



ACCOUNTABILITY



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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured yesterday shortly after unveiling a plaque when laying the foundation stone for the Solya Girls Secondary School project in Manyoni District, Singida Region, yesterday. Photo: PMO

PM cautions district level leaders over public funds

By Guardian Reporter

RECKLESS leaders in high-level public offices have been thwarting the implementation of projects in the health, transport infrastructure, water and education, thus complicating developments efforts, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has cautioned.

Public officials who fail to fulfill their responsibilities effectively in project implementation and occasion the loss of funds will not be tolerated, he said, reacting to that carried various messages in challenges facing them, intoning that leaders at the regional and district level failed to address them.

The premier was visiting Manyoni District in Singida Region, when he pointed a finger at some leaders at the grassroots level, projecting their interests and thus affecting the implantation of various development projects.

With this trend, the government will have to look closely at grassroots leadership as, despite the government allocating enough funds to implement projects in their areas, they aren't working to deliver on the government's promises, he said.

Manyoni town residents had blocked the road to push the premier addresses their concerns, displaying a number of banners, some castigating poor roads to reach Manyoni district hospital. Others referred to land disputes, charging

expectant mothers during delivery and lack of identity cards for petty traders, among others, to which the premier said that the responsible functionaries play with funds allocated for such projects.

He said the problem was too big in Manyoni than in some other areas he had visited, telling the audience that he would report the situation to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for further measures while directing the Tanzania Urban and Rural Roads Agency (TARURA) in the region to supervise the construction of the contested roads and remove uncommitted contractors.

District authorities must ensure that expectant mothers are not charged during delivery as the government has issued enough funds to cover such expenses, he pointedly instructed, pointing out that the government had issued 4bn/- for the construction of girls secondary schools in various regions including Singida. This will enable the group to access quality education without the dangers of attending day schools, enhancing their chances of achieving their educational dreams, he stated.

He said President Samia wants to see Tanzanians get all basic social services including education, health, water and communication infrastructures including roads, so people should continue to have confidence in their government as it has mobilised itself to make sure it serves

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Ex-CDF Mabeyo hails patriotism

By Guardian Reporter

RETIRED Chief of Defense Forces (CDF) General Venance Mabeyo has challenged Tanzanians to love the country and serve it with patriotism so that it achieves the desired development goals.

He made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the official farewell ceremony hosted within the General Abdallah Twalipo barracks at Mgulani, saying despite being retired, his heart is with that institution, and the country.



I will always be proud of having served the army as well as being a diplomat

The function was attended by General Jacob John Mkunda—the new Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) as well as other top retired army officers like Major Gen John Mbungu, who has for years headed the anti-corruption bureau.

Others are former chief of staff Lieutenant-General Yacoub Mohamed (appointed ambassador to Turkey), Major General Ramadhan Mrangira, Major General Jacob Kingu, Brigadier General Victor Kisiri, Brigadier General Fredy Kivamba and Brigadier General Athanas Mbonye.

Gen Mabeyo told well-wishers: "My heart is in Tanzania and I advise my fellow Tanzanians to love the country. If you love your country you will serve it diligently and it will attain its desired development goals."

He added: "I have left the army but my heart is still in the army, I will continue to be in the army, I still love the army and I love my nation, I will continue to serve it until my last drop."

Directing his remarks at recent grotesque

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Climate adaptation for African states dwarfing health spending

By Guardian Correspondent

AFRICAN countries are drawing up plans for measures to adapt to global heating that will cost them five times what they are doing in healthcare, a UK charity operating in 59 countries has declared.

Tearfund, a non-governmental organisation based in Teddington in Britain, described as a Christian charity that partnered with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries, conducted an analysis of budgets of 11 countries whose population exceeds 350m in total to reach that conclusion. The analysis lays bare the huge financial toll of taking action to avert the severe environmental consequences of global heating, it said, after comparing plans drawn up by Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea,

Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania and Sudan against their health budgets.

Its report says that expected climate adaptation costs for Eritrea amount to 22.7 per cent of its GDP, compared with 4.46 per cent for healthcare costs. Mauritania will need to spend more than four times as much on climate adaptation as it does on healthcare, at 13.40 per cent compared with 3.3 per cent.

The sampled 11 countries on average emit 27 times less per person than the global average, it said, underlining that a measurement of global liability found the US inflicting more than \$1.9tn (£1.6tn) in damage to other countries from the effects of its greenhouse gas emissions.

Adapting to climate change involves building higher sea walls, capturing rainwater for irrigation and moving to drought-tolerant crops, it cited observations of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) affirming that Sub-Saharan Africa already experiences one-third of the world's droughts and is extremely vulnerable to temperatures and extreme weather because of its dependence on rain-fed agriculture.

East Africa is currently suffering its worst drought in a generation, with 20m people at risk of severe hunger, it stated, with Elizabeth Myendo, the NGO's disaster management coordinator for eastern and southern Africa, saying acute malnutrition and lack of clean



EAC logistics webinar decries transport bills

By Guardian Reporter

EAST African Community (EAC) member states have been urged to take deliberate actions to reduce the cost of transport and logistics in the region to ensure exports compete in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and in the global market.

Dr Merian Sebunya (pictured), the chairperson of the Uganda National Logistics Platform, a component of the country's Private Sector Foundation, made this appeal at an EABC-TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) online seminar on corridor performance and impact on EAC business competitiveness. EAC transport costs are pegged at \$18 per

km per container against international best practices of \$1 per km per container, she said, noting that transport and logistics costs compose 35 percent to 42 percent of product pricing, which is high compared to 8.0 percent in Asian countries.

This cost structure has negatively impacted the competitiveness of the EAC bloc and trade balance, she stated, underlining the need to improve export competitiveness and production capacities of the EAC bloc so that imported containers are returned with a massive tonnage of EAC exports.

The discussion focused on the EAC Trade and Investment Report for 2020, showing that EAC exports globally stood at \$16.2bn while imports reached \$35.6bn, a \$19.4bn negative balance of trade.

Agayo Ogambi, chief executive officer of the Shippers Council of Eastern Africa, said Mombasa port throughput declined by 0.9-percent in 2020, with a total of 34.13m tons of cargo handled, 1.8m tons lower than the 35.9m tons attained in 2019.

Containerized cargo also declined by four percent from 1.4m tons in 2019 to 1.35m tons, to which the shipping executive appealed to government agencies to strike a balance between the services rendered and the fees charged, as outlined in Article 6 of the trade facilitation agreement of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Emmanuel Imaniranz, a consultant with the Rwanda Ministry of Infrastructure working with the Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority said

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Ex-CDF Mabeyo hails patriotism

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incidents of conjugal murders and parenthood as a whole, he said what is important is for heads of families to ensure good parenting. Good citizens are those who were raised properly, he declared.

"As parents, it is important to take part in your children's up-bringing. Violent incidents happening in our society today are a result of poor parental care," he asserted.

The veteran military commander who has also published a book emphasised on planning well on everything in life, which includes organizing daily responsibilities so as to attain intended goals.

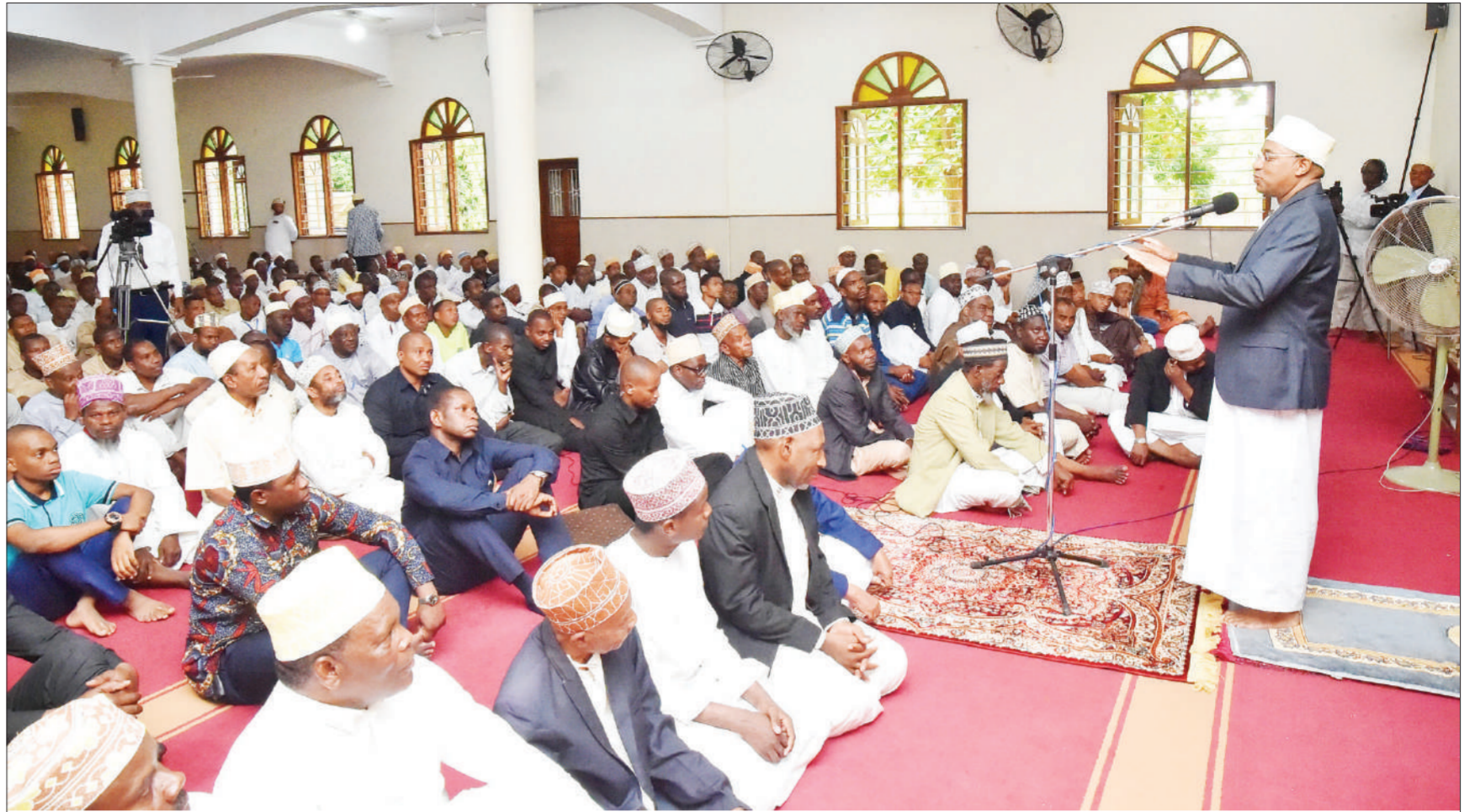
"We in the army always insist on time management; there is no single minute that should be lost doing nothing. If you have time to play with,

then you aren't thinking of the future. You always need to plan and if you rest, make sure you do something, may be take some leisure, or think out on something good," he elaborated.

The retired CDF noted that while in the army, he got time to write a book, which wasn't easy as it required commitment and proper planning.

Lt Gen Mohamed said his journey in the army has been long but with a lot of achievements and was proud of it. "The military is still strong and with the new leadership it will remain firm, what is important is for the remaining ones to give cooperation to the new Chief of Defense Forces for him to develop all the good things and create more," he specified.

"I will always be proud of having served the army as well as being a diplomat," he added.



Zanzibar President Alhaj Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has a word with his fellow Muslim faithful shortly after Friday prayers at Mubarak Mazrui Mombasa Mosque in Unguja's West B District yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Climate adaptation for African states dwarfing health spending

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water is putting intolerable strain on hospitals and clinics in the region.

Elaborating, she said that entire communities have been forced to leave their homes in search of food, leaving them more vulnerable to disease outbreaks and unable to access local health services, while the climate crisis will only worsen and governments will have to find the money somewhere to help people adapt. "I fear that crucial services like healthcare will suffer unless rich countries deliver the climate finance they promised."

Adapting to climate change was a key feature of the Paris agreement in 2015. But a pledge made in 2009 by wealthy nations to deliver \$100bn a year from 2020 to 2025 to help low-income countries with mitigation has still not been fully met, officials say.

At the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow last year, countries agreed only to launch a two-year effort to define a global goal on adaptation, leaving further details vague, whose overall expectations have been derailed by changing world trade and government spending challenges due to the outbreak of the Ukraine conflict.

Late last year, wealthy nations came up with new pledges of about \$960m a year, but the amounts promised are well below the \$70bn a year that NGOs say developing countries are estimated to need at present. The amount required is likely to rise to

\$300bn a year by 2030, on the basis of affirmations by United Nations agencies.

Tearfund called on the UK government, which still holds the COP presidency, to ensure the promised \$100bn a year is delivered, with 50 per cent allocated for adaptation, which experts say is unlikely, as the Conservative government wishes to align aid expenditure with overall strategic objectives and bilateral understanding.



...entire communities have been forced to leave their homes in search of food, leaving them more vulnerable to disease outbreaks and unable to access local health services, while the climate crisis will only worsen and governments will have to find the money somewhere to help people adapt

Kenya fuel prices for July to remain unchanged after fears of another increase

NAIROBI

A reprieve from an expected fuel price increase for Kenyans. Kenya's president Uhuru Kenyatta on Thursday rolled out a fresh round of fuel subsidies in a bid to prevent a rise in prices at the pump.

The Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Epra) was expected to further raise fuel prices to a new record high after the Treasury announced that it was gradually withdrawing the fuel subsidy to ease pressure on government coffers.

But now a litre of petrol will remain at the current price despite the recent rise in the cost of oil. The move eliminates fears of another hike as Kenyans grapple with the rising cost of other essential goods.

It is also a sharp turn from the words of Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani who had said in June that the continuation of the subsidy kitty could imperil Kenya's plans to cut debt accumulation prompting the push to remove it gradually within the current financial year.

"The cost of fuel subsidy could eventually surpass its allocation in the national budget thus potentially escalating public debt to unsustainable levels and disrupting the government's plans to reduce rate of debt accumulation," Yatani

said then.

The increase was billed to take effect this Thursday July 14 but a last-minute change of heart and the government authorised the spending of some Sh16.67 billion (\$141m) (£120m) to retain current retail fuel prices for another 30 days.

The east African nation Kenya over the past year spent over \$860m to subsidise fuel in the face of rising prices in global market.



The cost of fuel subsidy could eventually surpass its allocation in the national budget thus potentially escalating public debt to unsustainable levels and disrupting the government's plans to reduce rate of debt accumulation

PM cautions district level leaders over public funds

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them without discrimination.

"In these circumstances, public servants are supposed to serve the people accordingly in order to attain the government's goals," he emphasised, noting that the construction of girls

schools was pivotal to reducing home burdens for girls and giving them more time to study.

The premier inspected ongoing construction work of a girls' secondary school in Solya Ward in the district, plus construction work of a building

to provide emergency services at Manyoni District Hospital billed at 300m/-.

District council director Melkizedeck Humbe said the construction of the girls' school will have two phases, costing 4bn/- upon completion, with

the capacity to enroll 600 students, for which 3bn/- has been disbursed.

"In addition to providing an opportunity to Singida Region students, the school will also reduce truancy and pregnancies as it will be a boarding school," he added.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (2nd-L, foreground) is briefed by her Malawian counterpart, Catherine Gotani Hara (L), when Southern African Development Community (SADC) member countries' Speakers toured Malawi's Parliament in the capital, Lilongwe, yesterday. Second right is the Speaker of the Zambian Parliament, Nelly Mutti. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

EAC logistics webinar decries transport bills

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the cargo throughput at the port has increased, while the transit time in the northern corridor is recovering after the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. The use of digital certificates similarly helped but transportation costs are still high, he stated.

Data from the northern corridor

transport observatory, monitoring 40 indicators of performance such as transit time, productivity and efficiency, costs, volume and capacity and intra-regional trade projects that improvement of infrastructure, automation and interconnectivity are set to reduce transport costs. Nearly 66 percent of East African cargo uses the northern corridor, he stated.

Melchior Barantandikiye, head of the central corridor observatory, said a reduction in the number of weighbridges from nine to three and road tolls from \$16 per 100 kilometers to \$10 per 100 kilometers would improve the performance of the central corridor, pointing out that 80 percent of cargo in the central corridor is transported by

road. John Mathenge, managing director of the Tanzania branch of the Swiss logistics firm Viaservice Ltd, explained that logistics is a business enabler, thus the need for regional holistic approaches and vision on the competitiveness of the transport and logistics sector to reduce the cost of doing business in the EAC zone.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (2nd-R) presents an award to National Insurance Corporation director of marketing and customer service Yessaya Mwakifulefulu on Wednesday after NIC led the list of winners in the Insurance Sector category at the just-ended 46th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

‘More than 1,900 poor households voluntarily quit Tasaf programme’

By Felister Peter

MORE than 1,900 poor households have voluntarily quitted the poverty reduction program implemented by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), Executive Director, Ladislaus Mwamanga said on Friday.

However, over 158,000 households which have their welfare improved are also ready to quit the programme, he added.

He made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking at the launch of the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) evaluation report. The report was completed in 2019 but its launch was postponed due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The government had already started to use data and information contained in the report.

Mwamanga said the programme has recorded positive impacts in the education and health sectors whereas the number of children enrolment at schools increased without additional expenditure.

“Families have been able to support their children’s education; the numbers of children passing their national examinations and joining Form One, Form Five and university studies have increased. There were a total of 277 students from poor households who were selected to join universities in 2019,” Mwamanga stated.

He said most of the supported families have established small businesses to boost their income. The businesses include livestock keeping, poultry farming, agriculture and mini shops.

Khamis Haji Juma, from the Office of the Second Vice-President in Zanzibar, said the evaluation provides a real picture on development of the PSSN programme. He said since its core target was to reduce poverty, it is impressive to see that the targets have been achieved as most of the beneficiaries have their welfare improved.

“We appreciate and acknowledge efforts being taken by both Presidents, Samia Suluhu Hassan and Zanzibar’s Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi in the fight against poverty. In Zanzibar, the health, education and business sectors have greatly improved,” said Juma.

Michelle Zin, Task Team Leader from the World Bank said that findings of the survey indicates that most beneficiaries use the money wisely with most households directing the funds on children’s education, health and food.

There are some who have managed to establish income generating activities, he added.

Zin said: “Without PSSN, there would have been 2 million more poor people in the country. PSSN is a success and one of the best performing programmes globally.”

PSSN improves housing and living condition among beneficiaries whereas they have been able to use better roofing materials and drinking water sources and solar for lightening.

The government is implementing the PSSN project through TASAF targeting to improve the lives of vulnerable families and to bring social services closer to the people.

Without PSSN, there would have been 2 million more poor people in the country. PSSN is a success and one of the best performing programmes globally

Chief Secretary tells govt officials: Manage public funds more firmly

By Guardian Correspondent

CHIEF Secretary Amb. Hussein Kattanga has called on government officials to continue with their supervision of public funds, stressing that they should not hesitate to take disciplinary and/or legal steps against all who will be found to embezzle public funds.

Amb Kattanga gave the directives Thursday night when opening a regular meeting with among others; Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries and Regional Administrative Secretaries at Dar es Salaam State House that discussed

various issues and exchange strategies and experiences in the performance of their duties.

At the meeting officials gathered discussed the assessment report on the system regarding planning, monitoring and implementing government business as well as giving their views and advice that aim to improve the system.

“Views and advice given will be analysed in depth to enable the government to improve its systems,” he said.

He added: “From this meeting you have been reminded about your responsibilities as accounting

officers in the management of public resources, various resolutions reached and agreed upon at the meeting must be implemented and should be incorporated in the work plan for implementation,” Amb Kattanga said.

He added that he hopes that all will come out of the meeting with wide understanding in regard to their responsibilities as government senior officials and will use the experience and strategies gained for better implantation of their duties and strengthen them as well as improving good governance and accountability in the government.

Amb Kattanga said that the meeting also enabled them to get a better understanding of the population and Housing Census exercise slated for August 23 this year and that its implementation will enable the government to implement the country economic plans for the benefit of the people.

Director General of Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA), Plasduce Mbossa, said from the meeting they now have better understanding that there are various issues that need to be rectified so as they conduct business more freely without affecting the institutions.

Dar es Salaam Regional Administrative Secretary, Hassan Rugwa said the meeting was important to them as its main aim was to enhance achievements in regard to government business so as to ensure government goals are attained.

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TEN universities have confirmed to participate in universities exhibitions which are scheduled to start on Monday whereby students who wish to study abroad will get instant enrollment.

Among top universities which have confirmed to participate under the umbrella of Global Education Link (GEL) are MM University, Sharda, CT, Geometry, GELISM, Lovely Professional University and VIT of Shennai India.

Other universities that will participate in the exhibitions at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam come from India, Iran, Cyprus, Turkey, Georgia, Canada, Australia, Russia, United State of America and United Kingdom.

Speaking to this paper, GEL Director, Abdulmalik Mollel said the exhibitions which are coordinated by Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) is scheduled to start on Monday and will be closed on Saturday.

Mollel said apart from abroad universities, other participants will be local universities and higher learning institutions who will show their products to students who wish to join universities. “Global Education Link which is the largest overseas education agent will participate fully because our aim is to help form six leavers who would wish to study abroad get immediate enrolment during the exhibitions,” said Mollel.

10 universities determined on participation in GEL pavilion

Either, he added that during the exhibitions, GEL will provide various useful information to youth who wish to study in abroad universities regarding types of courses they need, university qualities and the university environment so that they can make the right decisions.

“We are going to provide information of each country which a student would wish to go for studies including the cost, Visa arrangement, if there is entry examinations and when students are supposed to join the university, those are important information a student must have in hand so we encourage students to visit this exhibitions because it is the one stop center for them,” he said.

He said during the exhibitions, GEL will connect students from Tanzania who would wish to study Diploma, Degree, Masters and PhDs in abroad universities.

He said if there would be local universities that wish to enter agreement with foreign university chances will be there for them to sign MoU for exchange programme of their students. “There are students who fail to join UK universities when they apply

because they are required to do entry examinations but because they are not aware of the exams they fail so British Council which is the coordinator of the entry examinations for those universities will be available in GEL pavilion to give them knowledge on what they are supposed to do to study in UK,” said Mollel.

“Through this exhibitions we have brought the world here in Tanzania because universities from India, Iran, Cyprus, Turkey, Georgia, Canada, USA and Australia will participate under GEL umbrella so students who would wish to study medicine, physiotherapy, dentist, laboratories chances will be there,” said Mollel.

Mollel added that Study in UK (SIU), which is the largest agent that represent over 154 universities from United Kingdom will participate in the exhibitions.

Meanwhile, Mollel said some foreign universities have also participated in the meeting which was organised by Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar with form six leavers held yesterday and they talked to them on chances they have for those who would wish to study in their universities abroad.

Minister resolves Sengerema District’s power supply woes

By Guardian Reporter

ENERGY Minister January Makamba has resolved long time challenges regarding reliable power supply in Sengerema District due to various reasons including the cut of high tension transmission lines that supply power to the District from Mwanza due to disruptions caused by the construction of the Busisi Bridge.

The minister solved the problem on Thursday this week as part of his 21-day visit to 14 regions to inspect ongoing projects under implemented by institutions under his ministry as well as to listen to complaints from the people.

“In the past, Sengerema used to get its power from Mwanza, but due to unreliable supply, it has to resort to Geita only which has not been sufficient,” said Makamba.

He said by October this year another transmission line will be constructed from Mpomvu sub-station in Geita which will supply 20 MW to the district, and added that Sengerema power need stands at mere 5 to 6 MW.

He said when the Busisi Bridge is completed, a transmission line will again be constructed from Mwanza, which will enable Sengerema District to have reliable power.


He added that there will also be another 220Kv transmission line that

will pass through the district that target to supply power to the mining areas.

In regard to rural electrification, Makamba said Sengerema District has 153 districts and so far 143 districts have been connected and the remaining 10 will get their power from the REA Phase III Round 2.

Whilst still in Sengerema District, Makamba distributed 80 gas cylinders for cooking in order to mobilise for the use of clean energy for cooking, explaining that, this was a special trial programme that will enable the ministry to get feedback for establishing a huge national plan for cooking gas distribution countrywide.

In regard to power supply to Lake Victoria islands, he said 54bn/- has been set aside for supplying power to 47 islands countrywide, 35 of which are in Lake Victoria.



Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

Shirika la Kuhifadhi Misituta ya Asili Tanzania

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

This publication of the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure is in accordance with regulation 13(a) of the Non-Government Organization Act (Amendments), Regulation 2018, which requires Non-Government Organizations receiving funds exceeding TZS 20 Million to publish bi-annually the funds received and its expenditure.

DETAILS	ACTUAL - TZS
RECEIPTS	
Opening fund balance	1,705,440,505.00
Disbursement from Donors	3,323,185,456.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM DONORS	5,028,625,961.00
PROGRAMMES EXPENDITURE	
Participatory Forest Management	337,824,238.00
Environmental Education	263,477,064.00
Community Development (Poverty reduction in rural communities)	1,423,010,112.00
Research	309,724,410.00
OTHER PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE	
Institution Development and Resources Mobilization	581,008,803.00
Personnel	1,334,344,356.00
TOTAL PROGRAMMES EXPENDITURES	4,249,388,983.00
DEFERRED INCOME**	779,236,978.00

**Deferred Income represents an obligation to conduct donor-funded activities per contractual commitments made between donor/development partners and the organisation/recipient, where funds have not been transferred, and such activities have not yet occurred.

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AU media fellowship programme to promote Africa's Agenda 2063

By Guardian Correspondent

THE African Union (AU) media fellowship programme aims to promote engagement with African journalists for their recognition of the important role and tremendous contributions towards the achievement of AU's Agenda 2063.

It is one of the activities being undertaken by the AU in line with the decision of the 2nd AU Specialised Technical Committee on Communication and Information Technologies (STCCICT) 2017.

It also aims at ensuring that Africa is at the forefront of defining its own narrative and promoting the continent's development framework Agenda 2063 to African and global audiences.

It is statically designed to provide a unique platform for African journalists and content producers to enhance their capacity to reframe the African narrative and promote developmental journalism using new and emerging technologies.

So far, over 800 applications from across Africa and the diaspora were received, out of them, 5 fellows were chosen, based on criteria of innovation and ability of their pitches to challenge harmful stereotypical narratives and shape new and balanced discourse about the continent, as the first cohort of AU media fellows.

They are Esther Namuhisa (Tanzania), Aissatou Fofana (Cote D'Ivoire), Amira Sayed (Egypt), Areff Samir (South Africa), Johnson Kanamugire (Rwanda), Jeanine Fankam (Cameroun), Osei Kwame (Ghana), Yasser Machat (Tunisia), Rivalona Razafison (Madagascar), Cecelia Maundu (Kenya), Sally Nyakanyanga (Zimbabwe), Sadou Alize Mouktar (Niger), Nila Yasmin Faisal (Uganda), Severin Alega Mbele (Cameroun) and Carien Du Plessis (South Africa).

Leslie Richer, the AU Director for Information and Communication said that African journalists and content creators have a key role to play in defining Africa's narrative and how we want Africans and the world to view

the continent.

She said the AU media fellowship is an investment in the human capital of African journalists and storytellers to further develop their skills and help them maximise their potential to contribute to the continent's development.

"I look forward to seeing the outcomes of this fellowship as a platform for promoting Africa's Agenda 2063 and telling a balanced story about the realities of Africa's development and the opportunities for promoting socio-economic solutions that are defined and driven by Africans and benefit Africans in the digital age," she added.

Franz von Weizsaecker, Head of Programme, Citizens Engagement and Innovative Data Use for Africa Development (DataCipation) project, reiterated German development cooperation is committed to supporting the AU in improving citizen participation through digitalization.

He noted that digital technologies advance rapidly, and with them the emergence of news, creation of knowledge and public discourse.

"In order to make use of the opportunities provided by digital transformation, we need to ensure timely access to information on public-interest issues for citizens. Only informed citizens will participate in democratic decision-making. Information is a powerful instrument, and digital technologies function as amplifiers. With our support to the AU media fellowship, we aim to amplify the positive potential and empower citizens," he said.

In June 2022, the AU Media Fellows undertook a two-week study tour in Germany starting with a training offered by the Deutsche Welle Academy as well as attended the Global Media Forum in June in Bonn where they had the opportunity to be the first ever largest representation of African journalists from the continent at the forum and exchange views with media professionals, decision-makers and influencers in politics, education, culture, civil society, among others from across the world.



Tanga regional administrative secretary Pili Manyema (2nd-R) pictured in Tanga city on Thursday starting one of 35 motorcycles the government has made available for use by regional managers of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA). Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

Z'bar health minister asks foreign institutions for greater support to education, health sectors

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Minister for Health Nassor Ahmed Mazrui has urged corporations and institutions from the United States (US) to support the Isles with education and health equipment so as to enable it to strengthen eradication of mother and child deaths by 2030.

Dr Mazrui made the call yesterday at his office when he met and held talks with the US ambassador to Tanzania Dr Donald Wright.

He said Zanzibar was working hard to ensure that it eradicate maternal deaths as well as investing in reproductive health initiatives so as to ensure that mothers deliver healthy babies.

"To help achieve this, the government is constructing regional and district hospitals which are also equipped with special buildings for mother and child care so as to reduce maternal deaths," he said.

The minister said that through the efforts of the government and various stakeholders who extend their support in the health sector, it has been possible to significantly reduce the incidence of malaria and AIDS.

Ambassador Wright hailed the Zanzibar's government for its efforts to fight HIV/Aids, malaria and Covid-19.

He assured that the US government will continue cooperating with the government and supporting Zanzibar

to address various challenges in the health sector.

Meanwhile, doctors at the Unguja South district hospital have said that the new system to follow people in their areas and educate them on the importance of vaccines has helped increase the number of vaccinated people.

Dr Mohamed Mnyimbi said the previous system had poor response as many of them were not visiting the hospitals to get the shots but now the number has increased as health attendants follow them in their areas.

Dr Mnyimbi told this paper yesterday at his office that before the campaign, the hospital had vaccinated only 300 people but the number has now flown

to 3,400 people.

He said South Unguja district is the second in Zanzibar and has vaccinated 8,642 people only because of the new campaign (mobile clinic).

Director of preventive services in Zanzibar Dr Ali Nyange said the education provided to the public on the importance of vaccination has helped a lot to strengthen the fight against Covid-19.

He said so far, a total of 185,000 people in the Isles have been vaccinated (30 percent) of the goals.

He said the campaign also faces challenges especially in rural areas where people deny to get vaccinated thinking that the shots will bring health problems.



An official with the Workers Compensation Fund (L) pictured on Wednesday briefing Patrobas Katambi (2nd-L), Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disabilities), on the Fund's activities. It was at the just-ended 46th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Looking on: WCF director general Dr John Mduma (2nd-R) and head of public relations Laura Kunenge. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Government proud of WCF performance, says Katambi

By Guardian Reporter

THE government says it is proud on how the worker Compensation Fund (WCF) has attained its intended goals by raising hope among workers.

The remarks were made Wednesday this week by Patrobas Katambi, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disabilities) at the 46th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (46DITF) popularly known as Sabasaba at Mwalimu Nyerere Fair Grounds in Dar es Salaam.

WCF established six years ago provides compensation to a worker who is injured, falls ill or dies in the performance of his duties in accordance with his work contract.

We, as government, are very satisfied on how you implement your responsibilities, you have removed fear from workers and were now working in confidence," he said.

Katambi said employers have also been given the opportunity to direct themselves in business and production as if any of their workers get any bodily problem in execution of his duties including injuries, falling ill or death, WCF will take up the responsibility.

Meanwhile WCF has emerged Third Winner among ministries, agencies and all government institutions that

participated at the 46th DITF.

The competition results were announced at the apex of the fair last Wednesday in which the official guest was the Second Vice President Dr Philip Mpango.

Speaking on the win, WCF director General, Dr John Mduma thanked all stakeholders who visited WCF pavilion during the fair.

"We very much thank government officials and all our stakeholders who emerged in great numbers to visit our pavilion this year. Together we have won," said Dr Mduma.

WCF was established under the Workers' Compensation Act No 20 of 2008 which requires companies to register and pay employee contributions.

The Act applies to employees from both the private and government sector. It provides compensation for employees injured or incapacitated in the workplace.

WCF provides various types of compensation including medical treatment to injured workers, maintenance services and counselling to injured personnel with permanent disabilities.

The fund also pays a certain amount of money to a person who is taking care of an injured worker upon approval from doctors.

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has called upon youth, religious and traditional leaders to be engaged in early child development programmes in effort to help build a better generation.

The appeal was made here by the deputy Permanent Secretary in the Office of the President (Regional Administration and Local Government), Ramadhan Kailima, noting that developing young Tanzanians is a duty to all people.

He said the fight against child violence and other vices affected children should be poetized by all people since without doing so the

Govt calls upon youth, religious and traditional leaders to participate in early child development programmes

nation is headed to a wrong direction. The deputy PS argued that traditional leaders if well equipped with knowledge on early child development will help reduce misconceptions in the society and religious leaders have a lot of trust among believers.

He made the remarks while officiating at the closure of a six days national training on early child development (ECD).

The meeting organised in collaboration of Children in Crossfire, Tanzanian Early Childhood Development Network (TECDEN) and the Union of Tanzanian Press Clubs (UTPC) brought together 79 participants.

"Among youths, it would be important if we start at school levels, establishing clubs and empowering them" he said, adding that those at

higher learning institutions can be engaged through social media, among other platforms.

Kailima also presided over certificate awarding to the participants. The awards were conferred by the Agha Khan University that conducted the training.

Country Director, Tanzania at Children in Crossfire, Craig Ferla said Children in Crossfire will now lead a

partnership with the Tanzanian Early Childhood Development Network (TECDEN) and the Union of Tanzanian Press Clubs (UTPC) to help achieve the government's goals.

"Children in Crossfire's vision of a compassionate world where every child can realise their full potential is one that resonates so deeply with our values and vision as a foundation," he said, stressing the importance of the

training. Speaking on behalf of the participants, Gaudence Nyamwihura noted that after the training, they will be ambassadors at different places of their origin.

"We are lucky to have got the training and get equipped with knowledge on child protecting and we plan to educate the rest of the society," she said.

SADC ministerial task force reviews policies, strategies to enhance regional trade growth

By Guardian Reporter

IMPLEMENTING the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063) remains a key priority to create a conducive environment for trade to continue flourishing in the region, Mark Katsonga Phiri, Malawi's Minister for Trade and Industry has said.

Phiri said this at the official opening of the 22nd meeting of the ministerial task force on regional economic integration in Lilongwe, Malawi on July 9th 2022.

He commended SADC member states for their pragmatic decision to open up and resume economic and social activities while observing all necessary measures and precautions against the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting was convened to consider the progress report on implementing the Industrialisation Strategy and Road Map 2015-2063, particularly the progress on the ratification of the SADC Protocol on the industry, private sector engagement, value chains, macro convergence, infrastructure development, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and rules of origin.

Regarding the ratification of the SADC Protocol on Industry, ministers urged the member states that have not yet signed or ratified the Protocol on Industry to do so in order to facilitate industrial development and trade in the region.

The ministers urged member states to incorporate some of the recommendations of the industrial upgrading and modernisation programme and gaps analysis study which was undertaken in 2021 by the Secretariat, including establishment of industrial intelligence units and the industrial observatory functions in their national industrialisation programmes.

On the same note, the ministers directed the secretariat to continue working with the SADC business council in implementing the study recommendations that require the involvement of the private sector.

The Ministers underscored the important role of the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) urged member states to complete and submit the status of SMEs at the country level

to the secretariat.

In the same vein, the ministers directed the secretariat to fast-track the development of the framework to enhance the contribution of small and medium enterprises to industrial development.

The ministers directed the secretariat to finalise the review of the Protocol on Mining and submit progress at its next meeting and to finalise the regional study for identification and pre-feasibility assessment of investment projects for development of energy storage (batteries), copper and mining inputs regional value chains.

With regard to the implementation of the SADC Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP) (2022-2030), the ministers directed the secretariat to develop the new phase of the SADC Regional Agriculture Investment Plan (2022-2030); develop commodity sector development plans for wheat, rice, soya, beans and cotton; and conduct a mapping of agriculture commodity exchanges and their contribution to agricultural commodity trade.

The ministers urged the member states to fully use the information generated by the Agriculture Information Management Information System (AIMS) in their decision-making process and to support the operationalisation of the AIMS by providing up-to-date data and information.



The ministers directed the secretariat to finalise the review of the Protocol on Mining and submit progress at its next meeting and to finalise the regional study for identification and pre-feasibility assessment of investment projects for development of energy storage (batteries), copper and mining inputs regional value chains

Government directs TCU to strengthen regulations to improve education quality

By Guardian Reporter, Iringa

THE government has directed the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) to strengthen inspections regulations aimed at promoting and improving the quality of education in the country.

Speaking during a celebration to commemorate the establishment of the University of Iringa, Minister of Education Prof Adolf Mkenda said the government will ensure that degrees offered in the country are acquired in the right and standard ways.

The minister reminded TCU of its role which includes ensuring that it follows up on the quality of the education offered in universities across the country but also inspect the standards before issuing any permit for the establishment of a university.

The minister said for the country to have experts in various fields including health there is need to administer the regulations and standards put in place to ensure there is quality education.

"If we play around with education we are killing the nation, I know there are universities which are issuing higher GPA's without considering the quality of the graduates," he said.

Prof Mkenda said Tanzania will not be a pot to cook and dish out unqualified degrees saying TCU must

take serious actions.

The minister said the criterion of giving one a degree is well articulated, the standard is also known saying all responsible institutions must abide to them and not otherwise.

"Our country cannot continue with the tendency of dishing out degrees but we should do that on merit and not because one has money or is related to someone with influence," he said.

Prof Mkenda said there are people with the capability to perform well in class but end up being drunkards calling upon TCU to be strict in ensuring that the education offered in Tanzania remains with the same quality.



If we play around with education we are killing the nation, I know there are universities which are issuing higher GPA's without considering the quality of the graduates



CCM National Executive Committee Ideology and Publicity Secretary Shaka Hamdu Shaka (2nd-L) exchanges greetings with a resident of Gando on Pemba Island yesterday shortly after presenting to him a wheelchair donated by the legislator for the constituency, Salim Mussa Omari (2nd-R). Looking on is North Pemba CCM regional chairman Mberwa Hamad Mberwa. Photo: Fahadi Siraji of CCM

Ministry of Agriculture is busy with countrywide soil testing - Mavunde

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Agriculture has embarked on countrywide soil testing to help farmers identify which crops to grow and the type of fertiliser to use for better crop production.

This was revealed by Deputy Agriculture Minister, Anthony Mavunde, as he Addressed farmers in Hombolo Ward in the City of Dodoma during his inspection visit to demonstration farms that use fertiliser made by Itracom, the new fertiliser

factory.

"Soil testing will also help us to have farming zones so that crops are grown in zones, and not every farmer grows any crops to his liking," he said.

He also called on all farmers countrywide to abide by the proper use of fertiliser in their farms for better yields, as opposed to now when they apply great efforts with pintsize benefits.

He further said that through farming, the country will have food security, employment, enhance individual

incomes and that of the nation in general.

"In this FY budget on agriculture, funds have been increased for every sector including in research and irrigation, hence I appeal to researchers to make sure that what you research reach farmers to enable them adopt better farming practices," Mavunde added.

He also noted that the government plans to revive all valleys that are fit for irrigation to help farmers to cultivate crops all year round, and added that

irrigation is important as a measure against the effects of climate change.

Meanwhile, Tanzania fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) Managing Director, Dr Stefan Ngaito, assured farmers in regard to the use of fertiliser.

He said they have been testing and certifying the quality of all fertiliser both local and foreign manufactured.

"I appeal to farmers in the country to use fertiliser in your farming as we have been testing all fertilisers, including the fertiliser produced by the Itracom plant and approved it for use to our farmers," he added.

Itracom Managing Director, Nduwimana Nazaire said they plan to produce the fertiliser towards the end of this month by producing 600,000 tonnes.



Mary Maganga (L), Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office, bids farewell to Mama Fatma Karume earlier this week at the latter's residence at Bumbwini in Zanzibar. The PS had just paid a visit to - and held talks with - the widow of Zanzibar's first President, Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume. Photo: VPO

Minister calls on Mpwapwa District officials to help agriculture do better

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

GEORGE Simbachawene, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Coordination and Parliamentary Affairs) has called on Mpwapwa District officials to initiate great transformation in farming by investing in strategic projects to improve crops production.

Simbachawene, who is also the Member of Parliament for Kibakwe Constituency made the remarks

Thursday this week during his visit to the constituency that focused in speaking to his constituents and listen to their complaints.

He said the government, in its 2022/23 budget has increased the budget for agriculture from 200bn/- to 900bn/-.

"This sum is immense and will be channelled to villages for strategic projects in farming, hence it is better for people to grab the opportunity, but also district officials including

Mpwapwa District councillors should make sure the transformation in farming are discerned by the people," he said.

Meanwhile, Simbachawene praised the district for good implementation of the Postal Address System exercise.

"I am pleased with the District Council for implementing this exercise well, I have seen even houses with thatched roofs have been numbered, with street names, it is good work, and I think others should come here to

emulate what has been done," he said.

In regard to road infrastructures, Simbachawene said the District Council has allocated 626m/- for revamping the Makose-Idodoma road.

He told people to participate in taking care of the roads by repairing sections that are frequently damaged.

Chairperson of Mpwapwa District Council, who is Mpwapwa Town ward councillor, George Fuime said the council has plans to refurbish all dilapidated buildings in various primary schools in order to have better environ for both teaching and learning.

He also called on the people to stop the habit of cutting trees near water sources.

Build fence for Oldonyowas Secondary school, Ndejemi calls upon TASAF leadership

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Deputy Minister in the President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance, Deogratius Ndejemi has instructed the leadership of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) to build a fence at Oldonyowas secondary school in Arusha District to protect classrooms and dormitory infrastructures as well as ensure the safety of the students.

Ndejemi issued the directive yesterday during a working visit to inspect the progress of the construction of two boys' dormitories at the school, implemented through TASAF III, phase II with funding from the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

He said completion of the construction of the school's infrastructure go hand in hand with the construction of the school fence to ensure the safety of the school and the students.

"I am satisfied with the progress of this dormitory construction due to the involvement of the people of this area, by giving them temporary jobs and earning income as was the fund's plan to liberate low-income households, I instruct TASAF to set a strategy to build a fence in this school for the safety of property and students," said Ndejemi.

Arumeru West MP, Noah Lembris, said the presence of the dormitories will help keep students, especially those who walk long distances to and from home, thus reducing the burden and raising the level of professionalism

and increasing student achievement at the school.

Arumeru District Commissioner Richard Ruyango thanked the government for providing funding for the construction, calling on officials and people to carry out their duties as per the government's policy and procedures including maintaining and protecting all projects implemented in their areas.

TASAF official Oscar Maduhu said the aim of the projects was to alleviate the suffering in the areas of lack of infrastructure in various sectors including the education and health sectors, as well as to fight the enemy disease, ignorance and poverty.

"TASAF will continue to implement other projects for the benefit of the people in the sector; I urge the people to continue to commit themselves to implementing projects and ensure that the projects are completed to acceptable standards, to achieve the government's goal of serving those on low incomes. It lasts a long time," said Maduhu.

Eliashi Gabriel, a resident of Oldonyowas Village, said their children were walking long distances to school, noting that due to fatigue they were unable to read for themselves, so the presence of dormitories will help them to be safe and their performance will increase.

The construction project for the boys' dormitory has been implemented at a cost of more than 300m/- after the completion of the girls' dormitory at the school and is expected to accommodate a total of 160 students.



Deogratius Ndejemi (in all-blue), Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), has a word with residents of Oldonyowas Village at Oldonyowas Secondary School in Arusha Region on Thursday when on an inspection tour of the implementation of a programme meant to help poor households lead better lives. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Eastern Africa bishops examine local impact of climatic fluctuations

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

EASTERN Africa Catholic bishops have set aside a week to discuss the consequences of ecological damage in the region as it becomes evident that climate change is exacting a crushing toll on the development of people in both rural and urban parishes.

Meeting in Dar es Salaam recently the bishops from the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa examined ways to help communities that are struggling to adapt to the effects of a changing climate.

Some bishops, priests and women religious have responded by moving emergency aid to communities affected by the ongoing drought that has caused crop failure for three consecutive growing seasons.

Church leaders also acknowledge that disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic and the war in Ukraine have further hurt the region.

Bishop Charles Kasonde of Solwezi, Zambia, AMECEA's chairman, said the meeting will also review how the church in the region has implemented Pope Francis' encyclical on care of the earth, 'Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home' in response to the climate crisis.

"This self-evaluation must guide our deliberations as we look to the future," Bishop Kasonde told the 270 delegates.

He added: "The importance of living the Laudato Si' message is ascertained by the fact that the encyclical letter has caused great excitement in the region, not only among Catholics but also among people affiliated to other churches and faiths and our respective governments."

The bishop said that people are excited as they come to understand how the encyclical can relate to daily life.

"Our experiences of the effects of climate change, such as extreme seasons of droughts, cyclones, raising of water levels, and floods, to mention but a few, are making everyone wonder why these things are happening," Bishop Kasonde said.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan addressed the gathering July 12, saying that peace in any country was key to environmental protection. She urged the region's leaders, including Catholics, to address ways to maintain

peace in local communities.

"The war against environmental degradation is for all (people) since a damaged environment means a catastrophe for humanity," Hassan said.

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, who headed the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples before the Roman Curia was reformed, told the meeting that when there is deterioration in the human environment, there will be deterioration in the ecological environment.

"We cannot combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation," he said, warning that some solutions to environmental challenges failed because they were far removed from the day-to-day activities of poor and marginalized communities.

"I hope AMECEA will not fall into green talk, green rhetoric, or fraternal talk without forming a pastoral friendship with the poor and with creation," Cardinal Tagle said.

Ahead of the conference, the Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa called on the bishops to instill a spirit of care for creation among church members and to actively participate in the implementation of the pope's encyclical.

The network suggested that the bishops adopt the use of renewable energy in church buildings, utilize green building technologies and abolish single-use plastic to slow climate change.

"Africa being the continent with the majority of young people in the whole world provides an excellent opportunity for the church to tap into," said Allen Ottaro, the network's executive director. "We urge the bishops to continue empowering the youth."



We cannot combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation

Transport ministry directs TAA to seek funds for construction of modern fence at Njombe Airport

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

DEPUTY Minister for Transport Atupele Mwakibete has directed the Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) to commence procedures to seek for funds so as to construct a modern fence at Njombe Airport.

Speaking soon after visiting the airport, Mwakibete noted that Njombe had now become a hub of production of various crops and products which include tree products, avocado and vegetables, something that needs strong and fast transportation services.

"So we need to continue expanding and improving the Njombe airport so

as to allow airplanes to start landing there to take people and goods which will stimulate economic growth," he said.

According to him, the government's zeal is to ensure that the country has steady transport services including air travel so as to promote and stimulate economic growth.

The deputy minister urged authorities in Njombe region to sit down and discuss with various institutions near the airport to find the best way to get more places to expand the airport including the landing lanes.

Njombe Urban MP Deo Mwanjika commended the government for

recognising the importance of renovating and expanding the airport as it was one of the vital steps to support economic development in the region.

"We thank the government for this as I have been speaking on the airport for a long time now, we were asking why our neighbours Ruvuma, Mbeya, Iringa have modern airports, what is wrong with Njombe which one of the major producers of various food and non-food produce, so with this initial step shown by the government, I am sure that soon Njombe is going to get a quality airport to facilitate easy transportation of goods and people,"

he explained.

Lydia Mwenisonsole, Njombe airport manager said currently the airport is serving small planes mostly form private companies carrying not more than seven passengers which are also very few.

"The situation of the airport is not good; it is surrounded by grass and dust. Something also bars many of the small planes not coming here, so with this new initiative to renovate it, it will attract more flights," she said.

Njombe airport is one of the 59 airports in the country supervised by TAA. The airport has 1800m of takeoff and landing area and 30m width.



Jenise Mpanju (R), a second year medical student at Dar es Salaam's Hubert Kairuki Memorial University, pictured yesterday attending to a resident of the city at a one-month free health screening camp at Mlimani City grounds. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Researchers have huge opportunities in fishing sector - Ulega

By Guardian Reporter

RESEARCHERS have huge prospects in developing the fishing sector hence they should concentrate in inventing opportunities to be reaped from the blue economy in order to attract many investors for the benefit of the people.

The remarks were made yesterday by the Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega at the Annual Scientific Conference that

brought together various researchers in fishing held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. "The world is currently heading to the blue economy, to make sure sea resources are used accordingly for the benefit of human beings hence researchers have huge opportunities in the issue because from their researches they can bring up opportunities and challenges in the area and devise strategies and the way forward," said the deputy minister.

He said the opportunities held by the researchers, it is important for them to apply their expertise by involving the community who benefit from the researches in order to show the world the opportunities the country has in the fishing sector in order to draw in investors.

He added that there are various products found in the seas that can help the community to reap income as well as pulling in big investors.

"In the seas and lakes we have seaweed, crabs, Nile perch, and sardines, all these are products that if well illuminated, and investors procured, will raise the living conditions of our people," he said.

The three-day Annual Scientific Conference that began July 12 brought together researchers in fishing from within and outside the country who exchanged views on what to do to make the blue economy sector sustainable.



Bashiri Rwesingisa (R, gesturing), Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) manager for Manyara Region, briefs a delegation led by regional commissioner Charles Makongoro Nyerere (in glasses) yesterday on improvements made to weigh scales at Mdori in Babati District. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

KOFIH dishes out 850m/- to boost health services in Kongwa and Mpwapwa districts

By Guardian Reporter, Kongwa

KOREA Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH) dealing in global health issues has provided 850m/- for boosting health services in Kongwa and Mpwapwa districts, Dodoma Region.

This was revealed here yesterday by KOFIH President, Prof Chang-yup Kim during his inspection visit at Kongwa District Hospital.

KOFIH, in collaboration with Dodoma Regional Secretariat are implementing a project that focuses in boosting maternal health services at both Kongwa and Mpwapwa District Hospitals.

He said in order to implement the project, the organisation has provided funds for purchase of medical equipment including two machines for anaesthesia and other laboratory equipment.

“The sum of money KOFIH has provided to Kongwa Hospital is 186m/-. In addition, it has provided 460m/- for revamping infrastructures at Chamkoroma (Kongwa) and Rudi (Mpwapwa) health centres,” he said.

According to him, KOFIH has also dished out 204m/- for buying X-ray machine for Mpwapwa District Hospital.

“KOFIH project in Tanzania

runs for five years - 2021-2026 and will concern the revamping of infrastructures at various health centres to enable them to provide emergency surgery services, purchase and installation of medical equipment for better health service delivery,” Prof Kim added.

He further noted that the organisation provides training to health workers to empower them deliver quality health services.



Work on the newly expanded road leading to the Magufuli main bus stand at Mbezi Luis in Dar es Salaam's Ubungu municipality is nearing completion, as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

NIRC to partner Prison Force in Katavi Region to develop Kalilankulukulu basin

By Guardian Correspondent, Katavi

THE National Irrigation Commission (NIRC) is working on procedures to sign an agreement with the Prison Force in Katavi Region so as to develop a basin owned by Kalilankulukulu prison in Tanganyika District.

The agreement will facilitate development of irrigation farming at the area to increase production of both food and commercial crops.

This was said yesterday by the Commission's Director, Raymond

Mndolwa during his tour to inspect various irrigation schemes in the region where he also held initial talks with the regional leadership of the Prison Force.

He said they have decided to work on the plan to develop the area as it is a fertile and potential area to facilitate production of various crops for two seasons per year.

“The commission will construct a quality irrigation scheme here equipped with essential infrastructures to facilitate the farming, we will firstly

conduct a feasibility study so as to come up with answers that will give us a good direction of the project,” Mndolwa said.

The director said that the commission is well prepared to ensure there was no scheme which will be constructed without having a source of water which includes dams and streams so as to avoid losing government funds in areas which are not productive.

He said to facilitate this, the commission invests in research before

commencement of any irrigation scheme project.

“This project here will involve construction of key infrastructures to harvest water, construct storage facilities as well as factories to process farm produce for local and export,” he explained.

Head of Prison Force in Katavi Prosper Kinyaga said the plan to develop the area had already commenced through the executive meetings in cooperation with stakeholders.

“We communicated with the irrigation commission and we thank them that they have received our proposal, initial procedures have commenced, and its development will help transform the agriculture sector,” he said.

Project completes Tanzania's sanitation programme within timeframe, allowing substantial increase in number of toilets

By Guardian Reporter

Project CLEAR, an impact-driven business that combines data, behavioural science, and partnerships to deliver national development goals, announces the successful conclusion of its support to the government's Nyumba Ni Choo - Tanzania's national sanitation programme - which has increased access to improved sanitation from 42 percent to 70 percent in under five years.

Founded by Tanzanian entrepreneur Kaposo Mwambuli, with support from the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Project CLEAR is an independent business working in close partnership with governments, corporates, and development agencies.

In 2017, with backing from the UK Government's FCDO, Project CLEAR launched phase one of 'Nyumba Ni Choo' in partnership with Tanzania's Ministry of Health, using insights to determine how to overcome barriers and promote drivers for Tanzanians to improve their own sanitation.

Project CLEAR's unique understanding of the market enabled it to develop a strategy driven by these insights. To support the continued evaluation of the programme's success and to help inform its future direction, Project CLEAR worked with a roster of industry leading research partners including IPSOS and GeoPoll which monitored 'Nyumba Ni Choo's' progress on a quarterly basis.

Using an adaptive approach to programming, the company used quarterly data to continuously evolve the delivery of the project, deploying a wide range of tactics to spread the message of improved sanitation in the most cost-effective manner. This included working with community leaders, celebrity influencers and reality television shows to increase

interest in good sanitation.

The unique execution of 'Nyumba Ni Choo', which combined on-the-ground learnings, proprietary data and academic theory, drove both widespread changes in perceptions and resulting action. Since 2017, improved sanitation access grew from 42percent to 70percent of households by 2021 and open defecation reduced from 7.2 per cent to 1.3 per cent over the same period. This is equivalent to improving sanitation for more than 16 million people across the country.

The impact of the campaign's approach is significant. Globally, unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene results in the deaths of more than 700 children under five years old each day. The improving sanitation conditions have not only reduced the spread of illnesses such as diarrhoea but also unlocked economic value. According to WaterAid, ensuring everyone has a toilet globally will generate \$86 billion per year in greater productivity and reduced health care costs.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the successful conclusion of the programme, Ummu Mwalimu, Tanzania's Minister of Health, said: "I'm very proud of the 'Nyumba Ni Choo' campaign. We have managed to reach 72 percent from December 2017 according to our statistics. This is a massive achievement... I'm so proud of everyone who made this campaign successful."

Kaposo Mwambuli, Co-Founder of Project CLEAR, said in response: "The success of 'Nyumba Ni Choo' owes a lot to the unique design and implementation of the project - which was very different to more traditional programmes. By leveraging our own existing platforms, combined with media amplification, we created a springboard that was able to deliver behavioural change on a national scale. Project CLEAR is proud to have played a key role in this transformative outcome."

New fertiliser company in Dodoma to embark on massive production after trials brought positive results

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE new Burundi-based investment company in Dodoma- Intracom Fertiliser Limited is set to embark on massive production next month after trials of its three organic - mineral fertilisers proved positive results.

As common used fertilisers-Diammonium phosphate (DAP) and UREA- comprises between one and two nutrients, the new fertilisers, namely FOMI Kuzia, FOMI Otesha and FOMI Nenepesha, embraces at least six key agro-nutrients, including nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, as well as sulfur, and it has been earmarked by the National Fertilisers Regularly Authority (NFRA) for official use.

The fertilisers projected to help farmers in increasing yields gain in the coming cropping season have also undergone multiplication trials at diverse centers at the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), such as Ilonga (Morogoro), Uyole (Mbeya), Selian (Arusha) and Hombolo (Dodoma) and have proved useful in supporting growth of both, improved and landrace seeds and at different agro climatic zones.

Gracing a special gathering yesterday at TARI Hombolo centre, tailored for the promotion of the new fertilizers among the farmers, Anthony Mavunde, the Deputy Agriculture Minister challenged the farmers to use the fertilisers to improve crops productivity.

He said the government was working on addressing unreliable accessibility of fertilisers in the country, the bottleneck he observed to have been attributed to skyrocketed prices of the vital agro-inputs in the world market.

“Make sure you use these new fertilisers to improve your harvest, so as to scale up your individual livelihood, but also the national economy as a whole,” the minister urged the farmers. Speaking on the development, the Director General of TARI, Dr Geoffrey Mkamillo urged the company to ensure the fertilisers are made available in abundance to local farmers, and at

affordable prices.

With availability of the new multiple nutrients fertilisers, Dr Mkamillo assured that experts from the state-owned institute will countrywide continue standing at forefront to guide the farmers on proper application of fertilisers, as well as other best agronomic practices in order to put performance of the key economic sector into new heights.

“Importation of fertilisers has multiple challenges, including high prices and delay in reaching the farmers. But with availability of the new fertilisers in our vicinity and at patriotic prices, I remain optimistic we're going to carve a fresh successive niche,” the TARI expressed.

He hailed efforts being implemented by the government to help bridge the gap of shortage of fertilizers within the country, especially in setting good environs and conditions that attracts diverse foreign investments into the side, a move he said will help in whittling down prices of fertilisers.

The Managing Director for the company Nduwimana Nazaire, said the state-of-the art plant installed at the fringe of capital city, at Nala area, has set to start producing 200,000 tonnes of fertilisers in its first operation years, slated to commence from earlier next month. “Next year, we're expecting to expand production capacity to a tune of at least 600,000 tonnes and we have developed a helpful roadmap to ensure local farmers are getting the fertilisers in abundant and at possible low costs,” he expressed.

Apart from fertilisers, he disclosed that pastoralist's farmers will benefit a lot as the industry will be purchasing animal's manures, which is an additional economic opportunity.

Dr Stephan Ngailo, the Executive General for the National Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (NFRA), apart from reaffirming that the new fertilisers have been tested to a positive results by the national fertilisers watchdog, he expressed optimism that investment of the factory will play pivotal role in advancing performance of the agriculture sector in the country.

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Yes, explanation needed on why private sector GDP growth slow

INVESTMENT, Industry and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji at midweek gave out a secret on the sort of assignment she was given by President Samia Suluhu Hassan upon being appointed to that position.

She said she was detailed to find out why the private sector in the country was not growing fast enough and it had been almost dormant for a long time.

She had six months to come up with answers - for consideration by the president.

The minister didn't use the Confederation of Tanzania Industries forum to set out her response in detail. What she said echoed in large measure if not the answer, then the issues involved.

In revealing that secret, she also threw wide the question to her audience. Very correctly so, as the future of a country isn't drawn up by a minister and the president having common answers to issues but when their convictions are shared by a broad portion of those they lead or at least with whom they administer the country.

There is still no actual consensus as yet on the issues, as rival impressions clash on whether optimal policy is state-based economic activity, intense regulation or private sector dominance.

Past legacies aren't always neutral on the matter, and the current leadership may understandably have problems building trust in the private sector.

One key challenge with the issue is that even economic crises and wide-ranging institutional bankruptcy may not necessarily offer the right lessons. However, on the basis of the prevailing climate, the easiest slogan on those holding power might suffice.

The chaos being witnessed in Sri Lanka brought a singular reflection visible on global television that those in office lived in luxury while the population suffered.

It was as if merely having the president and the prime minister reducing their salaries or emoluments would cure the country's ills. It is hard to see consensus on the horizon, what with factors such as cultural outlooks superseding political, economic and other considerations.

In our case, what President Samia noted was exactly what has been witnessed virtually since the early 1990s - and this is that the industrial sector (most of which is in private hands) contributes relatively minimally to GDP.

The proper growth areas are led by mining, oil and gas, along with tourism to some extent. It is agro-sector activity that has rather rapidly lost its GDP role as other sectors grow.

The minister hinted that laziness may be part of the problem but perhaps another key idea that can help out is that, if people are properly employed, they will shape up and perform better.

Working conditions definitely need to be vastly improved so that those wishing to invest buy out local property with a measure of goodwill to take it up and expand, not just being given patches of land on which to start projects.

It is crucial that land ownership be proper, meaning legal, so that those in whose hands it is are able to obtain bank loans with the land as collateral whenever they need such empowerment.

That done, and it is good that we are seeing abundant evidence that it is increasingly being done, it will be easier to help our private ticks more.

No easy answers to UNICEF query on skills focus for children, youths

CHAOS is stalking many countries as economies fail to put up with inflation and in some cases state bankruptcy following inability to service loan repayments or have sufficient funds for imports.

The whole problem of designing resilient economies able to withstand shocks at the global level, especially those tied to climate change, is getting all the more urgent.

The starting point for a slew of experts is ensuring that individuals can adapt to situations where formal employment is lacking, when they have skills to enable them to adapt to increasingly harsh conditions. Being computer literate is one such path.

One global organisation concerned with this situation is the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which says in a just-released report that nearly three-quarters of young people aged 15 to 24 stretched out in 92 countries where data are available are off-track to acquiring the skills needed for employment.

The reference point taken is employability, as to who gets employed and who does not, while the real issue is ability to remain capable of fitting into an occupation even if it isn't formal employment. Still the data may be of marginal relevance, as informal sector work also needs skills.

The report was unveiled by the UNICEF director of education ahead of World Youth Skills Day (yesterday: July 15).

The queries it raises are tied to the life skills capacity of education in most developing countries, not just the poorest 30 or 40 countries as is often thought.

What the report says can scarcely

be resolved if it is looked at from the stringency of the formulation, for instance the key observation that more than 85 per cent of young people are off-track in secondary level, digital and job-specific skills attainment needs.

This underscores the importance of ensuring that academic performance in schools or colleges relates to the scale of the vocational skills required for people to thrive in whatever form of employment they are engaged.

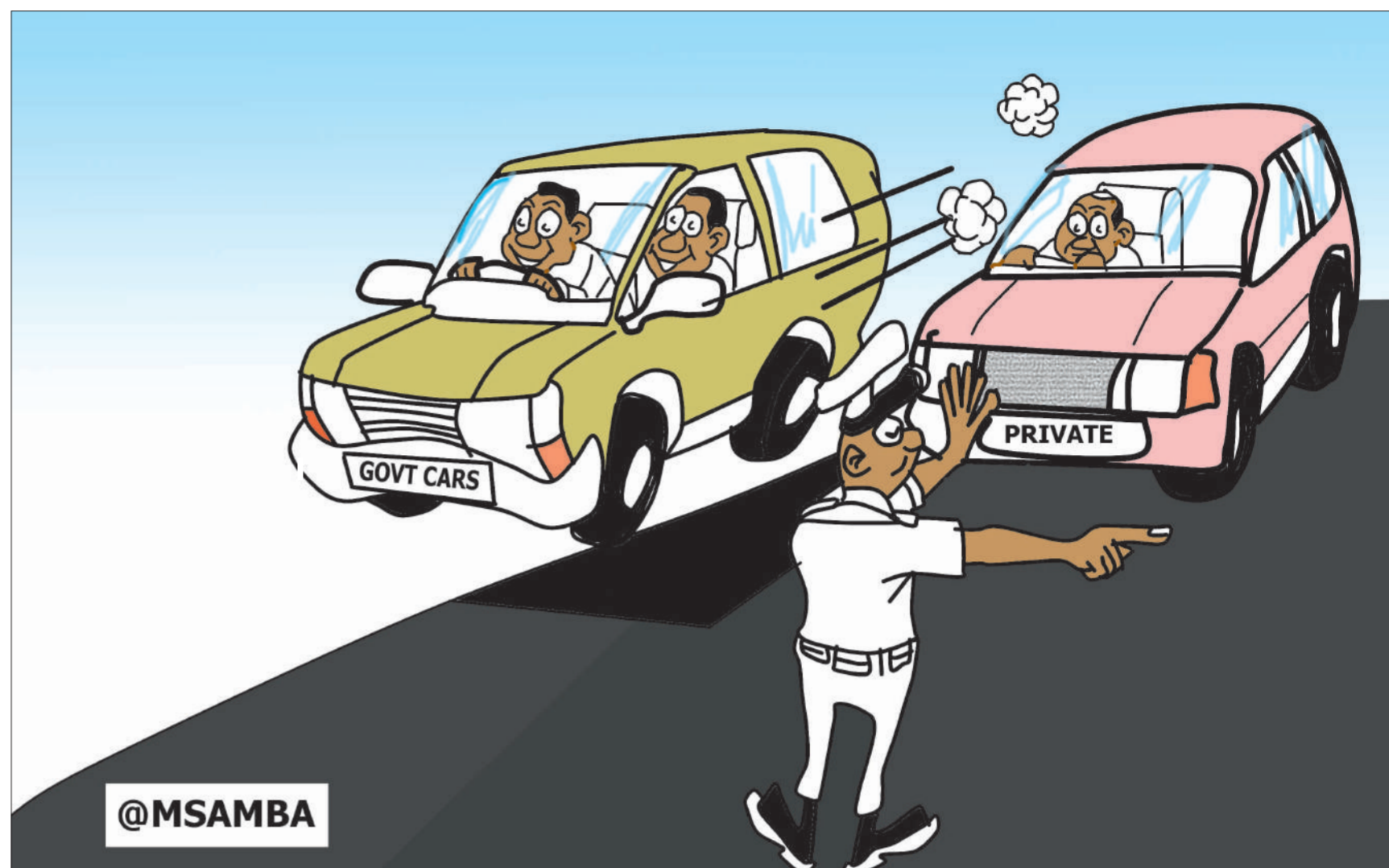
Skills are undeniably vital for employment, but jobs don't just turn up because there are skills. Also, a person who doesn't quite fit at the optimal level reflected in his or her training background can still do so elsewhere, earning an income decent enough to find life rewarding.

This isn't what the UNICEF report is precisely all about but, rather, dependable skills that ensure success in an even more competitive job market. So maybe the real answers are in the wider economy rather than ensuring that countries can change skills level attained rapidly in schools.

The critical issue is that the job market is too narrow, that industry isn't taking off all that fast, that the informal sector is narrow and often hunted to the margins of city space, etc.

Climate change makes agriculture a difficult zone to venture into, as falling crop prices can't ensure the costs of inputs are recovered and there is a surplus for a family to survive upon.

Narrow markets, an inhospitable informal sector and scarcity of jobs keep the youth down. These are very real challenges, but they are not insurmountable. Endless struggle is the only way forward - and the likes of UNICEF can be expected to continue complementing our efforts.



US journalists differ from the public in views on 'bothsidesism' in media work

By Naomi Forman-Katz and Mark

Jurkowitz

JOURNALISTS in the United States differ markedly from the general public in their views of "bothsidesism" - whether journalists should always strive to give equal coverage to all sides of an issue. This is according to a recent Pew Research Centre study.

A little more than half of the journalists surveyed (55 per cent) say that every side does not always deserve equal coverage in the news.

By contrast, 22 per cent of Americans overall say the same, whereas a little over three-quarters (76 per cent) say that journalists should always strive to give all sides equal coverage.

A new analysis of these survey findings shows that attitudes among both journalists and the public differ by age and political factors.

Opinions among journalists also vary based on how they view the issue of misinformation, while opinions among Americans overall vary based on the level of their trust in the news.

The issue of whether to try to provide equal coverage to all sides gained new intensity during Donald Trump's presidency and the widespread disinformation and competing views surrounding the 2020 US election and the Covid-19 pandemic.

While some feel that equal coverage is always necessary to allow the public to be equally informed about multiple sides of an argument, those who disagree argue that people making false statements or unsupported conjectures do not warrant as much attention as those making factual statements with solid supporting evidence.

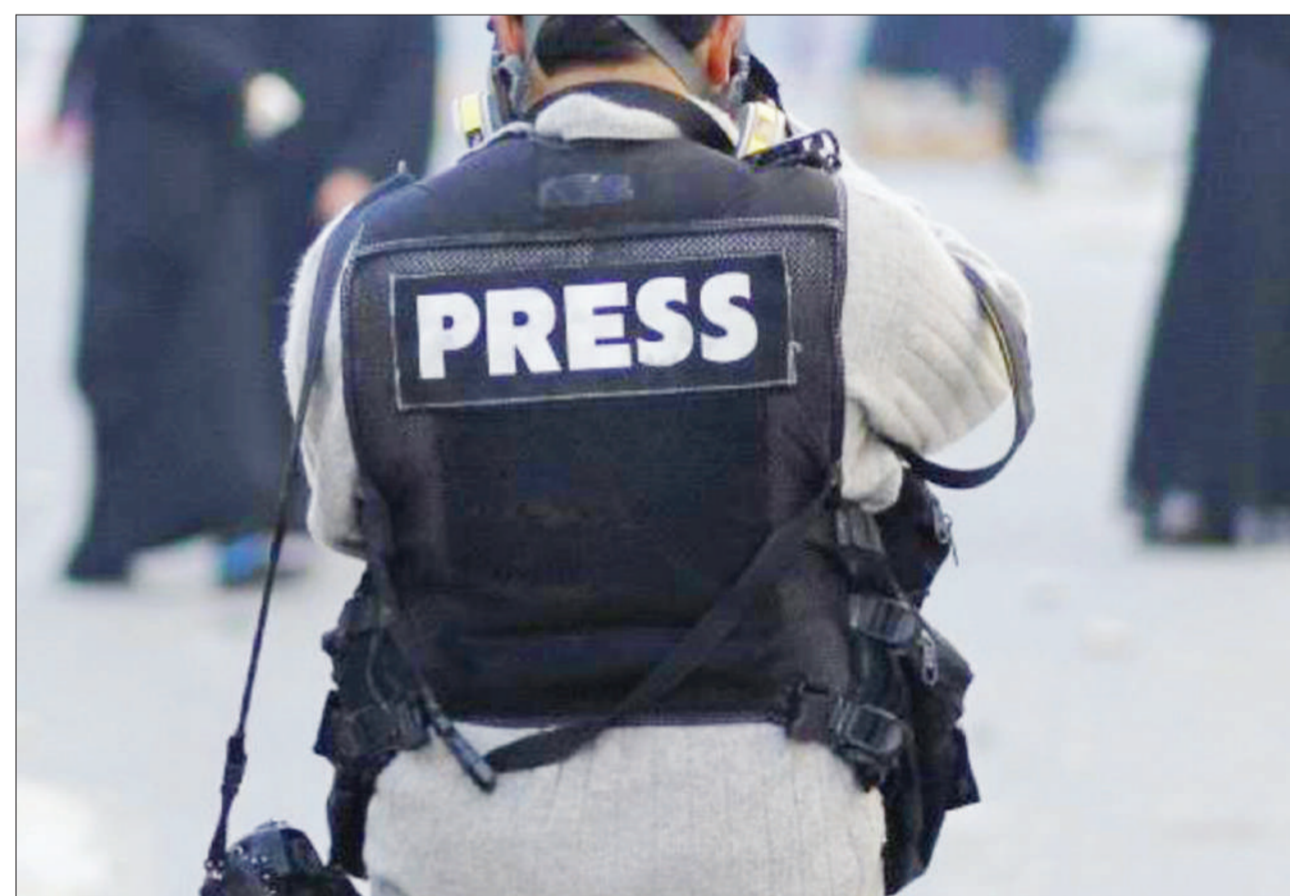
Roughly six-in-ten US journalists aged between 18 and 29 (63 per cent) say that every side does not always deserve equal coverage.

Meanwhile, 37 per cent of journalists in this age range say that journalists should always strive to cover all sides equally - percentages that are very similar to the breakdown among journalists of ages 30 to 49.

However, those numbers change noticeably for journalists aged 50 and older, who are evenly split between the two viewpoints.

This age gap aligns with another factor: how long journalists have been working in the profession. Those who have been in the industry longer are more likely to support always striving for equal coverage.

About half of journalists surveyed who have been working in the news



industry for more than 20 years (49 per cent) say that journalists should always strive for equal coverage, compared with 38 per cent of those who have been working in the industry for ten or fewer years. Those who have worked in the industry for between 11 and 20 years fall somewhere in between (43 per cent).

Differences also arise based on the original platforms of the outlets which journalists work for. Those who say they work at organisation that originated in television are more likely to say that journalists should strive to give every side equal coverage (55 per cent) than those who work at outlets that started in print, radio or online. Conversely, those who work in online media are the least likely to say this (37 per cent).

Journalists' attitudes also vary in line with the political leanings of their audience. Overall, 57 per cent of those who say that their outlets have a right-leaning audience believe that the profession should strive for equal coverage.

Meanwhile, 42 per cent of these journalists say that equal coverage is not always deserved.

For journalists who say that their outlets' audience leans left, the trend is reversed, with 30 per cent supporting equal coverage for all sides and a large majority (69 per cent) saying that it is not always deserved. Those who say

that their audiences are politically mixed are evenly divided (49 per cent each).

There is also a notable difference among journalists based on how they view the issue of made-up news and information. Nearly six-in-ten journalists who identify made-up news as a "very big" problem for the nation today (59 per cent) say that all sides do not always deserve equal coverage, while 40 per cent say that they do.

Journalists who see it as less of a problem - either as a moderately big problem, a small problem or not a problem at all - are more split: 53 per cent support always striving for equal coverage, compared with 46 per cent who say that it is not always merited.

Overall, 71 per cent of journalists surveyed say that made-up news and information is a very big problem for the country.

Among the general public, strong majorities in most partisan and demographic groups say that each side warrants equal news coverage, but there are some differences going by political party and age.

Republicans and independents who lean to the Republican Party are considerably more likely than Democrats and Democratic leaners to say that journalists should always strive to give every side equal coverage (87 per cent versus 68 per cent, respectively).

As is the case among journalists, older adults are the most likely to say that all sides warrant equal attention. About eight-in-ten of those aged from 50 (81 per cent) say this, but the share falls to 74 per cent among those of ages 30 to 49 and to 71 per cent among those aged between 18 and 29.

Americans' attitudes also vary based on the amount of trust they have in the news media. US adults who say that they have little or no trust in the information they get from news organisations are more likely than those who have a great deal - or fair amount - of trust to say that journalists should always strive to give every side equal coverage (84 per cent versus 66 per cent, respectively).

Those who have some trust in the news fall in between, with three-quarters of adults in this group saying that journalists should always strive to cover all sides equally.

• *Based in Washington, DC, the Pew Research Centre is a nonpartisan American think tank that provides information on social issues, attitudes, public opinion and demographic trends shaping the United States and the world. Naomi Forman-Katz is a research assistant focusing on journalism and media at the centre, while Mark Jurkowitz is a senior writer at the centre and a former associate director of journalism research.*

By Telesphor Magobe

Tanzanians have the right to live in clean, safe and healthy environment

LAST week we briefly looked at the concept of "New Constitution." We referred to the constitution-making process (2011-2014) that was started in the country and was governed by the Constitutional Review Act (Chapter 83, R.E 2012), which although culminated in the Proposed Constitution of 2014, flopped before it was finalised by a referendum.

Today, I invite you to look at environmental destruction, particularly environmental pollution and its impact on the enormous variety of life on earth. The aim is to ensure every Tanzanian participates in environmental protection and conservation to make our country and the world in general a better place to live in.

Every person in Tanzania has a right to a clean, safe and healthy environment [Section 4(1) of the Environmental Management Act, 2004] as well as a duty to protect and conserve the environment (Section 6).

Section 72 of the Environmental Management Act provides that all land users are responsible for the protection, improvement and nourishment of land and for using it in an environmentally-friendly and sustainable manner. The Act further provides for obligation to sustainable land use, pollution prevention and control, prohibition of water pollution, litter and waste management, management of liquid waste, management of gaseous waste and environmental quality standards.

It is crucial for investors who are key stakeholders to participate in environmental protection and conservation and ensure land is utilised productively and that any land use complies with the principles of sustainable development [Section 3(1)(e) of the Land Act, 1999].

Section 81(3) of the Environmental Management Act prohibits a person having a permit or a licence to implement any project or undertake any activity without an environmental impact assessment certificate issued under the Act. The aim is to evaluate and determine the potential environmental consequences of the project or activity before it starts, taking into account human, socioeconomic, cultural and health aspects.

A recent report by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) says the way land resources—soil, water and biodiversity—are mismanaged and misused threatens the health and continued survival of many species on earth, including "our own."

The report warns: "At no other point in modern history has humanity faced such an array of familiar and unfamiliar risks and hazards, interacting in a hyper-connected and rapidly changing world. We cannot afford to underestimate the scale and impact of these existential threats." The report further says by 2050 a persistent, long-term decline in vegetative productivity is observed for 12-14 per cent of agricultural, pasture and grazing land and natural areas with sub-Saharan Africa worst affected.

To mitigate such effects we need to engage in best agricultural practices. A native or foreigner interested in investing in various sectors of the economy in Tanzania must ensure he or she complies with the Environmental Management Act, 2004 and its Regulations, 2019. "A cleaner production principle requires a person who owns or operates a facility or premises which generate hazardous and toxic waste to minimise the waste generated by adopting specific cleaner production principles."

One of the production principles is "the improvement of a production process through conserving raw materials and energy by eliminating the use of hazardous and toxic raw materials and reducing toxic emissions and hazardous waste to a level prescribed in applicable national environmental quality standards."

We live in a world in which environmental destruction is increasing at an alarming pace, particularly pollution. People are littering the environment and some plastic products are carried by water and deposited to lakes and seas or oceans. Some of the plastic particles have been found in fish, according to an article published in the Journal of Waste Resources and Recycling in November in 2019.

"We are increasingly detecting microplastics in the waters and fish and wildlife in the Great Lakes. A fish with a gut full of plastics cannot be a healthy fish and can, in fact, starve to death. We know this problem is increasing in severity," says Gail Krantzberg, a professor in the Booth School of Engineering Practice and Technology at McMaster University.

The Guardian newspaper (the UK online international edition) of March 24, 2022 reports that microplastic pollution has been detected in human blood for the first time, with scientists finding tiny particles in almost 80 per cent of the people tested. "Huge amounts of plastic waste are dumped on the environment and microplastics now contaminate the entire planet."

A previous study reported by EurekAlert in October 2013 found microplastics in the human food chain "as particles made of polypropylene (PP), polyethylene-terephthalate (PET) and others were detected in human stools."



According to this study, researchers from the Medical University of Vienna and the Environment Agency Austria monitored a group of participants from countries across the world, including Finland, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Poland, Russia, the UK and Austria. Their findings showed that every single stool sample tested positive for the presence of microplastic and up to nine different plastic types were identified.

The microplastics reported are small particles of plastic less than 5mm and are used in various products for specific purposes as well as being created unintentionally by the breaking down of larger pieces of plastic through weathering, degradation, wear and tear.

According to the authors of a New England Journal of Medicine article, Frederica Perera of Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and Kari Nadeau of the Stanford University School of Medicine, air pollution is associated with increased risks of infant mortality, adverse birth outcomes, asthma and other respiratory illness, developmental disorders, and lifelong health problems, including reduced cognition, mental health problems, and autism.

"Its health impacts remain enormous and low- and middle-income countries bear the brunt of this burden. Despite its enormous health, social and economic impacts, pollution prevention is largely over-

looked in the international development agenda."

An update to The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health shows that there were nine million deaths caused by pollution in 2019 (equivalent to one in six deaths worldwide), the same number as in 2015. "Deaths from modern pollution have increased by 66 per cent in the past two decades, from an estimated 3.8 million deaths in 2000 to 6.3 million deaths in 2019."

The study shows excess pollution deaths have led to \$4.6 trillion economic losses in 2019, equating to 6.2 per cent of the global economic output. It also shows pollution's deep inequity, with 92 per cent of pollution-related deaths, and the greatest burden of pollution's economic losses, occurring in low-income and middle-income countries. All these are consequences of environmental destruction.

Significant efforts both at national and global levels have been made to protect and conserve the environment and protect ourselves and our mother earth in general against catastrophes, whose long-term consequences we are incapable of reversing. We can particularly think of the effects of global warming caused by increased concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, food insecurity, loss of vegetation cover, increased risk of zoonotic diseases caused by pathogens that jump from animals to human beings, the rise of sea water level, wildfires and pollution.

It is only through environmental protection and conservation that we can be sure of minimising such consequences and of living in clean, safe and healthy environment and in a better world for us. It suffices to say that if we want nature to care for us, we must first care for it by engaging ourselves in best practices for whatever project we implement or any activity we undertake.

Today's proverb: "A fair face may hide a foul heart."

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By Yang Wenming,

Ancient town in southwest China is restoring slow-paced lifestyles

WEISHAN, an ancient town situated at the foot of Ailao Mountain in the western part of Yunnan province in southwest China, was founded in 1389 with a history spanning more than 600 years.

The ancient town houses a number of historical relics that carry the local features of China's southwest region. Today, it remains its original appearance and is recognized as one of the best-preserved ancient towns in China.

Viewed from above, the ancient town looks like a chessboard crisscrossed with streets and alleys, with civil residences and ancient temples standing side by side. Small as it may be, the ancient town mirrors the prosperity of Nanzhao, a kingdom that flourished during the 8th and 9th centuries.

Weishan residents start the day with a bowl of noodles at the 25-year-old "Yi Gen Mian" restaurant, which means "a strand of noodle" in Chinese. At 5:00 am every day, the restaurant owner Zhu Zhiqiu would get in the kitchen for preparations.

The noodles, pulled thin and long, and with specially made toppings of diced bamboo and minced meat on them, represent the authentic taste of the ancient town. The noodle-making technique is also an intangible cultural heritage that has been passed down for generations.

Starting from around 6:30 am, students and frequenters would successively arrive at the restaurant. Zhu knows the taste preference of every one of them.

Chen Minghua eats at Zhu's restaurant almost every day, even having a bowl and a pair of chopsticks of her own there. "We are close neighbors. They pay me on a monthly basis," Zhu said.

Modern lifestyles once disturbed the slow pace of living in Weishan. For a time, modern schools and hospitals had been built in the core area of the ancient town.

As people gained a growing awareness of the need to safeguard historical sites and cultural features, Weishan moved the schools, hospitals and offices out of its core area, and renovated temples and

other ancient architectures there. A museum of Nanzhao culture that collects over 3,000 items has been built.

Today, new inscribed boards and couplets funded by the government are seen on the town's paifang, a traditional Chinese architectural arch or gateway structure usually found at the entrances of towns and villages, on which the carvings are repaired to show their ancient appearance.

Now, many ancient buildings have been restored to their original glory after preserving and coloring. The easy and slow-paced lifestyle remains.

Fan Jianwei, who used to work for Weishan county's bureau of culture and tourism, told People's Daily that resources were exploited purely for better development in the past, but now it needs to be preserved for their historical and cultural values.

Under the joint efforts of the society and government, Weishan is making constant progress on the rational development of the ancient town and integrated promotion of culture and tourism. The town is seeing more and more visitors for its attractive snacks such as dried fruit, bean jelly and green bean cake. Some even stay for days to enjoy a few more bowls of the authentic

"Yi Gen Mian" noodle.

B&B hotels are sprouting in the ancient town, and projects that enable tourists to immersively experience Weishan culture and history are also developing. Today, Weishan county is connected to a railway network, and an expressway linking the county and Dali, a popular tourist destination in Yunnan province is about to be put into use.

In 2017, the ancient town was selected by Yunnan province as one of the five world-class characteristic towns. Two years later, it officially kicked off a tourism project featuring the Nanzhao palace.

"The integration of cultural protection and tourism development is an inevitable choice," said Guo Xiaobin, an official with Weishan county's bureau of culture and tourism, adding that the ancient county must find a balance between maintaining its original appearance and advancing orderly commercial development.

It should both keep its cultural connotation and historical elements, and take proper commercial management of its ancient architectures, the official said.

Hundreds of years ago, people in the ancient town danced and sang to express their yearning for life. Today, the residents inherit the yearning and pass it to the future. Keeping a slow-paced lifestyle, Weishan is exploring ways to promote its cultural protection and culture-tourism integration.

People's Daily



Photo taken on Dec. 16, 2021 shows a section of an expressway in Weishan county, southwest China's Yunnan province. File photo

By Peter Fabricius

South Africa's ANC marches to a different drum than rest of Africa

READING the foreign policy chapter of the African National Congress's (ANC) 2022 discussion paper, one gets a sense that South Africa's ruling party is increasingly marching to the beat of a different drum to the rest of Africa. Yet the ANC is convinced it's the only one in step.

ANC foreign policy documents have always been shot through with anachronistic-sounding, Cold War-evoking phrases like assessing the "balance of forces" in the world and Africa. The ANC sees the world as the terrain of a mighty Manichaean battle between good and evil.

On the good side, you have the 'progressive' or 'revolutionary' forces, of which the ANC regards itself as an important standard bearer. Pitched against them are the counter-revolutionary forces of 'neo-liberalism' led by the United States (US), North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato), World Bank, International Monetary Fund, etc.

Globally, the document takes the gloomy view that the bad guys are winning, noting that "right-wing extremism, authoritarianism and illiberalism" are threatening the pursuit of a progressive international agenda.

The document makes clear why Pretoria has controversially never condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The ANC sees Russia as having been provoked by America's alleged agenda to eliminate its world rivals.

However, as Priyal Singh, Researcher at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), points out: "While the discussion document very explicitly outlines the ANC's opposition to the US-dominated international order, by promoting its own brand of "progressive internationalism", it fails to account for the fact that Russia and China (in particular) are a poor choice of partners to realise this progressive agenda."

The ANC also sees the progressive

and revolutionary forces on the backfoot in Africa. It notes that "The progressive movement is relatively weak amongst mass political formations and the governments on our continent.

The same is also true [regarding] practical commitment to Pan-Africanism."

The ruling party attributes this weakness largely to "the infiltration of the African Union by non-African states through their proxies" – mainly France, the US, Israel and the 'monarchical' Middle East states. Barely a mention of Russia, even though it is extending its tentacles all over Africa, largely through its proxy, the private military company Wagner.

America's main crime is to have sucked African states into its global war on terror, particularly in the Sahel and West Africa. ISS Head of African Futures and Innovation Jakkie Cilliers observes that, "No doubt the US invasion of Iraq reinvigorated Isis globally.

That, plus Nato's efforts in Libya are largely responsible for the spread of terror and instability in North and West Africa. So current US efforts to defend those countries are perhaps not inappropriate."

In the discussion document, France reprises its familiar role as an archvillain in the ANC's playbook because of its considerable influence in Franco-



Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) speaks to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 2019 Russia-Africa Summit at the Sirius Park of Science and Art in Sochi, Russia, 24 October 2019. File photo

phone Africa.

Israel is accused of aggressively pursuing relations with African countries and the African Union (AU) – a clear reference to Israel's efforts to be accredited diplomatically to the AU, which South Africa so vigorously opposed.

Morocco – though presumably still regarded by the ANC as African – earns its place in the pantheon of anti-progressive villains for its "growing influence." This is purportedly "inextricably related to the continuing chal-

lenge of FrancAfrique which sets French-speaking countries against others including English-speaking African countries in a manner that harms the cohesion of the African Union, its organs and programmes."

No doubt there is outside meddling in Africa. But the continent – except among the ANC's fellow former liberation movements in the south – is largely diverging from the ideological preoccupations of the ANC, if it ever shared them. Most African states, one suspects, don't see

the continent primarily as a battleground between neo-liberalism and revolutionary progressivism.

They are increasingly pragmatic and nuanced. Rightly or wrongly, African countries aren't as bothered about the Western Sahara and Palestine.

They see Morocco as an increasingly valuable trade and investment partner and the Israel partnership as useful, especially in fields like water and agriculture. Sahel and West African states probably still primarily appreciate US and French aid in fighting jihadists, even if France lost some ground in Mali, where a military junta recently evicted it.

"Much of the rest of Africa has moved on from liberation-era politics (and economics) – but not the ANC or its Soviet-era liberation partners in Zimbabwe, Namibia and Mozambique," says Cil-

liers. "We continue to pay the price for that delayed maturation."

The document is not without pertinent introspection. It wonders candidly whether the ANC government might have lost its "revolutionary credentials" as the champion of progressivism in Africa because of its own internal problems. These are referred to as factionalism, the "inevitable compromises" of being in government, the neglect of Africa under Jacob Zuma's presidency, and growing xenophobia in South Africa.

The draft policy is also pragmatic in places. It proposes, for example, a review of the 2017 decision to withdraw South Africa from the International Criminal Court (ICC). It notes that the AU has resolved to reform the ICC rather than leave the court, so withdrawing would undermine African consensus. The document even suggests a review of the 2017 decision to downgrade the South African embassy in Israel to a liaison office.

And the discussion document isn't without insight into Africa's ills, stating that: "Apart from poverty and underdevelopment, weaknesses and failures of governance probably constitute the single most important threat to the security of both citizens and states."

But it still places too much faith in its former liberation movement comrades to address such problems and allocates too much blame to external forces. For example, it reiterates the familiar party position that Western sanctions are the root of all Zimbabwe's ills.

Singh is struck by the fact that the document offers few new solutions. He says it repeats the need for Africa to "silence the guns" and for South Africa to invest more energy in this critical ambition. "Yet, over the last decade or so, South Africa has played an increasingly marginal role in undertaking bilateral peace and security interventions across the continent's conflict hotspots."

So, there's more rhetoric than substance in this document. Maybe it will firm up at the ANC's policy conference later this month, where it will be debated. But we probably shouldn't hold our breath.

DM

Differences between US, Israel on Iran nuke issue remain despite Biden's visit

JERUSALEM

THE differences on the Iranian nuclear issue between the United States and Israel remained despite U.S. President Joe Biden's current visit, analysts said.

Biden and Israeli caretaker Prime Minister Yair Lapid on Thursday signed the Jerusalem Declaration, a joint document on building a strategic partnership, under which the two close allies affirm their commitment to preventing the nuclear armament of Iran. But Israeli analysts said that such a declaration usually lacks substance and does not reflect any important development in the bilateral relations.

Moreover, they predicted that Biden's whirlwind four-day tour to the Middle East, which will end with a stay in Saudi Arabia this weekend, would not live up to the expectation of him to expedite the normalization of the ties between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

NUKE TALKS AT FOCUS

"The real issue is what the U.S. is going to do about Iran, which is what Israel is very much concerned about, and we know that there are differences of opinion between Israel and the U.S. on this issue," said Efraim Inbar, president of the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security, an Israeli think tank. Israel considers Iran as its arch foe and has continuously voiced concern over its nuclear aspirations, though Iran insists its nuclear program is not for military purposes.



Palestinians hold a protest against U.S. President Joe Biden visit, in Gaza City, on Thursday. Xinhua

The U.S., together with other world powers, has been engaged in negotiations with Iran on reviving the 2015 Iranian nuclear pact since last year.

The U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the nuclear deal in 2018, but the Biden administration hopes to restore the deal through indirect talks with Iran.

However, during the Thursday meeting between Lapid and Biden, the two sides made a great effort to show there was little disagreement between the two close allies.

"Today, you and I also discussed America's commitment to ensure Iran never obtains a nuclear weapon," Biden said at a joint press conference. "I continue to believe that diplomacy is the best way to achieve this outcome."

But Lapid insisted that "Words will not stop them (Iranians). Diplomacy will not stop them." "The only thing that will stop Iran is knowing that if they continue

to develop their nuclear program the free world will use force.

The only way to stop them is to put a credible military threat on the table," he said.

Emmanuel Navon, an expert on international relations at Tel Aviv University, said that as the stalemate in the Iranian nuclear deal talks continues, the Americans want to send a message to their allies that they are not the ones who closed the door on the possibility of reviving the pact, but rather the Iranians.

REVIVING U.S. INFLUENCE

An additional issue on the agenda was the normalization of the ties between Israel and Arab countries.

The process began in 2020 with the signing of the Abraham Accords, under which Israel normalized relations with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Later Morocco and Sudan followed suit to normalize their ties with Israel. Biden is scheduled to travel to Saudi Arabia on Friday.

Analysts expected symbolic gestures toward the normalization of the ties between Israel and

Saudi Arabia, which reportedly will allow for commercial Israeli flights to fly over its airspace.

"The expectations I think are dramatic ... Having said that, we can clearly see warming up in the relations between the two countries. We see Israeli businessmen going there, we know that there are also Israeli officials visiting Riyadh," said Inbar.

The importance of Israel's normalization with the Gulf States is also part of both American and Israeli efforts to shore up their abilities and options to counter Iran, in case the nuclear deal talks fail.

"There is a new regional architecture that the Americans are trying to construct toward Iran," said Navon. "It is part of the American alternative plan to an agreement with Iran."

"There is extensive security cooperation between Israel with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain. There is already intelligence cooperation with Saudi Arabia and this is an attempt to make it more official," Navon noted.

Biden wants these relations to be upgraded gradually in order

to send a message to Iran that the U.S. is a superpower that has other options other than diplomacy, he added.

PALESTINIAN QUESTION MARGINALIZED

During Biden's visit in Israel, the Israeli-Palestinian was not high on the agenda during the meetings. At the joint press conference with Lapid, Biden voiced his continued support for the two-state solution to the decades-long conflict, although he acknowledged the solution is currently unattainable. "They (the U.S.) do understand that a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not possible at this time ... but there is a need for ameliorating the conditions of living of the Palestinians and of course Israel doesn't object to that," said Inbar.

Ahead of the visit, Israel approved a series of economic measures aimed at improving the situation in the Palestinian territories in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The number of work permits for Palestinians to enter Israel is expected to increase and zoning plans in the West Bank are to be approved. Biden recognizes the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and has no illusions about a quick solution, said Navon.

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 UMUJAVYO 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

SWIL project execution impresses Norwegian embassy's delegation

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania has expressed its satisfaction with the great success that has begun to be seen in the implementation of the Strengthen Women-In-Leadership (SWIL) project in Zanzibar.

Supported by the embassy, the four-year project is being executed by Tanzania Media Women's Association (Tamwa-Zanzibar), Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA), Pemba Environment, Gender, and Advocacy Organisation (PEGAO)

By now the project has reached 6,917 people in Unguja and Pemba islands, whereby 4,797 are women and 2120 are men.

SWIL thrives to expand partnership base by regularly rifling for new actors and partners in the field so that strong gains are obtained at the organizational and society levels.

The Norwegian delegation led by Bjorn Midthun made the remarks when speaking at Tamwa-Zanzibar offices in Tanguu area, Unguja Central District, where they visited and see how the project has been executed.

Midthun said: "We've seen a lot of great things in the project for the past two years since its inception in 2020 to date. There are a large number of women who have run for office and won various leadership positions ranging from political parties and civil society organizations."

He explained: "All these changes, I believe have come as a result of greater efforts through the project and finally for the first time more women have moved and come forward to compete or raise their voices."

Midthun also said that through specialized young people who have been trained in Community Brigades (CBs) and they have done a great job of mobilizing the community while increasing the accountability of leaders and then those leaders are responsible in the community including helping their people in their challenges they face in some areas.

He said that when the project started growing there were many challenges for women in the islands

SWIL is aimed at increasing participation of women in democratic processes and leadership at all levels of the society so that women will be regarded as active and vibrant actors in leadership processes.

The project intends to build the capacity of 6,000 women equal to 100 CSOs and will eventually reach out to the wider community. The CSOs will in turn pass the messages to community members through dialogues and linkages.

The project is undertaken in all eleven districts of Zanzibar, seven districts in Unguja and four districts in Pemba. These are Unguja South, North, Urban, West A and West B and Pemba, Wete, Micheweni, Mkoani and Chakechake.



Tanzania Media Women's Association (Tamwa) Zanzibar Chapter director Dr Mzuri Issa (R) escorts officers from the Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania shortly after talks at the association's office in Zanzibar on Thursday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

And the target groups include individual and women groups, grass root networks and community based organizations in Zanzibar that directly

or indirectly contributes to the participation of women in democratic processes and decision making at the local or national level.

They are being empowered on women's rights to political and democratic engagement and being supported to undertake various inter-

ventions towards mobilizing women from the grass root to national level towards participation in democratic and political process

East African Community education agency gets new board

By Guardian Reporter

THE 13th General Assembly of the Inter University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) has elected new members of the IUCEA Governing Board, with Prof Calixte Kabera the Vice Chancellor East African University of Rwanda as the Chairperson, for two years (2022-2024).

The Assembly, which is the highest policy making organ of IUCEA, is comprised of Vice Chancellors and Principals from Member Universities, representatives of Ministries responsible for Higher Education and representatives of the EAC Partner States.

A press statement from the

office of the communication Officer at IUCEA, Godwin Bonge Muhwezi stated that the IUCEA governing board is responsible for providing oversight on all operations and activities of IUCEA to ensure effective execution of its mandate.

Muhwezi said that all new members were selected from the East African Community Member states apart from the new entrant, Democratic Republic of Congo.

The new members of the governing board include Burundi. The members are Joseph Nyandwi, Director Général, Institut National de Santé Publique, Jean Nshimirimana, Rector, and Martin Luther King University.



From Tanzania they include Prof Andrea Pembe, Vice Chancellor, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Prof Costa Rica Mahalu, Vice Chancellor, St Augustine University of Tanzania.

From Kenya, Prof Isaac Kosgey, Vice Chancellor, Moi University, Prof David Gichoya, Vice Chancellor, Kenya Methodist University and from Rwanda they are Prof Nosa Egiebor, Ag Vice Chancellor, University of

Rwanda, while from South Sudan they are Prof Deng Mach, Vice Chancellor, Rumbek University of Science & Technology and Fr Mathew Pagan Daniel Padiet, Vice Chancellor, Catholic University of South Sudan.

From Uganda the following Academician were selected to the Board. Prof Joy Kwesiga, Vice Chancellor, Kabale University, Prof John Mugisha, Vice Chancellor, Cavendish University, Uganda.

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) is an institution of the East African Community (EAC) responsible for the coordination of higher educational development and research.

IUCEA is responsible for advising the EAC and partner states on all matters regarding higher education including operationalization of the EAC Common Higher Education Area.

Energy forum discusses the acceleration of renewable electrification investments

By Guardian Reporter

A three-day Energy Access Investment Forum (EAIF) has been held, with industry players and investors coming together to discuss the critical role that green recovery initiatives can play in catalysing private sector investments to boost green recovery efforts across sub-Saharan Africa.

The forum moved on to thematic and pitching sessions on green mini-grid investments, productive use approaches and working capital for decentralised renewable energy (DRE) companies.

The forum was supported by the European Union and GETinvest. It attracted over 1,200 participants including private and public investors, industry representatives and public officials.

The Forum was opened with high-level welcome remarks emphasising the importance of accelerating efforts to achieve a higher uptake of DRE from the Minister for Energy, January Makamba, AfDB, IRENA, ARE, as well as Manfredo Fanti, Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to Tanzania.

Ambassador Fanti said: "The EU sees catalysing private sector investments in DRE as a critical part of the EU Global Gateway strategy enabling sustainable energy connections that work for the people and the planet. As a follow-up to the EU-Africa Business Forum in

February, EAIF is a perfect occasion for public and private investors, industry, governments and other stakeholders to contribute to this objective and develop business partnerships. On that note, the EU is proud to partner with ARE for this year's edition of the EAIF."

Joao Duarte Cunha, Division Manager, Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa managed by the African Development Bank said: "Despite the challenges of the pandemic, EAIF 2022 has shown that the DRE community is as vibrant as ever. Still, there is much to be done towards a robust and better capitalised sector. We look forward to continuing our support to countries and businesses with our growing suite of catalytic finance instruments. We are also grateful to ARE for providing this unique platform for dialogue and action to accelerate energy access in Africa."

David Lecoque, CEO, ARE said: "On behalf of ARE, I would like to thank all participants who joined EAIF 2022 on-site and virtually. This year's event was a concrete step taken towards reaching universal energy access with the GETinvest matchmaking sessions, exhibition, panel discussions, thematic and pitching sessions and more. It is only through extensive cooperation that we can achieve SDG-7. The region and the sector is open for business. Now, it is time to invest in renewable electrification!"

Advancing women's leadership and gender equity critical to delivering SDGs

By Guardian Reporter

HALF-WAY towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, decades of progress are being rolled back, with women's fundamental rights and health under threat.

The reversals are being exacerbated by COVID-19 and other compounding crises such as increasing incidences of conflict and the climate emergency.

They come at a time when the world is just starting to see decades of hard-earned labour and effort bear fruit, with the number of girls in education increasing, maternal mortality rates falling, and child marriages and deaths decreasing.

The United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF), currently underway in New York, is a critical opportunity to reflect on progress made to date and agree on a way forward to tackle the significant risks being faced at this juncture.

On Wednesday, an official side-event to the HLPF, Choice, Voice and Autonomy: Women's political leadership for health in a fragile world was organized by PMNCH, Women in Global Health, UHC2030 and Global Health 50/50, and hosted by the government of Estonia.

It brought together global policymakers, government representatives, business leaders, health care providers, youth and community representatives from around the world.

Helen Clark, PMNCH Board Chair, and former Prime Minister of New Zealand said: "At a time when compounding crises are rolling

back previous progress made on women's empowerment and the health of communities, war is also being waged on the fundamental rights of women and girls."

She added: "We need urgent and transformative action to reverse these worrying trends. Women must have both seats and voice at decision-making tables. To achieve the vision of leaving no one behind in development, societies must move beyond lip service to implementation of rights-based and gender sensitive approaches to achieving equality, resilience, and sustainability."

Co-Chair, UHC2030 Steering Committee, Gabriela Cuevas Barron said: "Health is a right, not a privilege. It requires political will and leadership. But women need to have an equal say in the health systems that impact their health and well-being."

Ye they only have 25 percent of the seats in parliaments and hold 25 percent of the senior roles in global health. The rules must be change to advance from this unequal reality."

Global Health 50/50 Co-Directors Prof Sarah Hawkes and Prof Kent Buse said: "The collective failure to deliver equality in global health is inextricably linked to a failure to ensure equality in voice, representation, and inclusion at the top. We urgently need feminist leaders, especially women and other under-represented groups, to push for health rights, equity and gender

equality."

They underscored the need for a robust system of accountability to ensure that promises made are promises kept for the Global Health 50/50 aim to deliver. Dr Magda Robalo, Global Managing Director, Women in Global Health said: "Even before the pandemic gender inequity was hard wired into the global health workforce, with women clustered into lower status sectors and jobs, marginalised in leadership and frequently subject to violence and harassment. Although women are the majority of health workers, they hold only 25 percent of decision-making roles in health, and women from the Global South are particularly marginalised."

Kersti Kaljulaid, former President of Estonia and the UN Secretary-General's Global Advocate for Every Woman Every Child said: "When we acknowledge the contributions of women; when we pay women fairly for the work that they do; when we show the value and inherent necessity of women for society. Solutions are complex, but let us commit to a gender lens that includes the participation of women - especially young women and girls - working in partnerships and communities, governments, corporations and NGOs towards our common goals."

Women and girls represent half of the world's population, yet their full potential remains largely un-

tapped. They are too often subject to sexual or physical abuse and exploitation, threatened with harmful traditions and practices, denied the right to education and health-care, discriminated against in employment, and often deterred from participating in political processes, including voting.

Globally, 143 countries legally guarantee equality between men and women. But in practice, gender inequalities subsist in most parts of the world, and in many cases are being rolled even further back.

Women are not given seats at decision-making tables commensurate with their numbers. According to the UN Women, as of 1 September 2021, there were 26 women serving as Heads of State or Government in 24 countries.

The pervasive leadership gap between women and men can only be closed by addressing systemic barriers to women's advancement.

This is especially important as emerging evidence from the pandemic shows that female-led countries have generally fared better in terms of outcomes during COVID-19 through instilling proactive and coordinated policy responses.

Some 11 million girls might not return to school this year due to COVID-19's unprecedented education disruption.

This not only threatens decades of progress made towards gender equality, but also puts girls around the world at risk of adolescent pregnancy, early and forced marriage,

NAIROBI

Drones to help fishers avoid border conflicts in Lake Victoria

IT is exactly two years since George Omuodo's brutal confrontation with fishers from Uganda, an encounter that left him hospitalized with a broken arm and bruised ribs. After listening to his ordeal, one wonders where he gets the courage to go back to the lake every day.

"I have to feed my family," Omuodo tells IPS.

Omuodo is a 28-year-old fisher from Homabay county, a place famously known for its fishing activities with its large harbor and string of fishing boats lined up along the shores of Lake Victoria.

Omuodo and most of his friends rely on fishing, a source of food and income for their families. The only problem with this humble lifestyle is that it suddenly turned risky.

Border conflicts have been a perennial problem for local authorities on Lake Victoria for a long time, which has seen some fishermen lose their lives as they participate in their trade.

The infamous Migingo Island is one example of border conflict that has seen many Kenyan fishers suffer at the hands of Ugandan authorities. The fishermen complained of being harassed by the border patrols, some of whom forced them to give up their equipment, catch, and even freedom due to trespassing rules.

"The area around Migingo is good for fishing and is what drives us there. However, the Ugandan government believes that Migingo Island is their territory and that all the fish around the area belong to them.

Their border patrol and fishermen have been harassing us," Omuodo lamented.

"Since this is our only source of livelihood, we have no choice but to constantly risk our lives just to earn a living for ourselves," he said.

Omuodo and his friends may finally have someone to watch over them as they go about their business.

Thanks to the Technical University of Kenya (TUK), fishers on Lake Victoria may soon have a drone keeping an eye on them and making sure they do not fall victim to border conflicts.

In 2018, TUK embarked on a project that saw them develop their nanosatellite dubbed "TUKSat-1," which was aimed at monitoring security on Lake Victoria, including helping local authorities in rescue operations.

According to TUK, the satellite works by relaying coordinates, including pictorial views, to the relevant personnel, thus aiding in tracking water vessels and people who go missing on the lake.

TUKSat-1 aims to mitigate this problem by sounding an alarm whenever a Kenyan vessel drifts too close to a Kenya-Tanzania or Kenya-Uganda border.

Professor Paul Baki, the project's lead investigator, told IPS that the nanosatellite program was a joint effort that involved disciplines from various schools such as Mechanical and process engineering, surveying and geospatial technologies, aerospace and



Thanks to the Technical University of Kenya, fishers on Lake Victoria may soon have a drone keeping an eye on them and making sure they do not fall victim to border conflicts.

aeronautical engineering, electrical and electronic engineering as well as physics and earth sciences.

"The TUKSat-1 program was initiated at the University in 2018 and involved collaborations between TUK and other institutions abroad," Baki told IPS. "We were able to get funding from the Kenya Space Agency in 2020 and built the 1U nanosatellite (10cm3 in volume) between October 2020 to October 2021," he added.

Baki said that the parts used to build the satellite were bought locally, and all the work was done in TUK's physics laboratory.

Space exploration is not alien to Kenya, as NASA once launched a satellite from the San Marco launch site, Malindi, in 1970. Despite the satellite (dubbed Small Astronomical Satellite 1, SAS-1) not being Kenyan-owned, it did bear the Kenyan slogan "UHURU," and the launch was a historic moment for a country that had just gained its independence. The satellite was also the first of its kind dedicated to X-ray astronomy.

Fast forward five decades later, where the University of Nairobi was able to build the first Kenyan-owned satellite (1st Kenyan University Nanosatellite-Precursor Flight) IKUNS - PF, which was launched from the international space station in the United States.

The CubeSat, assembled by University of Nairobi (UON) engineering students in collaboration with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), was launched into the international space station on May 11, 2018. Its purpose was to carry out technological tests while recording details

about the earth.

The UON got its funding, worth Ksh.120 million (about US\$ 1million), from the joint space program between JAXA and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in 2016.

However, unlike the IKUNS-PF, which currently floats around in space, the TUKSat-1 was launched on a drone and is meant to demonstrate the technology in preparation for more technical launches.

"Space technology and exploration will soon influence our economy and livelihood," said Seth Odhiambo Nyawacha, a Geomatics Application Expert at Locate IT Limited. It is time Africa started producing the minds needed for technological advancements.

Nyawacha explained that Africa quickly became a consumer of space-based technology and products, which called for investments from stakeholders, especially in education and training about space technology and its exploration.

"With the development of the African Space Agency, soon to be hosted in Egypt, the continent will require home-based technicians and engineers to propel our satellites to space, ranging from communication satellites, weather forecast satellites in the wake of climate change, among other satellite types," Nyawacha told IPS. He applauded the effort by JAXA and UNOOSA to help fund and train engineers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

A 2021 Kenyan-Spaceport report

said that Kenya's position on the equator made it a suitable center for rocket launches, and Marsabit was chosen as the site for setting up a spaceport.

The Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and Moi University are other Kenyan institutions interested in space exploration.

"Kenya has shown great potential in space technology, and we should use this opportunity to set up a small-scale domestic space industry. As a country, we need to tap into the bright minds in our universities and help them propel Kenya into the frontiers of space technology," Baki added.

Omuodo doesn't understand much about satellites but welcomes any measure that would help them ply their trade in peace.

IPS



The TUKSat-1 program was initiated at the University in 2018 and involved collaborations between TUK and other institutions abroad

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 323 00--

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

3 letters RAT, EAT, BYE
 4 letters MERE, MENU, OSLO, OMAN, REIN, HATE, MEED, ORES, BULL,
 5 letters AMPERE, RACHIS, DINER, NOBLE
 6 letters BUCKET, PLENARY, SOMALIA, TEASED
 7 letters BROWSER, BULGARE, OMADHAUN
 8 letters EMINENCE, DYNAMITE
 9 letters CALAMITY,

CLUES: Across
 1 the sixth day of the week
 6 bring about or perform
 7 Country of a thousand hills
 10 tala
 11 quite, gentle and submissive
 13 Togo's Capital
 15 fever marked by severe internal bleeding
 17 ethnic group in Chamba district
 19 move towards the land
 20 hinnie
 22 a light meal
 23 a narrow passage of water connecting two seas
 24 a stiff bristle growing from the ear or flower of barley and rye

Down:
 1 a public meeting place and market square
 2 angry
 3 an illicit drinking place in India
 4 man's wide brimmed hat
 5 cannabis
 8 without clothes
 9 let someone do something
 12 remove from a place of danger to a safer place
 14 alkene
 16 legal prohibitions
 18 Russia's Capital
 21 energy, style and enthusiasm
 22 a pigsty

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS
 B L O O D S N E A R
 L O M E S C A R E E
 A R I D R W A N D A N I
 B E T E L O A S E S E
 S W E A R N E S T A
 C O L G A G R E A D
 R A I S E E R G O E
 O D D Y A P O K E
 D E K C O M I C I
 A D R E M K A C H I N
 P A P A Y A K
 A F R A I D N L E S S

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS
 C O V I D I 9 T S
 H A A F R A N C E
 I S L A N D E N R
 B O T S W A N A
 A N K A R A A R I D
 M T O N I F Y A H
 B U Y E R S T E E P L E
 B A R M A N S R E
 A R A B
 E T H I O P I A

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS HADJO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA 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DATA ANALYSIS

How floods ravage middle, low-income earners economy

By Francis Kajubi

FLOODS lead by 50.1 percent among other weather-related natural disasters in ruining individuals' economies since the last two decades to date, current data from the Disaster Risk Management Department (DRMD) under the Prime Minister's Office shows.

The current data further reveals that as of 2020 floods had denied the government an average of \$215million which is equivalent to 501.28billion/- contributed annually to the gross domestic product (GDP) by people employed in the agriculture, services, and transport sectors.

The disaster management data portfolio released in 2021 shows that a total of 363 natural disasters were recorded to have happened between 2000 and 2020.

Of the 363 natural disasters, the data portfolio shows that weather-related disasters accounted for 250 which is equivalent to 69 percent while the rest percentage is formed by other uncommon natural disasters in Tanzania such as earthquakes, epidemics and minor volcanic eruptions.

Flooding is the most frequently occurring natural disaster representing 50.1 percent of all weather-related natural disasters affecting Tanzanians.

Other significant natural disasters that occurred during the past 20 years under review include wind rain 8.1 percent and drought 4.4 percent.

In addition to severe weather occurring either directly or indirectly, epidemics accounted for 21.2 percent and ocean winds 16.2 percent, all part of the disasters that happened in the last 20 years.

According to the data, the local economy is heavily exposed to flood, and on an annual average, people from the areas that are mostly affected by floods contributes an average of \$215million which is equivalent to 501.28billion/- (0.45 percent) of the total national gross domestic product (GDP) recorded in the fourth quarter of 2020 that stood at 129.09trn/- on constant price.

The 501.28bn/- is the calculated average of economic contribution to the

GDP from people employed in the agriculture, services, and transport sectors as of 2020.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) economic highlights for the quarter ending 2021 released April 2022, shows that at 2015 constant market price total GDP stood at 135.44trn/- in 2021 up from 129.09trn/- in the corresponding quarter ending December 2020.

Meanwhile, during the periods under review at current market prices, GDP grew to 157.74trn/- from 148.5trn/- a growth of 6.2 percent.

In this case, the 501.28billion/- might be considered a meagre amount of money compared to the constant and current total GDP values as pointed out earlier but worth enough to fund construction of 501 health centers at a maximum budget of 1billion/- per each facility.

Minister for Finance and Planning Dr Mwigulu Nchemba told the National Assembly in June during tabling of the 2022/23 budget that the government had during the 2021/22 financial year spent 86billion/- in construction of 234 health centers using funds sourced from mobile money transaction levies.

Breaking down the 86bn/- one can say that the government spent a minimum of 367.52million/- in construction of one health center of the total 234 health centers.

With the minimum budget of 367.52mn/- per health center, the government can spend the 501.28bn/- in construction of 1,361 health centers.

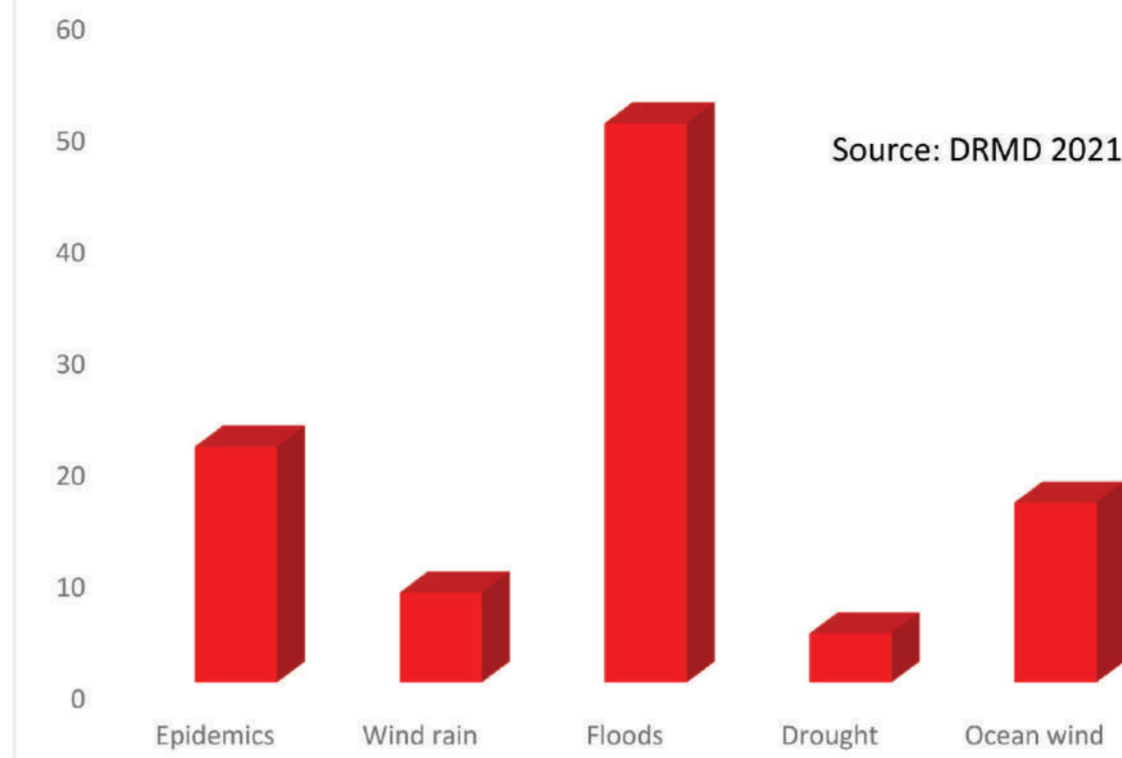
Data from the Disaster Risk Management Department (DRMD) further shows that there is a growing trend of more deaths from floods than other disasters particularly between 2016 and 2020.

On an annual basis an average of 150,000 people are victims to floods compared to estimated 100,000 in 2015.

However, the 150,000 flood victims are equivalent to 0.25 percent of the 60 million estimated total population of Tanzania as of December 2021.

The distribution of the people potentially affected is uniform with one hot-

Types of Natural Disasters Against Effects Measured In Percentage Between 2000 And 2020



spot in the eastern part of the country and specifically in Morogoro, Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Pwani regions.

Floods are a recurring disaster in Dar es Salaam. For example, the DMRD states that in 2018 floods cost an equivalent of two and four percent of the city's GDP which is equivalent to between \$107million (249.56billion/-) and \$227million (529.48billion/-) in losses.

In addition, the affected households in the city inflicted a loss of 23 percent of their annual expenditure.

Socio-economic impacts of the December 2011 floods in Dar es Salaam damaged residential worth 7.5million/- along Msimbazi basin.

During the same year the government had spent a total of 1.83billion/- to rescue the situation and flood victims across the whole country.

In 2020, heavy rainfall occurred in Kilwa, Liwale and Ruangwa districts in Lindi region in the south-eastern Tanzania.

Working with the government in addressing the disaster's aftermath, Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) in collaboration the Prime Minister's Office conducted a follow up detailed assessment from 27 February to 8 March 2020.

TRCS data states that from the Lindi flood disaster almost 4,297 households with 21,485 people were affected with 24 people dead in Kilwa and Mtama districts.

"Apart from the 4,297 households affected in Kilwa and Mtama districts, there were 114 households with 850 people, affected in Ruangwa district, 936 households with 1,777 people in Lindi urban district, and 198 households with 234 people in Liwale district," reads the TRCS assessment.

A joint diagnostic report dubbed 'Tanzania's Inclusive Insurance and Risk Finance 2022' by the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Tanzania In-

surance Regulatory Authority (TIRA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Insurance and Risk Finance Facility (IRFF) states that there is heavy reliance on donor funds in addressing natural disasters' impacts.

The report reveals that donor funds account for 75 percent of direct investment targeting disaster risk reduction (DRR).

However, almost 80 percent of DRR resources from donors is spent on mitigation and prevention activities, while response and relief activities are funded through domestic funds.

"The only disaster risk finance instruments used in Tanzania are contingent funds, budgetary reserved funds and donor funds when received," reads part of the report.

In more specific data, the report asserts that floods represented 35 percent of all hazards that occurred between the years 2016 and 2020 causing losses of \$28million (65.31billion/-) in the agriculture, services, and transport sectors.

Funds for disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness are largely received from development partners, mostly the United Nations Agencies.

According to the Risk-sensitive Budget Review released January 2020 by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) that focused on public investment planning for the periods between 2016/17 and 2018/19, states that across the three financial years, an average of \$381.3million (888.26billion/-) annually was earmarked for DRR projects and activities in Tanzania which is equivalent to three percent of the national budget.

According to the review funded by the European Union, investments directly targeting DRR (Principal DRR investments) amounted to \$70.7million (166billion/-) per year, which is

equivalent to 0.5 percent of the country's budget for these years.

"The bulk of the DRR investment is related to pro-poor budgets that reduce vulnerability or improve resilience. Budgets targeting DRR implicitly but not directly 'significant' DRR investments amounted to \$310.6million (725billion/-) a year on average," reads the review.

The Disaster Management Act 2015 established the Tanzania Disaster Management Council (TDMC) to oversee the management and activities of the disaster risk management (DRM).

The council is mandated to ensure that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is integrated into relevant government plans, policies, and strategies.

The Act also established the National Disaster Management Fund (NDMF) to implement DRR and humanitarian services. The main sources of funding for the NDMF are the government budget and donor assistance.

The report states that NDMF has been receiving less than one percent of the national budget for relief response and recovery post disaster costs.

However, all public institutions are required to allocate budgets for risk reduction in their respective areas independently.

In such cases, researchers of the report conclude that the district council cannot allocate a budget for DRR per se, but only to related activities (for example health will have a budget for vaccination against rabies).

TIRA Commissioner Dr Baghaya Saqware suggests that for risk financing challenges to be fully addressed, an inclusive insurance model should be embraced by both the public and private sector.

"In transforming insurance services into an inclusive model we have

to bridge the existing gaps. These include developing digital solutions to give people better access to insurance services and;

Develop more affordable products to better meet the needs of customers, especially low-income earners," said Dr Saqware.

Resident Representative UNDP Tanzania, Christine Musisi said although disaster risk reduction (DRR) is considered a local government responsibility, the funds are not specifically allocated for DRR activities at the local government authorities (LGAs).

"As a result, Tanzania still faces many natural environmental challenges from its climatic conditions, including variable weather patterns and rainfall that contribute towards floods, drought, strong winds and fire," she said.

In the Mainland, the insurance sector is regulated by three institutions, namely: Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP), Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA).

According to current data from TIRA, Insurance is still a small part of the financial sector only making up to 30 percent of the financial sector assets.

There has been a slow pace in the uptake of insurance products that according to FinScope Tanzania Findings 2017 by the Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT) only 4.2 million people were insured in 2017 up from 3.2 million people in 2013 an increase equivalent to 33 percent.

TIRA data shows that the insurance market has 30 registered insurance companies and two reinsurance companies (one recently registered in 2021), 70 insurance brokers, five reinsurance brokers, 938 insurance agents, 20 bancassurance agents, 53 loss assessors and adjusters, and four actuarial firms.

The Zanzibar market on the other hand comprises 12 insurance companies, three insurance brokers and 36 insurance agents. The insurance market has grown in a limited manner in the last five years.

60 percent of the insurance customers take compulsory insurance such as motor and 40 percent take voluntary insurance such as fire and health.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa told the National Assembly in May that during the 2021/22 financial year in addressing natural disasters, the government has initiated new amendments to the disaster management law whereby the Disaster Management Bill of 2022 has been already drafted.

"The enactment of the new Act will strengthen the institutional framework for the management and coordination of natural disasters in the country. The government is also eager at continuing to allocate enough funds in addressing natural disasters," he said.

In 2022/2023, he said, the government will continue to build the capacity of Regional and District Disaster Management Committees, strengthen electronic disaster management systems, ensure the availability of disaster response equipment and humanitarian assistance.

Tropical Bank staff blame top managers over Shs1b fraud

KAMPALA

SEVEN former employees of Tropical bank who are accused of masterminding the theft of Shs1b from a customer's account have blamed the scam on top managers of the institution.

The seven employees include Michael Kaggwa (sales officer), Mr Brian Anguni (customs service officer), Ms Aisha Nakyanzi Katongole (senior compliance officer), Imran Sadiq Hussein (bank relations officer), Ms Sarah Baiga Kakyanya (branch operations supervisor), Abdu Nabonyene (operations branch manager) and Janer Zainab Ntaro (chief teller).

Also jointly charged with the aforementioned staff is lawyer Musa Lukungu.

Appearing before the Anti-Corruption Court on Tuesday, the group told the presiding Grade One Magistrate, Joan Aciro, that the top managers of the bank are privy to the alleged fraud and yet they are at large.

The group decried selective prosecution by the office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP).

To that effect, they demanded that court orders the office of the DPP to avail them with the documents from the bank's head in charge of legal affairs and compliance department for purposes of defending themselves against the fraud charges.

Prosecution case states that Mr Lukungu conspired with the bank officials in November 2021 at Tropical bank offices in

Kampala to defraud the financial institution of Shs1b, which was irregularly paid to Margaret Nabona, and the administrator of the estate of bank customer, Abdurrezagh Elmrbet, whereas not.

During the session, State attorney David Mugamba listed 14 exhibits which they intend to rely on during the trial of the accused. They include letters of administration, newspaper advert, death certificate issued by National Identification, among others which were used to declare the account owner dead.

According to a November 19, 2021 Memorandum of Understanding between Mr Lukungu and the bank, it is indicated that the fraud scheme was allegedly orchestrated by Sowedito Toto and Ms Margaret Nabona by declaring the owner of the bank account dead whereas not.

In order to obtain the money, the duo reportedly obtained letters of administration to Abdurrezagh Elmrbet's estate and presented the same to the bank to access his account numbers.



During the session, State attorney David Mugamba listed 14 exhibits which they intend to rely on during the trial of the accused



Lawyer Musa Lukungu in the dock at the anti-corruption court in Kampala recently.

French embassy celebrates Bastille Day, pledges to expand women empowerment

By Francis Kajubi

THE French government has commented at empowering women in business in the realization of equality in economic emerging opportunities.

Nabil Hajlaoui, French Ambassador to Tanzania declared the commitment on Thursday evening when the embassy organized the France National Day celebrated July 14th of every year.

The day well known by its French name 'Bastille' was celebrated under the theme 'Gender Equality and Investment in Tanzania'.

"This celebration indicates the continuation of our commitment to gender equality especially women businesses empowerment in Tanzania. However, feminist diplomacy has been by France declared as a priority," said Hailaoui.

According to him, France and Tanzania have a special relationship when it comes to human development and other bilateral and multilateral relations.

The France day he said takes back memories to 1789 when France adopted a properly defined democratic system of

leadership.

The occasion has been celebrated across the world where non-governmental organizations, artists, scholars from different universities and diplomats are invited to share insights on democratic approach in ruling.

Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation who graced the event as the guest of honour, said that France has been a close friend to Tanzania since it attained its independence through social-economic relations.

He said even during hard times that Tanzania passes through France have never isolated itself from offering its support to financing human development projects.

"Even during the Covid-19 outbreak tourists from France had continued to visit Tanzania. In 2020 almost 25,000 tourists were received from France. However, in 2022 so far over 50,000 tourists have visited the country," said Mbarouk.

According to him, over 40 French companies operate in the country. He commended the recent review of the air space



Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk, Tanzania's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation

development arrangements between the two countries that now allows Tanzanian airlines to fly to France and thus promote the tourism, business and investment sectors.

"Today France commemorates its equality, liberty and fraternity endeavors. It is a great honour to learn from you Mr Ambassador the proper way to handle issues related to good governance and equality in economic aspects," he asserted.

At the event, two entrepreneur women were invited to shed insights on initiatives observed by both the public and private sector in realizing equality in economic activities.

Ruth Zaipuna, Chief Executive Officer at NMB Bank Plc, said that her experience with France in women empowerment is absolutely definite and promising.

"At NMB Bank we are always ready for economic justice and equality. We are dedicated at reaching and serving women through our recently launched product Mshiko Fasta that extends over 54 percent of loans to women small and medium owned businesses," said Zaipuna.

Le Page, a French woman entrepreneur commended initiatives taken by the government in empowering women in business. According to her, women empowerment is crucial for Tanzania to realize the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Sabasaba Trade Fair boosts Mwalimu Commercial Bank clients

By Guardian Correspondent

THE just ended Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair boosted the customer base of Mwalimu Commercial Bank (Plc), after turning dozen of visitors at the pavilion into clients.

The bank has reported that the

business strategy used to serve each visitor during just ended trade fair increased number of clients, who also benefited from securing loans.

MCB Head of Business Development and Marketing, Leticia Ndongole said over 50 clients who managed to visit the bank's pavilion at

the just ended 46th International Trade Fair Exhibitions managed to secure various types of loans.

"We expect the number of new borrowers and customers to increase as services are provided to all," she said, adding that a number of clients visiting the banks pavilion at the SabaSaba trade fair

also managed to open personal accounts with the bank.

She said the services are provided to all clients be it business people-both small and medium business owners, teachers, colleges and university students, farmers of all categories, pastoralists, exporters, young and old.

According to her, the bank has a variety of services that are beneficial to all clients seeking banking services at MCB, which is also listed at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

This is the first time MCB plc is showcasing their products and services at the International trade

fair shows in Dar es Salaam.

The bank services are provided in all of its branches in Tanzania and digitally through agents, where one can also apply for Mwalimu Visa Card online.

Among the services provided include; insurance services, personal loans, business loans and

loans for various building materials.

MCB Plc is a commercial bank established in 2012 and is wholly-owned and promoted by an umbrella of trade Union of teachers in Tanzania providing affordable and accessible banking products and services to teachers.

Safaricom and Equity Bank ranked top brands in Kenya

NAIROBI

SAFARICOM has retained the top position as Kenya's most valuable brand (valued at \$689 million), to lead the pack of the country's 20 leading corporates, dominated by banks.

According to Brand Finance, Kenya 20 report- 2022 version- the telecommunications firm's brand value grew by 38 percent this year due to a variety of service offerings, a boost in mobile data usage due to low prices, and leveraging mobile data provision to build strategic partnerships with fintech and third-party brands such as M-Pesa and Makao.

"An innovation in the region, M-Pesa, a popular mobile application used primarily for online money transfer, has driven up the brand value and strength of Safaricom. These partnerships create a one-stop destination for customers to access travel and online payment methods using Safaricom's mobile data offerings," the report stated.

Safaricom was followed by Equity Bank (valued at \$388 million), KCB Bank (valued at \$338 million) and M-Pesa (valued at \$246 million), Co-operative Bank (valued at \$173 million), NCBA Bank (\$113 million), I&M Bank (\$52 million), Tusker Lager (\$50 million), Kenya Airways (\$42 million) and closing top 10 DTB Bank (\$40 million).

Equity Bank, whose value grew by 92 percent, led the pack in the list of strongest brands with an elite AAA+ brand rating and a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 90.8 out of 100.

"Equity Bank facilitates online banking with its mobile application EazzyNet which allows customers to use their bank account for online shopping, making transactions overseas, accessing loan options and paying bills via a smartphone. The bank's versatile service offerings make it a popular choice and a household name across Kenya," Brand Finance Kenya 20 stated.

On the other hand, Kenyan beer, Tusker, emerged the fastest growing brand after growing by 132 per cent in value, despite difficult trading conditions and global supply chain disruptions, caused by Covid-19.

"The brand primarily used social media marketing and influencer mar-



keting through the lockdown. By partnering with sportspersons and social media influencers, Tusker created engaging online content to increase demand and sales. Further, the brand partnered with Jumia, an e-commerce brand to meet customer demands and ship directly to homes in the

lockdown," stated Brand Finance Kenya 20.

The national carrier, Kenya Airways (KQ), was also listed among 10 brands that recorded 21 per cent brand value growth, due to innovations it put in place during the difficult Covid-19 restriction period, including repurposing of some of its passen-

ger aircraft into cargo carriers.

"The Kenyan flag carrier has partnered with several international airlines including British Airways, Delta Air Lines, Oman Air and Air France to enhance its travel network. Under the new management of Group Managing Director and CEO Allan



Kilavuka and Chairman Michael Joseph, the airline is making great strides in being the Pride of Africa," the report stated.

The rating firm observed that Kenya led the continent's technology landscape as brands are using digital transformation to meet consumer demands.

"Kenyan brands are disrupting the brick-and-mortar business model and equip businesses with technological means to actively connect with end users. Kenyan brands have achieved remarkable brand value growth of 72 per cent year-on-year. As the economy reopens, the telecommunications, banking and insurance brands among others in the Kenya 20 ranking are benefiting from higher private consumption and demand among Kenyans," it stated.

Brand Finance stated that outstanding brands were those that used technology in the midst of challenges brought about by Covid-19.

"Shifting to different sales and communication channels has allowed brands like Tusker to connect directly with customers and provide services in an innovative manner," said Walter Serem, Regional Manager, East Africa, Brand Finance Africa

Other brands closing the list of top 20 are Kengen, Kenya Reinsurance Corp, Bamburi Cement, Jubilee Holdings, CIC Insurance Group, Crown Paints Kenya, Sasini, Nation Media Group, Centum and the Nairobi Securities Exchange.

M-Pesa links paybill with Telkom and Airtel Money

NAIROBI

AIRTEL and Telkom users will from today (Friday) access Safaricom's pay bill platform following the upgrade of the seamless transfer of money through merchants attached to different operators.

The Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) and the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) will Friday launch the interoperability for the pay-bill service- the ability of different IT systems to communicate and exchange data -of the two rival networks for merchant payments.

The interoperability system will allow Airtel and Telkom Kenya subscribers to pay their bills online through Safaricom's pay-bill number.

This marks the final phase of the seamless transfer of cash after Airtel and Telkom Kenya subscribers started paying for goods and services through Safaricom's till number.

The Safaricom pay-bill service offers single transactions as well

as bulk payments. Businesses and day-to-day utilities like Kenya Power and DSTV have in the past deployed pay-bill.

"The Central Bank of Kenya, Communication Authority of Kenya and all the mobile operators (Safaricom, Airtel & Telkom) will (today) July 15, 2022 launch the M-Pesa Paybill Interoperability," said a brief ahead of the launch.

Through interoperability, the CBK has been pushing to replicate the linkage between Airtel Money and M-Pesa that was introduced four years ago.

Users can send money across mobile phone networks, meaning that cash can be sent from M-Pesa and reflect in an Airtel Money wallet.

From 2024, mobile phone users will be able to deposit and withdraw cash from any agent irrespective of the network they are on.

This will be akin to what happens with card payments where merchants use a single gadget that serves multiple banks.

"Paybill Interoperability is the second phase of Merchant Interoperability that will allow mobile money customers on T-kash and Airtel Money to make mobile money payments to an M-PESA Paybill Number, directly from their respective mobile money wallets," said a telecommunications official who sought anonymity ahead of Friday's launch.

Regulators led by the CBK have been fronting for a seamless transfer to curb the dominance of Safaricom's mobile money service and Lipa na M-Pesa, which handled payments worth Sh970.2 billion in the year to January.

Airtel's version of merchant payments services, dubbed Lipa na Airtel Money, is used much less compared to Safaricom's, a market position that is in line with its stake in the mobile money transfer service.

There are no customer charges for bulk payments made using Lipa na M-Pesa Buy Goods segment except for settlements made

at fuel stations.

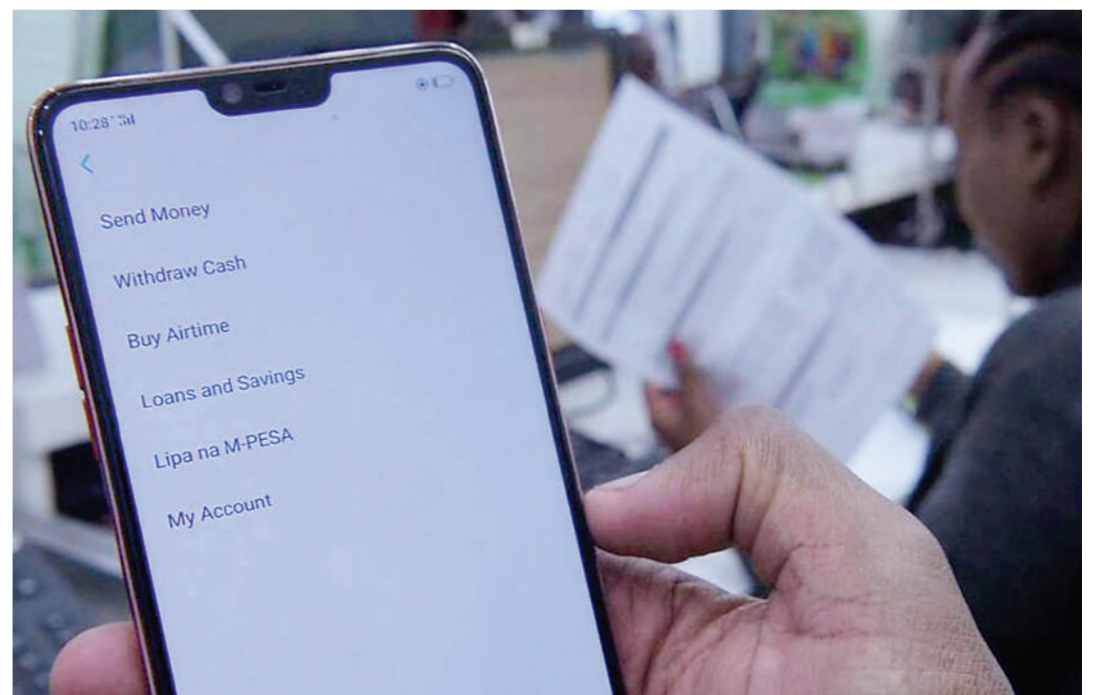
Business owners are charged a maximum of 0.5 percent or not more than Sh200 per transaction for money collected on the till, says Safaricom on its websites.

The CBK said the increased use of mobile money at agents and merchants through platforms like Lipa na M-Pesa had been constrained by lack of interconnection among the telecommunications operators.

More than 30 million people in Kenya use M-Pesa, which also allows users to send cash and make payments by phone, save and borrow. Safaricom had 258,000 mobile money agents at the end of September, leaving rivals to control the remaining 31,255 outlets.

This dominance plays out in the merchant payment segment.

Safaricom's Lipa na M-Pesa merchants grew by 72.8 percent to 387,000 in the review period, highlighting the impact of increased preference for cashless transactions.



Safaricom employee displays the M-Pesa money transfer service on a smartphone inside a mobile phone care centre in Nairobi recently.

Its till and pay-bill service has risen to take an 85.8 percent market share of non-cash payment for ordinary goods and services, underlining the entrenchment of the mobile money platform in everyday transactions.

Lipa na M-Pesa was launched in June 2013 and has aggressively recruited merchants across the country, including large and small businesses such as fuel stations, supermarkets, corner shops and eateries.

This has seen it overtake the card payments - run by banks and their global payments technology partners such as Visa and Mastercard - that have largely focused on serving formal retailers.

Africa's rising life expectancy triggers urgent need for pension penetration

KIGALI

GOVERNOR John Rwangombwa of the Central Bank has said that the improved life expectancy in Africa is a positive factor on its own but it rings an urgent call to increase pension penetration on the continent.

He was speaking during the 3rd Africa Pension Supervisor Forum that started on Thursday July 14.

Started in 2019, the forum offers a platform where pension regulators share ideas, information, and reform issues that are challenging the sector across Africa.

Discussions include performance of the pension sector -globally and on the continent, digitization in the pension sector, enhance cyber resilience and pension sector sustainability.

Life expectancy at birth in Africa gradually increased to 64 years in 2020 from 48 years in 1980. This means the retired population ratio will continue to increase which is an expected demographic transition as economies and health systems become more developed, Rwangombwa said.

"We are, therefore, called upon to do better as a continent and it is paramount that most, if not all, of the labour force is covered by formal pension schemes."

While the benefits of a developed and inclusive pension industry are undeniably enormous, he said, it is unfortunate to note that the level of pension penetration on the continent is very low when compared to other parts of the world.

"For instance, only 6.3 per cent of Sub-Saharan Africa's labour force is covered by contributory pension schemes, a trivial level when compared to high-income countries whose coverage is close to 100 per cent."

Rwangombwa cited the need to open up private pension schemes that would come up with better customization of products and services especially targeting the informal sector which makes up about 80 per cent of African labour force.

Alfred Ouma Shem, Chief Manager of Research



Rwanda Central Bank governor, John Rwangombwa

and Strategy Department, Retirement Benefits Authority of Kenya, said that currently Africa has a youthful population but it will not remain so for very long.

"We are going to have a bulge at retirement and probably we will not have accumulated enough savings to fund their lives. It is a challenge we need to deal with while they are still working," he said.

He added that vehicles to expand coverage amongst the popu-

lation that is now young and working are available.

Rwangombwa, however, said that "as we seek better coverage we should also seek better preparedness for unforeseen shocks such as the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure resilience and sustainability of the sector."

In 2018 it was declared that the monopoly enjoyed by the Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB) as the sole social security provider has

come to an end as private pension schemes commence operations.

This will give Rwandan employers and individuals alternative schemes.

The latest entrant is Liaison Group, in Partnership with KCB Bank Rwanda, which introduced a private pension scheme dubbed 'Iuzze'.

The private pension scheme was registered by the Central Bank and the registrar of companies at the

Rwanda Development Board after it was found to be compliant with requirements.

The entry of the private pension scheme follows reforms in the pensions sector which were embarked on following the gazetting of a law allowing registration of voluntary pension schemes and licensing of pension scheme service providers.

These reforms aimed at creating an enabling environment for private pension schemes as a way to promote growth and stability in the sector.

Though the industry had not opened up, there have been over 50 private pension arrangements managed by insurance firms, according to a previous survey conducted by the Central Bank.

National Bank of Rwanda Governor, John Rwangombwa, termed the development a significant step forward in the financial and pension sector. Over previous years, the pension sector has presented a rather dull outlook largely due to the fact that very few Rwandans were entitled to pension benefits leading to fears of vulnerability of elderly population in the future.

The lack of voluntary pension schemes saw a majority of the Rwandans who work in SMEs as well as those who are self-employed excluded from pension privileges.

With over 85 per cent of the population working in the informal sector and only an estimated one per cent saving for retirement, sector experts were concerned that it could lead to increased burden for the working class in the future and financial vulnerability of elderly population.

Rwangombwa said that entrance of players such as Liaison Group into the market enables the skipping of a hurdle where firms could not put up their own schemes.

"This will enable SMEs and self-employed people who might not have found it viable to establish their own pension schemes, this will provide them with simple and cost effective vehicles for their benefit arrangements," he said

He noted that private players such as Liaison Group have the flexibility to improve convenience of payment through platforms such as mobile money which will further incentivise more Rwandans to join the platforms.

"Rwandans can save for their retirement via voluntary pension schemes. The members will have flexible and convenient payment channels, including bank deposits, while mobile money platforms will see more Rwandans subscribe to the schemes," he added.

Rwandans' appetite for savings has been seen to grow over the last few years. For instance, in the last 10 year government bond issued last month, 49 per cent of the subscription was by individual investors compared to about 1 per cent a few years ago.

Mobile money centres now removed from Lusaka CBD

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA'S Fintech regulation is under scrutiny after the Lusaka Central Business District (CBD) decided to remove mobile money booths to declutter the city centre.

As a result, users, understood to be in their millions, will be unable to transact until the booths are redeployed.

The Minister of Local Government and Rural Development Gary Nkombo said the decision was made "to bring sanity to the CBD."

"It should be put on record that this engagement is not only for Lusaka. We want to ask citizens to buy into our agenda of bringing order and sanity. We want to function in a society that is visibly functional," said Nkombo.

MTN Zambia Mobile Money CEO Komba Malukutula sympathised with mobile money booth owners and said the country is home to over 150 000 mobile money agents, representing the biggest driving force for financial inclusion.

Malukutula said, "We have taken note of the concerns of our customers and in the spirit of continuity amidst this exercise, we have put up the following measures: engage shop owners and other retailers in the Central Business District to sign up MoMo Pay so that customers can pay for goods and services without seeing the need to withdraw funds and sign up as agents to support deposits and withdrawals.

We shall soon publish a list of retailers in the Lusaka Central Business District from whom our clients can perform mobile money transactions safely, securely and conveniently."

"As the authorities are working to resolve the matter, we want to thank all mobile money agents for the role they continue to play in advancing the government's agenda on financial inclusion. We assure agents in Lusaka that we are committed to ensuring that they are assigned a conducive trading environment that guarantees their safety, security and business continuity."

Statistics from the Bank of Zambia (BOZ) shows that levels of financial inclusion in the country stands at close to 70% driven primarily by mobile money services.



As the authorities are working to resolve the matter, we want to thank all mobile money agents for the role they continue to play in advancing



ITV PGM SCHEDULE			
MONDAY 18 July	5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwariga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 ITV Top Ten	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: TARURA	13:00 Mjuz Zaidi	13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	14:15 Soap rpt: Rebecca	14:40 Igizo rpt: Mzengeve	14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	17:00 The Base	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Abu yako rpt	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 DWTV: Kesho leo	19:00 Aya ya Jamii
19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty	20:00 Habari	21:05 Dakika 45	22:00 Kipindi Maalum: DCB
22:15 Bundesliga na DW	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	23:00 Habari	23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV		
TUESDAY 19 July	5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwariga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: BRELA	13:00 Mjuz Zaidi	13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	14:15 Soap rpt: Rebecca	14:40 Igizo rpt: Mzengeve	14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	17:00 The Base	18:00 Jiji Letu
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00:30 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV		
WEDNESDAY 20 July	5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwariga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: TARURA	13:00 Mjuz Zaidi	13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	14:15 Soap rpt: Rebecca	14:40 Igizo rpt: Mzengeve	14:55 Habari za saa
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18:10 Abu yako rpt	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 DWTV: Kesho leo	19:00 Aya ya Jamii
19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty	20:00 Habari	21:05 Dakika 45	22:00 Kipindi Maalum: DCB
22:15 Bundesliga na DW	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	23:00 Habari	23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV		
THURSDAY 21 July	5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwariga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: TARURA	13:00 Mjuz Zaidi	13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	14:15 Soap rpt: Rebecca	14:40 Igizo rpt: Mzengeve	14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	17:00 The Base	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Abu yako rpt	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 DWTV: Kesho leo	19:00 Aya ya Jamii
19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty	20:00 Habari	21:05 Dakika 45	22:00 Kipindi Maalum: DCB
22:15 Bundesliga na DW	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	23:00 Habari	23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV		
FRIDAY 22 July	5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwariga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: TARURA	13:00 Mjuz Zaidi	13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	14:15 Soap rpt: Rebecca	14:40 Igizo rpt: Mzengeve	14:55 Habari za saa
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19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty	20:00 Habari	21:05 Dakika 45	22:00 Kipindi Maalum: DCB
22:15 Bundesliga na DW	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	23:00 Habari	23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV		
MONDAY 18 July	19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:45 Chetu ni chetu	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base	19:00 Kipindi maalum: TARURA	19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty	20:00 Habari
21:05 Malumbano ya hoja	23:00 The Base	00:30 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV
WEDNESDAY 20 July	5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwariga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: TARURA	13:00 Mjuz Zaidi	13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	14:15 Soap rpt: Rebecca	14:40 Igizo rpt: Mzengeve	14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	17:00 The Base	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Abu yako rpt	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 DWTV: Kesho leo	19:00 Aya ya Jamii
19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty	20:00 Habari	21:05 Dakika 45	22:00 Kipindi Maalum: DCB
22:15 Bundesliga na DW	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	23:00 Habari	23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV		
FRIDAY 22 July	5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwariga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michozo	8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: TARURA	13:00 Mjuz Zaidi	13:40 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	14:15 Soap rpt: Rebecca	14:40 Igizo rpt: Mzengeve	14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	17:00 The Base	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Abu yako rpt	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 DWTV: Kesho leo	19:00 Aya ya Jamii
19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty	20:00 Habari	21:05 Dakika 45	22:00 Kipindi Maalum: DCB
22:15 Bundesliga na DW	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	23:00 Habari	23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV		
SATURDAY 23 July	5:30 Uwariga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:30 Mjuz Zaidi rpt	11:15 Habari za saa	11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo	12:40 Usafiri Wako rpt
13:10 Korean: Jumong rpt	13:50 Soap: I Plead Guilty rpt	18:10 Igizo: Mzengeve	18:20 Igizo: Rebecca
17:00 Shambamba za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu		
SUNDAY 24 July	5:30 Uwariga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Soap: I Plead Guilty rpt
11:50 Bororo Movie rpt	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	15:30 Mwaragaza	16:30 ITV Top 10
17:20 Kipindi cha kiristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Rebecca	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:10 Kipindi maalum: Reflexology
21:15 Igizo: Mzengeve	21:30 Mjuz Zaidi	22:15 Bororo movie: rpt	23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
02:05 Al Jazeera			
MONDAY 18 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	08:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	10:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00	11:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	12:00 Series rpt: Lake Hill
13:00 The Monday Agenda rpt	14:00 Meza huru	15:00 Rev	16:00 EcoAfrica
17:00 Abu Yako	18:00 Local Pgm: Business Edition	19:00 Telenovela Laws Of love 21:30	20:00 Capital Prime News
21:00 Capchat rpt	22:00 Maumbano ya hoja rpt	23:00 Al Jazeera	
Tues 19 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	08:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	10:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00	11:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	12:00 Series rpt: Lake Hill
13:00 The Monday Agenda rpt	14:00 Meza huru	15:00 Rev	16:00 EcoAfrica
17:00 Abu Yako	18:00 Local Pgm: Business Edition	19:00 Telenovela Laws Of love 21:30	20:00 Capital Prime News
21:00 Capchat rpt	22:00 Maumbano ya hoja rpt	23:00 Al Jazeera	
Wed 20 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	08:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	10:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00	11:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	12:00 Series rpt: Lake Hill
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Thurs 21 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	08:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
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Frid 22 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	08:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
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21:00 Capchat rpt	22:00 Maumbano ya hoja rpt	23:00 Al Jazeera	
Sat 23 July	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	08:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	10:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00	11:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	12:00 Series rpt: Lake Hill
13:00 The Monday Agenda rpt	14:00 Meza huru	15:00 Rev	16:00 EcoAfrica
17:00 Abu Yako	18:00 Local Pgm: Business Edition	19:00 Telenovela Laws Of love 21:30	20:00 Capital Prime News
21:00 Capchat rpt	22:00 Maumbano ya hoja rpt	23:00 Al Jazeera	

Sri Lankan president resigns, PM sworn in as interim president

COLOMBO

SRI LANKAN Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as interim president before the chief justice yesterday, following the resignation of Gotabaya Rajapaksa, according to the prime minister's office.

Earlier in the day, Sri Lanka's Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena said he has received the res-

ignation letter of the president, and from this point forth the president has legally resigned from his legal duties and responsibilities.

"Under these circumstances, the constitutional procedure of appointing a new president will now be activated. Until this constitutional procedure is over, according to the constitution the prime minister will function in the capacity of the presi-



In this photograph provided by the Sri Lankan President's Office, Ranil Wickremesinghe (right) takes oath as the interim President in Colombo, Sri Lanka yesterday. AP

dent overseeing functions, duties, and powers of the office of the president," the speaker told a media briefing.

The speaker added that parliament will convene on July 16 and he requested all legislators to attend parliamentary sessions on that day.

He requested maximum cooperation for the democratic process of electing a new president and government from all party leaders, state officials, and security forces, and made a special ap-

peal to the citizens of Sri Lanka to create a peaceful environment that would allow all lawmakers to attend parliament freely.

Under such an environment, with the help of all responsible, the speaker said he intends to conclude the process of electing a new president within a short period of seven days.

Sri Lanka has been in the midst of a severe economic turmoil for months, which has led to a shortage of basic supplies such as food, gas and fuel.

Beijing: Put development at center of global agenda

UNITED NATIONS

CHINA'S ecology and environment minister has called on countries to put development at the center of the international agenda.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development faces unprecedented challenges as the once-in-a-century pandemic is still raging, governance deficits in areas like climate change remain, and global economic recovery is weak, Huang Runqiu said on Thursday.

There is a need to stay committed to development, he told a ministerial roundtable of the High-level Political Forum on sustainable de-



Chinese Minister of Ecology and Environment Huang Runqiu speaks during the closing ceremony of the Ecological Civilization Forum of the first part of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, or COP15, in Kunming, Yunnan province of China, Oct 15, 2021. XINHUA

velopment, convened under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council.

Only through continuous development can the people's dream for a better life and social stability be realized, he said.

"We must put development at the center of the international agenda, implement the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and pursue development in real earnest and promote development in a concerted manner," he said.

Huang also stressed the need to resolutely promote a green and low-carbon transition. At present, the world is undergoing emerging food and energy security crises. In

this context, it is important not to waver or even reverse the course of green transition, he added.

There is a need to adhere to the path of cooperation. Countries around the world should jointly build a global development partnership and leave no country or person behind, said the Chinese minister.

China will uphold the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind, actively promote global sustainable development, and provide more public goods for the world. China will work with the international community to realize stronger, greener, and healthier global development, he said.

Xinhua

Iran's military warns US against threats to use force

TEHRAN

THE Iranian military warned the United States and Israel yesterday against threatening Iran with force, Iranian media reported, after US President Joe Biden said he would use force as a last resort to prevent Tehran getting a nuclear weapon.

"The Americans and Zionists (Israel) know very well the price for using the word 'force against Iran,'" Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi, spokesman for the Iranian armed forces, was quoted as saying by state media.

"Biden must have been drowsy when he threatened Iran," he said, adding, "Watch your soldiers' pants - they might get wet in the Persian Gulf!"

Asked by Israeli television this week whether his past statements that he would prevent Tehran from obtaining a nuclear weapon meant he would use force against Iran, Biden replied: "If that was the last resort, yes."

On Thursday, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi warned that any "mistakes" by the US and its allies to stoke a regional crisis will receive a "decisive" response from Iran that will make them regret.

"Unfortunately, some countries in the region are transiting in-

security and terrorism from the West and the United States to the region," Raisi said during a visit to Iran's western city of Kermanshah as reported by the president's website.

"Iran does not accept any insecurity and crisis in the region, and committing any mistake in this region will be responded with a decisive and regrettable response," Raisi said.

His remarks came amid Biden's current visit to regional countries, including Israel and Saudi Arabia, both Iran's foes. Biden's visit is largely considered to be aimed at countering Iran's influence in the region.

Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid on Thursday signed a joint pledge to deny Iran nuclear arms, an apparent move toward accommodating Israel's calls for a "credible military threat" by world powers.

Iran's military power and capabilities are a guarantee of security for the region, Raisi said, adding that the intervention of foreigners including the US in the region will only lead to crisis and insecurity.

Iran denies seeking nuclear weapons, saying that its nuclear program is for solely peaceful purposes.

Tehran struck a deal with six



This handout picture provided by the Iranian presidential office shows Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi (center) greeting supporters during a rally in the western city of Kermanshah on Thursday. AFP

major powers in 2015 under which it limited its uranium enrichment program to make it harder to develop a nuclear weapon in return for relief from international sanctions.

Then US president Donald Trump reneged on the deal in 2018 and reimposed harsh sanctions on Iran, prompting Tehran to start violating the agreement's nuclear limits about a year later.

Diplomatic efforts to resurrect the deal have so far failed.

Tehran dismisses US 'lies' Iran's foreign ministry on Thursday rejected a US official's claims as "lies" about Iran's alleged involvement in the Ukraine conflict.

"Apparently, lying and cheating are contagious among US politicians who resort to fabrication for evil ends," ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani tweeted.

Jake Sullivan, Biden's national

security advisor, said on the previous day, "Russia deepening an alliance with Iran to kill Ukrainians is something that the whole world should look at and see as a profound threat."

Earlier in the week, Washington also accused Iran of planning to provide Russia with combat drones that can be used in the conflict in Ukraine, charges denied by Tehran.

Xinhua

AU meeting opens with call on African countries to enhance agricultural production

LUSAKA

THE 41st Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union (AU) opened in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, on Thursday with the host country calling on African countries to enhance agricultural production in order to tackle food insecurity.

The meeting, comprising foreign affairs ministers from member states, is being held under the theme "Building Resilience in Nutrition on the African Continent: Accelerating Human Capital, Social and Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms."

It runs from July 14 to 16. Zambian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Stanley Kakubo said the theme was a reminder to member countries to up their efforts in translating the continent's agricultural potential into agricultural growth in order to eliminate hunger and malnutrition.

He said the continent was endowed with various natural resources to enhance agricultural production, noting that Africa has the potential to be food secure as well as a net exporter of agricultural products if productivity was enhanced.

According to him, member countries must take advantage of the coming into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement by ensuring value addition to products in order to be competitive in global trade.

The minister said that there was a need for African countries to find alternative financial resources in order to foster the competitiveness of African products as well as seek innovative ways of reducing the cost of capital.

He also called on member states to renew their commitments to attaining Agenda 2063, Africa's development blueprint to achieve inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development over a 50-year period, and its flagship programs.

African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat said the continent was facing various challenges which have exposed countries to various vulnerabilities.

Despite the various challenges, African countries must rise up and show the world that they are able to dissolve their own problems, said the AUC chairperson, while urging participants at the meeting to find ways to address the organization's dwindling contributions so that Africa sees a reduction in dependency on partners.

Senegal's Foreign Affairs Minister Aissata Tall Sall said the integration of the free trading area was indispensable to Africa's quest to achieve success. She said the coming into force of the free trading arrangement was the biggest stride made in ensuring the continent's integration agenda.

According to her, member countries must be committed to the free trading arrangement as it will create growth and development for the continent.

This was the first time Zambia was hosting an AU event since 2001 when the southern African nation hosted the summit which drew up the implementation plan of the organization as part of the transition process from the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

The meeting was expected to receive reports on the Conference of State Parties of the African Medicines Agency, operationalization of the Africa Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the status of the regional integration in Africa and the division of labor between the AU and regional economic communities.

The meeting will be followed by the 4th AU mid-year coordination meeting on July 17 where 13 African leaders are expected to attend.

Xinhua

Russia ready to boost food, fertiliser exports – deputy foreign minister

UNITED NATIONS

BEING a reliable supplier, Russia is ready to significantly increase its exports of food and fertilizers to the global market, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin has said.

"On the subject of food security, we would like to note that Russia can significantly increase exports of corresponding goods and fertilizers," he told the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in New York.

"At the same time, we are directing supplies to African countries, to the Middle East region, and assist in solving the issue of famine," he added.

Russia is working with the UN Secretariat in that regard, the deputy minister added.

Agencies

Ceramic art helps rural vitalisation in central China's Henan province

A REMOTE and once poverty-stricken village in central China's Henan province has turned prosperous and vital thanks to ceramic art.

In Huashu'ao village, Luoning county, Luoyang city of Henan, big ceramic vats are seen everywhere. They are flowerpots, guard bars, and dustbins, as well as road signs and billboards in the village.

Besides, they are also sometimes goods shelves in shops and tea tables in meeting rooms. Even the footpath in the village's valleys is paved with vats.

There are 9,999 vats in the village, which were collected by Guo Aihe, a renowned Chinese ceramic artist and curator of the Luoyang Sancai Art Mu-

seum.

Nine years ago, Guo and his family passed by the village during a road trip. "It's a lovely village with a profound culture, and the villagers are hospitable," Guo said.

At that time, Huashu'ao village barely saw any visitors and the majority of young residents were working out of town.

The village was shabby and desolate in the eyes of the villagers, but Guo viewed it as an ideal place for art creation and a rich source of ceramic materials. "The village needs the revitalizing influence of art," Guo said.

Therefore, Guo and some ceramic artists from the Luoyang Sancai Art Museum came to the village, and discovered the potential artistic value of

the old houses and items that were deemed useless by the villagers.

They converted the old houses into exhibition halls, and covered ceramic tiles on earth walls to make the walls artistic. In addition, furnishing cave dwellings with artworks and coffee pots, they have transformed these cave dwellings into recreation facilities.

The artworks of sancai ceramic, or three-color glazed pottery, made by Guo and his team are all produced locally.

They are used to decorate the old houses, earth walls, and cave dwellings in the village, Guo said. According to the man, fusing the ceramic art and the village and maintaining the original taste of the village is a major prin-

ciple that he follows.

Guo told People's Daily that not a single old house has been demolished by his team in the past seven or eight years, and every piece of farmland in the village is still used for growing crops today.

All the eight households in the village have built new houses, and some of them are even running B&B hotels as the village sees more and more visitors.

The government of Luoning county has invested 15 million yuan (\$2.24 million) in constructing infrastructure, paving asphalt roads, and planting a wide area of oilseed and sunflowers.

Guo is also subsidizing the villagers. The income from the wheat grown in

the village all goes to the villagers and the latter also get subsidies for their rented old houses and cave dwellings. Guo pays some villagers to prepare food for visitors and has promised that only villagers are allowed to run B&B hotels and restaurants.

As the number of visitors increases, many villagers have returned to their hometown and started running B&B hotels. Some of them are also engaged in construction maintenance, road maintenance and lawn cutting services.

Guo and his team have more ambitious plans. Guo said every minute he is thinking about how he can make the village more artistic and thus bring more benefits to the villagers.

"To advance rural vitalization

through art is feasible here. I hope this village can become a catalyzer that helps improve villagers' artistic taste and promote art-driven rural vitalization," he said.



People's Daily

All the eight households in the village have built new houses, and some of them are even running B&B hotels as the village sees more and more visitors

Italy left in political limbo, early election beckons

ROME

ITALY might need early elections to overcome a political impasse, government officials said yesterday, after Prime Minister Mario Draghi tendered his resignation in the wake of a mutiny by a coalition partner.

President Sergio Mattarella rejected Draghi's resignation on Thursday and asked him to address parliament next week to get a clearer picture of the political situation.

If unity cannot return swiftly to government ranks, the only alternative would be for an election to be called in the autumn, Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio said, warning that an early vote would be welcomed by Russia, but would damage Italy's economy.

"If Draghi falls, we vote," he told RTL radio, adding that without a fully functioning government in the coming months, Italy would risk losing billions of euros in European Union post-pandemic recovery funds and not be able to enact measures to combat the high energy costs.

"An early election ... is a problem for the country."

Draghi's 18-month-old government was thrown into turmoil by the populist 5-Star Movement, which boycotted a parliamentary confidence motion on Thursday on Draghi's plans to tackle the growing cost of living, arguing they did not go far enough.

Critics say the party, which was torn apart by a schism last month, was acting merely out of self interest, anxious to raise its profile with voters following a slump in the opinion polls.

The risks of political chaos has unnerved financial markets with the premium Italy pays over German debt rising to a one-month high on Friday.

European credibility

A national election is due in the first half of 2023 and bringing the vote forward would give parties little time to draw up manifestos and prepare their lists of candidates.

However, a source in the prime minister's office, who declined to be named, expressed pessimism over the prospects of reviving the coalition and said the most likely outcome was a vote in early October.

In that case Draghi could stay on in



Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi gives a press conference at Canazei Fire Brigade on July 4, 2022. File photo

a caretaker capacity, but would not be able to draw up budget for 2023 or enact reforms demanded by Europe in return for the recovery funds.

"Italy cannot do without Mario Draghi," said Renato Brunetta, the public administration minister and a member of the centre-right Forza Italia party. "We cannot lose the credibility and trust we have gained in Europe

and the world in such difficult times," he wrote on Twitter.

Draghi, a widely respected former chief of the European Central Bank, has played a prominent role in the EU's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, helping draw up economic sanctions on Moscow and sending weapons to Kyiv.

None of the parties in the national

unity government have called for elections in the wake of Draghi's resignation offer. However, the one major group that stayed outside the coalition, the far-right Brothers of Italy, embraced the idea at once.

Led by Giorgia Meloni, the Brothers of Italy has seen its support soar during its time in opposition and looks likely to emerge as the largest single party in the next parliament.

"With Draghi's resignation ... this legislature is over," Meloni wrote on Twitter. "Elections immediately."

Italy has not had an autumn election since World War Two as that is normally the period when the budget is drawn up.

The 5-Star is likely to come under heavy pressure from other coalition partners to back down in its confrontation with Draghi and allow his administration to see out the legislature.

"We now have 5 days to work so that parliament confirms its trust in the Draghi government and Italy emerges as quickly as possible from the dramatic crisis it is currently entering," said Enrico Letta, head of the centre-left Democratic Party. **Agencies**

Ethiopia plans to increase road coverage to 245,000 km in ten years

ADDIS ABABA

THE Ethiopian government has disclosed its plan to increase the country's road infrastructure coverage to 245,000 km within the coming ten years period.

The statement was made by Habtamu Tegegn, head of the Ethiopian Roads Administration, as he emphasized that more than 22,000 km of roads are currently under construction throughout Ethiopia, state-run Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) reported late Wednesday.

The East African country has undertaken in excess of 160,000 km of roads during the past 25 years, ENA quoted Tegegn as saying.

He said the Ethiopian government is exerting concerted efforts in order to increase the country's road coverage to 245,000 km within the next ten years.

Tegegn, however, emphasized that there are challenges with road projects not being completed on time.

He attributed the challenges to border enforcement, insecurity and contractors' inadequacies.

In addition to emphasis on augmenting the country's road coverage, the Ethiopian government has also recently engaged in modernizing the country's transportation system.

As part of the efforts to modernize the country's transportation system, authorities in Ethiopia's capital of Addis Ababa in March this year concluded a 29.17 million U.S. dollars' worth of two agreements with two Chinese firms.

Ethiopia hopes the two transportation modernization agreements will bring about fundamental transport logistics improvement in the national capital, through the integration of state-of-the-art information communication technology (ICT) systems.

Xinhua

UN envoy hails positive developments in Colombia, warns against violence

UNITED NATIONS

THE top UN envoy for Colombia, Carlos Ruiz Massieu, on Thursday hailed the encouraging political developments in Colombia and warned against persistent violence as an obstacle to the consolidation of peace in the country.

Over the past few months, Colombians took part in a hard-fought political campaign leading to the election of President Gustavo Petro and Vice President Francia Marquez, who will be sworn in on Aug. 7, and of a new congress that will be installed on July 20, he told the Security Council in a quarterly briefing.

Electoral outcomes increasingly reflect the diversity of the country's vibrant society. More guarantees exist now for exercising political opposition.

And 16 representatives of victims from conflict-affected regions will have their voices

heard in congress.

This too will be an unprecedented congress in that it will include the largest-ever share of women lawmakers of close to 30 percent of all congress, he said.

"We hope the new congress will make considerable progress in the passage of the more than 30 peace-related norms still pending approval, including on key matters such as the comprehensive rural reform and guarantees for political participation," said Massieu, the UN secretary-general's special representative and head of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia.

He warned that violence remains a major obstacle in the way ahead.

"Along with the reasons for encouragement we are also reminded constantly of the serious obstacles that remain to the consolidation of peace. Chief among them is the per-



Carlos Ruiz Massieu (Front), the UN secretary-general's special representative and head of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia

sisting violence against communities, against leaders and former combatants in several departments," he said.

Four more former combatants were killed in the past two weeks, bringing the total number of former combatants killed to 331 since the sign-

ing of the peace agreement in 2016, under which the former members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia voluntarily laid down their weapons, said Massieu.

"Their security must be guaranteed. A priority for any peace agreement must be to

safeguard the lives of those who laid down their arms in good faith with the assurance that they would be protected."

Illegal armed actors continue to target local leaders in conflict-affected areas marked by poverty, illicit economies and a limited presence of the state.

Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities are among the most seriously affected by the violence and insecurity, he noted.

As the incoming administration prepares to take office, President-elect Petro has called for national unity and has expressed his intention to deepen the comprehensive implementation of the peace agreement, as well as to seek negotiated solutions, both political and judicial, with the remaining illegal armed actors, in what he has called the search for "total peace," he said.

"Indeed, the incoming administration has a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to accelerate the implementation of the peace agreement.

There are very good reasons for optimism, and I believe the United Nations and the international community at large should do all they can to lend their support," he said.

Factory-turned culture parks accelerate Beijing's urban renewal

THE 77 Cultural and Creative Park, located at No. 77 Art Gallery on a back street in the Dongcheng district of the Chinese capital, is a well-known destination with a modern taste.

Compared with other culture parks in Beijing which feature skyscrapers and fancy facilities, the 77 Cultural and Creative Park quite maintains the common touch.

Enclosed by low brick walls, the park houses a number of nostalgic residential buildings that carry the local features of Beijing. At the entrance of an alley beside the park, laughter of children is always heard. Eldely people sit on stone stools by walls sunning themselves, and bicycles are always seen passing by the crowds.

The 77 Cultural and Creative Park was transformed from a 1950s offset printing factory. Many industrial relics of the factory have been retained, including the office buildings built with red bricks, large chimneys and hot stamping machines.

These relics are a link between the past and the present, and make the park a natural part of the lively atmosphere surrounding it.

"The park's got class. It's beautiful," said a citizen surnamed Du living near the park. As a photography enthusiast, he'd always take some photos at the park on weekends. "I think it's better than the renowned 798 Art Zone, because it's smaller so I can reach almost every corner of it," Du added.

Drama has always been a theme of the park, which was renovated since 2012 and put into operation in May 2014. The machine maintenance workshop-turned 77 Theater is a major landmark in the park. Built based on the original structure of the



Photo shows the 77 Cultural and Creative Park. (Photo from an official account of Beijing's Dongcheng district on WeChat)

workshop, the theater is modern and operational.

To allow visitors to enjoy art in a more comfortable environment, the 77 Cultural and Creative Park is indirectly subsidizing the drama industry by lowering the rent.

In the park, there are 18 rehearsal halls for rent, and the rental is quite cheap. This has attracted a large batch of actors and crews. The lowered production cost also enables the audience to enjoy dramas at a fairer price.

At present, there are over 200 original dramas being rehearsed in the park on average each year, and the park is also home to a number of drama, filming and design enterprises.

The 77 Cultural and Creative Park is an epitome of culture-

driven urban transition in Beijing. More and more old factories are taking new looks in the capital nowadays.

Dongcheng district has turned a number of old factories into culture parks. So far, the district has 42 culture parks that cover a total area of 730,000 square meters and house over 5,000 enterprises. Last year, these culture parks reported total revenue of 143.6 billion yuan, becoming a successful example for the functional transition of old factories.

Culture is important in the renewal of cities. "It is because of the guidance of culture, cities can better inherit their material heritage, space and memories, and turn them into new industries and scenarios that meet modern demands," said Song Yang Yang, deputy director of the Institute of

Creative Industries Technology at the Renmin University of China.

As the cultural center of China, Beijing enjoys a profound cultural background and rich cultural resources. It sees natural advantages in developing the cultural industry.

Under the guidance of relevant measures rolled out by the municipal government of Beijing, a number of culture parks with distinctive features are rising in the city, contributing to urban renewal. They have become an innovative ground for culture-science integration, a cluster of leading cultural enterprises, and popular destinations for the citizens.

Cultural parks are not only revitalizing the city, but also creating wider space and more opportunities for the people living in it. **People's Daily**

Putin gets tougher on foreign agents with new law

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has signed the law 'On control over the activity of individuals under foreign influence'.

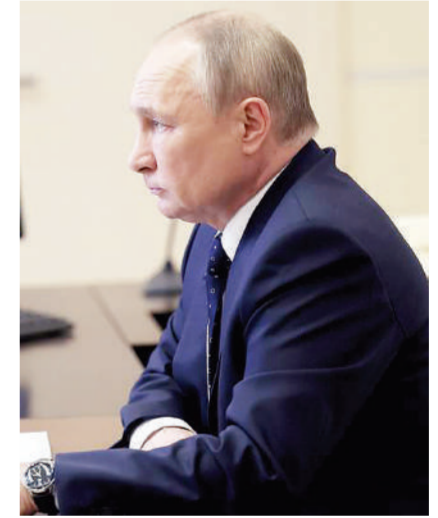
The document, posted on the official portal of legal information, summarizes the current norms of the Russian legislation on foreign agents and introduces some new provisions, subsequently coming into effect on December 1, 2022.

Thus, the law defines a foreign agent as a person who has received support or is under foreign influence in other forms and carries out political activities, collects data on military and military-technical activities of the Russian Federation or distributes reports and materials intended for an unlimited number of people.

Russian or foreign legal entities, public associations and foreign agencies that are not legal entities, as well as individuals with or without citizenship, can be recognized as foreign agents.

That being said, Russian public authorities, political parties, state corporations and religious associations cannot be recognized as foreign agents. In addition, employers' associations and chambers of commerce and industry registered in line with legally-established procedures cannot be recognized as foreign agents, as well.

The law specifies the list of foreign sources. They include foreign states and their public authorities, international and foreign organizations, foreign citi-



zens, stateless persons, as well as foreign sources that don't establish a legal entity. Citizens and legal entities of the Russian Federation receiving money from such persons and their proxies or acting as intermediaries in receiving financial aid, can also be listed among foreign sources.

The law provides for the creation of a unified register instead of the currently existing four. Also, a register of private individuals affiliated with foreign agents will be created.

Individuals may be removed from the register of foreign agents if they had not received financial or other assistance from foreign sources within a year before they submitted a relevant application. Also, a foreign agent may be removed from the register if the individual in ques-

tion turns down funding and other aid from foreign sources within three months after being put on the list.

If a foreign agent's site violates the legislation, the Ministry of Justice may send a request to the communications supervisor to restrict access to it. In addition, the law forbids foreign agents to teach and educate minors in Russia, and to produce informational products for children and teenagers. Foreign agents are not entitled to state financial support or grants.

Also, the law prohibits foreign agents from investing in strategic enterprises, which are significant for the defense and security of the country.

IGAD deploys electoral mission to observe Kenya polls

ADDIS ABABA

THE East African bloc, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), announced on Thursday it has deployed an electoral mission to observe polls in Kenya.

In a press statement, IGAD said an observer mission led by former Ethiopian President Mulatu Teshome will observe the Kenya general election

slated for next month. "IGAD is honored to be invited by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) of Kenya to observe this year's general elections, and the regional organization is pleased to continue to work with the people of Kenya, electoral institution, political leaders and other observer missions to advance the democratization process," Ex-

ecutive Secretary of IGAD Workneh Gebeyehu said in a statement. Gebeyehu further wished the people of Kenya a democratic, peaceful and successful polls.

Kenya is a member nation of the strong regional bloc formed in 1986. The eight IGAD member states are Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda.

SPORT



Papy Tshishimbi

Tshishimbi opens up on motive for his return to Tanzania

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

FORMER Yanga midfielder, Papy Tshishimbi, has opened up on his aim for returning to Tanzania, revealing he is determined to keep on showing his virtuosity.

The DRC footballer stated after Mbeya's Ihefu SC completed the signing of the defensive midfielder on a two-year deal from Kitayosce of Tabora.

Much as Tshishimbi joined an outfit that has garnered promotion to next season's Premier League, the midfielder conceded to be proud of getting used to Tanzanian football while promising to showcase impressive displays.

Tshishimbi said his goal of returning to the Premier League has been achieved, having turned out for Tabora's Kitayosce in the 2021/22 Championship.

The midfielder said: "I thank Ihefu SC leaders for showing interest in me to move to their squad for next season, it was not easy but what I can promise them is to give them the joy that made them bring me here."

"I have experience in Premier League I proved at Yanga," Tshishimbi stated.

The performer revealed: "I respect the players I met in the team, they are not strangers to me, we have met in Championship games and I expect good cooperation to achieve goals together."

Tshishimbi, who scored two goals in the 2021/22 Championship, added that his move to Ihefu SC is the beginning of his attempt to regain his confidence in football.

He revealed he is eager to win the trust of the sport's stakeholders who believe he faced a drop in form after joining Kitayosce which has missed out on promotion to the 2022/23

Premier League.

In another development, Yanga's goal-getter Fiston Kalala Mayele has promised to start the 2022/23 season with a different kind of goal celebration.

The DR Congo striker won the hearts of Tanzania's football followers with his unique goal celebration in the 2021/22 season, with the style winning popularity among soccer fanatics from various parts of the country.

The striker, who is on his way back to Dar es Salaam, has said he plans to come up with a new kind of goal celebration that he is sure will win fame.

He said he had considered and decided to come up with a different style, which would continue to delight Yanga fans.

According to Mayele, the Yanga supporters always offered him cooperation since joining the club at the start of last season, having earlier turned out for DR Congo's AS Vita.

The striker revealed: "Next season I will not do the last season's goal celebration, I will come up with a new kind of goal celebration that no one has ever seen."

"I hope the new kind of celebration will be unveiled in the Charity Shield clash because, in the previous season, I launched my goal celebration style when we took on Simba SC in the duel," Mayele stated.

Yanga beat Simba 1-0 in the 2021/22 Charity Shield tie, with Mayele notching the all-important goal for the Jangwani Street club.

Mayele finished the 2021/22 season scoring 16 goals for the NBC Premier League holders, preceded by Geita Gold FC's forward George Mpole who ended with 17 goals and lifted Golden Boot.

National junior chess squad's tactician pleased by performance in Africa Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S national junior chess team head coach Kara Louis has asked for patience and more time for the team to play well.

The coach said many of his players are new on the international scene and they cannot grasp his teachings overnight.

He issued the comments upon the squad's return from Zambia where it took part in the just ended Africa Junior Chess Championship and was placed outside the top 10, with Egypt ending as champion.

He said the Zambia showdown was one of the toughest for Tanzania's youngsters.

The gaffer stated: "The championship was one of the toughest I have ever participated in nine rounds of chess games."

"I congratulate my players for carrying our national flag high, before round 5 and knowing we were up against tough opponents and understanding the strength of our players, I mentally set a goal of at least 50 percent score for all first-timers on the international scene

and most of them did well," he said.

He reminded the players that what they do after the tournament will determine how they will perform in the next tournament.

The coach was summarising the team's performance in the Africa Junior Championship.

Tanzania was represented by Shok Mongorolica, Henry Marwa, Christian Fernandes, Delbert Panya, Maryam Panya, and Sayi Gayaji.

Henry Michael, Aditya Bhattbhatt, Shioki Mvosrolin, Zack Oundo, Salome Diaga, and Yashi Parwani complete the performers' list.

Devanish Chhid was the national junior squad's Parton and Anna Shana was the squad's matron.

Louis moreover thanked Pepsi Tanzania and the parents of the players for facilitating the team's trip to Zambia.

The qualifying competition used to select the national junior team was held at the Russian Cultural Center in Dar es Salaam and was organized by Tanzanite Sports Foundation.

SPORTS

Gael Bigirimana: Late career recruit who can make a difference at Yanga

By Correspondent John Kimbute

ONE seemingly sensational pick for this year's recruitment drive is doubtlessly the signing of Gaël Bigirimana, a Burundi professional player born on October 22, 1993.

The age bracket is critical as it explains why he would move to Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, from Europe, not because the Jangwani Street side made an exceptional offer but is among the sort of clubs that he stands a first-team chance when recruited, unlike some other options abroad.

So perhaps the hype around the player was a bit far-flung, rather extravagant.

An online profile of the player says he is a Burundian footballer who - at the time of profiling - was playing as a midfielder for Glentoran and the Burundi national team, noting that he began his professional career at Coventry City in 2011 and a year later, he signed for Newcastle United of the England Premier League.

He did not settle at the club, similar to Mbwana Samatta in his brief Aston Villa stay.

Reportedly, after an aborted move to Scottish Premiership outfit Rangers FC, Bigirimana returned to Coventry on loan in 2015 and permanently a year later.

He scored for Coventry in their 2017 EFL Trophy final victory, then signed for Motherwell of the Scottish Premiership. Bigirimana left Motherwell in January 2019, and two more later.

Specifically, the chronicle says then had a short spell with Hibernian before returning to England with Solihull Moors in October of the same year, from which he has now shifted to the new club champions.

Based on the record, it is not exactly as if Simon Msuva had opted to stay, the Tanzanian international has important offers within Morocco at top-ranked clubs in the CAF Champions League.

The recruit did not have offers comparable with either Samatta



Gael Bigirimana. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

at a higher level or Msuva at a lower level, which opting for some sort of excitement in the African soccer environment is not a strange decision here. Looking at the profile of Stephane Aziz Ki and then Gael Bigirimana, one sees two of a pair, of lower-end clubs in Europe and being offloaded at Premier League lower-end clubs earlier, when they were at their peak.

Unlike Bigirimana, Aziz Ki never went as far as either the England Championship or something, in which case being excited about Gael is sort of warranted, but that was earlier in the past decade, nearly 10 years ago, when the Burundi player was at his peak in 2011 to 2015 or slightly earlier when he shifted to Rangers and it didn't make a difference. It was like moving from Aston Villa to Galatasary, it is difficult.

The two signings are comparable, and on the whole, they constitute a credible indication of club vision, not firstly what they want to do but what they are capable of, and thus the contention could perhaps be who is in a better position to make either effective or more credible recruitments.

Here there is a lot at play, for the range of players one can look for is basketful, but definitely, it is the technical bench that says what position needs a player, either as an improvement or as a replacement.

In that sense good recruitment, or the best the club can afford, is not the testimony of a revolution in vision; attests to a strong continuity drive. And that is the issue at Jangwani Street outfit at the end of the outgoing season, that there are not enough 'push factors' for especially strong recruitment efforts, as for all intents and purposes

it has demonstrated some resilience in the Tanzania Premier League.

This way there might be some cosmetic recruitments to be a bit more assured of an upward climb in continental soccer as in this sphere the club has a lot to prove, despite the that their next street rivals will take time to fully recover from the UD Songo nightmare, where the Mozambican hard hitters won on an away goal after a barren draw on their home turf. It happens...

Coming to look at it, the Yanga show against a potentially stronger Rivers United of Nigeria in last season's early stages of the CAF Champions League was slightly less even, losing by a single score at both stages of the contest, home and away.

The Jangwani Street club is a revamped outfit since then, especially after recruiting one of the more experienced coaches on the continental run, thus definitely stands to put up a more credible show than at that time.

Its signings more or less reflect this enhanced readiness to stand the run against well-placed sides instead of entering as 'also rans' from the start.

And indeed this is what the club fans are dying to see, a club that effectively wrestles their rivals' dominance in continental outings, even if not replacing them as the dominant side.

Replacing Simba SC rather than contesting with it implies equaling the regular continental giants, it is a step no local club is envisioning.

Mpole unsure of his destination next season

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE 2021/22 NBC Premier League Golden Boot winner, George Mpole, has said he still does not know where he will play his football next season as his outfit Geita Gold FC prepares for next season's Premier League, Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC), and CAF Confederation Cup.

Mpole, who beat his closest challenger Fiston Mayele of Yanga to the Premier League top scorer's gong last season, has revealed the secret after his name was not seen in the list of new signings that Simba SC, Yanga, and Azam FC have introduced.

The three squads were said to be in the running for his signature before the end of the 2021/22 season.

The striker stated he is currently in Mbeya for a short vacation while also training privately but the reality is that he is not sure where he will play next season.

However, Mpole said he would like to play in an outfit that will give him priority to play in the first team to continue goal scoring form he displayed in the 2021/22 season, ending with 17 goals.

The footballer noted: "I'm in Mbeya and I'm going on with my short vacation during this off-season, I'm doing my training."

"I don't know where I'm going to play next season so far, I don't need to talk about it because there are my supervisors who have authority over it," he said.

"I need to play in an outfit that will give me priority to play in the first team so that I can continue where I left off," Mpole revealed.

Geita Gold FC will participate for the first time in the CAF Confederation Cup following the club's fourth-place finish in the previous season's NBC Premier League.

Geita Gold FC Chairman Constantine Morandi noted they are in the process of making sure Mpole stays at the club, believing that he will be a great help in the



George Mpole

continental tournament.

He said they are aware of a section of Premier League clubs looking to sign the striker based on his previous season's stellar performance.

"We are in the process of retaining Mpole here at Geita Gold

FC, we have received several offers so far, but we are working tirelessly to persuade the player so that he can stay with us for next season," he said.

"We believe Mpole will be persuaded to stay with us for next season, if things go differently we

will have no other plan other than to let him go, but the priority is to fight for the goal-getter to stay," Morandi pointed out.

Geita Gold FC has already been linked with a move for Burkina Faso striker Yacouba Songne now featuring for Yanga.

Brazil's big clubs take aim at marquee names during transfer window

By Tim Vickery, ESPN South America correspondent

For two decades now, the Brazilian league has kicked off in April or May and gone all the way through to early December – with a slightly earlier finish this year because of the upcoming World Cup kicking off in late November. And in the middle of the action is the opening of the global transfer window, when the vast majority of business is done – and Brazil's clubs would lose their stars.

Coaches in Brazil are still nervous. The fear remains that they might lose an important member of the side, especially if it happens right at the end of the window, when there is little time left to shop for a replacement. But times have changed. The mid-year transfer window – has become a net gain for the Brazilian league.

This year, for example, Flamengo are bringing in winger Everton Soares, the hero of Brazil's 2019 Copa America win, and are on the verge of officially signing legendary Chilean midfielder Arturo Vidal. This is an excellent illustration of two of the types of player making their way to Brazil. Veteran South Americans – not necessarily Brazilian – who are looking to wind down their careers back in their home continent after long and successful spells in Europe. And Brazilians in their mid-20s who have been unable to settle in Europe. Vidal, from Internazionale, comes into the first category and Everton, from Benfica, the second.

Domestic double winners Atletico Mineiro have also gone shopping. In from France comes centre-back Jemerson, who was in contention for the last World Cup. Striker Alan Kardec has been brought in from China, as well as Argentina winger Cristian Pavon. Copa Libertadores champions Palmeiras have also gone to Argentina, bringing in strikers Miguel Merentiel and Jose Manuel Lopez.

This is all bankrolled by extra business know-how, as the Brazilian clubs learn more about leveraging their huge support base. And with clubs opening up to new form of ownership, including foreign capital, their purchasing power is likely to increase.

And another change in the market is also making the league stronger. A few years ago – when Brazil embarked on the May-December format, for example, the European clubs came in for the biggest stars in Brazil. That is no longer the case. They are no longer particularly interested in the best players. They want the best prospects, the younger the better. The thinking here is that the earlier they can get youngsters across the Atlantic, the easier it will be to help them adapt to life and to football in

WNBA's Griner gets support at trial from character witnesses

KHIMKI, Russia

BRITTNEY Griner's drug possession trial resumed Thursday with the head of the Russian club she plays for in the offseason and a teammate from that squad testifying in support of her character and what the WNBA star has meant for women's basketball in the country.

Griner, who pleaded guilty last week, did not testify as expected at the third day of the trial. She has been detained in Russia since February, and the U.S. government is under pressure at home to do more to secure her freedom. Her guilty plea could be an effort to expedite the court proceedings so any negotiations about a prisoner exchange could move forward.

Griner was arrested at the Russian capital's Sheremetyevo Airport when customs officials said they found vape canisters with cannabis oil in her luggage. She acknowledged in court that she possessed the canisters, but said she had no criminal intent and said their presence in her luggage was due to hasty packing. She is facing up to 10 years in prison.

In Russia's judicial system, admitting guilt doesn't automatically end a trial. Most journalists were denied access to Thursday's session, but the director of UMMC Ekaterinburg, for which she plays during the WNBA offseason, told reporters afterward that he testified as a character witness.

"Our task today was to tell the court about her characteristics as an athlete, as a person – tell about how she played a big role in the success of the Ekaterinburg club and Russian women's basketball as a whole," club director Maxim Rybakov.

"Today is the first day when we have seen our basketball player since February. Thank God, she feels well, looks good," Rybakov said outside the courthouse in the Moscow suburb of Khimki, where the airport is located.

Player Evgenia Belyakova said she testified that "Brittney has always been a very good teammate, so my role here is just to be with her, to support her."

"We miss her very much, we miss her energy," Belyakova added. "I was very happy to see her, and I hope this trial will be over soon and with a positive outcome."

Also in court were Elizabeth Rood, charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, and other consular officials, and they were able to speak to Griner, who told them she appreciated their presence, the U.S. State Department said.

The trial's next session was set for later yesterday.

Griner is one of the most prominent female athletes in the U.S., a standout for the Phoenix Mercury and a two-time Olympic gold medalist.

U.S. President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken have said they were doing all they could to win her release, as well as that of other Americans the U.S. considers "wrongly detained" by Russia, including former Marine Paul Whelan.

Washington may have little leverage with Moscow, though, because of strong animosity over its military operation in Ukraine.

Russian media have speculated that Griner could be swapped for Russian arms trader Viktor Bout, nicknamed "the Merchant of Death," who is serving a 25-year sentence in the U.S. after being convicted of conspiracy to kill U.S. citizens and providing aid to a terrorist organization.

Russia has agitated for Bout's release for years. But the wide discrepancy in the seriousness of their cases could make such a trade unpalatable to Washington. Others have suggested that Griner could be traded along with Whelan, who is serving 16 years in Russia on an espionage conviction that the U.S. has described as a setup.

The State Department's special presidential envoy for hostage affairs, effectively the government's chief hostage negotiator. The classification has irritated Russia.

Europe.

There is a belief that over the last 15 years a chasm has opened up, that top class European football is much quicker and more compact than in South America, with less time on the ball. An early adaptation is best. There are risks – perhaps more for the human being than the footballer. The 18-22 age can be a difficult one. It is not always easy to go through the changes of late adolescence at home, let alone thousands of miles away in a different culture. But if the move does not work out, the player can always be transferred on – back to Brazil, for example.

In recent times Flamengo are the best example of this trend, developing Vinicius Junior (Real Madrid), Lucas Paqueta (Lyon) and Reiner (Borussia Dortmund via Real Madrid) and using the proceeds to finance a squad of depth, quality and experience.

And Brazilian football now reigns supreme in South America. Both the last two finals of the Copa Libertadores have been all-Brazilian affairs, and this year Brazil supplies five of the last eight – as well as half the quarterfinalists in the Copa Sudamericana.

That is not to say that Brazil can attract whoever it wants and that all the problems of its domestic football have been solved. Far from it – and Luis Suarez may serve as an interesting example.

The veteran Uruguay striker is without a club after his contract at Atletico Madrid expired. It appears that he was mildly interested in joining River Plate of Argentina. But this, it seems, was conditional on their making it through to the last eight of the Libertadores. They fell short last week, and the interest from Suarez cooled. The ex-Liverpool and Barcelona man also admitted earlier this week that he has received "five or six" offers from teams in Major League Soccer.

What about teams from Brazil? The word from the Suarez camp was that he was not interested. There are a number of possible explanations for this stance. The life of a footballer in Brazil can be an arduous one. Fans are quick to turn on their own team – not just with words, but with the threat (and increasingly the reality) of violence. Games can take place in gruelling high temperatures. There is lots of travelling – the country is huge. And there are too many games. The question of an organised calendar has never been properly addressed, and the players pay the price.

For a veteran looking to keep himself sharp in the build up to the World Cup, a move to Brazil represents a risk. The mid-year transfer window has become a net gain for Brazilian football, but overall continues to operate below its potential.

Rooney can make D.C. better. Why? Because it can't get much worse

By Jeff Carlisle, ESPN U.S. soccer correspondent

WAYNE Rooney has taken part in a Major League Soccer minor miracle before. In 2018, the ex-Manchester United and Everton striker joined a floundering D.C. United side in mid-season, and sparked the Black and Red to 40 points in its last 20 games to secure unlikely spot in the postseason.

It almost didn't matter that DCU got bounced in the first round by the Columbus Crew. Rooney, with 12 goals and seven assists in 21 league and playoff appearances, had shown the club and its fans a tantalizing glimpse of what was possible, encapsulated by his sprint-tackle-dribble-assist sequence that set up a game-winner by Luciano Acosta and clinched a 3-2 win over Orlando City SC.

Four years later, another bit of divine intervention is being asked of Rooney as he was announced as D.C.'s new manager on Wednesday. United are enduring a complete mess of a season, and are currently tied for the fewest points in the league alongside the Chicago Fire. DCU did manage seven points from a possible 12 following the firing of Hernan Losada on April 20. But as is often the case with such maneuvers, it proved to be the proverbial dead cat bounce.

The Black and Red have claimed just four points in seven games since, and now with just 17 matches left in the season, it's up to Rooney to reverse the team's fortunes. His time will actually be even more limited than that. Until he obtains his work visa, which sources say could take one to two weeks, he'll be limited to observing training and games. While there figures to be plenty of communication in the background, it's far from optimal.

There are legitimate reasons to expect Rooney to improve things, beyond the fact that they can't get much worse. There is something to be said about presence and charisma. The level of respect for him within the organization and the players couldn't be any higher. He was widely lauded for the work he did with English Championship side Derby County amid crushing penalties for the club's financial situation, so he knows what it's like to work amid onerous circumstances.

Rooney's previous experience in MLS will also serve him well. While playing and managing are two completely different jobs, there will be little in the way of surprises in terms of the travel demands, extreme weather, the roster limitations and overall cadence of the league.

Rooney also appears to have a sharp sense of what kind of player works in MLS. While he didn't completely write off bringing in Luis Suarez (who claims to have offers from several MLS clubs in hand), Rooney said, "I want players who are hungry" but who "also have got a lot to give and are capable of playing every game." He understands that goes a



Wayne Rooney will be charged with revitalizing a downtrodden D.C. United as he takes over as manager.

long way in MLS.

The fact that Rooney is reprising his role as savior is an indictment of D.C.'s overall direction since he left following the 2019 season. His hire is being characterized as a giant step forward, but looked at another way, one could argue that the reliance on the Englishman shows the organization is going in circles, complete with mismatched parts. (Ola Kamara as a support striker? Really?) At the other end of the field, DCU have shipped 39 goals in 18 games, a rate that threatens FC Cincinnati's ignominious single-season record of 75 set in 2019.

Rooney will certainly aid in the Black and Red being more organized and tougher to play against, traits that were clearly lacking in the 7-0 thrashing at the hands of the Philadelphia Union last Friday. There is also gravity to go with the gravitas, with Rooney-inspired reinforcements presumed to be on the way as well. There are two open Designated Player spots ready to be filled.

D.C. United GM Lucy Rushton said the club will be looking for help in midfield, and the recent ACL injury to Brad Smith points to an immediate need for a left-back.

"I think we need help in probably transitioning from defense to attack and getting the ball in good attacking moments," she said. "I also think we probably need a little bit of steel and bite as well, in midfield – a bit of roughness – and the leadership that often goes with that kind of position."

Rooney's presence will only take D.C. United so far, though, and there are questions that need to be addressed as the feel-good factor of his arrival wears off. Is the structure in place to maximize Rooney's ability? How jarring of a course correction

tactically will Rooney's arrival be?

What will happen when the inevitable day arrives that he announces that he's leaving for a bigger job? Have plans been formulated to sustain what he puts in place?

Rushton, who has been in her role for 15 months, insists that Rooney wouldn't have taken the job if he didn't believe he'd have the necessary support. Fair enough. But she admitted there will be a bit of transition as Rooney takes over. She said that Rooney's tactical approach, while containing some elements of a pressing style, won't be as pedal-to-the-metal as Losada's was, especially given United's defensive fragility. The time for fluid soccer can come later.

"I'd say probably more of a controlled kind of press," said Rushton. "So I think it's probably going to be a little bit different in that respect. I think first and foremost, being defensively compact. We've conceded for too many goals this season. So I think that's an area we really need to obviously work on, and figure out." Rooney's arrival may not mean a 180-degree turn from Losada, but it's still a change in direction nonetheless, so it will take time to get everyone on the same page. That is a commodity that neither DCU nor Rooney have much of.

In terms of Rooney's long-term future, he certainly wouldn't be the first manager to use MLS as a stepping stone to bigger things. Gerardo "Tata" Martino, Patrick Vieira, Jesse Marsch and most recently Ronny Deila all moved on after achieving varying levels of success in MLS. But in the case of New York City FC and the New York Red Bulls, the philosophy has remained. Will the same be true in D.C.? It will need to be if Rooney's second spell in the nation's capital is to have any kind of

long-term benefit.

Rushton says that comes down to creating an identity as a club, attracting players who fit that style and then recruiting and scouting evolve from there. How would she describe that identity? Rushton insists that process has been ongoing, and to be fair, she joined the club after Losada was hired prior to the 2021 season.

"I think our identity has to be a very hard-working, playing-on-the-front-foot team who is defensively compact and tight, but aggressive going forward," she said. "And I think you've seen that from us over the last 18 months as well, in terms of how we go out and press teams, how we play in the final third. I don't think that's changed. I think we still want to be that attacking and entertaining team, but we need to be doing it from a more compact and a more defensively robust kind of [foundation]."

Rushton admitted that the team's overall identity is now "in transition slightly" because Rooney will have his own way of doing things, though. That foundational work still needs to be done, lest there be another cultural course correction when he eventually departs.

None of this is meant as a criticism of Rooney's hiring. If you have a chance to hire a manager of his stature, even given his relative inexperience, you take it. He clearly cares about the club, and if his stint there as a player is anything to go by, he will put his heart and soul into the job.

"I know it's going to be a lot of hard work which we have to put in, [myself], I have to put in," Rooney said at his unveiling. "The players have to be in. I have demands, principles which the players need to stick by."

It's not just the work of the manager that needs to improve for DCU, though. Everything around Rooney needs to be better, be it support structures, recruitment and the like. The ensuing months will reveal the extent to which that happens.

Ronaldo to reject €275m Saudi offer - sources

LONDON

CRISTIANO Ronaldo is set to turn down a highly lucrative offer to leave Manchester United for Saudi Arabia, sources have told ESPN.

An unnamed Saudi Arabian club have made a €30 million bid to sign Ronaldo from United while giving the Portugal captain the chance to become the world's highest-paid player by offering him €275m in wages for the next two seasons.

Ronaldo, 37, has a contract with United until June next year with an option to extend for a further year, but recently submitted a transfer request.

United's star forward wants to play Champions League football next season, and wants to compete for major trophies in a competitive league at this stage of his career.

United have told Ronaldo he is not available for transfer this summer. The 37-year-old was granted permission to delay join-

ing up with United's preseason tour of Thailand and Australia because of family reasons.

New United boss Erik ten Hag said this week that Ronaldo is part of his plans for the upcoming season and added that "nothing has changed" in terms of the forward's situation.

Sources have told ESPN that Chelsea, who signed Eng-

land forward Raheem Sterling from Manchester City this week, have ruled out a move for Ronaldo.

ESPN also understands that Bayern Munich and Atletico Madrid are still in the race to sign Ronaldo.

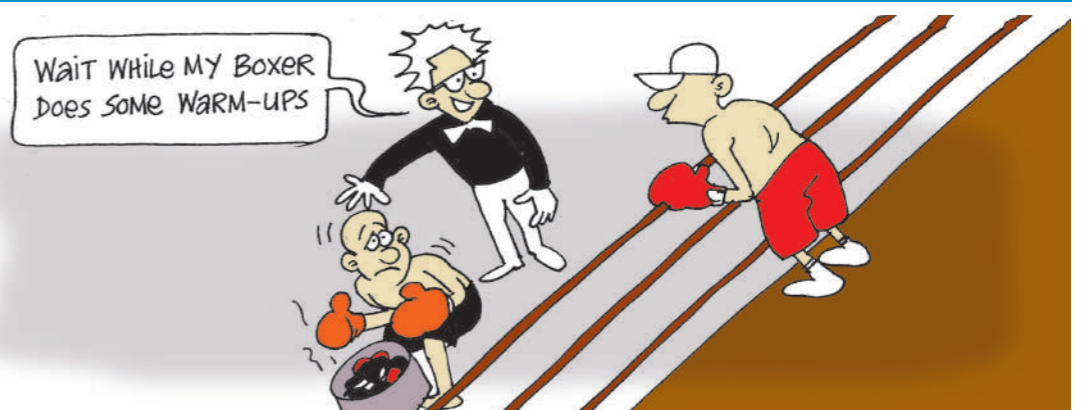
The Portugal forward has also not ruled out the possibility of staying at Old Trafford if the right offer

does not materialise.

Ronaldo returned to United a year ago, but his second spell at the club has not gone entirely to plan. He scored 18 goals in 30 Premier League appearances last season, but United finished sixth in the league and failed to qualify for the Champions League.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Rooney can make D.C. better. Why?
Because it can't get much worse

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Azam FC's Chief Executive Officer, Abdulkarim Amin. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Azam FC determined to conquer African football

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MAINLAND Tanzania Premier League outfit Azam FC states it is planning to make either one or two other signings as it steps up preparations for the 2022/23 top flight, CAF Confederation Cup, and other tournaments.

This comes after Azam FC had completed the signing of an internationally acclaimed goalkeeper Ali Ahmada on a three-year deal.

Ahmada is a French of Comoro origin and has become Azam FC's seventh signing in this campaign following the arrival of Nigerian defensive midfielder Isah Ndalah.

Midfielders Tape Edinho and Kipre Junior both from Ivory Coast, and locals Cleophae Mkalanda, Nathaniel Chilambo, and Abdulhamis Suleiman, also make the list of foreign footballers recently roped in by the outfit.

The side's Chief Executive Officer Abdulkarim Amin said the arrival of new players is based on recommendations presented by the team head coach and his technical panel.

He said the team will travel to North Africa for pre-season preparations and disclosed the tour in North Africa will give them a clear picture of the team's strengths and weaknesses.

The official said: "Our trip to North Africa will also give us a clear picture of the strength of our squad."

"We are very serious this season, we want to win every silverware on the land and do well in continental games," he said.

The newly signed shot stopper Ahmada told the club's website that he is delighted to join the team. Ahmada once played for the French Premier League side, Toulouse.

He also played for Turkey's Kayserispor, Norwegian side Kongsvinger, Brann UE Santa Coloma of Andorra, and France U-21 national team.

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We are very serious this season, we want to win every silverware on the land and do well in continental games

Tanzanians set to tour Dubai

By Guardian Correspondent

SOME famous Nigerian actresses that feature in the country's film industry 'Nollywood', including Omoni Oboli, Uche Jombo, Ufuoma McDermott, and Chioma Akpotha have been tasked with conducting a draw that will present Tanzanians with a chance to tour Dubai.

The opportunity was announced by the Africa Tourism and Public Relations Agency, through the company known as RivExcel Dubai Girls.

The organizer provided an opportunity for 12 girls from various African countries to participate in the draw.

The company's Managing Director, Tonye Princewill, said the winners will be available via an Instagram account, @VisitDubaiAF.

Princewill pointed out that winners who commented on the final post on the @VisitDubaiAF page and meet the criteria will be selected on August 16 this year.

The official said: "These Nollywood actresses are responsible for hosting the live session via @VisitDubaiAF Instagram."

Princewill revealed that there are many ways for people to benefit from the use of the internet, pointing out that it depends on what a person has chosen to do on social media.

"For example, the comments you put on one of the Instagram pages could allow you to go to Dubai for a five-day tour in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)," the official noted.

The director explained that the winners will receive free airline tickets to and from Dubai.

The winners, the official stated, will further have accommodation, food, and the opportunity to tour a variety of attractions.

"My call is that they should continue to show up in large numbers to enter the lottery draw so that by the end of the day the 12 winners selected to go to Dubai will be found," Princewill noted.

Senegal, Mozambique squeeze into 2022 COSAFA Cup semi-finals

DURBAN

WEST African guest nation, Senegal, and Mozambique booked their places in the semi-finals of the 2022 Hollywoodbets COSAFA Cup after penalty shoot-out victories in their quarterfinal clashes at the King Zwelithini Stadium in Durban, South Africa on Wednesday.

Senegal saw off Eswatini in their shoot-out after a 1-1 draw in the early kick-off before Mozambique played to a 0-0 stalemate with a young South Africa side but triumphed after post-match penalties to dump the defending champions out of the Cup competition and into the Plate.

It means the first semi-final at the Moses Mabhida Stadium yesterday was expected to witness Namibia tackle Mozambique at 16h00 CAT, while Senegal took on five-time winners Zambia at 19h00.

Youthful South Africans had the better of their quarterfinal tie against Mozambique in front of a packed stadium as fans revelled in having international football back in Durban.

It was a fixture of few chances, to say the least, but the best fell to the home side as they at least tested Mambas goalkeeper Ernan Siluane.

There was nothing to separate the sides though and penalties were needed to decide who advances, with Mozambique holding their nerve to win 5-4.

Senegal and Eswatini also needed to be separated by a marathon penalty shoot-out after they played to a 1-1 draw.

Lamine Camara gave the West Africans the lead with a free-kick from 40-yards on the angle that floated into the far post, bamboozling Eswatini goalkeeper Mathabela Sandanezwe.

That was the way it stayed until the hour-mark when substitute Thabo Mkhonto was fed the ball in the box and his low shot went across goal and into the far corner.

Neliswa Dlamini had missed an absolute sitter for the Southern African side, but the match went to spot-kicks, where Senegal eventually triumphed 10-9.

Mzwandile Mabelesa missed the 20th kick of the shoot-out as he blazed over the bar.

The Plate semi-finals on Friday will be played at the Sugar Ray Xulu Stadium as Madagascar take on South Africa (kick-off 12h00 CAT) and Botswana meet Eswatini (15h00). The Plate final will take place on Sunday.

AGENCIES

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Senegal saw off Eswatini in their shoot-out after a 1-1 draw in the early kick-off before Mozambique played to a 0-0 stalemate with a young South Africa side but triumphed after post-match penalties to dump the defending champions out of the Cup competition and into the Plate

FIFA uplifts Geita Gold FC registration ban



Geita Gold Football Club

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FINALLY, Geita Gold FC is free to register players for the 2022/23 Premier League, Azam Sports Federation Cup, and CAF Confederation Cup.

Geita Gold FC will participate in the next season's CAF Confederation Cup, following the squad's fourth-place finish in the 2021/22 Premier League, which also had the side making its debut in the showdown.

The Chief Executive Officer of Geita Gold FC Simon Shija confirmed that their club is free to do registration of players after completing all procedures to pay the dues to former head coach, Etienne Ndayiragije.

On June 25, this year, FIFA banned the club from registering new players until it pays its former head coach, Ndayiragije.

The Burundian tactician filed a claim to FIFA demanding compensation for breach of contract between him and Geita Gold FC and other payments while coaching the club.

Shija stated their club has implemented all the legal and regulatory requirements following the FIFA guidelines and is now free to continue its activities.

"The leadership of Geita Gold FC would like to inform the side's fans, soccer stakeholders, and sports enthusiasts that we have been pardoned by FIFA," Shija revealed.

The official stated: "We ask the stakeholders to continue cooperating with the club

and the doors of sponsorship are open."

"The club has planned to do well next season to develop the competitive environment in the domestic and continental tournament," Shija revealed.

Before the announcement, Geita Gold FC had not started either making players registration or introducing any players for the new season amid great silence.

After the FIFA announcement, the gold miners started to fight to sign players, having been linked with roping in an experienced midfielder Ramadhan Chombo and some other stars.

Shija noted that they are in the process of ensuring that their team gets a chance to go abroad to camp for several days.

The official pointed out they believe that this opportunity will enable their players to have a good environment to prepare for CAF Confederation Cup.

He revealed: "Our camp will start on July 20, we are currently in the preparations but we are also looking at whether there is a possibility of going abroad to prepare for the new season for a few days to build the capacity of our players."

Shija insisted: "The goal of going abroad is to improve our players psychologically so that they feel they are in a position to fight internationally."

The official stated: "We are thinking of going to either South Africa or any other country here in Africa, but we have not found the right framework yet."

In another development, Shija has asked the fans of Geita Gold FC to ignore the information that continues to take place on social media regarding registration, as until now there is no official information from the outfit.

Shija pointed out: "Regarding the players we have signed up to now, they are all rumours, when the time comes we will say."

The official noted: "In short, all players and the technical bench we finished the season with are all there, we will part ways with a few players to make room for new players to be signed."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

