chinese, it is to try new types of food, new types of drinks," Ross said, noting that more distilleries in Scotland are releasing whiskies exclusively for China, due to the growing popularity of Western beverages in the country.

Compared to the past, when around 80 percent of his customers were foreigners, the majority of his current customers are now Chinese. His bar even hosts weekly English talk shows, mainly staged by his regular customers.

Ross has established a tight bond with his staff. Many of his employees have been working at the bar

for over a decade. "I think most Chinese people I work with give me lots of support. Without them, I couldn't do the job. We rely on each other to do it."

The local government, too, has provided generous help, especially during the epidemic. "We were given a lot of support from the government and our local landlord. Everybody helped each other to get through difficulties. And we just have to continue," he said.

Now that China has announced a new set of measures to optimize its COVID-19 response, Ross has seen a renewed sense of liveliness and vigor in his bar.

"When the policy changed, we can see a continued change. Our normal customers are all here again," he grinned.

WORLD

Burkina Faso ends French army operations officially on its soil

OUAGADOUGOU

FRANCE and Burkina Faso have officially marked the end of French military operations in the West African nation, the Burkinabe armed forces said on Sunday, after a flag-lowering ceremony at the French special forces' camp a day earlier.

In January, Burkina Faso gave France one month to withdraw its troops as it ended a military accord that allowed French troops to fight insurgents on its territory, citing a wish for the country to defend itself.

Their departure marks a new chapter in Burkina's battle with Islamist groups linked to al Qaeda and Islamic State, which have taken over large swathes of land and displaced millions of people in the wider Sahel region, just south of the Sahara.

In a statement, the General Staff of the

Burkinabe Armed Forces said it had participated with the leadership of France's Sabre special forces in "a solemn flag-lowering ceremony marking the official end of the Task Force's operations on Burkinabe soil".

The French armed forces ministry did not respond to a request for comment.

The departure of the some 400 French special forces from Burkina Faso follows a sharp deterioration in relations that included Ouagadougou asking France to recall its ambassador.

Last year, protests by opponents of the French military presence increased sharply, partly due to perceptions that France had not done enough to curb the insurgency.

Over the past week, a small group of anti-French protesters has met each evening in Ouagadougou to watch out for signs of French withdrawal.

"We don't want the smallest second



A man holds a medal with a photo of Burkina Faso's President Captain Ibrahim Traore during a protest to support the Burkina Faso President and to demand the departure of France's ambassador and military forces, in Ouagadougou, on Jan 20, 2023. AFP

added to the scheduled date (of departure). Let them leave and leave our Faso to us," said Amadé Maiga, who was among those decked out in Burkinabe flags and waving a French tricolor with a red cross through it.

Some of the group also held Russian flags - a sign of the complicated political undercurrents shaping the region.

Both Burkina Faso and neighboring Mali are ruled by military juntas which seized power by force in the last two years, promising to improve security and look beyond their traditional allies for support.

France withdrew its forces from Mali last

year after the junta there started working with Russian military contractors. Ghana has accused Burkina Faso of hiring mercenaries from Russia's Wagner Group, prompting Burkina's interim president to deny such forces were in the country.

French President Emmanuel Macron has described Russia's influence in troubled African countries as "predatory" as France has seen its own clout in former colonies diminish.

"Walking with Russia is not a sin ... Russia is the solution," said 58-year-old protester Amadé Compaoré. Agencies

Search and rescue work to end as quake-hit Türkiye moves to shelter homeless

ANKARA

TURKISH authorities have almost completed search and rescue work nearly two weeks after massive earthquakes that claimed more than 40,000 lives in the country, a Turkish disaster agency said Sunday.

Search and rescue are still underway in 40 buildings of two heavily-damaged southern provinces, Hatay and Kahramanmaraş, head of Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) Yunus Sezer, said at a press conference.

Works in the other quake-hit regions now focused on debris removal, sheltering the homeless, and infrastructure preparations, the AFAD chief said. The death toll from two major earthquakes that struck southern Türkiye on Feb 6 has risen to 40,689, Sezer noted.

The figure is likely to increase further as search teams pull out more bodies. Rescue teams have not found any survivors in the past 24 hours.

The quake zone is estimated to have a population of 13.5 million,



Women stand atop the rubble of their collapsed house as they collect personal belongings in Yaylakonak village in Adiyaman district, Türkiye, on Sunday. AFP

and many of them are now homeless, as their houses have either collapsed or are too dangerous to get in.

The Turkish government, along with local and international aid organizations, has launched a massive relief effort.

The authorities are working to provide more temporary accommodation with tents and contain-

ers, while many survivors are still taking shelter in hotels, dormitories, gyms, and train cars under low temperatures, if not evacuated to the other parts of the country.

More than 6,000 containers have been installed so far, the infrastructure works for the establishment of 68,000 containers are about to be completed and

the aim is to set up 100,000 containers within two months, Sezer said, adding that nearly 250,000 tents were already in use.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Tuesday that 2.2 million people had left the disaster zone.

However, many survivors prefer to stay close to their houses to protect their possessions, while some others are waiting for debris removal to recover the bodies of their relatives.

The AFAD issued a circular on Sunday saying entrance is not allowed for the destroyed buildings, and possessions collection will be carried out under the supervision of security forces. Local authorities have started disinfecting debris areas and trash cans to prevent outbreaks of infectious diseases.

No outbreaks of infectious diseases have been detected to date in the quake zone, said Turkish Health Minister, while the ministry warned people against drinking tap water.

A magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck Türkiye's southern prov-

ince of Kahramanmaraş at 4:17 a.m. local time (0117 GMT), followed by a magnitude 6.4 quake a few minutes later in the country's southern province of Gaziantep and a magnitude 7.6 earthquake at 1:24 p.m. local time (1024 GMT) in the Kahramanmaraş Province.

The quake-hit region in southern Türkiye is home to millions of Syrian refugees that fled their country after a civil war erupted in 2011.

Türkiye hosts nearly 3.5 million Syrian refugees, roughly half of them have been taking shelter in the region hit by devastating quakes.

Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said on Sunday that at least 10,633 Syrian refugees in the country have returned to their homeland voluntarily after the quakes.

"Our Syrian brothers, who lost their families and places of stay in the earthquake, returned to their lands voluntarily," Akar said during his visit to the military border outposts in the quake-hit southern province of Hatay. Agencies

Sudan parties sign implementation matrix, agree on peace

JUBA

THE Sudan transitional government and several opposition groups under the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) on Sunday signed an implementation matrix and agreed to a two-year timetable for implementation of the Juba peace agreement.

The Sudanese parties' commenced a workshop in Juba on Feb 13 to evaluate progress and challenges encountered in the course of implementing the peace deal which was mediated by South Sudan.

Among the key issues in the signed matrix include, security arrangements for Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile state. The second issue is on wealth and power sharing with opposition groups in central and northern Sudan.

South Sudan President Salva Kiir said the new roadmap is not an attempt at renegotiating the 2020 Juba peace agreement signed to

end decades of conflict, but rather to facilitate dialogue among parties to transition the country toward sustainable peace.

"The objective of this workshop is to create a conducive environment for all the parties and stakeholders to evaluate the implementation of Juba peace agreement, specifically, the workshop takes stock of challenges faced during implementation in the last two years with a goal of nudging the parties towards forging new political will to resolve outstanding issues," Kiir said during the signing ceremony in the South Sudanese capital of Juba.

Kiir said that the government of Sudan can now engage in dialogue with hold-out groups, other Sudanese political forces and civil society groups on how to achieve a comprehensive peace in Sudan. He said the latest agreement will fast-track the formation of the transitional government of national unity in Khartoum.

"I would like to remind all of us that peace in Sudan is peace in South Sudan, let us agree and resolve to have peace within and across our international borders," Kiir said.

The opposition parties which signed the matrix include the SPLM-North sector led by Malik Agar, Justice Equality Movement under Jibril Ibrahim, the Democratic Union party led by Eltom Hajou and the Sudan Liberation Movement under Minni Minnawi.

Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, head of Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council said his government remains committed to realizing security, freedom and development in all regions of Sudan.

"The implementation of Juba peace agreement will help in putting into practice the 2012 cooperation agreement, providing joint border security and opening of border points for trade and exchange."

Sudan and South Sudan signed the 2012 cooperation agreement which covers a range of issues related to security, citizens' status, border and economy, oil and trade.

Minni Minnawi, the leader of Sudan Liberation Movement called on the international community and the region to avail financial and political support for the implementation of the peace deal which has stalled due to a lack of funding and political uncertainty in Sudan.

Stephanie Khoury, the Office-in-Charge of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), said support for the revitalized Juba peace agreement will set priorities and help finalize the implementation.

She said implementation of the peace deal will transform Sudan besides unleashing new economic opportunities while guaranteeing safety and security for women who continue to face gender-based violence.

Focusing on 4T technologies, helping industries transform from energy consumers to energy producers

CAPE TOWN

HUAWEI has demonstrated its commitment to Africa's energy transition, while also showcasing the full range of its latest solar PV and green home and business solutions, at the Solar Power Africa Conference held in Cape Town, South Africa recently.

Xia Hesheng, President of Huawei Digital Power Sub-Saharan Africa Region, pointed out that "Carbon Neutrality" has become a global consensus. Low carbonisation, digitalisation and intelligence will definitely be a deterministic trend in the next 30 or 40 years.

However, digitalisation and intelligence are all supported by computing power that consumes a huge amount of electricity, which is now driving the urgency for the development of clean energy.

And, solar as the main renewable energy, driven by three key factors; low carbon, digitalisation and intelligence, is growing rapidly. Renewable energy will therefore become the main energy resource.

Hesheng expanded that Africa urgently needs solar energy to address its energy shortage challenges. "Worsening load shedding and rising energy costs are seriously impacting our lives, productivity, and ability to engage meaningfully in economic activity," he said.

"Huawei believes that what it calls '4T' Technologies, will drive the development of Africa's renewable energy: watT, heaT, baTtery and biT. Over its 25 years of operating in Sub-Saharan Africa, Huawei has a deep understanding of the region's energy and technology requirements. We are committed to utilise Huawei's digital power energy technologies to build a better Africa and bring clean energy to more people, families, and organisations," said Hesheng.

Huawei called on every organisation to take action to transform from energy consumers to energy producers.

Xia illustrated how Huawei itself is doing so, using two examples from its work in South Africa.

The first is Huawei's Johannesburg campus, where all 18 buildings and parking garages are covered with solar panels, supporting a solar system which provides 1500KWh/day.

Another example is the Waterkloof Winery in Cape Town, where Huawei has worked with a local partner, to provide a clean energy solution. A cluster of solar panels on the winery's roof generates 1100KWh/Day of green electricity to the winery.

"We are happy to see that more enterprises, organisations, and families are actively taking action to change from pure energy consumers to energy producers. We want to use this occasion to call on more stakeholders to join us in this great transformation, let's use our abundant natural resource, sunshine, to address today's energy challenges, and in so doing, contribute to a carbon neutral future," concluded Hesheng. Agencies



Xia Hesheng President of Huawei Digital Power Sub-Saharan Africa Region.

Foreign mercenaries fighting in Ukraine paid up to \$2,730 - Russia's chief investigator

MOSCOW

FOREIGN mercenaries, hired to fight for the Ukrainian side, are paid between 30,000 and 100,000 hryvnias (\$820-2,734), Russia's Investigative Committee Chairman Alexander Bastrykin (pictured) told TASS yesterday.

"The investigation has obtained information that the Kiev regime, with the support of the collective West, encourages the participation of mercenaries in combat actions on the side of Ukraine, which is prohibited by international norms," he said in an interview with TASS.

"We have established their order of recruitment, training and participation in combat actions at the sum of bonus payments ranging between 30,000 and 100,000 hryvnias [between \$820 and 2,734]," he said. Agencies



After pandemic blues, Brazil's glitzy Carnival in full swing once again

RIO DE JANEIRO

BRAZIL'S Carnival is back. Glitzy and outrageous costumes have been prepared again, and Samba songs have been ringing out until dawn at Rio de Janeiro's sold-out parade grounds.

Hundreds of raucous, roaming parties were flooding the streets. And working-class communities were buoyed, emotionally and economically, by the renewed revelry.

The pandemic last year prompted Rio to delay Carnival by two months and dampened some of the fun, which was attended mostly by locals. Brazil's

federal government said it expects 46 million people to join the festivities that officially began on Friday and run until Wednesday.

That includes visitors to cities that make Carnival a world-famous bash, especially Rio but also Salvador, Recife and metropolitan Sao Paulo, which has recently emerged as a hot spot.

These cities have already begun letting loose.

Many Brazilian mayors, including Rio's, were marking the start of the celebrations on Friday by symbolically handing the keys of their cities to their Carnival Kings. And the first street parties of the Carnival weekend

began. "We've waited for so long," said Thiago Varela, 38, an engineer, wearing a Hawaiian shirt drenched by rain, at a bash in Sao Paulo. "We deserve this catharsis."

Most tourists were eager to go to the street parties, known as blocos. Rio has permitted more than 600 of them.

The biggest blocos lure millions to the streets, including one that plays Beatles songs with a Carnival rhythm for a crowd of hundreds of thousands.

Such major blocos were called off last year. "We want to see the partying, the colors, the people and ourselves enjoying Carnival," Sofia Umana, 28,

a tourist from Chile, said near Copacabana beach.

The premier spectacle is at the Sambadrome. Top samba schools, which are based in Rio's more working-class neighborhoods, spend millions on hourlong parades with elaborate floats and costumes, said Jorge Perlingeiro, president of Rio's league of samba schools.

"What's good and beautiful costs a lot; Carnival materials are expensive," Perlingeiro said in his office beside the samba schools' warehouses.

"It's such an important party ... It's a party of culture, happiness, entertainment, leisure and, primarily, its commercial and social side."

This year's Carnival will smash records at the Sambadrome, where about 100,000 staff and spectators are expected each day in the sold-out venue, as well as 18,000 paraders, he said. Rio expects about 5 billion reais (about \$1 billion) in revenue at its bars, hotels and restaurants, the president of the city's tourism agency, Ronnie Costa, said.

"Seeing this crowd today is a dream, it's very magical," said Costa. "This is the post-pandemic Carnival, ... the Carnival of rebirth." Rio's hotels are 85 percent full, said Brazil's hotel association, which said it expected last-minute deals to bring that figure near to its maximum. Small businesses are benefiting, too.

"Carnival is beautiful, people are buying, thank God all my employees are paid up to date," said Jorge Francisco, who sells sequined and sparkled Carnival accouterments at his shop in downtown Rio. "For me, this is an immense joy, everyone smiling and wanting. That's how Carnival is."

As Luciene Moreira, 60, a seamstress, sewed a yellow costume in samba school Salgueiro's warehouse, she said: "Yesterday I went to sleep at 3 in the morning. Today I'll leave earlier because I've lost my voice. You have to sleep later one day, earlier the next; otherwise, the body can't handle it. But it is very enjoyable." Agencies

By He Yin

China's BRI 'circle of friends' expanding

THIS year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

At the beginning of 2023, China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the joint construction of the BRI with Turkmenistan and signed an updated MoU on the BRI with the Philippines. This fully demonstrated that the BRI meets the needs of world development, conforms to the expectations of the international community, and always enjoys strong resilience and vitality.

The Belt and Road cooperation embraces the historical trend of economic globalization, responds to the call for improving the global governance system and meets people's longing for a better life, which is the fundamental reason why it always has strong resilience and vitality.

So far, China has signed more than 200 BRI cooperation agreements with 151 countries and 32 international organizations.

In its latest Global Econom-



Aerial photo taken on Jan. 6, 2023 shows containers being loaded into a China-Europe freight train at a platform of the Yiwu-Xinjiang-Europe cargo line in Jinhua city, east China's Zhejiang province. (Photo by Hu Xiaofei/People's Daily Online)

ic Prospects report released on Jan. 10, the World Bank slashed its 2023 global economic growth forecast to 1.7 percent, 1.3 percentage points lower than what it projected last June.

As economic globalization is encountering headwinds and global economic recovery is in the doldrums, the

joint construction of the BRI has shown a more important role in boosting the economic growth of relevant countries and regions and promoting the common development of all countries.

A research report released by the World Bank in 2019 showed that transportation infrastructure projects under

the BRI, if fully implemented, would generate \$1.6 trillion in benefits annually in global revenue by 2030 – accounting for 1.3 percent of global GDP.

More countries will carry out high-quality cooperation under the framework of BRI, which will be a prevailing trend.

The BRI was proposed by

China, yet it generates opportunities and benefits for the entire world.

The initiative has provided new platforms for international trade and investment. Data showed that the cumulative value of trade in goods between China and countries along the BRI routes reached nearly \$11 trillion from 2013 to 2021, while the two-way investment hit more than \$230 billion.

The initiative has also promoted infrastructure connectivity and made new contributions to the well-being of the people in various countries.

High-quality BRI cooperation conforms to the trend of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The cooperation has injected new vitality into the ancient Silk Road by seizing opportunities of digital, Internet-based and intelligent development, fostering new growth drivers, exploring new development pathways, and building the digital Silk Road and the Silk Road of innovation.

Martin Albrow, a British soci-

ologist noted for his works on globalization, pointed out that the BRI has connected China's peaceful development with the prosperity and happiness of the whole world.

As an important international public good China has provided for the world to help improve global governance, high-quality BRI cooperation draws on past experience, values innovation, takes the initiative, emphasizes seeking common ground while reserving differences, and promotes incremental reform of the existing international order and rules.

The BRI and its guiding principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits have been included in relevant documents of the United Nations, the Group of 20 (G20), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and other organizations, becoming an important consensus on global governance.

The establishment of multilateral development institutions and cooperation platforms, such as the Asian

Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Silk Road Fund, will contribute to the building of a fairer and more reasonable global governance system.

From visionary blueprints to intensive implementation, the BRI has taken a journey from taking roots to achieving sustainable progress. China's "circle of friends" for joint construction of the BRI has expanded continuously, while the BRI's quality of cooperation has kept improving and its development prospects have grown more promising.

China will consider holding the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation this year to provide fresh impetus for the development and prosperity of the world.

At a new starting point, China is ready to work together with various parties to continue promoting high-quality construction of the road for peace, prosperity, opening up, green development, innovation, and connected civilizations, so that the initiative, a project of the century, will better benefit people across the world.

China sees remarkable progress in green, low-carbon transition

By Du Yifei

CHINA'S total installed capacity for renewable energy generation exceeded 1.2 billion kW, ranking first in the world. The new energy vehicle (NEV) industry registered exponential growth in the country, with production and sales topping the world for eight consecutive years.

Besides, thanks to afforestation efforts, 64 million hectares of trees have been planted in China over the past decade. During this period, desertification prevention and control was carried out on over 18.53 million hectares of land, 40 million hectares of land were improved through sowing grass, and more than 800,000 hectares of wetland were added or restored.

This set of data indicates China's accelerated green transition as well as remarkable progress towards its aim to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

Chinese modernization is the modernization of harmony between humanity and nature.

Efforts to prioritize ecological conservation and to advance green, low-carbon and high-quality development can be observed everywhere in the country, from the southeast coast to the inland area in northwest China, and from vast fields to the Gobi Desert.

On the fringe of northwest China's Mu Us Desert, a 2,000-MW photovoltaic (PV) project is currently being built by the Ningxia branch of the China Energy Investment Corporation. The project, built on unused lands such as goafs and barren slopes, is expected to transmit 3.7 billion kWh of green electricity to east China each year upon completion.

In Zhangpu, southeast China's Fujian province, China's first large-scale offshore wind farm using turbines with a single capacity of 16 MW is under construction. The wind farm will save about 500,000 tons of standard coal and reduce around 1.35 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions every year.



A wind turbine is being erected in a 30-kW wind farm in Ganzhou district, Zhangye, northwest China's Gansu province, Feb. 10, 2023. (Photo by Yang Yongwei/People's Daily Online)

China has built the world's largest clean power generation system. It ranks first in the world in terms of the installed capacities of wind, PV, hydro and biomass power generation.

Besides, the country has witnessed a significant rise in the efficiency of energy utilization.

According to Zhao Chenxin, vice chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission, China's average annual economic growth of 6.6 percent has been supported by an average annual growth of 3 percent in energy consumption from 2012, and the per unit GDP energy consumption dropped by 26.4%. China is among the countries with the fastest reduction in energy intensity, Zhao added.

As China pushes for the synergistic progress of economic development and pollution reduction, green industries have grown into a new driver of the country's economic growth.

China produces 70 percent of the global market share of key components such as PV modules and wind turbines. The country produced over 7 million NEVs last year, and Chinese-made vessels powered by liquefied natural gas, methanol and other green energy constituted nearly half of the global market.

The country sees fruitful results in the building of green and low-carbon industrial chains, and is leading the world in new energy, pollution treatment and environment monitoring technologies.



New energy vehicles roll off the production line in a workshop of a carmaker in Jinhua, east China's Zhejiang province (Photo by Hu Xiaofei/People's Daily Online)

Ceaseless efforts have brought prominent improvements in ecology and the environment. People are getting more sense of happiness and security from the sound ecological environment.

China has become the world's fastest country in improving air quality. In 2022, the average concentration of PM2.5 in cities at and above the prefecture-level fell to 29 micrograms per cubic meter, from 46 micrograms per cubic meter in 2015.

Besides, the proportion of surface water at or above Grade III in the country's five-tier water quality system reached 87.9 percent last year, and the country has hit the target of "zero import" of solid waste.

China has always been taking

earnest actions in climate governance. It has reinforced the effort to achieve its nationally determined contributions targets. It will make the steepest cuts in the world to the intensity of its carbon emissions, and complete the process from carbon emissions peaking to carbon neutrality in the shortest span of time.

In 2022, China's renewable energy generation was equivalent to a reduction of 2.26 billion tons of domestic carbon dioxide emissions. Its exports of wind power and PV products helped other countries reduce emissions by approximately 573 million tons.

The two figures added up to 2.83 billion tons of emissions, or about 41 percent of the world's total carbon emissions reduction convert-

ed from renewable energy.

Since 2016, working in other developing countries, China has launched 10 low-carbon demonstration zones, 100 projects for climate change mitigation and adaptation, training sessions on climate change response for 1,000 people, and more than 200 foreign assistance programs on climate change. China is committed to working with other countries on promoting green development under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

In order to establish a cooperation mechanism for green and low-carbon development under the BRI, China has signed an MoU with the United Nations Environment Programme on building a green Belt and Road, and reached more than 50 cooperation agreements on eco-environmental conservation with relevant countries and international organizations.

China's unswerving pursuit of common prosperity

By Qiang Wei

WITH snow on the grey tiled roof and red lanterns strung on the porch, every house in Zhanghe village, Lingchuan county, Jincheng, north China's Shanxi

province had already been immersed in a festive atmosphere before the 2023 Spring Festival, or the 2023 Chinese Lunar New Year.

Wang Chuan, a villager of Zhanghe village, was busy preparing his B&B hotel for the coming holiday.

"Many regulars have spent New Year's Eve and enjoyed the reunion dinner here in my house for several years. The meat prepared used up quickly, and I need to go to the town to buy some more," Wang told People's Daily.

Zhanghe village used to be an important transportation hub of ancient trade routes, and has retained many features and folk customs of traditional villages in northern China. The village has vigorously developed characteristic tourism leveraging its cultural traditions in recent years.

Motivated by the positive changes in his hometown, Wang, who has worked as a cook for years, decided to return to the village with his wife to start their own business.

Their old house was invested in and transformed into a B&B hotel, which has enjoyed booming business. Wang no longer has to leave his hometown for employment.

The development of Zhanghe village is an epitome of the industrial upgrading achieved through transformation and investment in many villages of the country in re-



Photo shows a B&B hotel converted from rural houses in Nonglin village, Xihu township, Tongguan district, Tongling, east China's Anhui Province. (Photo by Guo Shining/People's Daily Online)

cent years. The practice has given villages brand new looks, attracting more and more migrant workers back home.

It's estimated that the per capita annual income of Zhanghe village will exceed 30,000 yuan (\$4,383.27) by 2025.

At present, nearly 510 million people live in rural areas of China, accounting for 36.11 percent of the country's total population. Since farmers constitute the main part of China's low-income earners, the well-off life of farmers is important for the country to achieve its goal

of common prosperity.

In Wenzhou, east China's Zhejiang province, "city study rooms", 24-hour self-service public libraries, have enjoyed growing popularity among readers.

These libraries provide free, equal, and barrier-free services for readers, representing a vivid practice of Wenzhou's efforts to achieve common prosperity in the pursuit of spiritual development.

The city has established 136 "city study rooms" since the first one opened to the public in

2014, with a combined area of more than 34,800 square meters and a total collection of nearly 1.43 million volumes.

These libraries have received more than 15.06 million visits and witnessed the circulation of over 14.8 million volumes of books.

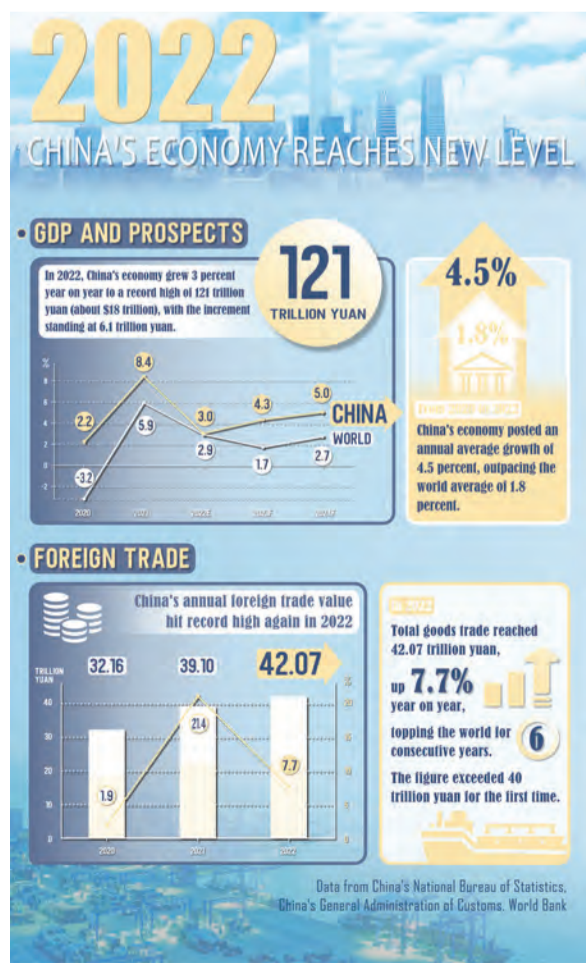
"Unlike traditional libraries or bookstores, 'city study rooms' usually have a cozy and beautiful environment, making people feel at home," a student surnamed Chen told People's Daily in a "city study room" on Nantang Street in Wenzhou.

"At first I just came in to shelter from the rain, and I didn't expect to find an amazing 'new world' here. Now I'm a big fan of the place," Chen said.

China has become the second-largest economy in the world. In 2022, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) surpassed 120 trillion yuan, which was equivalent to about \$18 trillion based on the average annual exchange rate.

Meanwhile, China's per capita GDP is only \$12,700, which is still a long way from reaching the level of medium-developed countries.

Continuously promoting the material and spiritual civilizations for the people on the path to common prosperity is an important feature of Chinese modernization and a direction of China's development.



Musonda's previous season performance raises questions over his move to Yanga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIGNING a player in modern football requires an outfit to go for scouting, and checking his/her statistical data and fitness record, among many aspects.

It is not easy for a side to decide to sign the respective player.

Signing a player is a very long process, it is akin to a man preparing for marriage in the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.

Our fathers did not marry just because they met women at either the dance hall or other entertainment areas, a sufficient 'scouting' was taking place.

Many meetings of elders were used to satisfy themselves with the movements of the girl in question.

It is not much different from player registration, a club should do enough scouting to satisfy itself with the quality of the player before deciding to sign him, some sides watch the player in every match he/she takes part in.

Some are investigating his history, some are investigating his life outside the pitch.

All this can be done and still the player might fail to help the team, how can an outfit rope in a footballer without assessing anything concerning the player?

When Fernando Torres was at the English Premier League club, Liverpool, and suddenly moved to the league's other giant, Chelsea, all scientific methods were done but the expectations were not met.

The culture of football shows that many successful players tend to stay in the club for a long time, at least five seasons and beyond.

A person should look at Cristiano Ronaldo who stayed at Man United for six years and managed to win the Ballon d'Or award as well as being the top scorer in the English Premier League.

Ronaldo later went to Real Madrid where he stayed for a long time and won almost all top tournament titles at the club level and four individual Ballon d'Or awards.

Lionel Messi is an equally exceptional footballer, winning seven Ballon d'Or awards with FC Barcelona.

Here a person will see that many players who stayed with their clubs for a long time enjoyed success.

These are just examples that prove many footballers are successful, especially those who play in the attacking area.

In Tanzania, there is still concern about the type of players being signed by the country's oldest clubs, Simba SC and Yanga.

A football fan has, for instance, to check out Yanga's Zambian forward Kennedy Musonda, recently roped in by the outfit from Zambia's Super League big guns, Power Dynamos FC, based in Kitwe.

This signing raises many questions, is it true that Yanga followed all procedures before signing him?

If a soccer lover looks at Musonda, he has had an average stay with a

club for one season since the 2015/16 season.

At Zambia's Power Dynamos FC, the forward just spent two more seasons in two phases, Musonda has been on move every season. Such a situation brings about doubts about whether the attacker can be productive for Yanga.

Soccer fans ought to look at famous clubs in Africa such as Al Ahly, Zamalek, Wydad Athletic Club, and Esperance Tunis that are doing well in African inter-club tournaments, and will discover that players who play in North Africa at least stay for two to three seasons.

Tanzania's clubs do not have the money to buy quality players, the sides have no money to sign up young players and footballers who can steer them to great achievements.

The country's clubs' goal is largely to sign free agents and footballers who are about to retire.

If a soccer lover looks at the 28-year-old Musonda, he/she will see that his nomadic behaviour raises questions because it is difficult for a fan to witness a player, who is doing well in his club, leaving it.

It is possible that Musonda did not have good statistics and that is why he played for seven teams from 2015 to 2023.

It is not possible that he is a good player because, since the 2015/16 season, he has played for Lusaka Dynamos, Nakambala Leopards, Zanaco FC, Kabwe Youth Academy, Green Eagles, and now Yanga.

Well, Mainland Tanzania Premier League is not yet competitive, so he can achieve success in the show-down but relying on him in African inter-club tournaments is hardly a good move.

It is a very big gamble that Yanga has opted for, player registration around the world is done randomly.

Domestic sides are not sure about player registration, many foreign players come to Tanzania either for free or at a low price and cheap registration costs a lot.

The country's teams must start keeping their budgets sufficient if they have dreams of winning the African inter-club tournaments, guesswork is holding the country back.

If a football lover properly evaluates Musonda's statistics, he/she will find they are terrible.

The attacker has only scored 11 goals in 17 matches in this season's Zambia Premier League. In the past five seasons, he had never reached 10 goals.

He is an average player with ordinary statistics, if a football fanatic looks at the player's statistics, they show that Yanga did not scout for Musonda.

The Jangwani Street outfit had looked at the forward's current season statistics and made decisions.

It is a big risk to have been taken by Yanga but, in football, these kinds of issues do happen and tend to pay off. In the long run, however, it is all about miracles.



Tanzania's Yanga attacker, Fiston Mayele (L), seeks to get the better of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)'s Tout Puissant Mazembe center-back, Kelvin Mundeko, when the two sides locked horns in a 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group D tie played in Dar es Salaam last Sunday. Yanga garnered a 3-1 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Simba gutted but Yanga elated

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipoke

OFF the back of their razor-thin 1-0 loss to Horoya AC of Guinea one week ago, Simba SC was again left bitterly disappointed after their saddening 3-0 defeat to Moroccan titans Raja Casablanca in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League group phase clash here in Dar es Salaam last Saturday.

Indeed, the deeply dissatisfying result frustratingly means that Simba SC's hopes of sealing a spot in the quarterfinals of continental football's most pre-eminent championship are now extremely dim.

While the post-match analysis will undoubtedly reveal some valuable truths, one can only feel sympathy for Simba SC's fans, who must have been hoping for a revival of their club's CAF Champions League Group

Stage campaign last Saturday.

In stark contrast, Yanga turned their fortunes around in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup group phase last Sunday when they comfortably cruised to a much-deserved 3-1 victory against TP Mazembe of DR Congo.

Having lost 2-0 to the Tunisian outfit US Monastir in their opening group stage encounter a week ago, Yanga had no room for error in their eagerly awaited duel against TP Mazembe last weekend as it was a match that they simply had to win to maintain their prospects of reaching the quarterfinals.

With their tails now up, Yanga must nevertheless still be wary of falling prey to overconfidence which would be a colossal mistake.

Let us switch gears now to consider wheelchair tennis from which there were joyous tidings to report last week.

It pleasantly came to light last week that the national wheelchair tennis team had admirably finished third in the 2023 African Qualification Tournament for the BNP Paribas World Team Cup.

Indeed, it should be noted that this is hardly the first time that the national wheelchair tennis team has produced gloriously magical displays to return home with eagerly sought-after top honours.

Unfortunately, though, the national wheelchair tennis team's past triumphs have not been met by commensurate investment into the sport, which is a crying shame.

It is hoped then that the exceptional showings of our valiant bunch of wheelchair-bound sporting heroes will prompt some long overdue investment into this sport which has a wealth of potential.

Speaking of untapped prom-

ise, this year's U-20 African Cup of Nations (U-20 AFCON) kicked off last Sunday in that historically significant land of the Pharaohs, Egypt.

The Black Satellites of Ghana are the reigning champions and it is a certainty that the crème de la crème of African youth football will all be determinedly seeking to wrest the title from their grasp.

In the past, undiscovered talents have used this tournament as a stepping stone to rise from obscurity to stardom.

In the big picture, the top four teams to emerge from this year's showcase event will qualify for the FIFA U-20 World Cup that is set to unfold later this year in Indonesia.

Thus, with this year's U-20 AFCON finals now in full swing, one dearly hopes that the competition doubtlessly proves to be one to savour.

Kili Marathon organizers announce roads to be closed on Sunday

By Guardian Correspondent

WITH less than one week left to this year's edition of the prestigious Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon, the showdown's organizers have announced details about road closures and other logistics that might slightly affect movement in Moshi on the event's day.

A statement issued by the organizers said this will help Moshi residents and visitors plan their travels and use alternative routes during the temporary closure to enable safe operations of the marathon.

According to the statement, Sokoine Road from KCMC corner to Kilimanjaro Road will be closed from 6 am-9.30 am.

Motorists can use alternative routes to Moshi via Shanty Town and Rau and to Mweka same routes.

Also to be closed is Kilimanjaro Road- to the corner of Kilimanjaro Road and Sokoine Road from 7.45 am-9.30 am.

This will allow runners to get to the event parking at CCP and MoCU parking via the Uru Road gate in time for all race starts and will then be closed to allow runners free access.

The organizers stated that Mso-



Kilimanjaro Premium Lager's Brand Manager, Pamela Kikuli. The brand is the main sponsor of the annual Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon, which takes place in Moshi on Sunday.

ka to Mweka Road via Kibosho will also be closed both ways from 6.30 am - 8.30 am.

The statement further said there will be no parking on Sokoine Road from Kilimanjaro Road Corner, and any vehicles parked there will be towed away by Police.

The organizers disclosed in the statement: "There will be free parking at CCP- access via Kilimanjaro Road and pedestrian gate right to the start of the Tigo Kili International Half Marathon."

There will also be free shady parking at MoCU Cooperatives University (MoCU) grounds that

will be accessed via Uru Road only, which is a five-minute walk to the start of the Tigo Kili International Half Marathon and Grand Malt Fun Run and two minutes to the start of the 42km Kilimanjaro Premium Lager race.

"Police will be controlling traffic along the whole route from 6 am to 12.30 pm. Motorists are asked to drive slowly and carefully and be aware of runners," the organizers pointed out.

They also called on trucks and buses to avoid the marathon route as the motor vehicles may be pulled over for long periods.

Meanwhile, the number and kit collection exercise gets underway in Arusha today and tomorrow from 2 pm to 7 pm at the Kibo Palace Hotel after a successful exercise in Dar es Salaam where hundreds of participants turned up at the Mlimani City Mall to collect their numbers.

This year's sponsors include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager-42km (main sponsor), Tigo- 21km (Half Marathon), and Grand Malt-5km Fun Run.

The marathon's water table sponsors are TPC Sugar, Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water, TotalEnergies, and official suppliers are Kibo Palace Hotel, CMC Automobiles, KK Security, and Keys Hotel.

Kili Marathon is organized by Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and nationally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.



Kennedy Musonda.

Jim Ratcliffe: Daredevil billionaire with United in his sights

LONDON

LIFELONG Manchester United fan Jim Ratcliffe says he does not "take risks unnecessarily" and the hard-headed businessman appears to have judged buying the club falls outside that category.

The 70-year-old self-made English billionaire's idea of what is an unnecessary risk may differ to that of most other people. For he has skied to the North and South Poles, sailed through the Northwest Passage and climbed the Matterhorn.

"I don't take risks unnecessarily," he told Saturday's edition of The Times on the day his INEOS company officially submitted a bid for majority ownership of United.

"To give you an example, I won't and would never jump out of an aeroplane, because you either live or die depending upon how well someone's packed your parachute.

"I'm quite careful, but you're only here once so you get more out of life if you challenge yourself a bit more."

Ratcliffe has an estimated net worth of £12.5 billion (\$15 billion) having along with two long-standing partners -- "all northern grammar school boys" -- built INEOS into a formidable global petrochemical firm.

His fortune was estimated in 2018 at £21 billion -- a far cry from when the company was in serious trouble as a result of the global financial crisis in 2008.

He is not a newcomer to the football world as he owns French Ligue 1 side Nice -- which he bought for a reported 110 million euros (\$118 million) -- and Swiss outfit FC Lausanne-Sport.

He has been unhappy with the manner in which Manchester United has been run under the deeply unpopular Glazer family.

Ratcliffe -- born in Failsworth, Greater Manchester -- was blunt in an interview with The Times in 2019 when outlining the reasons why he would not have bought United outright at that time, even if it was up for sale.

"(INEOS) never wants to be the dumb money in town, never. They (United) are in quite a big pickle as a business.

"They haven't got the manager selection right, haven't bought well. They have been the dumb money, which you see with players like Fred.

"United have spent an immense amount since (Sir Alex) Ferguson left (he retired in 2013 after guiding them to their last league title) and been poor, to put it mildly.

"Shockingly poor, to be honest."

- 'Highs and lows' -

Ratcliffe is clearly keen for the fans to feel part of the club again.

"We want a Manchester United anchored in its proud history and roots in the north-west of England, putting the Manchester back into Manchester United," INEOS said in their statement confirming they were in the race to buy the club.

Ratcliffe, whose father was a joiner while his mother worked in an accounts department, was an advocate for Brexit and stands by it.

He was annoyed by criticism when he decamped to Monaco, making it his primary residence. He still, however, retains properties in England.

"I didn't move down there until I was well into retirement age," he said. "Going to the sun, I might live a bit longer in a warmer climate."

Ratcliffe, whose other sporting interests include the elite cycling team INEOS Grenadiers, has other interests. One of them is bee-keeping.

He also bought his favourite watering hole, The Grenadier Pub, in London's chic Belgravia neighbourhood. That is a far cry from the bitter cold of the North and South Poles. He took his two sons, Sam and George, on both trips.

"It was one of the more miserable experiences of my life," Ratcliffe said of the 2011 trip to the South Pole. "There's nothing uplifting about spending all day (on skis) pulling an 80-kilo sledge over ice waves.

"But there's no feeling quite like getting to the South Pole after you've walked 200 kilometres.

"It's the highs and lows of life, isn't it? The highs are better if you've experienced a few lows beforehand. You can't just have highs all the time."

AFP



JURGEN Klopp.

Klopp eyes Liverpool revival ahead of Real revenge mission

LONDON

JURGEN Klopp has urged Liverpool to turn their recent improvement into a season-saving revival as the Reds eye Champions League revenge against Real Madrid.

Klopp's side are showing signs of finally emerging from a dismal spell that threatened to ruin their entire campaign.

Liverpool have reeled off successive victories over Everton and Newcastle to give them renewed hope of snatching a top four finish in the Premier League. Saturday's 2-0 win at Newcastle moved Liverpool to within six points of the fourth placed Magpies with a game in hand.

While it is too early to say Klopp has found remedies for everything that has ailed Liverpool throughout a traumatic season, they welcome Real to Anfield for today's last 16 first leg with morale no longer at rock bottom.

Klopp will take that as a foundation from which to kick-start Liverpool's bid to win the Champions League for a second time under the German. Liverpool, six-time winners of Europe's elite club competition, would already have more Champions League triumphs in the Klopp era if not for pesky Real.

The Spanish giants beat Liverpool in the 2018 final, eliminated them in the 2021 quarter-finals and won last season's final 1-0 in Paris thanks to Vinicius Junior's

goal. Liverpool haven't beaten Real since a Champions League last 16 victory in 2009.

Last year's loss was especially painful at the end of their failed quadruple chase, a quest that brought just FA and League Cup success and left Klopp's players struggling mentally and physically this season.

Even greater scars were worn by the Liverpool fans traumatised after police used unnecessary force in ugly scenes outside the Stade de France before kick-off in the Champions League final.

The repercussions from those incidents are still being felt and it would a cathartic moment for Liverpool if they could end Real's reign as holders. It hasn't escaped the attention of Liverpool fans that this year's Champions League final is in Istanbul, the scene of their against-all-odds victory over AC Milan in the 2005 showpiece.

- 'Absolutely incredible' -

A return to the Ataturk Stadium would bring back sweet memories for the Reds, but first they have to get past Carlo Ancelotti's men.

After a season marred by defensive problems, Klopp takes heart from Liverpool's second consecutive clean-sheet against Newcastle, a feat they had not managed in the league since October.

"Massive, 100 per cent. It explains a little bit the issues we have in the games where we can't control it better. It's

so long ago we were in a situation like that," Klopp said.

"It's unfortunate that football is not like cycling, always exactly on the same level. It's different. The only way you can get back on track is by winning.

"We've now done it twice in a row and that feels absolutely incredible."

After a wretched run that featured embarrassing defeats at Brentford, Brighton (twice) and Wolves, Liverpool have given themselves a chance to get back on track.

Darwin Nunez and Cody Gakpo were scorers against Newcastle, but he was most encouraged by the way Liverpool fought to subdue a side that threw players forward in search of a way back into the game.

That togetherness, traditionally a trademark of Klopp's teams, has not always been evident this season.

"We didn't score a third and that keeps the game exciting. All credit to them, they put a proper shift in, they fought really hard," Klopp said.

The only concern for Klopp ahead of the Real clash was the shoulder injury Nunez suffered in a second-half collision with Kieran Trippier.

"The bad news, Darwin has something on his shoulder. We will see. We need further assessment," Klopp said.

"I don't know in the moment. In the moment it is painful, but hopefully it's just painful and not more."

AFP

Troubled waters for Madrid's Vinicius despite Liverpool final strike

MADRID

WHEN Vinicius Junior pounced in the Champions League final last year to fire Real Madrid to a 1-0 win over Liverpool and lift the trophy for a record 14th time, it seemed like a career milestone and also a platform to build on.

After years of criticism for his finishing and decision-making, sometimes even from his own fans, it was at once the perfect riposte and proof he belonged among the elite.

Forced to step into Cristiano Ronaldo's shoes when Madrid's all-time top goalscorer left in 2018, it seemed too much too soon for Vinicius - it would have been for almost anyone, let alone a teenager.

The Brazilian forward exploded at Madrid in the 2021-22 season, hitting 22 goals across all competitions, having managed just 14 in total across the three campaigns prior. His Champions League winning final goal should have signalled his arrival as a superstar and silenced the noise around him, but instead it transformed it into something more sinister.

No longer able to scoff at his performances, this season attention from opposition fans and players has been focused on trying to shackle and diminish the winger, in any way

possible. Some of the needling has been give and take, with Vinicius no stranger to giving opponents an earful, diving or winding them up.

Vinicius's tricks and flicks are also viewed in some quarters as designed to humiliate opponents - just as his compatriot Neymar was tarred with the same brush during his time at Barcelona.

In exchange the forward has received increasingly rough treatment from defenders, peaking earlier in February when Mallorca fouled him 10 times.

Vinicius was engaged in a running battle with defender Antonio Raulo, with whom he has long not seen eye-to-eye with.

"Let Vinicius dance but don't let him insult and disparage fellow members of the profession," said Raulo in 2022.

The player's dancing celebrations are another bone that some opponents and fans pick with the forward.

"It seems like the problem is Vinicius, but the problem is what happens around him, period," said coach Carlo Ancelotti, under whom Vinicius has flourished.

"It is a problem of Spanish football. I am a part of Spanish football and I think it's a problem that we have to solve because it seems

that Vinicius is the culprit, but he is the victim of something that I don't understand."

- Racism shame

Vinicius is also having to deal with far worse off the pitch -- a spate of racist abuse from opposition supporters is tarring the Spanish game.

A group of Atletico Madrid ultras hung an effigy of the player from a bridge near Real Madrid's training ground, a matter being investigated by police, while numerous instances of racism aimed at Vinicius have been filmed.

"Racists continue to go to stadiums and watch the biggest club in the world up close and La Liga continues to do nothing," complained Vinicius.

The Spanish top flight has reported several



Vinicius Junior

incidents to prosecutors, however no punishments have yet been dealt by the courts, with some cases dismissed.

"The insults continue but the dance does too, see you in Liverpool!" said Vinicius on Twitter after Madrid's win at Osasuna on Saturday.

Even though amid the controversy and kickings Vinicius has not hit

the rich vein of form he managed last season, he still has 16 goals and counting across all competitions and is one of the most exciting players in the world.

However he was left out of the shortlist for the FIFPro men's world 11, and there are several reports he feels undervalued by Nike and is looking to break up his

deal with the sports-wear brand.

Vinicius shone at the Club World Cup in Morocco which Madrid won earlier in February, and he will welcome the Champions League last 16 clash with Liverpool as another chance to escape the negativity and revisit his finest moment to date.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko

SPORT

Klopp eyes Liverpool revival ahead of Real revenge mission

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Simba SC aims higher in 2022/23 CAF Champions League despite facing tricky ties

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC leadership, through the club's Information and Communications Manager Ahmed Ally, has stressed that it still has a high chance of making it to the quarterfinals of this season's CAF Champions League.

The Msimbazi Street-based club has lost the first two games of Group C of the premier continental club competition, going down 1-0 to Horoya AC away (Guinea) and then losing 3-0 to Raja Casablanca of Morocco at home in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Ally said that their team still has a big chance to move forward, despite being left with a difference of six points with Group C leader, Raja Casablanca, followed by Horoya AC with four points and Vipers SC with one point.

The Information and Communications Manager said that Simba SC has four games left in Group C, which gives their team a chance to do better and finish in one of the top two positions in the group.

He said he will be the last person to believe that Simba SC will fail to qualify for the quarterfinals of the showpiece this season, despite believing they are facing a tough schedule.

"We still have four more games, I will be the last person to believe that Simba SC is not going to the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League, our schedule is difficult, but we will qualify," the leader said.

"I would like to emphasize that I will be the last person to believe that Simba SC is not going to the quarterfinals," Ally stressed.

The leader noted: "We also have tricky fixtures in the league of which we have to pick our pieces and put on the show to restore faith in ourselves and fans in general, fans who want their team to thrive in all competitions."

In the coming premier continental club showpiece assignment, Simba SC will travel to Uganda to take on Vipers SC who, on Saturday, were held to a goalless draw by Horoya AC in an early Group C encounter that took place in Kampala.

Today, Simba SC entertains Azam FC in the 23rd round match of the 2022/23 NBC Premier League at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in the city in a game dubbed 'Mzizima derby'.

The last time these two sides met, Simba SC lost 1-0 to Azam FC in the first round of the Premier League.

Currently, Simba SC is occupying the second spot in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League standings with 53 points, whereas league leader and defending champions, Yanga, have recorded 59 points.



Simba SC's Information and Communications Manager, Ahmed Ally. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Nabi: TP Mazembe win gives us confidence



Yanga's head coach, Nasreddine Nabi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Young Africans SC head coach Nasreddine Nabi believes their 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup win over DR Congo's TP Mazembe in Dar es Salaam last weekend will give them the confidence and belief needed to qualify for the quarterfinals.

Nabi's charges, who started their campaign with a 2-0 defeat away to Tunisia's US Monastir, earned a convincing 3-1 win against TP Mazembe with goals netted by Kennedy Musonda, Mudathir Yahya, and Tuisila Kisinda to stay third in Group D.

A relieved Nabi poured out his emotion during the post-game interview, explaining how he was hurt by criticism following the opening-day loss that his outfit, alias Yanga, conceded in Tunisia and what this bounce-back victory means to the team.

The Tunisian-born coach revealed: "I'm very happy about this victory. I congratulate my players because they were responsive unlike the last game, there were a lot of spirits, there was attitude, there was concentration and the will against the big team of TP Mazembe."

The gaffer said: "I would say to my little brother Pamphile Mihayo, it's football. He's a great coach too, he's been my little brother since I was at DC Motema Pembe."

"And if this result plus results of the first day show something, it is that this group, unlike what those analysts say, is a very, very solid, very competitive, very balanced group, and our defeat in Tunisia against US Monastir, was a day off when we were simply not in good shape but in no way does it represent the true status of Yanga," the tactician noted.

He added: "I take this victory modestly, there are still a lot of shortcomings to work on and, apart from the three points today, is that this victory will give my players the belief that they can go far too, they can qualify from this group."

"It's the messages that I haven't stopped telling them all week, of course, while training. It's outside of those three points that I wanted to give to my players the belief that they have the opportunity to qualify."

On their motivation a day after Simba SC had lost 3-0 at home to Morocco's Raja Cas-

ablanca, Nabi said that it was the desire to bounce back from humiliation in Tunisia that fuelled them rather than their rivals' results.

The coach revealed: "We are coaches and responsible people, I cannot rejoice in Simba SC's defeat because they represent Tanzania the same way Young Africans SC represents Tanzania."

Nabi stated: "So no, no, Simba SC's defeat was not our motivation but it is because we were humiliated in Tunisia and we were criti-

cized too much even by the analysts and fans here."

"It happens when any team can have an off day and it was our off day but we were slaughtered. I think we have never had such a bad game since I came to Tanzania," he said.

The tactician stated: "People forget the real value and, if there is something very positive today, is that we have shown people that we have an excellent team and we have a great club here which is Young Africans SC."

Simba SC and Azam FC set for Premier League heavyweight showdown today

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC will continue their tough schedule today evening when they host Azam FC in a crucial 2022/23 NBC Premier League game.

The game will take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam and the host Simba SC begins in second place with 53 points while visitor, Azam FC, occupies fourth place having notched 43 points.

The hosts will be highly motivated to bounce back from terrible back-to-back losses in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group Stage and boost up their confidence ahead of a huge continental showdown

game against Vipers SC in Uganda next weekend.

On Saturday, Simba SC lost 3-0 at home to Morocco's Raja Casablanca in the CAF Champions League. Form in 2022/23 NBC Premier League shows Simba SC are undefeated in their last 15 games since their loss to Azam FC.

They know they will need to maintain a winning run if they are to catch up on age-old rivals Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, who now have a six-point lead at the top of the table.

Simba SC will also be extra motivated to get revenge as they lost 1-0 to Azam FC in the reverse fixture, which took place in October last year.

The Msimbazi Street-based

club's top scorer, Moses Phiri, who has struggled for fitness since the turn of the year, missed Saturday night's match against Raja Casablanca as a precaution, but he is likely ready to start against Azam FC.

Phiri is five goals behind the league's leading goal-scorer, Yanga's Fiston Mayele, and the Zambian goal-getter will be desperate to find the back of the net and inch closer to within a touching distance of the Yanga hitman.

Peter Banda has failed to make the squad for Simba SC's last two games despite being declared fit, but with another tough game against Vipers SC, he could be back in contention for this match.

Ahead of today's game, Sim-

ba SC's head coach Roberto Oliveira said he has been focusing on finishing which let them down against Horoya AC and Raja Casablanca.

Oliveira noted: "It is a very important game. Yesterday I spoke with my players. Simba SC has good results in the league and tomorrow we have a good derby game with Azam FC which I think is a good opportunity to continue our good run, good results, and performance."

The Brazilian gaffer stated: "In training this week, I gave priority to the last touch because, in the previous two games, we lost too many opportunities. This is my objective."

On the other side, Azam FC

dropped to fourth position in the table with back-to-back losses to Dodoma Jiji FC and Singida Big Stars, consequently staying 10 points behind Simba SC.

This could be looked back on as the turning point of the season. Azam FC must bounce back and show that they have the mental resilience required to finish at the top of the pile.

With Singida Big Stars looking capable of mounting a decent run, a potential failure for Azam FC in this tricky affair against Simba SC could irredeemably jeopardize their continental ticket dreams.

There will be only seven games left after this, leaving no margins for errors for both outfits.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

