



National Pg 3 AFRALTI urged to do more research



National Pg 4 Challenges facing Mbarali District



National Pg 6 Tanzania potential hub for investments



Coal extraction to provide 2,500 jobs

By Correspondent James Kandoya

FIVE local mining firms licensed to extract coal at the Mchuchuma site in Ludewa district, Njombe region are set to create 2,500 jobs in the operation set to start soon.

Dr Nicolaus Shombe (pictured), the National Development Corporation (NDC) director general, made this remark in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday at the signing ceremony with the firms, in the presence of Trade and Industry minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji.

The firms are Sheby Mix Investment Ltd, Nipa Engineering Co, Ltd, Chusa Mining Co, Ltd, Kindaini Co. Ltd and an Australian firm subsidiary, Cleveland Mine and Services Ltd.

Upwards of 2500 jobs where 500 are direct and 2000 are indirect jobs are expected on the site, with the project having multiple advantages including opening new business opportunities targeting the coal extracting firms and workers.

The five firms were selected out of 25 companies placing bids in the tender, where the NDC has prepared 10 plots in the mining zone. In the first phase five plots have been licensed to the five firms, each company billed to extract 30,000 tonnes of iron ore monthly, making it 150,000 tonnes monthly, he said.



The licensed firms need to start production timely as per the agreement after completing 180 days of feasibility studies

NDC will hand over plots to the firms in two weeks after compensation of local residents, with the firms expected to conduct feasibility studies for 180 days to ascertain amounts of coal reserves before extraction starts, he further noted.

A geological survey conducted by NDC ten years ago showed that there are 428m tonnes of coal in a 30 square kilometres area "that can be mined for more than 140 years," he stated.

Compensation will be paid for ten days from September 15 and handing over will be done upon completion of the exercise, he elaborated, affirming that NDC looks forward to closely collaborating with the companies to carry out their work smoothly.

The minister said the five companies will extract 1.8m tonnes of coal annually when operations start, asserting that the government has shown firm commitment to ensure that mining of Mchuchuma coal commences.

The licensed firms need to start production timely as per the agreement after completing 180 days of feasibility studies, she said, adding that the

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Deputy premier cautions TanESCO on lame excuses

By Getrude Mbago

THE Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (TANESCO) has been directed to refrain from unnecessary excuses but increase efforts to stem constant power outages.

Dr Doto Biteko, the deputy prime minister and Energy minister, issued this instruction in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a meeting with headquarters staff of the state power firm and senior ministerial officials.

He asked executives in the ministry to serve people more diligently as they always look for reliable power for stable income generating and social activities.

"This isn't a time for excuses as people are tired of power blackouts," he declared, assuring the public that he will closely supervise operations to increase efficiency to ensure the supply of sufficient power countrywide.

He said President Samia Suluhu Hassan eagerly wants to see the country having sufficient power to stimulate economic development, "so what's needed is proper supervision towards achieving the goal.

A number of strategies will be implemented to mobilise resources, manpower and technology to increase power generation and stabilization of



These people will not be entertained, we will closely monitor to ensure that there is good customer service and people are fairly served

distribution, he said.

"Tanzanians need power and nothing else," he emphasized, demanding that the company put all its efforts to address challenges in implementing robust plans to send power to people.

"During my tenure I will not entertain groups," he declared, insisting that what is needed is cooperation to push the sector forward. Ministry executives and institutions must stop being mindful of personalities and promoting groups but focus on addressing power challenges in the country.

He instructed the permanent secretary to firmly supervise corporate operations which include ensuring that workers get their rights, thus stimulating the teamwork spirit.

He castigated the habit of some company staff tarnishing the corporate image by intentionally delaying the provision of services to people, with intent to create a bribery environment.

"These people will not be entertained, we will closely monitor to ensure that there is good customer service and people are fairly served," he vowed.

Maharage Chande, the firm's director general, assured the minister that the company has received the directives and is prepared to uplift its services.

Ahmed Mwinyi, chairman of the dialogue committee in the company, said that the workers are committed to serving the nation with a teamwork spirit to ensure that all parts of the country have enough power.



A foreign tourist (C) pictured at a site near Lake Eyasi in Arusha Region at the weekend trying his hand at shooting with the traditional bow-and-arrow popular among members of the Hadzabe tribal community living in the area. The tourist was part of a group on a special tour organised a tour and travel agency based in Moshi municipality. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Paddy farmers, Ruaha Park elated by REGROW project

By Felister Peter, Mbarali

IMPARTING knowledge to smallholder farmers on better use of water and understanding the importance of preserving the local ecosystem has arisen from the Resilient Natural Resources for Growth Project (REGROW).

Ketus Zacharia, irrigation technician for Skyline Properties Ltd and White City International Contractors Ltd, told visiting journalists here yesterday that by improving the Madibira irrigation scheme, both farmers and the Ruaha National Park (RUNAPA) authorities are guaranteed water flow throughout the year. Angelo Mbonaga, the Mkunyuwa village chairman, said improvement of the tourism



I have bought a farm plot where I cultivate rice and generate a good income

sector would ultimately change people's lives as tourists are an additional market for traditional products made by local residents.

The technician who supervises the Madibira irrigation scheme improvement said the 18 months project will be completed at a cost of 8.7bn/-.

Improvement of irrigation and drainage systems involves the construction of a 2.9 kilometer primary canal and 10.6 kilometer secondary canal.

The project is just above halfway in implementation, within sight of being completed within schedule by end of next January, he said,

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Parties endorse call for 'civilised' politics

By Henry Mwangonde

A three-day meeting of registered political parties and institutional stakeholders has agreed that political parties should embrace practising civilised politics to promote national unity.

This was among resolutions reached at the



meeting and read out at the end by the meeting chairperson, Prof. Bernadeta Killian of the University of Dar es Salaam.

Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla, standing in for Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (pictured), told the participants that politicians need to embrace civilised politics to enhance peace and national unity.

Politicians have the duty to promote peace and national unity, he said, affirming that the government will work on the resolutions that the meeting came up with.

"We have the responsibility to safeguard the peace that we have," he declared, noting that

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Parties endorse call for 'civilised' politics

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peace is a national treasure that must be protected at all costs.

He said that if well observed, the resolutions reached at the meeting will create a new atmosphere of political conduct in the country.

Jenista Mhagama, the Policy, Coordination and Parliamentary Affairs state minister in the Prime Minister's Office, said the meeting sets a new chapter in political activities countrywide.

"The meeting will help facilitate national unity, enhance peace and coexistence among Tanzanians," she said, intoning that the meeting was fruitful as the participants had the chance to discuss and come up with solutions to complex political issues.

Observers noted the absence of Chadema, the leading opposition party, in the consultations, a special meeting of political stakeholders called in the wake of arrests of some top Chadema figures and activists.

The meeting ended yesterday with 15 resolutions, among other things proposing minimal electoral reforms and restarting the constitution making process going together.

Reading the resolutions, Prof Killian said that the meeting proposed that bills for electoral reforms should not be tabled under certificate of urgency but instead follow the normal procedure.

The meeting also asked that the constitution making process should start now instead of being put off until after the next general elections slated for late 2025.

The meeting demanded that local government elections be administered by the National Electoral Commission (NEC) instead of district authorities as it is the case now, she affirmed.

The meeting maintained that political parties should have visible room for women to participate fully in politics, similarly demanding that the police "should operate professionally during elections."

100 police inspectors graduate from proficiency training course

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

MORE than 100 Assistant Inspectors of Police in Mwanza Region have graduated from 'Work Performance Preparedness' training to enhance their proficiency in implementing their duties.

The eight-day training follows the directive from the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Camillius Wambura which goes in tandem with the slogan 'Discipline, Professionalism, Justice and Diligence.'

Closing the training on Monday at FFU Mabatini Barracks, Mwanza Regional Police Commander, Wilbrod Mutafungwa said the training has been of great success.

ACP Mutafungwa had been closely following up the training, hence, he added all police personnel who will not perform properly will be cast aside and disciplinary measures taken against them.

ACP Mutafungwa said the Assistant Police Inspectors are the main link with other police officers in the lower and upper cadres.

He said their other tasks is to listen to the personnel in lower ranks and that they are waiting for the

second Phase of the training whose graduates will be picked to become OGDs and even RPCs.

He said in order to have a strong police force, it must display professionalism and discipline as preferred by Tanzanians.

He explained that any police personnel who will not accomplish these qualities will be cast aside, adding that the police must make sure on how to prevent crime instead of waiting for expensive equipment.

ACP Mutafungwa also instructed village and ward chairpersons to work together with the people in their areas to establish community militia groups, to mobilise and educate them on how to prevent crime and the negative effects of people meting out justice on their own.

He also called on them to identify causes of land disputes and added that he would never tolerate indiscipline among the rank and file.

He also vowed to take disciplinary steps against two police officers who absconded from the training, nine will be required to re sit their examinations as well as the 15 who did not sit their examinations at all.

Mbeya bus drivers accuse association's officials over fund embezzlement reports

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

DRIVERS of Bus Passengers Association operating in Mbeya city, Rungwe and Kyela districts almost exchanged blows with their leaders at the association's general meeting due to misunderstandings in regard to income and expenditure of the association.

The drivers claimed that their leaders had embezzled funds, the amount of which was not disclosed while their bosses denied the allegations saying the money was in the bank.

After a long tussle the drivers resolved to suspend their leaders led by the Chairman, James Kabolesya and selected interim office bearers who will hold office for three months.

The leaders were suspended to pave the way for investigations to find out the amount of the money they allegedly embezzled before proceeding with other legal steps.

Speaking before their suspension, Kabolesya, former association's chairman, admitted to improper financial expenditure while pledging to submit documents showing the association's expenditure.

He said when he will be submitting the documents to the interim office bearers he will make sure he also submits documents for all expenditures of the association.

He also said he will also submit documents for the association's bus on which the drivers had complained

regarding its income not being known or even its certificates on ownership.

He also told the drivers to continue giving him cooperation in various social responsibilities saying they are not supposed to hate one another owing to official positions.

Some drivers at the meeting the leaders of their association have been the cause of loss of huge sums of money that could make the association collapse.

Victor Ezekiel, one of the drivers, said the leaders have held office for seven years, but the sum of the money in the bank is only 9m/- which, he added, they were not sure if the money was in the bank at all.

He said the leaders who were elected to manage the association for three months only had collected more than 81m/-, the fact that was the reason for their worries that the money embezzled by the former leaders was even bigger.

Another member of the association, Baraka Mwaipungu said steps should be taken against the leaders of the association because if they don't do so every leader coming in will continue to embezzle funds without fear and appealed to interim office bearers to hire an experienced accountant.

For his part, the association's interim Secretary, Daniel Jackson said owing to the former chairman admitting to have embezzled the funds, the interim committee to be formed should decide what to do with him.



National Development Corporation managing director Dr Nicolaus Shombe (2nd-R) and his Chusa Mining Ltd counterpart, Joseph Mwakipesile, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday showing coal mining contracts they had just signed with indigenous miners at Mchuchuma coal mining area before Industry and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji (R). Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Coal extraction to provide 2,500 jobs

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government has so far endorsed 15.4 bn/- in compensation.

The money will be shared on those to be shifted from the selected mining sites to allow preliminary mining

operations to start.

Abdulrahman Mwangi, the commissioner for Minerals, said that

the demand for coal is massive, and it will be a good source of foreign exchange.



Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Tanzania, Yahya Ahmed Okeish (L) speaks at a joint press briefing in Dar es Salaam yesterday with surgeons from the city's Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute and Saudi Arabia's King Salman's Humanitarian Centre surgeons. The medical experts are deployed at a cardiac surgery camp at the Dar es Salaam-based JKCI attending to children with heart conditions. Photo: Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

Paddy farmers, Ruaha Park elated by REGROW project

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pointing out that when completed it will enhance productivity through control of water losses. The lining of the canal would increase water flow to the fields and benefit farmers, he stated, while Blanka Tengia, the deputy project coordinator at the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry said improvement of irrigation and drainage systems would empower smallholder farmers.

It would increase water use efficiency with water finally flowing to the Great Ruaha River within the Ruaha National

Park (RUNAPA).

The government awarded the construction tender to local contractors to empower Tanzanians, with most 48 professional staff and 129 casual labourers working at the project being locals, she said.

"We target to transform the tourism sector in the southern circuit," she asserted, noting that protection of resources within the park, chiefly wild animals and the ecosystem, is essential.

"The best way to enhance ecosystem protection is to ensure reliable water flow to the park. We are improving the Madibira irrigation scheme to increase

water flow towards the Ruaha River," the coordinator explained.

Residents hailed the project for creating jobs for hundreds of people by implementing the project, where the government secured a \$150m (350bn/-) loan from the World Bank to implement the project.

Aimed at improving tourism prospects in the southern circuit, REGROW brings together the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism with the National Irrigation Commission to improve irrigation and drainage systems at the Madibira irrigation scheme in Mbarali District, Mbeya

Region, empowering paddy farmers.

Improvement of the scheme benefits smallholder paddy farmers in Madibira and Miyombweni wards, taking up over 3,000 hectares of land suitable for irrigation, while villagers securing jobs at the project said the project is a boon for incomes in the area.

Dainess Victory said she has been working there since the introduction of the project in 2021. "I have bought a farm plot where I cultivate rice and generate a good income," she said.

Introducing the project has contributed to improving people's welfare in the area, she added.



Construction of water canals and drainage systems, which is in implementation of the Madibira irrigation scheme in Mbarali District, has reached half-way stage. The drive is part of the World Bank-funded Resilient Natural Resources for Growth (REGROW) project, whose thrust is on transform the tourism sector in Tanzania's southern circuit. Photo: Felister Peter

Government urges top African telecom body to embrace more research

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has implored the African Advanced Level Telecommunications Institute (AFRALTI) to take deliberate measures to ratify more African Member States in the Institute and embrace more research for positive social-economic development of Africa.

Eng. Mulembwa Munaku, Director of Communication at the Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology made the remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam when opening the 66th meeting of the AFRALTI Governing Council of 36 delegates from 9 AFRALTI Member States.

Eng. Munaku appealed to AFRALTI to rebrand itself, cherish renovation enrol more member states and other state holders.

"It is my sincere hope that you perform more engagements, ratify more Member States and mobilise, sensitising other stake holders which include the private sector, academia, policy makers to undertake specialised programmes at AFRALTI," said Eng. Munaku.

He assured the delegates of the Government commitment for enhanced collaboration with ALFRALTI and other Regional Bodies while upgrading communication infrastructures, which have led to exponential growth of the communication sector, saying mobile subscription has shot up from 26.7 million to 64.1 million over the past decade, partly enabled by the successful establishment of the National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB), which has contributed to increased internet access among Tanzanians.

Munaku pointed out that while Tanzania has experienced substantial growth in ICT, it also faces challenges common to many African countries, including smartphone penetration, affordability, rural connectivity, and digital literacy.

He reiterated Tanzania's commitment to becoming an ICT-enabled knowledge-based society with high-capacity broadband connectivity and affordable quality services.

He also emphasized the importance of promoting digital skills at various levels of education, from basic digital literacy to advanced ICT professions such as computer programming, network management, artificial intelligence (AI), big data, coding, cyber security, and the internet

of things (IoT).

John Daffa, TCRA acting director general emphasized on AFRALTI to invest on human capital to meet technological changes.

"Each Regulator has different training needs, which are highly influenced by technological changes, therefore, AFRALTI should develop robust training strategies to meet the needs of each regulator and hence fostering strong, sustainable and balanced growth in each country. Ultimately, each country's prosperity depends on how many of its people are in work and how productive they are, which in turn rests on the skills they have and how effectively those skills are used," Daffa said.

William Baraza, AFRALTI director urged member states to allocate resources and support AFRALTI in her quest to become the renowned research institution in ICTs in Africa

"We are in the process of developing Terms of Reference for the formation of a research and innovation committee, whose membership shall be drawn from research, innovation and development departments of the regulators from member states," he said.

The 66th Meeting of the African Advanced Level Telecommunications Institute (AFRALTI) Governing Council officially commenced at TCRA Headquarters in Dar es Salaam. The event which spans from the 11th to the 15th of September 2023 witnessed delegates from nine African countries during various committee meetings underscoring the importance of different deliberations in shaping the future of telecommunications in Africa.

AFRALTI has been engaged in providing quality training, research, consultancy, and advisory services to ICT sector by developing appropriate programmes, strategic alliances, and partnership; AFRALTI continues to benefit its member states in driving key policy initiatives that enhance digital skills development; a key pillar in the growth of Africa's digital economy and trade.

"It is my sincere hope that you perform more engagements, ratify more Member States and mobilise, sensitising other stake holders which include the private sector, academia, policy makers to undertake specialised programmes at AFRALTI"

Tanzania plans to raise urban centres into smart cities

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA is working to digitalise some of the country's major urban centres making them 'smart cities,' with the concept now being implemented in Dodoma.

Speaking in Arusha, the Deputy minister of Information, Communication and Information Technology, Engineer Kundo Andrea Mathew said Tanzania has started to explore the Metaverse, through which technology-empowered urban centers will be converted into 'CitiVerse,' bringing a whole new world of possibilities for cities and communities.

"The smart cities and communities fall under the 'internet of things,' where urban centers will feature smart parking lots, smart garbage collection, smart, self-irrigating gardens, pollution sensors, automatic traffic controlling systems and block chain transactions," said the Deputy Minister of Information and Communication.

Speaking at the threshold of the ongoing International Telecommunication Union (ITU) conference taking place in Arusha Engineer Mathew pointed out that the concept of marrying Metaverse with modern towns to create 'citiVerse' is among the agendas of the meeting.

The Deputy minister emphasized the importance of IoT and smart cities in enhancing the efficiency of government services and the quality of life for Tanzanians.

Smart cities have been described as technologically modern urban centers deploying different types of electronic methods and sensors to collect specific data and perform tasks automatically.

The Information gained from the collected data can be applied in managing assets, resources and services efficiently and improve operations across the city.

"A Smart city is more than just a clean city, it is an urban center which comes alive digitally using the internet of things in solving problems before they occur," stated the Mayor of Dodoma City, Professor Davis Mwamfupe.

On his part the Director General of Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) Dr Jabiri Kuwe Bakari said the international experts at the ITU conference have been discussing technological advancements and setting related standards of digital advancements.

The ten-day conference, taking place at Gran Melia Hotel, aims to deliberate on the progress and challenges related to global information and communication technologies.

The ITU-T Study Group 20, responsible for overseeing Internet of Things (IoT) and smart cities issues, holds sessions that bring together experts and innovators from all over the world to discuss the direction of Internet of Things including smart cities' concept.

"This ITU conference is of great significance to Tanzania, as it is an opportunity for the country to showcase its capabilities in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)," said Dr Bakari.

The ITU conference also provides Tanzania with an opportunity to learn from other countries and share its expertise in the IoT and smart cities field. Tanzanian experts and innovators have the chance to engage in discussions with their counterparts from around the world, potentially accelerating the development of these technologies within the country.

In addition to discussions on IoT and smart cities, the conference covers other critical topics such as IoT system security and privacy, standardization of these technologies, and the economic benefits stemming from these advancements.

Tanzania believes that this conference will facilitate the development and utilization of these modern technologies for the benefit of society and the country's economy.



TENDER INVITATION FOR GIZ/CO/83444101/2023-Local PR Consulting Agency PR and Communication Services

GIZ Tanzania is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ) with the implementation of various projects in Tanzania and the East African Community (EAC). We seek to contract a capable Local PR consulting agency to support ongoing projects with high-impact PR and Communication services and solutions designed to promote and enhance the visibility of GIZ/GDC work in Tanzania and EAC.

Under this framework, the aim of this assignment is to provide professional advice and carry out related tasks that result to effective PR and Communication on behalf of GIZ projects towards Tanzanian and EAC-regional key target groups. Assigned tasks shall be carried out in close cooperation with the GIZ Head of PR and Communications at the Country office, PR Communication focal points at the projects, Programme Managers, and any other assigned GIZ personnel.

Against this background, GIZ Tanzania is inviting potential local consultancy firms in Tanzania with the required expertise available and could put forward an individual or teams consisting of a main long-term expert with short-terms expert backstopping, as outlined in the ToR.

Therefore, GIZ invites Tanzania based and registered consultancy firms with the required knowledge, skills and specific professional capacities in the fields of Public Relations, development and political communication, impact communications, branding, content creation with experience working with international and multinational agencies and organization with a diverse development portfolio in Tanzania.

Interested candidates should request for detailed tender documents from giz-tanzania@giz.de latest by the **22.09.2023** with subject line reference: **GIZ/CO/83444101/2023**

This tender is intended solely for Tanzanian based companies.

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VPO congratulates Samia for appointment as GCA member

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

DR Seleman Jafo, Minister of State VPO (Union and Environment) has commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for being appointed as member of the Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA) and cited three big projects that earned her the respect.

Addressing reporters here yesterday on the declaration to mark the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, Dr Jafo said in various forums on environment, President Samia has been the leader to emulate in managing issues of climate change worldwide.

He said Tanzania is among nations taken as example in implementing projects that fight the effects of climate change.

"Their implementation has been identified in her country, how it coped with the effects of climate change in various projects, for example as for now Tanzania is taken as an example over its SGR project that will use electricity," he said.

He added that the implementation of the BRT project in the city of Dar es Salaam has received worldwide

acclaim by environmentalists.

"The huge USD 3 million (6.5trn/-) investment in the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project (JNHPP) is among international projects that fight the effects of climate change," Dr Jafo added.

"VPO would like to congratulate the President for the appointment and as we approach the Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer we say Tanzania has an issue to be proud of in President Samia's strong leadership in regard to climate change," he said.

In regard to the World Ozone Layer Protection Day, Dr Jafo said VPO plans to provide education to various stakeholders to protect the Ozone layer by urging the community to reduce various human activities that depleted the ozone layer, the main cause of the effects of climate change.

He called on Tanzanians to avoid importing prohibited gases and appliances that use them including used refrigerators and air conditioners.

"Avoid throwing away used refrigerators or fire hydrants with chemicals that depletes the ozone layer that causes global warming," he stressed.



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Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (R) speaks holds talks in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Sebastian Acevedo, the International Monetary Fund's Resident Representative in Tanzania. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

Mkuranga to have 38bn/- modern bus stand - govt

By Guardian Reporter

The Minister of State (PO-RALG), Mohamed Mchengerwa has directed the ministry's Permanent Secretary to speed up accessing to funds totalling 38bn/- for the construction of the Mkuranga bus stand that is expected to open up economic opportunities for the people of Tanzania's southern regions.

The minister issued the directive on Tuesday when inspecting the Kipala Mpakani area, Mwandege Ward in Mkuranga District, Coast Region where

the bus stand is expected to be named 'Samia Bus Terminal'

"I have come to inspect and see for myself the area for the anticipated bus stand, and I would like to commend you for the steps taken so far by allocating the area for the project, hence I direct my PS to make sure the funds are available for the project," he said.

In regard to the name of the bus stand 'Samia bus terminal' which Mkuranga residents had preferred, he said their preference will be submitted to the relevant authorities and if it is

endorsed then it will be called as such.

For his part, the Minister of Livestock and fisheries, who is also Mkuranga Member of Parliament, Abdallah Ulega said the 49-acre area has no conflict with the local people and they have reserved it for a long time for the purpose.

"We are ready to look for an investor for the construction of big buildings near the bus stand, including hotels and guest houses and for other businesses," Ulega added.

For her part, Mkuranga District Commissioner, Khadija Hassanali

said for a long time residents of Mkuranga have been experiencing inconveniences owing to the lack of a good bus stand and that the expected infrastructure will be a modern one that will enable buses and trucks to park, passengers lounges as well as areas for small entrepreneurs.

Ubaya Salehe, Mkuranga resident said the Phase VI leadership has been caring for the people and that is why it has provided funds for the construction of the bus stand that will benefit people of Mkuranga as well as those in the southern regions.

Zanzibar women appeal to govt to reduce costs of contesting elections

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

WOMEN intending to contest for leadership positions in 2925 elections have appealed to the government to amend the Zanzibar Elections Act to enable women bear the costs as stipulated by the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC).

The women made the remarks at a stakeholders meeting that discussed challenges facing women participation in contesting for leadership positions and democracy organised by Zanzibar female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) in Unguja.

Halima Ibrahim from ACT-Wazalendo said among challenges facing women is their economic status hence, she said it would be better for the Election Act to be amended to enable them bear the costs.

She named some of the costs as those for collecting nomination forms for elective positions including of Members of the House of Representatives, Councillorship and other costs.

According to the Zanzibar Election Act the cost for collecting forms for Members of the House is 20,000/-, for councillorship 30,000/- and for the presidency stands at 30m/-.

Halima further said the economic statuses for the women is low hence, she added it would be better for the costs to be reduced to enable many women participate in contesting for

elective posts.

Suleiman Hassan Haji, ZEC official from Unguja Urban West 'A' District said the cost for collecting forms for Representatives, MPs and Councillors is merely regarded as security and if the contestant attains over 10 per cent of the total votes cast the money is refunded.

For her part, the Director of Gender from the Zanzibar Ministry of Community Development, Gender, elders and Women, Siti Ali Abasi said women should be given freedom to work to enable them meet the costs for contesting elective posts because some men in families prevent women from working to earn income.

"If we want to attract many women now is the right time to empower them, we should not wait for the elections because elections need early preparations," she added.

Jamila Mahmoud, ZAFELA director, said apart from the existing obstacles against women in regard to leadership, they should not lose hope in their struggles.

For her part, Dr Mzuri Issa, Director of Zanzibar's Tanzania Media Women association (TAMWA-Zanzibar) said women are facing many challenges that need to be addressed in order to win elective positions.

She named the obstacles as including those regarding economic statuses, corruption and lack of gender policies in many political parties.



Lorivu Long'idu, the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority's north zone manager, pictured in Arusha city yesterday addressing members of the fuel business community on the need for them to observe fuel sale and distribution procedures. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

CCM candidate pledges to address hiccups in Mbarali

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE CCM parliamentary candidate for Mbarali seat Bahati Ndingo has promised to address key challenges facing people in the constituency including land disputes, lack of electricity, water and road infrastructure.

The contender made the promise yesterday when addressing campaign rallies in three villages of Kaniago, Lugelele and Iwanje in the constituency.

The campaign is part of the next week's by-election, which is being held following the death of Mbarali

MP, Francis Leonard Mtega on July 1st, 2023.

Bahati said she knows that people in the area are facing various challenges and if they give her the consent to be an MP, she will ensure that land disputes are resolved so that agricultural activities can be done freely.

She said the people need development and to strengthen themselves economically, so she will collaborate with her colleagues to ask the government to resolve the land crisis that is holding back the development in the area.

Bahati said that she will manage the issue of access to reliable and

affordable electricity as development activities depend on the reliable power.

"My brothers and sisters, please give me your votes, elect me and send your cry to parliament so that the government can find a solution for us," she appealed.

She said: "I know that there is a problem of frequent power outages in Mbarali and many young people are employed in barbershops, salons and milling machines, so I'll collaborate with various leaders to ensure that the problem gets a permanent solution."

"I know that the government is making changes in the main power line

to get into Mbarali, so I'm sure once elected, I'll advise the government to bring reliable power in this area."

She also pledged to advise the government on power charges so that it goes down and every one pay as she/he uses.

"I know your problems my brothers and sisters, I ask you that on September 19, do not make mistakes by electing too many people, I am enough, I ask for your votes," she said.

On water, Bahati said the government has made great efforts, including sending projects to Mbarali District, but it will bring more projects to overcome people's challenges.



If we want to attract many women now is the right time to empower them, we should not wait for the elections because elections need early preparations



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (R) has an audience in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Vietnam's Ambassador to Tanzania, Nguyen Nam Tien. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

All farmers need to prepare for El Nino effect - TMA

By Guardian Reporter

THE Agriculture ministry has urged farmers to follow the advice given by farming experts on how to cope with the expected above average off season rains later this year as forecast by Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA).

In its statement on Tuesday signed by the acting Permanent Secretary, the ministry called on the people, farmers specifically to adhere to advice from experts - extension officers - by early preparations of their farms and plant crops that withstand water-logged soils such as rice.

The statement added that extension officers should follow up, and interpret weather forecasts to farmers as frequently provided in order to engage in profitable production of crops.

"Farmers should engage in contour farming, deep seeds planting in order to prevent soil erosion," the statement added.

It further said farmers and farm

experts at all levels should monitor and control plants pests that can arise from the expected rain patterns.

The ministry has also advised farmers and other agriculture stakeholders to protect the environment and reserve adequate food stocks in secure storage facilities so that it can be used during the expected period of heavy rains which can sometimes destroy transport infrastructures and impact timely food availability.

In its forecast issued on August 24 this year, TMA said in regions with two annual rain seasons there will be rains caused by the El Nino phenomena adding that at the time of the forecast, the rains probability was 90 per cent.

The regions expected to get the rains beginning the second week of next month include Mwanza, Geita, Kagera, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Mara, Tanga, Arusha, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Dar es Salaam, Coast, Kigoma North and some of areas of Morogoro Region.

Public institutions told to consult OSG before making legal decisions

By Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

ALL public institutions have been tasked to consult the Office of Solicitor General (OSG) before making any legal decisions to avoid the government's inevitable losses.

Ambassador Dr Pindi Chana, Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam when paid a courtesy call at the OSG office as part of her routine visits of all the offices under the ministry.

Dr Chana said that there have been many losses arising from the government paying compensation to companies and individuals in claims that the government was basically entitled to.

"Time has come for our institutions, local governments to work with the guidance of OSG, particularly in litigation-related issues, so they can receive the Solicitor General's advice on the best course of action before the issues are addressed," she said.

She however requested that OSG be prepared to welcome all government institutions and provide them with the necessary direction so that they can follow the process when they require help to close potential legal dispute loopholes.

"Therefore, as government lawyers, I advise you to be ready at all times to receive questions, opinions, and guidelines regarding the proper procedure so that our institutions can work professionally," she emphasized.

According to her, by doing so, the government will somehow prevent losing funds that would have been used for a number of development projects.

Dr Chana also applauded the OSG for educating individuals and public institutions on the numerous steps that may be taken to defend both individual rights and the overall interests of the government.

She also commended OSG for resolving a large number of claims and proceedings in a very short period of time opened against the government in various parts of the country and abroad and being able to save billions of dollars that would be used as compensation.

Dr Boniface Luhende, Solicitor General encouraged the government to increase the office's budget in order for it to operate more effectively while also applauding the effectiveness of his office in settling several legal disputes quickly.

He noted that the OSG continues to welcome individuals and organizations for all legal advice in order to avoid future confrontations.

Dr Luhende expressed his office's determination to ensure dispenses justice to build trust among investors over Tanzania's state of justice delivery, hence attracting more investments for economic growth.

"We, as the office tasked with overseeing civil cases and arbitrations brought against or on behalf of the government, play a significant role in ensuring that justice is served in order to foster trust among investors in the nation's various economic sectors and thereby promote the wellbeing of the country," he noted.



Time has come for our institutions, local governments to work with the guidance of OSG, particularly in litigation-related issues, so they can receive the Solicitor General's advice on the best course of action before the issues are addressed

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Dodoma set to host 7th economic empowerment forum this month

By Guardian Reporter

DODOMA is set to host the long-awaited 7th National Economic Empowerment Forum by the end of this month, whereby more than 600 participants and 60 empowerment schemes are expected to partake.

Themed 'Empowerment for a Sustainable Economy', the forum is to be preceded by a three-day exhibition of entrepreneurs starting September 26 to 28 at the Jakaya Kikwete Convention Centre in Dodoma.

Bengi Issa, Executive Secretary of National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the event meant a lot for socio-economic empowerment for Tanzanians.

The event is to be graced by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, the forum will attract senior government officials including ministers, permanent secretaries, regional commissioners, and regional administrative secretaries.

The meeting will also involve heads of all government institutions, leaders and companies from the private sector under the umbrella of Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), all district commissioners and executive directors from Dodoma Region and the neighboring regions.

According to Bengi, this year's forum will be unique for the empowerment sector taking into account that the sixth phase government under the stewardship of President Samia Suluhu Hassan has attached greater significance and priority on issues of empowerment to Tanzanians of all walks.

NEEC officials said that the special report on empowerment is also going to be launched during the forum. The participants will get a splendid opportunity to review or evaluate implementation of empowerment policy.

Petro Mattaba, Director of Business Development and Marketing of Self Microfinance Fund commended the council for good coordination of empowering Tanzanians, saying that Self Microfinance has already benefitted 240,000 Tanzanians who walked away with loans amounting to 228 billions.

Mattaba said: "We work very closely with the council and that's why we are here to join hands with NEEC for the forum. We are also proud of having branches in 12 regions in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Zanzibar, Shinyanga, Geita, Tanaga, Mbeya, Mwanza just to mention a few."

He called on for Tanzanians to come in big numbers during the exhibition week, noting that most beneficiaries of the loans dished out were women and youths and that Self Microfinance would continue providing more loans, financial capacity building and education on finance to Tanzanians and meet Dr Hassan's dreams of empowering all Tanzanians.

Haika Mtui, Care Tanzania Projects Director said since its establishment in 1994, Care Tanzania has been complimenting the government's efforts of moving Tanzanians out of abject poverty by socio-economic empowering them.

"We have benefitted over 800,000 Tanzanians among them 70 per cent are women and that we join hand the government through NEEC in transforming lives of women and youths," she said, appealing to Tanzanians rush and grab opportunities the council was promoting.



We work very closely with the council and that's why we are here to join hands with NEEC for the forum. We are also proud of having branches in 12 regions in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Zanzibar, Shinyanga, Geita, Tanaga, Mbeya, Mwanza just to mention a few



A Tanzania Social Action Fund (Tasaf) support beneficiary in Tarime District pictured in Tarime yesterday outlining what he said were challenges he commonly faces in the course of being issued with subsidy. He aired his grievances at a meeting addressed by Ridhiwani Kikwete, Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TASAF recipients in Mara win govt's praise for effective utilisation of devt opportunities

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government has hailed beneficiaries of the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) project in Musoma Municipal, Mara Region for effective utilisation of development opportunities in improving their economic conditions.

Ridhiwani Kikwete, Deputy Minister of State, President's Office Public Service Management and Good Governance made the

appreciation when he visited a road project that has been implemented under support of Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) through Public Works Programme (PWP) in Bondeni Kati B Street, Kigera ward in Musoma municipality.

Ridhiwani was pleased to learn that beneficiaries have participated actively in the construction and he encouraged them to spend their entitlements wisely and boost their living standards.

The deputy minister assured beneficiaries that the government is working on challenges that have resulted in delays in payment to some beneficiaries.

During his visit, Ridhiwani visited some beneficiaries where he observed development they have attained through PSSN.

Speaking to the deputy minister, the beneficiaries Joseph Nyawelesa and Zena Abdul residents of Kigera ward both have managed to start

construction of modern houses using subsidies they are receiving from TASAF.

Nyawelesa, is now building a three bedroom house that is in the final stages while Zena is in the final stages of constructing her two bedroom house.

The Deputy Minister pledged to support the two beneficiaries by providing them with roofing sheets so that they can complete their projects before the rainy season.

Plans ready for bike tour from Dar to Butiama to mark legacy of Father of the Nation Nyerere

By Guardian Reporter

THE Vodacom Tanzania Foundation has announced its partnership as the title sponsor with the renowned TwendeButiama Bikers for the annual Bicycle Tour from Dar es Salaam to Butiama in Mara Region.

This 14-day cycling event, to take place from October 1 to 14, is meant to serve as a tribute to the Life and Legacy of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, an iconic figure in Tanzania history.

Speaking during the press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday Gabriel Landa, co-founder of the Twende Butiama cycling tour, expressed his heartfelt appreciation to Vodacom Tanzania Foundation. "Our journey, which began in 2018, goes beyond commemorating our nation's revered Founding Father. We're promoting cycling—a pastime Mwalimu cherished—and championing causes close to his heart: education, environmental preservation, and health. With private sector participation and collaboration with cyclists, environmental advocates, and health professionals, our impact amplifies Mwalimu's ethos," stated Landa.

TwendeButiama's five-year legacy prominently highlights its environmental advocacy with successful tree-planting campaigns of over 53,000 seedlings. Furthermore, the "Changia Dawati, Tokomeza Ujinga" fundraising initiative showcases their dedication to education, facilitating the distribution of nearly 200 desks across 6 primary schools in regions such as Coast, Morogoro, Dodoma, and Mara.

Vodacom Tanzania foundation Director, Zuweina Farah said: "We are very proud to take up the mantle as the TwendeButiama Bicycle Tour title sponsor this year. This partnership represents more than just sponsorship;

it's a convergence of values, dedication, and a commitment to serve the Tanzanian community because during the tour we will be doing various initiatives aimed at living and commemorating mwalimu's legacy"

Apart from donating to logistical support for the cyclists the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation will also be making an extended commitment to several key initiatives which align with their strategic transformative pillars of enhancing health services, access to quality education and economic empowerment with a donation of over 200m/-.

"We will also join the Butiama cyclists to donate desks in public schools and plant over 4000 trees across the regions that the bicycle tour traverses. This initiative resonates with our ambitious plan of planting 2 million trees in the country by 2030.

In addition, we are partnering with Afya Checkers who are medical specialists to organize Free Medical camps in Mwanza, Bunda and Butiama as our initiative to combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Tanzania as well making a medical equipment donation to Butiama District Hospital" said Zuweina.

Dr Romana Malikusema, thanked Vodacom Tanzania Foundation for the support to make the free medical camps a reality for the residents of Mwanza, Bunda and Butiama.

"We are glad to be part of the TwendeButiama Bicycle Tour honoring Mwalimu's legacy through provision of free medical camps. Mwalimu was committed to the fight against diseases in Tanzania and we hope that we will be able to assist and serve as many people as we can. We will be going with specialists to attend and advise people who will be coming to the camps. I would like to ask for more partners to join this noble cause and help touch more lives," she said.



Kinondoni district commissioner Saad Kitambule (2nd-L) symbolically presents an insured Bajaj to a CRDB Bank customer in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has expressed its commitment to continue reviewing the country's policies and regulatory framework governing the business environment in its bid to make Tanzania a top destination for local and foreign investments.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, Minister for Industries and Trade made the commitment yesterday when she met with the managing director for Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) Obinna Anyalebechi.

She said the government is open to dialogue with the private sector as a means to resolving challenges facing the business community.

Govt committed to make Tanzania top investment destination in Africa

"The private sector is an important stakeholder in nation building. We value its role in the country's economic development, its contribution to job creation, government revenue generation and for the social support towards communities," Dr Kijaji said. Anyalebechi thanked the minister for her support to the private sector, a factor he said, had to growing investors' interest and confidence in Tanzania.

As a result, Anyalebechi said SBL

has invested over 165bn/- in the past three years to expand its beer and spirits manufacturing operations culminating into creation of new jobs and bringing new opportunities for local suppliers to the company.

"This expansion has increased production and subsequently led to an increase in revenue generation to the government from our business while enhancing the company's capacity to fund more community support programs," he said.

SBL's community support programmes, according to Anyalebechi include water stewardship, tree planting and life skills training for the youths, women and marginalized groups.

The company also runs an agribusiness program that supports over 400 local farmers who grow barley, maize, sorghum and other cereals that the company buys and uses as raw materials for beer production.



Dr Saada Mkuya Salum (C), Minister of State (Finance and Planning) in the Zanzibar President's Office, exchanges greetings with Rashed Bade, Foreign Finance Department director in the Finance ministry, shortly after arriving in South Korea yesterday to head the Tanzanian delegation at the four-day (Sept 12 to 15) 7th Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation (KOAFEC) Ministerial Conference in Busan. This year's conference is co-hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and South Korea's Economy and Finance ministry under the theme: "Embracing a Sustainable Future: Just Energy Transition and Agricultural Transformation in Africa." Left is the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Finance ministry, Amina Khamis Shaaban. Photo: Finance ministry

88m/-worth project to curb water shortages in ward of Singida MC

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE Singida Urban Water and Sewerage Authority (SUWASA) in collaboration with the charity organisation-Water Aid Society have started supplying piped water for areas which are in the outskirts of the municipality.

Sebastian Warioba, SUWASA managing director, unveiled yesterday when briefing ward councillors in Singida Municipality and members of the authority's board when they visited the ongoing projects implemented by the authority in the municipality.

The project is worth 88m/- is set to benefit people in Mtipa ward, according to Warioba.

He said that the project will start by laying down water pipes about 5,800 meters long from the Manguanjuki area to Manga and when completed it will increase water availability in the area.

Warioba said that currently in Singida municipality there is a large demand for water due to population increase, whereby the amount of water produced per day is 11 million litres while the demand is 18 million and

thus there is a shortage of 7 million litres of water.

He said that the problem of frequent power outages has also become a challenge that causes people to lack water service.

Lunango Muwelu, SUWASA water supply and sanitation director said the authority planned to end the water woes in the area through projects that are under execution.

Yaghi Kiaratu, Singida municipal council mayor, advised SUWASA to set up an arrangement to meet with the councillors at least once a year to find out about the water service problems facing the citizens in their areas.

Kiaratu wanted the authority to look into the possibility of reviving some water pumping stations that do not provide water to help the people.

Kitila Katala, SUWASA board chairman said the authority planned to ensure the level of water availability in Singida Municipality reaches the level of 95 percent as well as controlling water loss.

The project is worth 88m/- is set to benefit people in Mtipa ward

Polio immunisation campaign to begin in Muleba next week

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

MORE than 160,000 children are next week to be vaccinated against polio in Muleba District, Kagera Region

The three-day vaccination campaign against polio targets the under-eight children, said Muleba District Commissioner, Dr Abel Nyamahanga.

The campaign is to be carried out between September 21 and 24, this year.

"Our district is targeting to

vaccinate 160,324 children, and we don't like to leave anyone behind," DC Nyamahanga told primary health care (PHC) Committee recently here.

Muleba PHC has a big task ahead due to the district's geographical issues of physical environment as its population, according to the 2022 Populations and Housing Census, the district has 637,659 people.

The district covers 10,739 square kilometers, having 26 islands among 38, which are inhabited, in five wards

of Goziba, Kerebe, Ikuza, Mazinga and Bumbire.

Healthy care providers will provide services in 165 villages in 45 wards.

"In the campaign all people will be reached and by the end of it we'll meet our target," said Dr Nyamahanga.

"We are well prepared to work in any environment, in mainland and islands, to make sure the children are vaccinated for their protection", said Christina Mlemi, district vaccination officer.

Mlemi said the decision to launch the vaccination drive came after the government received alarming news on May 26 2023. A child aged one year and eleven months showed signs of sudden paralysis, prompting immediate action.

Laboratory tests confirmed the child from Sumbawanga Municipality was infected with the polio virus. In response, the government announced the launch of a special campaign for droplet vaccination against Polio

(nOPV2) for all children under the age of eight, to protect more than 3.2 children born after 2016 against polio virus type 2, which can lead to permanent disability.

The vaccination campaign will also involve other regions of Rukwa (391,883 children), Katavi (227,862) Mbeya (614,346), Kagera (729,387), Songwe (402,643) and Kigoma (884,477), regions bordering countries such as Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Zambia, linked

to polio cases.

Although Tanzania was declared polio-free by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in November 2015, the resurgence has pushed the Ministry of Health to take precautions against the disease.

Polio is a highly infectious disease, mostly affecting children and attacks the nervous system and can lead to spinal and respiratory paralysis, and in some cases death, according to WHO.



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Traditional systems hamper progress in techno-medicine

GLOBAL charities are doing all they can to push governments and multilateral agencies to speed up work towards the attaining of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, to the extent that they can be achieved. One such charity, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has just released its seventh annual report going by the 'Goalkeepers' title, implying a steady follow up on SDG objectives. It lists a series of medical technological innovations that could save up to two million mothers and babies by year 2030, by medical accounting.

The report highlights new data that shows the potential of scaling up global access to a series of medical innovations effectively addressing the leading causes of maternal and newborn deaths. It says nearly 800 women die globally in childbirth every day, with progress in halting deaths of children under five since the mid-2010s, but Covid-19 outbreak halted the trend. The report and its presentation are calls to action to reinvigorate global action to catch up again.

The gross horror is that an estimated 74 percent of child deaths happen during a baby's first year, and this is a datum hard to conquer and reverse the trend. Bill and Melinda Gates say global efforts from 2000 to 2015 significantly improved the health of mothers and babies, but progress has stalled since COVID-19 hit.

That is why they lay stress on the need to find ways of sharing across the world what is offered by the discovery of revolutionary information about maternal and child health in the past 10 years, which the report lays stress on its potential.

Here at home former President

Jakaya Kikwete was widely acclaimed with having championed progress across Africa in that regard, apart from the food sphere he is associated with of late. The key issue is how to adopt and spread the use of low-cost and easy-to-implement innovations that control deadly childbirth complications such as post-partum haemorrhaging, infections and maternal anaemia. This could help put the world back on track to achieve the global goal of cutting the maternal mortality rate to less than 70 out of 100,000 births, and by projection, eliminate newborn mortality to negligible numbers.

The lesson given by the co-authors and devoted champions on the maternal and child deaths prevention global front is that abject poverty prevents much of this from being spread out with ease, everywhere. There are several areas where nutrition inputs are critical to uplifting body mechanisms to withstand birth pangs situations, as they are invariably related to body ability to fight off disease. Even if medicine was low cost (and it isn't always the case) the lack of capacity for adding supplements on a daily basis could still cost lives, that is why reforms that uplift productivity by conversion of land to capital are vital.

Women in low-income countries suffer from lack of access to such innovations, or just nutrition, but also black and indigenous women in high-income countries like the United States, dying at three times the rate of white women. It is a matter of negative social environments, a disease noticed in nearby Haiti. Instead of imitating US business or technology the country is overrun by drug gangs' warfare. Women and infants suffer the most as men go after riches, not efficiency or social justice.

It's vital to invest more in infrastructure development to improve communication

WITH its abundant natural resources, youthful population, and favourable climate, Africa stands at the threshold of a transformative opportunity to become the next global manufacturing hub.

The continent's riches are undeniable, from arable land to mineral reserves. About 30 per cent of the world's mineral reserves are in Africa. Eight per cent of its world's natural gas, 12 per cent of oil reserves, an impressive 40 per cent of the world's gold and a whopping 90 per cent of chromium and platinum are here. It has the largest cobalt reserves, diamonds, platinum, and uranium.

In addition, 65 per cent of the world's arable land and 10 per cent of the planet's renewable fresh water are all in Africa. This unparalleled endowment gives Africa immense potential to drive industrial growth and economic prosperity.

Yet, Africa is also the poorest continent on Earth. Economic insecurity, political instability and corruption, civil wars, and terrorist insurrections have left millions of Africans impoverished. But what can the continent do to realise its potential?

With its vibrant and youthful population, Africa holds a priceless demographic advantage that sets it apart. As the continent boasts the youngest population worldwide, Africa stands at the forefront of this remarkable trend. As of 2022, 40 per cent of its people were aged 15 years and younger, surpassing the global average by 25 per cent.

The benefits of this youthful population are abundant and crucial for Africa's development. Firstly, it provides a robust and cost-effective labour force, a key catalyst for economic progress and prosperity.

With a vast pool of young talent, the continent can tap into a wellspring of potential and unleash its productivity to propel growth. Furthermore, the energy and creativity of Africa's young minds fuel innovation and invention, paving the way for novel solutions to pressing

challenges. Embracing this spirit of ingenuity can foster technological advancements and further enhance Africa's global standing.

Africa's youthful demographics create a robust market for products and services that cater to the preferences and needs of the younger generation. It opens up exciting business opportunities to innovate and thrive, nurturing a dynamic and thriving economy.

Moreover, the large proportion of the population in their productive years translates to a broader tax base, supplying governments with the resources needed to invest in vital infrastructure, education, and healthcare, ultimately uplifting communities and improving livelihoods.

The composition of Africa's population fosters a mobile and adaptable workforce capable of seizing opportunities and contributing to diverse sectors across the continent. This mobility enhances labour market flexibility and drives economic efficiency.

Africa's youthful advantage is a beacon of hope and promise, offering unparalleled prospects for growth and development. By harnessing the potential of its energetic and vibrant youth, the continent can build a brighter future and rise to new heights on the world stage.

Harnessing this youthful population, and favourable climate, Africa can position itself as a prominent player in the global manufacturing landscape. So, by prioritising investments in education, infrastructure, and strategic partnerships, the continent can unlock its full manufacturing potential, paving the way for sustainable growth and progress.

There's no doubt that a country's ability to improve its standard of living depends largely on its ability to raise its production levels or produce more goods and services for a given number of hours of work. That's the only way for Africa.

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Liberia's 2023 presidential election: The three-horse race

By Othello B. Garblah

BY all accounts, Liberia's 2023 presidential election is a three-horse race. This is undebatable. Yes, on a crowded presidential field of 20 candidates vying for the nation's highest seat, incumbent President George M. Weah, former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai, and former Coca-Cola Executive Alexander B. Cummings remain the frontrunners, the rest are expected to make insignificant impacts.

The three men were listed among the top 5 earners in 2017, with Weah clinching the first round by 38.37 per cent, figures which were not enough to see him over the finishing line. Liberia's electoral law requires that a candidate obtain 50 plus 1 per cent of the votes to be declared winner.

The number acquired could only catapult Mr. Weah into a runoff against former Vice President Boakai who came second in 2017 accumulating 28.76 per cent. Mr. Cummings settled for 5th place as a newcomer just months before the 2017 presidential race acquiring just 7.21 per cent of the votes behind Nimba County Senator Prince Y. Johnson who came fourth garnering 8.22 per cent.

The race in 2017 was more competitive compared to 2023. Though President Weah, most popular then and now was considered one of the favorites to win

By Angela Churie Kallhauge, Ishmael Sunga and Serah Makka

WHEN a continent with 65 per cent of the world's arable land struggles to feed its 1.4 billion people, we know something is wrong. The African and global food systems need a rethink. The urgent and pressing need to address a more productive, transparent, equitable food system, poverty and the far-reaching effects of climate change requires us to forge alliances among diverse stakeholders and sectors.

In this case, our collective efforts spanning agriculture, poverty alleviation, and the environment is a powerful force to drive lasting change and support thriving communities. Together, we are dedicated to strengthening the continent's food producers to cultivate a more resilient and sustainable food system.

Africa can lead a global movement toward food system transformation, but challenges like extreme climate impacts, limited access to resources, and power imbalances thwart its effort.

The role of agriculture in poverty alleviation is indisputable; it impacts employment, GDP, food security, and countless livelihoods. To harness this potential, we need a holistic food systems approach that transforms lives while confronting the climate crisis. With global support, Africa can build a food system that enhances food security, prosperity,

in 2017, Liberty Party Standard Bearer Cllr. Charles W. Brumskine, father of Collaborating Political Party (CPP) vice Standard Bearer Charlyne Brumskine was the candidate to watch.

Former Vice President Boakai and his campaign team were at this time at loggerheads with outgoing President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf thereby weakening the former ruling party and rendering it incapacitated to produce a united front. Boakai's refusal to collaborate with Liberty Party Brumskine in 2017 was also a factor.

Hence, Ambassador Boakai was considered by many as a third choice. But he pulled a surprise over Cllr. Brumskine. The latter will file a lawsuit against the National Elections Commission at the Supreme Court for vote rigging and irregularities. The rest is history.

However, unlike 2017, this year's election appears less competitive in terms of the popularity of candidates in the race and their abilities to win voters over. This has placed Weah, Amb. Boakai and Mr. Cummings are far ahead of the rest.

Incumbent President Weah arguably remains a popular candidate in the race. His connection with young people, especially most first-time voters put him in a league all by himself. His Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) ability to organise rallies and publicise events has been exceptional compared to its two

immediate competitors.

Weah and his CDC's slogan of "Change you can depend on", alongside WEAC fee payments and free tuition for public schools and universities, have resonated well with young people.

However, Mr. Weah faces a daunting task not just in securing a first-round victory but with the huge margins secured in 2017. President Weah's critics will acknowledge that he came into the 2017 race without any record to defend and therefore, his popularity was the only vehicle that drove him to the Executive Mansion.

In 2023, the variables have changed. President Weah now has a record to defend: a crippled economy, corruption and failed promises. These are holes that have crept into the President's popularity, and he must now ably defend against a raging opposition that continues to feast on his administration's failure.

But the President would boast in addition to WAEC and free public schools and universities the construction of hospitals, roads, and rural housing units, etc. These could well sweep him into his third runoff but with whom?

Amb. Boakai stands a much better chance than he did in 2017. Now, that President Weah has a record to defend, and the former Vice President being seen as the most experienced Statesman puts him in a much better position to wrestle power from President Weah. Supported

by a host of former government officials and surrounded by his kinsmen, Amb. Boakai looks the most likely alternative.

However, the former vice president comes into 2023 with too much excess baggage. The former vice President's alignment with US designee Sen. Johnson, a former warlord, has caused many of his supporters both local and international to rethink. Added to this is his inability to be decisive. Many blamed him for his failed leadership role which saw the CPP, Liberia's strongest opposition collaboration in recent history disintegrating right under his watchful eyes.

The former vice president's age is also a factor, particularly speculations surrounding his health, which has caused many to fear that electing him in office will be equated to electing Se. Johnson. Sen. Johnson has not even made it any easier for Amb. Boakai with his campaign pronouncements.

Mr. Alexander Cummings looks the candidate rightfully suited to wrestle power from President Weah. His wealth of experience as an international business tycoon and ideas on how to fix Liberia's broken economy and get the private sector working is beyond measure. Cummings appears to be more connected with market women, youth groups, and businesspeople. Cummings also has a silent majority of supporters under his belt.

Africa's potential: Leading food system transformation and climate resilience

and ecological equilibrium.

A significant asset on this journey is Africa's youth, comprising nearly 60% of the continent's population. By empowering young farmers through training, entrepreneurship, and technology, Africa can tap into their potential for innovative, climate-sensitive agriculture.

These young leaders are already making strides in sustainable agriculture, but they require support to flourish. With secure land rights, financial backing, and proper training, Africa can unleash the full potential of its "agripreneurs", securing a sustainable agricultural future.

Urbanization, often seen as a challenge, can be turned into an opportunity. As cities grow, so does the demand for locally produced food. Connecting farmers and agribusinesses to urban markets can create thriving agricultural value chains benefiting both producers and consumers.

Investing in agricultural research and technology is paramount. Innovation, digital solutions, and research-driven practices can optimize productivity, resource efficiency, and market insights. This includes precision agriculture, improved seeds, water management, pest control, climate-smart strategies, and supportive policies.

Research, adapted to local contexts,

plays a pivotal role in refining and disseminating these strategies, enhancing productivity, sustainability, and resilience. Furthermore, climate-resilient agricultural practices are essential. Blending indigenous knowledge with modern technologies can optimize productivity while reducing the environmental footprint.

Africa's journey toward agricultural leadership requires support from the global community. International organizations can provide funding, expertise, and knowledge exchange to promote sustainable agriculture and climate resilience.

Collaboration is the cornerstone of success. Through collective action, Africa can tap into its unity and address complex issues more effectively. Organizations like ONE.org, The Environmental Defense Fund, and the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) actively collaborate to advocate for policy changes, knowledge sharing, and support for sustainable and resilient food systems.

Policy reforms are imperative to create an enabling environment for agricultural development. Governments must incentivize climate-smart practices, support value addition, and promote sustainable investments. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture

Development Programme (CAADP), for example, offers a roadmap for policy reforms, coordination, and transparent resource allocation.

Despite challenges, Africa's agricultural potential is boundless. To overcome obstacles, we must attract financing, harness the innovative spirit of the youth, promote climate-resistant practices, invest in research and technology, and collaborate across sectors.

Climate change is a defining factor in Africa's ability to feed itself and the world. It demands investments in infrastructure, innovation, and a new generation of climate-sensitive farmers and agripreneurs. This journey requires multi-sector partnerships and collaborative efforts, fueled by various forms of funding, from philanthropy to commercial investments.

Africa's future, in fact the world's future, marked by sustainability, inclusivity, and prosperity, is within reach, and it beckons us to act now.

Angela Churie Kallhauge is the Executive Vice President, Impact at the Environmental Defense Fund (HQ in DC); Ishmael Sunga is the Chief Executive Officer of the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (South Africa); and Serah Makka is ONE's Executive Director for Africa (South Africa).

Group discussion: An effective participatory method of teaching

GROUP discussion is one of the best participatory methods of teaching. This is due to the fact that it helps acquisition and expansion of knowledge since many learners get a chance to contribute. When many suggestions are offered, there is possibility of getting the most correct answers.

There are learners who cannot contribute in front of the entire class but in a group discussion, the very same people contribute comfortably and they tend to come up with very insightful views. This is mainly because of factors such as fewer assessors who are their fellow learners and presence of their friends.

In other words, group discussions are platforms in which learners can encourage one another and as a result, the number of learners who can talk comfortably in the whole class increases.

Group discussions are advantageous as they also increase interaction among learners. For learners to perform well, they need to interact. The result of interaction is learning from one another and hence increasing possibility of class performance to increase.

Group discussions help learners understand weaknesses and strengths of one another and hence planning on how they can compete and achieve goals of the class and of individuals. This increases the social cohesion which is very important in achieving goals not only in class but also in life after



arguments and if not controlled, learners end up wasting time. Also, putting struggling learners in one group is wastage of time as there will be no one to show the way.

Another factor to consider is gender. Males and females should be mixed in a group so as to increase harmony among learners. Learners should be encouraged to tolerate weaknesses of each gender so as to have social stability. This helps to prevent gender discrimination.

Also, a teacher needs to consider behaviours and characters of learners in forming study groups. In a class, there must be shy and confident ones. These must be mixed in study groups so as to make those shy ones build their confidence. It is said that humans benefit from those surrounding them.

Although there are numerous benefits of group discussions, there are some prerequisites which when missing, group discussions may not be effective. One is supervision. A teacher should not form a study group, give them a work to do and then go to rest in the staff room. Without supervision, most of the learners do nothing.

The presence of a teacher during a discussion makes learners active. A teacher should supervise learners in their groups so as to prevent avoidable mistakes. Some teachers make the mistake of staying away only to come later and shout to learners when the task given is done horribly.

Another prerequisite is encouraging all members to present their findings in class. This enables presentation of many ideas. It is from these many ideas that the best ideas worthy of taking home can be found and

school. Teachers as the leaders of the classes need to consider some factors when forming study groups. One of the most important factors is understanding IQ levels of learners. A good study group should comprise all types of learners: the best, the average and the struggling ones. In the aforementioned composition, a group discussion becomes effective as there is flow of knowledge from one stratum to another. Putting the best learners in one group leads to

hence making the discussion fruitful. There are some learners who always have good points but unless a teacher pushes them to talk, they will never talk.

Also, it is very important for a teacher to decide what points are right and what are wrong. A teacher is a leader of a class and despite confidence of learners in contributing points; they wait for judgment of a teacher before they can be confident in taking the points raised by the discussants.

After presentation in class, a teacher is obliged to conclude the lesson. A teacher needs to prepare points for the discussion questions before giving them to learners. After the discussion, a teacher needs to correlate their points with those from learners and produce some points which can be considered as the stand of the class. The new points produced by the teacher in collaboration with learners should be taken as notes of the day.

It is indubitable that a group discussion is very efficient participatory method of teaching. However, there must be precautions for it to be effective. It should not be taken as recourse for a teacher. This is because a teacher's intervention during group discussions is essential so as to make necessary corrections and interpretations of questions before learners can start discussing or go on with discussions.

When learners embark on a discussion without a teacher hence guidance undermines this otherwise effective teaching method. The discussion method does not aim at making a teacher rest but rather toil more for better results.

CLASSROOM MATTERS
By **Thomas Lyimo**
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By Correspondent Deogratias Mushi

It is transformative feminism that can make our society fair and just

IF one takes time to reflect on the daily responsibilities of men and women at household level objectively, it is easy and safe to conclude that women do more chores than men. In fact, in most African societies, men who do household chores are considered weak or controlled by their spouses.

As a result, women usually wake up earlier than men, prepare children to go to school, make breakfast, clean the house and so on while most men do very little at best or nothing at worst.

Such situations dominate most African societies and that is why there have been groups fighting for gender equality, just to make sure that home responsibilities are equitably shared between men and women.

Aware of this fact, the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) organized a training programme recently for persons in charge of running gender equality from different regions, to educate them on how to conduct monitoring and evaluation for their activities.

Mary Nsemwa, a co-trainer at the seminar focused on transformative feminism as a process of people altering themselves, their organizations and the larger society to accept feminist vision of social transformation and justice.

She said that feminist evaluations are values-driven, and they acknowledge from the outset change in both gender and power relations, and also challenge the root causes of gender inequality.

The trainer recalled that TGNP was formed in 1993 as an activist non-profit organization and registered 2012 as TGNP-Mtandao Limited, having emerged through a collective process of critical reflection by leaders of key women's and gender organizations.

She told over 30 participants that this was about the situation of women who are exploited and oppressed within our communities in silence when while as a society we are duty-bound to do something to improve their situations.

"TGNP's ideology and philosophy is still built on transformative feminism which is a struggle that aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and other marginalized groups due to their class, sex, gender, age, ethnicity, disability, geographical locations or nationality," she said. She added that TGNP is out to fa-



A training session for persons in charge of gender equality from various regions on how to conduct monitoring and evaluation of their projects organized by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo courtesy of TGNP

cilitate transformative feminist movement that influences and contributes to gender responsiveness of policy formulation and implementation in the areas of agriculture, water, health, education and extractive industries for equitable resource allocation and sustainable livelihoods for both men and women. Additionally, she said there is a need to see a transformed

Tanzanian society where there is gender equality, equity and social justice, and at the end build a transformative feminist movement for social, gender transformation and women empowerment.

Edson Nyingi, another trainer, said that the participants had gathered to learn about transformative feminist monitoring, evaluation and learning based on

the understanding that discrimination based on gender identity is structural and systemic, and that social justice can be achieved only with changes in power relations.

According to him, feminist and gender struggles are context-specific to the many different communities and cultures in Tanzania, and using gender and power lenses, transformative feminism

values are observed, including participation of beneficiaries at all stages, from planning to evaluation.

"Where we work, our projects should be developed and implemented in collaboration with and not for communities. Participation in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages based on feminist principles should ensure inclusion of

the voices of women and marginalized groups" he said.

He spoke at length about Movement Building Cycle (IMBC) tool which is designed to strengthen transformative feminist movement at the grassroots level, and every step of the process should be participatory to ensure communities participate and have a voice.

Overall, participants of the session said that they apply feminist principles for monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) in their own contexts and cited some examples, promising they will work with a feminist lens going forward.

As the participants broke into groups for discussions, great emphasis was placed on increasing women's participation in projects in ways that are empowering.

Even when spaces are reserved for women's participation, Nyingi told them, barriers might persist for them to take those roles because it is not just about the women in the room, but how empowered are they to have a say and influence.

Nyingi said that the right approach is to ensure women are part of the process from the outset to have a say in the indicators, and all the tools are participatory as feminism has been mainstreamed through all steps.

"Key to feminist movement building is the empowerment of communities to act, identify potential partners and connect with other transformative feminist practices" he said.

Most participants admitted that more emphasis should be placed on increasing women's participation in projects in ways that are empowering because even when spaces are reserved for their participation, barriers always persist.

New report shows successful education funding model for crises-impacted children

By Joyce Chimbi

IN a world set on fire by climate change and brutal conflict, millions of children in emergencies and protracted crises need educational support. Children in 48 out of 49 African countries are at high or extremely high risk of the impacts of climate change, particularly in the Central African Republic, Chad, Nigeria, Guinea, Somalia, and Guinea Bissau.

"We have reached catastrophic proportions of 224 million children today in conflict and other humanitarian crises in need of education support. Financial needs for education in emergencies within humanitarian appeals have nearly tripled over the last three years - from US\$1.1 billion in 2019 to almost US\$3 billion at the end of 2022. In 2022, only 30 percent of education requirements were funded, indicating a widening gap," Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Executive Director Yasmine Sherif tells IPS.

Released today ahead of this month's UN General Assembly and SDG Summit in New York, ECW's 'With Hope and Courage: 2022 Annual Results Report' is a deep dive into the challenges, opportunities, key trends, and vast potential that "education for all" offers as nations across the globe race to deliver on the promises outlined in the SDGs, Paris Agreement and other international accords.

Sherif stresses that as nations worldwide celebrate International Literacy Day - and the power of education to build sustainable and peaceful societies - ECW calls on world leaders to scale up financial support to reach vulnerable children in need, especially those furthest left behind. As more and more children are plunged into humanitarian crises, there is a widening funding gap as the needs have skyrocketed over recent years.

The report sends an urgent appeal for additional financing - featuring the latest trends in education in emergencies. It also shows the fund's progress with UN and civil society partners in advancing quality education, particularly Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 for vulnerable girls and boys in humani-



Girls in an informal school in Idlib, Syria. This ECW-supported school is providing much-needed education and psychosocial support to children affected by years of brutal conflict and recent earthquakes. © UNICEF/Fricker

tarian crises worldwide to access inclusive, quality, safe education.

"While the number of out-of-school children in situations of conflict, climate-induced disasters, and as refugees is skyrocketing - funding is not keeping up with the snowballing crisis. But even in these unfortunate circumstances, the report has a positive message. ECW and its global strategic partners have reached 8.8 million children with quality, holistic education since its 2016 inception and more than 4.2 million in 2022 alone. The only reason we have not reached more children is insufficient funding. We have mobilized over \$1.5 billion to date, and we need another \$670 million to reach 20 million children by the

end of our 2023-2026 strategic plan," she observes.

Sherif emphasizes that the global community must ensure that girls and boys impacted by armed conflicts, climate-induced disasters, and forced displacement are not left behind but rather placed at the forefront for an inclusive and continued quality education. Education is the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies.

"Our annual report demonstrates that it is possible to deliver safe, inclusive, quality education with proven positive learning outcomes in countries affected by conflict and to refugees. ECW has done it through strategic partnerships with host governments, government donors, the private sec-

tor, philanthropic foundations, UN agencies, civil society, local organizations, and other key stakeholders," she explains.

"Together, we have delivered quality education to 9 million children and adolescents impacted by crises. The systems are in place, including a coordination structure; with more funding, we can reach more girls and boys in humanitarian crises around the world in places such as the Sahel, South Sudan, Yemen, Syria, and Latin America and enable girls to access community-based secondary education in Afghanistan. We have a proven effective and funding model of delivering the promise of education."

ECW has thus far financed edu-

cation programmes across 44 countries and crisis settings. Of the 4.2 million children reached in 2022, 21 percent were refugees, and 14 percent were internally displaced. When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down schools across the globe, ECW repositioned its programming and supported distance learning, life-saving access to water and sanitation facilities, and other integrated supports - reaching an additional 32.2 million children.

ECW's commitment to gender equality and tackling the gender gap in education is bearing fruit. Towards the fund's goal of 60 percent girls reached in all its investments, girls represent over 50 percent of all children reached in

2022.

In 2022, ECW's rapid First Emergency Responses to new or escalating crises included a strong focus on the climate crisis through grants for the drought in Eastern Africa and floods in Pakistan and Sudan. ECW also approved new funding in response to the war in Ukraine and renewed violence in the Lake Chad Region and Ethiopia.

"On scaling up funding for education, the report shows funding for education in emergencies was higher than ever before in 2022, and that total available funding has grown by more than 57 percent over just three years - from US\$699 million in 2019 to more than US\$1.1 billion in 2022," Sherif explains.

With support from ECW's key strategic donor partners - including Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as the top-three contributors among 25 in total, and visionary private sector partners like The LEGO Foundation - US\$826 million was announced at the ECW High-Level Financing Conference in early 2023.

In addition, collective resource mobilization efforts from all partners and stakeholders at global, regional, and country levels helped unlock an additional US\$842 million of funding for education in emergencies and protracted crises, which contributed to alignment with ECW's Multi-Year Resilience Programmes in 22 countries.

To date, some of ECW's largest and prospective bilateral and multilateral donors have not yet committed funding for the full 2023-2026 period, and there remains a gap in funding from the private sector, foundations, and philanthropic donors. In the first half of 2023, ECW faces a funding gap of approximately US\$670 million to fully finance results under the Strategic Plan 2023-2026, which will reach 20 million children over the next three years.

IPS UN Bureau Report

By Umar Manzoor Shah

EVEN after toiling hard for an entire year, Shivaji Rao, a 37-year-old farmer, would find it hard to cover the basic expenses of his family.

He cultivates maize from his one-and-a-half-acre land in India's Southern State of Telangana.

Roa told IPS that the prices of fertilisers and seeds in his home state have skyrocketed to the extent that it is herculean to even think of buying them in adequate quantity.

"The changes in climate, on the other hand, is wreaking havoc on poor farmers like us. The untimely rainfall, the drought-like situation coupled with the scarcity of irrigation facilities is leaving us high and dry to the core," Roa said.

In a remote village of the state called Aseefabad, another farmer, namely Bhagwan Nath, shares a similar predicament.

He says besides farming, he does menial jobs like day labour at some government-sponsored construction sites to make ends meet.

However, the farmer who grows redgram (a type of legume) from a one-acre field says the farming and the daily paid labour aren't enough to suffice his family's needs.

"I mean, we have children who deserve better education. I need to send my kids to a good school so that they can get a quality education, but doing so needs money. I am not earning enough," Bhagwan told IPS.

There are scores of other farmers in the hamlet sharing the same tale and facing the same ordeal.

Nominally, their monthly incomes do not go beyond a mere 15 to 20 thousand rupees (180-240 USD).

Climate change in the region has been severely affecting the farmers with the late arrival of monsoons and sudden unexpected heat waves occurring.

"This drastic change in the weather pattern damages the crops beyond repair. At times, a year of hard work gets wasted with one single blow of wind. Further, the cost of seeds and fertilisers is adding to our predicament. It is turn-



Farmers have improved their income by rearing Gramapriya poultry, which is environmentally friendly and organic. Credit: Umar Manzoor Shah/IPS

Elevating farmers' income through organic poultry rearing

ing us insane," sighs Shivaji.

As per the government records, the hamlet, during February and March, experienced temperatures higher than the norm.

Typically, elevated temperatures result in increased moisture capacity of the air, often leading to the formation of thunderstorms. The temperatures in the hamlet surpassed 35°C, facilitating

the absorption of moisture from the Bay of Bengal, culminating in the development of a depression.

Reports show that over the past decade, the area has encountered unprecedented weather occurrences - believed to be both climate-change-induced and because of rapid urbanisation in the region.

To mitigate the suffering of the farm-

ers of this remote village, a few non-government organisations have visited the farmers, and this resulted in discussions around opportunities for marginalised farmers for self-sustaining livelihood and climate-resilient agricultural practices through community-owned processes.

One of the NGOs mooted the idea of pollution-free poultry farming for

these farmers.

Along with other farmers, Roa and Bhagwan enrolled for the program. Each farmer received 40 chicks of the Gramapriya breed, with a mature weight ranging from 1.5 to 2 kilograms. The poultry rearing was environmentally friendly, ensuring that there was no odour emanating from the shed. This approach not only resulted in

wholesome meat and eggs for the farmer's family due to the organic nature of the produce but also generated supplementary income through the sale of organic meat, eggs, and compost derived from the bedding.

The training provided to farmers included instructions on formulating appropriate feed for the chicks, enabling them to be ready for the local market within just four months. One farmer, Bhagwan, has already sold ten birds weighing a total of 18 kilograms, earning an extra income of Rs 5400 (70 USD) at a rate of Rs 300 (4 USD) per kilogram over a span of nine months. Additionally, he has sold 200 eggs at Rs 5 each, resulting in an income of Rs 1000.

Moreover, Bhagwan is implementing a breeding strategy by using local chicks to hatch PFPF eggs, thereby multiplying the poultry population on his PFPF farm.

As a result of this new PFPF initiative, his annual earnings have increased by Rs 6400 (80 USD). In total, Bhagwan's annual income has risen from Rs 35,000 to Rs 40,000 (about 420 to 480 USD) within a few months due to these efforts.

Roa says that the poultry he has received has also helped him receive extra income and make a good living.

"Now, I am not entirely dependent upon farming. The poultry is what keeps me hopeful. I am planning to put in extra effort in this business and make a good living out of it."

Roa says within three months, he has been able to earn more than 50 thousand rupees (700 USD) from selling organic eggs and chicken in the market.

"There is a growing demand for organic food, and people really like what I sell. They are quite responsive to it," Roa said.

IPS UN Bureau Report

RECENTLY Grl Company which runs forest plantations in Mufindi and Kilombero districts transferred a total of 14,173 hectares of land to three villages of Ukami, Chogo and Kitete in the two districts. Our correspondent Deodatus Mfugale witnessed the handing over event and had an interview with Masalu Luhula, land tenure expert at Landesa Tanzania Office. The organisation played a central role in crafting the terms and conditions for and coordinating the land transfer process. Excerpts.

Q: Landesa took the central role in not only drafting the modalities of the transfer of land but also in the negotiations that eventually saw communities getting back their land. Why were you involved in the process? How do you feel now that you have accomplished this exercise?

A: Landesa works in ensuring responsible land-based investment. Responsible land-based investment considers protection of land tenure rights of communities and also respects these rights. This aspect is central to successful investment which benefits all stakeholders involved in the investment life cycle. In its research on investments in Tanzania in 2016 which resulted into development of guidebooks for responsible investment, Landesa discovered that land-based investment in Tanzania shares a negative perspective on investor - communities' conflicts. The GRL Company indicated interest in returning land to the community and also setting promising best practices; it was an opportunity not to be missed. This is the first ever experience in Tanzania. Ukami, Chogo and Kitete villages of Mufindi and Kilombero Districts respectively will remain in records as first beneficiaries of this experience. A company which could have sold the land to any other interested company and get a lot of money, decided to give the land back to the community. For us it is a great move towards setting best practices of responsible investment which other companies and stakeholders of land-based investments have to learn and improve their operations.

Q: Usually land that has been given up by an investor for whatever reason falls back into the ownership of the district council or the central government. But in this case the land has been given

Achieving responsible land-based investments for practitioners



Land tenure expert at Landesa Tanzania Office, Masalu Luhula (left) makes a point during the village council meeting at Chogo village in Mufindi District. Others are GRL environmental, social and governance officer Victor Kimele (C) and, GRL director general's Representative Dimitrice Kweka. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

to village governments, why?

A: I agree with you. In most cases village lands acquired for investment are transferred from village land to general land, an act that takes away the village government's control over land and gives it to the Commissioner for Lands. In this case, the owner of the transferred land, then decides to return the land and surrenders the title to the Commissioner for Lands. However, in the case of GRL, the acquired land was yet to be transferred to general land and therefore, in the eyes of the law, it was still village land under village authorities' control. Under the circumstances it was possible for the respective villages to negotiate with the company and get back the land. In very rare cases when land has been transferred it can be given back to communities as village land but its procedure is complex both in law and practice.

Q: Who were the parties involved in the process to transfer land to the village governments? What were their roles?

A: In this process Landesa collaborated with HakiArdhi, a land rights organisation working in Tanzania. Together we participated in the process to return the land to communities from its inception. HakiArdhi brought into the process a rich local experience in working on land rights. Landesa and HakiArdhi also put communities at the center of the process as direct beneficiaries of the land return process. We conducted at least three rounds of community consultations to assess communities' needs. We also looked at potential risks of the process which could hinder communities from benefiting from the land to be returned. Kilombero and Mufindi District authorities as custodians of the respective villages were very instrumental in advising the best way to ensure the process is beneficial to communities and resolves potential risks.

Q: What would you say about the process; were there any obstacles?

A: Handing over of village land from a business company is a procedure that is not clearly stipulated by the law. The village Land Act, No 5 of 1999 which governs village land and Land Act No 4 of 1999 both do not specifically state on return of acquired land. This made Landesa and HakiArdhi invest time in

making legal analysis on what is the possible procedure in law to ensure the process is legally handled. After the analysis, the team produced a strategy to inform procedure of the handing over in a scenario where land is village land and is in an incomplete transfer process. This was the initial test to the process where reference was made to different pieces of the laws, regulations, and international best practices. The process helped to address this preliminary challenge. Unfamiliarity of the process made it also difficult to be understood by other stakeholders in the process. Continuous engagement to clarify what it means and what it takes for land to be returned to communities helped bring everyone involved to a common understanding of the process.

Q: In your opinion when should a village or community say they have enough land?

A: A village or community will only be in a position to make informed decisions on land use if it has an active land use plan that is operational according to village bylaws. A participatory village land use plan provides for existing and future proposed land uses sufficient for the population and competing interests. It is very challenging that more than 70 percent of villages in Tanzania do not have village land use plans. In this case, members of the community are likely to make wrong decisions on land for competing uses and affect both current and future community land uses which in turn cause land use conflicts. The bottom line is that villages should consider their current and future needs of land and plan how to use it.

Q: How does this transfer inform on land-based conflict resolution?

A: Availability of land for use reduces pressure on land. Land scarcity increases risks of land use conflicts. These conflicts affect everyone in the community including investors surrounded by the struggling communities. It is difficult for investors to have social license to operate in a community that has shortage of land since no investment will be able to satisfy community demands by employment or provision of corporate social responsibility if that community cannot also produce for their livelihood. This land return is going to control pressure on land and also reduce likelihood of land related

conflicts. Indeed responsible land investments should provide solutions to land conflicts.

Q: Now that the villages have got "additional" land. What plans do you have to help them effectively benefit from the same?

A: The returned land presents both a blessing if effectively managed and a curse if mismanaged. This land is exposed to elite capture and other factors of loss if village council and village assemblies are not strong enough to protect it. Landesa and HakiArdhi understand this and therefore have put in place plans to continue supporting the community to ensure that this land is properly managed and for the best of the communities. Moving forward, Landesa and HakiArdhi in collaboration with the respective district councils intend to provide land rights training to strengthen the capacity of village council and village assembly on land management. Beyond training, Landesa and HakiArdhi will facilitate participatory and integrated village land use plans to ensure village land is protected for the benefit of the villagers and avoid land use conflicts. On a wider perspective, land use planning will help communities adapt to climate change and build resilience to its impacts. In collaboration with the respective districts, monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken to ensure this process sets the best standard for future reference and learning.

Q: Are you prepared to help other villages elsewhere in Tanzania get idle land from investors?

A: Working to ensure land tenure security for all and mostly for those living in abject poverty situations and promotion of responsible land-based investment among others, is our priority at Landesa. We will always strive to ensure that life on earth is equal and comfortable for all. We believe in partnership and work that embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion thereby helping communities improve their livelihood. That being the case, Landesa will always be open to provide support to any community, government, and investors in order to ensure a secure tenure of land and improved livelihood for all.

Q: What message do you have for investors, government officials and rich individuals who hoard large tracts of land that they don't develop?

A: The successful process of GRL returning land to Ukami, Chogo and Kitete villages, is a stepping stone towards a community of practice in responsible land-based investment. Every stakeholder has a role to play for improved law and practice in land-based investments.

The Government at all levels is an important actor to ensure land-based investments in the country are responsible. The government has multiple layers of responsibility which include ensuring policies and laws respond to the concerns relating to land-based investment, effectively implemented by promoting and protecting rights of all without discrimination.

Investors as key stakeholders to land based investment, also have a role to ensure that their investment systems and structures embrace community development aspects, respect, promotion, and protection of community land rights. Investment that has social license to operate stands a higher chance to prosper than the other which is prone to conflicts and destruction.

Communities who are subject to land-based investment, require preparations before entering into investment commitments. This includes, having participatory village land use plans, clearly identified and genuine investment benefits informed by existing and future realities and seeking legal support in negotiation for contracts so as to make informed decisions, among others.

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other related stakeholders have a duty to educate communities, support monitoring and evaluation of land based investment for sharing of lessons for improvements and learning as well as advising government for policy and practice change. They also have a duty to support law and policy implementation including bringing in international best practices for domestication. Specifically, the return of land to villages is a call to investors and individuals to stop hoarding land that they cannot develop and give it to communities. This will not only improve livelihoods but also reduce conflicts between the parties.

African women's reproductive rights under threat: Global pushback puts lives at risk

By Dorothy Akongo, Flata

Mwale and Vivian Mugarisi

ALMOST 30 years ago in 1994, the world witnessed a historic event as 179 nations convened on African soil, in Cairo, for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

In an unprecedented moment of collective action, Heads of State adopted a revolutionary Programme of Action and called for women's reproductive health and rights to take center stage in national and global development efforts.

This summer, in another first, the Women Deliver Conference had its annual meeting in Kigali, Rwanda. As the largest conference on gender equality in the world with 6,000 in-person delegates and a further 200,000 remote participants, the event was a welcome symbol of Africa's commitment to the rights of women and girls.

Despite this, it was frustrating to witness echoes of the global pushback currently plaguing the reproductive justice movement and how decades of progress on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) continue to face assault.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Hungarian President drew controversy for championing her 'pro-family' ideals in sharp contrast to the purpose that had united many of the delegates present.

President Katalin Novák, a key player in the movement opposing women's and girls' rights, notably access to safe and legal abortion, has publicly asserted that Hungarian women "should not compete with men" or expect to earn equal pay. She publicly envisioned her teenage daughter being empowered to choose a path of mothering a substantial number of children, "even 10 children if she chooses to".

As part of a 40-women delegation from the Women in Global Health network, we experienced the clash firsthand. Three decades since Cairo, and the struggle for women's and girls' rights continues, but as African health professionals and agents of change in the sys-



Women's bodies should not be held captive to choices made by governments or individuals, says the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) as it launched its flagship State of the World's Population Report for 2023, released April 2023. According to the UN, more than half of global population growth between now and 2050 is expected to occur in Africa. Credit: UNFPA/Marielle Sander

tems we deliver, so does our determination to sustain progress on the continent.

We have much to be proud of. In November 2021, Benin's Parliament voted to legalize abortion in most circumstances. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, the first country in Francophone Africa to do so, expanded access to abortion care, and endorsed guidelines to implement the directives of the African Protocol on the Rights of Women (the Maputo Protocol).

In July 2022, Sierra Leone took steps to modernize outdated abortion laws following decades of advocacy by the women's movement and government officials.

Despite these advances, women and adolescent girls in Africa continue to have some of the world's highest maternal death and morbidity rates. With low access to modern contraceptive methods and quality, safe and legal abortion, stalling progress

means life and death for many women and girls.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the failure of many governments to integrate a gender-responsive approach in national health systems on SRHR. During the emergency response, SRHR services were not always deemed essential and sidelined, resulting in a surge of gender-based violence, unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions.

Access to modern contraception and reproductive health, fundamental to determining whether and how many children to have, when and with whom, remains inaccessible for many adolescent girls and women. Quality, safe abortion care is a right. Restrictions on abortion do not eliminate abortion; they only eliminate safe abortions, resulting in women's deaths.

According to global estimates up to 10 million more girls will be at risk of becoming child

brides in the next decade as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reports also indicate that though all women and girls globally face discrimination in laws, social norms and practices, women and girls in Africa bear the highest share of discrimination in terms of intra-household dynamics and caregiving roles, working environments including harmful practices such as domestic violence and female genital mutilation.

Women health workers are grossly underrepresented in health leadership and this is a key factor in the current push back on SRHR. Women comprise the majority of the health workforce, given they are 70 percent of the overall workforce globally and 90 percent of frontline staff, yet they occupy just 25 percent of leadership roles.

For lower- and middle-income regions such as Africa, the percentage of women in leadership is as low as five percent. As the

majority of frontline health professionals, women health workers have a deeper understanding of the health needs of their communities including SRHR needs. This power imbalance at decision-making tables excludes their valuable experiences and expertise to shape policies and programs that adequately address the health needs of women and girls.

Compounding this, 70% of women in Africa are said to be excluded financially, with an estimated gap of \$42 billion between men and women. Around six million women work unpaid and underpaid in core health systems roles, effectively subsidizing global health.

Health and care are essential employment sectors for women and have the potential to unlock gender transformative lessons for the rest of the economy by addressing systemic biases that hinder women's empowerment. Investing in the health work-

force, the majority of whom are women, is a sound investment with potential gains for health systems, social change, and economic growth.

The role of women health workers delivering SRHR services in health systems cannot be overestimated. Women health workers typically counsel and support women and girls in accessing a range of modern contraceptives and in dealing with high-risk or unwanted pregnancy.

They brave violence and harassment from anti-rights protestors at quality, safe abortion facilities. They face online abuse and threats when expressing views in favor of SRHR, especially safe abortion.

As a platform, the Women Deliver Conference provided an opportunity for gender advocates and Civil Society Organizations to amplify efforts towards promoting a gender-responsive agenda among policy players and government leaders. While several countries have ratified human rights declarations over the years, not enough has been done to live up to the promise of making gender equality a reality.

Women's movements and their allies are pivotal for mobilizing the necessary political will needed to drive progress on SRHR. As members of Women in Global Health, a movement challenging power and privilege for gender equity in health, we are calling on political and global health leaders to establish the following:

Gender responsive UHC that ensures all people have access to the services they need, when they need them including access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for women and girls.

Gender Equal and diverse leadership in Global Health based on Gender Transformative Leadership. This offers equal opportunities for women to lead in health and contribute to shaping health systems and health policies that are gender responsive. This is critical if we are to achieve health for all.

Gender equity in emergency preparedness and response. We are calling for continuation of essential health services, including SRHR, and the protection of health workers to be central in these political agreements.

Movements such as ours are pivotal in building allyship between health workers and national leaders in the delivery of SRHR while also safeguarding health outcomes for future generations. Across Africa, reducing health inequities and maternal mortalities is of paramount concern.

African countries have the opportunity to secure the foundation for just societies and health for all, what we need now is to hold firm against the global pushback on reproductive rights and deliver on the promises made to women and girls.

This article was authored by Members of the African Women in Global Health network: Dorothy Akongo, Research and Advocacy Manager, Busoga Health Forum and Coordinator, Uganda Chapter; Flata Mwale, Global Health Professional and Deputy Country Lead, Zambia Chapter; Vivian Mugarisi, Public Health Communications Specialist, Zimbabwe Chapter. IPS UN Bureau

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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Barriers to enhancing financial inclusion in Tanzania unveiled

By Guardian Reporter

Unavailability of unique identification, consumer empowerment, legal and regulatory frameworks, limited ownership of smartphone, low financial literacy and gender gap are being identified as significant barriers to achieve financial inclusion in Tanzania.

This is revealed by the third financial inclusion framework for 2023-2028, with the vision of creating universal access to and usage of a broad range of affordable and quality financial products and services that improve financial well-being and livelihood.

"As we move to the third Framework, emphasis is made to address barriers and gaps that are still persistent despite progress made in the implementation of previous Frameworks. Specific interventions will focus on expanding usage of quality of formal financial services to disproportionately excluded population segments and access to and usage of a broad range of affordable financial products and services for financial health," said Emmanuel Tutuba, Governor, Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and Chairperson, National Council for Financial Inclusion.

He said the implementation of the Framework will also support other individuals and businesses in Tanzania to access and use a broad range of high-quality financial products and services leveraging on financial technologies and innovations.

The expected outcomes of the new framework, published by BoT have been designed to directly motivate the anticipated focus on expanding financial inclusion in the country.

The new framework is targeting to ensure all adults and businesses have access to financial products and services, active use of a broad range of financial products and services, empowered financial consumers with high quality financial products and services, and individuals and businesses are financially healthy.

The framework is targeting to increase the percentage of adults living within 5 kilometers of financial success point to 95 in 2028 from 89 in 2023, percentage of adults owning mobile phone to 75 from currently 71 and percentage of borrowers with credit history in the Credit Reference system to 35 in 2028 from 30 in 2023.

It is also targeting to increase the per-



Women represent 51 percent of the country's population and 52 percent of the workforce, yet they remain underserved and unserved in access and usage of financial services

centage of MSMEs with credit history to 25 in 2028 from currently 19, percentage of adults with account which can transact with financial service provider to 85 from 76, percentage of adults with active account with financial services providers to 75 in 2028 from currently 60 and percentage of MSMEs with active account to 50 in 2028 from currently 31.

The framework is also targeting to increase percentage of adults using more than one financial services to 50 from 33, percentage of adult with financial literacy to 70 in 2028 from 56 in 2023, percentage of consumers who can afford the costs of financial services and products to 90 in 2028 from currently 80 and adult with the ability to pay bills, debt and financial obligation to 25 percent from currently 14 percent.

All these will be achieved through developing and implement financial literacy programs, incorporating financial literacy into the national education system and enhancing disclosure and transparency in the financial sector.

Other initiative will include enhancing market conduct supervi-

sion, promoting fair competition in the financial sector, enhancing complaints handling and redress mechanisms and promoting the development of affordable and demand-driven financial products and services.

The framework is also targeting to strengthen the management of financial cyber security risks, strengthen protection of financial consumer data and extend coverage and improve the efficiency of deposit insurance.

To promote financial inclusion in Tanzania, the Third National Financial Inclusion Framework identifies, technology and innovation; enabling policy, legal and regulatory frameworks; consumer empowerment; as well as Information and data infrastructures; as key enablers for reducing the exclusion gap and fostering the financial well-being of Tanzanians.

The Framework is set to achieve the financial inclusion goals by bringing together public/private stakeholders sharing a common financial inclusion vision through a coordinated mechanism.

The target underserved groups

in this framework include women, youths, persons with disability, smallholder farmers and Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Women

In this framework, more efforts will be put to address the barriers that impede women accessing banking services and other formal financial services identified to have low uptake by women.

Women represent 51 percent of the country's population and 52 percent of the workforce, yet they remain underserved and unserved in access and usage of financial services, mainly due to socio-cultural norms and their economic status, according to the new framework.

Despite the progress made on financial inclusion for women through the implementation of the previous frameworks which narrowed the gender gap from 10 percent in 2017 to 3.6 percent in 2023, indicating that the gender gap is narrowing, however still persistent.

It is attributed to barriers such as lack of collateral, limited documentation for accessing banking services and social-cultural norms.

MSMEs

Despite Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) play key role, they often struggle to access credit, which limits their ability to grow or become more productive.

The limited access to formal financial services by MSMEs has been mainly due to widespread informality, lack of viable collateral, low financial literacy as well as high transaction costs of financial services (transactional and interest costs).

In a bid to improve financial inclusion to MSMEs, the new framework focuses on promoting the usage of financial technology to reduce informality of MSMEs operations, promote business formalization, enhance access to credit through effective credit schemes, improve capabilities of business people through financial education as well as implementing regulatory reforms that will reduce barriers to financial inclusion such as simplifying registration and costs of compliance.

Implementation of previous framework has increased youth uptake of formal financial services from 66 percent in 2017 to 73 percent in 2023, according to the new framework document.

Despite the recorded success, active usage of formal services remains at 55 percent coupled with low uptake of credit, insurance and savings services.

Barriers limiting youth uptake and usage of formal financial services include perception of Financial Services Providers that youth are low-value customers with high risk of moral hazard.

Unemployment, lack of collateral, geographical limitations and limited identification remain setbacks for the majority of youth to access formal financial services.

Persons with Disability

The recent development in digital financial services has somehow driven the increase in financial inclusion particularly for mobility disabled individuals, however, other groups of this segment remain excluded.

Various financial education and empowerment programs by Government, disability-focused associations and donors, have also contributed to improved access to and usage of financial services and products, among people with disabilities.

Smallholder farmers

Interventions by various financial inclusion stakeholders have improved the uptake of formal financial services by smallholder farmers from 55 percent in 2017 to 70 percent in 2023.

Despite these improvements, FSPs do not adequately meet the needs of this segment due to high uncertainty in smallholder farming, weak property rights that limit the usage of land as collateral, inconsistent cash flows, coupled with some cultural practices that reduce demand for formal financial services.

Consequently, smallholder farmers and fishers mostly obtain financing from sources such as contract farming and warehouse receipts as well as MFIs, while few large-scale farmers and fishers can access financing from commercial banks.

During the implementation of the new framework, a conducive environment for access to and use National Financial Inclusion Framework (2023 - 2028) 28 of formal financial services

by small holder farmers and fishers will be created by developing enabling policies such as operationalization of the movable collateral registry, promotion of credit guarantees.

LONDON

With the US Federal Reserve almost certain to leave interest rates unchanged at its policy meeting later this month, the focus of central banker watchers has shifted to the other side of Atlantic.

The European Central Bank's decision on whether to raise rates again at this week's monetary policy meeting on Thursday looks finely balanced. There is less debate about the Bank of England, where a rate rise is rightly expected later this month but there is some possibility of a surprise pause.

Behind these near-term calls is a debate around how forward-looking monetary policy can afford to be at this juncture and how credible it is to substitute further rises with a policy of keeping rates high for longer. The issue is how such "high for longer" signalling would square with an approach that makes policy decisions data dependent and the desire of central banks to stay away from "forward guidance" on rates.

The Fed, though the most important of the central banks, may be the simplest to assess. It will pause in September and uphold the option to raise further with a stern and resolute tone providing cover for a gradual transition to policy on hold. It will only exercise the option to raise rates again if progress on inflation and rebalancing the labour market stalls amid stronger-than-expected growth.

Most of the debate is around whether the ECB will deliver a "hawkish pause" with signals that lean to raising rates again in October if inflation does

not moderate notably further, or raise one more time with a more neutral signal going forward.

There are compelling reasons for the ECB to pause in September, with core inflation slowly turning lower, wage growth in line with projections and a spreading economic slowdown. The idea that the ECB should raise rates before the "window of opportunity" closes is nonsense: a central bank should never do something it could not justify doing a month or two later. But near-term inflation has been sticky and energy prices have moved up again. This could lead policymakers to deliver one more rise to send a hawkish signal to companies and unions.

The BoE is more interesting than market pricing – 80 per cent for another rise – suggests. In recent weeks, the bank's leadership has sent dovish signals, seemingly to make an option to pause as early as September. The rise in unemployment in the three months to July ticks a key box for policymakers who think it will be necessary to open up some slack to moderate future wage and price inflation. But the data is not clear-cut and continuing rapid wage growth underlines the absence of a clear turn in domestically generated inflation so far. With higher oil prices set to nudge up headline inflation, risk management favours raising rates one more time in September. But a pause should not be ruled out, particularly if services inflation surprises to the downside.

In each case, the debate turns in part on the viability of substituting additional rate rises with a policy of

Central banks debate: Could 'high for longer'? substitute for rate rises



keeping rates high for longer. BoE chief economist Huw Pill recently set out his preference for a lower peak but a longer hold – more "Table Mountain" and less "Matterhorn". But ECB council member Isabel Schnabel has warned policymakers "cannot trade off a need for a further tightening of monetary policy today against a promise to hold rates at a certain level for longer".

The answer is not black and white. In theory, a central bank can provide a certain amount of restraint by setting rates at significantly restrictive levels for a shorter period of time or more moderately restrictive levels for longer. A smoother rate path is preferable to a sharp up and down, allowing more time to assess data. When the market prices a rapid U-turn, it is often assuming the central bank will end up overtightening.

But in the real world the promise of restraint tomorrow from keeping rates high for longer is not a perfect substitute for acting today if the central bank's credibility is strained and data suggests inflation risks becoming entrenched.

The ECB is probably better placed right now to substitute longer for higher than the BoE. Both struggle with how to reconcile high for longer with data dependence and an aversion to forward guidance on rates. This is misplaced. Central banks should always be comfortable communicating their "reaction function" – the strategy they think is likely to be appropriate to return inflation to target, and how the resulting rate path will be updated as new information comes in, so anchoring inflation expectations. This is not controversial forward guidance – it is central banking 101.

African agriculture: A demographic paradox and a glimmer of hope

By Godwin Jaha Semuny

A key insight from the recent AGRF meeting on agriculture in Dar es Salaam is that despite Africa's legacy agriculture challenges, there's a glimmer of hope in the involvement of the youth, adequate funding, and the adoption of technology.

Although Africa's agriculture is valued at a trillion dollars, engages more than 60 percent of its labor force, and possesses over 60 percent of the world's untouched arable land, the continent still spends billions annually on food imports, mainly due to untapped farming potential.

Additionally, FAO data

show that over 20 percent of Africa's inhabitants face undernourishment.

But Africa can no longer hide behind the legacy agriculture challenges. By 2050, the continent is projected to have the world's largest youth population, yet many of its youth are uninterested in farming.

With African farmers averaging 60 years old, the continent faces a demographic and agricultural paradox.

Africa needs to charm its youth into farming ASAP for food security and jobs. Let's face it: In Africa, farming's image is a bit "vintage" and not in the cool, retro way. Many young Africans see it as old-fashioned, labor-intensive, and

less lucrative.

And honestly, can you blame them? For a lot of their seniors, farming is that side gig or future retirement plan. Think: "Nalima Vitunguu Morogoro," with one annual farm visit or the classic, "Nikistaafu nitarudi Kyela, kulima mpunga."

The African Development Bank's alarming data shows that while 12 million people enter Africa's labor markets yearly, only 3 million jobs are created.

The urgency to address this job deficit is compounded by the pressing need for food security. Making agriculture appealing to the youth could be a significant step forward. But this is a collective task.

In 2003, under the Maputo Declaration on agriculture and food security, African countries pledged to allocate at least 10 percent of their national budgets to agriculture and rural development. I gathered through the forum that, years later, few have maintained that commitment.

The hopeful outlook of African Agriculture is built on many variables, but the two foundational elements stand out: technological advancements and financial empowerment. However, the youth, who form the majority of the population, should be empowered to take the wheel.

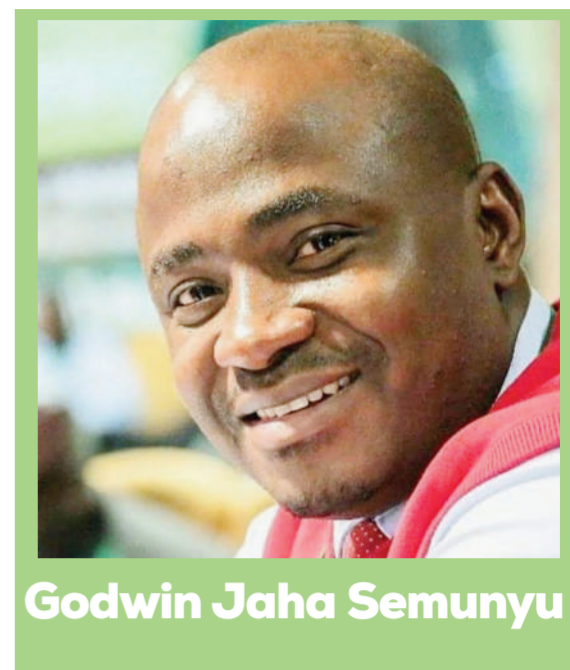
In Tanzania, technology is gradually transforming agriculture. Mobile payments, farming apps,

and digital markets link farmers to buyers.

Drip irrigation, solar-powered storage, and resilient seeds tackle challenges. Kudos also to the youth-focused block farming initiatives in Dodoma. Way to go.

Africa urgently needs to invigorate its aging farming sector by engaging the youth to address food security and unemployment. It is time to involve them in key decisions, empowering their skills and funding their ventures. Or else.

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Godwin Jaha Semuny



CRDB Bank chief commercial officer Boma Raballa

CRDB Bank Plc launches insurance scheme for bodaboda, bajaj riders

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed CRDB Bank has launched property and health insurance coverage scheme for three wheelers and motorbikes riders, as part of promoting inclusive insurance.

The newly launched scheme namely "Bima Buku" requires a rider to pay minimum amount of 1,000/-, which will involve the combined vehicle and health insurance covers.

Speaking during the launch of the scheme at the Biafra grounds yesterday, which was attended by more than 5,000 bodaboda and bajaj riders, the Kinondoni district commissioner Saad Mtambule congratulated CRDB Bank for coming up with this innovative financial product.

"Statistics show that only a few Tanzanians are currently covered with insurance. I therefore congratulate CRDB Bank for coming up with this innovative scheme of which I believe, will help to reach many Tanzanians, specifically three wheelers and motorbikes rid-

ers. What are limiting many Tanzanians to get insured include high costs of insurance products and their availability. This scheme is going to address these challenges," he said.

He also called for CRDB Bank, though its banassurance unit, as well as other insurance companies to continue providing public awareness on the importance of insurance.

"If people will be educated on how they will access this scheme, it will help to increase the number of people using insurance, while boosting economic productivity," he said.

He also called for bodaboda and bajaj riders to exploit this opportunity in order to cover against risks that may happen when they provide transport services to the citizen, while ensuring health coverage, combined on the scheme.

Explaining on the newly launched insurance scheme, the CRDB Bank's chief commercial officer Boma Raballa said this will enable riders to cover their properties and health, through combined insurance policy at an initial payment of

1,000/- per individual.

"The payment of this insurance scheme will be made in every 86 days and the client will benefit from property. For those who will opt to include health insurance coverage, they need to pay at least 11 months or 133 days; but in case any risk happen before the maturity of the payment, insurance cover will be made, while continuing to pay the remaining amount," he said.

He said, usually insurance is paid once, but CRDB Bank has come with this innovative financial product to enable small entrepreneurs like bodaboda and bajaj riders are covered.

"Minimum payment for normal insurance start from 192,000, but CRDB Bank has brought this affordable policy, which allows bodaboda and bajaj riders to ensure that they cover their vehicles, while benefiting from health insurance in case an accident happens," he said.

"With this insurance, a client will have assurance of treatment in any government hospital countrywide in case of

accident or illness. In order to join this scheme, clients are required to enter into Simbaking, through both app and USSD channels. A customer can join this scheme anytime and anywhere. After registering and start paying, the client will get a short message of approval."

Moureen Majaliwa, the head of Bancassurance, CRDB Bank, said since 2021, the bank has been an insurance agent and has enough experience allowing them to establish such innovative financial product that will meet the market needs.

"Due to our long term experience, CRDB Bank has seen an importance of increasing our scope of Bancassurance to reach more Tanzanians, specifically the low income earners to cover them against risks. Apart from this insurance scheme, the bank is also targeting motorbikes and bajaj loans to enable many youths to own these facilities, which are very important in providing transport services to many Tanzanians, in both urban and rural areas," she said.

China's central bank vows to support demand, price rebound

BEIJING

China's central bank will boost demand and support a modest rebound in prices, the Financial News, a publication run by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) said on Wednesday, citing a unnamed senior central bank official.

The PBOC will ramp up its coordination with fiscal and industrial policies and strengthen the guidance of expectations, while closely monitoring the effects of financial policies, the official was quoted as saying.

The central bank "will create an appropriate monetary and financial environment to promote effective demand in the real economy, support a moderate recovery in prices and enhance economic vitality," the official said.

China's firm credit growth was also in line with the recovery, as borrowing costs in the real economy fell, the official was quoted as saying.

New bank loans beat ex-

pectations by nearly quadrupling in August from July, as the central bank sought to shore up economic growth amid soft demand at home and abroad.

China has in recent weeks rolled out a series of measures, including interest rate cuts and property easing steps, to support the economy, which has struggled after its post-pandemic recovery faltered.

"We cannot rule out a RRR cut and the use of structural tools to guide financial institutions to increase support for the real economy and promote a faster recovery of domestic demand," said Zhou Maohua, analyst at China Everbright Bank.

The central bank last cut the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) - the amount of cash that banks must hold as reserves - in March.

In August, the PBOC cut its one-year benchmark lending rate, or the loan prime rate (LPR), by 10 basis points to 3.45 percent.

In August, the weighted average corporate lending

rate was at 3.85 percent, down 20 basis points from a year earlier, while the weighted average mortgage rate fell by 38 basis points to 4.12 percent, Financial News quoted the central bank official as saying.

China's consumer prices returned to positive growth in August as deflationary pressures eased amid signs of stabilisation in the economy.

Officials in Beijing have long said there is no basis for any long-term deflation. "Reduction in existing mortgage rates will effectively reduce the interest burden on residents," the official was quoted as saying.

Five of China's major state banks said last week they will start to lower interest rates on existing mortgages for first-home loans, part of measures to aid the ailing property sector.

Early mortgage repayments have been reduced, which would help boost consumer confidence, said the official.



Kenya small savers dump banks for mobile wallets

NAIROBI

Kenya's micro and small enterprises (MSMEs) prefer to keep their money in mobile wallets and chamas instead of banks and saccos in a new savings trend that is expected to adversely impact the volume of bank and Sacco deposits, new survey shows.

The findings of a MSMEs Tracker Survey by Central Bank revealed that more than 51 percent (51.5 percent) of the businesses save in mobile money wallets such as M-Pesa, Airtel Money and T-Kash while 42.7 percent save in chamas or groups.

The proportion of MSMEs that save in banks (including microfinance banks), mobile banking (M-Shwari and KCB M-Pesa) and Saccos stood at 30.8 percent, 25.4 percent and 11.3 percent respectively.

On the other hand, the proportion stashing in secret places including cash boxes was 23.9 percent.

Among the female-owned businesses, 57.3 percent save in chamas/Groups while 55.1 percent of the male-owned businesses save in mobile money wallets such as M-Pesa, according to the survey.

In June, bank savings and deposit rates stood at 3.48 percent and 7.82 percent respectively, compared with a lending rate of 13.31 percent.

The survey, which was conducted in June, sampled 1,961 businesses of which 1,422 (72.6 percent) were still operational while 539 (27.4 percent) had closed.

About 57.6 percent of the operational businesses were female-owned and the remainder, male-owned.

GCC banks credit growth slow due to high interest rates

ABU DHABI

Banks in major GCC economies will see a slowdown in credit growth, owing to higher interest rates and OPEC oil production cuts, according to a new report.

Banks in the UAE will prove more resilient in the face of market challenges, benefiting from a robust non-oil GDP growth, said market intelligence firm S&P Global, adding that this would mitigate the negative effect of higher interest rates on credit growth.

Credit growth in UAE banks

will rise to 7 percent in 2023, compared to the 5 percent in 2022, however, a long period of higher interest rates and the slowdown of the oil economy could pose challenges, the report added.

The UAE's non-oil GDP is forecasted to reach 6 percent in 2023, which, in combination with recoveries from provisions booked in the past two years, will reduce credit costs incurred by banks in 2023, compared to the previous year.

Credit growth for banks in Kuwait will also see the effects of high interest rates, dropping

to 3 percent in 2023, compared with the 8 percent in 2022.

Interest rates will also soften lending across Saudi banks, which will experience total lending growth of 10 percent in 2023, a drop from 14 percent the previous year. Vision 2030-related projects will also keep credit growth in Saudi Arabia banks well above the GCC average rate of 4 percent in 2023, but funding risk will be one of the main challenges for the Saudi banking sector.

The Saudi government continued to inject deposits into the system to help banks fi-

nance their growth, but lower oil prices as a result of the kingdom and Russia extending their voluntary oil production cuts through the end of this year, saw government deposits at the country's central bank decreasing.

The 2022 FIFA World Cup effect will trigger a sharper decline in credit growth in Qatari banks, when compared to their GCC peers, largely due to the country's main infrastructure projects, which are a key driver for credit demand through contractors, were completed in time for the tournament.

Dollar gains as US inflation rate data awaited, yen retraces gains

TOKYO

The dollar was broadly steady ahead of a key US inflation report later on Wednesday, though it rose on the yen as traders further digested comments from Japan's top central banker on a possible early exit from its negative interest rate policy.

The US currency advanced around 0.2 percent to 147.39 against the yen. It has now firmly retraced its biggest one-day percentage rise in two months that was made on Monday following remarks from Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Kazuo Ueda over the weekend.

Investors have had more time to consider Ueda's comments more carefully, said Alvin Tan, head of Asia FX strategy at RBC Capital Markets.

"The statement to our mind was quite a conditional one, (Ueda) didn't promise anything," he said.

Influential ruling party lawmaker Hiroshige Seko on Tuesday also signalled his preference for ultra-loose monetary policy, after Ueda's comments pushed up the yen and bond yields.

The yen has been under relentless pressure against the dollar as the BOJ remains a dovish outlier among global central banks, especially since the Federal Reserve began its aggressive rate-hike cycle in March 2022.

Data released earlier on Wednesday showed Japan's annual whole-



sale inflation slowed in August for an eighth straight month, although at 3.2 percent it remains above the central bank's 2 percent target.

More broadly, the dollar held firm, though moves were subdued as traders awaited a closely watched US inflation reading due later on Wednesday.

Sterling slipped 0.05 percent to \$1.2489, while the Australian dollar fell 0.03 percent to \$0.6408.

The US dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of

rivals, was steady at 104.61, after slipping to a one-week low on Monday and clocking its largest daily fall in two months.

Analysts attributed the slide to an unwinding of long dollar positions after a recent run of resilient US economic data.

Wednesday's US consumer price index (CPI) data for August comes just a week before Federal Reserve officials gather to decide on interest rate policy.

Headline CPI is expected to accelerate by 0.6 percent compared to 0.2 percent a

month ago, and by 3.6 percent on an annual basis.

While the central bank is largely expected to keep rates on hold at next week's meeting, according to CME's FedWatch Tool, the Fed's next move in November remains more uncertain.

"I think there is a chance for the Fed to raise interest rates another time this year," said Tina Teng, market analyst at CMC Markets.

Elsewhere, the euro was flat at \$1.0753. It hit a one-week high of \$1.0777 in the previous session as markets raised their bets on further

rate hikes from the European Central Bank (ECB) ahead of its monetary policy decision.

A source told Reuters that the ECB expects inflation in the 20-nation euro zone to remain above 3% next year, bolstering the case for a tenth consecutive interest rate increase on Thursday.

"In recent months, European inflation, core inflation in particular, has fallen more slowly than expected. This has given the ECB some serious headaches," analysts at Rabobank said in a note.

"The high inflation rate warrants another rate hike, but the economic indicators ... signal that a recession is imminent."

India's revised bank investment norms boosting debts appetite

MUMBAI

The Indian central bank's move to remove the cap on how much a bank can invest in bonds they intend to hold to maturity will boost lenders' appetite for government securities and benefit their bottom lines, bankers and analysts said on Wednesday.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) did away with the ceiling on the held-to-maturity (HTM) category of investments on Tuesday, as part of a broader rejig of classification and valuation norms. The new norms come to effect from April 1, 2024.

Typically, government bonds are the most common form of investment in HTM. Currently, the investment limit on HTM is 19.5 percent of a bank's net deposits, with some dispensation on bonds purchased between Sept. 1, 2020 and March 31, 2023.

"This incentivises nationalised banks on more investing bias towards 3-7 year government securities and state development loans in the current cycle," said Madhavi Arora, lead economist at Emkay Global Financial Services.

After a spate of rate hikes, the RBI is expected to keep rates on hold at least until the middle of 2024 before it starts lowering them.

At that point, banks with sizeable investments in the HTM category stand to benefit.

As per a Jefferies report, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank and State Bank of India each had more than 60 percent of their total investments classified as HTM in 2022/23.

Demand for mid-to-lower duration papers could go up on account of the new norms, said Ritesh Bhusari, joint general manager for treasury at South Indian Bank.

Treasury officials, however, reckoned banks would need to be judicious in classifying invest-



ments.

"Banks will have to be prudent in moving securities in the HTM portfolio as it will not be transferable," said Anshul Chandak, head of treasury at RBL Bank, adding that decisions will have to be

based on a bank's overall growth strategy.

The new norms will also drive mark-to-market (MTM) gains for lenders and reduce their earnings volatility, according to the Jefferies note.

While HTM bonds need

not be MTM, lenders with investments in the available for sale (AFS) category also benefit since the new norms state they can move all valuation gains or losses in this category to an 'AFS reserve', bypassing their profit and

loss (P&L) statement.

Only when these securities are sold, the impact will pass through the P&L statement, said Karan Gupta, director and head of financial institutions ratings at India Ratings.

Investors urged to grab huge EAC markets opportunities

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

INVESTORS have been told to take advantage of the East Africa market which is still huge with plenty of unexploited natural resources which can transform people's lives in the next decade.

This was said recently in Dar es Salaam by Secretary General of Tanzania-China Friendship Promotion Association (TCFPA), Joseph Kahama, when speaking during the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in East Africa.

"We may wish to ask ourselves as a region if we have really utilized the opportunities associated with BRI effectively! We need more projects that open up our economies to link the region and the region with the world," he said.

Kahama said China's experience in building and operating big infrastructures that link more than one country is known and others should emulate the spirit.

He said Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) need to be supported by the governments to play their role of honest broker between the governments, private sector and the people to unlock more projects.

He said at TCFPA they facilitate conferences and seminars with participants from all walks of life of China and their Tanzanian counterparts.

"We have also done the same between Tanzanians, Chinese and other countries, in 2014 and 2015, these meetings have given the CSOs from our African regions the opportunity to engage, share experiences and also help each other in various fields," he said.

He added that for those seminars and conferences held in China, where in the last 9 years, he has travelled to approximately 33 cities in China, African CSOs, European, Asian and South American CSOs have met and exchanged ideas on development.

He said the platform has therefore encouraged and endeared communications on a people to people basis across 5 continents, supporting understanding, cooperation and collaboration among them.

He said here in Tanzania, TCFPA has been in the forefront of assisting Chinese nationals encountering setbacks or obstacles at Immigration, Police and other authorities.

"Therefore, to strengthen our voices, we need to foster collaboration among CSOs in the region and share experiences on how our people can benefit more within the framework of BRI. The experience, in the last ten years, in fostering people to people relationships within the context of the BRI has been positive and has witnessed an upward trajectory with the growth of trade and that of travels between the citizens of all the nations in East and Central Africa and with China," he said.

Kahama said in addition to the aforementioned on conferences, seminars and visits bringing together well-meaning Chinese, Tanzanians, East Africans and other global citizens together in an effort to exchange ideas and best practices across the entire spectrum of the polity and all walks of life, especially on the people to people front, our association, as a CSO has recorded substantial successes in bringing citizens of China and their Tanzanian counterparts closer by carrying on developmental projects together.

"In the last nine years, our association, with the help of our counterpart associations in China, have built classrooms, provided over 400 study desks, built a laboratory and equipped them in hospitals in Kilimanjaro and Lindi, provided numerous health infrastructures, built a library and provided scholarships in China at a rate of approximately 10 scholars a year studying at Masters or PhD levels," he said.

He said TCFPA also managed to provide secondary school scholarships in Musoma Region, fertilizers for farmers in Morogoro region, built toilets and water boreholes, as well as provided solar panels for schools and dispensaries in Kagera Region.

Kahama said in addition to arranging the famous Chinese Medical Teams to provide health services in Lindi, Musoma, as well as having undertaken medical surgeries to help Tanzanians during the earthquake in Kagera region about 10 years ago.

"We are also currently supporting health infrastructure by providing hospital beds in Tanga and Mwanza Regions, as well as building a seating gallery for spectators at a planned multipurpose Sports Field for the public and community in Chalinze, to name but a few," he said.

BANKING & FINANCE

Listed banks, agriculture firms lead in profitability

NAIROBI

The banking and agriculture segments have the best profitability record at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), making them the most attractive for investors chasing dividends in a period of limited capital gains on stocks.

An analysis of listed company financials shows the two segments are the only ones whose entire portfolio of constituent stocks made a profit in their most recent reporting periods, other than single stock segments such as investment services (NSE)

automobiles (Car & General) and telecoms (Safaricom).

Companies in other segments have mixed profitability records, indicative of the difficult economic climate facing the private sector in the country in sectors such as services, energy, investments and manufacturing.

As a result, the banking and agriculture companies have emerged as the most reliable in dividend payments, where only two companies—Eaagads and HF Group—out of the 17 in these two segments did not pay a dividend in the past year.

Dividend yields for 11 of these firms are also in the double digits, beating the returns on fixed cash deposits even though they trail those of short-term government securities.

Out of the NSE's 61 listed firms (excluding Reits and ETF), 32 paid dividends in the past year.

Buying into non-dividend paying counters is largely seen as a speculation with the market still trading below the last bull run peak seen in early 2015.

This has raised the influence of dividends, making profitable companies more attractive, especially those that combine

their good performance with a generous dividend policy.

The low share prices resulting from the prolonged bear run have also raised the dividend yields for the majority of the stocks.

Firms such as Standard Chartered Bank Kenya, Williamson Tea, Kapchorua Tea, I&M Group, Co-operative Bank and BAT Kenya all have yields above 12 percent, as per latest share prices.

The non-dividend paying counters largely consist of firms persistently returning losses or those striving to stay in the green.



WORLD

Chinese envoy in Kenya pledges support for Kenya's arid county

NAIROBI

CHINESE Ambassador to Kenya Zhou Pingjian on Tuesday said during a visit to the northwestern Kenyan county of Turkana that China would work to strengthen partnerships with devolved units as part of reinforcing the Sino-Kenyan cooperation.

Zhou stated that China is open to supporting Kenya's devolved units in implementing priority projects. "We appreciate the friendship between China and Kenya through the government-to-government cooperation. We wish to do more to deepen the relationship, and there is huge potential for sub-national cooperation," Zhou said.



Zhou also pledged to work with Turkana County to attract Chinese private sector investments, adding that his visit to northwestern Kenya was an eye-opener since the region had massive potential for development.

Turkana Governor Jeremiah Lomoru welcomed Zhou's commitment to supporting the county and called for China's support in innovative technology to address water perennial scarcity.

Lomoru pointed at investment opportunities in value addition of livestock products, including developing tanneries and abattoirs, adding that with Turkana's huge livestock population, there was a huge potential for exporting livestock products such as meat and hides.

He also appealed for a partnership between Turkana County and China to develop skilled human resources through scholarships for local youth, including facilitating them to study in China. **Xinhua**



A man reads the Iranian newspaper Etemad, with the front page title reading in Farsi "The night of the end of the JCPOA", and cover photos of Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his deputy and chief nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani, in the capital Tehran on August 16, 2022. AP

Tehran: Ready for nuclear talks based on 'September document'

TEHRAN

FOREIGN Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on Tuesday Iran is ready to negotiate the revival of a 2015 nuclear deal and removal of the sanctions with the other parties based on a "September document."

He made the remarks at a meeting attended by a number of senior Iranian diplomats and academics in the Iranian capital Tehran, while highlighting the administration's resolve to "restore the rights of the Iranian people and lift the sanctions on the country," official news agency IRNA reported.

By "September document," the Iranian foreign minister refers to the final draft of an agreement prepared last fall as part of the months-long talks in the Austrian capital Vienna to revive the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), before the negotiations reach a stalemate after US refused to guarantee that it would not withdraw from the pact again like what had happened in 2018,

according to IRNA.

At the meeting, Amir-Abdollahian elaborated on the approaches pursued by the incumbent administration under President Ebrahim Raisi toward the sanctions, saying efforts are being made to "neutralize the sanctions on the one hand and keep the negotiations' window open to lifting the embargoes on the other."

Iran signed the JCPOA with world powers in July 2015, agreeing to put some curbs on its nuclear program in return for the removal of the sanctions on the country. The United States, however, pulled out of the deal in May 2018 and reimposed its unilateral sanctions on Tehran, prompting the latter to drop some of its nuclear commitments under the deal.

The negotiations for the revival of the JCPOA commenced in April 2021 in Austria's capital Vienna. Despite several rounds of talks, no significant breakthrough has been achieved since the end of the last round in August 2022.

Agencies

Over 5,300 feared dead, 10,000 more missing in Libya's devastating floods

BEIJING

THOUSANDS of people were killed and over 10,000 more missing after floods, triggered by Mediterranean storm Daniel, hit eastern Libya on Sunday.

At least 5,300 people are feared dead, said the eastern-based Interior Ministry on Tuesday, as emergency workers uncovered more than 1,500 bodies in the wreckage of Libya's eastern city of Derna on the same day.

Mohamed Masoud, head of the Information Office of the eastern-based House of Representatives, the parliament, told Xinhua that most of the victims were from Derna, some 1,300 km east of the capital Tripoli.

Meanwhile, Tamer Ramadan, Libyan envoy representing the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, told a UN meeting on Tuesday that he believed there were still at least 10,000 people unaccounted for in the flood-hit areas.

The invasion of Libya by the U.S.-led North Atlantic Treaty Organization has torn apart the country that could have found peaceful solutions to their problems, leaving behind chaos and vulnerability to natural disasters, observers have pointed out.

The catastrophic event was triggered by a Mediterranean storm that made landfall in eastern Libya on Sunday, resulting in widespread flooding and causing extensive damage to infrastructure along its path.

Abdul-Hamed Dbeibah, the prime minister of Libya's Tripoli-based Government of National Unity, on Tuesday urged the country's political parties to unite to help deal with the aftermath of the deadly floods that hit eastern Libya on Sunday.

"I call on all Libyan parties to rise above political differences in order to unite our efforts to help the stricken areas, mainly Derna, and the surrounding areas," Dbeibah said after a praying ceremony held in Tripoli for the flood victims. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed "heartfelt condolences" to the Libyan authorities and families of those who have perished as a result of a deadly storm, his spokesman said on Tuesday.

"At this time, our thoughts are with the thousands of people being affected there in their communities. We stand in solidarity with all people in Libya during this difficult time," Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman, told a regular press briefing. **Xinhua**

Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong Un meet at space centre

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un yesterday met at a remote space centre in Russia's Far East region Amur, CNN reported.

The two leaders are expected to discuss a potential arms deal, potentially resulting in North Korea supplying weapons to Russia during the ongoing conflict with Ukraine.

Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un arrived at Russia's space rocket launch site Vostochny Cosmodrome yesterday, CNN reported, adding that the two leaders shook hands and spoke briefly before entering the building. The footage later showed Kim Jong-un stepping out of a black car and shaking hands with Putin.

According to a video released by the Kremlin, Putin can be heard saying to Kim, "Hi. Glad to see you. How was your trip?"

In response, Kim Jong Un said, "Thank you for inviting us and welcoming us while your work is busy," CNN reported. The two leaders then entered the space centre.

Currently, the two leaders are touring the Vostochny Cosmodrome, CNN reported citing state media Russia 1 journalist. The video from Russia showed Kim Jong Un arriving at the remote Vostochny Cosmodrome space centre and stepping off the green train that carried him from North Korea.

The footage showed a North Korean leader coming out of the train and shaking heads with several Russian officials on the train. Kim



Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) and the leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Kim Jong-un shake hands during their meeting at the Vostochny cosmodrome outside the city of Tsiolkovskiy, about 200 kilometers from the city of Blagoveshchensk in the far eastern Amur region, Russia, yesterday. AP

Jong Un arrived in Russia on Tuesday, CNN reported citing state media. Kim Jong Un's heavily-armoured private train arrived in Russia amid the US warning that the two leaders could strike an arms deal.

The train was travelling north through Primorsky Krai in the Far East region of the country, reported CNN citing Russian state news agency RIA. According to South Korea's Defence Ministry, the North Korean leader entered Russia early Tuesday morning.

A video shared by Russia Today on Monday showed that the train purportedly carrying Kim near the Russo-North Korean border by the Tumen River. South Korean Defence Ministry spokesperson Jeon Ha-kyu said that the ministry is closely monitoring whether North Korea and Rus-

sia will proceed with negotiations on an arms deal and technology transfer.

Kim Jong Un departed from Pyongyang on Sunday afternoon along with top party officials and members of the government and armed forces, CNN reported citing North Korean news agency KCNA.

Meanwhile, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said bilateral relations between the nations will be a priority of the meeting, which will be a "full-blown visit, with talks between the two delegations," according to TASS. Peskov further said a formal dinner is also planned in honour of Kim's arrival.

Kim Jong Un's visit to Russia marks his first foreign trip since the COVID-19 pandemic as during the pandemic, North Korea's borders were sealed, reported CNN. **ANI**

HONG KONG

THE United Arab Emirates is hopeful that its expanding trade engagements with China within the Belt and Road Initiative framework will also bring more inclusivity to the country and the Greater Bay Area, according to a visiting senior UAE government official.

"What's really brought us here is the relationship that we have, the economic relationship, the diplomatic relationship we have with Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area since His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the UAE, visited (China) in 2019. He signed over 19 MOUs and agreements," UAE Minister of Economy Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri (pictured) told China Daily on the sidelines of the 8th Belt and Road Initiative Summit in Hong Kong.

One of them, which he regarded as "the most important one", was the

UAE looks for more BRI opportunities



investment protection agreement in 2019. He said the agreement caused them to look at the BRI and aspects of the trades that they were doing.

"The UAE today contributed to trade with BRI \$305 billion. That's a huge amount compared to the last couple of decades, and will play a major role as well in the next decade ... more inclusiveness, more people

together," said Al Marri.

The UAE is also preparing for its accession to the BRICS group of fast-developing economies on Jan 1 next year, which Al Marri is hopeful "will bring in a lot of connectivity" and knowledge transfers that are expected to take place on BRICS-related agreements.

"I think the UAE's role in international diplomacy, when we see the world, we see it (in terms) of the multipolar world. But we need to be more inclusive, we need to connect people to people, and we need to have different ways and modes of engagement," said Al Marri.

"I think one aspect we're looking at ... is the policies (which are) going to be very progressive on building talent and building youth, job creation for the region, for the world as well and the South-South cooperation,"

Moscow calls UNSC meetings on weapons supplies to Kiev every month - diplomat

UNITED NATIONS

RUSSIA calls United Nations Security Council meetings on Western weapons supplies to Kiev literally every month, since problems requiring UNSC discussion arise regularly, Russian Permanent Representative to the United Nations Vasily Nebenzya said on Tuesday.

"We initiate this topic in the Council literally every month and each time there are topics that need to be discussed," he said at a UN Security Council meeting on weapons supplies to Ukraine, which was called by Russia.

He noted that after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's recent visit to Ukraine, Washington announced a new package of assistance to Kiev worth one billion US dollars.

"The Kiev regime is begging for new weapons with redoubled force and undisguised imprudence and is seeking to blame Western countries for the apparent failure of the 'counter-offensive' it has been carrying out since early June," he said.

According to Nebenzya, the West's goal is "not to inflict a military defeat on Russia, which is absolutely impossible, but to do as much harm to it as possible and to contaminate and damage our new territories."

After the beginning of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine, the West imposed sweeping sanctions against Russia and beefed up arms supplies to the Kiev regime worth tens of billions of dollars. However, Kiev keeps on asking for more weapons, long-range missiles and planes.

Meanwhile, Russian presidential press secretary Dmitry Peskov said that Moscow considers supplies of Western weapons to Ukraine as evidence of the West's growing involvement in the conflict in Ukraine. **Agencies**

The Kiev regime is begging for new weapons with redoubled force and undisguised imprudence and is seeking to blame

THE disposal of the Fukushima nuclear-contaminated water is a major issue about nuclear safety. Its impact goes beyond Japan's borders, and the issue is by no means a private matter for Japan.

In disregard of the strong criticism and opposition from the international community, the Japanese government unilaterally started the release of the Fukushima nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean.

It even attempted to mislead the public and international opinion through intensive public relation campaigns both at home and abroad, in order to create a false

Japan should seriously respond to concerns of international community

impression that the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water into the sea is safe and harmless.

The Japanese side has also disguised itself as a victim and unreasonably accused other countries of legitimate questioning, even going so far as to claim that the reasonable and necessary import control measures taken by other countries are "completely unacceptable."

The arrogant attitude of the Japanese government will only further expose its selfish nature. Many questions from the inter-

national community regarding Japan's discharge plan have yet to be resolved, and the Japanese government should provide a serious response and full explanation.

Why didn't Japan choose to dispose of the nuclear-contaminated water within its territory?

Because the water, which includes seawater that entered during the tsunami, cooling water injected into the reactor cores, and groundwater and rainwater that flowed through the reactors, has become contaminated with vari-

ous radionuclides.

Many of these radionuclides cannot be treated effectively with existing technologies. Once they spread with ocean currents, they will cause unpredictable hazards to the marine ecosystems and the marine environment.

If the so-called "treated water" discharged into the sea is truly safe and harmless, why doesn't the Japanese government dispose of it within its own territory?

The recent demand for a Japanese official to apologize for using the term "contaminated

water" in reference to the Fukushima nuclear-contaminated water further confirmed the Japanese government's uneasiness about the issue.

Is discharging the nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean the best solution?

According to the fundamental principle of radiation protection issued by International Commission on Radiological Protection, activities that generate radiation risks must produce overall benefits where the benefits outweigh the risks. Therefore, Japan's uni-

lateral decision to discharge the water into the ocean goes against this principle.

Ocean discharge is not the only option for dealing with the Fukushima nuclear-contaminated water. The Japanese government had discussed five disposal options, including geosphere injection, ocean discharge, vapor release, hydrogen release and underground burial. Many experts also proposed other disposal methods such as building long-term storage tanks and cement solidification. Japan has not

thoroughly explored all possible disposal options and stubbornly chose ocean discharge out of narrow economic considerations.

Is the Japanese approach to the purification and disposal of nuclear-contaminated water effective and reliable?

The historical operation of Japan's Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) indicates that it is unable to effectively remove radionuclides such as tritium and carbon-14, and further testing and engineering verification are needed to determine its effectiveness in removing other radionuclides. **People's Daily**

Migrants from around the world gather along US-Mexico border

SAN DIEGO

HUNDREDS of migrants, including families, from Africa, Asia and Latin America gathered on Tuesday between the two massive border barriers that separate the United States and Mexico near San Diego, a scene reminiscent of an earlier gathering in May.

Aid workers and advocates handed out food to people between the reddish-brown metal slats and prioritized feeding the children, while they waited to be processed by US Customs and Border Protection.

Reuters images show people queuing around US border patrol officers as they give directions.

"The developments of the numbers that we are seeing began on Tuesday, Wednesday of last week," said Adriana Jasso, a human rights advocate at the American Friends Service Committee.

"We were hoping that they would be able to move quickly by the agency, provided the experience from May. Yet we have a situation of hundreds of people again waiting in between the two barriers."

In May, a COVID-era provision known as Title 42 that blocked most asylum seekers from legal entry to the United States expired, prompting hundreds to camp out between the same barriers while waiting for processing by US authorities.

Jasso called the new crowd an "unofficial gathering of the United Nations."

"We have people from all over the globe. We have people from Cameroon; we have people from West Africa; we have people from Colombia. We have people from Peru, from Ecuador, some from Mexico," Jasso said. "And we also have seen a high number of people from Asian countries and specifically from Vietnam."

Hassan Hamza from Ghana has been traveling for six weeks and started off from Brazil by land.

"It's not easy. Africa is hard for us, so that's why we are running out for rescuing, you know," Hamza said, while adding "America is the land of opportunity. And we are here to get a good future. We run from the persecution that we are after."

Agencies



Migrants seeking asylum in the United States gather near a wire fence as members of the Texas National Guard stand guard with the purpose of inhibiting the crossing of migrants to the United States, on the banks of the Rio Bravo river, the border between the US and Mexico, as seen from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on Tuesday. REUTERS

Barrick's embedded growth projects to drive value with 30% rise in production

TORONTO

WITH the potential embedded in its growth project portfolio, Barrick plans to double its copper production by the end of the decade and continue to increase it to an estimated 1 billion pounds or 450,000 tonnes of copper per annum by 2031, says president and chief executive Mark Bristow.

Speaking to investors on an update call, Bristow said this substantial growth in copper production combined with the output from Barrick's sector-leading gold portfolio was expected to increase the group's attributable production by some 30% to 6.8 million gold-equivalent ounces by 2031.

"The value of these projects, and in particular of our substantial and growing copper business, is currently underestimated by the market. If it was properly appreciated, Barrick would be commanding a premium to our peers," he said.

Reko Diq in Pakistan is positioned to rank as one of the world's top 10 copper mines when it reaches full production and the pre-feasibility study on the Lumwana Super Pit Expansion is projected to deliver a potential of 240,000 tonnes of copper production per annum from a 50 million tonne process plant expansion over a 36-year life of mine.

The accelerated Lumwana work program is now targeting to complete a full feasibility study by the end of 2024, which brings forward our expected production from the Super Pit to 2028. The Reko Diq project also remains on track to deliver an updated feasibility study by the end of 2024. Together, the Reko Diq and Lumwana Super Pit feasibility studies will underpin potential reserve updates and the transition to construction.

"Within our gold growth portfolio, the wholly-owned Fourmile project is a best-in-class development project located in the world's most prolific gold district adjacent to existing infrastructure, with ongoing drilling demonstrating significant potential to increase in grade and size. Accordingly, we are assessing options for independent exploration decline access in support of a pre-feasibility study, which would later be re-utilised for development and production complementing the current Goldrush development. The results of our preliminary economic assessment indicate that this could support a potential production profile of 300,000-400,000 ounces per annum, over and above the existing Cortez profile of 950,000-1.2 million ounces per year (100% basis) over 10 years," says mineral resource management and evaluation executive Simon Bottoms.

Bristow said Nevada Gold Mines, the world's largest gold mining complex, was expected to grow its annual production to 37 million ounces (100% basis) towards the end of the decade driven by our three Tier One assets and near-mine exploration pointed to the extension of that horizon to 15 years and beyond.

In the Carlin District, the current 10-year production profile is expected to be between 1.4-1.6 million ounces per year (100% basis) and we have identified an exciting potential high-grade opportunity at Horsham on the northeast side of the known high-grade controlling structures in the Leeville Complex that we will advance over the next few years and is expected to extend this profile well past the 10-year window.

Similarly at Turquoise Ridge, we expect to build on the already significant reserves and resources base with multi-million ounce potential growth opportunities at Cricket Corridor to the east, BBT Corridor to the south, and Getchell Fault zone to the west. This will potentially further add to the existing 10-year production profile of 550,000-700,000 ounces per year (100% basis).

In Latin America, the Pueblo Viejo expansion project is transforming a Tier One mine headed for closure into a long-life, low-cost producer. While in Papua New Guinea, we are working towards the restart of Porgera by the end of this year, and restarted drilling will target the resource definition of the Wangima Pit, with similar geology to the existing underground and open pit, which has the potential to underpin an approximately twenty year mine life.

"The Africa and Middle East region, our most consistent production and reserve replacement performer, now also presents us with the exciting growth opportunities as we leverage our partnership model in Tanzania and Saudi Arabia," Bristow said.

Bill Gates hails PM Modi's leadership as G20 reaches consensus on role of digital public infrastructure

WASHINGTON

MICROSOFT founder Bill Gates on Monday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and praised the G20 grouping for reaching the "groundbreaking" consensus on the role of digital public infrastructure as a critical accelerator of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, Bill Gates (pictured) wrote, "The #G20 reached a groundbreaking consensus on the role of digital public infrastructure as a critical accelerator of the Sustainable Development Goals."

"I'm optimistic about the potential of DPI to support a safer, healthier, and more just world. Kudos to PM @narendramodi," he wrote. DPI refers to building blocks or platforms such as digital identity, payment infrastructure, and data exchange solutions that assist governments in providing important services to their residents, empowering citizens, and improving lives through digital inclusion.



DPIs are technology-enabled interoperable, open, and inclusive platforms that provide crucial, societal-wide, public and private services that play a critical role in driving this inclusive digital revolution.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Saturday said the New Delhi Declaration adopted by G20 leaders focuses on promoting strong sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth and seeks to accelerate progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ANI

US House speaker calls for impeachment inquiry into Biden

WASHINGTON

US House Republican Speaker Kevin McCarthy on Tuesday called for opening an impeachment inquiry into Democratic President Joe Biden, citing allegations of corruption.

"I am directing our House committees to open a formal impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden," McCarthy told reporters at the Capitol.

McCarthy said the House Oversight Committee's investigation has found a "culture of corruption" around the Biden family as Republicans probe the business dealings of his son, Hunter Biden, from before the president took office in 2021.

"These are allegations of abuse of power, obstruction and corruption, and they warrant further investigation by the House of Representatives," he said.

The Republican leader has been under pressure from his party's right flank for months to open an impeachment inquiry into the 80-year-old president, who is running for reelection in 2024.

Some Republicans on far right even have threatened to oust McCarthy from his speakership if he does not move swiftly enough on such a probe.



US President Joe Biden is pictured at the White House in Washington, DC, the United States, May 17, 2023. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

The White House and Democratic lawmakers immediately denounced the impeachment push as politically motivated.

"House Republicans have been investigating the president for 9 months, and they've turned up no evidence of wrongdoing," White House spokesman Ian Sams said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

"The illegitimate impeachment inquiry launched by Extreme MAGA Republicans is

regrettable, reckless and reprehensible. It is a political revenge tour that lacks any factual or constitutional basis," House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said on social media. "Democrats will defend the truth and fight right-wing extremists at every turn."

The impeachment push also came as former president Donald Trump, who was twice impeached by the House but acquitted by the Senate, faces four separate criminal indictments

while running for his party's 2024 presidential nomination to face Biden.

"This is a transparent effort to boost Donald Trump's campaign by establishing a false moral equivalency between Trump - the four time - indicted former president" and Biden, who faces "zero evidence of wrongdoing whatsoever," said Rep. Jamie Raskin, the top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee.

An inquiry is a step toward impeachment. A spokesperson for House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said on Tuesday that the House is not expected to vote on the impeachment inquiry.

According to The Hill, if McCarthy does try to move forward with a formal House vote, it will be tricky.

McCarthy is already facing resistance to the idea of an impeachment inquiry from a number of moderates, putting into question whether he would have the votes to launch the probe, the report said.

With Democrats expected to oppose the effort, McCarthy can only afford to lose a small number of Republican votes in the slim GOP majority, it said.

US CDC recommends broad use of updated COVID-19 vaccines

THE US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director on Tuesday signed off on the broad use of updated COVID-19 vaccines approved by the government - covering ages 6 months and up - as the country prepares to start a vaccination campaign within days.

The final recommendation from director Mandy Cohen comes after a panel of advisers to the agency voted 13-1 to recommend the shots made by Pfizer and partner BioNTech SE as well as Moderna.

They did not choose to target the shots at specific high-risk populations as some experts have suggested, and other countries have recommended. The shots are part of a push by public health officials to align the next COVID vaccines more closely with the actual circulating variant of the virus, much as annual flu shots are designed.

The recommendation differs from those in most European countries that have issued guidance. This month, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said vaccination programs in EU countries should prioritize people aged 60 and older as well as other vulnerable groups.

In Germany, booster shots have been targeted at these groups, while the British government's vaccine committee said only adults 65 and older

and some other categories will be offered the shot as they are the most likely to benefit.

US CDC panel members said simply recommending the vaccine for everybody outweighed complications created by tailoring recommendations more precisely.

"I'm strongly in favor of a universal recommendation," panel member and professor at Harvard Medical School Dr. Camille Kotton said. "Let's do away with COVID-19 as best we can by prevention of disease through vaccines."

The CDC advisers met a day after the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved updated COVID vaccines made by Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech as well as by Moderna for people ages 12 and above, and authorized them for emergency use in children ages 6 months through 11 years.

Pfizer and Moderna have said shots can roll out in coming days and the CDC said they will be available later this week.

Novavax's protein-based shot is still under review by the FDA and a recommendation for the same is expected to be in line with the FDA's decision.

An ever-evolving virus
Formulating vaccines to target the

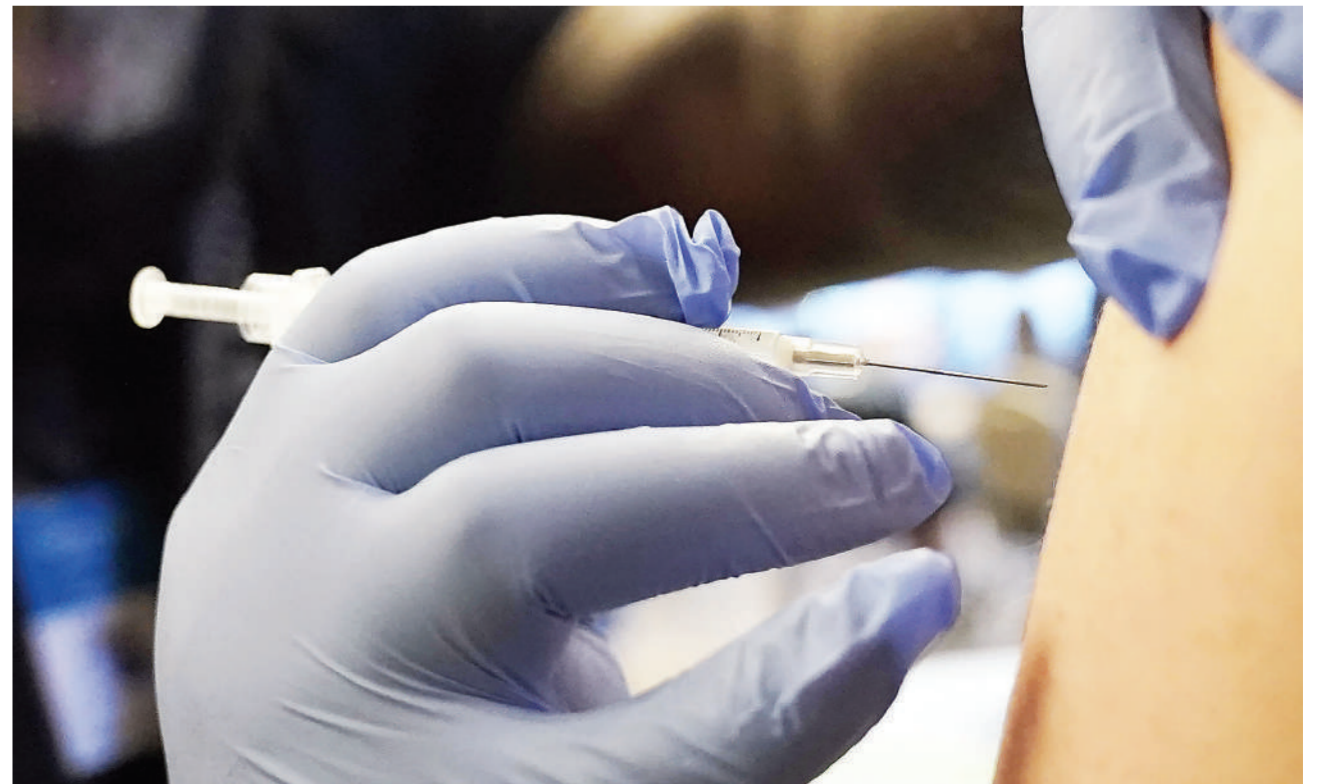
latest variants of the ever-evolving coronavirus has been a challenge for public health officials globally since the pandemic began in 2020, with some variants more worrisome than others. Variants circulating the most widely in the United States now are subvariants of what is called the XBB lineage of the virus.

The updated shots are monovalent, or single-target vaccines, aimed at what is called the XBB.1.5 variant, as requested by the FDA.

"I do think that a broad boosting strategy makes sense," said Caitlin Rivers, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security in Baltimore, adding that while the virus was not causing as many hospitalizations and deaths as before, it is still circulating.

Rivers added she was curious to hear the committee's recommendation for young men, "because we do see that, in rare cases, young men can develop myocarditis or related effects," referring to a condition in which inflammation develops in the middle muscular layer of the heart wall.

The rate of myocarditis after receiving booster doses in adolescent and young adult males is lower than that observed after the primary series of shots, CDC official Megan Wallace said



This file photo taken on Dec 20, 2021 shows a person receiving a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine booster shot, in Federal Way, Washington, United States. AP

at the meeting.

She said the data is limited because of the fewer number of booster doses given out and added that longer intervals between updated doses may also have an impact on the myocarditis rates in this population.

COVID infections and hospitalizations have been rising

in the United States, Europe and Asia but remain well below previous peaks. Deaths are relatively low in the United States - reported at around 2,000 last month - though the country has experienced 1.1 million COVID deaths since the outset of the pandemic.

Agencies



Tabora United's head coach, Goran Kopunovic.

Kopunovic elated by midfielder's rehabilitation at Tabora United

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TABORA United's head coach Goran Kopunovic has expressed satisfaction over the development showcased by Congolese midfielder Papy Tshishimbi in training and friendlies after he was sidelined for a long period.

The former Eswatini's Mbabane Swallows midfielder who also featured for Tanzania's Young Africans SC has joined the Tabora outfit this season after playing for Ihefu SC.

The Congolese underwent knee surgery after sustaining an injury when he collided with the then Simba SC's defender, Joash Onyango, during the 2022/23 Premier League game played on November 12, last year.

Kopunovic revealed that the star is currently one hundred percent fit and despite being out for a long time, he is happy with the enthusiasm the midfielder has showcased ahead of his club's Premier League games.

The Tabora-based team had a difficult start to the 2023/24 NBC Premier League season, conceding a 4-0 loss to Azam FC in the opener.

Tabora United had fielded a mere eight players on the pitch and remained with seven outfield footballers following an injury the goalie had sustained.

The situation forced the game to end after 16 minutes of the first half but the club found relief after securing a point in the following duel against Singida Fountain Gate FC.

Kopunovic pointed out: "There

are few players who get injured and return fast to physical fitness, they have a lot of hesitations in actions that need contact because many think they might get hurt again."

"For Tshishimbi, it is different and it has given us great confidence and, due to his experience, he will bring stability to the midfield," he said.

Before joining Ihefu SC Tshishimbi played for Kitayosce FC in the 2020/21 season and later joined Ihefu SC last season on a one-year deal.

Speaking about his progress, Tshishimbi said his return to the team is a big task and debt he left when the team was in the Championship League.

"When we failed to get promotion to the Premier League during the 2020/21 season, I was very hurt but I am grateful to my leaders after Ihefu SC brought their offer, they accepted my decision to leave, and now I am back and they have welcomed me with arms for me is a huge debt," he said.

Tabora United will play their first home game on Friday at Kamburage Stadium seeking their first three points against Tanzania Prisons now heading into the match after being hammered 3-1 by Azam FC on August 28.

Next up Tabora United will travel to Tanga to lock horns with Coastal Union at CCM Mkwakwani Stadium on September 29.

The Tanga-based team is yet to win any match after losing 2-1 to Dodoma Jiji FC and later settled for a 1-1 draw with Mtibwa Sugar.

How Tanzania secured football powerhouse tag in East Africa

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S senior national soccer team thwarted Uganda Cranes' hopes of garnering qualification for the 2023 AFCON finals, slated for next year in Ivory Coast, despite the latter's 2-0 victory over Niger.

The Tanzania team, alias 'Taifa Stars', secured their third African Cup of Nations showpiece appearance with a 0-0 draw with Algeria.

Taifa Stars' players are set to receive a bonus of over Ksh 28 million after sealing qualification for the delayed 2023 Africa Cup of Nations.

The national team secured the draw they needed to book their ticket to the continental showdown, set to take place in Ivory Coast, following a goalless stalemate away to Algeria last week.

Historically, Uganda has dominated the CECAFA region, clinching the CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup (now the CECAFA U-23 Cup) a remarkable 40 times since its inception as the Gossage Cup in 1926, later renamed the CECAFA Cup in 1966.

However, over the past decade, Tanzania has emerged as a football powerhouse in East Africa, both at the national and club levels.



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia.

For that matter, what can Uganda and other East African countries learn from Tanzania's success?

Tanzania's government-backed efforts have led to the establishment of stadiums nationwide.

This has allowed top-flight clubs to build robust fan bases nationwide. Clubs

like Azam FC, Singida Fountain Gate FC, Kagera Sugar, Ihefu SC, Namungo FC, and others host matches throughout Tanzania.

The Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam is home to Taifa Stars and the region's two biggest clubs, Simba SC and Yanga.

The Mainland Tanzania Premier League is the most financially supported in East Africa and ranks sixth on the continent, according

to the IFFHS.

In the 2021/22 season, leading Tanzanian pay TV outlet, Azam Media Limited, signed a 10-year broadcast deal with Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) worth 225.6bn/- for NBC Premier League, with each of the top flight's clubs receiving up to 500m/- every season.

In 2023, a sponsorship deal with the National Bank of Commerce further en-

hanced financial support for the league and its clubs.

This allows clubs to sign top players across the continent and the world to bring in a mix of players that challenge the league and continental football.

Simba SC and Yanga have harnessed the league's financial strength to attract talent from across Africa, including Ugandan players.

The sides are now among the biggest clubs in Africa and have competed successfully in continental competitions.

The league's duels bringing together Simba SC and Yanga, nicknamed 'Dar es Salaam derby', are a regional football spectacle.

In light of Tanzania's success, Uganda should take note if it aims to reclaim its position as the top footballing nation in East Africa.

Notably, Rwanda and South Sudan are also emerging as formidable contenders.



The Information and Knowledge Center's vice-chairman, Hans Obote (R), whose institution serves Saranga Ward, Kimara in Dar es Salaam speaks to Natal Sports Club footballers about the need for youths to contest for leadership at an occasion that took place in the city recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

Singida Fountain Gate FC official explains how Abuya's signing led to chase for Rupia

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Fountain Gate FC hopes to gain from the coordination that Kenyans, Duke Abuya and Elvis Rupia, boast after signing the duo in the just-concluded transfer window.

The two that were earlier serving Kenya Police FC were lured to Tanzania and their new club expects to benefit from a good partnership between them on the pitch, having done so in the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Premier League.

Abuya is a midfielder who can play either behind the striker or as a deep-lying playmaker and can at times be deployed on the wing while Rupia is an out-and-out striker whose physical presence is a nightmare for defenders.

Singida Fountain Gate FC therefore feels having played together in Kenya, the two players can link up again to good effect and propel the team to glory this season.

"We signed them because of their quality, we expect a lot from Abuya. The position they both play in will bring chemistry because they played together and we have no doubt we will benefit from that link," Singida information officer, Hussein Masanza, stated.

Rupia left Kenya Police FC this month on the back of a brilliant campaign, which witnessed the forward

clinching the 2022/23 Golden Boot award after bagging 27 goals having broken the record of 26 set in 1976 by Gor Mahia legend Maurice 'Sonyi' Ochieng.

Masanza also explained how the need to bring in players with experience in continental football led to their decision to sign Harambee Stars defender Joash Onyango.

Onyango left Simba SC after spending three years with the Dar es Salaam giants, settling for a one-year loan deal at Singida Fountain Gate FC, which includes the option to buy.

With the club now taking part in the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup, the club felt the former Gor Mahia defender had all the qualities it was looking for.

"They are good players and we have high expectations. As for Joash Onyango, we signed him because we are going to be in the CAF Confederation Cup and he is an experienced player who has been there," he added.

The leader disclosed: "We know he is going to help the younger players who have not played in the competition and we have no doubt that we have a quality player."

While fellow countrymen, Abuya and Onyango, have already featured for their new club this season, Rupia will be hoping to make his debut after the international break.

Dar youths ought to contest for leadership- call

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

FOOTBALLERS making Natala Sports Club, located at Temboni in Dar es Salaam, have requested for adequate education to understand the importance of vying for various leadership positions.

They issued the request in a recent seminar targeting to build the capacity of young men and women so that they can contest for leadership.

The seminar was conducted by the Saranga Ward's Information and Knowledge Center located at Kimara.

The Information and Knowledge Center's vice-chairman, Hans Obote, who conducted the seminar, wanted to know why the youth do not come forward to contest for leadership at

various levels.

"We have come here to your field to talk to you and find out why young men and women do not come forward to become leaders, what turns out to be the setback, and what should be done," Obote, whose institution works under the Tanzania Gender Networking Program (TGNP), disclosed.

One of the players, John Ezekiel, said that the main reason is that they do not have an education that would help them know the importance of contesting for leadership.

"My opinion is that you should provide adequate education because many of us do not know the importance of it, given we do not have such

knowledge," Ezekiel pointed out.

The outfit's other player Hamis Ally said that it is difficult for young people to venture into leadership when they do not know the endeavor's benefits.

"Perhaps you should explain more to us so that we can understand, otherwise it may be difficult for us to show up because we often see adults are the ones turning up in elections compared to young people," Ally stated.

He explained that it has become a norm that leadership positions are reserved for adults, especially men, adding that if the center spreads education on the issue, it will be easier for young people to know their

rights.

Obote asked the players to realize that leadership is for all genders and reminded them that they also have leaders in their team, therefore, leadership is not only in politics.

The center's Chairperson, Maria Mwiguna, asked the players to join political parties of their choice to prepare for next year's local government elections and the 2025 general election.

Maria explained that in political leadership, a young person must be a member of a political party before he/she can be nominated for leadership, insisting they have the right to be elected.

Argentina triumph without Messi, Brazil grab late win in Peru

BUENOS AIRES

WORLD champions Argentina rested Lionel Messi but still shined in a 3-0 victory over 10-man Bolivia in La Paz on Tuesday to maintain their winning start to South American World Cup qualifying.

Brazil also have the maximum six points from two games after a superb 90th-minute winner from Marquinhos against Peru in Lima for the only goal of the match.

But Marcelo Bielsa's Uruguay suffered a setback, giving up the lead to end with a 2-1 defeat at Ecuador.

Messi, who has had a hectic schedule with his club Inter Miami, watched his teammates from the bench but was not listed as a substitute, having complained of tiredness after scoring the winner in Thursday's 1-0 victory over Ecuador.

Despite the absence of their talisman Lionel Scaloni's side had too much firepower for Bolivia with goals from Enzo Fernandez, Nicolas Tagliafico and Nicolas Gonzalez securing an impressive victory.

Chelsea midfielder Fernandez went close with a wonderful effort from 30 yards out superbly saved by Guillermo Viscarra, who then did well again to keep out a near-post drive from Julian Alvarez.

The lively Alvarez had a hand in Argentina's opener in the 31st minute, feeding Angel Di Ma-

ria, whose low cross was turned in by Fernandez, who had made a perfectly timed run into the box.

Eight minutes later Bolivia's task got even tougher when Roberto Fernandez was sent off for an over-the-top challenge on Cristian Romero.

Argentina went in at the break with a 2-0 lead after Tagliafico met a floated Di Maria freekick with a header that looped over Viscarra.

The three-time World Cup winners were in total control after the break with Alvarez hitting the post in the 70th minute and Viscarra kept busy by efforts from Rodrigo De Paul and Di Maria.

Gonzalez wrapped up the victory seven minutes from the end with a left-footed drive after more hesitant defending from the home side, who have lost both their opening games.

Scaloni was pleased with the performance by his team, saying they were "not afraid to play with the ball" and also offered an explanation for Messi's absence.

"Leo was not ready to play, he tried to recover, but he did not feel comfortable," he said.

- Masterful Marquinhos

Brazil came up against a determined Peru side and looked set to be frustrated when Raphinha's rocket in the 72nd minute was brilliantly saved by Pedro Gallese.

AFP

'Emotional release' as Germany beat France but questions remain

DORTMUND, Germany

DESPITE responding to coach Hansi Flick's sacking with a 2-1 victory over neighbours France in Dortmund on Tuesday, pressing questions remain for Euro 2024 hosts Germany.

Usually a bitter rivalry between two of Europe's proudest footballing nations with six World Cups and five European Championships between them, France did not bring their usual intensity to Tuesday's friendly.

Manager Didier Deschamps made six changes from their last outing, a 2-0 win over Ireland, including benching star striker Kylian Mbappe.

With France trailing 1-0 for most of the second half, Deschamps left Mbappe on the bench as his side chased the game, the manager later revealing "we didn't want to risk him in this game".

The France manager admitted his changes were made with the future in mind, including leading the line with Randal Kolo Muani who "hasn't played for a while, hasn't trained (and) isn't in top form right now".

Calling Flick's caretaker successor Rudi Voeller a "unique and rare coach", Deschamps congratulated his "old friend", telling reporters "I'm not happy

we lost, but nevertheless I'm happy for him."

Immediately after the game, interim coach Voeller described the win, Germany's first since March and only the second since the disappointing group stage exit at the Qatar World Cup, as an "emotional release".

"What I liked most was that we brought good energy onto the field", telling the post-match press conference "it's not just about the result, but the style and manner of the performance".

Veteran Germany striker Thomas Mueller, who was named in the starting XI for the first time since Qatar, scored after just four minutes.

The 2014 World Cup winner said the win was an "emotional liberation" for his side, but told German TV "it was fun, but we don't need to overstate it - we still have a long way to go". First point of call for Germany will be to find a manager, with interim boss Voeller reaffirming his commitment to step down as coach after the game.

Voeller, who last coached at any level in 2005, again shut down speculation he may stay in the top job, saying after the match "ideally we'll have it done before the next international break" while revealing hiring a German speaker was a priority. AFP

Spain and Italy step up chase of runaway Euro leaders

MADRID

SPAIN crashed in six in Euro 2024 qualifying on Tuesday while Belgium were also big winners as Italy revived their campaign and Austria and Switzerland stayed on course for qualification.

Substitute Ferran Torres struck twice for Spain, while Gavi, Mikel Merino, Joselu and debutant Alex Baena were also on target as they beat Cyprus 6-0 in Granada.

Spain closed to six points behind runaway Group A leaders Scotland with a game in hand. The two teams meet in the next round in Seville on October 12.

"Our objective is clear - win the rest of the games," coach Luis De la Fuente told Spanish broadcasters TVE.

"We want to finish top of the group."

Norway kept alive their faint chance of catching either Scotland or Spain while ending Georgia's hopes of qualifying with a 2-1 victory in Oslo.

Erling Haaland gave Norway the lead with his seventh goal in five competitive matches this season and his 25th in 26 internationals. Martin Odegaard added a second before Budu Zivizvadez responded deep in added time.

Davide Frattesi ensured



Erling Haaland rose above the rest to give Norway the lead over Georgia. Agencies

that Italy got their Euro 2024 qualifying campaign back on track with a brace in an entertaining 2-1 win over Ukraine which moved the Azzurri second in Group C.

Inter Milan midfielder Frattesi rifled in two low finishes in the first half-hour at the San Siro to give Luciano Spalletti his first success on his home debut as coach of the European champions.

Italy moved level on seven points with Ukraine, who scored through cap-

tain Andriy Yarmolenko four minutes before half-time, and North Macedonia. Italy occupy the second of two automatic qualifying places on head-to-head record between those three teams, six points behind England who have played a game more.

"We need to be happy," said Spalletti to broadcaster Rai. "The team played good football and was well-organised on the pitch."

Ukraine drew with England on Saturday.

"It was hard for us to play so soon after playing against England," said Ukraine coach Serhiy Rebrov.

Next month Italy face Malta in Bari before travelling to Wembley, the site of their triumph at the last Euro, to take on England.

- 'Perfect night'

Belgium leapfrogged Austria at the top of Group F on goal difference even though both sides won.

Romelu Lukaku scored twice as Belgium crushed Estonia 5-0 in Brussels

while Austria, facing a much trickier trip to Solna, beat Sweden 3-1.

"A perfect night: 5-0, clean sheet. A goal, my 150th game," said veteran Belgium defender Jan Vertonghen who opened the scoring

"We have many players who are no longer part of the national team," the 36-year-old added. "I didn't feel ready for that yet."

In Sweden, Austria scored three times in 16 second-half minutes.

Michael Gregoritsch hit

the first and Marko Arnautovic the next two before Emil Holm replied in the 90th minute.

The top two have a seven-point cushion over Sweden. "Now we can breathe a bit," said Austria coach Ralf Rangnick.

Switzerland stayed top of Group I after making hard work of a 3-0 victory of last-place Andorra.

Cedric Itten gave the hosts a 49th minute lead in St. Gallen. Granit Xhaka, in the 84th minute, and Xherdan Shaqiri with a penalty deep in added time, gave a little polish to the final score.

Romania stayed two points behind in second after they beat Kosovo 2-0 in Bucharest in a game delayed after home fans unfurled an anti-Kosovo banner in the first half.

Even though the visitors played with 10 men from the 42nd minute when striker Verdat Muriqi was sent off, the hosts did not take the lead until captain Nicolai Stanciu, who had earlier missed a penalty, scored with seven minutes left. Valentin Mihailescu added a second deep into added time.

Israel left it later, Gabi Kanichowsky scoring the only goal as they beat Belarus 1-0 in Tel Aviv in the third minute of added time to keep Israel a point behind Romania

AFP

Jude Bellingham is ready to make Euro 2024 his own

By Matt Law

NEVER mind asking Pep Guardiola, Phil Foden got a close up view at Hampden Park of why he will not be playing as a No 10 for England anytime soon.

Foden, along with manager Gareth Southgate and the travelling England fans, watched Jude Bellingham announce himself as the country's latest showman in his first-ever appearance against Scotland.

Bellingham milked his first-half goal for as long as he possibly could, standing in front of the corner of England supporters with his arms outstretched and made sure he was the last player off the pitch at half-time. This is a 20-year-old who craves attention.

One of England's most famous showmen, Paul Gascoigne, loved winding up the Scots and so does Bellingham on this evidence.

Those who have accused Southgate of caution might need to review their criticism if he keeps Bellingham as his No 10 because it could prove to be one of the most positive moves he has made.

Southgate had spent the build-up to the game explaining why he and Guardiola are yet to grant Foden's wish of being their man in the middle. But Bellingham gave the best possible reason why the Manchester City star will have to be content with a place on the flank for his country.

Bellingham not only added to the five goals he has already scored for Real Madrid with his second England goal, but had a hand in Foden's opener and also managed to pick up a yellow card during the opening 45 minutes for squaring up to Jack Hendry. You could not



Jude Bellingham

take your eyes off him and he rounded off a superb display with a magical assist for Harry Kane.

Scotland had obviously watched Bellingham's angry performance against Ukraine in Poland a few days earlier in which he had even given Serhiy Rebrov the brush off, as Steve Clarke's team tried to rough up the former Birmingham City youngster.

He not only gave as good as he got, twice fouling Aaron Hickey and pulling down Billy Gilmore, but also rubbed the noses of his aggressors in it in the space of three brilliant first-half minutes.

First, Bellingham produced a lovely piece of footwork and the perfect pass to find Marcus Rashford in the build up to Foden's goal that eventually came courtesy of Kyle Walker's smashed pass across the area.

Then he completely befuddled Hickey down the left with a backheel that found Foden. His cross should have been dealt

with, but Bellingham had the presence of mind to drift into space in the penalty area and pounce on Andy Robertson's terrible attempted clearance.

Bellingham's celebration was almost as compelling as his performance and yet he was in no mood to take it easy and light a cigar for the rest of the night.

When Calvin Phillips went in late on Che Adams, Bellingham was one

of the first England players to back up his team-mate and he was shown a yellow card for reacting to a little push from Hendry.

Another of England's showmen, Wayne Rooney, would tread the line between the sublime and the ridiculous. Bellingham does not share that dangerous red mist, but is similarly unwilling to keep his head down - even when he has already comfortably

won his personal battles.

He ran 40 yards to close down Scotland goalkeeper Angus Gunn at the start of the second half and continued to throw himself into 50-50s, both on the ground and in the air.

It is not only his opponents who are put under pressure by Bellingham, who shook his head when the ball went backwards, instead of forwards towards him, and lifted his

arms when his team-mates did not find him when he was unmarked.

Jordan Henderson held Bellingham's hand through the World Cup in Qatar last year, but he no longer needs a minder and he is already giving notice that he is ready to make next summer's European Championships his own.

Bellingham almost capped his night in Glasgow with a goal that would have been replayed for years to come, as he slalomed his way past a couple of outstretched boots, but Gunn produced a good save with his legs to stop him finding the back of the net.

He was not to be denied another standout moment before the final whistle, however, as Bellingham turned 360 degrees around Scotland substitute Ryan Christie and played a perfect pass through for Kane to kill off any hopes of a home comeback.

Bellingham celebrated his assist almost as enthusiastically as Kane celebrated the goal. England's latest showman has been born.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Spain and Italy step up chase of runaway Euro leaders

PAGE 19

Making Championship League more professional should not be too slow



The Director of Retail Banking at NBC Bank, Elibariki Masuke (Fifth L), and Tanzania Football Federation (TFF)'s Director of Legal Affairs, Information, and Marketing Boniface Wambura (Sixth R), congratulate each other alongside other employees of the two institutions after officially launching the new brand for the Championship League, currently known as NBC Championship, under the sponsorship of the bank. The launch took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Correspondent John Kimbute

PROGRESS is being made to uplift the former First Division League, now known as NBC Championship League, in the same standing as in the England league system, as it is the next in rank after the Premier League.

An agreement has just been signed with the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) and, implicitly, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), on financing club participation costs in the Championship in part.

Earlier the two entities were expected to allocate funds there from funds obtained in Premier League sponsorship, a difficult option.

What is being said at the moment is that a good number of clubs in the second-tier league are fairly well off, as they can even sign players from outside, obviously on terms offered by the clubs, not some fixed amounts.

Pundits were somewhat unclear about the rule about paying certain sums of money to the federation to sign players from outside, a rule that was being explained as meant to foster local talent to get playing positions in local clubs.

It is protectionist fodder

that no supposed expert ought to bring up anymore, talent should constantly meet good opponents.

Outside that rule talent tends to petrify, as they say in the local adage, that when a local brewer is praised, he adds water to the liquor, implying that he will be less intent on the best service, believing that his services are unassailable.

The two top city sides have the highest number of foreign players and the biggest number of players on the national side because they meet with effective opposition. Playing between local youths on their own, shielded from good foreign players, is useless.

While most Championship League sides have some cash to spend on players, even recruit from outside, there is a dearth of good stadia that can be

used fruitfully, not just for gate income where possible but also advertising space.

Similarly, pitch standards affect training and performance, as poor pitches occasion players being hurt, often on their own with a bad fall, unattended holes where studs may get stuck, that sort of thing.

Even the better rates pitches have a problem with measurements as if there was no ground, space to add five to 10 meters breadth or length, as it is required.

Many African countries have problems with building good stadia that help to make their teams play in a more professional environment, from the pitch to the stands.

Of late Uganda was compelled to honour its African Nations Cup qualifying matches on foreign pitches, the match with Taifa Stars

being held in Cairo, and the one with Niger taken closer home in Kigali. It is a result of federations working a bit slowly.

That is why appealing to regional authorities, the ministry (responsible for sport) and even the clubs to do something about stadia looks like it is a tall order.

Yet, long-term investment in a stadium is a viable project, especially as it would easily accommodate other paying events like festivals (the way halls are used for such celebrations), or meetings by well-moneyed groups like independent preachers, etc.

All it would need is to take preliminary care of what is involved and if someone needs to be laid on top (especially if it is a grass pitch) to avoid damage. It may work out.

At one time a well-

known city musician visited Mbeya for what is at times called a 'concert' and soccer stakeholders were appalled by what they saw the next day.

A headline in a sister newspaper, using lyrics of the mega rapper, said his 'kanyaga kanyaga' had turned Sokoine Stadium into a farm!

Without explicit inspection by video one can't say if it was a farm or extensive but superficial damage.

The sixth phase of government is promoting public-private engagement in various sectors, with the explicit intent to cut down the use of own funds, either budgetary sums or revenue, for projects that can easily be redesigned as commercial ventures.

By definition, such ventures can accommodate private investors, so it is both a

matter of policy as well as regional and municipal initiative how to go about with such projects.

All they need is due diligence in accounting, not waiting for orders from the ministry (sports or local governments) to even initiate such ventures.

At an earlier period some key municipal and city authorities, with Mwanza in the lead, mooted a vast project for what they described as municipal bonds, Treasury was also fond of raising such prospects but with a proviso that it is an engagement at the municipal level not involving the government as such, so it simply failed.

At the moment, Kinondoni municipality is building sumptuous structures for a major bus stand sheltered in a massive business complex and an adjacent stadium to boot.

Especially when municipalities can raise substantial amounts of money to invest in stadiums, not using the old rhetoric that the ownership of the land ought to give it a 50 percent share of the capital to be used, things could go rather fast.

It is even possible there are investors out there who only need a land title to an existing old stadium to rebuild it and pay taxes in the usual manner.

He would not need anyone breathing over his shoulders as to the income of the previous match, or how it is shared.

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

EATV THURSDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Movie
13:55 Dandao za Michezo
14:00 Movie
14:30 Ujenzi (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Ubongo Kids
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dandao za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kall Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 TOP 10
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1

TOP 10
It is a list of the hottest Bongo Flava music videos that are loved by the viewers

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM



South Africa women's soccer team's attacker (L) dribbles past Mozambique's defender as they took on each other in a 2022 Hollywoodbets COSAFA Women's Championship duel played in South Africa. PHOTO: COURTESY OF COSAFA

SA set to host 2023 COSAFA Women's Championship

CAPE TOWN

THE 2023 COSAFA Women's Championship is to be staged in Gauteng, South Africa from October 4-15.

The showdown's holders, Zambia, gear up to defend their maiden regional title won at last year's tournament and Zimbabwe make a welcome return to the international fold.

The draw for the tournament will be staged in Boksburg, Gauteng today at 11h00.

Along with hosts South Africa, who are record seven-time winners of the regional championship, Zambia heads a strong field that also includes Namibia, Botswana, Malawi, Lesotho, and Angola.

Eswatini, Comoros, Mozambique, Madagascar, and Zimbabwe, who return following the lifting of their suspension, wrap up the list.

The teams will again be split into three groups each containing four sides, with the top nation in each pool advancing to the semi-finals.

The best runner-up across the pools will also move forward to the knockout rounds.

It will be another exciting installment of the best regional women's competition on the continent, with both Zambia and African champions South Africa having excelled at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

The tournament will be excellent preparation for the second round of qualifiers for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, with several COSAFA teams still involved in those.

Zambia takes on Mali, Namibia faces Morocco, Botswana clashes with Tanzania and South Africa meets DR Congo in the next round of qualifiers that are set for late October.

South Africa has won seven of the previous 10 COSAFA Women's Championships played, with Zimbabwe (2011), Tanzania (2021), and Zambia (2022) the other teams to lift the trophy.

Zambia's striker Barbra Banda scored her 10th goal of the previous season's competition to hand the Copper Queens a maiden Hollywoodbets COSAFA Women's Championship title with a 1-0 extra-time victory over hosts South Africa at the Isaac Wolfson Stadium in Nelson Mandela Bay.

Nafasi Art Space to host 'Ndoto Ya Kalista' exhibition

By Guardian Correspondent

DAR ES SALAAM's contemporary art center, Nafasi Art Space, will on Saturday, be a place to go for arts lovers in the city, as the center will turn into a platform for the exhibition titled 'Ndoto Ya Kalista'.

It has been implemented by Ola Delicious firm for its initiative program aiming to support young women and single mothers to share their experiences and storytelling while they acquire skills in baking and cake decoration to become entrepreneurs.

The center revealed in a statement early this week that 'Ndoto ya Kalista' is all about art in cake making and the way the art can be used like other art forms to convey messages to the community.

The event, the center pointed out, is a showcase of creativity in cake baking and storytelling exhibited by participants of this season's Feel Free Grant project.

The exhibition is set to showcase the work, and experience and share

the participants' stories with a wider audience at Nafasi Art Space.

It will be taking place after undergoing three months of training and implementation of 'Ndoto Ya Kalista'.

It has been implemented by Ola Delicious firm for its initiative program aiming to support young women and single mothers to share their experiences and storytelling while they acquire skills in baking and cake decoration to become entrepreneurs.

The center disclosed this training has enabled them to convey their life experiences through the art of cake making and decorating.

It has further allowed them to showcase their artistic abilities and foster community engage-

ment through meaningful discussions.

As for the exhibition, the center revealed it is looking forward to stepping into a world of exploration and imagination which will have arts enthusiasts exploring the art of cake decoration.

Nafasi Art Space noted in the statement that the exhibition is a unique medium for sharing the stories of young single mothers and expressing their creative talents, akin to traditional art forms.

In another development, the center is this month looking forward to hosting a workshop to be conducted by Ugandan artist, Kashushu, with a topic namely Artificial Intelligence as a collaborator rather than

a competitor. According to Nafasi Art Space, the artist has been part of the center's digital art lab residency for August and September.

During the workshop, Kashushu will lead the participants to discuss, share, and discover the endless possibilities that arise when artificial intelligence meets the world of Non-Fungible Tokens (NFT).

Nafasi Art Space said interested artists and creatives who would like to join the session should visit all the center's social media pages to access the registration form.



East Africa Television (EATV)'s Marketing Manager Edwin Lotti (2nd R) hands over a gift to Barack Obama's team—the winner of this year's Goat Race that took place in Dar es Salaam last week. Rotary Club Oysterbay organized the event to raise 320m/- to support education, health and community services. PHOTO: COURTESY OF EATV

Flexibles by David Chikoko

