



National Pg 3

One killed in Lake Manyara conflict



National Pg 4

Call to increase cement production



National Pg 6

Task force on combating illegal fishing



Guardian BUSINESS

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Ministerial panel to report on state of media economy

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE state of the economy of the country's media organs is expected to be set out in a report to be published in November, the government has stated.

Nape Nnauye (pictured), the Information, Communications and Information Technology minister, made this observation at a press conference here yesterday, after meeting with members of the panel studying the 'state of economy' of the media industry.

Urging cooperation from media stakeholders, he said the panel is charged with finding ways "to rescue the country's media organs."

Noting that he has discussed various issues with the panel, he said that earlier the panel was given three months but it was prolonged, "due to the industry's importance and directives from President Samia Suluhu Hassan who said the issue should not be rushed."

The panel will conduct in-depth research involving stakeholders to obtain views on measures that will benefit the country's media organs.

"The issue is anxiously being awaited," he said, intimating that the world wants to know what Tanzania will do in bringing

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Samia: Judicial officers take pastoralists' bribes

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday took a swipe at the judiciary over the handling of cases involving pastoralists, saying there are elements of corruption derailing the delivery of justice.

Swearing in judges of the Court of Appeal at the State House in national capital Dodoma, she appealed to judicial authorities to monitor cases involving pastoralists, noting that they use money to buy justice.

The president said judicial officials in lower courts need a closer look as they have been conducting themselves contrary to the call of duty.

"We have heard of a case in Lindi where pastoralists have committed crimes in the open and the magistrate said he wanted to see for himself what happened. After that he went on to free them," the president affirmed.

Pastoralists have been using money to bribe court officials, denying justice to common people aggrieved by actions of pastoralists, she stated.

The judiciary needs to set up procedures to monitor ethics among judicial officials at lower courts to root out the challenges, she stated.

When judges are suspended or fired for disciplinary issues, the judicial authorities do not report the measures and instead they request for a replacement, she said.

"I have no doubt about judges at higher courts," she said, underlining that there is a problem with lower courts, which



Police constable Mbaraka Liyonjo (L) restrains legal counsel Baraka Mkama at the premises of the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday after the latter allegedly moved to prevent police officers from arresting his clients a little earlier set free by the court. Photo: Correspondent Kuliwa Mzee

'Green energy transition minerals luring investors'

By Henry Mwangonde

INVESTORS looking for opportunities in the green energy transition minerals sub-sector are expected to feature in big numbers in the Tanzania Mining and Investment Forum slated for October.

Event organiser, Abdulmad Abdulrahim said the meeting will bring together such investors, with the forum being organized by DMG Events, a UK events management firm along with OBP, specialized in internet event management, working with the ministry and other stakeholders.

Doto Biteko, the minister, made note of this event at a press briefing to launch preparations and canvassing for participation in that event.

He said that the government collected 650bn/- in royalties from the mining sector in 2022/23, an increase from 168bn/-in 2018/18 thanks to changes in mining sector laws, noting that minerals contributed more than 1trn/- in revenue during the year, with 40 percent coming from artisanal miners.

Government participation in mining activities has helped to address tax challenges that companies face, promoting the participation of small-scale

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MPs: Dar port should operate competitively

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament have urged the government to leave operations of the Dar es Salaam port to private investors.

The issue took centre stage in contributing to debate on Works and

Transport estimates for fiscal 2023/24, asserting that such a shift would transform service delivery, increase efficiency and productivity as well as revenue collections.

MPs said that Tanzania was still far behind in fully exploiting Dar es Salaam port potential, implying that the country

loses a huge amount of likely revenues.

The government needs to wake up and start putting things well so as to attract private investors to run the Dar es Salaam port before taking up other ports across the country, they said.

Jerry Slaa (Ukonga) commended the government for measures to improve services at the port, pointing out that more needs to be done to install advanced technology to heighten revenue collections.

Developing strong, well-functioning maritime transport infrastructure is

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Vice President Dr Philip Mpango signs the Golden Book upon arrival at Sharm El Sheikh resort town's International Conference Centre in Egypt yesterday to attend the African Development Bank's annual general meeting. Second left is the bank's president, Dr Akinwumi Adesina. Related photo on Page 2. Photo: VPO

“I once talked to the Attorney General showing him what should be done to cases involving banks. They have managed to establish a system to manage them

needs closer monitoring.

She was upbeat about gender balance among judges at the High Court, reasserting that she will be bringing women as they are competent and more disciplined.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said Tanzanians expect a lot from the newly appointed judges, as the judiciary has a big role to play.

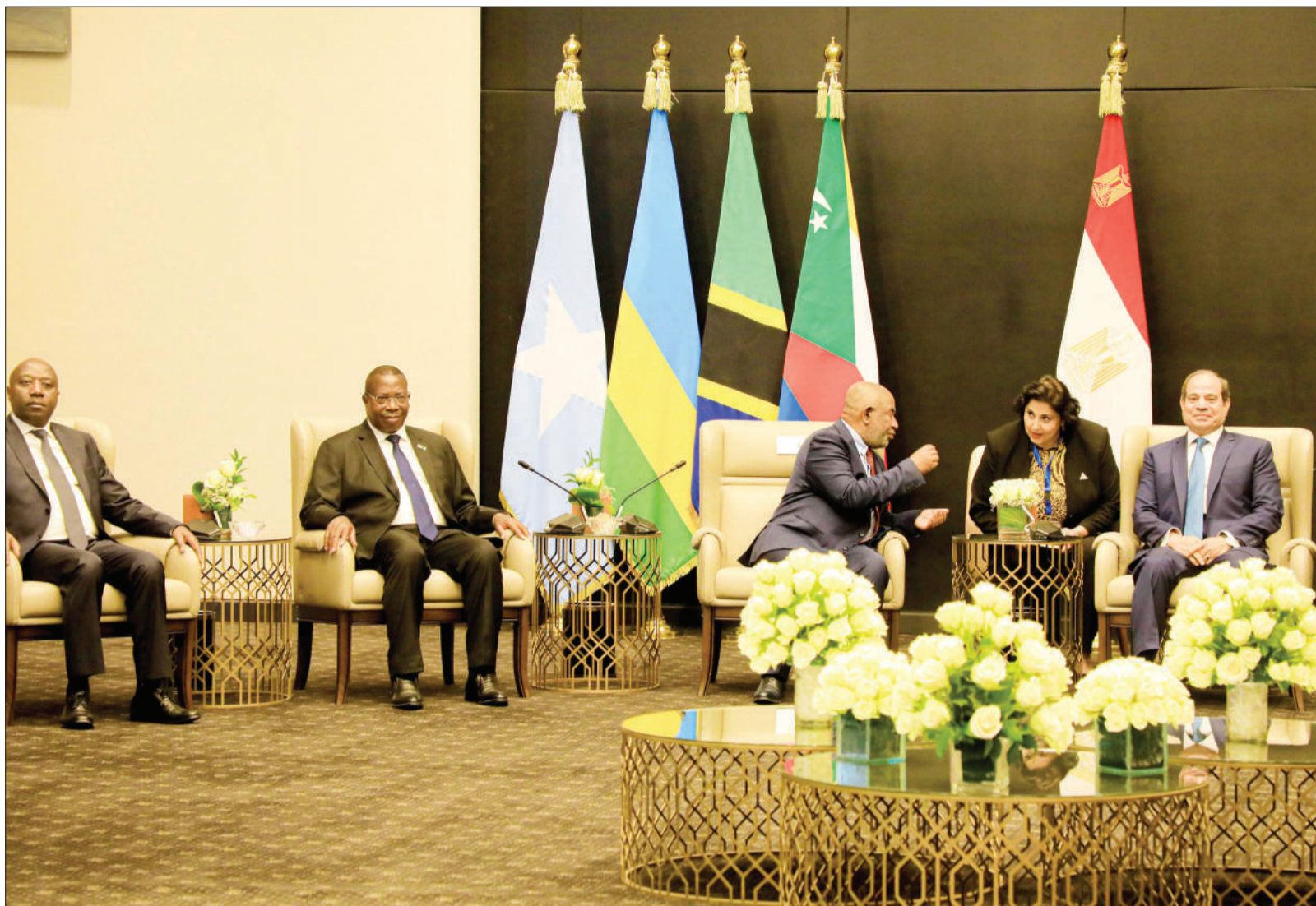
Dr Tulia Ackson, Speaker of the National Assembly, hailed President Samia for ensuring that there was gender balance in the judiciary.

"When we seek out the courts, we want to see judgements being issued on time as justice delayed is justice denied," she stated, urging the new judges to maintain the trust that has been placed in them.

Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma said the number of judges has increased to 31, while High Court panels have increased to nine.

"I once talked to the Attorney General showing him what should be done to cases involving banks. They have managed to establish a system to manage them," he added.





Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (2nd-L) pictured shortly after arriving at Sharm El Sheikh resort town's International Conference Centre in Egypt yesterday ready to attend the African Development Bank's annual general meeting. Photo: VPO

Tunduma Town Council disciplines 20 officials over fund embezzlement

By Guardian Reporter, Tunduma

DISCIPLINARY steps have been taken against 20 workers from various departments in Tunduma Town Council, Momba District, Songwe Region with others suspended for abuse of office including forgery and theft of public funds.

Philemon Magesa, the Council Executive Director told this paper yesterday in an interview that the Phase VI government has provided a lot of funds to the council for implementing development projects that touch the community.

He said in addition to this, the council has provided 60 percent of its internal revenues towards various projects from its 8.4bn/- collection target, but up to yesterday, he said the council collected 10.7bn/-, or 121 per cent of the set target.

He added that in implementing the development projects, there are some unfaithful workers who are out to hinder government efforts by engaging in embezzlement of public funds, an issue that he said will not be tolerated at all.

Magesa further said in FY 2021/22

disciplinary steps were taken against nine council workers with dismissal to one for office abuse and in FY 2022/23 the council has suspended 11 workers to pave way for investigations against them.

Only two days ago we discovered two officials in the procurement department alleged to have embezzled funds in the education projects.

He mentioned them as the head of the department Obed Mwakalinga and Patricia Mbigili.

He named others including Japhet Chota, an engineer, for alleged theft of bust stand projects

materials, Pendo Sechambo from the environment and cleanliness department for poor supervision of the refuse dump construction, Josephat Kayombo, head of the administration and human resources for alleged theft of the bus stand project materials.

Tunduma Town Council is a new local council recently split from Mbozi District but has scored number two position nationally for revenue collection, collecting more than 10bn/-, second only to Ilala District Council that collected more than 10bn/- in revenue per year.

Land ministry staff urged to adhere to laws for enhanced achievements

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DEPUTY minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development Geoffrey Pinda has said workers in the land sector in the country have the responsibility in regard to the performance of their duties and the whole concept in enhancing achievements by adhering to laws.

"We want discipline and adherence to various guidelines in order to provide appropriate services to Tanzanians," he said.

Pinda, who represented his minister, Dr Angeline Mabula made the remarks here on Monday when opening the ministry's Workers Council. He said the employer also has the responsibility to put in place better working environment as well as respect the workers, develop and empower them in implementing

their responsibilities.

Regarding the formalisation of unplanned settlements, the deputy minister said the formalisation programme was coming to the end this year, while unplanned settlements are flourishing while urban areas develop fast.

According to him, the task of the Workers Council meeting is to advise the government on the new strategy to eradicate unplanned settlements.

He called on the council to debate in-depth the ministry's estimates for Fiscal 2023/24 and come up with implementable plans.

Also, among others, he called for having in place robust strategies in regard to land rent collection, saying the ministry has collected 129bn/-, equivalent to 51.6 per cent of the target, the issue that he termed unacceptable.

MPs: Dar port should operate competitively

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essential to economic growth, he stated, insisting that "Tanzania has to leave fear behind and welcome private investors into port operations," especially Dar port, for effective transformation.

Hailing the government for implementing the standard gauge railway (SGR) project, he said it is being constructed at the lowest cost than practically any other country.

Anne Kilango, (Same East) said many countries heavily invest in the port sector as they are aware of its hidden potential, citing India as having a cabinet portfolio on government port operations.

"It has recognized that this is a very potential area to focus on so as to get higher collections," she said.

Oran Njeza (Mbeya Rural) urged the government to fulfill its promises in road constructions as many rural roads are in devastating situations, something that thwarts transportation of raw materials and crops.

The lawmaker further urged the government to leave Dar es Salaam port to private investors by entering into public private partnership (PPP) mode of contract.

The MP also urged the government to also find potential investors to commence construction of Bagamoyo port.

Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (Kilosa) said the government needs to invest in efficient ports, urging that the government starts thinking

on constructing Kilwa port, Bagamoyo and Pangani ports.

Joseph Kasheku (Geita) urged the government to learn from developed countries on how efficiently they operate their ports, citing a parliamentary visit to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"While there, we witnessed how that city has gone far in infrastructure and port operations," he said, referring to digital port systems for easy clearance of cargo and customs procedures.

"We need to learn from them. If Dar port is handed to a competitive private investor it will enable the country to collect a lot of revenue, helping the country finance various development projects," he said.

Elibariki Kingu (Singida West) said that if the government seeks to transform the country's economy, privatizing operations of the Dar es Salaam port is unavoidable.

"We need to hand over operations of Dar es Salaam port to keen and competitive investors who will bring change and provide the country with optimal revenues," he said.

Livingstone Lusinde (Mvumi) underlined that privatizing operations at Dar es Salaam port will transform services and "reduce the burden that poor Tanzanians carry by purchasing products at high prices due to challenges that traders incur at the port, causing delay in cargo clearance."

'Green energy transition minerals luring investors'

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miners. They are now contributing much more to the gross domestic product, he said.

The ministry is projecting 800bn/- in royalties in the coming financial year, raising the sector's contribution to GDP to 10 percent by 2025, he said.

Mining is now more vibrant, with a substantial contribution of the small scale mining projects, he said, praising collaboration between foreign investors who provide technical support to small scale miners as required by the Mining Act.

The forum will bring together key

stakeholders, regulatory agencies, investors and experts to explore opportunities, foster partnerships and exchange views on sustainable mining practices and development, he said.

It will also dwell on the breadth of mineral resources, providing an opportunity for local and international investors to scan mineral exploration projects, mineral beneficiation and value addition in different categories of mineral prospecting, he said.

The forum will accelerate collaboration between stakeholders in the mining sector, making it more dynamic and supporting economic growth, he added.

'Investors scouting for talent workers'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

PATROBAS Katambi, Deputy minister of State, the Prime Minister's Office, in-charge of Policy, Parliament, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled, has said Tanzania was fully diving into vocational education and technical training as the ultimate route in creating able youth that are solution focused.

"Our country focuses to start creating, building and manufacturing goods and the only way to achieve this is through equipping our youth population with creative skills that the technical institutions provide," said the

Minister, adding many investors are now turning to technical students when looking for employees.

Katambi who was speaking in Arusha during the official closing ceremony at the climax of the week-long National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET) exhibitions added that Tanzanians who undergo technical studies have better chances of securing jobs.

"They also become better at creating enterprises and becoming employers who provide job opportunities to others," the state minister maintained.

Earlier, the executive secretary of the National Council for Technical

and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET) Dr Adolf Rutayuga said they were working to ensure that all students come out of their training well prepared to undertake any tasks thrown to them.

Dr Rutayuga cited the case of Geita Gold Mining which has entered into agreement with Vocational Training Institutes through which the company takes graduates from such colleges, proving that they have trust in technical education being provided in the country.

Held at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha, the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training Exhibitions 2023 attracted a total

of 145 exhibitors, with 98 of them performing very well.

Dr Rutayuga pointed out that the 2023 exhibitions in Arusha have been the best events yet and that NACTVET will ensure that the shows take place every year, with even better improvements.

The National Council for Technical Education works to assist the country's technical institutions to improve and maintain the quality of the education they provide and to ensure that their programmes meet labour market demand, by guiding and monitoring their adherence to the regulatory framework.

It also performs advisory functions in advising both Government and technical institutions on the strategic development of technical education and training that can be undertaken.

Ministerial panel to report on state of media economy

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about transformation in the media industry, "hence it is essential to come up with something that will spur changes among media organs."

Expressing satisfaction with the work conducted by the panel as it involves experts from various fields, he said collaboration with media practitioners is vital to bring changes in media organs, "as many of them are financially unsound."

While the study is conducted, the legislative process for enacting the

media industry law and policy set up will still being pursued

Tido Mhando, veteran broadcaster and committee chairman, said the panel was working on ways to assist media organs and journalists to survive and prosper.

"Challenges facing media organs are worldwide," he declared, underlining that "it is distressing to see journalists becoming virtual beggars and not knowing their tomorrows."



Same East legislator Anne Kilango Malecela contributes to debate in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday on the Budget estimates of the Works and Transport ministry for financial year 2023/2024. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

DART plans to set up training college in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Rapid Transit Agency (DART) is planning to establish a training college to have competent drivers for its routes.

DART's director for human resources management and administration, Dr Eliphaz Mollel said recently in Dodoma during the capacity building workshop for journalists, that having well trained drivers is key as the government is pioneering to connect Dar es Salaam city with BRT infrastructure.

"We are finalising processes to secure a land in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam and once everything is over, we will commence construction of the modern training college to allow Tanzanian youth to get required skills that will help them operate BRT buses well," Dr Mollel said.

According to him, the current challenges that occur in the operation of the buses is caused by having drivers who are not competent enough as well as ethical challenges.

"Apart from serving drivers in Tanzania, the college will also attract people from various countries in Africa to come and learn as this will be the first one in the continent," he

added.

He said the government is pioneering to completely address congestion challenges in the Dar es Salaam city by 2030.

Dr Mollel said that the government through DART is also expecting to extend its services in other growing cities in the country.

According to him, in a study conducted by the agency BRT services demand in Arusha Region is at 70 percent, Dar es Salaam (85 percent), Dodoma (80 percent), Tanga (88 percent), Mbeya (95 percent), Mwanza (90 percent) and Coast Region (86 percent).

He said currently the government is working to come up with a special Act so as to provide DART full authority to extend its services in other cities in the country. "We expect that this year, the Act will be enacted and will carry penalties for vehicles using BRT lanes illegally and this will also be strong with support of Integrated Transport System (ITS) - a digital system that monitors the ongoing activities within BRT lanes."

He further noted that after completing construction of all six phases of BRT project, previously isolated areas with Dar es Salaam's

central business hub will be linked with the new form of rapid transport, yielding opportunities for hundreds of thousands of people that once were literally and metaphorically out of reach.

"Providing opportunities for the less privileged in Dar es Salaam is just the beginning of DART; however, the new system dramatically enhances the quality of life for everybody by reducing travel time, thus having more time for productivity, contributing to less congestion along the corridor, providing taxpayers with an excellent return on investment, creating sustainable employment, and encouraging foreign direct investment (FDI) in the city and its environs," he asserted.

Furthermore, it has the potential to reduce accidents and illnesses related to air pollution, as well as give the city's citizens a boost to their civic pride.

Ng'wanashigi Gagaga, acting director of information and communication technology (ICT) at DART said the agency has installed a number of innovative digital systems to facilitate provision of smooth services to customers as well as effective implementation of its various operations.

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

One killed, two missing, 7 injured in Manyara conflict

Arusha

ONE person has been killed, two fishermen feared lost, while seven other residents were seriously injured in the deadly skirmish between fishermen and rangers from the Lake Manyara National Park.

The one who died in the fracas has been identified as Hassan Said (25) a Mto-wa-Mbu resident.

The chaos that reduced the entire Mto-wa-Mbu Township into battlefield is said to have resulted from territorial conflicts between residents of Jangwani village mapped within Monduli District and the management of the National Park, regarding the boundaries of Lake Manyara.

Monduli District Commissioner Joshua Nassari, admitted that one

villager was shot dead by the rangers. Mto wa Mbu Ward Councillor Hussein Munga, said the border conflicts between local residents and park management are common and that of late the matter was being addressed by the office of the district commissioner.

"During the last two meetings, the villagers demanded to be shown the actual borders of the park in the lake as it is not easy to tell the aquatic boundaries when fishing parties are undertaking their daily duties," said the ward representative.

In the first two weeks of May 2023, experts from the District Council went round to draw the boundaries between the park and the village but it seems the residents were not satisfied with the new markings.

On Monday, some misunderstandings occurred between rangers from Tanzania National Parks and the fishermen, in which three people were badly injured.

Later the angry fishermen together with other villagers marched in demonstration heading to the park offices protesting against the incident.

Police were summoned to intercept the demonstration being assisted by TANAPA rangers and during the resulting fracas, one person was shot dead and seven others were injured.

"Two of our colleagues are still missing and we fear that they could also be dead," said some of the fishermen who did not want to divulge their names since the cops are currently going round arresting

people.

The Ward leader admitted to having received complaints from the villagers that some fishermen were missing.

Arusha Regional Police Commander ACP Justine Masejo confirmed the death of one person, noting that the other villagers who were injured are admitted at hospital undergoing treatment but he hasn't yet heard of the allegedly missing persons.

ACP Masejo explained that the chaos erupted in the Lake when the park rangers who were patrolling the waters arrested three local fishermen.

The villagers had allegedly trespassed into Lake Manyara National Park precinct and were busy harvesting fish in the reserve's jurisdiction.

Trying to save their mates, other fishermen reportedly joined into the fray and a bedlam ensued in which some boatmen were injured.

The RPC claimed that the irate protestors vandalized the Jangwani Village Office by smashing doors and windows then pulled down the National Flag before destroying it.

TANAPA Commissioner of Conservation, William Mwakilema said: "We're investigating claims about the two fishermen who are alleged to have drowned in Lake Manyara during the boatmen's scuffle against park rangers."

He explained that the rangers were patrolling the waters of Lake Manyara on the side of the park when they were accosted by fishermen in boats who had allegedly trespassed into the


vicinity.

"We have special landmarks that indicate which part of the lake falls on the National Park side and which remains a public area to be used by local villagers," CC Mwakilema stated.

According to the commissioner, the rangers arrested the boatmen who were fishing on the National Park side, but shortly after, groups of other fishermen turned up and started fighting the patrolmen, in bid to rescue their mates.

"Our rangers were overwhelmed and let the fishermen take away their mates," said Mwakilema, adding that they did not want to exert more force.

But later on, backed with other villagers, the fishermen raised claims their other colleagues were missing and that it is possible that they had been drowned in the lake when the rangers allegedly sank their boats.



VACANCY: COORDINATOR – PLANNING, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

Background

The "Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in Africa initiative" is part of WWF's Global Forest Practice, which is striving to create a world enriched by extensive, intact, and resilient forest landscapes benefiting people, nature and climate, in partnership with global, national and local actors.

The goal of the initiative, which is hosted by WWF Tanzania Country Office, is to support and enable African governments in Central and East/ Southern Africa to deliver their AFR100 commitments in a just way that promotes sustainable livelihoods for local people and biodiversity conservation, with landscape restoration underway in 13.5 million hectares of degraded land and deforested landscapes by 2027. Currently the initiative is active in 9 countries

- Cameroon, DRC, Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, Mozambique, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The initiative is structured around 3 pillars:

- Enabling policy, governance and institutional frameworks: WWF is effectively engaged in AFR100 promoting enabling policy and institutional frameworks for FLR in the nine countries generating large-scale restoration opportunities and investment;
- Promoting Finance and Market Mechanisms: Business models, financial mechanisms, and related opportunities are created in at least 7 countries that restore degraded and deforested landscapes, improve local livelihoods and enable wildlife habitat connectivity;
- Delivering AFR100 commitments on the ground, at scale: Transformational implementation of AFR100 commitments in the 9 initiative countries is catalyzed by WWF and partners through a landscape approach and a regional movement.

About the Role

The overall role of the coordinator - Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PMEL) - is to support and coordinate the planning, monitoring and evaluation, and learning and reporting of FLR programmes and activities in priority landscapes in the 9 countries to accelerate, and scale- up the implementation of FLR and conservation related solutions. This will be achieved in close cooperation with the 9 FLR participating countries' Focal Points, (P)MEL Leads and colleagues from the relevant WWF country offices and local partners/ stakeholders, along with the Forest Practice Core Team (plus), the WWF Africa regional impact team, and other relevant WWF country, and National offices.

Required Qualifications and skills

Minimum Bachelor's degree in Natural Sciences, Economics or Natural Resources Management, Forestry/ Forest Economics or Forest Biology. Master's degree in relevant fields will be an added advantage; At least 5 years working experience in planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning relating to natural resources management initiatives and/ or project cycle management; Know ledge and experience in the use of conservation standards and or equivalent such as Project and Program Management Standards (PPMS) will be an added advantage; Strong analytical skills including analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data and experience in use of information management systems

Additional information, including the Job Description, can be obtained through web address: https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/. Applications must include a complete Cover Letter & CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the Head of People & Culture, via email to: hresources@wwftz.org with email subject "PMEL Coordinator - FLR" not later than Tuesday 06th June 2023 at 3:30 pm EAT. Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Female applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.

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Environmental players in new tree planting drive to save water sources

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

ENVIRONMENTAL stakeholders in Morogoro region have developed a number of strategies to restore degraded water sources including tree planting across the region.

They also want to create more environment awareness to the community around water sources as well as inculcating spirits of embracing good agronomic practices.

Among the stakeholders include Morogoro Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (MORUWASA), Wami/Ruvu Basin Water Office (WRBWO), Morogoro Water Quality Laboratories, World Waternet, Kinara for Youth Evolution (KEFV), Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO), and Mzinga Corporation.

Lyang'onjo Kiguhe, acting MORUWASA executive director said that MORUWASA's target is to plant two million trees within five years to restore degraded land cover at the Upper Ngerengere catchment.

Kiguhe made the remarks over the weekend when officiating the Women's Day celebration which was organised by MORUWASA.

He said that planting trees at the buffer zone of Lukurunge River that tribute to Mindu Dam—a primary source of water for MORUWASA (75%) and the most important water supply source for domestic, commercial and industrial uses in Morogoro.

The campaign, Kiguhe said focuses on five rivers that flow to Mindu dam, which has a reservoir capacity of 13 billion litres.

"Protecting the environment and water sources is a vital campaign considering current and future investments to suffice at least current 73 million litres a daily

demand, comparing MORUWASA production capacity which is only 35 million litres," he said, calling on the community to become more adaptive to climate change's impacts to enhance resilience by investing in agroforestry which restores natural environmental functions and livelihood.

Last year, he stated that Dar es Salaam and some parts of the Morogoro region faced a shortage of water as a result of cutting down trees and persuading economic activities near water sources and water bodies.

Arnout Balen, World Waternet's project coordinator said the target of planting trees, application of good agricultural practices are key to combat erosion and reduce siltation to Mindu Dam.

"Sustainable water supply is possible if Mindu dam is preserved, that's why MORUWASA and partners run various campaigns to protect water sources through planting trees and community awareness on the importance of protecting the environment," he said.

Sophia Mwenda, Manager from the regional water quality laboratory, warned the community around the dam about agricultural activities nearby to dam and water sources, because pollution from fertilisers and pesticides endanger the users downstream as water treatment becomes complex.



...focuses on five rivers that flow to Mindu dam, which has a reservoir capacity of 13 billion litres.



Zanzibar's Tourism and Heritage minister Simai Mohammed Said (R) pictured in Zanzibar yesterday gifting Tigo managing director Kamal Okba (L) a Zanzibar carved door souvenir during the eastern zone travel stakeholders' meeting organised by the Association of Eastern Africa Travel Agents. Left is the chairman of the association's Tanzania chapter, Moustafa Khatawa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt will continue its backing of local cement factories before endorsement of CFTA - Kijaji

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DR Ashatu Kijaji, Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade, has said that the government will continue to build the capacity of local factories that produce cement before the product is allowed to be among the ten products that will enter the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA).

She made the promise yesterday in Dar es Salaam when she met and held discussions with producers and distributors of cement in the country in a session that discussed the challenges and opportunities in the industrial sector in the country.

"Our mission is to continue to build capacity to make sure that when we enter with this product, we have a great capacity to deliver it to a large area of Africa," said the minister.

In addition, Dr Kijaji said that in the session they have discussed in detail the existing challenge of obtaining clinker which is an important raw material used to make cement, where she said the government will continue to take measures to face the challenge.

"There have been complaints about the availability of clinker in our country where there are a few who take this raw material from abroad, so at this meeting we have discussed and agreed the cause our

producers to import clinker abroad when local factories have the ability to produce that raw material and sell outside the country," she said.

She added that the production of the product in the country will reduce costs for producers and create jobs in the country.

She assured the producers that the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy has continued to work to ensure that local industries do not lack electricity which is important for production.

Tanzania has 14 cement factories with the capacity to produce 10,000,000 tonnes of cement, of which the domestic consumption capacity is 7,000,000 tonnes.

The Head of Sales and Marketing of Dangote Cement Factory, Chux Mogbolu thanked the government for the important meeting which discussed the challenges facing the sector including the availability of clinker raw materials.

The Director General of Nyati Cement Factory, Sajiv Kumar thanked the Ministry through Dr Kijaji for listening to their challenges and opinions and promising to work for the development of the sector.

He said that the meeting has encouraged them and showed that the government has a sincere determination to solve various challenges faced by the businessmen community and industrialists in this country.



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PROGRAM	DATE	MONTH	PLACE
Service Strategies and Customer Satisfaction Skills	01/02	Jun	Virtual**
Financial Management skills	05/06	Jun	Dodoma
	12/13		Dar
	15/16		Zanzibar
	28/29		Morogoro
Pre-retirement	14/15	August	Dodoma
Office Administration and Management Skills	30/31	Aug	Dodoma
	07/08	Sep	Morogoro
	21/22		Dar
Pre-retirement program	11/12	Oct	Zanzibar
High Performance Leadership	08/09/10	Nov	Zanzibar
	22/23/24		Dar

YOUTH OPEN FORUM CALENDAR

PROGRAM	DATE	MONTH	PLACE
UNLOCKING THE BRILLIANCE WITHIN. "Youth from 7 to 20 years."	5/6	Jun	Dodoma
	8/9	Jun	Dar
	4/5	Sep	Arusha
	11/12	Dec	Dar
THE JOY OF PARENTHOOD. "Parent's program"	24	Nov	Dar

Virtual** (Can be accessed online from 1500 to 1700 in Tanzania)



Youths from various parts of Msalala District in Shinyanga Region officially engaged in the transportation of cargo using home-made wheelbarrows and carts come together with members of the Barrick Bulyanhulu gold mine staff yesterday. This was shortly after they were gifted reflective jackets in the course of community safety sensitisation training conducted by the firm. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UDSM students to represent Tanzania at Huawei's ICT global tourney finals

By Guardian Reporter

UNIVERSITY of Dar es Salaam students will be among the participants of the finals of the International ICT Competition for Sub-Saharan Africa organised by Huawei under the slogan "Connectivity, Honour, Future".

In the regional finals of the competition (Sub-Saharan Africa finals) that took place early this year, students from Tanzania emerged winners by taking second and third place and thus were authorised to represent sub-Saharan Africa at the World Championships. The competition covered the latest ICT technologies such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence, mobile networks and big data.

The students, namely, Kaisi Redsony, Magome Damian, and Mwasamila Sylvanus will represent the country in the world finals of the competition that are expected to take place in Shenzhen, China from today to Saturday. At this stage, more than 400 students

across the globe will compete in the most advanced technologies to prove themselves as the best of the best in ICT Solutions. Where the Sub Saharan region will be represented by eight countries including Tanzania.

Tanzania is participating in the finals at the world level for the third time, with a good record of previous finals by emerging as the second winner in the previous finals.

Speaking on behalf of the teams that will represent Tanzania, Mwasamila Sylvanus from the University of Dar es Salaam said they have made adequate preparations and believe that they will do well in the finals. "We've worked hard as a team because we wanted to seize this opportunity to travel to China to compete and show our capabilities, we have had a great time learning and experimenting regularly, we have faith and we have only one big responsibility that is to prove to the world that Tanzania has a unique talent in technology and that our country is an upcoming Africa's ICT

hub." Meanwhile, Tom Tao, the Deputy Managing Director of Huawei Tanzania, said he believes Tanzania has the best youngsters with the highest level of talent, so he hopes that a team from Tanzania will emerge victorious in the finals.

"Tanzania is endowed with great ICT talents and Huawei is happy to be able to provide the opportunity to these smart minds to showcase their capabilities through our ICT Competition. Huawei will continue with its innovative initiatives to support and provide opportunities to sharpen the ICT skills and knowledge of young Tanzanians and contribute to a sustainable ICT local talent pool."

Huawei's ICT competition, this year, has attracted more than 120,000 students from over 2,000 universities across 74 countries around the world.

Since its launch seven years ago, the Huawei ICT Competition has continued to grow and become the largest ICT Competition in Africa.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED



SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (SPN) FOR RE-TENDERING

IFB Number: PA/001/2021-2022/HQ/W/21
Employer: Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO)
Project: P-TZ-FAB-004 – Malagarasi Hydropower Project
Project Title: Procurement of Plant Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 49.5 MW Malagarasi Hydropower Plant - Lot 1
Country: TANZANIA
Loan No. / Grant No.: ADB: 200200004853 & AGTF: 5050200001151
Procurement Method: Open Competitive Bidding (International) (OCBI)
OCBI/LCB No: PA/001/2021-2022/HQ/W/21
Issued on: 24th May 2023

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for this project that appeared in the African Development Bank Group's Internet Website dated 18th January 2021.
2. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania (GoT) has received Financing from the African Development Bank (ADB) in various currencies towards the cost of Malagarasi Hydropower Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for Procurement of Plant Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 49.5 MW Malagarasi Hydropower Plant - Lot 1
3. The Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Procurement of Plant Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 49.5 MW Malagarasi Hydropower Plant - Lot 1.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from TANESCO and inspect the bidding documents at the address below from **09.00 A.M - 16.00 P.M** East African Local Time:

The Secretary - Tender Board,
Street Address: Umeme Park Building, Ubungo, Ground Floor,
Tender Room, Room No. 305,
City: Dar es Salaam,
Postal Address: P. O. Box 9024,
Country: Tanzania.
Telephone: +255 22 221 0231
Mobile: +255 764 496 926 / 718 825 994
Email: sec.tenderboard@tanesco.co.tz;
and pmuprojects@tanesco.co.tz

Bidders can use the same address mentioned above for seeking clarifications.

5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee shown below or equivalent in any freely convertible currency (ies) TZS 575,000.00. The time for purchasing the document as mentioned in para 4 above shall be working days excluding weekends and public holidays.
6. Eligible interested Bidders present in Tanzania may purchase the Bidding Documents at TANESCO and pay locally through National Microfinance Bank (NMB) or through electronic payments upon receipt of Control Number from TANESCO at the above mentioned address.

For foreign interested bidders, payment shall be made through the following accounts:

S/N	Currency	Bank	Account	SWIFT Code
1	EURO	CRDB Bank	19J1043011100	CORUTZ
2	USD	CRDB Bank	02J1043011100	CORUTZ
3	USD	CITI Bank	0100235021	CITITZT

7. The document will be provided to the Bidders who paid for the tender in a soft copy.
8. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the African Development Bank Standard Bidding Document: Procurement of Goods or Procurement of Works.
9. Bids must be delivered to the above office on or before 10:00 A.M, East Africa Local Time on 10th July 2023 and must be accompanied by bid security of USD 3,600,000.00 (Three Million Six Hundred Thousand United States Dollars Only). Late bids shall be rejected.
10. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representative(s) who choose to attend the opening ceremony at:

Street Address: Umeme Park Building, Ubungo,
Floor/Room number: Ground Floor, Tender' Room No. G04
City: Dar es Salaam
Country: Tanzania
Date: 10th July 2023
Time: 10:00 A.M, East Africa Local Time

11. The Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with preparation or delivery of bids.
12. Late Tenders / Tenders not received until closing time or Electronic Tenders shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

MANAGING DIRECTOR
TANZANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LTD (TANESCO)



NOTICE OF THE NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Ninth Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of Maendeleo Bank PLC will be held on Saturday 24th June 2023 at MSASANI TOWER HALL, Dar es Salaam from 10:00 AM. The AGM meeting will be preceded by a workshop on Roles of Shareholders towards Bank's Sustainable Growth and Achievement of Investors' Expectations: The case of 10 Years' Experience of Maendeleo Bank.

The agenda will be as follows:

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Adoption of the Agenda for the 9th Annual General Meeting.
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting.
4. Matters Arising from the 8th Annual General Meeting.
5. Directors' Report for the Year ending 31st December 2022.
6. External Auditor's Report and the Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022.
7. To Receive and Approve Directors' Remuneration for the Year 2023.
8. To Receive and Approve Appointment of External Auditor for the Year Ending 31st December 2023.
9. To receive and approve dividend proposal
10. Appointment of Board of Directors
11. Any other business
12. Date of Next Annual General Meeting

NOTES:

1. A member wishing to attend the meeting will do so at his/her own costs and must come with a copy of his/her Depository receipt (share certificate) OR Statement of Account issued by DSE together with identity card with photo for identification.
2. Virtual Attendance: The AGM may be attended through zoom video conferencing; the Bank will send to Shareholders information on how to participate in the meeting through their registered email and mobile numbers. Members wishing to participate on this meeting through zoom may communicate with the Company's Secretary through email: shareholders@maendeleobank.co.tz or sms / WhatsApp message through +255677 005050 by 23rd June 2023 in order to get information and guidance on how to participate in the Meeting.
3. Copies of the Annual General Meeting booklet may be collected from Maendeleo Bank Head office from 15th June 2023 and will also be available at the Venue on 24th June 2023.
4. Copies of proxy forms may be collected from Maendeleo Bank Head office and branches from 15th June 2023 and will also be available on our Bank's website (www.maendeleobank.co.tz) from 15th June 2023.
5. A member entitled to attend the meeting and who is unable to attend, is required to appoint a Proxy to attend on his/her behalf by filling in proxy forms and submit the form duly signed and affixed with revenue stamps of TZS 500 and must reach the Managing Director at Maendeleo Bank PLC, not less than 48 Hours before the date of the meeting. In case of a corporate body, the Proxy must be under its common seal and must come with the depository receipt.
6. Shareholders' proposals to be tabled to the meeting should be submitted to the Bank's Head Office or through email: shareholders@maendeleobank.co.tz not later than 48 hours before the start of the meeting.

BY THE ORDER OF THE BOARD

DR IBRAHIM MWANGALABA
 24th May 2023

Residents of Ukerewe want special taskforce to fight illegal fishing

By Guardian Correspondent, Ukerewe

UKEREWE District residents in Mwanza Region have appealed to the government to dispatch a special task force to fight ongoing illegal fishing activities by people including officials at various levels of the government.

Speaking at different times, people who gathered to listen to the proceedings of Ukerewe Councillors meeting that sat for the Third Quarter of FY 2022/23 (January to March 2023) that banned all illegal fishing gear seized but failed to reach the allocated storing place for burning, the indication, they said, points to the collusion of officials in the fishing sector.

"We appeal to the government to take steps against officials in the fishing and education sectors involved in these criminal acts, including the Secondary School Education Officer who has been suspended for indiscipline and lack of ethics," said Suzana Mafuru, a resident of Nansio in Ukerewe District.

Meanwhile, some councillors said the situation on the control of illegal fishing was still poor, hence they advised the government to allocate a special task force to fight the issue, as fisheries officers are overwhelmed.

"The issue of illegal fishing should be fought by all people, especially councillors, and government officials at villages and wards level, and it should be a foremost agenda for them.

"The government should build roads for easy access to remote fishing villages and outlying islands

with inadequate security," said Councillor John Ndaro.

In the same vein, the Chairman of Ukerewe District Council, Joshua Manumbu said the party and government should be the main pillar in the fight against illegal fishing activities, and claimed that some government officials own illegal fishing gear entrusted to their relatives.

"The council has passed the decision and has taken steps against officials who lack discipline, and we have directed the Head of Secondary schools to be suspended to pave way for disciplinary procedures," Manumbu said.

Responding to councillors' questions, the District Council Executive Director Emmanuel Shelembi said the government has provided more than 1.96bn/- towards the WASH project to 24 health centres, saying that "there was delay in utilizing the funds due to lack of the right votes in the financial system for funds issuance, the issue that we have now finalised."



The government should build roads for easy access to remote fishing villages and outlying islands with inadequate security

Moshi-based school to plant 2,000 trees in Kilimanjaro

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

MOSHI-based St. Mary Goreti Secondary School has projected to plant 2,000 trees to support the government's efforts meant to plant trees country wide to improve the environment and also to restore the natural vegetation.

Sr Clementina Kachweka, head of the school said this here on Monday during the event to launch the school's tree planting campaign which was held at the Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner (RC) office grounds in Moshi.

"This tree planting programme is part of our school's 25th anniversary celebrations since the establishment of our school which is expected to take place next year," she said.

He added that the school is collaborating with NMB Bank in the tree planting campaign following the bank's donation of 1000 trees out of the 2000.

She said that to achieve that target, the school's leadership is expecting to distribute tree seedlings in all the districts within Kilimanjaro Region which will be planted in different areas of those districts under the guidance of the RC's office.

"As we know, the Vice President Dr Philip Mpango announced that tree planting should be the first priority in the country, so in support of the government's efforts, we have introduced a tree planting programme as part of our 25th anniversary of our school," she noted.

She appealed to all residents within the region to support the government's efforts to plant trees due to the fact that trees are a part of human life.

"Trees are important in the conservation of water sources that all humans use in one way or another, they (trees) provide us with shadows and are also used in the construction of houses that we use as our shelters to name just a few of the benefits of trees," she added.

Speaking at the event, the Moshi District Commissioner (DC) Kisare Makori congratulated the school's leadership for coming up with a plan to plant trees and thus support the government's efforts to improve

the environment and restore natural vegetation.

"The planting of 2,000 trees in the Kilimanjaro Region is a big step in improving the environment and also in dealing with the climate change which has been a big global challenge in recent years," he said.

Makori, who represented the Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Nurdin Babu at the event, said that environmental improvements are important due to the fact that they are the source of the quality of human life in one way or another.

"If we hesitate to improve our environments by planting trees when the number of people is increasing every year, the situation will not be good to us due to the fact that people's well-being relies on a good environment," he added.

He urged other educational institutions, private institutions, public institutions and other development stakeholders to emulate St Mary Goreti school by engaging in tree planting campaigns as well as taking care of them (trees) so as to improve the environment by restoring natural vegetation.

During the event, Makori and Sr Clementina, planted one tree each as a symbol of the inauguration of the school's tree planting campaign which is expected to run through 2024 when the school will be celebrating 25 years of its existence.

All events leading to the St. Mary Goreti 25th Jubilee celebrations are being coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited, one of the leading Events Management and Media Relations Company.



This tree planting programme is part of our school's 25th anniversary celebrations since the establishment of our school which is expected to take place next year



Theodosia Magege, public relations officer with an Azania Bank Ltd branch in Dar es Salaam, briefs entrepreneurs in the city's Kitunda ward yesterday on how to get loans from the bank. The event was jointly organised by local CSO Himiza Development Organisation and the CCM women's wing. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Bulyanhulu Mine, police educate communities on safety issues

By Guardian Correspondent, Msalala

IN efforts to ensure the safety of the surrounding community, Bulyanhulu Barrick Gold Mine through its slogan 'Journey to Zero' has involved the police in a programme to provide education on safety issues among the community in Msalala District, Shinyanga Region.

The training, conducted on Monday at Kakola primary Scholl grounds involved village and ward executives, local people, students, motor cycle drivers and riders of beasts of burden.

During the training conducted by police officers and Bulyanhulu Mine's safety officials, the community were educated about road safety, fighting fire disasters while motorcycle drivers and riders of beasts of burden were provided with special reflector jackets to make them easily spotted during the night to avert being hit by passing vehicles.

Cheick Sangare, Bulyanhulu Gold Mine General Manager said people's safety is an issue being prioritized by the gold mine and that is why it decided to organize education programmes for the community on

the subject.

Sangare said in order to make the issue a success, everyone should endeavour to protect himself/herself as well as others including making sure they oppose acts that could cause unnecessary accidents.

"Barrick, through its 'Journey to Zero' slogan will continue supporting government efforts in eradicating or at least minimizing accidents in the country.

On behalf of other villages and wards executives in attendance, Bugarama Ward Councillor, Prisca Msoma thanked Bulyanhulu Barrick Gold for coming up with

the education programme on safety issues as well as for providing the protective gear. "Through this programme, Barrick has proved that it cares for the people's safety as safety is a basic issue for everyone, and called upon those attending the training to abide by what they have learnt," Prisca said.

Meanwhile, Msalala District Commanding Officer (OCD), Elias Msome said the police will continue collaborating with various stakeholders supporting efforts to eradicate accidents and appealed to the people to adhere to safety regulations at all times.



Anyimike Hezron (L), a trainer from a CSO based in Mbozi District, pictured yesterday distributing leaflets and posters on life skills and morals chiefly targeting children. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Help youth understand country's challenges, organisations advised

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

DODOMA youth-based organisations have been urged to help young people understand challenges facing their own country, voice their concerns and express their views.

The civil society organisations (CSOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) implementing various youth activities in the region have also been encouraged to work within government policies and regulations.

The calls were made during capacity building training organised

by the Dodoma Youth -led and Youth Focused NGOs Platform in collaboration with the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS), and brought about 50 youth organisation leaders.

Speaking at the opening of the meeting, the Dodoma City Council's Youth Development Officer, Mfungo Manyama also argued that youth programmes must involve the society by working closely with local leaders and other stakeholders.

He said youths have a lot of both financial, technological needs, thus youth CSOs go alongside their needs, trust them and lead them correctly.

"The organizations helping youths

should prepare them to face the challenges in life and help them be productive in the society," he said, adding that accountability of young people is very important.

He used the opportunity to warn the organizations against engaging in unethical issues and going against the government position on some of the global controversial norms.

Badru Rajabu, Coordinator and head, Advocacy at Restless Development Tanzania, in his presentation observed that it is important for the organizations to engage youth in their activities.

"It is important for organizations

working with youth to understand them, their energy and changing roles," he said.

Rajabu also noted that youths are ready to work but they lack resources, calling for a changed attitude about them by the government and other stakeholders.

He said the meeting was important as it aimed at helping build capacity on how to deal with youths in nation building.

Elizabeth Msuya, Chairperson, Dodoma Youth -led and Youth NGOs Platform on her part said the aim of the meeting was to help NGOs working on youth activities have a positive approach in implementing youth programmes.

She said during the meeting, the participants got the opportunity to share experiences and lessons on youth projects.



Tanga regional traffic police officer Willy Mwamasika (R) has a word with commuter bus drivers as well as 'Bajaj' and bodaboda taxi operators at Tanga city's Kange bus terminal yesterday on the impending verification of Class C and Class E driving licences to be conducted across Tanga Region. Photos by correspondent Cheji Bakari

IUCN gives 192m/- to 6 entrepreneur groups in Tanga and Pemba

By Beatrice Philemon

THE International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has pumped in 192m/- to six social-economic development groups in Tanga and Pemba to engage in social-economic development projects, conserve marine resources environments better and in a more sustainable manner.

David Siliinde, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries said this when launching Bahari Mali Project in Tanga Region and handing-over a dummy cheque worth 192m/- to the beneficiaries groups from Tanga and Pemba.

He said the funds will be used as seed grant funding to help six groups to diversify, accelerate and upscale their businesses. "Each group will receive 32m/- in accordance with their needs and demand," he said.

This has been possible through a three-year-project dubbed 'Bahari Mali Project' (2022-2025) designed to improve livelihoods and socio-economic status of coastal communities particularly women and youth as an approach towards enhancing their resilience.

"IUCN decided to support coastal communities in the Tanga-Pemba seascape after a research that was conducted by different researchers across the country indicate that lack of capital and entrepreneurship skills are the main challenges facing coastal communities to utilize marine resources commercially," he said.

While their businesses will address multiple marine conservation and social-economic development challenges, will address challenges related to poverty, unemployment, lack of capital, drivers of environmental degradation and entrepreneurship skills to blue entrepreneurs.

He called on groups that have received funds from IUCN to utilize the money as per planned activities to bring positive changes to their communities.

"Don't use funds to purchase vehicles or other unplanned activities because the funds has been issued to you so that you can set-up social-economic development projects in your localities to improve livelihoods and socio-economic status of coastal communities especially women and youth," he said.

Earlier, Abdalah Khalfan from Kisiwapanza's village in Mkoani District, Pemba Island expressed his thanks to IUCN for donating funds to support coastal communities in Pemba. "We will utilize the seed fund to engage in seaweed farming, mangrove planting and beekeeping project in Mkoani District, Pemba Island," he said.

In a bid to benefit from these funds, they have been able to establish Faraja Cooperative Society Group in their localities with a total of 16 members

and are currently engaged in seaweed farming to start with.

Moreover, they have been able to set-aside 50 meters long and 30 meters width land at Kigoto area for mangrove plantation that will be used for beekeeping project, address marine conservation issues including climate change issues," he said.

"We want to plant mangrove trees at Kigoto area because the area has been damaged by illegal human activities, as coastal communities we want to restore it to return a forest to a health state, returning mangrove forest composition and maintaining tree diversity, preserving biodiversity within the coastal ecosystem and utilize it for beekeeping projects and address climate change," he said.

Also they still need training on conservation and management of sea cucumber and fish.

Elaborating on Bahari Mali Project he said "We are very glad to be among the beneficiaries because we expect to receive entrepreneurship skills to become blue economy entrepreneurs and blue economy incubation programme.

"So far we have been trained on how to conserve the marine resources that we have in our localities including sea cucumber, crab, prawns to enable us utilize it in a more sustainable manner for the present and future generations," he said.

Charles Oluchina, IUCN's Regional Programme Coordinator for Eastern and Southern Africa noted that Tanzania is one of the world's richest areas in terms of marine resources and that provides huge potential on blue economy.

The most valuable assets in the country are fisheries, mangroves, seagrass beds, coral reefs and sandy beaches. These assets contribute 1.7% and 30% of GDP of mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar respectively.

However, marine and coastal ecosystems in Tanzania are under pressure from natural and human sources. Illegal practices such as cutting of mangroves, over-fishing, pollution, mining and impact of changing climate are some of challenges faced by marine and coastal ecosystems in the country.

Fisheries and coastal tourism are currently key potential blue economy sectors for Tanzania. These sectors are the services of marine and coastal ecosystems.

Tanzania has a huge potential of accelerating and upscaling its blue economy agenda through enhancing conservation of its valuable marine ecosystems.

The ongoing effort of the country in developing blue economy strategy is commendable. This provides a unique opportunity for the country to integrate economic and conservation aspects in its blue economy agenda for sustainability of blue economy activities in the country for the current and future generations.

Immigration in Mwanza urges people to join fight against illegal immigrants

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

MWANZA Regional Immigration Officer, Peter Mbaku has urged people to participate adequately in the fight against illegal immigrants by reporting them to the immigration department and other government authorities for legal measures to maintain security.

Mbaku made the call yesterday here when speaking to reporters on various immigration issues in the lake zone region.

He said that defense and security is the responsibility of every one therefore people should notify the authorities of illegal immigrants in their areas.

The officer said that Immigration Act Chapter 54 of 1995 as amended in 2016 Section 12 clearly stipulates that day to day activities of the department include conducting patrols to identify people suspected to be illegal immigrants and arrest them so that law can take its course.

Mbaku noted that in executing the responsibilities, the department works in collaboration with police, militia, and village governments among others to cover all areas for efficiency.

In that regard, people should not hesitate to report on the illegal

immigrants to the authorities for action as they are also obliged to cement defense and security for development of the nation, he noted.

He said that with the people reporting, appropriate measures can be taken against the unlawful immigrants timely and ensure that they cannot negatively impact on the defense and security in the region with seven districts.

The districts are Nyamagana, Ilemela, Sengerema, Misungwi, Ukerewe, Magu and Kwimba respectively. Ukerewe, Sengerema and Ilemela comprise a number of islands.

According to him, the department imparts immigration education to village governments so that people are aware of its operations and give cooperation in the process for the better of the nation.

People should give maximum attention to the issue of immigration by taking part fully in the struggle against illegal immigrants for the benefits of theirs and the entire nation, he noted.

He pointed out that people have a significant contribution in the fight against the immigrants if they play the role of identifying and reporting them as some stay in their residences.

Tanzanians challenged to come up with more strategies to mitigate climate change impacts

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

TANZANIANS have been urged to come up with strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change because the environment plays an important role in healthy living and the existence of life on planet earth.

Fred Kweka, founder and chairman of the Tanzania Sustainable Development initiative (TSDI) made the call yesterday during the launching of Watu na Mazingira Awards (WAMA)—an award ceremony event aimed at recognizing and appreciating the efforts of environmental stakeholders, individual companies and organisations in environment sectors within the country.

Kweka suggested the need to conserve the environment in order to maintain species diversity as well as to provide an opportunity for education and enjoyment of the environment where different species live.

The awards have been coordinated by civil organisations including TSDI, Environmental Consultancy (ELCA), Environmental Conservation Community of Tanzania (ECCT), together with Human dignity and environmental care foundation (HUDEFO) who are working in collaboration with the Vice president Office.

"We have organized these awards to encourage people to be innovative and always think of ways in which they can use to conserve the environment and ensure them that their effort won't go in vain as they will be recognized," he said.

WAMA seeks to recognize and appreciate the efforts of all compliant environment stakeholders from the contribution of individuals, companies, organisations and more in the environment sectors within the country, he said.

He further noted that the awards ceremony is set to be a yearly event with a selected theme representing

the problem, concerns and issues to be addressed on the awards platform.

This year the awards will be held towards the World Environment Day commemoration on the 5th of June and so the awards ceremony peak will be on 23rd June, he added.

Sarah Pima, HUDEFO Managing Director, said that the award platform is meant to be an important and valuable area to the community at large in addressing environmental and climate change issues to a larger audience while offering acknowledgment and recognition to stakeholders in the sector that have and are still playing an important role in solving problems arising in the community, and those that are at the forefront in the fight against climate change, he noted.

"Our community is used to seeing bad images of various projects especially when it comes to inspections or general monitoring

for compliance including penalties and fines due to air, water and land pollution but we have never seen awards for those who have done better in conserving the environment," she said.

The award ceremony will be done to celebrate and congratulate both public and private sectors for doing their very best in the management, protection and conservation of our local environment, and the awards have different categories from Platinum, Tanzanite, Diamond, Gold, Silver and Bronze, she said.

"I call upon all environmental stakeholders to partake in the event so that they can be able to meet different environmental entities and have a chance to learn from each other to conserve the environment."

From 28th -29th May there will be an eco-market showcase exhibition sponsored by TTCL Corporation at Posta Sayansi area and so all environment stakeholders are invited to come, she noted.



Ditran Nagiro (R), a laboratory scientist with the University of Dar es Salaam's School of Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Technology, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday briefing students on how to estimate the quantity, tonnage or distribution of fish in a particular area of water. This was at an event to mark the 8th anniversary of the institution's Research and Innovation activities. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Human activities threaten existence of Kibola Water Spring

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

KIBOLA Water Spring in Arumeru District, Arusha Region is on the verge of extinction following increasing human activities.

The water source is key as it's depended on by more than 26,737 villagers.

The Kibola water Spring is benefitting residents of Sangananu and Nkoanekoli villages in Poli ward, in the district.

Segule Segule, the Director of

Pangani Basin Water Board said they have decided to engage in a campaign to stop human activities in the area by planting trees to conserve the water source.

"Human activities in the area include tree cutting for firewood, charcoal and for construction of houses, grazing, sand quarrying, and unsustainable farming," he said.

After the tree planting campaign Nkoanekoli Ward Councillor, Shari Pallangyo said human activities contribute to the effects of climate

change.

The tree planting campaign involved the office of Arumeru District Commissioner, Nkoanekoli Ward, Upper Kikuletwa Water Consumers Community and residents of Sangananu and Nkoanekoli villages.

Segule further said the Pangani basin Water Board continues with its efforts to conserve the Nduruma River gorge that was devastated after losing its flow.

"In this area, the Pangani River

Water Basin in collaboration with various stakeholders, including the Arumeru District Commissioner has succeeded to plant 1,000 trees along Nduruma river banks as protection efforts to protect the water source," said the director.

Earlier, Arumeru district commissioner, Emmanuel Kaganda has warned all those engaging in human activities in the areas, stressing that these have been causing floods in Shambarai, Burka and Mbuguni wards.

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Residence rights, relaxed policies cardinal in attracting investments

WHILE top level authorities are doing what they can to attract large numbers of foreigners to Tanzania both as tourists and potential investors, the extent to which our stage act - so to speak - augurs well with this campaigns is in most aspects dotted with gaps. Traders at the Kariakoo International Market were lately pointing to some of those anomalies, like paying \$45 to land a container at Mombasa and paying \$240 to land the same container at the port of Dar es Salaam. Local traders seek ways to obviate the situation in trading from outside.

These issues are continually being discussed in regional and international forums where one at times gets the feeling that bureaucrats revel attending such conferences rather than actually seeking to learn anything, or significantly. The reason is that their minds are made up as managements, boards, ministries and political parties as to what they want in each sector of economy. Only perils like an opposition sweep, economic and social instability as at Kariakoo forces some basic rethinking on regulatory issues but profound change remains out of view.

Thus when Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi represents the Union president in a Qatari economic forum, it provides an opportunity to go over some familiar issues, but without significance. It is entirely possible that the Zanzibar leader is pursuing clear goals where some objectives have to be met, the way President Samia Suluhu Hassan instructed regulatory authorities in the oil and gas sector to find ways of agreeing with prospective investors in the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant in Lindi. It would be impossible

otherwise.

Some indicators of our preparedness for foreign investments could be elicited from remarks by the Zanzibar leader, welcoming Qatar and other Gulf investors into various sectors for mutual benefits. It is first unclear whether the Tanzanian delegation at the conference had any new idea on the forum theme, 'A New Global Growth Story,' as first it needs one to determine what is 'old' in global growth and possibly what is 'new.' The Qatar forum would add to already existing ideas or blueprints whether from business councils, regional banks or multilateral organisations, while tussling around the 'Belt and Road' strategy has taken a toll on global growth thinking. This is all absent from local media.

An example of the 'new global growth story' would be construction of a 72 storey apartment and hotel structure in Zanzibar, as it would certainly be a game changer in the tourism landscape. There is also the theme, often repeated, of attracting upwards of five million tourists by late 2025, as administrators seem to believe that people will flock in large numbers just for sightseeing. There is an aspect of socioeconomic linkages that makes one feel at home that is needed.

One significant parameter of attracting investments is stability, as countries where stability is not assured may get short term fortune hunters rather than long term investors. Here as well our reticence about reform, refusing to open the public sector to deep lying private investments, creating jobs, is a hindrance to foreign investments as no one can say how political tussling ends up. No one can say if stability is assured; at any rate many will hesitate to take the plunge.

Tanzania stands a great opportunity for benefiting from emerging carbon market

TANZANIA'S entry into the lucrative carbon trade is a welcome move. The country recently signed a deal to create Africa's largest and highest integrity carbon offset project.

The carbon-offset project seeks to hook a share of the carbon credit billions to bankroll conservation of a territory covering 2.4 million hectares in southern Tanzania.

The project promises substantial new green jobs and multi-million-dollar in revenue which will implement measures to avoid greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon from the atmosphere on the globally renowned ecosystem comprising Selous, Msanjeni, and Kilombero game reserves.

It is no secret that high-quality carbon credits are generated through conservation, restoration, and improved management of Tanzania's forests and other natural resources.

The responsiveness to the needs and concerns of members of local communities, who will participate in its design and implementation, is critical to its success.

The project is also expected to stimulate the local economy by providing employment opportunities, funding educational and health initiatives, and developing the use of renewable energies as well as other social-economic programmes.

The resources attract investment in carbon trading as an international initiative to mitigate the impact of climate change.

The fight against global climate change ranks high on the international political agenda. Tanzania is among the countries affected by climate change impacts and variability, with extreme weather conditions and climate events manifested through increased seasonal variation in

rainfall and temperature, drought and floods among others.

Climate change impact affecting socio-economic and development sectors such as energy, agriculture, tourism, water, marine and coastal, thus, affect the country's economic growth.

In nutshell, carbon credit or carbon offset means a tradable permit or certificate that gives the right to emit one tonne of carbon dioxide or an equivalent of another greenhouse gas.

In the past few years, there has been a marked increased effort on the part of international organisations promoting carbon credits trading initiatives in countries of the South for global reduction of greenhouse emissions in line with the international regime for climate change.

As a party of the global community, Tanzania has ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of 1992; Kyoto Protocol of 1997 and Paris Agreement of 2015.

These treaties among other things provide mechanisms for parties to meet their emission reduction commitments but also benefit from carbon credits trading mechanisms as one of the market base approach strategies to mitigate climate change effects on earth.

Therefore, there is an obligation for Tanzania to implement measures to reduce emissions.

Most developing countries have been facing two major challenges in promoting investments in low carbon projects. These challenges are a lack of legal and institutional framework in place to promote and regulate carbon trade projects and social-economic (financial) challenges which involve lack of skills, expertise in carbon trading, and low level of technology may hamper the carbon projects investments in host countries.



By Bashair Ahmed

A month in, Sudan's conflict is showing no signs of slowing down, and the situation for civilians is increasingly dire. Yet while local initiatives have sprung up across the country, very little has been visible in terms of an international humanitarian response.

With the situation changing fast, relief efforts should be localised and decentralised. There are many emerging and established Sudanese groups that are already responding with limited or no resources. Their efforts must be supported.

There is also a large and active Sudanese diaspora that wants to help the humanitarian response in different ways. These individuals and organisations need to be engaged, yet the avenues available to them are currently limited.

It is true that international aid actors in Sudan are facing major challenges and dilemmas, but they need to be more decisive. Their absence so far has led to a feeling among affected people that they are missing in action.

'Betrayed by the international community'

The conflict in Sudan erupted because of a power struggle between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. It began on 15 April in Khartoum, but soon spread to other parts of the country including the long-suffering Darfur region.

Negotiations between the two sides haven't led to a proper truce, and the humanitarian toll is getting heavier: Hundreds have died, and hundreds of thousands are leaving for neighbouring countries, including Chad, Egypt, and South Sudan.

Still, most Sudanese remain in the country. Some hope things will return to normal, while others can't leave because they don't have the money for transport, or the physical ability to move. Aid workers need to ensure these people aren't forgotten.

Yet so far, the international community hasn't provided adequate assistance across the board. "I feel the people of Sudan are betrayed by the international community," a Sudanese diaspora medic told me recently. "We are facing this crisis on our own."

Fighting and looting has undermined the ability of aid groups to work over the past month. Agencies have focused on evacuating their international staff, and relocating some national staff too.

Yet response efforts have also been hampered because of a lack

As aid efforts ramp up in Sudan: Local groups must take centre stage



of coordination and engagement with the grassroots organisations that are closest to the affected communities.

These organisations include national NGOs, civil society groups, and the neighbourhood-based resistance committees that have been providing food, facilitating evacuations, and cleaning up damaged hospitals so that medics can work.

Localising the response

International organisations are now starting to distribute some of the stocks they had in the country, and are also transporting supplies in from abroad. An EU humanitarian air bridge has been set up and flew in its first relief items last week.

With Khartoum still under siege, UN agencies and international organisations are setting up new bases of operation in Port Sudan, an eastern city alongside the Red Sea.

Logistically, this makes sense, but the city is far away from many areas that need relief. The distance from Port Sudan to El Geneina - a conflict-affected town in Darfur - is around 1,700 kilometres. That's similar to the distance from London to Warsaw.

A more agile approach is needed for a fast-changing situation. And one way to achieve this is to decentralise the humanitarian response and empower local actors to deliver assistance and continue the vital work many are already doing.

This kind of response would enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of relief efforts. It would also ensure a sense of ownership and improve

the sustainability of interventions.

The Sudanese diaspora - some of whom work at the headquarters of international organisations and UN agencies - should be involved too, and there are various resources and frameworks to help facilitate this.

Unanswered questions

Localisation is not a new concept, and lessons can be learned from previous crises, such as Syria and Ukraine. In both cases, local actors have been vital in delivering aid and protection to people in need.

Yet simply preaching localisation will not stop donors and international organisations from repeating the same mistakes. For example, less than 1% of the \$3.9 billion of humanitarian funding last year in Ukraine went directly to local actors.

Many questions still linger in the localisation discussion: Who is the boss? Who decides how much funding and authority local actors should have? How can international and local actors work together in a respectful and supportive way?

These are some of the questions that need to be addressed to make localisation a reality in Sudan and beyond. Thankfully, organisations like the NEAR Network have developed a framework that can help facilitate what is needed.

Other issues to think about: Urban needs and fragile neighbours

As aid groups scale up in Sudan, they will face many challenges and will need to learn to operate without a rule book. The warring parties are likely to constantly challenge and violate humanitarian principles,

standards, and norms.

The theatre of conflict - and therefore the site of humanitarian intervention - have also shifted. For decades, wars in Sudan were fought in the peripheries, but now combat is happening in major urban areas.

One of those cities is Khartoum, which until last month was regarded as a safe family duty station for diplomats, aid workers, and other migrant communities. It was the home for around a sixth of Sudan's 46 million population.

Internally displaced Sudanese are now heading to locations like Port Sudan, Dongola, Atbara, and Wad Madani. These places are more commonly associated with Sudan's elites rather than with humanitarian intervention maps.

A regional lens will also be required of relief agencies in the coming months as the humanitarian crisis has a cascading impact on several of Sudan's already fragile neighbours.

Egypt is suffering economic turmoil, Ethiopia is still reeling from the impact of war, and humanitarian needs in Chad and South Sudan remain extremely high. Yet these countries have all been impacted over the past month.

Aid groups need to understand that Sudan's conflict is not a typical or temporary crisis, but a new and unprecedented challenge. That challenge requires a coordinated, flexible, and innovative response. Business as usual is not an option.

Bashair Ahmed, CEO of Shabaka, a consulting and research organisation focused on diaspora and migrant humanitarian action

Let's redouble efforts to protect Great Ruaha River, other water sources

By Jacques Kempanju and Pankras Luoga

ACTIVITIES that cause environmental degradation are commonplace in various parts of our country. The situation is alarming particularly around water sources and catchment areas. The practices include cutting down trees, clearing land for agriculture and grazing large numbers of livestock near or within water sources.

These activities have increased the rate of environmental degradation worsened by climate changes. As a result, there is significant reduction of the amount of water in rivers across the country.

One of the most affected is the Great Ruaha River which is the main source of water for the Julius Nyerere Hydropower project in Rufiji. It is evident that human activities are mainly responsible for the decrease of amount of water there.

The destruction at Mwambalizi River in Mbeya Rural Council, Mbeya Region has been found to affect the flow of water into Great Ruaha River. It is among water sources flowing into Usangu Basin where Chimala River in Mbalali District, Mbeya Region gets its water.

It is worth noting that the Great Ruaha Mkuu feeds Rufiji River where the largest hydroelectric project in the country is implemented and expected to produce megawatts 2115 at its full capacity. This will significantly reduce the price of electricity in the country and facilitate various economic activities in the country.

What should be done?

Tanzanians living near water sources and catchment areas should put efforts in conserving these key areas. Local authorities in collaboration with other environment stakeholders should sensitize communities on the importance of conserving the environment, particularly water sources.

In addition, each of us should take the responsibility of conserving the environment by reporting destruction activities to the responsible authorities for action. In so doing, communities will choose to conserve instead of destroying the environment.

Some councils have started taking action namely planting trees upstream to ensure that the Great Ruaha River gets sufficient water to feed Julius Nyerere Hydropower project. Mbeya Rural Council in for example has started

investing in planting and educating communities on the importance of conserving water sources by planting water-friendly trees, reducing the number of animals, not feeding animals near or along water sources. The initiative is being done along River Mwambalizi.

Also, the government through ministries responsible for water, natural resources and environment should invest more efforts in providing education to communities on the importance of conserving the environment particularly water sources found in their areas.

If communities implement environmental conservation, especially protection of sources of water, then the impact of climate changes will be greatly reduced. In the case of the Great Ruaha River, this will mean enough water for filling the Julius Nyerere Hydroelectric dam in time.

Urgent call

Every citizen should play a role in protecting water sources and catchment areas. This noble duty should not be seen as that of the government alone as is mainly the case currently. It is crucial that all of us invest in the efforts to conserve the environment.



ronment.

This should include working together with the government and other stakeholders not only to report destruction but also to sensitize communities on disadvantages of degradation and advantages of conservation.

Important note should be taken on planting water-friendly trees, reducing the number of livestock and not feeding animals near or within water sources. In general, what we need to do is to change behaviours and activities that impact the environment like using fire to clear farm-

lands, unregulated cutting of trees and many other destructive activities.

Jacques Kempanju is Health Officer in charge of environmental with Mbeya Rural Council and Pankras Luoga is Assistant Lec-

turer in Health Systems Management, Monitoring and Evaluation in Health at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS).

Planting trees: Each of us should make this both duty and hobby

By Correspondent-Emanuel Onyango

TANZANIA has been undertaking various initiatives to conserve the environment and curb the impact of climate change which is already haunting some communities in the country. The most common steps taken include tree planting and uptake of clean energies.

The government has been collaborating with various stakeholders, including development partners, to make the environment cleaner through initiatives undertaken nationally and at community levels.

Numerous studies have demonstrated that trees play a critical role for people and the planet because their presence in abundance can improve not only air quality but also people's mental and physical health.

Trees provide shades and cool urban centers while also essential for healthy communities. The benefits that trees provide can help cities and countries meet 15 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This fact supports the argument that trees should be considered an important part of the equation by project managers and civic leaders while planning and implementing various projects towards the Agenda 2030.

Wherever there is high rate of deforestation which involves wanton felling of trees, automatically that results into diverse effects such as biodiversity loss, greenhouse gas emissions, disruption of water sources,



increasing soil erosion and disruption of livelihoods.

It is very discouraging to note that the rate of deforestation is more serious and increasing in tropical countries where population growth is high but extreme poverty as well.

The government has embarked on tree planting as a way of undoing the damage caused by such cutting of trees for charcoal. Charcoal is the largest source of household energy in urban areas for cooking and heating in Tanzania, as it is considered relatively affordable and available. It is estimated that about 90 per cent of the total Tanzania's population rely on biomass energy.

According to the government's policy, planting trees is no longer a voluntary action by individuals but a responsibility of all councils with each having set targets to be achieved, all aimed at curbing

effects of climate change.

The Vice President's Office responsible for environment has introduced a policy under the slogan 'making the environment green' to encourage every individual and corporate entity to plant trees.

Vice President Phillip Mpango recently outlined measures the government is taking to address climate change, which he described as a crisis affecting Tanzania's economic growth, sustainable development, and poverty reduction efforts.

According to him, Tanzania, like other African countries, has been affected by climate change with extreme weather events such as droughts and floods disrupting livelihoods of both rural and urban communities.

To rescue the situation, the government has been implementing an extensive tree planting programme in which each district in the country has a target of planting

1.5 million trees annually. In 2022 alone, statistics show that over 100 million trees were planted countrywide.

In addition, the government has also scaled up investment in renewable energy, including solar power, windmills, charcoal made from waste and many others like harnessing geothermal energy and targeting to generate about 200 megawatts by 2025.

Tanzania is home to one of the largest tree covers in the world, forests and wooded areas cover over 48 million hectares of land but it's at risk of becoming degraded due to wanton felling of trees.

A forest inventory report issued by Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) in 2022 found that wood remains the main source of fuel for Tanzanians, even in urban areas.

Trees are felled for firewood or turned into charcoal. With a steady population

growth rate of over three per cent, community forests designated to supply wood for fuel are unable to support the growing demand. That daily necessity is causing some serious problems, according to experts.

Florian Mkeya, Manager of Natural Forests at TFS Mr. said: "Biomass energy provides 92 per cent of energy needs which is causing an unsustainable use of forest resources hence most of it is obtained to illegal logging".

The deforestation rate in Tanzania is approaching 373,000 hectares per year, making it among the highest in East Africa. TFS has been cautioned by the office of Vice President's Office to be tough on perpetrators of wanton felling of trees in various parts of the country for making charcoal.

According to environmentalists, training on sustainable use of trees for communities is crucial as trees are so important because they help clean the air human beings breathe, filter the water they drink and provide habitat to over 80 per cent of the world's biodiversity.

Trees remove carbon from the atmosphere, help stabilize land, mitigate pollution and prevent evaporation of moisture from dirt. They thus help fight climate change while improving soils and watersheds.

It is from this point of view that Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Dr Selemani Jafo agreed to work together in partnership with Vodacom Tanzania Foundation and WWF-Tanzania

The joint effort implements two greening initiatives namely 'Kijanisha Dodoma' in the capital city and 'Kijani Zaidi' in Mkuranga and Kisarawe districts, Coast Region.

Zuweina Farah, Vodacom Tanzania External Affairs Director said the two programmes were launched as part of Vodacom's corporate social investment initiative to provide assistance to affected communities in Tanzania.

The Dodoma programme which was launched in 2019 aims to support the government's national tree planting strategy by planting a minimum of 100,000 trees and promoting sustainable waste management practices in the entire region.

The Kijanisha programme which began in 2020, seeks to restore the natural coastal forests of Vikindu and Pugu-Kazimzumbwi through conservation and sustainable tourism programmes

According to her, under Kijanisha, the government has achieved a survival rate of over 85 per cent of the 71,782 trees planted out of the targeted 100,000. Additionally, the project has provided employment opportunities to 412 casual laborers.

Furthermore, the project has donated 10 litter bins with a capacity of 1,100 liters each to support solid waste management work and erected a 1,129 meter fence made of concrete poles and wire fence around Medeli Urban Forest within Dodoma City Council.

The project has also provided training to women and young entrepreneurs in environmentally sustainable economic skills to create non-plastic carrier bags that are environmentally friendly as well as lessons on managing a business, customer care and developing effective marketing strategies.

G7 has failed the Global South in Hiroshima

By Max Lawson

“G7 countries have failed the Global South here in Hiroshima. They failed to cancel debts, and they failed to find what is really required to end the huge increase in hunger worldwide. They can find untold billions to fight the war but can’t even provide half of what is needed by the UN for the most critical humanitarian crises.”

Hunger and debt

“If the G7 really want closer ties to the developing countries and greater backing for the war in Ukraine, then asking Global South leaders to fly across the world for a couple of hours is not going to cut it. They need to cancel debts and do what it takes to end hunger.

“Countries of the Global South are being crippled by a food and debt crisis of huge proportions. Hunger has increased faster than it has in decades, and all over the world. In East Africa two people are dying every minute from hunger. Countries are paying over \$200 million a day to the G7 and their bankers, money they could spend feeding their people instead.

“The money they say they will provide for the world’s rapidly growing humanitarian crises is not even half of what the UN is asking for, and it is not clear what, if anything, is new or additional –and the G7 have a terrible track record on double counting and inflating figures each year.

“These food and debt crises are direct knock-on effects of the Ukraine war. If the G7 want support from the Global South, they need to be seen to take action on these issues –they must cancel debts and force private banks to participate in debt cancellation, and they must massively increase funding to end hunger and famine across the world.”

Climate change

“The G7 owes the Global South \$8.7 trillion for the devastating losses and damages their excessive carbon emissions have caused. In the G7 Hiroshima communique they said they recognized that there is a new Loss and Damage fund, but they failed to commit a single cent.

“It is good they continue to recognize the need to meet 1.5 degrees, and stay committed to this despite the energy crisis driven by the war in Ukraine, but they try to blame everyone else –they are far off track themselves to contribute their fair share of what is needed to meet this target and they should have been on track years ago.

“They confirm their commitment to end public funding for fossil energy, they maintain their loophole on new fossil gas, using the war as an excuse. This means they have continued to wriggle out of their commitment to not publicly fund new fossil fuels, making a mockery of their fine statements. The G7 must stop using fossil fuels immediately –the planet is on fire.”

Health

“The G7 had hundreds of fine words on preparing for the next pandemic, but yet failed to make the critical commitment –that never again would the G7 let Big Pharma profiteering and intellectual property rights lead to millions dying unnecessarily, unable to access vaccines. Given a 27 percent chance of a new pandemic within in a decade, this omission is chilling.”

More on debt, food and hunger

“Over half of all debt payments from the Global South are going to the G7 or to private banks based in G7 countries, notably New York and London. Over \$230 million dollars a day is flowing into the G7.

Countries are bankrupt, spending far more on debt than on healthcare or food for their people. Debt payments have increased sharply as countries in the Global South borrow in dollars, so rising interest rates are supersizing the payments they must make.

“The G7 saying they support clauses to temporarily suspend debt payments for those countries hit by climate disasters is a positive step and a tribute to Barbados and Prime Minister Mia Mottley for fighting for this. They need to go further and cancel debts for all the nations that need it, a growing number daily.

Money is flooding from the Global South into the G7 economies –that is the wrong direction.”

Max Lawson is Oxfam International’s Head of Inequality Policy.



Adel Mansour takes his WFP food basket home on a cart in Abyan, Yemen. Credit: WFP/Ahmed Altat



Adak Nyuol Bol stands outside her farm which has been submerged by floodwaters. South Sudan is on the frontlines of the climate crisis and currently experiencing a fourth consecutive year of flooding. Credit: World Food Programme

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

AfDB president raises alarm over lack of climate finance 'choking' Africa at 2023 annual meetings

SHARM EL SHEIKH

AFRICAN Development Bank (AfDB) group president Dr Akinwumi Adesina has addressed the pressing issue of inadequate financing for climate change efforts in Africa during the bank's 2023 annual meetings in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

The annual meetings focus on mobilising private sector financing for climate and green growth in Africa, reflecting the urgency of the climate crisis.

Dr Adesina expressed his disappointment in developed nations for failing to meet their commitment of providing \$100 billion annually in climate finance to developing countries. He highlighted the detrimental impact of this financial shortfall on Africa, emphasizing that the continent is being hindered and disadvantaged by the lack of climate finance. He called on the media to play an essential role in raising awareness and urgency about the critical need for climate finance in Africa.

Adesina drew attention to the severe consequences of climate change across Africa, such as water stress, food insecurity, droughts, floods, and an increase in refugee populations. He stressed the necessity for



AfDB president Dr Akinwumi Adesina

a 36% annual growth in Africa's private sector climate financing to address these challenges effectively.

The African Development Bank has

taken a proactive role in climate adaptation efforts, allocating 63 per cent of its climate finance towards this cause, the highest among multilateral development

banks. The Bank's initiatives include the Climate Action Window, which supports farmers with climate-resistant seeds, and the Desert to Power initiative, aimed

at developing 10,000 megawatts of solar power in the Sahel region.

Additionally, the Bank has launched the African Adaptation Acceleration Programme and the Alliance for Green Infrastructure to mobilize funds for climate change adaptation and green infrastructure projects throughout Africa.

Adesina highlighted the transformative potential of adequate climate financing, emphasizing that it could provide electricity to the Sahel region, restore the Chad basin's water resources, and safeguard African nations against catastrophic weather events. He also underscored Africa's significant natural capital, estimated at \$6.2 trillion, which, if effectively harnessed, could drive economic growth and generate wealth.

The successful Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) scheme, which enables countries like Ethiopia to achieve self-sufficiency in wheat production and plan for exports, was highlighted as an example of impactful initiatives.

In addition, the Bank will unveil its African Economic Outlook report during the Annual Meetings, providing an in-depth analysis of

Women entrepreneurs back digital skill training

By Deborah Dan-Awoh

SOUTH Africa's African Women in Supply Chain Association has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Women in Logistics and Transport (WILAT) organisation from Côte D'Ivoire to collaborate on the delivery of tailor-made entrepreneurial digital skills training in the logistics and supply chain.

In a statement issued recently by Chief Volunteer at Black Orange South Africa, Kabelo Mthoa, the association stated that it was gearing up to address shortages and capacity gaps and to provide integrated solutions that confront such challenges.

It noted that the partnership would see the two organisations develop a programme aimed at unlocking the continent's potential through entrepreneurship,

anchored around the varied opportunities within the scope of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement.

"The programme will necessitate the development of the relevant skills in entrepreneurship within the supply chain and logistic sectors, in order to effectively take advantage of the opportunities in the AfCFTA agreement, especially for the youth and women on the continent," says the Founder and Director of AWISCA, Lebo Letsolo.

It added that the partnership would also foster a mentorship and coaching-based student exchange programme that would see supply chain and logistics students from Côte D'Ivoire visit South Africa on a skills transfer and exchange mission and the same for South African students. "The entrepreneurship ele-

ment of the training will be offered to emerging entrepreneurs in the same space, with a key focus on the technical skills relevant to the AfCFTA agreement, and through enterprise and supplier development," the statement said.

The Chairperson of WILAT CI Carine, Toure Yemtia says that the agreement with AWISCA will see it expand and extend its programmes to many more women and countries on the continent.

"Over and above the skills development initiatives, the understanding seeks to develop advanced curriculum and further training that will benefit women in the sector. We want to also help create relevant policies that will empower and uplift women in our industries, especially in the Franco Nations," she stated.



Challenging the feminisation of poverty via empowering rural African women

By Rachel Bartkowski

IT is undeniable that women are key figures within rural communities. As a sphere where well-being is heavily determined by the success of the agricultural sector, contributions from rural women play an integral role in community development.

However, despite their participation, the purpose of rural women is often commodified, defined by informal responsibilities, heavy workloads, and restricted access to the labor market and social services. This cycle of informality and marginalization furthers the "feminization of poverty," a phenomenon clearly present when we examine the current status of rural women and girls in North Africa.

As a concept, the feminization of poverty describes a situation or context in which women represent a disproportionate percentage of those in poverty due to gender biases within education, safety, health, employment, climate change, households, and cultural norms. For many women throughout rural communities, this isn't so much a theory as it is a seemingly inescapable reality of everyday life.

Women make up over two-thirds of the world's illiterate population, with young rural girls being unenrolled from primary education due to poverty, distance, and the ideology that girls don't need an education. It is imperative to recognize why female education is so important beyond the aspects of literacy and numeracy training.

Education empowers a girl from an adolescent age to understand her capability to obtain income-generating skills, access social protective services, and contribute to the eco-

nomie life of her community beyond the home or domestic sphere. Education is often said to be the most powerful tool in fighting the feminization of poverty as it has the potential to entirely reroute the destiny of young girls.

In some rural African communities, girls with little to no access to education are forced to undergo female genital mutilation and forced child marriages. These practices are unequivocal violations of women's human rights and endanger women with devastating health consequences, including hemorrhaging, infection, chronic pain, increased risk of HIV/AIDS, childbirth complications, or even death.

Further threats to female health and safety are exacerbated by poor hygienic and sanitation conditions, gender-based violence, and inadequate access to health care or social security. Intergenerational beliefs and patriarchal power dynamics maintain this fatal commodification of girls and women, again, perpetuating the feminization of poverty.

In many regions, the tasks of rural women include planting and selling crops, tending to livestock, engaging in small-scale trading, looking after children, preparing meals, cleaning, maintaining the home, fetching water, and collecting firewood. Despite the importance of these tasks in providing food at domestic and national levels, the role of rural women within the agricultural sector is often belittled and classified as informal labor.

This informality furthers the vulnerability and exploitation of rural women by restricting their access to land and livestock ownership, rightfully earned wages, and services needed to increase productivity



The feminisation of poverty describes a situation or context in which women represent a disproportionate percentage of those in poverty due to gender biases.

while easing the burden of household duties. And once again, the multidimensional feminization of poverty perseveres.

Irrespective of their intersectional positionalities, all women and girls deserve autonomy, life satisfaction, and to be viewed as individuals with intrinsic value and worth. This is a central theme when it comes to women's empowerment. Female-focused ideologies and projects work to embolden individual women with confidence to find their voices and an awareness of their rights, dreams, and agency. While this is a crucial stepping stone in addressing gender inequality, solely focusing on expanding the feeling of agency has

proven to be an insufficient strategy for community development.

Not only does this narrow focus tend to actually burden women more than strengthen them, but the consequences of gender inequality are much greater than many initially assume. The sweeping magnitude of female oppression harms all sectors of community development, which in turn hurts everyone. Particularly in regions of Africa without education, health, employment, and food security, women's empowerment must go beyond personal development and focus on sustainable action at a variety of infrastructural levels with men and women as partners in change.

In rural Africa, efforts that aim to

restructure the status of women through participatory development are proving this notion to be true. Projects that merge female self-worth, agency, and power with agribusiness, cooperative building, and climate smart farming strive to not only support women's socioeconomic conditions, but fight against the cycle of hunger, climate change, and poverty.

This allows for women's empowerment to be a launching point for community development as a whole: alleviating agricultural inequalities strengthens the resilience of rural women, and strengthening the resilience of rural women alleviates agricultural inequalities.

The theme emerges that women's empowerment is not just a moral obligation, but an undeniable, absolute necessity when fighting for food security, community development, poverty reduction, and social change.

We must demand accountability from organizations, governments, and institutions to challenge the oppressive architecture they were built upon and uplift efforts that support women to lead, innovate, and succeed.

For that, it is imperative that we address the reality of the feminization of poverty and ensure that women's empowerment is at the heart of the fight for a more sustainable, equitable, and just society.

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
MAMLAKA YA MAWASILIANO TANZANIA
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



MWALIKO WA MAOMBI MAPYA NA UPANDISHAJI DARAJA WA LESENI ZA MAUDHUI YA REDIO

1. Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania (TCRA) ni Taasisi ya Umma iliyoanzishwa chini ya Sheria ya Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania Na.12 ya mwaka 2003 yenye jukumu la kusimamia huduma za mawasiliano ya Kielektroni na Posta nchini Tanzania.
2. Kwa mujibu wa Kanuni za Taratibu za Utoaji Leseni, Tangazo la Serikali Na.422 la mwaka 2014, TCRA imeainisha Masafa kwa ajili ya utoaji wa Huduma za Maudhui. Hivyo dirisha la maombi ya leseni ya utoaji wa huduma za maudhui ya redio limefunguliwa katika maeneo yafuatayo:-

Mkoa	Eneo la Huduma	Kiasi cha Masafa Yaliyopo
Mwanza	Mwanza	2
Morogoro	Morogoro	1
Njombe	Njombe	2
	Ludewa	2
	Wanging'ombe	2
	Makete	2
	Makambako	2
Kagera	Kyerwa	1
Kigoma	Buhigwe	1
	Kigoma	1
	Kasulu	3
Geita	Mji wa Geita	1
	Chato	1
	Bukombe	1
Shinyanga	Mji wa Kahama	1
	Kishapu	2
Simiyu	Manispaa ya Shinyanga	1
	Bariadi	2
	Busega	2
Mtwara	Itilima	2
	Mtwara	2
	Masasi	2
	Tandahimba	2
Singida	Newala	2
	Manispaa ya Singida	2
	Manyoni	1
Rukwa	Ikungi	1
	Mkalama	1
	Iramba	1
	Manispaa ya Sumbawanga	2
Manyara	Sumbawanga Vijijini	2
	Kalambo	2
	Nkasi	2
	Hanang	2
	Kiteto	2
Ruvuma	Mbulu	2
	Simanjiro	2
	Mbinga	1
	Nyasa	1
Lindi	Tunduru	1
	Manispaa ya Songea	2
	Namtumbo	1
	Nachingwea	1
	Kilwa	1
Tanga	Mtama	1
	Liwale	1
	Mji wa Lindi	2
	Ruangwa	2
Mara	Tanga	1
	Mji wa Musoma	1
	Rorya	1
Iringa	Mugumu	2
	Tarime	1
	Manispaa ya Iringa	1
Tabora	Kilolo	1
	Mafinga (Mufindi)	1
	Manispaa ya Tabora	2
	Igunga	1
Katavi	Kaliua	1
	Urambo	1
	Nzega	1
	Mpanda	2
Mlele	Nsimbo	2
	Tanganyika	2
	Mlele	2

3. Waombaji wanatakiwa kuzingatia mwongozo wa uwasilishaji wa maombi unaopatikana katika tovuti ya TCRA: www.tcra.go.tz.
4. Maombi yote ya utoaji wa huduma tajwa hapo juu yawasilishwe kwa kupitia mfumo wa maombi ya leseni wa TCRA uitwao Tanzanite Portal kupitia kiunganishi kifuatacho: <https://tanzanite.tcra.go.tz/index.htm> kabla ama ifikapo tarehe **25 Juni, 2023**.
5. Tafadhali zingatia kwamba, endapo waombaji katika eneo fulani la huduma wako wengi zaidi ya kiasi cha Masafa yaliyoainishwa katika eneo hilo, **TCRA itaweka Masafa ya eneo husia katika mchakato wa ushindani, yaani zabuni / Mnada**.
6. Waombaji watakoingia kwenye mchakato wa ushindani wa zabuni au mnada watajulishwa ili waweze kuwasilisha zabuni zao katika bahasha iliyofungwa ambayo itafunguliwa mbele ya wazabuni wote.

Imetolewa na:

**Mkurugenzi Mkuu,
Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania,
Mawasiliano Towers,
20 Barabara ya Sam Nujoma,
S. L. P. 474,
14414 DAR ES SALAAM.**

Rwanda: Better mapping of erosion-risk areas needed more than ever

By Aimable Twahirwa

FOLLOWING severe flooding and landslides that hit major parts of Rwanda earlier this month, experts are convinced that investing in the mapping of erosion risk areas could go a long way to keeping the number of casualties down.

Many villagers living along major rivers in Western Rwanda have been among the victims of river erosion and flooding every year.

Felicita Mukamusoni, a river erosion survivor in Nyundo, a mountainous village from Western Rwanda, told IPS that "parts of this village have been eroded to such an extent that we cannot even imagine."

"I reared cows and goats. My beautiful house was destroyed. The river has taken everything," she said.

Latest Government estimates indicate that at least 135 people died, and one is still missing following recent flooding and landslides triggered by heavy rains that hit western, northern and southern provinces earlier this month.

In a recent assessment, experts found that land in high-risk areas is mainly used for agriculture, and 61 percent was for seasonal crops. It said that seasonal agriculture exposes soil to splash erosion and further detachment as land is not permanently covered.

The 2022 report on the State of Soil Erosion Control in Rwanda indicates that the erosion control techniques across high-risk areas in Rwanda are still very low.

Erosion control mapping shows that of the 30 districts of Rwanda, land under high erosion risk is about 1,080,168 hectares (45 percent of the total provinces land, which is estimated to be 2,385,830 hectares) of which 71,941 hectares (7 percent of the total risk areas) are at extremely high risk.

According to the same report, at least 190,433 hectares of land are considered very high risk (18 percent), 300,805 hectares are at high risk (28 percent), and 516,999 hectares (48 percent) are at moderate risk.

Dr Charles Karangwa, a climate expert based in Kigali, told IPS that it is unfortunate that fresh disasters happened again despite a lot of investment in the past.

"Rwanda needs to explore other complementary solutions such as water management infrastructure, water harvesting, and where possible, relocate those living in highly risky areas to allow nature to regenerate will help to stabilise the situation both in the long term and medium term," he said.

Apart from being highly populated, Karangwa pointed out that there is quite a link with geographi-

cal vulnerability because of soil erosion risk, which is worsened by high population, and this increased pressure on land.

Flood Management and Water Storage Development Division Manager at Rwanda's Water Resources Board (RWB), Davis Busingo, told IPS that among solutions to cope with recurrent disasters in Western Rwanda is the establishment of flood control infrastructures to regulate water flow and reduce flooding risks.

These include the construction of the neighbouring Sebeya retention dam, and Gisunyu gully rehabilitation works expected to significantly contribute to reducing flood impacts in the region.

While accurate and up-to-date data on river flow, topography, and flood vulnerability remains crucial for effective flood management, Busingo observed that limited data availability and quality could pose challenges in accurate flood forecasting, risk assessment, and planning.

Apart from land use, which contributed to increased flood risks, experts observed that constructions in flood-prone areas, encroachments on riverbanks, and inadequate zoning regulations had exacerbated the impact of floods and hindered effective flood management efforts in western Rwanda.

Most recently, RWB has developed a dedicated application to collect more information to inform future analysis, relocation of people living in risky areas, and adjusting tools used to design flood control infrastructure.

The above tool provides information on flood exposure and areas at risk that can be visualised in 3D and shared the information with the public or other organisations. However, experts are convinced that despite these innovative solutions, limited financial resources may hinder the implementation of these large-scale infrastructure projects, such as dams, flood control structures, gully reclamation and drainage systems.

Rwanda is one of Africa's most densely populated countries, with large concentrations in the central regions and along the shore of Lake Kivu in the west. This East African country's total area is 26,338 km², with a population of 13,246,394.

Busingo points out that inadequate land use still contributes to increased flood risks.

"Constructions in flood-prone areas, encroachments on riverbanks, and inadequate zoning regulations continue to exacerbate the impact of floods and hinder effective flood management efforts," he said.

IPS UN Bureau Report

Lead-free water pledge indeed a step in the right direction

By Ahmed Rachid El-Khattabi and Aaron Salzburg

AT THE UN Water Conference in March 2023, the Water Institute at the University of North Carolina (UNC) along with several key partners, including UNICEF, Water Aid, the World Health Organization, and the governments of Ghana, Uganda, and South Africa, among others, organized a session centered around the elimination of lead in drinking water across the globe.

During the session, the various institutional partners articulated a vision of eliminating lead from all drinking water supplies by 2040. This vision, dubbed the "Global Pledge to Protect Drinking Water from Lead" (Lead-Free Water Pledge, for short), begins by outlining concrete steps for phasing out lead-leaching materials for new drinking water systems by 2030.

The pledge's two-pronged approach recognizes the complexity of eliminating lead from drinking water systems. On the one hand, lead is a problem in existing systems. On the other hand, many new drinking water systems are being constructed as much of the Global South develops and urbanizes; these new systems are being constructed with parts or components that contain and leach lead into the water.

As evidenced by efforts to address lead in drinking water in the United States, the first step of identifying areas affected by lead contamination is both financially and technically onerous. Because mitigation is more expensive than prevention, ensuring that new water systems are constructed in accordance to standards that prevent the leaching of lead is low-hanging fruit in the broader effort to eliminate lead from drinking water.

Lead in drinking water is a global concern

Globally, exposure to lead is responsible for a significant burden of disease, accounting for an estimated 0.9 million deaths per year and 30% of developmental disability from unknown origins. Young children and infants are particularly sensitive to the harmful effects of lead. Current statistics suggest that approximately one in three children worldwide have elevated blood lead levels.

Lead is seldom, if ever, found to be naturally occurring in bodies of water, such as rivers or lakes. Lead is also rarely present in water leaving water treatment plants. Yet, lead in drinking water is a global concern.

Lead in drinking water constitutes a significant portion of a person's exposure to lead in countries around the world. In the US, lead in drinking water is a significant issue that affects households in almost every state. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that drinking water can account for at least 20% of a person's total exposure to lead; this estimate can increase up to 60% for infants who mostly consume mixed formula. A 2021 study by researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill examining water supplies in sub-Saharan Africa found that nearly 80% of drinking water systems were contaminated with lead. Of these systems, approximately 9% of drinking water samples across several countries had lead concentrations that exceeded the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline value of 10 parts per billion (ppb).

Lead contamination of drinking water supplies is entirely preventable: lead finds its way into drinking water from lead-containing plumbing materials used through-

out drinking water systems. Notably, lead can leach into water from lead-based solder used to join pipes, lead-containing brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and fixtures, and the wearing-away of old lead service lines.

Regulations around lead in drinking water are insufficient

There is no safe level of exposure to lead. Even low levels of exposure can be harmful to human health and can cause damage to the central and peripheral nervous system, cognitive impairments, stunt growth, and impair the formation and function of blood cells, among other harmful effects.

Many countries around the world have regulations in place to reduce or limit the amount of lead in drinking water. The European Union, China, and Japan, for instance, all have statutory limits of 10 ppb; Canada and Australia have published guidelines recommending limits of 5 and 10 ppb, respectively. In the US, the EPA set the maximum contaminant level for lead at 15 ppb.

Except for the US, however, none of the existing national-level regulations have goals in place to eliminate lead from drinking water.

In 2022, the EPA issued the Revised Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) setting the maximum contaminant level goal for lead in drinking water at zero. As part of the revised LCR, water systems have to create lead service line inventories to better identify areas where they may possible lead in drinking water. Creating this inventory, however, is proving to be financial and technologically onerous for many water systems because it requires both a significant financial investment and having access to staff with technical expertise in the GIS or data modeling.

What makes Halotel Tanzania the cheapest mobile network?

By Guardian Reporter

HALOTEL Tanzania subscribers pay less when it comes into making calls for on and off network, sending short messages (SMS) and disaggregated bundles, which are also less than an industrial averages.

Data by Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) for the third quarter of 2022/2023 ended in March show the telecom's subscriber pay 10/- to call on network per minute, lower than an industrial average of 29/- and 20/- off network, lower than industrial average of 30/- per minute.

The report shows other networks including Airtel, Vodacom, Tigo and TTCL have on and off network's uniform tariff of 30/- per minute, while Smile is above all by charging 41/- per minute when calling on or off network.

"Over the 7 years of operation, Halotel has established itself as a growing pro-

vider of telecommunications services in Tanzania. We have witnessed remarkable success and growth, one of it being the widespread network coverage to 90 percent of the population in Tanzania especially in the most remote areas," said Halotel business director Abdallah Salum.

Salum told The Guardian yesterday that those efforts have established Halotel as a friendly telecommunication network that delivers quality and affordable service for everyone in Tanzania.

"Halotel's vision is to provide personalized telecoms and digital solutions to everyone in Tanzania; while the mission of Halotel is a customer oriented - business, our customers are the reason for our existence. Therefore, we constantly aspire for creativity and innovation to provide them with telecommunications solution that suits each customer individuals need/demand at an affordable price," he explained.

"This reflects our dedication to leverag-

ing the latest technologies, especially now when the world is in transition to Digital era, improving network infrastructure, and offering cutting-edge solutions that cater to the evolving needs of our customers and staying ahead of industry trends and determination to provide superior services and enhance the overall experience for our valued customers to ensure that everyone is included

in the digital transformation and inclusion."

TCRA report shows on network's disaggregated bundle tariffs, Halotel Tanzania is charging 2.28/- per minute, nearly half of the industry average of 4.66/-, with most expensive being TTCL, which charges 7.23/-, followed by Vodacom Tanzania which charges 6.52/- per minute.

Halotel Tanzania charges 5.05/-

for off network disaggregated bundles per minute, below industry average of 6.37/-, with TTCL being the most expensive by charging 7.23/-, followed by Vodacom which charges 6.82/-.

On disaggregated SMS, Halotel Tanzania and Vodacom Tanzania are the cheapest by charging 1.04/- per SMS, below industry average of 1.34/- and TTCL is charging high at 2.18/-, followed by Tigo

Tanzania which charges 1.35/- and Airtel is charging 1.07/-.

For disaggregated data bundles, Halotel Tanzania is also among the cheapest by charging 2.07/- below Airtel Tanzania which is the cheapest by charging 2.05/-, followed by Vodacom which charges 2.06/-, TTCL is the most expensive network on this area by charging 2.19/-, TCRA report shows.

Disaggregated bundles tariffs are per unit prices (Tax inclusive) of a minute voice Call, SMS, and IMB of data for consumers subscribing to bundled services.

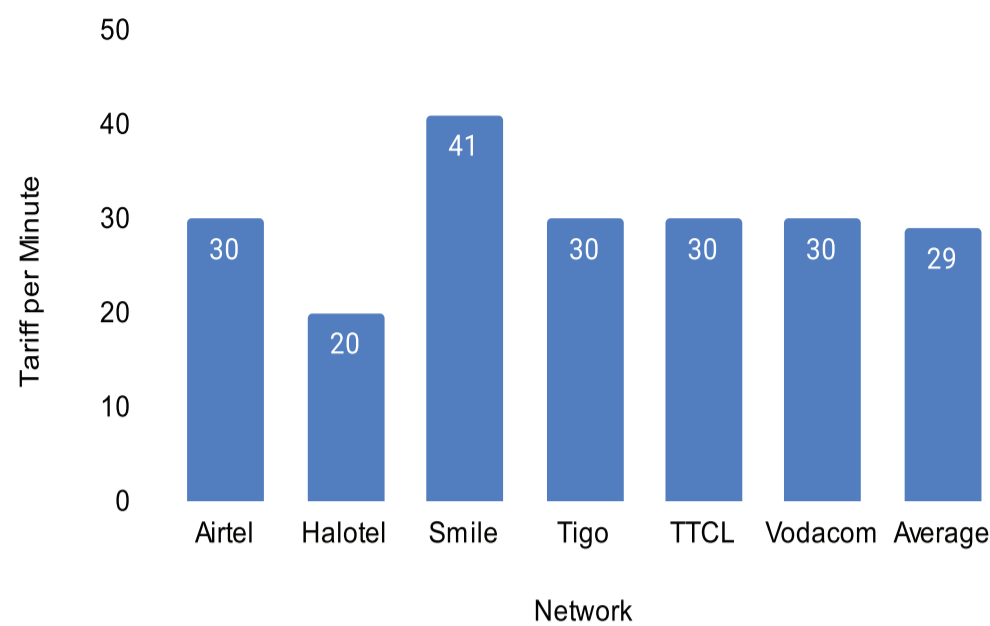
The bundle tariffs are lower than pay as you go tariffs.

For international voice tariffs, Halotel is the second cheapest as it charges 875/- per minute, less than industry average of 1,889/- for making international calls and 1,151/- for East Africa calls, next to Airtel which charges 750/- per minute, while other remaining networks are charging above 1,000/- per minute.

TTCL rates are higher for both East Africa (1,829/-) and other international (2,871/-) calls compared to other operators.

For local and international SMS services, Halotel Tanzania is charging 5/- per message for local networks and 95/- for international networks below the average industrial averages of 11/- and 200/- respectively. In sending local SMS, Smile is the most expensive with 27/- per message, followed by TTCL which charges 8/- and the remaining networks have the uniform tariffs of 8/-.

Local Voice Tariffs- off network (Shillings per Minute)



Tigo-Pesa ups 5pc share of mobile money subscribers

By Guardian Reporter

THE mobile money subscription experienced the major change during the third quarter of 2022/2023 financial year, after Tigo-Pesa increased its market share by 5 percent, when compared with the third quarter of 2021/2022 financial year ended in March 2022.

Data from the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) quarterly report show the number of mobile money subscription reached 44.3 million by March 2023, compared

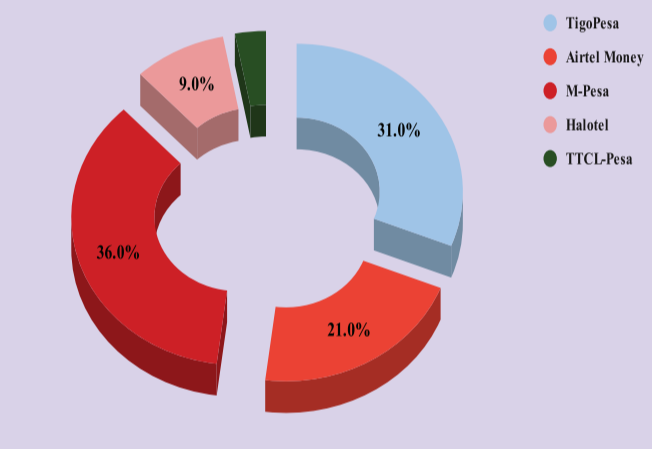
with 35.7 recorded during the end of March 2022.

The TCRA report shows Tigo-Pesa has managed to increase its market share to 31 percent during the third quarter of the financial year 2022/2023, from 26 percent during similar period during the previous financial year.

The number of TigoPesa subscribers also increased to 13.6 million from 9.3 percent respectively.

The market share of dominant Vodacom's M-Pesa decreased to 36 percent during the third quarter of this financial year, com-

Mobile Money subscription shares Q1, 2023 in Percentage



pared with 40 percent in Q3 of 2021/2022 financial year.

However, the number of M-Pesa subscribers increased to 16 million from 13 million respectively.

According to the report, TTCL Pesa (T-Pesa) market share slowed to 3 percent from four percent respectively, with the number of mobile money subscribers decreased to 1.2 million from 1.3 million respectively.

The market share for Airtel Money and Halopesa, remained flat during the reviewed period. Airtel Money market share

remained flat at 21 percent, with number of subscribers jumped to 9.5 percent during the third quarter of this financial year, compared with 7.5 million recorded during similar quarter of the last financial year.

Halotel Tanzania, also managed to increase the number of its mobile money subscriptions to 3.8 million during the third quarter of this financial year ended in March, compared with 3.3 million recorded during similar quarter of last financial year, with its market share remaining at nine percent.



The TCRA report shows Tigo-Pesa has managed to increase its market share to 31 percent during the third quarter of the financial year 2022/2023, from 26 percent during similar period during the previous

Oil edges higher as US debt-talk progress sounds positive

SINGAPORE

Oil edged higher after US leaders including President Joe Biden sounded a positive tone on solving the debt-limit impasse, aiding risk appetite.

West Texas Intermediate for July rose above \$72 a barrel after that contract added 0.5 percent on Monday. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said he and Biden had a productive talk, although a deal to avert a default has yet to be struck.

Before the meeting, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen had warned it was now highly likely her department would run out of sufficient cash in early June.

The showdown in Washington has dominated sentiment in commodity markets in recent days as talks go down to the wire. A US

default risks catastrophic financial and economic disruption that would imperil energy demand.

Crude has retreated by about 10 percent so far this year as China's lackluster recovery after it abandoned Covid Zero, and the US Federal Reserve's most aggressive monetary tightening campaign in a generation, combined to weigh on sentiment.

Also, Russian oil exports have remained robust, with flows not yet showing signs of the output cuts that the country insisted it was making.

While Fed Chair Jerome Powell earlier signaled a pause in interest-rate increases in June, other central bank officials said they saw the need to raise borrowing costs even further, potentially depressing energy demand.

"Oil has managed to hold up relatively well, despite little progress in US debt-ceiling talks as well as some more hawkish comments from US Fed officials," said Warren Patterson, head of commodities strategy at ING Groep NV. "Despite the move higher yesterday, sentiment still remains mostly negative."

Oil traders will also be on alert for comments scheduled later Tuesday from Saudi Arabian Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman at the Qatar Economic Forum.

Saudi Arabia, the de facto leader of the OPEC+ cartel, was among nations that surprised the global crude market recently with a supply cut that started to take effect from this month.



By Marleny Arnoldi

AIM-LISTED Shanta Gold says a successful ramp-up of its Singida gold mine, in Tanzania, has enabled the company to allocate capital to high-impact exploration programmes across its asset portfolio.

Although only eight weeks in, the Singida mine is performing ahead of expectations and gold production looks "promising", the company states.

Shanta advises that it has completed two gold shipments from Singida and the mine is free cash flow positive.

Meanwhile, the company is in the process of drilling 8 000 m across 51 holes at the New Luika gold mine, in Tanzania, as part of Phase 1.

The programme will span

four months, with potential for Phase 2.

The drilling, at an expected cost of \$1-million, targets the replacement of mined ore reserves.

At the West Kenya project, in Kenya, Shanta aims to expand the current 1.7-million-ounce resource by about three-million ounces over time.

At the moment, 26 000 m of drilling is being conducted across 80 holes, targeting resource extensions, as well as resource conversion to indicated status.

Shanta is also using third-party consultants to accelerate technical studies at West Kenya. The company is working towards a mining licence application and permitting, with a budget of \$10-million earmarked for the year.

About \$500 000 worth

Shanta speeds up drilling at Singida project



of exploration drilling is planned around the Singida mine, targeting reserve ad-

ditions and resource conversion. Over the last four years,

Shanta has added 473 000 oz of new reserves at the New Luika mine, while West Kenya

continues to show increasing potential. The company expects to

provide reserve and resource estimate updates throughout the rest of the year.

Insurance, social protection college partners with UNDP in promoting inclusive insurance

By Francis Kajubi

THE Africa College of Insurance and Social Protection (ACISP) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Development Programme to implement a programme that targets at boosting insurance penetration in the country.

Other partners in the implementation of the programme include International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Impact Insurance.

Dubbed 'Capacity building programme for inclusive insurance' it targets insurance players who want to design and deliver insurance products targeting mass markets including reinsurers, insurance companies, brokers, banks, MFIs, Mobile network operators.

The six months programme also intends to provide social protection to rural communities and low-income families.

Speaking at the launch of

the programme in Dar es Salaam yesterday, ACISP Executive Chairman Sosthenes Kewe said the programme further targets training experts who are already in the industry working at the insurance departments of technology companies, NGOs and policy-makers.

Kewe specified that the programme targets directors, business development managers, product developers and actuaries responsible for marketing and innovation.

According to him, the programme covers four modules or levels of training that involves training in inclusive insurance and customer-centric product design and customer-centric distribution and partnerships in inclusive insurance.

Level three targets marketing education, claims management and servicing for a positive experience and level four covers building the internal capacity to provide inclusive



Sosthenes Kewe

insurance. An institution will have to pay \$1800 for its employee to attend the four modules. However, they will

pay \$500 for one module training session. Christine Musisi, Resident Representative UNDP Tanzania said the

programme aims to more efficient and impactful insurance markets by improving the quality and quantity of

insurance through a structured approach to capacity building.

"The key objective is to de-

velop a sustainable model for building insurance capacity in selected countries," said Musisi.

According to her, in achieving this objective, UNDP's approach is to partner with insurance training institutes, who will build their capacity to offer internationally recognized inclusive insurance training benchmarked on global experiences, lessons, and best practices.

"The programme is expected to improve the ability to innovate and find effective solutions for development and delivery of inclusive insurance to mass markets," said Musisi.

Khamis Suleiman Chairman Association of Tanzania Insurance (ATI) said the country's insurance vision is to ensure 50 percent of the adult population by 2030 as per the Financial Sector Development Masterplan is premised on development of an inclusive insurance market.

He said currently only an estimated 5million are insured and the target is to register at least 20million people by 2030. He said for this vision to be achieved, insurance players must be capacitated to develop and deliver demand-driven solutions for mass Tanzanians.

"This calls for capacity building initiatives to strengthen inclusive insurance supply and regulatory sides. With the programme trainees will gain internationally recognized experiences, insights, knowledge and skills for practical application in inclusive insurance," said Suleiman.

Emirates increases frequency in flights on Dar-Dubai route

By Guardian Reporter

EMIRATES has expanded its flight schedule between Dubai and Dar es Salaam, adding two flights to its existing five times weekly service, starting May 01, this year.

A statement issued yesterday in Dar es Salaam said that the two new flights have been added on Monday and Wednesday, taking it to a daily operation.

It said that the increase in flight frequency follows growing passenger demand on the route. "The return of daily flights demonstrates the airline's commitment to support the market's travel and tourism recovery and help drive inbound traffic by connecting travellers from 140 destinations in its global network to the coastal city," the statement reads in part.

According to the statement, the new flights have been operating using an Emirates Boeing 777-300 ER in a three-class configuration with eight first class seats, 42 Business Class and 304 Economy class seats.

Emirates flight EK726 operates every Monday and Wednesday, leav-

ing Dar es Salaam at 15:25 hrs and arrive in Dubai at 21: 50hrs. The return flight EK725 departs Dubai at 09:30 hrs and arrives in Dar es Salaam at 13:55 hrs.

In addition to carrying more passengers, the raise in frequencies will boost trade between Tanzania and various markets around Emirates' SkyCargo global network. The extra belly-hold cargo capacity of up to 20 tonnes on each flight, will help transport key exports including fresh, frozen and chilled fruit, vegetables, meat and seafood.

Passengers travelling to and from Dar es Salaam can look forward to the comfortable cabins and the unmissable signature products and services. Guests in all classes can enjoy an unmatched culinary experience in the skies with regionally inspired multi-course menus developed by a team of award-winning chefs complemented by a wide selection of premium beverages.

Customers can sit back and relax with more than 5,000 channels of carefully curated global entertainment content featuring movies from East Africa, TV shows, African music,



podcasts, games, audiobooks and more with ice, Emirates' award-winning inflight entertainment system.

Emirates has been operating in Tanzania since 1997 and has steadily grown its services to a daily operation to keep up with customer demand.

SBL launches B2B application system for customers

By Frank Monyo

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) has launched a one of a kind B2B application system geared to simplify and boost effectiveness of its sales by providing their customers (Stockists, Wholesalers & Bars) with up-to-date information through sales tools using their mobile phones.

The move is part of SBL's efforts to embrace progressiveness in its operations and business modality.

The application dubbed DIAGEO ONE will be a single solution for SBL's customers and enable a world-class transformation in the way SBL is doing business with their customers. SBL launched the application system over the weekend in Dar es Salaam to its key customers after a successful testing phase which started in February this year.

Speaking at the launch event, SBL Communication and Sustainability Manager, Rispa Hatibu said, "At SBL we aspire to be progressive in our business operations, this includes adopting new technologies and innovative solutions to ensure seamlessness in the way we do business. SBL is a thought leader in this sector, and that is why we champion innovations and embrace apps like these."

She added, "the scale of the work involved in making this happen has been significant with multi-functional teams across SBL, EABL, and wider Global support to ensure we successfully implement a new app that will change ways of working for our customers"

SBL's Head of Digital Transformation Chelu Mapolu said the Dar launch of DIAGEO ONE, follows a successful pilot phase of the application, whereas SBL has tested the functionality and effectiveness of the application with various distributors and customers in Dar es Salaam. "we have tested the app, and we are excited to tell our distributors and customers that this app is going to revolutionize how SBL does sells. With this app, our customers will be equipped with relevant information, all at their finger prints. Our app is user friendly which makes our sales process simpler, smarter and more fun."

He noted that, after the launch in Dar es Salaam, the use of DIAGEO ONE will be rolled out in phases across the country to all SBL distributors, stockists, wholesalers and Bars starting in June whereas all our customers will be trained on how to use the system and the best way they can utilize it to simplify their ordering and purchasing process.

Kenya targets record Sh16bn in betting taxes

NAIROBI

THE taxman is looking to collect a record Sh16 billion in excise taxes from betting, gaming and lottery businesses in the next financial year as it tightens revenue leakages in the sector.

The new tax target for the industry is Sh250 million higher than collections expected in the current financial year.

If realised, betting, gaming and lottery will be one of the fastest growing pockets of tax revenue having grown from just Sh2.9 billion in the financial year 2020/21, an indication of the low-hanging source of tax the government has increasingly tapped to meet its revenue needs.

These higher collections will be realised through proposed amendments to the Income Tax Act and the Excise Duty Act.

The Finance Bill 2023 proposes to amend the Income Tax Act to provide that definition of the word "winnings" includes the amount wagered implying that punters will be subject to withholding taxes on the gross amount paid as opposed to the present situation where they are only taxed on the amount won over and above the amount staked.

The Bill also seeks to amend the Excise Duty Act to increase the tax on stakes from 7.5 percent to 20 per-



A view of Kigali

cent.

The Treasury proposals seek to address the challenges it has previously run into in the corridors of justice regarding the definition of the word 'winnings' within the context of betting, gaming

and lottery.

In the case Commissioner of Domestic Taxes versus Pevans East Africa and six others in 2019, the High Court ruled that winnings refer to "payouts by the licensee but do not include amounts

staked by the better".

Tax pundits now say that even as presently worded in the Finance Bill 2023, the matter is bound to run into headwinds based on the canons of taxation.

"There are two potential challenges in this. One, the High Court has already given a clear definition aligning with the ordinary understanding of winnings in its determination in the past.

Two, seeking to tax a stake is equivalent to taxing an entrepreneur's capital yet fundamentally, the Income Tax Act seeks to tax income and not capital," says Robert Waruru, managing partner at Ichiban Tax Advisory.

In its note to clients Anjarwalla and Khanna equally flagged the fact that the proposal in the Finance Bill 2023 goes against judicial precedent on the scope within which the taxman can reach in collecting excise tax from betting.

"It should be noted that there have been a number of court decisions at the Tax Appeals Tribunal and at the High Court, which have described 'winnings' as being net of the amount wagered or staked. The legislative amendments now appear to seek to amend this position through a change of law", the note states.

The proposed changes to the excise tax come at a time when the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has integrated its systems with those of betting firms to ensure real-time collection of tax with the first phase of the integration onboarding 16 betting firms.

Egypt races to solve currency dilemma in hunt for Gulf, IMF cash

CAIRO

WHAT comes first, another currency devaluation or a wave of Gulf investment? Cash-strapped Egypt is racing to resolve that dilemma and secure critical funding ahead of a key International Monetary Fund review.

With a target of \$2 billion in foreign deals by the end of June, the Middle East's most populous nation is going all-out to sell state assets ranging from banks to power plants and a military-owned network of gas stations. Allies such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, who've pledged billions of dollars to help Egypt get through its economic crisis, are the likely buyers.

But there's a problem. Those investors want to see the Egyptian pound, which has already lost about half its value in the past year, weaken further before they'll open the taps. And the North African country needs the foreign exchange from those very same deals as a buffer before it lets the currency depreciate, which may accelerate inflation that's already above 30%.

The quandary is a pressing one for Egypt, a top wheat importer whose finances were tipped into crisis by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Enacting a truly flexible currency regime and trimming the state's economic footprint are key conditions in a \$3 billion IMF program.

It's not insolvable. Economists see deal-by-deal exchange rates among the ways Egypt and its Gulf allies could thread the needle, allowing Cairo to meet the demands of an IMF review by the close of next month and get the second tranche of its loan.

The pound has been devalued three times since early 2022, but investors think it has further to fall. While it trades at 30.9 against the dollar, Societe Generale SA forecasts it dropping 16% to 37 by the end of the year, around the same level that it now changes hands on the black market.

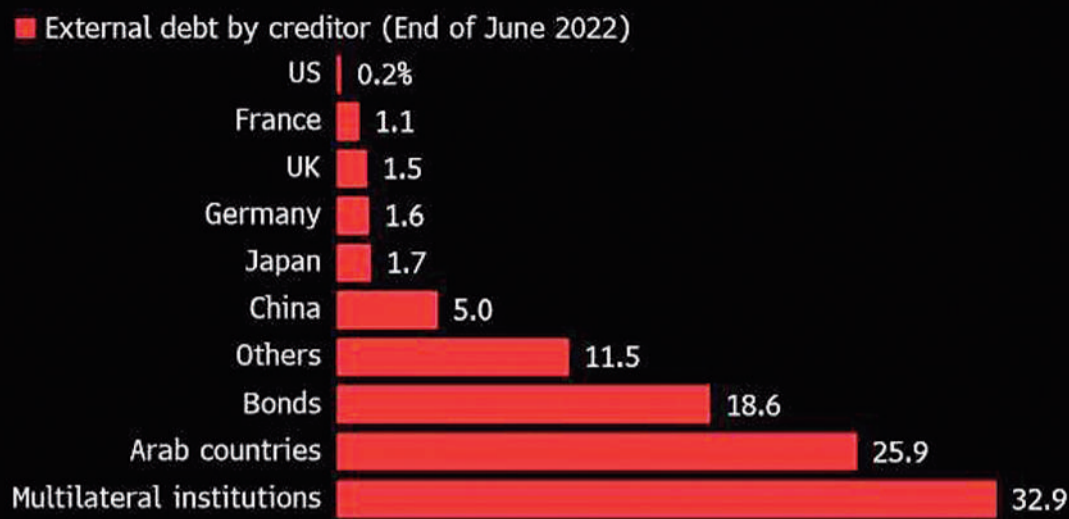
Although the three energy-rich Arab nations were quick to help Egypt with \$13 billion in central bank deposits last year, they've signaled further assistance will come via investments that bring returns.

That's placing the onus on Egypt, which is grappling with its worst foreign-currency crunch in decades, to prepare attractive deals. It's putting parts of at least 32 companies on the auction block, this month selling a 9.5% stake worth \$121 million in state-controlled Telecom Egypt to mainly local investors.

Authorities recently approved regulations aimed at cutting red

Arab States Are Some of Egypt's Largest Creditors

Percentage of external debt by creditor



Source: Central Bank of Egypt

Bloomberg

tape and speeding up permitting and land allocations to smooth the way for investors.

But expectations the pound will be devalued in the coming months are giving would-be buyers little incentive to act now when they could wait for a more favorable exchange rate for locally priced assets.

One solution could be for authorities to give a discount on the valuation of state assets to compensate for the pound's relative strength, according to Monica Malik, chief economist at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank PJSC.

Setting a separate foreign-exchange rate for the deals is another possibility, she said, although "wider investment would still need a further devaluation in the pound."

Further loosening of the pound isn't easy for Egypt. The past year's plunge has helped send food prices skyrocketing, piling pain on consumers in the country of more than 104 million people.

Authorities are also keen to amass a comfortable supply of hard currency before any further devaluation so they can meet market demand for dollars

and avoid a spiraling exchange rate, according to people familiar with the matter.

Such liquidity is also essential to clear a backlog of foreign-currency requests from importers and other companies, which would ease pressure on the pound and ensure a successful adjustment, said the people. They asked not to be identified as the deliberations are private.

Despite December's cancellation of a requirement that importers acquire letters of credit to bring in select goods, some businesses are still

struggling to secure currency from banks.

Some hotels, car dealerships and real estate companies have started to factor in possible changes in the local currency's value by raising prices.

Even if the mooted asset sales do come through, they "might not be large enough to raise the necessary liquidity to push for an orderly foreign-exchange transition," according to Mohamed Abu Basha, head of macroeconomic research at Cairo-based EFG Hermes.

BNP Paribas SA, which this month said another devaluation "may be more distant than previously thought," added it didn't rule out the possibility of another Gulf deposit at the central bank "to help manage any future currency adjustment."



Further loosening of the pound isn't easy for Egypt. The past year's plunge has helped send food prices skyrocketing, piling pain on consumers in the country of more than 104 million people

Banks cut mortgage terms by a year, raise interest on defaults

NAIROBI

KENYAN banks have averaged cut mortgage terms by more than a year to 10.9 years, but increased interest rates in the last year, handing consumers a double blow in their dream to own homes.

A Business Daily analysis of data from the Banking Supervision report from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) revealed that banks increased interest rates on home loans from 11.3 percent in 2021 to 12.3 percent last year but cut the loan maturity from 12 years to 10.9 years.

"The average interest rate charged on mortgages in 2022 was 12.3 percent and it ranged from 8.2 percent to 17 percent compared to an average of 11.3 percent with a range of 7.1 percent to 15 percent in 2021," said the CBK.

Banks increased interest rates on home loans in line with a decision by the apex bank to raise basis points, piling pressure on potential homeowners.

"The average loan maturity was 10.9 years with a minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 18 years in 2022, as compared to an average loan maturity of 12 years with a minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 20 years in 2021."

The double blow for consumers coincided with a spike in the number of non-performing mortgages in the banking sector, rising by the sharpest margin in five years to Sh37.8 billion, translating to a 33.6 percent jump compared to the Sh28.3 billion in the previous year.

This points to the deep struggles of Kenyans in a deteriorating economic environment.

Data from the CBK showed KCB, the largest mortgage lender by market share, reported the sharpest increase in bad home loans, hitting Sh14.6 billion in 2022.

This accounted for 50.6 percent of the total Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) in tier-one banks from Sh8.9 billion in 2021.

Bad loans from nine large banks, including KCB, Absa and other listed lenders, accounted for 76.3 percent of the total NPLs in 2022 from 65.8 percent in 2021.

Churchill Ogutu, an economist at IC Group, said lenders are potentially modifying the mortgage lending terms to the pre-pandemic levels after issuing a raft of reprieve measures to customers.

"Banks are more or less returning their mortgage books to pre-Covid levels, because during the pandemic there were measures to shield Kenyans from high mortgage rates," said Mr Ogutu.

"Over the course of last year there were over 175 basis points increase from the CBK and whatever the interest rate a bank charges on its customers is benchmarked against the CBK rate, so with the increase in September and November, that fed into the upward revision to mirror the apex bank."

Mr Ogutu says that Kenyans should expect and gear up for higher rates on the backdrop of higher rate increases this year. "Considering we have had a series of other rate hikes this far in the year, we should also expect average interest rates also going higher in 2023."

Michael Odundo, a Standard Investment Bank research analyst, concurs with Mr Ogutu that the rate hikes were as a result of the CBK's rate.

"The rising rates are due to the hikes in the market from CBK who have been raising the benchmark hence the pricing is on the higher end of the spectrum," said Mr Odundo.

He adds that manufacturing, real estate and trade are the sectors contributing to the high NPLs because they are credit-intensive.



MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY 24 May

5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:30	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt
14:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	Music: The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Kipindi maalum: Nyota Rays
18:20	Utalii Popote
18:30	Jarida la wanawake
19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT
19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00	Habari
21:05	Albu Yako
21:10	Kipindi maalum: Maisha ya Hayati Mh. Benard Memebe
21:40	Al Jazeera
22:00	Ripoti maalum
22:30	Soap: Uzalo
23:00	Habari
23:30	Music: The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

FRIDAY 26 May

5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:30	Ushaji Wako
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
11:15	Jungu kuu
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Kipindi maalum rpt: Our Earth Mto P1 2
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
13:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ
14:30	DW: Afrimax rpt
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base (DJ Show)
17:30	Kisilam
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Kipindi maalum: REA
18:45	Kipindi maalum: Soka Bet
19:00	Shamba lulu
19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipima Joto
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera
02:00	DWTV

SATURDAY 27 May

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Kipindi maalum: FAO
10:05	Shika Bamba 5
10:35	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50	Ushaji wako
13:20	Art and Lifestyle
13:50	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:45	Igizo: Mizengwe
16:10	Igizo: Slay Queen
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
17:10	Jiji Letu
18:15	ITV Top 10 rpt
19:00	Jungu Kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka
21:15	Igizo: Slay Queen
21:40	Art and Lifestyle
22:10	ITV Top 10
22:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt
01:15	DWTV

SUNDAY 28 May

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
11:50	Bongo Movie rpt
14:00	Tamasha Michezo
15:30	Mwanga
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20	Kipindi cha kisikio
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Makiko ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Slay Queen
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:10	Kipindi maalum: Reflexology
21:15	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Jackpot
21:30	Igizo: Mizengwe
21:45	Mjue Zaidi
22:20	Bongo movie:
23:30	Soap: Uzalo rpt
02:05	Al Jazeera

MON 29 May

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
07:00	Dw
11:00	Al Jazeera
12:00	Out and About
12:30	Our earth
13:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
14:00	Tomorrow Today
16:30	EcoAfrica
17:00	Dw News Africa rpt
17:30	Meza huru
18:00	The Decor rpt
19:00	Shamba lulu
20:00	Innovation rpt
20:45	The Monday Agenda
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Kipima Joto
00:00	Al Jazeera

Tues 22 May

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
07:00	Dw
11:00	Al Jazeera
11:30	Monday agenda rpt
12:15	Spots gazette
12:45	Filler doc
13:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
14:00	Culinary Delights Rpt
16:30	Capchat rpt
17:30	Meza huru
18:00	Innovation
19:30	Our Earth
20:00	Decor Rpt
20:45	Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Jagina rpt
22:30	EcoAfrica

CAPITAL

Sun 21 May

08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	In good shape

Wed 24 May

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
07:00	Dw
11:00	Al Jazeera
11:30	Tomorrow Today rpt
12:00	Dw News Africa rpt
12:30	Our Earth
13:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00	Business Edition Rpt
16:30	Culinary delight rpt
17:00	Innovation rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Sports Gazette
19:30	Chetu ni chetu
20:00	Monday Agenda Rpt
20:45	Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Dakika 45
22:45	The Decor
23:15	Al Jazeera

Thurs 25 May

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
07:00	Dw
11:00	Al Jazeera
11:30	Spots gazette
12:00	Innovation
12:30	Culinary
13:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00	Tomorrow Today
16:30	The Decor rpt
17:00	In good shape
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Out & About Rpt
19:30	EcoAfrica
20:00	Our Earth Rpt
20:45	Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana
21:30	Capital Prime News
22:00	Capchat rpt
23:00	Al Jazeera

Frid 26 May

06:00	Al Jazeera
07:00	Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
07:00	Dw
11:00	Al Jazeera
11:30	Capchat
12:30	Decor
13:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana
14:00	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00	Dw News Africa rpt
16:30	The Monday Agenda rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Rev
19:00	'Out & About Rpt
20:00	Abu Yako
20:15	Local Pgm: Business Edition
20:45	Telenovela The Three Sides of Ana

WORLD

Don't delay reforms to prepare for next pandemic- WHO chief

GENEVA

THE head of the World Health Organization urged countries on Monday to carry out reforms needed to prepare for the next pandemic, hailing their "historic" decision to accept a major budget hike at the UN agency's annual assembly.

Speaking at the assembly weeks after ending the global emergency status for the COVID-19 pandemic, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said it was time to advance negotiations on preventing the next pandemic.

"We cannot kick this can down the road," the WHO director-general said in a major address to the agency's member states, warning that the next pandemic was bound to "come knocking".

"If we do not make the changes that must be made, then who will? And if we do not make them now, then when?" he

said.

The 10-day annual World Health Assembly in Geneva, which coincides with the WHO's 75th anniversary, is set to address global health challenges including future pandemics and eradicating polio.

The WHO's 194 member states are now drafting a pandemic treaty which is up for adoption at next year's assembly.

"A commitment from this generation (to a pandemic accord) is important, because it is this generation that experienced how awful a small virus could be," said Tedros.

At the same meeting, countries approved a \$6.83 billion budget for 2024-25 - a decision that tested national commitments to fixing a WHO funding model which was seen as too small and overly reliant on the vagaries of donors.

The budget includes a 20 percent in-



World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus speaks at a press conference on the World Health Organization's 75th anniversary in Geneva, on April 6, 2023. (PHOTO / AFP)

crease in member states' mandatory fees under a preliminary agreement reached last year in exchange for a commitment to reforms including on budget, governance and finance policies.

US Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs Michele J. Sison said future increases would be "contingent upon continued reform progress". Central and South American countries also called for the WHO to address what they described as chronic underfunding of their region.

Pandemic treaty

The new pandemic treaty under negotiation seeks to shore up the world's defenses against new pathogens following COVID-19 which has killed nearly 7 million people.

The WHO already has binding rules known as the International Health Regulations, which in 2005 set out countries' obligations where public health events have the potential to cross borders. These include advising the WHO immediately of a health emergency and measures on trade and travel.

Adopted after the 2002-

2003 SARS outbreak, these regulations are still considered appropriate for regional epidemics, such as Ebola but inadequate for a global pandemic. These regulations are also being reviewed in the wake of COVID-19.

For the new more wide-reaching pandemic accord, member states have agreed that it should be legally binding for those who sign up, overcoming early reservations from the United States.

It would be only the second such health accord after the 2003 Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, a treaty which aims to reduce smoking via taxation and rules on labeling and advertising.

However, the proposed treaty has come under fire on social media, mostly from right-wing critics warning it could lead to countries ceding authority to the WHO. The body strongly refutes this, stressing that governments are leading the negotiations and are free to reject the accord.

The European Union, which proposed the accord, is seen as its biggest backer. Developing countries, especially in Africa, are keen to use the negotiations to secure better access to vaccines, following allegations of "vaccine apartheid" from Tedros.

Tehran condemns G7 'fabricated' accusations against Iran

TEHRAN

THE Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman on Monday strongly condemned the "baseless and fabricated" accusations against Iran in the communique issued by the leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) at an annual summit in Japan's western city of Hiroshima.

In their statement, the G7 leaders criticized Iran for its "unabated escalation" of nuclear program and "continued destabilizing activities, including the transfer of missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVS) and related technologies to state and non-state actors."

In a statement posted on the Foreign Ministry's website, Spokesman Nasser Kanaani rejected all the accusations and claims against Tehran's nuclear program, saying the program is "peaceful" and nuclear weapons have no place in the country's defense doctrine.

He stressed Iran has never provided Russia with any drone for use in the Ukraine crisis and insisted that the only solution to the crisis is a political one.

He said G7 leaders's call for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorses a 2015 nuclear deal, is "strange" and an indication of their "contradictory" policies as some of the G7 member states are the main "violators" of the resolution.

Kanaani called on the G7 members to end their "meddlesome" activities, which compromise regional security.

The G7 is an intergovernmental political forum consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and the United States. The European Union is a "non-enumerated member".



China urges warring parties in Sudan to cease hostilities

UNITED NATIONS

A Chinese envoy on Monday called on the conflicting parties in Sudan to halt hostilities promptly.

"As a good friend and good partner of Sudan, we sincerely hope that the two parties to the conflict will give priority to Sudan's peace and the well-being of its people, stop hostilities as soon as possible, and resolve differences through dialogue and negotiation," Dai Bing, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, told the Security Council meeting on the situation in Sudan.

Dai said China has noted that the two parties to the conflict have reached temporary ceasefire on multiple occasions and signed the Agreement on a Short-term Ceasefire and Humanitarian Arrangement in Jeddah last Saturday.

"The pressing task is to ensure the implementation of commitments to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure and to provide security guarantees for and facilitate humanitarian assistance and evacuation," he said.

"We hope that the parties to the conflict will continue the momentum of dialogue, strive for a more



In this file photo, Dai Bing (front), China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, speaks during the opening of the main session of the Fifth Committee of the 77th UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York, Oct 3, 2022. Dai on Monday called on the conflicting parties in Sudan to halt hostilities promptly. XINHUA

lasting ceasefire and political arrangement, and bring the country's development back on track," he added.

"We call on the UN and international partners to support and cooperate with regional organizations, with a view to providing the necessary time and space for regional me-

diation," Dai said.

"The developments in Sudan have once again demonstrated that a solution to the question of Sudan can only be found from within the country. External interference or unilateral sanctions will not solve the problem, but will instead intensify tensions and aggravate political

and social crises. The international community needs to draw a lesson. Relevant parties should seriously reflect on the current situation and refrain from expanding unilateral sanctions and thus going further down the wrong path," the envoy noted. The ambassador pointed out that since the outbreak of the con-

flict, the already fragile economic and humanitarian situation in Sudan and its neighboring countries has become even more worrisome, adding that China commends Sudan's neighbors for hosting a large number of Sudanese refugees despite the difficulties they themselves face, and calls on the international community to step up assistance to Sudan and its neighbors to alleviate the spillover impact on the region.

"China supports the UN in communicating and coordinating with Sudan and its neighboring countries on humanitarian issues, helping the regional countries with their response capacity, and easing humanitarian pressure," said the envoy.

On the mandate of the UN mission in Sudan, UNITAMS, Dai said its mandate will expire in early June.

"In view of the current situation, UNITAMS will face considerable challenges in its future work. China encourages the penholders to stay in close touch with Sudan and fully respect its views. This is not only conducive to the smooth work of UNITAMS in the future, but also to the long-term cooperation between the UN and Sudan," said the ambassador.

Xinhua

IMF says UK economy to avoid recession in 2023

LONDON

THE UK economy is expected to avoid a recession and maintain positive growth in 2023, said International Monetary Fund (IMF), attributing it to demand recovery due to declining energy prices.

A recession is often defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth in the real GDP. IMF now forecasts the UK's growth

to slow to 0.4 per cent in 2023, as against its earlier estimate of (-) 0.3 degrowth. It attributed the low growth to tighter monetary and fiscal policies needed to curb inflation.

Bank of England's monetary policy committee recently hiked key interest rates by 25 basis points (100 basis points is equal to one percentage point) to 4.5 per cent, the highest in over a decade or so. The Bank of England (BoE) was the first major central bank to lift

its policy rate (in December 2021) and had since hiked Bank Rate by 440 basis points.

IMF forecasts UK to grow gradually to 1 per cent in 2024, expecting that the disinflation will improve incomes. For 2025 and 2026, the UK economy is expected to average 2 per cent mainly on the back of a projected easing in monetary and financial conditions.

"Declining energy prices and widening economic slack are expected to substan-

tially reduce inflation to around 5 percent y/y by end-2023; and below the 2 per cent target by mid-2025," IMF said in a statement on Tuesday.

Inflation in the UK was 10.1 per cent in March

The Bank of England typically sets monetary policy to meet the 2 per cent inflation target, and in a way that helps to sustain growth and employment.

ANI

LONDON

PRINCE Harry has lost a legal challenge over his bid to be allowed to make private payments for police protection.

His lawyers wanted a judicial review of the rejection of his offer to pay for protection in the UK, after his security arrangements changed when the prince stopped being a "working royal".

But a judge has ruled not to give the go ahead for such a hearing.

Home Office lawyers had opposed the idea of allowing wealthy people to "buy" security from the police.

This ruling followed a one-day court hearing in London last week.

Since then the Duke and Duchess of Sussex have been involved in

Prince Harry loses challenge to pay for police protection in UK

what their spokesperson described as a "near catastrophic car chase" involving paparazzi in New York.

But at the High Court last week, lawyers for Prince Harry (pictured) had challenged the decision to reject his private funding for police protection for himself and his family when visiting the UK.

When Prince Harry stepped down from being a "working royal" in 2020 it meant he no longer had access to his previous level of security.

But Prince Harry challenged how this decision was reached by the Executive Committee for the Protection of Royalty and Public Figures - known as Ravec - which covers



security for high-profile figures, including senior royals.

"Ravec has exceeded its authority, its power, because it doesn't have the power to make this decision in the first place," Prince Harry's lawyers had told the court.

They argued that there were provisions in legislation allowing for payment for "special police services" and as such "payment for policing is not inconsistent with the public interest or public confidence in the Metropolitan Police Service".

But lawyers for the Home Office said the type of protection under discussion, which could mean "specialist officers as bodyguards", was

not the same as funding for extra policing for football matches.

A barrister for the Metropolitan Police argued that it would be unreasonable to expose officers to danger because of "payment of a fee by a private individual".

The Home Office legal team said the Ravec committee had unanimously rejected the offer of private payment and that it was a matter of policy to oppose the idea that a "wealthy person should be permitted to 'buy' protective security".

The Home Office said there was no requirement for the Ravec committee to allow Prince Harry to make representations to them and there

was little prospect of the decision being changed.

"Given the nature of the arguments now advanced by the claimant, the court can be confident that such representations would have been highly likely to have made no substantial difference in any event," the Home Office's lawyers told the court.

Last July, Prince Harry was successful in getting the go-ahead for legal reviews of the decision-making process over his security, which have still to be heard.

But he has now lost in his challenge over wanting to pay privately for security costs, which he had previously said was "not to impose on the taxpayer".

Agencies



Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, G20 Sherpa, Amitabh Kant, Union Minister of Tourism, G Kishan Reddy, Minister of State, Jitendra Singh, and other dignitaries during the 3rd G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), in Srinagar yesterday. ANI

'India-Australia ties based on mutual trust, respect...real power is all of you'

SYDNEY

NOTING that bilateral ties between India and Australia were earlier seen to be defined by 3Cs- Commonwealth, Cricket and Curry, then by 'Democracy, Diaspora and Dosti' and later 'Energy, Economy and Education' emerged as a key component, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that he believes the relationship is "beyond this" and "it is mutual trust and mutual respect".

Addressing a community event in Sydney on the second day of his visit to Australia, PM Modi credited the Indian diaspora in Australia as being a force behind mutual respect and trust between the two countries.

"Earlier, it was said that India and Australia relationship is defined by 3Cs- Commonwealth, Cricket and Curry. Then it was said that our relationship is defined by 'Democracy, Diaspora and Dosti'.

Some people also said that our relationship depends on Energy, Economy and Education. But I believe that the relation between India-Australia is beyond this, it is mutual trust and mutual respect," he said to a packed arena at Sydney Olympic Park.

"Mutual trust and mutual respect have not developed only due to the diplomatic relations of India-Australia. The real reason, the real power is - all of you Indians who live in Australia," he added.

PM Modi arrived at the Qudos Bank Arena in Sydney along with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese to a rousing welcome.

The Prime Minister spoke about the linkages between the two countries with people repeatedly cheering his remarks.

"Our lifestyles may be different but now Yoga also connects us. We have been connected due to cricket for a long. But now tennis and films are also connecting us. We might prepare food in different manners but Masterchef is connecting us now," he said. **ANI**

Economist: China 'a key part of value chain' in Asia-Pacific

BEIJING

DESPITE a rising challenge of global trade fragmentation, China remains a key part of the value chain in the Asia-Pacific region, chief economist of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Albert Park said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua.

China contributed 37.6 percent of the region's total trade growth in goods, and 44.6 percent of total trade growth in services in 2022, according to the Asian Economic Integration Report 2023 recently released by the ADB.

"There is a lot of intermediate goods trade among countries in the Asia-Pacific, and China's share of intermediate goods has been increasing over time. So, China is definitely still a key part of the supply chain relationships in the region," Park said.

According to the report, regional trade integration continues to deepen, although the regional value chain displays stronger linkages in primary and low-technology sectors than in high-technology and business services.

"I think under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement, the supply chain relationships and the complexity of the supply chain relationship should increase over time," Park added.

Whereas the European Union and North American intraregional trade shares have stagnated over the past three decades, Asia-Pacific's intraregional trade has grown steadily, in part due to the weight of China, according to the report.

"Something unique about the Asia-Pacific is a commitment of a lot of governments in the region to be part of an open multilateral trading system and to integrate their economy with other economies of the region," Park said.

Expressing confidence in the prospect of the Chinese economy, Park noted that China will reach the GDP growth target of around 5 percent this year.

"Even though there's been a little bit of weakness in some of the April numbers, we still think that the recovery is on track," he said, adding that the ADB will probably upgrade its forecast for China's GDP growth when releasing its upcoming report in June, given that China's economic performance in the first quarter was beyond market expectations.

Acknowledging that Chinese consumers have yet to fully regain their confidence, Park said he believes domestic demand will eventually see a boost. "There's going to be recovery momentum in China just as we saw in other Asian countries after the pandemic as sentiment improved and demand came back."

China has created the world's largest and most dynamic middle-income group, with over 400 million people. In the next 15 years, the country's middle-income group is expected to exceed 800 million, further driving the development of an enormous market.

"The Chinese market is so big now. Multinational companies who want to sell in China to this very large and growing market are going to have a strong interest in being here and producing for local customers," Park said, noting that China will continue to be an attractive place for global businesses. **Xinhua**



In this undated photo, containers await shipping at a port in Xiamen, Fujian province. File photo

Govts, businesses urged to take bold action for sustainable future

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday implored governments and businesses worldwide to reinforce their commitment and take decisive steps towards building a sustainable future.

"Last year's agreement on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework marked an important step - but now is the time to move from agreement to action," the top UN official said in his video message for the International Day for Biological Diversity, which falls on May 22 annually.

"This means ensuring sustainable production and consumption patterns, redirecting subsidies from nature-destroying activities towards green solutions, recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, the strongest guardians of our world's biodiversity, and pushing governments and businesses to take stronger and faster action against biodiversity loss and the climate crisis," he said.

Guterres warned that human actions are devastating every corner of the planet and "1 million species" are at risk of extinction, the result of habitat degradation, skyrocketing pollution, and the worsening climate crisis.

He called on humanity to "end this war on nature." "Let us work together across governments, civil society, and the private sector to secure a sustainable future for all," said the UN chief.

The International Day for Biological Diversity is a United Nations-sanctioned international day for the promotion of biodiversity issues.

From its creation by the Second Committee of the UN Gen-



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres addresses the media during a visit to the UN office in the capital Nairobi, Kenya, May 3, 2023. (PHOTO / AP)

eral Assembly in 1993 to 2000, it was held on Dec 29 to celebrate the day the

Convention on Biological Diversity went into effect. In December 2000, the date was

shifted to commemorate the adoption of the convention on May 22, 1992, at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, and partly to avoid the many other holidays that occur in late December.

Although every biodiversity day carries its own special significance, this year's global celebrations bring with it a renewed sense of hope with the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

To mark this achievement, this year's theme is "From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity." Now that the world has the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the focus must quickly shift to its implementation, according to the United Nations.

Russia agrees to renew Ukraine Black Sea grain deal for 60 days

MOSCOW

IN connection with expiration of the 60-day deadline for renewing the Black Sea Initiative to export Ukrainian grain on May 18 and in response to requests primarily from our Turkish partners as a party to the agreement, we confirmed the renewal of the agreement for another two months through July 17 without any changes.

The agreement will now be valid until the expiration of the 120-day cycle, which will mark one year to the day since the package, proposed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, was signed in Istanbul on July 22, 2022, which includes the Russia-UN Memorandum of Understanding between

the Russian Federation and the Secretariat of the United Nations on forwarding Russian food products and fertilisers to world markets, which will remain in effect for three years.

Please note that our principled assessments of the implementation of the interrelated Istanbul agreements have remain unchanged, and so far only the Black Sea Initiative has been implemented with the exception of ammonia exports. There's no measurable progress under the Russia-UN Memorandum.

There are obvious issues with the declared humanitarian component of the deal where Ukrainian grain is being exported through this sea corridor mostly to high and above-average in-

come countries, including "well-stocked" European markets.

Countries that need it most have received hardly anything, 722,000 tonnes (or 2.5 percent) of the total amount of 30 million tonnes that had been moved from Ukrainian ports over nine months.

The export of Russian products, even donations of fertilisers to the neediest countries, continues to be blocked by various aspects of the illegal and unilateral sanctions. Western capitals and UN platforms continue to talk much and in loud voices about global food security and the threat of hunger.

These tasks are explicitly, and in detail, laid out in the Russia-UN Memorandum, which is being sys-

tematically sabotaged by Washington, Brussels and London. The Black Sea Initiative doesn't say a word about it.

There is no progress either in resuming ammonia shipments mentioned in both Istanbul documents.

In particular, this concerns the Togliatti-Odessa ammonia pipeline, which the UN Secretary-General focused on during his visit to Kiev on March 8, and a separate initiative, which, like the Russia-UN Memorandum, remains only on paper.

Given the circumstances, we are compelled to issue a reminder primarily to the United States, the EU and Great Britain, which care so much about food security in word only, about the need to actu-

ally remove Russian fertiliser and foods from the list of unilateral sanctions.

There are five systemically important issues that must be resolved as part of implementing the Russia-UN Memorandum and which have seen no progress whatsoever so far, namely, reconnecting Rossetkhobank to the SWIFT system; supplying spare parts; unblocking transport logistics and insurance; reestablishing the Togliatti-Odessa ammonia pipeline, and unfreezing the Russian companies' assets.

There can be no talk of expanding the Black Sea Initiative in principle without these requirements first being met. The agreement will be terminated after July 17.

Agencies

World's largest single-train refinery commissioned in Nigeria

ABUJA

NIGERIAN President Muhammadu Buhari on Monday inaugurated the world's largest single-train refinery in the country's southwestern state of Lagos, hailing it as a significant milestone for the country's economy and a "game changer" for the petroleum products market in Africa.

Speaking at the ceremony for commissioning the Dangote Refinery which cost 19 billion U.S. dollars, Buhari emphasized the transformative impact of the refinery on Nigeria's economic prosperity, noting the public-private partnership project will not only reduce reliance on imported petroleum products but will also become a net exporter of refined petroleum products.

"This mega industry we are com-

missioning today is a clear example of what can be achieved when entrepreneurs are encouraged and supported and when an enabling environment is created for investments and for businesses to thrive," he said.

Representing a significant milestone in Nigeria's quest for self-sufficiency in the oil and gas sector, the Dangote Refinery, located in the Lekki area of Lagos state, is Africa's largest oil refinery and the world's largest single-train refinery.

Spearheaded by Nigerian billionaire Aliko Dangote, the multi-billion-dollar project has been years in the making and is poised to reshape Nigeria's economy.

The refinery, with a refining capacity of 650,000 barrels per day, is expected to position Nigeria as a major exporter of high-quality petroleum products, further bolstering the country's foreign exchange earnings, said Buhari.

Aliko Dangote, president of the Dangote Group, said in his address that the first prod-

uct of the refinery will be available in the market by the end of July or the beginning of August this year.

"We have built a refinery with a capacity to process 650,000 barrels per day (plus 900,000 tonnes of polypropylene) in a single train - which is the largest in the world. We have selected the best plants and equipment and the latest technologies from across the world," Dangote said.

He said the refinery is designed to produce high-quality and high-value products including gasoline, diesel and aviation kerosene, which will not only meet Nigeria's demand but also become a key player in the African and global market. **Xinhua**

Scores of women kidnapped in Cameroon's restive Anglophone region

YAOUNDE

SCORES of women have been abducted in Cameroon's English-speaking region of Northwest where an armed separatist conflict is underway, security and local sources said on Monday.

The women were abducted by separatist fighters in Big Babanki village of the region after they staged a protest demonstration against a tax imposed on them

by the fighters, a family source of one of the kidnapped women told Xinhua by phone. "They are about 50 women in captivity. They are between 30 and 70 years old. Some of them were shot in the legs and beaten by the fighters. They were kidnapped over the weekend and they are still in captivity," the source said and asked not to be named for security reasons. A propaganda video released by separatists

showed the kidnapped women in distress sitting on the bare surface in an undisclosed location.

"They say they want to fight Amba (separatist fighters). We have already captured them. We do not yet know their fate. It might be death," a voice is heard saying in the video. Local officials said a search and rescue mission by security forces in the region was in progress. **Agencies**

Aid agencies urge global donors to fund humanitarian response in Horn of Africa

NAIROBI

MORE than 20 aid agencies on Monday called on global donors to address the impact of climate change in the Horn of Africa by making financial pledges required to fully fund the humanitarian response in the region.

The agencies said the funding will help address immediate and long-term needs across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, where millions of people are trapped in a devastating cycle of hunger and displacement.

"We therefore call on donors to take immediate steps to break the cycle of short-term, inadequate funding to end preventable deaths and suffering in the Horn of Africa," the orga-

nizations said in a joint statement issued in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. The statement was made ahead of a high-level pledging conference for the Horn of Africa scheduled for Wednesday in New York.

According to the agencies, increasingly frequent, severe, and pervasive climate-fueled disasters are affecting communities in catastrophic ways.

They said an ongoing drought, in convergence with other shocks such as unusually high food and commodity prices and conflicts, has destroyed lives and livelihoods and driven record levels of humanitarian needs.

A recent United Nations report suggests that in 2022, an estimated 43,000 people

died as a result of the drought in Somalia, half of them most likely children under the age of five, and 5 million people were internally displaced in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, including 2.3 million by disasters and 2.7 million by conflicts and violence.

More than 35 million people require urgent assistance across the three countries, with food and water, health, protection, and education needs among the most severe, especially for groups with different vulnerabilities, such as women, children, and the elderly.

The agencies called on donors to ensure a balanced distribution of resources across sectors to enable humanitarian actors to address the full range of humanitarian needs affecting

communities in the Horn of Africa where an estimated 23.8 million people are facing hunger.

"People are still suffering and the death toll continues to rise in the Horn of Africa. Dry conditions continue to affect most areas, while localized heavy rains have led to dangerous flash floods in some parts of Ethiopia and Somalia, as the parched ground cannot absorb water," the aid agencies said.

The agencies said it's critical for humanitarian actors to continue scaling up their response at this time, but funds have already started depleting, and breaks in the funding pipeline are forcing organizations to scale down assistance to people in need.

SPORT



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James looks down in the closing minutes of a loss to the Denver Nuggets in the second half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference Final series Monday, May 22, 2023, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo)

LeBron posts historic first half, questions future after Los Angeles Lakers eliminated

LOS ANGELES

LeBron James began the final game of his 20th NBA season with the highest-scoring postseason half of his matchless NBA career.

He ended the night by questioning how much longer he plans to chase history after his Los Angeles Lakers were swept out of the Western Conference finals.

James set a personal record with 31 points in the first half of Game 4 on Monday night, but he missed two potential tying shots in the final minute as the Denver Nuggets ended the Lakers' season with a 113-111 victory.

The 38-year-old James finished with 40 points, 10 rebounds, nine assists and immense frustration after Los Angeles' remarkable late-season surge ended with four consecutive defeats. Although the top scorer in NBA history spoke about himself as part of the Lakers next season, James also said he hasn't made up his mind.

"We'll see what happens going forward," James said in the final answer of his postgame news conference. "I don't know. I don't know. I've got a lot to think about, to be honest. Just for me personally going forward with the game of basketball, I've got a lot to think about."

James is under contract for \$46.9 million next season with the Lakers, but he is in charge of his future after surpassing Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's career scoring record earlier this year. He hasn't previously suggested much personal conflict about finishing his contract alongside Anthony Davis, and his play hasn't significantly declined after two decades in the NBA — although his health has grown less sturdy, particularly in his balky feet and ankles.

"It's all about availability for me and keeping my mind sharp, and things of that nature," James said. "Being present on the floor, being present in the locker room and bus rides and plane rides, things of that nature. It's challenging, for sure. It was a very challenging season for me, for our ballclub, and obviously we know whatever went on early on (in the Lakers' 2-10 start to the season). It was cool, a pretty cool ride."

James missed a month of the regular season with a foot injury down the stretch, but he returned with a series of stellar playoff performances while the Lakers knocked off second-seeded Memphis and eliminated defending champion Golden State. That didn't matter much to James, whose frustration broke through at several points after Game 4.

"I don't like to say it's a successful year, because I don't play for anything besides winning championships at this point in my career," James said. "You know, I don't get a kick out of making a conference (finals) appearance. I've done it a lot, and it's not fun to me to not be able to be a part of getting to the (NBA) Finals."

In his NBA-record 282nd career playoff game, James dropped 21 points in a dynamic first quarter in Game 4. He added 10 more in the second while playing nearly the entire half of a do-or-die game against the top-seeded Nuggets.

But James had only nine points on 4-of-12 shooting in the second half, and he missed two chances to score in the final minute. He took a strange fallaway jumper that missed badly with 26 seconds left, and his final drive to the hoop was thwarted by Denver's Jamal Murray and Aaron Gordon at the buzzer.

But the first half was vintage LeBron: He made 11 of his 13 shots and hit four 3-pointers without a miss in the highest-scoring playoff half of his career, which began in 2003 and has included four NBA championships. James added four rebounds and four assists, and he also got a technical foul after a physical exchange with Gordon when the two got locked up on the Lakers' end of the court.

James had struggled from distance previously in the series, going 3 for 19 in the first three games. He fixed his shot in Game 4 — and he even got credit for a 3-pointer in the first quarter when his lob pass to Rui Hachimura accidentally went in the basket.

James already had the highest scoring average in NBA history in elimination games (33.5 points per game) among all players with at least 10 such appearances.

After failing to win a title this year, James is clearly thinking about whether he wants to do it all again. One major obstacle to any retirement thoughts is his long-stated desire to play an NBA season alongside his son, Bronny, who will be a freshman at USC this fall and couldn't join the league until the fall of 2024 at the earliest.

"I guess I'll reflect on my career when I'm done, but I don't know," James said when asked to assess his 20th season. "The only thing I concern myself with is being available to my teammates, and I don't like the fact that I didn't play as many games as I would have liked because of injury. That's the only thing I care about, is being available to my teammates."

AP

SPORTS

Minister Pindi Chana commends Exim Bank's efforts in supporting women's golf

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Minister of Culture, Arts and Sports, Ambassador Dr. Pindi Chana, has commended Exim Bank Tanzania's efforts in supporting various women's events in the country, including sports events, while emphasizing the government's commitment to collaborate with various stakeholders in the country to improve the status of sports.

Dr. Chana highlighted the government's commitment while gracing a brief ceremony to conclude the just-ended Lugalo Ladies Open 2023 golf tournament, which was held at the Lugalo Golf Club in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. The tournament was organized by the Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU).

"In addition to commending Exim Bank Tanzania and other stakeholders who participated in making this tournament a success, I would like to take this opportunity to give you good news that the government has already begun several efforts to improve the state of golf in the country, including meeting with relevant sports stakeholders to discuss the proper ways to improve this beloved game," she said.

According to Dr. Chana, the government is looking into employing an international golf trainer in the country, following a request from golf stakeholders. She also stated that the government is directing its efforts toward improving other sports, including golf, and not just football.

The tournament involved female golfers from various clubs across the country and provided an opportunity for Exim Bank Tanzania to promote its new product, 'Supa Woman', which aims to help women manage their finances effectively and achieve their personal and professional goals.

"We are happy to support this important event for women while also aiming to build a sufficient understanding of proper



Minister of Culture, Arts and Sports, Ambassador Dr. Pindi Chana (3rd R), presents a certificate of appreciation to Exim Bank's Cluster Head Elizabeth Mayengoh (3rd L), in recognition of the bank's significant contribution in making the Lugalo Ladies Open 2023 Women's Golf Open tournament a success. The event was held over the weekend at Lugalo Golf Club in Dar es Salaam. Others include the Chairman of the Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) Lugalo Golf Club retired Brigadier General Michael Luwongo (2nd R), the President of the Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU), Queen Siraki (2nd L), and other golf stakeholders. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

financial management and saving to enable women to run their businesses professionally and ultimately avoid losses that could hinder their prosperity," said Mtenya Cheya, Head of Products and Revenue Assurance, at Exim Bank.

"Through Supa Woman, we are proud to support female athletes and recognize their great achievements in golf. We hope that our participation in this tournament will encourage more women to follow their aspirations and achieve their goals, both on and off the golf course," added Elizabeth Mayengoh, Exim Bank's Cluster Head.

Speaking at the event, the President of the Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU), Queen Siraki, also praised the government's efforts to promote sports in the country and urged Minister Dr. Chana to encourage leaders, including women parliamentarians, to participate in golf sport to increase motivation among women in the country to participate in the sport.

She further mentioned that the tournament, which

has been held for three consecutive years, was part of the celebration of International Mother's Day. The event had a positive impact on participants and stakeholders in the sport.

"Alongside the sporting benefits, participants were able to gain additional knowledge about finance and credit, which has added additional benefits for participants thanks to our sponsors, including Exim Bank," she mentioned.

Kagera Sugar plot six points in last two league games



Mecky Mexime

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KAGERA Sugar head coach Mecky Mexime has vowed to win their last two NBC Premier League games after suffering a defeat in their previous top-tier fixture.

Inconsistent Kagera Sugar head to Manungu Complex to face Mtibwa Sugar today after falling short to Tanzania Prison 1-0 on May 14.

Mtibwa have allowed six goals in the previous three games scoring one goal and winning one match in the process.

Mexime has said that every game plan is aligned with their opponents in the upcoming matches but with intensive

preparations they have made, they are ready to grab results and give a proper season send-off to their Kagera region fans and elsewhere in Tanzania.

"We still have to work harder. I'm not satisfied with the previous results and performance in general. In the upcoming two last fixtures, we have to show character to grab these six points. And that is not an overnight process, we have to work hard for that."

"We can't underestimate our opponents. We are aware they haven't won in their previous five games, but we have to be disciplined to take advantage of that. We are aware teams are in need of results given that they are in the

relegation playoffs zone."

Coach Mexime has highlighted their defensive wary and he quickly worked on it so as to achieve their goal.

"We are working on mistakes that have happened in the previous matches and we believe we will do well. It is possible, all we need is our fans to go hand in hand with us in our last games," says the former Mtibwa Sugar captain.

Kagera Sugar have won two games and lost three games in their last five games. They have guaranteed themselves to survive and remain in the Premier League for next season as other relegation playoffs teams cannot reach 35 points attained by the Sugar Millers.

Spain opens investigation into racist abuse of Vinicius

BRAZIL

SPANISH prosecutors have opened an investigation into the racist abuse hurled at Real Madrid forward Vinicius Junior as Brazil made a formal protest on Monday.

The 22-year-old Brazilian international has often been targeted by opposition fans in Spain's La Liga and was once more in a 1-0 loss at Valencia on Sunday.

The game was held up for several minutes and the referee wrote in his post-match report that shouts of "monkey" had been directed at Vinicius.

The prosecutor's office in Valencia is investigating a possible hate crime, a judicial source told AFP.

Real Madrid said earlier it had filed a complaint "in order that the facts be investigated and those responsible be held accountable".

The club said the chants, in its view, "constitute a hate crime".

Brazil formally protested to the Spanish ambassador and will lodge an official complaint with authorities in Madrid.

There is growing anger in Brazil, where the lights of the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro were turned off for one hour in solidarity with the player.

"Black and imposing," Vinicius tweeted of the darkened statue, saying he was moved and thanked followers for their support.

"But I want, above all, to inspire and bring more light to our fight," he added.

Vinicius has been racially abused at several stadiums this season in Spain. On one occasion, an effigy of him was hung from a bridge by Atletico Madrid fans.

During the Valencia match, Vinicius stood in front of home fans behind one goal and pointed to an apparent culprit. Play was delayed for several minutes in the second half.

Referee Ricardo de Burgos Bengoetxea spoke to Mestalla stadium officials, who made an announcement calling for racist insults to stop before play resumed 10 minutes later.

Spain's government sports council is analysing crowd images to root out the fan or fans responsible.

The body has in similar incidents in the past proposed a one-year stadium ban and fine of 4,000 euros (\$4,300) for those found guilty.

"Serious problem" - On a day of recriminations and soul-searching, the head of Spain's football federation said the country

had a "problem" with racism.

"As long as there is just one fan, a single undesirable, or group of undesirables who hurl insults over someone's sexual orientation, or skin colour, we have a serious problem," Luis Rubiales said.

But Real Madrid heavily criticised Rubiales, saying his refusal to ensure FIFA protocols - which suggest matches should be halted when racist abuse is heard - are upheld in Spain is exacerbating the problem.

"His inaction has resulted in the helplessness and defencelessness of our player Vinicius," said the club, which hit out at the federation for failing to "prevent the situation".

La Liga argues it has been "proactive" in previous cases of racism against Vinicius.

Vinicius was sent off in added time at the end of the game for hitting Valencia player Hugo Duro during a brawl.

Real said the match officials "made unfair decisions based on incomplete images" when Vinicius was shown a red card.

After the match, Vinicius issued a strongly worded statement saying that "today, in Brazil, Spain is known as a country of racists".

"The league that once belonged to Ronaldinho, Ronaldo, Cristiano (Ronaldo) and Messi now belongs to racists," Vinicius added.

- Solidarity -

World football and beyond have rallied around Vinicius and demanded action.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva condemned the abuse, telling a news conference at the close of the G7 summit in Hiroshima: "He was attacked. He was called a 'monkey'."

He called for the Spanish league to take "serious measures".

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said Spanish football needed to be prepared to halt matches.

"The Spanish league has a problem, and Vinicius is not the problem. Vinicius is the victim," Ancelotti said on Sunday.

"What has happened today has happened before, but not like that, it's unacceptable," he told reporters.

FIFA reiterated that stopping matches is permitted as well as players walking off the pitch in their three-step approach when racist abuse takes place.

"Full solidarity with Vinicius," FIFA president Gianni Infantino said in a statement.

AFP

Juventus deducted 10 points after initial penalty revised

MILAN

JUVENTUS on Monday were given a 10-point deduction in Serie A after a revision of their initial 15-point penalty inflicted on the club over illicit transfer activity.

The new sanction, announced by the Italian Football Federation's (FIGC) appeals court, severely dents Juventus' hopes of qualifying for next season's Champions League, pushing them out of the top four with two matches remaining this season.

Juventus have competed in Europe's elite competition in each of the past 11 seasons dating back to 2012.

In April, Italy's highest sporting court, the Sports Guarantee Board, revoked Juve's 15-point penalty inflicted by the FIGC's appeals court and sent the case for a new judgement.

It asked the appeals court to revise punishments handed down to the club and some key figures, including former vice-chairman Pavel Nedved who was acquitted on Monday.

Juventus said they "reserve the right" to appeal the latest decision to the Sports Guarantee Board.

"While not ignoring the need for urgency, which Juventus has never shied away from during the proceedings, it is emphasised that these are facts that still have to be evaluated by a judge," the Turin giants said on Twitter.

Long bans given to former chairman Andrea Agnelli, ex-CEO Maurizio Arrivabene and sporting directors Federico Cherubini and Fabio Paratici were upheld in April.

But Juventus' hopes that the points

deduction would be completely cancelled were quashed on Monday.

Massimiliano Allegri's men, who were second in the top flight, fall to seventh in the table.

Juve are now five points behind fourth-placed AC Milan and host the losing Champions League semi-finalists in their penultimate match of the campaign this weekend.

Juve then visit Udinese in their final match of the season on June 4.

The 'Old Lady' had a chance to move within two points of Milan when they took on Empoli shortly after the points deduction was announced on Monday.

But they slipped to a surprising 4-1 defeat to cap a miserable day for the two-time European champions.

The decision by the FIGC and the result at Empoli also mean that Lazio, who replaced Juve in second place, have qualified for the Champions League group stage for the first time since 2020 and only the second time since 2007.

Inter Milan, who moved into third, Atalanta and Roma have all also jumped one place in the Serie A standings.

Juventus are also embroiled in criminal proceedings over their accounting practices with 12 current and former key club figures including Agnelli potentially facing trial.

According to Italian news agencies a high court hearing on October 26 will decide whether any eventual trial will be held in Turin, where the investigation has taken place, or in either Milan or Rome.

Smart signings and 'The Swarm' - breaking Newcastle's 20-year Champions League drought



Big signings, transfer tension and Newcastle against the world: How Eddie Howe sealed a top four finish. Agencies

By Luke Edwards

ST James' Park will host Champions League football for the first time in 20 years after Newcastle's goalless draw with Leicester City secured a top four finish.

Eddie Howe's team have been one of the success stories of the campaign, rising from an 11th placed finish last season to challenge the Premier League's established elite.

Newcastle have a team to make their city dream again, and these are the key decisions on and off the pitch that set them on their way.

"Beating AC Milan to capture Sven Botman

Newcastle identified Botman as one of the best centre-back prospects in Europe when Mike Ashley was still keeping a tight hold of the purse strings. They failed to persuade Lille to sell the 23-year-old in January 2022 and were worried about AC Milan gazumping them. But a charm offensive was launched and Botman was impressed with Newcastle's sales pitch.

Even though the Italians matched their £35 million bid, the player decided he wanted to play on Tyneside. It illustrated to everyone that Newcastle could compete with the biggest names in Europe to sign top players.

"The signing of Alexander Isak When Newcastle first made their move for Isak, as revealed by Telegraph Sport in July, they were quoted an asking price of more than £80 million by Real Sociedad. It was too much and a collective decision was made to look at other options.

It was a blow with everyone at the club unanimous he would be a perfect signing. It was also a reminder of Newcastle's limited spending power, despite all the talk of them being the richest club in the world.

Things changed in the wake of a 3-3 draw against Manchester City on August 21. Chairman Yasir Al-Rumayyan was in town for the game, which was not only a sign of how much progress Newcastle had made under Howe but also of the fragility of Callum Wilson. The England international was taken off with a hamstring injury which left Newcastle with Chris Wood as the only other centre forward option in the squad.

A hastily arranged recruitment meeting was called, which included Al-Rumayyan. Howe made his pitch, joined by director of football Dan Ashworth, explaining why they wanted Isak. Ashworth was given the green light to travel to San Sebastian and make the deal happen, which he eventually did for a price of £54 million with another £10 million in add ons.

Despite an injury-plagued start Isak has been superb, scoring 10 goals in 20 appearances, and drawing strong comparisons with his idol Thierry Henry.

"A new tactical system It has been dubbed 'The Swarm' but Newcastle completely changed the way they wanted to play during a particularly gruelling and intense pre-season. Howe's side are relent-

less, pressing high up the pitch and looking to overwhelm opponents with speed and numbers. The idea is to "swarm all over" opposition teams, hunting the ball in packs, tackling with intent and attacking with varying angles and passing patterns. The team is in a constant state of motion. It is like trying to contain a swarm of black and white wasps and it grinds teams down.

"Newcastle against the world

This is where we need to pause. The decision to buy Newcastle United by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) was driven many believe by a desire to "sportswash" the country's image, raise its international profile and cleanse its status on the global stage. It is a so-called "soft power" grab utilising the Premier League's global reach.

The more successful Newcastle are, the more favourably it reflects on a country which is still condemned by Amnesty International for human rights abuses. This, though, is not something that worries Newcastle supporters on a day-to-day basis. Although the Saudis control the club with their 80 per cent stake, they have remained largely in the background. Al-Rumayyan conducts intermittent "progress meetings" with heads of departments but Newcastle is just one part of his portfolio of investments to manage. It is the British based members of the consortium who are front of house.

The criticism of Newcastle's ownership model has fed into a perception that Newcastle are disliked and unpopular. It has helped create a them against us attitude and Geordies are good at fighting their corner. The new Newcastle United is spiky, confrontational and confident. They want to compete and if that upsets people, no problem.

Some of that has been generated by the constant sniping at who owns them and why. But it has, in truth, always been part of the Geordie mentality. The rest of the country has always tended to mock Newcastle and its people and its football team, but they have always been incredibly proud of the city and where they come from.

"January transfer window tension Newcastle have spent a lot of money but not an extravagant amount in the three transfer windows under PIF. The wage bill remains considerably less than the established

members of the Big Six and was also below the likes of Everton, Aston Villa and Leicester last year.

For all the talk of "buying their success" it is worth highlighting that the £250 million spent on new players is dwarfed by several clubs over the same period of time they have been in charge.

But in January, Newcastle were in a predicament. Howe and Ashworth had argued the squad needed more depth and that injuries could derail their campaign. Darren Eales, the chief executive, warned that Financial Fair Play rules made it extremely difficult to spend that month.

There was some tension and when Chris Wood (£12 million) and Jonjo Shelvey (nominal fee) were both allowed to leave for Nottingham Forest to reduce the wage bill, Howe was not overly pleased. His squad, rather than strengthened, actually looked weaker at the end of the window despite the arrival of Anthony Gordon from Everton for £45 million that month.

Howe did not want either player to leave. He also refused any suggestion that a player like Allan Saint-Maximin could be sold to bring in funds to reinvest. He only sanctioned the sale of Wood and Shelvey because the players asked to leave.

It is a gamble that has worked. Newcastle will have far more room for manoeuvre in this summer window because of the budget and wage restrictions imposed in January, and as a result will be extremely ambitious in landing their targets over the next three months.

"Carabao Cup run and fallout

The scenes in London in the build up to the final against Manchester United were special, with tens of thousands of fans travelling to the capital and "occupying" Trafalgar Square. But the game itself brought a familiar feeling of disappointment and anti-climax in a straightforward 2-0 defeat.

Privately, Howe and his coaching staff were a little exasperated by the clamour for tickets and the constant talk about Wembley in the build up, feeling the players had become too distracted. It served to highlight how "Newcastle were not a club used to success" as one senior source put it to Telegraph Sport, with defeats to Liverpool and Manchester City either side of that final making it their worst run of the season.

It is something that has occupied

Howe's mind since. With Champions League football next season, Newcastle will have more games and even more distractions. Domestic cup competitions will still be vitally important. Squad rotation will be critical to prevent burnout.

The squad, as it stands, is not big or good enough to fight on four fronts, which is likely to lead to the most money spent under the new owners in a single window as they approach the summer.

"The power of a city

It is not just a football club that has reawakened since the takeover in October 2021, as an entire city has stirred and now strides confidently forward again. Every game at St James' Park feels like an occasion. The city centre bars and clubs are also packed with those who want to join in but cannot get hold of tickets. The expansion of St James' Park cannot come soon enough.

Newcastle United are the most obvious and potent expression of civic pride on Tyneside, and this energy that has been taken into St James' Park on a matchday. The atmosphere, led by Wor Flags' displays, is intimidating and hostile, and it is no coincidence only Liverpool and Arsenal have won at "the Cathedral on the Hill" since January 2022.

"Staying calm under pressure Newcastle is an emotional football club, but Howe has managed it superbly. Being able to block out the noise, both inside and outside the football club, has kept the team and staff focused on what needs to be done - and it is always trying to win the next game.

It is very easy to be distracted as Newcastle manager, either believing the hype or become bogged down by perceived slights and criticisms from a fanbase infamously described as "bi-polar" by former goalkeeper and now Academy director Steve Harper. Howe has avoided that and credit, too, must also go to the owners.

The appointment of Dan Ashworth as director of football was arguably their most important decision outside of naming Howe manager. Eales has been equally impressive as chief executive.

The owners have, to a large extent, stepped back and let them run the football club for them. It is a well run club and that is why, in the space of just 18 months, Newcastle have turned a relegation battle into a top four finish.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Smart signings and 'The Swarm' – breaking Newcastle's 20-year Champions League drought

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Ivan Ismail receives the Colourflex Man of the Match from CEO of Petrofuel DC Caravans Cup, Girish Kumar.

Flashnet Pak Stars triumphant over Ateme SKLPSC in Petrofuel DC Caravans Cup

By Guardian Reporter

IN a rain-affected cricket Petrofuel DC Caravans Cup match between Ateme SKLPSC and Flashnet Pak Stars, the latter emerged victorious with a dominant performance.

Flashnet Pak Stars won the toss and elected to field first, a decision that paid off handsomely for them in the end.

Due to inclement weather conditions, the match was reduced to a 15-over contest. Ateme SKLPSC, batting first, aimed to set a challenging target for their opponents.

However, they faced early setbacks as the Flashnet Pak Stars' bowlers unleashed a disciplined attack.

Despite the pressure exerted by the Flashnet Pak Stars' bowlers, Ateme SKLPSC managed to steady their innings. Vikeshkumar Kerai 39*(25) displayed determination and grit, working hard to accumulate runs on the scoreboard. Ateme SKLPSC concluded their innings with a respectable total of 100 runs for the loss of 5 wickets in the allotted 15 overs.

Flashnet Pak Stars began their chase with a clear intent to achieve the target swiftly. Their openers provided a blazing start, showcasing aggressive stroke play right from the beginning. Ivan Ismail, in particular, played sensational innings, demonstrating his prowess with the bat. In just 18 balls, he amassed an unbeaten 51 runs, propelling his team's charge towards victory. Flashnet Pak Stars' batsmen maintained an aggressive approach throughout their innings, attacking the Ateme SKLPSC bowlers relentlessly.

Their strong start and powerful hitting left the opposition struggling to contain the flow of runs. Flashnet Pak Stars successfully achieved the target, scoring 72 runs without losing a single wicket in just 4.4 overs.

Ivan Ismail's outstanding knock, consisting of explosive shots and calculated aggression, proved to be the catalyst in Flashnet Pak Stars' resounding victory. His ability to find boundaries consistently and rotate the strike efficiently left Ateme SKLPSC with no answers and earned him the Colourflex Man of the Match.

The victory will undoubtedly boost Flashnet Pak Stars' confidence and bolster their position in the tournament.

Ateme SKLPSC, on the other hand, will need to regroup and analyse their performance to rectify the shortcomings before their next match. The Petrofuel DC Caravans Cup is an annual T20 Cricket competition organised by Caravans Cricket Club.

The title sponsor of this tournament is Petrofuel. Other sponsors of this tournament include Alliance Insurance, Colourflex, TATA Africa Holdings, ASAS, Rickshaw Travels, Ras Logistics, Pepsi, e-Parking, Remax, Flashnet, Aurobindo, Azania Bank, Jiuzhou and All Season Hotel.

Other sponsors are General Petroleum, Honeywell, Automark, Hisense, Oman Air, Ashton Media, Mo Assurance, Aucom & Harmonic, Car & General, Horizon Teleports, Aone Bottlers, Samsonite, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Euro Cables, VL Smart Solutions, Mobidoc, GI Logistics, Delta Africa, Samaki Samaki and Tanzania Assurance.

Yanga unafraid of USMA threat, vow to fight for the flag

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

YOUNG Africans are brimming with confidence ahead of Sunday's CAF Confederation Cup final first-leg clash against USM Alger.

Young Africans will host the first leg at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium before they travel to Algiers for the return fixture on June 3.

The Tanzanian giants are seeking to write a new page in their own history by laying their hands on a continental title for the first time. After the disappointment of crashing out of the CAF Champions League, Young Africans had a convincing road to the final.

To earn a slot in the CAF Confederation Cup, Young Africans had to do it the hard way by beating Tunisia's Club Africain 1-0 in their backyard, having been held to a goalless draw in the first leg in Dar.

Housed in Group D with US Monastir from Tunisia, TP Mazembe from DR Congo and AS de Bama of Mali, Young Africans were not the favorite to go through but they finished on top after winning four of their six matches in this stage to walk away with 13 points.

In the quarter-finals against Nigeria's Rivers United, Young Africans built a 2-0 first-leg lead on the road but were held to a goalless draw at home in Dar. However, that was enough to send them to the semi-finals.

In the last four, they outclassed Marumo Gallants with a convincing 4-1 aggregate victory, winning both home and away ties in Dar and South Africa.

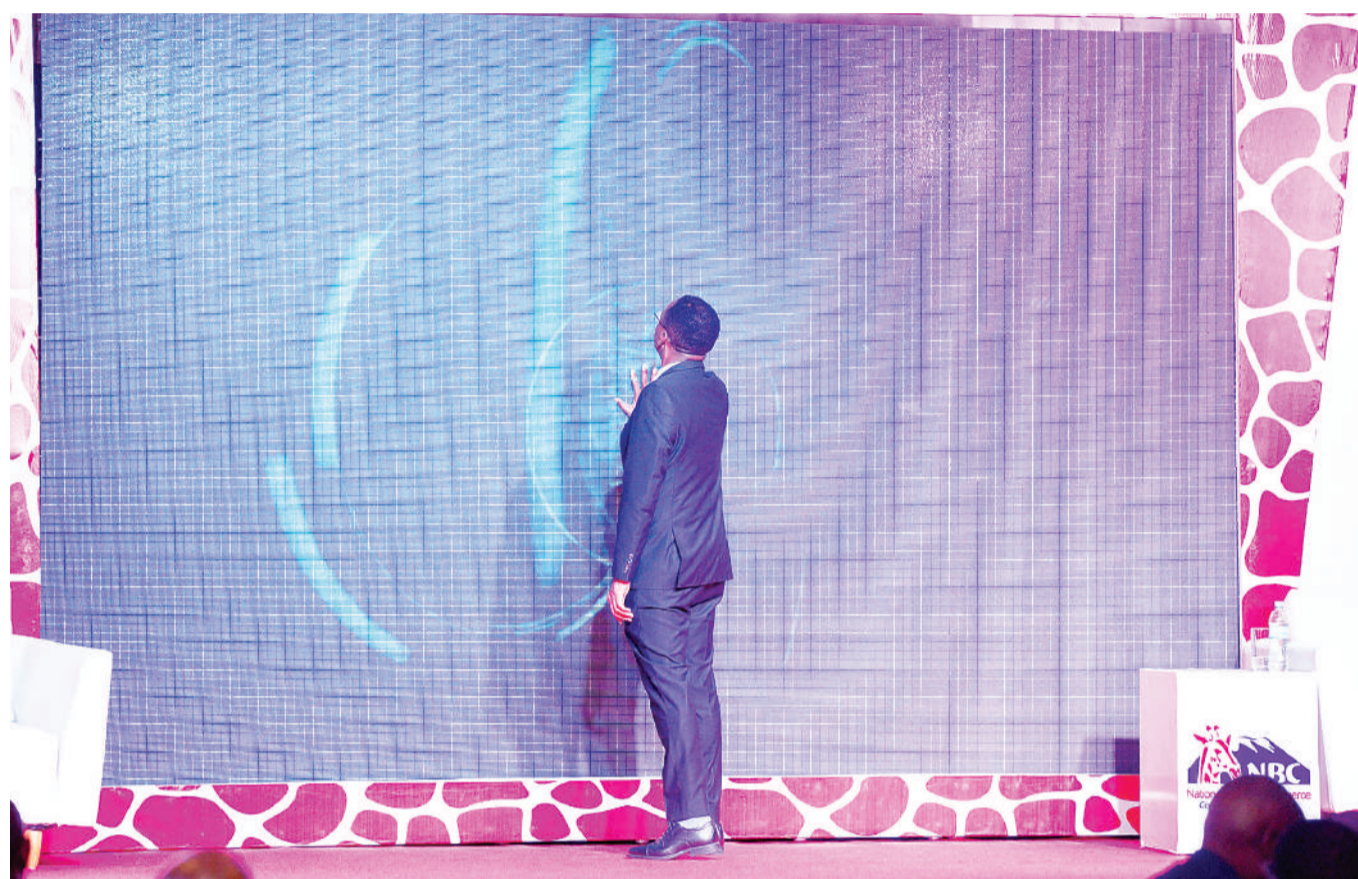
They now turn their guns on USM Alger whom they faced in the CAF Confederation Cup Group stage in 2018, and hope they can have one more hurrah and clinch the crown together with the prize money for the winner which has been increased from USD 1,250,000 to USD 2,000,000.

While speaking to the media on Monday afternoon, Young Africans vice president Arafat Haji said the players are in high spirits and ready to fight for the Tanzanian flag in the showdown with the Algerians as they seek to make history.

He said: "Fortunately, I have been part of many of these journeys with our team on the road to the final. Whenever I come in in the morning and look at my players, I always know what is happening.

"When we were in South Africa the other day, I was sitting on the sidelines and Honourable Abbas Tarimba told me that he is uncomfortable. I told him that my heart is very calm about the game and we would win because I have seen our players.

"I saw the players after that game, I saw them yesterday in Singida and I will see them again these two days and that is why I told Msigwa here that 60 million shillings is not enough. It is a great motivation, not only for the players but all of us who are in Yanga at the moment, we want this motivation to be a part of our history and we will go to protect the history and honor of the country."



NBC Chief Financial Officer Waziri Barnabas presses a button to officially launch the registration of the fourth season of the NBC Dodoma Marathon during a brief ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The marathon is set to take place on July 23rd in Dodoma, with the aim of raising funds to fight cervical cancer and providing education sponsorship for midwifery students to improve maternal and child health. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

NBC Dodoma Marathon 2023 registration officially launched in Dar

By Guardian Correspondent

NBC Bank has officially launched registration for its annual NBC Dodoma Marathon, now in its fourth season, which is slated to take place in Dodoma on July 23, this year.

The main objective of the marathon is to raise funds for the fight against cervical cancer, as well as to provide education funding for students studying midwifery to improve maternal health.

Speaking at the launch event held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, NBC Chief Financial Officer Waziri Barnabas said that in addition to the goal of supporting the fight against cervical cancer, the marathon would also include a second important objective of supporting maternal health through education funding for midwifery students in collaboration with Benjamin Mkapa Foundation.

"Today, we are launching registration for this year's marathon and the good news is that NBC Dodoma Marathon has added a second agenda to increase the value of the event. Previously, we had only one goal, which was to contribute to the fight against

cervical cancer in collaboration with ORCI, but due to the success we have achieved, we felt the need to add another new agenda to contribute to improving maternal health through education funding for midwifery students, in collaboration with a new partner, the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation," he said.

According to Barnabas, through funding for midwifery education students, the marathon will help address the shortage of midwives and thus reduce maternal deaths during childbirth.

"We are also continuing our strategy in the fight against cervical cancer, where we have already collected more than Tsh. 500 million that helped reach the cervical cancer screening for more than 23,500 women and the treatment of more than 1,300 women. We are proud of these successes," Barnabas said, calling on the community to participate in the marathon to support the efforts.

Barnabas also thanked the various organizations and companies such as Sanlam, Jubilee General Insurance, Garda World, Cheknocrafts, Icea Lions Insurance, Metropolitan Life Insurance, Strategies Insurance, Hans Paul, SBC-Pepsi, and Aramex for their sponsorship to make the marathon a success.

Meanwhile, the Director of the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI), Julius Mwailelaga, said that the institute is pleased to participate in the marathon in Dodoma once again after achieving significant success

through previous events.

"Our goal is to continue to provide more education on cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is the leading cause of most cancer-related deaths in women in Tanzania. The encouraging thing is that this cancer can be prevented and treated if detected early," he said.

The Director of Programs from the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation thanked the bank for its partnership, which will help provide funding to educate more midwives and improve health services for mothers and children.

"The shortage of midwives is still a big problem. We thank NBC Bank for supporting us in this and urge Tanzanians to participate in this marathon to save the lives of mothers and children," he said.

The Vice President of Athletic Tanzania (AT), William Kallaghe, said that elite local and international athletes have already confirmed their participation in the event, adding that the marathon has already been included in the calendar of major athletics events worldwide, which will attract even more participants from outside the country.

Registration for the NBC Dodoma Marathon is now officially open and participants can register through the website www.nbc.co.tz and contribute Tsh. 30,000 for individual registration or Tsh. 25,000 for groups of twenty or more.

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

EATV WEDNESDAY

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 MJADALA (I)
13:30 Movie
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 Movie
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
16:00 Hot Spot
16:30 Zite Kuntu
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (I)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid Week Movie
23:00 KURASA
23:05 Club Bangers

UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
14:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

HAPPY, WHATEVER THAT DOESN'T OFFEND YOU!

