



Guardian BUSINESS Move seeks to open companies' beneficial owners' details access

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Oil set for second weekly drop over demand concerns

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Samia: PPP crucial for faster growth

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona



Tanzania National Business Council chairperson President Samia Suluhu Hassan chairs the council's 14th meeting at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has said the government is committed to pursuing economic integration with the urgency it deserves.

Opening the 14th annual general meeting of the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) at the State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday, she said the government has put in place strategies that are aimed at improving the country's business environment.

The public private partnership policy is a tool to spur economic growth and attract more investments, she said, highlighting remaining challenges in electronic sharing of information between regulatory agencies and port-related operators.

There is a need to develop an electronic system which will enable sharing of tax and other business information to all government departments for easy verification and monitoring, she stated.

The president commended mobile phone service providers for opening up rural areas through building communication towers, noting that 4G networks are dotted around the country and 5G networks are being installed.

Insisting that improvement of communication services is good for the country's development, she urged any interested companies wishing to assemble smart phones for greater accessibility in the country raise the matter with the president's assistants right away.

She said that a good number of Tanzanians have

I am asking you to start constructing hotels, lodges and guest houses to accommodate all the visitors

smartphones and can access vital information on economic activities like agriculture, trade and investments, urging the business community to make use of expansive trade areas like the East African Community, the Southern African Development Community and the continental free trade area.

These widen access to foreign markets, she said, pointing at the need to emulate the Zanzibar government's blue economy policy, as there is a long coastline on the Mainland that needs to be utilised.

She expressed optimism for tourism sector growth, noting the success of the 'Royal Tour' documentary asking developers to venture into the construction of facilities like hotels to accommodate more tourists. The tourist visitation goal for 2025 is likely to be realised, she stated.

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Tanzania, Zambia agree to decongest trucks at Tunduma

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and Zambia have agreed to sort out transit trade challenges, especially the congestion of trucks at the Tunduma-Nakonde one stop border post. Gabriel Migire, the Works and Transport permanent secretary said in a statement yesterday that officials of the two sides had agreed to take measures to ensure the seamless flow of traffic and reduce trade cost between the two countries.

The Tunduma-Nakonde border between Tanzania and Zambia handles traffic from Dar es Salaam to Zambia and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and vice versa,

TURN TO Page2

Ministry lists investors for Mtwara SGR plans

By Correspondent James Kandoya

INVESTORS from the UK, China, South Africa, Canada and the United States have shown interest in taking up the construction of a standard gauge railway (SGR) for the Mtwara corridor, under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement.

Atupele Mwakibete, the Works and Transport deputy minister, made this observation in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a handover ceremony of six double decker passenger wagons for the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC).

The wagons were delivered last week from Germany, with plans for the Mtwara-Mbambabay corridor explained as part of government efforts to link major lakes and ports with railway networks.

A number of countries had shown in-

terest in various projects to be executed through the PPP arrangement, he said, projecting that a meeting with a range of stakeholders interested to build the Mtwara corridor railway is billed for later this month.

He underlined government intentions to proceed with infrastructure construction under a partnership format to increase efficiency and attract more capital from the private sector in propelling faster economic growth.

The government will be investing on projects that are not attractive to the private sector, he stated, affirming that trail runs for SGR trips from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro are set to be held next month.

Operationalization of the new train services will ease transport and boost trade activities, he said, projecting the arrival of more wagons.

Gerson Msigwa, the chief government spokesperson, said the massive investments are meant to transform the country's transport sector, while Masanja Kadogosa, the TRC director general, said that the six passenger wagons are first and second class passengers, altogether carrying 123 passengers while third class wagons will accommodate 140 passengers.

A single wagon carries as many passengers as three buses, he said, underlining that TRC staff have been trained to properly offer services and take care of the wagons.

Seven other passenger wagons will arrive next month and another electric locomotive (train engine) is expected by late November, where all double decker passenger wagons will have been delivered, he added.

Judges: Compensation law is still work in progress

By Guardian Reporter, Bagamoyo

LABOUR Division judges have said that the law on workers' compensation is still a work in progress meriting being improved at various places.

Judge Dr Modesta Opiyo of the High Court labour division in Dar es Salaam made this affirmation at a working session bringing together senior officials of the Workers Compensation Fund (WCF), the labour division and the Commission for Mediation and Arbitration (CMA) here yesterday.

After the fund was constituted, great progress has been registered in a short period, from 2015 when

If it happens that the deceased has two wives the matter is returned to the courts to determine their legitimacy and thus ease the process of paying ...

it was formed and up to now it has registered professions, she said,

noting that compensation rates have been increased. "But paying a worker all his life when he meets with a challenge at work enables his life to continue and dissipate the impact of that accident," she stated.

Discussing WCF functions, Judge Dr Yose Joseph Mlyambina, the labour division High Court registrar, underlined the key role of WCF in working with the High Court and other institutions involved in solving workplace disputes.

He expressed appreciation for readiness of the fund to conduct training on labour division officials on laws relating to workers' compensation.

The training isn't an issue of minor importance, he stated, urging the fund to wid-

en the training initiative to court officials at other levels as well as institutions tasked with conflict mediation in areas registering high numbers of disputes, citing Arusha, Mwanza and Dodoma regions.

While observing that the law on compensation is still in its early stages and can be rectified, participating judges said the fund has fulfilled the promise engendered in its formation.

Emmanuel Humba, the WCF board chairman, said when opening the training session that courts have a crucial role to play in compensation processes for workers who are injured, are sick for a long time or die from work related causes.

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Tanzania, Zambia agree to decongest trucks at Tunduma

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with up to 400 cargo trucks crossing the border on a daily basis.

The resolution follows a two-day bilateral road transport meeting held in Tunduma town in Songwe Region, convening senior transportation officials of the two sides, where freight forwarders were also involved, the statement noted.

Reducing congestion at the border will facilitate smooth transportation of cargo, thus allowing commodities to reach consumers on time, noting that congestion raises transportation costs.

The outcome of the meeting will create a common understanding on how to enhance the flow of goods and services passing through the border post, he said, specifying that freight forwarders were invited to offer suggestions on solutions needed.

Solving the border stop challenges will attract more transporters to use the route and the seaport of Dar es Salaam, he stated, elaborating that the two sides agree to improve vehicle parking lots on both sides, to ease entry and exit of vehicles.

Fredrick Mwalusaka, the Transport and Logistics permanent secretary for Zambia, said challenges on the Zambian side of the border include the lack of enabling infrastructures for smooth flow of trucks like road facilities, cargo scanners and shortage of staff.

The Zambian govern-

ment is working on the challenges to quickly find solutions to ease congestion at the border, he said, pointing at the Chinsali-Nakonde road rehabilitation project.

Mrisho Mrisho, a senior official at the port of Dar es Salaam, said that finding solutions to transport challenges at the Tunduma-Nakonde border will boost port efficiency, as offloaded cargo will timely reach final destinations.

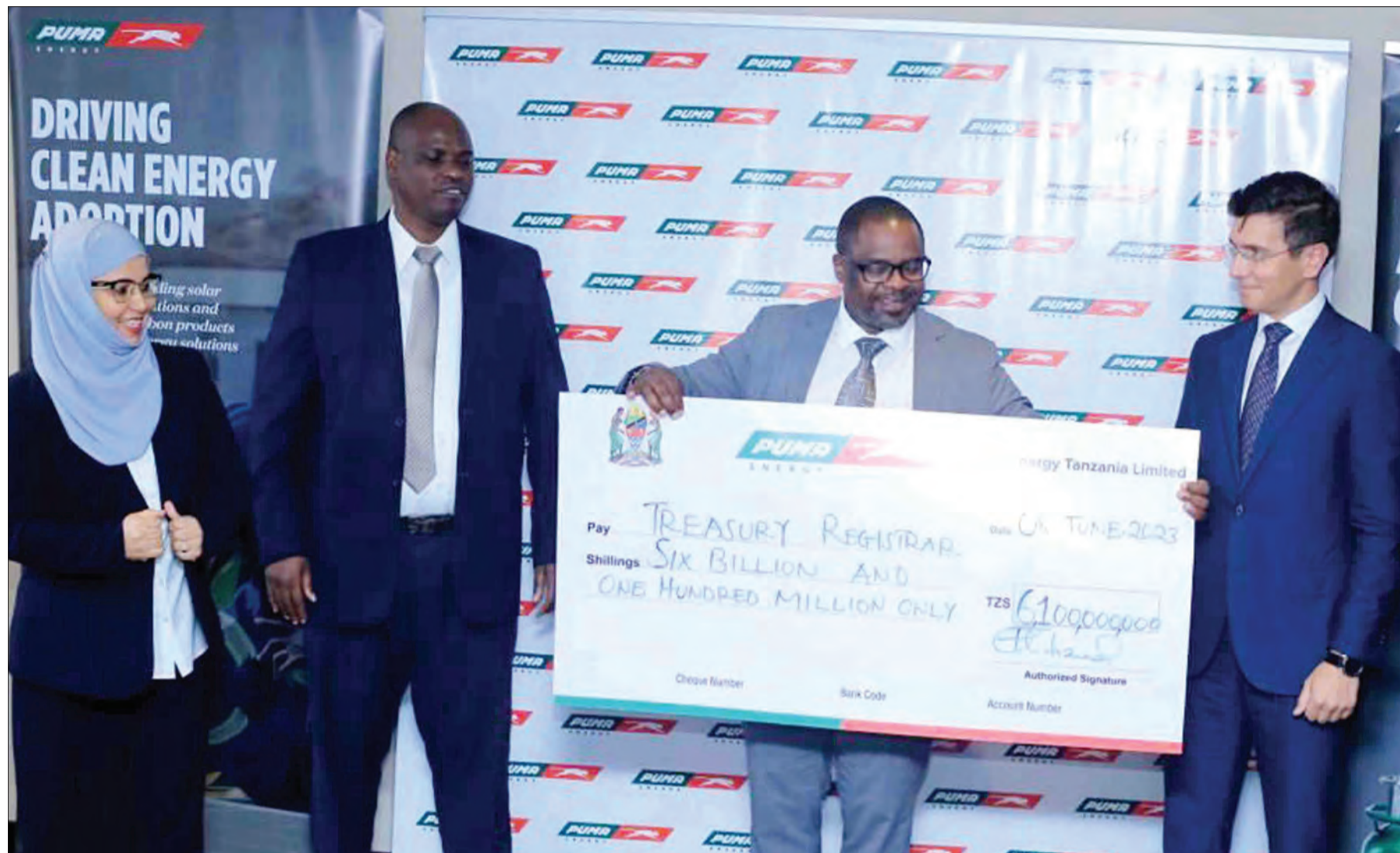
The ministers reaffirmed decisions of an earlier meeting in Lusaka last September, moving to establish a working group to oversee harmonisation of transit goods administration.

Issues impeding the smooth flow of trucks, especially charges imposed along the corridor, were intensely discussed.

The two governments promised to address transport infrastructure challenges to mitigate trucks congestion at the border.

Clearing and forwarding agents operating on both sides of the border stop were told to start pre-clearing their consignments to reduce the waiting time as it contributes to congestion.

Revenue authorities in both countries were asked to extend the implementation schedule of the electronic cargo tracking system from Tunduma-Nakonde border post to Kusumbaesa border post to promote the seamless flow of trucks and enhance security, the statement added.



Treasury Registrar Nehemiah Mchechu (2nd-R) holds a dummy cheque for 6.1bn/- in dividends to the government from Puma Energy Tanzania shortly after it was handed over in Dar es Salaam on Thursday by Puma Energy Board chairman Dr Selemani Majige (2nd-L). Looking on are Puma Energy Tanzania managing director Fatma Abdallah (L) and head of Africa Fadi Mitri. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Judges: Compensation law is still work in progress

FROM PAGE 1

He said the training was part of implementation of directives by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, asking public institutions to enhance efficiency and quality of services to the people. Usekele Mpulla, the CMA coordinator for Dar es Salaam zone, said the fund has a crucial role in maintaining economic activity in households where the bread winner meets with a workplace accident. Paying compensation

brings those affected to sustain productive activities, as when a person dies the beneficiaries are compensated, and if injured he is treated, thus enabling economic activity to continue, he said. The WCF board chairman expressed the belief that the session would generate benefits like enhancing relations with a view to improving services to the public and contribute to the country's economic growth. Abraham Siyovelwa,

heading the WCF legal services division, said the training would enable labour division officials as well as those of the commission to grasp the tenets of the law on compensation. This will make it easier for them to render correct verdicts when issues relating to workers' compensation and activities of the fund are brought before them. He said there are numerous areas where the fund needs the help of the courts especially when

it comes to deciding on inheritors. "If it happens that the deceased has two wives the matter is returned to the courts to determine their legitimacy and thus ease the process of paying compensation to dependents of the deceased," he said. There is also a challenge of determining the proper salary of the deceased where the commission has been of great assistance as it is the agency charged with sorting out such disputes, he stated.

In that case the courts and the commission are essential stakeholders in implementing the law on workers' compensation, he stated, noting that the fund is seeking to build common understanding. The law relating to compensation involves determining various felonies involving procedure of receiving evidence so it is vital to sit with related agencies to see how the law can be implemented and receive ideas on how the law can be improved, he added.



Inspector General of Police Camilius Wambura (2nd-L) and Institute of Accountancy Arusha rector Prof Eliamani Sedoyeka sign an MoU in Arusha city yesterday on collaboration between the two parties in the provision of strategic cyber security and peace. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

Samia: PPP vital for faster growth

FROM PAGE 1

I am asking you to start constructing hotels, lodges and guest houses to accommodate all the visitors," said Samia.

The president raised worries that despite the rising number of tourists, much of the foreign exchange earned was not being reflected in bank forex flows, expressing the fear that the government is being short-changed.

She castigated differences between spheres of the private sector on collective goals and aspirations, similarly noting that there is a dearth of evaluation and monitoring mechanisms among regulatory agencies and ministerial departments when executing policy or enforcing regulations.

Angelina Ngalula, the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation chairperson outlined a series of challenges that the private sector faces, notably bureaucracy at government offices and technology enclosure at the Tanzania Revenue Authority.

The event was attended by Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, Vice President Dr Philip Mpango, various sectoral ministers and regulatory agency executives.

Sudan warring parties agree 24-hour ceasefire

KHARTOUM

Sudan's warring parties have agreed to a 24-hour ceasefire from today, according to a joint statement by US and Saudi mediators who have brokered previous abortive truces. "Representatives of the Sudanese Armed Forces

(SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) agreed to a 24-hour nationwide ceasefire beginning on June 10 at 6:00 am (0400 GMT)," said the statement released by the Saudi foreign ministry yesterday. Multiple ceasefires have been agreed and

broken, and Washington has slapped sanctions on the two warring generals, blaming both sides for the "appalling" bloodshed. "Should the parties fail to observe the 24-hour ceasefire, facilitators will be compelled to consider adjourning" talks in the Saudi city of

Jeddah which have been suspended since late last month, the mediators said. Since April, fighting between the regular army and the paramilitary RSF has gripped Khartoum and the flashpoint western region of Darfur, defying a series of truces.

Upwards of 1,800 people have been killed, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, and the UN says nearly two million people have been displaced, including 476,000 who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. The Saudi and US

mediators said they "share the frustration of the Sudanese people about the uneven implementation of previous ceasefires." "If observed, the 24-hour ceasefire will provide an important opportunity... for the parties to undertake confidence-building measures which

could permit resumption of the Jeddah talks," the statement said. Friday's announcement comes a day after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken wrapped up a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia, where he held discussions on Sudan with top Saudi officials.

AGENCIES



Trucks carrying maize stuck at Tanzania's Namanga one-stop border post in Longido District, Arusha Region, yesterday. Sources gave the reason as violation of procedures guiding the crossing of the particular section of the Tanzania-Kenya boundary. Photo: Correspondent Asraji Mvungi

Govt continues to pursue research on HIV vaccines

By Felister Peter

TANZANIA continues to collaborate with other countries in HIV vaccine research, whereas until now more than 290 studies have been conducted worldwide.

National Institute for Medical Research's Mbeya Medical Research Centre (NIMR-MMRC) is one of the institutions that conducts research on HIV vaccines with support from the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

A Senior Researcher with NIMR Mbeya, Dr Lucas Maganga said that Tanzania has been participating in early stages of the research that involves checking the safety of vaccines and if it can stimulate the entire body system.

According to Dr Maganga most of vaccine trials fail when tested at efficiency level due to changing behaviours of the HIV virus. He said the virus has a tendency of avoiding immunity, forcing researchers to go back to the readings.

"Until now, NIMR Mbeya has conducted more than 9 HIV vaccination researches in all stages," he remarked.

He said that they have been cooperating with the African Cohort Study (AFRICOS) since 2013 in a long term prospective observational HIV focused cohort enrolling 3,000 HIV infected and 600 HIV uninfected volunteers in MHRP PEPFAR-supported HIV care and treatment facilities in Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

NIMR Mbeya Regional Manager, Dr Elias Nyanda commended the support from PEPFAR, instating the institution will continue to cooper-

ate with different countries and researchers in finding the HIV vaccine.

Senior Official from the US Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Dr Alick Kayange said that in 20023, when PEPFAR started working in Tanzania, there were less than 1,000 people on HIV treatment, but now there are 1.5 million people receiving HIV care and treatment services.

Dr Kayange said PEPFAR supports research activities because the results are important in helping implementers to know the exact interventions to be made in the fight against HIV. He said PEPFAR also works closely with NIMR on research related to Tuberculosis (TB).

The support by PEPFAR has led to health facilities in Southern Highland regions to offer HIV services with the use of advanced modern equipment including laboratories.

The US government facilitated availability of the state-of-the-art laboratory at Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital and machines with capacity to magnify the virus for better and quality examination.

In Southern Highland regions, PEPFAR implements HIV programs in collaboration with the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) - Department of Defence and the Henry Jackson Foundation Military Research International (HJFMRI).

Dr Imani Mwakabande, HJFMRI Director of Laboratory Services said that previously they could process 10 samples of blood a day when investigating to establish how many CD4 cells one has in the blood, but now the number has gone up to 5,000 samples a day.

By Polycarp Machira and Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

Govt confirms arrival of top dressing fertilisers

The government has assured that consignments of top dressing fertilisers will start arriving in the country as early as July, 2023 so as to enable farmers to purchase and store them for the next farming season.

Deputy minister for Agriculture Anthony Mavunde made the statement yesterday in the National Assembly that the government was keen to ensure that mistakes that occurred in the last farming season do not reoccur.

"Planting and top dressing fertilizers as well as farming inputs will start entering and be distributed in various parts in the country to enable farmers

purchase them, this is part of the government's commitment to transform the agriculture sector by ensuring that inputs are supplied on time," he said.

He said this when responding to a supplementary question posed by Buhigwe MP, Felix Kavejuru who wanted to know when crop fertilisers and farming will start arriving to farmers for the next farming season.

The deputy minister further assured that the government was investing efforts to transform the mindset of small-scale farmers to commercial farming and a lot of them have now adopted

modern farming after intensive awareness created by the ministry.

Responding to a basic question posed by Singida North MP, Abeid Ramadhani who wanted to know the government's strategy to transform agriculture in the country.

"The ministry is implementing various strategies to transform the agricultural sector. These strategies are implemented with the aim of transforming from subsistence agriculture to commercial, productive, resilient agriculture coordinated and supervised by the government involving the private

sector in order to have sustainable food and agriculture systems," he explained.

Mavunde said the Ministry in the 2023/2024 financial year will implement priorities and strategies aimed at increasing productivity and production; increasing decent employment and participation of youth and women in agriculture; enhancing food security and nutrition; strengthening access to markets, capital and foreign sales and strengthening cooperative unions.

In his supplementary question, MP Ramadhan wanted to know the government's strategic plan to support

farmers with modern farming equipment especially tractors as well as the government's plan to invest heavily in irrigation farming.

The deputy Minister responded that the government is expected to establish mechanization hubs in various parts of the country so as to facilitate farmers to borrow modern farming equipment.

"The mechanization hubs will consider the ecology of the respective areas so as to send equipment that are mostly needed in the areas and bring relief to farmers who have been struggling

to access the tools and implement their farming projects smoothly," he explained.

He said with this, farmers will no longer have to struggle to access modern farming equipment as the hubs will be serving farmers with modern equipment at an affordable price.

"In efforts aimed to support farmers to increase productivity in farming, the government was collaborating with various companies to come up with more farming technologies that addresses challenges such as drought and poor harvests," he said.

EABC meeting highlights priorities for intra-EAC trade and investments

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) chairperson Angelina Ngalula has reiterated the council's commitment to driving economic integration within the East African Community (EAC) by facilitating trade, investment, and job creation.

Ngalula expressed her gratitude to the EABC management and board for their continuous efforts in advocating for an improved business environment and addressing various challenges faced within the region.

Ngalula emphasized the importance of public-private dialogue and cooperation with EABC national chapters, agencies, and institutions to unlock opportunities in both regional and continental trade and investment.

The outlined advocacy priorities that are aimed at boosting intra-EAC trade and investments include strengthening partnerships with private sector associations at the national level, opening of the Mirama Hills one-stop border post, organizing a trade mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in collaboration with banks and conducting research on digital tax stamps in partnership with manufacturers' associations.

Others are undertaking a high-level visit to the Chair of the EAC Heads of State Summit, celebrating the EABC's 25th anniversary and hosting the East African Business and Investment Summit in August 2023, ensuring EABC's inclusion in Afri-

can Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) negotiations and the guided trade initiative, addressing the EAC CET and application procedures. The board highlighted the need for countries to focus on climate change issues and mitigating impact of global crises on food security in the EAC.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT
APPLICATION FOR CITIZENSHIP



MS EVANGELIA EVELIN GEORGE JOHN FLIAKOS whose photograph is attached, is applying to the Minister of Home Affairs for Tanzania citizenship. Her nationality at present is Greek country of Greek origin. Occupation she is Director at LUTESA FARM FRESH COMPANY LTD. She has been in this country since 2008 and also resided in Iringa region. Any person who knows any reason why citizenship should not be granted to the applicant should send a written and signed statement of the fact to the: COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION SERVICE, P O BOX 1181, DODOMA.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT
APPLICATION FOR CITIZENSHIP



WADHAH ABDULOAWI OASEM whose photograph is attached, is applying for Tanzania citizenship from the minister of Home Affairs in Tanzania. his nationality at present is YEMENESE country of origin YEMEN, occupation is the chief engineer of SHAFIA AGRO LTD. Has been in the country since 2011. Any person who knows any reason why citizenship should not be granted to the applicant send a written and signed statement of the fact to the: COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION P O BOX 1181 DODOMA.



High Commission of India
Dar es Salaam

Date: 09.06.2023

Subject: Tender Inviting Bids for Engagement Of Daily Cleaning Services For Two Offices Of The High Commission Of India, Dar-Es-Salaam

High Commission of India, Dar-es-Salaam invites sealed quotations from reputed, experienced and financially sound Companies registered under relevant Tanzanian Companies Law which can provide daily cleaning services at the Chancery-cum-Residential building at Plot number 213/51, Shaaban Robert Street, Dar es Salaam and at Swami Vivekanand Culture Centre, Plot No. 310, Masani Area, near Toure Drive, Oysterbay, P.o.Box 2684, Dar es Salaam. The Tender document inviting bids for this work can be downloaded from the Mission's website <https://hcindiatz.gov.in> in the What's New Section under the heading "Engagement Of Daily Cleaning Services For Two Offices Of The High Commission Of India, Dar-Es-Salaam"



CARE INTERNATIONAL TANZANIA

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR PROVISION OF CARE TANZANIA STAFF MEDICAL INSURANCE COVER

CARE is a leading humanitarian organization dedicated to fighting poverty and social injustice and places a particular emphasis on women and girls, their dignity and empowerment to lead their communities out of poverty. In 2020, CARE worked in 104 countries, reaching 90 million people through more than 1,300 programs, with an annual budget of \$650 million. Every single one of those 90 million people has a story of resilience, community, strength, and hope—all things that bind us together, across every corner of the globe. CARE began working in Tanzania in April 1994, in response to the crisis in Rwanda and the subsequent influx of refugees into the Kagera Region of North-western Tanzania. Over the subsequent years, CARE Tanzania developed innovative education, health, microfinance, and environmental programs across most regions of the country. In Tanzania CARE works with the Government both in mainland and Zanzibar and other stakeholders to transform communities and ensure financial inclusion and independence, health and nutrition, climate-smart development resilience, especially for women and girls.

CARE has set funds for its operations during financial year 2024. It's intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the provision of staff Medical Insurance services to CARE Tanzania.

CARE Tanzania office hereby invites sealed proposals from eligible registered Insurance companies to submit application for provision of Group Medical Insurance.

Interested eligible bidders can access a complete set of bidding documents through <https://www.care-tanzania.org/about-us/call-for-proposals>

CARE Tanzania reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal and to annul the bidding process and reject all proposals at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to bidders. CARE International is under no obligation to accept the lowest proposal. Late proposals, electronic proposals, proposals not received shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

All proposals in one original plus two copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address given below before Friday 16th June 2023 at 12.30 PM.

Country director,
CARE International Tanzania,
P.O. BOX 10242 Dar es Salaam Tanzania or
Physical by dropping an envelope at CARE Office from Monday - Friday Ruhinde road, Ada Estate, Kinondoni House no 175B

SA president admits failure in prevention of cholera outbreak

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African president Cyril Ramaphosa sought to reassure residents of a community near the capital, Pretoria, after an outbreak of cholera killed 29 people.

During a visit to the local water treatment plant, Ramaphosa (pictured) admitted the government had failed to prevent the outbreak.

"The water that comes out of the Temba water works is not fit for human consumption. So we have really dropped the ball for our people here in Tshwane, and I went on as much as to admit that", said South African president, Cyril Ramaphosa.

Investigations are on-going to try to

identify the source of the outbreak.

On Wednesday, provincial health authorities said that since last week, 165 people have visited a local hospital in Hammanskraal with symptoms including diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting.

"I'm told now that the incidence of people going into hospitals with cholera has really come down, the investigations are still on-going to finally determine where the source of this was", concluded the president.

South Africa recorded its first two cholera cases in February on the back of outbreaks in nearby Mozambique and Malawi, the two most severely affected countries in 2023, according to the UN.



Winnie Kawandakamu (2nd-L), an advocate with ABC Attorneys, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a prize to Angelina Anney for emerging the best University of Dar es Salaam School of Law intellectual property law student. It was at the school's Career Day event for this year. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

'1.08trn/- sent to local government authorities'

By Guardian Reporters, Dodoma

A total of 1.08trn/- has been sent to local government authorities across the country in the past one year to facilitate implementation of development projects, the Presidents' Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) told the House yesterday.

Ridhiwani Kikwete, deputy minister in the President's Office-Public Service Management and Good Governance said yesterday on

behalf of the Presidents' Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) when responding to a question posed by Grace Tendega, Special Seats MP (Chadema).

In her basic question Tendega wanted to know why the government wasn't sending enough funds to various district councils on time as many projects in the councils are not implemented and completed on time.

The deputy Minister said the government has been sending the

funds on time in all councils where until May, 2023, a total of 1.08trn/- was already sent in councils which is equal to 116 percent of the whole goal.

"Funds for development projects are sent to local government authorities after the councils submits requests of the funds for the implementation of relevant projects, while those implemented by contractors, funds are provided after the contractor issues a claim document for the works carried out in

accordance with the contracts," he said.

The deputy minister assured that the government will supervise regions and districts to ensure that their fund requests for development projects are coordinated and submitted at relevant levels on time for the funds to be released.

For the projects implemented by the Force Account, funds are issued based on the readiness of the council to start the implementation of the relevant project after

submitting requests on how they are going to implement the project, he detailed. In her supplementary question, the lawmaker wanted to know the government's strategy to support regional secretariats financially so as to enable them to implement their duties effectively and efficiently.

The deputy minister responded that the government has been monitoring all the funds that are sent in all areas as per rules and regulations and when the council sees

that there is a shortage then they are free to submit requests to the ministry.

He said the government has been disbursing funds in all districts fairly as per actual needs of the councils so as to facilitate implementation of its priorities and development projects.

"In the Force Account, relevant councils submit requests to the ministry at the time when they are ready to implement the project," he added.

Guinea-Bissau opposition wins majority in parliamentary polls

BISSAU

A COALITION of opposition groups in Guinea-Bissau has won a majority of seats in parliament in the first legislative elections since President Umaro Sissoco Embalo dissolved the National People's Assembly more than a year ago.

The five-party Terra Ranka - a coalition led by the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) - won 54 of 102 seats in Sunday's polls, ahead of Embalo's Madem G15 party, which picked up 29, according to results announced by the electoral commission on Thursday.

The Party for Social Renewal (PRS) won 12 seats, the Workers' Party six seats and the Assembly of the People United one seat.

More than 20 political parties and coalitions sparred for seats in the elections that will restore parliament after a 13-month absence.

Under the current political system, the majority party or coalition appoints the government, but the president has the power to dismiss it in certain circumstances. That has led to political deadlock and infighting in the past.

The small West African state has also faced chronic instability in the shape of repeated coups and contested election results.

But Sunday's vote was given a clean bill of health by about 200 international monitors, who said they had not observed any major incident and described the ballot as "free, transparent and calm".

The outcome is a blow for Embalo, who took office in 2020, because it spells the end of his plans to push through a constitutional change that would have allowed him to consolidate power by ridding the country of its semi-presidential system.

Embalo dissolved the National Assembly in May 2022 after falling out with lawmakers, describing the legislature as a "space for guerrilla politics and plotting".

He acknowledged the setback in an address to the nation after the election results were announced.

"My party has failed. The people have punished it," he said, congratulating the winning coalition.

The country of nearly 2 million people has seen frequent political turmoil with at least 10 coups or attempted coups since it gained independence from Portugal in 1974. There was an attempt to overthrow Embalo in February 2022.

Analysts said Embalo's electoral setback was caused by rifts within his party and unpopularity with rural voters hit by the falling prices of cashew nuts, a major source of income.



Dr Yose Joseph Mlyambina (L), Presiding Judge of the High Court of Tanzania (Labour Division-Dar es Salaam), has a word in Bagamoyo town yesterday with Workers Compensation Fund board chairman Emmanuel Humba at a workshop on the Workers Compensation Act. WCF organised the event for High Court judges and officials from the Commission for Mediation and Arbitration (Labour Division-Dar es Salaam). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ministry urges consulting engineers to abide by professional principles

By Correspondent Anaeli Mbise

THE Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works and Transport, Aisha Amour, has urged consulting engineers to adhere to professional ethics and find solutions to the various challenges they face to be awarded tenders in government projects.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a consulting engi-

neers conference, Eng Amour called upon the engineer's registration board to improve its registration systems for local engineers for them to give tenders to implement government projects.

She said the goal of the government is to ensure economic growth in all the sectors and as well as capacitating consulting engineers to work towards transforming

the consultation sub-sector.

Eng Amour urged the engineers' registration board to register new consulting engineers who are in line with the digital market and put in place friendly registration conditions.

"You should use today's meeting to discuss all the challenges in your profession and the government will be closely monitoring and su-

pervising the board. We at the ministry will be waiting for your recommendations for actions," she said.

She added that in order to develop the engineering profession, it is important to use local consulting engineers. She said there are many projects being implemented by the government, but the number of local consultants taking part in the project is

small.

Bernard Kavishe, Registrar of Engineers Registration Board (ERB) said the aim of the meeting was to evaluate local consulting engineers and discuss the challenges they face.

"We are going to discuss corporate environment management issues in operating systems of engineering companies, the rights of em-

ployees, how to improve and manage projects and leadership of the board," he said.

Kavishe said presentations of different topics relating to the profession will be made to make sure the consulting engineering profession is developed.

ERB is a statutory body established under the Engineers (Registration) Act No 49 of 1968 that was subsequently

repealed and re-enacted as the Engineers Registration Act No. 15 of 1997 as subsequently amended by the Engineers Registration (Amendment) Act No. 24 of 2007.

The Board is mandated with monitoring and regulating the engineering practice in Tanzania through registration of engineers, engineering technicians and consulting firms.

Govt secures service providers to connect communication to 7 wards in Ngorongoro

By **Getrude Mbago, Dodoma**

THE government yesterday said that it has secured service providers to connect communication services to seven wards in Ngorongoro District, Arusha Region.

Deputy minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology Engineer Kundo Mathew, told the National Assembly

while responding to a basic question by Ngorongoro MP, Emmanuel Shangai (CCM).

Shangai wanted to know when the government will connect the wards in Ngorongoro District Council to communication services.

He said the government through Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) conducted an evaluation and discovered that the

areas were facing communication problems for a long time.

He said the government has already obtained service providers to connect communication services to the seven wards of Alailelai, Alaitolei, Engaresero, Mundarara, Ngoile, Olbalbal and Ololosokwan.

"The government will also include the remaining areas which face communication challenges in

the list of projects which will be implemented depending on the budget.

Last month, Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye said the country was on the right track to attain its target of expanding access to communication services throughout the country come 2025 following execution of projects

that intend to enable 8.5million Tanzanians to have access to the services.

The minister made the remarks in Dodoma during a signing ceremony of contracts for expanding communication services in rural areas which was witnessed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

He said the contracts involve construction of 758 communication

towers in 26 regions in Mainland in which villages in 1,713 wards will benefit from the services.

Nape said upon completion of the projects which will be executed for 18 months, a total of 18 million Tanzanians will have access to smooth communication services, something which will help stimulate economic activities and development in the respective areas.

Indian school celebrates World Environment Day, highlights need to save the environment

By **Guardian Reporter**

THE Indian school in Dar es Salaam with support from High Commission of India in Tanzania celebrated this year's World Environment Day highlighting the urgency needed to save the environment.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the World Environment Day that is celebrated every June 5th. The theme for 2023 was 'Solutions to Plastic Pollution-Beat Plastic Pollution'.

The world is being flooded by plastic. More than 400 million tonnes of plastic is produced every year, half of which is designed to be used only once. Of that, less than 10 per cent is recycled. An estimated 19-23 million tonnes end up in lakes, rivers and seas.

It was an overcast day where in the school assembly started with the reflective words of the school Principal, Kunal Kohli who emphasized the need to protect the environment followed by a speech from High Commissioner of India to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan who called for actions

Temeke District commissioner, Mwanahamisi Munkunda led all the dignitaries along with the students and teachers to plant more than 750 saplings in various locations of the district.

During the tree planting exercise, Munkunda was accompanied by

members of the school management committee.

The event was followed with the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative of the government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of Indian Independence, the Indian School Dar es Salaam planted saplings in the primary and secondary schools of the district, ward executive's office and at orphanage centres.

Bookmarks were made by the students with used/ recycled paper and were also presented as a token of love to all the guests present in the campus.

Various other activities like quiz competitions, extempore etc. were also conducted to celebrate the World Environment Day.

The Indian School Dar es Salaam acknowledges the help and support extended by the local government, staff and students from Temeke based primary and secondary schools as well as the Indian High Commission for the support.

Bookmarks were made by the students with used/ recycled paper and were also presented as a token of love to all the guests present in the campus



India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan (squatting) pictured at the Indian School in Dar es Salaam earlier this week shortly after planting a tree to mark the 50th anniversary of World Environment Day (June 5). Photo courtesy of Indian High Commission

TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC



INVITATION FOR TENDER BIDS TENDER No.1 OF 2023 FOR

PROCUREMENT OF POLYTHENE TUBES

1. Trees for the future Inc Tanzania has set aside the funds for the operations during the financial year 2023. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be applied to cover eligible payments under the contract for the procurement of Polythene tubes.
2. TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC now invites sealed bids from reputable suppliers/Manufacturers to supply goods of the following item:

POLYTHENE TUBES	16,625 Kgs
Specifications	
- Black in colour	
- 250 Gauge	
- 4 Inches(4")	

Bidder should quote for PROCUREMENT OF POLYTHENE TUBES, in this case Bidder must quote for all items and quantities specified. Incomplete bid will not be accepted. Trees for the future Inc Tanzania will evaluate the bids and award the contract to the most competitive bidder.

3. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information and the Bidding Documents from the Trees Office located at the N.H.C Singidani Complex Building, Second Floor, Mondays to Fridays (From 10.00AM to 4.00PM) except public holidays.
4. A complete set of the bidding Documents will be offered free to interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 3, P.O BOX 1624 SINGIDA.
5. All bids submitted in one original plus two copies, properly filled in enclosed in plain envelopes must be properly addressed to the Trees for the future Inc, N.H.C Complex Building, Second Floor, P.O BOX 1624 SINGIDA. All bids must be delivered to the Trees for the future Inc, before the deadline for submission of bids.
6. The deadline for the submission of bids is on Tuesday 20th June 2023 at 10.00AM. Bids will be opened in public and in the presence of Bidders representatives who choose to attend at Trees for the future Inc Office, N.H.C Singidani Complex Building, second floor at 10.00AM local time on Tuesday 20th June 2023. The outer cover must be clearly marked.

Signature

**COUNTRY DIRECTOR,
TREES FOR THE FUTURE,
P.O BOX 1624,
SINGIDA.**

UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 MARCH 2023



Introduction
Dear Shareholders,
We hereby present the unaudited annual results of Tanga Cement Public Limited Company ("Tanga Cement" or the "Company") and its subsidiary together, the "Group" for the quarter ended 31 March 2023.
Due to intensifying competitive landscape within the industry and the poor electricity supply, the group performance has been below par compared to the first quarter of the previous year. We were faced with marketing and operational challenges caused by the frequent power outages which had a negative impact on the performance of the group's key financial indicators during the quarter as detailed in the Financial and Operational Overview section below.
We affirm our commitment to all stakeholders through our high quality cement and clinker, and our contribution towards the sustainable growth and development of Tanzania, a demonstration of our brand - "STRENGTH WITHIN".
The company has deployed the highest standards of health and safety protocols across all its operations and continues to enforce safety of the workplace to protect our employees and contractors.
Macro-economic Overview
The Group's growth outlook continues to be anchored in the growth in cement demand of the Tanzanian construction industry. The forecasted average annual headline inflation rate decreased to 4.7% in the first quarter of 2023 from 4.8% in reported in December 2022.
Economic performance during the year has improved with annual GDP growth of 5.7% in 2022 compared to 5.2% in 2021 (as published by Fitch Solutions). What the increase in GDP was planning, the primary drivers for business performance remained the robust infrastructure investment and a strengthening consumer base. Government's actions towards the medium-term monetary policy inflation target of 5% also supported demand for our products.
The Group remains optimistic of the positive impact of infrastructure development plans under the Government's Development Vision 2025 programme and expect the projects to continue gaining momentum throughout 2023. The Group is confident with the initiatives that the Government has taken to combat the effects of increase in oil prices and commits to working together with the Government in growing the economy.
Financial and Operational Overview
Group sales revenue increased by 31% to TZS 50.8bn compared to TZS 38.7bn achieved in the first quarter of 2022. Coupled to this increase in revenue, the gross profit also increased by 1% to TZS 10.4bn from TZS 10.3bn achieved in the same period in the prior year. The gross margin, however, has decreased by 6% to 21% compared to 27% in the first quarter of 2022 mainly due to the higher maintenance and operational costs incurred in 2023 as a result of electrical power outages and power supply dips which increased the costs of production.
EBITDA decreased by 28% to TZS 3.6bn from TZS 4.9bn in 2022 predominantly due to major plant maintenance expenditure caused by numerous electrical power outages and power supply dips which increased the cost of production.

The Group incurred a loss before tax of TZS 8.1bn compared to the loss before tax of TZS 0.8bn in 2022. The increase in loss before tax was mainly due to the increase in finance expense related to the USD denominated loan for the construction of the 10.2 expansion project and the interest expense on lease liabilities. The Company entered into a standstill agreement on the PIC term loan facilities which avoided the realisation foreign exchange losses.
Net cash flows from operations decreased by 7% from TZS 2.2bn recorded in 2022 to TZS 2.0bn in 2023. This decline was attributed to lower sales volumes caused by unanticipated high rainfall which limited access to some markets, and an increase in plant maintenance projects caused by frequent power outages and power dips.
The Group continues to be committed to its sales, logistics and cost optimisation initiatives as it continues to seek to enhance value for its stakeholders. The Group maintains its positive outlook for 2023 despite the very competitive landscape and the economic impact of Russia-Ukraine conflict. Government's initiatives to spur on economic growth through infrastructure development and promotion of local industries is expected to boost local cement output and consumption while curbing the influx of cheap imported cement.
Dividend
The company did not declare interim dividends to shareholders in 2023 to remain prudent with available cash resources in order to remain resilient through the current subdued global economic climate and the high fuel prices currently affecting the local economy. The board has decided to continue allocating available current cash generated to the operational commitments. The Board will evaluate the financial performance throughout the 2023 financial year when considering further dividend declaration.
Proposed acquisition by Scancem International DA
Shareholders are referred to the announcement regarding the proposed acquisition by Scancem International DA of 68.33% of the shares in Tanga Cement PLC from Afrim Mauritius Investment Holding Limited on 27 October 2022 and the recent update on the transaction issued by the company on 24 April 2023 highlighting the unconditional approval of the transaction by the Tanzanian Fair Competition Commission.
Conclusion
Tanga Cement remains grateful to its staff for their passion and dedication to the company, and to its customers for their belief in the Simba Cement brand, as the company works to achieve its short- and long-term work strategy.
With Tanzania remaining a significant player in the East African construction market, cement output is anticipated to increase and Tanga Cement is well positioned to take advantage of the growth opportunities in the regional market.
For and on behalf of the Board

	Group Mar-23 TZS'000	Group Mar-22 TZS'000	Company Mar-23 TZS'000	Company Mar-22 TZS'000
Revenue from contracts with customers	50,841,672	38,697,640	50,841,672	38,697,640
Cost of sales	(40,406,016)	(28,357,513)	(40,406,016)	(28,357,513)
Gross profit	10,435,655	10,340,127	10,435,655	10,340,127
Other income	4,750	21,657	2,650	14,260
Other expenses	(765,274)	(695,072)	(652,274)	(695,072)
Selling expenses	(4,548,990)	(4,009,891)	(4,320,627)	(4,004,687)
Administration expenses	(4,747,801)	(4,737,552)	(4,764,738)	(4,748,481)
Depreciation charge	-	-	-	-
Impairment and other charges	-	-	-	-
Decrease/(increase) in expected credit losses	(1,483,240)	(727,129)	(1,262,116)	(727,589)
Operating (Loss)/ Profit	(1,104,899)	192,140	(674,450)	178,559
Interest expense	(5,793,099)	(3,176,847)	(5,793,820)	(3,177,443)
Finance income	831,673	47	831,673	47
Foreign exchange and fair value (loss)/gain	(2,061,177)	2,200,168	(2,060,670)	2,210,742
Loss before tax	(8,127,502)	(784,491)	(7,699,276)	(788,095)
Income tax (charge)/credit	(265,182)	10,203	(265,182)	10,203
Loss for the year	(8,392,684)	(774,288)	(7,964,458)	(777,891)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Other comprehensive income to be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods (net of tax):	-	-	-	-
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	-	-	-	-
Other comprehensive income net of tax	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive loss for the year, net of tax	(8,392,684)	(774,288)	(7,964,458)	(777,891)
Loss for the year attributable to:				
Owners of the parent	(8,392,684)	(774,288)	(7,964,458)	(777,891)
Total comprehensive loss for the year attributable to:				
Owners of the parent	(8,392,684)	(774,288)	(7,964,458)	(777,891)
Non-controlling interests	-	-	-	-
Basic and diluted loss per share	(133)	(124)	(126)	(12)

	Group Mar-23 TZS'000	Group Mar-22 TZS'000	Company Mar-23 TZS'000	Company Mar-22 TZS'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash generated from operating activities	1,152,710	6,850,998	1,437,503	6,621,790
Interest income received	831,673	1,190	831,673	1,190
Income taxes paid	54,963	(4,652,870)	54,963	(4,652,870)
Net cash flow from operating activities	2,039,280	2,199,317	2,322,039	1,970,933
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	-	35,476	-	35,476
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(1,569,742)	(6,270,548)	(1,569,742)	(6,270,548)
Net cash flows used in investing activities	(1,569,742)	(6,235,072)	(1,569,742)	(6,235,072)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Principal repayments - lease liabilities	(84,777)	(1,155,878)	(84,777)	(1,290,606)
Lease liability interest paid	-	-	-	-
Interest paid - overdrafts	(434,884)	(1,664,822)	(434,884)	(1,664,822)
Interest paid - term borrowings	-	-	-	-
Principal repayments - term borrowings	-	-	-	-
Loan proceeds from the group	(519,661)	(2,820,700)	(519,661)	(2,955,428)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(50,118)	(6,856,454)	232,652	(7,219,565)
Net foreign exchange differences	(343,208)	(960,470)	(558,886)	(590,678)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	(14,527,794)	(6,710,870)	(14,527,794)	(6,710,870)
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	(14,921,120)	(14,527,794)	(14,921,120)	(14,527,794)

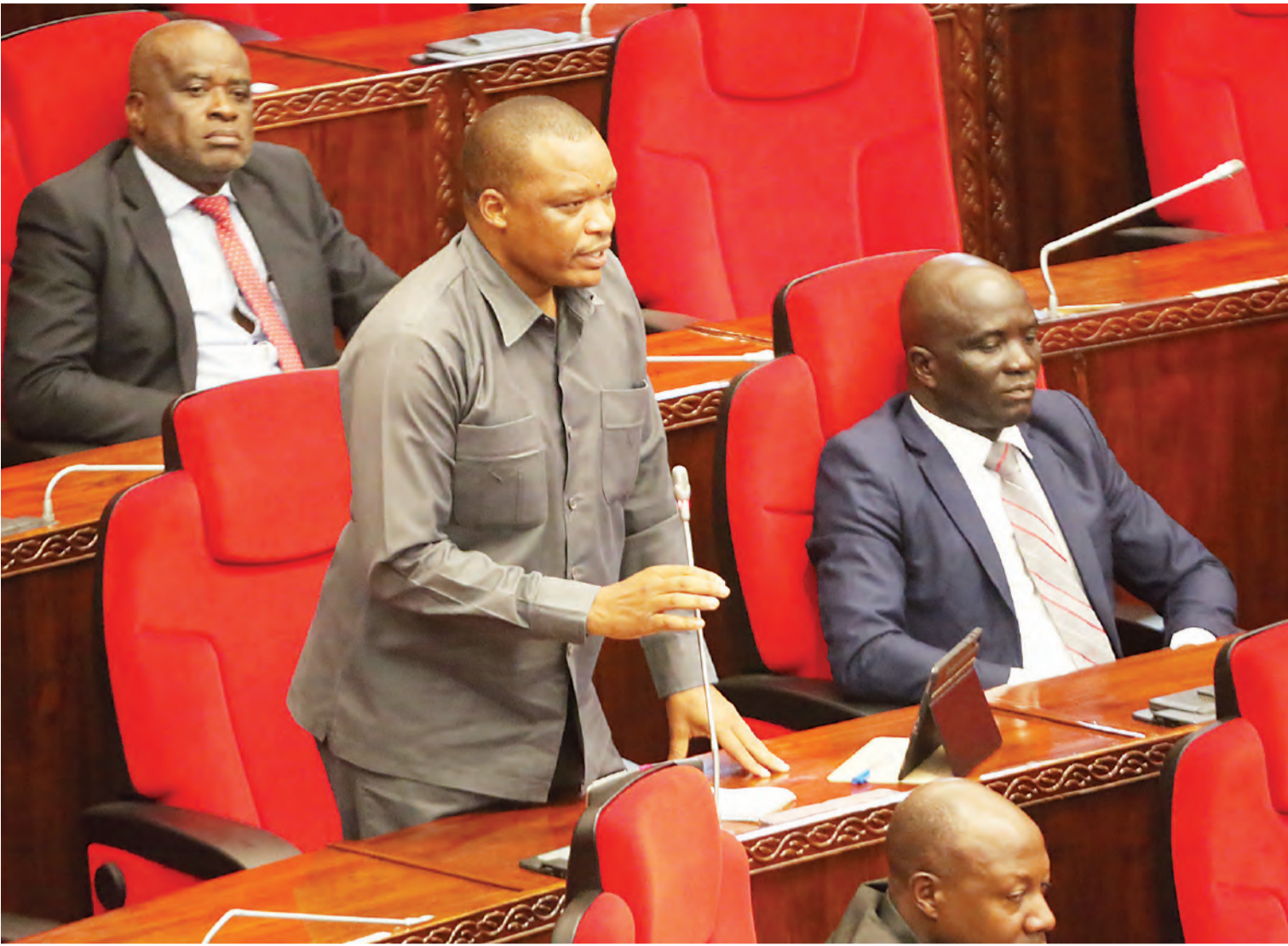
Information to Members
The company secretary would like to inform the members that dividends can be directly transferred to their bank.
Members can contact The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange on +255 (0)22 2123981 or on +255 (0)22 2128522 for information on how to have the dividends deposited directly into their bank.

Signature
Patrick Rutabanzwa
Chairman
29 May 2023

Signature
R Swart
Managing Director

Signature
Q Ganjee
Company Secretary

Tanga Cement Public Limited Company
P O Box 5053
Tanga
Tanzania
info@simbacement.co.tz



Singida North constituency legislator Abeid Ighondo Ramadhani contributes to debate in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Scientists discover world's oldest burial site in S.Africa

JOHANNESBURG

SCIENTISTS have unearthed what may be the oldest burial site in the world, located in South Africa, containing remains of a small-brained distant relative of humans they believe could have buried their dead, and perhaps forcing a revision of current theories.

In the initial findings some years ago, scientists thought that the small-brained distant relatives of humans discovered in South Africa's Rising Star cave system, known as Homo naledi, a tree-climbing, Stone Age hominid, were not capable of complex behaviour such as burying their dead.

"These findings could be some of the earliest examples of mortuary practices and meaning-making by a small-brained hominin, thus altering our understanding of human evolution," paleoanthropologist and National Geographic Society Explorer-in-Residence, Lee Berger, who led the team, has said.

Berger and his research team, which included Keneiloe Molopyane and Augustin Fuentes, identified de-

pressions deep in the chambers of the Rising Star cave system, located at the Cradle of Humankind, a UNESCO world heritage site 48 kilometers (30 miles) from Johannesburg.

"Bodies of H. naledi adults and several children estimated to be younger than 13 years of age were deposited in fatal positions, which suggests intentional burial of the dead," the dig team said.

The Rising Star cave system in South Africa has one of the earliest known burials sites of Homo sapiens - our own species - dating back at least 100,000 years, but the Homo naledi sites are far older. Homo naledi had brains about one-third the size of the human brain, and the discovery could force a new understanding of the roots of such symbolic and spiritual acts.

The research, funded by the National Geographic Society, has yet to be peer reviewed.

Seven years ago, South African scientists announced the discovery of the richest fossil hominin site on the continent, unveiling a new species named Homo naledi.

Medical tourism committee outlines nation's top agendas

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE medical tourism committee has outlined top priorities aimed at pushing the country's agenda to make Tanzania a regional medical hub which includes accreditation of local hospitals.

The Committee Vice Chairman, Abdulmalik Mollel told the Guardian in a telephone interview that the move is in line with ensuring that local hospitals offer the best and quality health-care services.

Mollel mentioned the other priorities as to improve medical services provided by local health facilities, building the capacity of health experts and massive investment in the health sector to properly position the country to offer medical tourism.

He said so far, almost all the country's hospitals are equipped with modern medical equipment and experts who can provide specialized and super specialized services to patients from within and outside the country.

He said the huge invest-

ment done by the government in health facilities, including hospital infrastructure and modern equipment intends to make Tanzania a medical tourism hub in Sub-Saharan Africa.

"The country has so far reduced the number of patient's referrals abroad by over 85 per cent. The concept of medical tourism is broad with a number of factors such as cost of treatment and quality of healthcare," he said.

According to him, quality of care should always be the primary considera-

tion in medical tourism and finances are the most important factor to medical tourism consumers.

Mollel noted that 85 per cent of surveyed patients who traveled overseas to a hospital reported that the cost of medical care was a very important deciding factor.

He said the concept of medical tourism is attributed to a number of factors such as affordable care, high quality and advanced treatments.

Many people can attain high-quality medical care at a fraction of the cost by

traveling overseas, he said.

The country medical tourism Committee secretariat comprises members from Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), the Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) and the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI).

Recently, in her remarks during the occasion to mark the 50th anniversary since the establishment of the KCMC Zonal Referral Hospital, in Kilimanjaro region, President Samia Suluhu Hassan said medical tourism had a potential of

contributing to a wider country's economic development.

According to her, the specialized medical services had in the recent past seen people from other parts of the world flocking the country for medical related service. According to data from the World Health Organization (WHO) an estimated 12 to 14 million people globally travel abroad annually for medical care.

The worldwide medical tourism market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 32.51 percent between 2022 and 2030.



Arusha regional commissioner John Mongella addresses the annual meeting of the region's cooperative development forum in Arusha city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Herders kill 6 more lions in Kenya, threatening conservation efforts

NAIROBI

IN a heart-breaking turn of events, herders in Kenya killed six more lions, plunging the East African nation's conservation success into jeopardy.

The lions, which reportedly killed livestock in search of food, were killed last month by herders in the Amboseli National Park located on the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, the 'roof of Africa' found in Tanzania's Kilimanjaro Region.

The killings of the lions, which have been confirmed by officials from the state-owned Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), have sounded alarm bells for the preservation of Kenya's wildlife.

In a statement, Kenya Wildlife Service said that in the Amboseli Ecosystem alone, a total of 10 lions had been killed in a month due to human-wildlife conflict.

KWS also noted that most lions and other wildlife have been straying from the park in search of food amidst the worst-ever drought in over 40 years in Eastern Africa.

Ilterish Saitoti, a Maasai herder, told Anadolu: "The lions have been attacking our cattle relentlessly, leaving us with no choice but to defend ourselves. It's a matter of survival."

Philip Muruthi, the vice president of Species Conservation and

Science at Africa Wildlife Foundation, emphasized the importance of maintaining the progress made in community engagement despite the recent tragic incident of human-wildlife conflict.

Muruthi stated: "In this particular area, there have been efforts which have been made before and have borne fruits in terms of community engagement. So this particular incident should not be allowed to pull back those efforts."

He highlighted the successful recovery of the lion population and the existence of a community-based approach to addressing such incidents, including a consolation scheme. Muruthi suggested exploring additional measures such as insurance compensation and implementing controls within the community to investigate the root causes of the incident.

He further emphasized the effectiveness of mitigating conflicts in the affected Amboseli ecosystem by improving husbandry practices, constructing lion-proof enclosures called Bomas, working with communities, and collaborating with Kenya Wildlife Service on a comprehensive action plan for wildlife conservation.

As herders seek retribution for livestock and domestic animal losses, the delicate balance between human livelihoods and the fragile ecosystem is being shattered.

Singida Region collects 890m/- from apiculture sector products

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Singida

SINGIDA Region has managed to collect 890m/- within five years through the production and marketing of honey and its related products.

The lucrative amount, raised in a period between 2017 and 2022 was netted through the production and sale of at least 89 tonnes of honey products, including 20 tonnes of beeswax.

Singida District Commissioner, Pascus Mulagiri said the beekeeping sub-sector was gaining impressive momentum, attracting a good number of new bee farmers each year.

"For instance, during the period of five years, (2017-2022), the beekeepers in the region increased from 5,675 to 12,133, and we hope the number will keep on mounting since the sector has so far proved to be a promised way to assist many households to escape from the shackles of poverty," he unveiled.

He added that the government in the region in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) and stakeholders from the private sector is working to set viable mechanisms to improve performance of the vital economic sector.

Charles Kidua, Singida Region's Natural Re-

sources Officer, said the region has been endowed with necessary potentials to support smooth thriving of the apiculture sector.

Kidua said that Singida is endowed with the Itigi thicket, the country's key 63,000 hectares forest hub for beekeeping. He urged farmers in the region to engage into the profitable economic sector.

In Tanzania, there are currently at least 11,235.96 hectares announced in the government gazette as bee reserves. The area is 10 percent of the goal set by the government to have approximately 114,000 hectares reserved for beekeeping by 2031. As part to fuel performance of the natural-based economic sector,

the parent ministry in cooperation with the involved institutions and stakeholders was working to coordinate for effective monitoring of the areas earmarked for beekeeping activities as stipulated in the ministry's guidelines.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism has tasked the Beekeeping Value Chain (BEVAC) support project to develop a marketing system for bee products, where producers and traders of bee products will have the opportunity to get information on the honey market from inside and outside the country.

Statistics shows that Tanzania stands 14th country for beekeeping in the world and 2nd in Africa with an estimated capacity of

producing at least 138,000 tons of honey and 9,200 tons of beeswax per year.

Currently, the country has an actual capacity of producing 31,179 tons of honey and 1,865 tons of beeswax in a year, which is equivalent to 22 percent. And the economic sector employs at least 2 million beekeepers.

As of now, most of the country's honey and wax are often exported to Germany, France, Belgium and Netherlands, Oman, USA, Japan, Botswana, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Congo DRC, Somali and neighbouring Kenya.

Currently, the government is working to construct at least five modern factories for the processing of honey products.



Manyara regional commissioner Queen Sendiga addresses tanzanite mining stakeholders at Mirerani township in Simanjiro District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

USAID cuts food aid to Ethiopians amid theft charges in government

ADDIS ABABA

THE US government is suspending food aid to Ethiopia after an investigation uncovered a widespread scheme to steal donated food, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has said.

Leaked documents given to donors indicate that the scheme was coordinated by elements within both the federal and regional governments.

Officials have been diverting aid from those who need it to feed the military and combatants, and selling it on the open market to millers who re-exported the flour, according to an investigation by USAID.

"After a country-wide re-

view, USAID determined, in coordination with the Government of Ethiopia, that a widespread and coordinated campaign is diverting food assistance," USAID said in a statement. "We cannot move forward with distribution of food assistance until reforms are in place."

The Ethiopian government spokesman and the National Disaster Risk Management Commission did not respond to requests for comment.

"Extensive monitoring indicates this diversion of donor-funded food assistance is a coordinated and criminal scheme, which has prevented life-saving assistance from reaching the most vulnerable," said a report by the Humanitarian

Resilience Development Donor Group, an organization of donors briefed by USAID. "The scheme appears to be orchestrated by federal and regional Government of Ethiopia (GoE) entities, with military units across the country benefiting from humanitarian assistance."

The suspension comes as Africa's second most populous nation is struggling to feed around 20 million citizens – about a sixth of the population – following a civil war, drought and rampant inflation.

The United States provides the vast majority of food aid to Ethiopia through two programs, one administered by aid groups and the other by the United Nations.

Dawasa registers private service providers to operate vehicles

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) has started to register private service providers to operate vehicles that provide sewage water services in Dar es Salaam.

The vehicle registration will be held for two weeks at Vingunguti, Dar es Salaam, according to the authority's business officer, Mwajuma Hamza.

She said the registration exercise will be continuous, conducted each year in collaboration with individuals who are owners of the vehicles.

Hamza said this is the sixth year since they started to register the vehicles for the purpose of obtaining accurate statistics of waste water service providers. She said the private water services providers help to improve environmental sanitation services in the city.

"Today we have started the reg-

istration and we expect to run the exercise for two weeks. This will help to know the exact number of service providers who take waste water from different places and pour it into our waste water ponds located in various places," she said.

She added that vehicle registration will include vehicles that have old registrations as well as new vehicles that have recently started offering the service.

"Those who have already been registered should only come for

verification. Owners must present a form that shows the capacity that is provided by the Weights and Measures Agency (WMA)," she added.

She said stringent legal measures will be taken against service providers who will be found to continue providing services without having a valid operating permit. She said all the vehicles that will get permits to operate the service will be fixed with special DAWASA stickers for easy identification.

Mrisho Mataula, who is one of the service providers, congratulated DAWASA for the registration as it will help them to be recognized and run their activities smoothly.

He said that they have been cooperating with DAWASA and that the on-going registration will facilitate their operations.

In April this year, the construction company Metito of Egypt, signed a contract to design, build and operate a new sewage treatment plant in the area of Mbezi

beach in Dar es Salaam Region.

The project is implemented jointly by the government and the World Bank (WB).

The project is expected to contribute to improve environmental sanitation by enabling sewage to be collected and fully treated.

DAWASA Acting Chief Executive Officer, Kiula Kingu, said the modern plant to be built in the Mbezi Beach area of Kinondoni District will have the capacity to process 16 million liters of sewage per day.

110 internal auditors trained to audit ICT

By Beatrice Philemon

A TOTAL of 110 internal auditors from 13 regional administration and district councils have been trained on how to audit Information and Communication Technology (ICT) projects and its systems in public institutions.

Paion Mwamnyasi, Assistant Internal Auditor General made the remarks recently when opening a training for internal auditors that took place in Morogoro Region.

The five days training involved internal auditors from Dodoma, Tabora, Singida, Kigoma, Mara, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Shinyanga, Rukwa, Kagera, Geita, Simiyu and Katavi regions.

He called on internal auditors to obey laws, regulations and standards of e-Government Authority's (e-GA) while auditing government projects and ICT systems within public institutions across the country.

"Obeying the set standards will enable you to provide appropriate advice to the government through audit reports, thus improving the institutions' proficiency, effectiveness and quality of its services," he said.

Mwamnyasi said that performing internal audit services in accordance with the international standards for the professional practice of internal auditing will result in better audit reports. He said ICT audit training in public institutions is important because it helps the internal auditors to operate their work more effectively, make their work easier and provide appropriate advice to the government.

Sylvani Shayo, the e-Government Authority (e-GA) Director of Compliance and Security Management called upon internal auditors to make use of laws, guidelines and standards of the e-GA while performing audits of ICT projects and its systems.

The e-GA in collaboration with the Internal Auditor General Office (IAG) will continue to provide training to internal auditors to enable them conduct an ICT audit more effectively within public institutions.

He said e-GA was established under e-Government Act No.10 of 2019, with a mandate of co-coordinating, overseeing and promoting e-government initiatives and Enforcing Compliance to e-Government Standards and Guidelines to Public institutions. Sultana Seiff, e-GA Standards and Compliance Manager said: "As e-GA we don't want to leave anyone behind in the use of ICT because right now the world is going digital."

She said e-GA has decided to provide training for internal auditors on current issues to enable them to improve their auditing skills as well as improve government service delivery using digital technology.



A Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) officer fixes a special sticker on one of the registered motor vehicles lined up for use in transporting solid waste in an ongoing environmental cleanliness operation in the city's Vingunguti suburb yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Global economy on precarious footing amid high interest rates

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank's latest report states that global growth has slowed sharply and the risk of financial stress in emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs) is intensifying amid elevated global interest rates.

The report 'Global Economic Prospects' said global growth will decelerate from 3.1 per cent in 2022 to 2.1 per cent in 2023.

In EMDEs other than China,

growth is set to slow to 2.9 percent this year from 4.1 per cent last year. These forecasts reflect broad-based downgrades. Growth projections for 70 per cent of EMDEs and nearly all advanced economies have been downgraded.

World Bank Group President Ajay Banga said: "The surest way to reduce poverty and spread prosperity is through employment—and slower growth makes job creation a lot harder. It is important to keep in mind that

growth forecasts are not destiny. We have an opportunity to turn the tide but it will take us all working together."

Indermit Gill, the World Bank group's chief economist and senior Vice President said: "Outside of East and South Asia, it is a long way from the dynamism needed to eliminate poverty, counter climate change, and replenish human capital."

He said in 2023, trade will grow at less than a third of its pace in the years before the

pandemic. In emerging markets and developing economies, debt pressures are growing due to higher interest rates.

Gill said fiscal weaknesses have already tipped many low-income countries into debt distress. He said the financing needs to achieve the sustainable development goals are far greater than even the most optimistic projections of private investment.

Ayhan Kose, Deputy Chief

Economist of the World Bank Group said: "Many developing economies are struggling to cope with weak growth, persistently high inflation, and record debt levels. Yet new hazards—such as the possibility of more widespread spill overs from renewed financial stress in advanced economies—could make matters even worse for them. Policy makers in these economies should act promptly to prevent financial contagion and reduce near-term do-

mestic vulnerabilities."

Most EMDEs have seen only limited harm from the recent banking stress in advanced economies so far, but they are now sailing in dangerous waters.

With increasingly restrictive global credit conditions, one out of every four EMDEs has effectively lost access to international bond markets. The squeeze is especially acute for EMDEs with underlying vulnerabilities such as low creditworthiness.

Growth projections for these economies for 2023 are less than half those from a year ago, making them highly vulnerable to additional shocks.

The latest forecasts indicate that the overlapping shocks of the pandemic, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the sharp slowdown amid tight global financial conditions have dealt an enduring setback to development in EMDEs, one that will persist for the foreseeable future.

SATURDAY 10 JUNE 2023

**Taking A New Look
At The News**
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Legal drafters, MPs have hands full just for matching tempo of changes

EACH session of the legislature sees a number of laws or amendments to laws adopted, to bring up legal provisions to what at that moment appears to be dictated by reality. More often than not, bills are designed to free the hands of the executive branch in some way, so that those vested with authority can move in one or other policy direction agreed in the cabinet of ministers. Prior to that, such initiatives would already have figured in key ruling party deliberations.

The formal endorsement of a bill to set up the Planning Commission in a new way via an amendment to existing legislation is a case in point. It seeks to enhance the status of the commission from the Treasury to the President's Office, in like manner as another bill also moving at the same time. It shifts the Tanzania Intelligence and Security Services (TISS) to the presidency as well.

Despite that the shifts look identical it appears that the purposes or objectives are somewhat distinctive. Shifting to the President's Office elevates the practical relevance of the Planning Commission, meanwhile as TISS is just returning home as traditionally it has been part of the highest office, not a ministerial department as such. What specifically changes due to those shifts isn't set out in the legal draft; it relates to what those in authority seek, strategically speaking.

Planning has experienced a complicated itinerary in the six decades of national independence, since the days of depending on cash crop income for foreign exchange to plan. With foreign exchange scarcity and all foreign exchange having to be applied for with central authorities, planning was less feasible. But keeping track

of development engagements was never in doubt as a priority.

With a market economy planning was put into difficulties, as economic activity was largely dependent on initiatives in the private sector, with land allocation and tax collection. Seeking to restore the Planning Commission at a higher level either wishes for planning big projects or coordinating projects agreed for instance in the ruling party election manifesto, or MPs' demands that need to be followed up in a coordinated manner. At present each ministry tracks own plans.

The latter function seems to be more workable, as there aren't too many big or strategic projects waiting to be carried out, and when they arise they will relate more to market need and investment possibility than plans. No plan could have brought about the current shift to a logistics company asked to make major port investments and manage essential operations, as planning usually implies what public organisations want from the government. They aren't too market driven. The PO minister tabling the bill said the commission will provide an integrated monitoring and evaluation system for national development priorities. It is expected to weave together sectoral plans where interdependent responsibilities arise. Still the commission will not lead other sectors as top executives check with top authorities, not other agencies.

While TISS shift to PO will simply grant it the 'privacy' it needs to operate, the commission may as well believe it is in charge of what the sectors do, but realise it is a coordinating centre. It will be helpful psychologically if it realizes this from the start. Experimenting and seeking new amend-

No social justice for all with child labour intact

OBSERVED on June 12th, World Day Against Child Labour is intended to serve as a catalyst for the growing worldwide movement against child labour.

The United Nations General Assembly while acknowledging the magnitude of child labour, unanimously adopted a resolution declaring 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour and has asked the ILO to take the lead in its implementation. This day brings together governments, local authorities, civil society and international, workers and employers organisations to point out the child labour problem and define the guidelines to help child labourers.

According to ILO's data, hundreds of millions of girls and boys worldwide are involved in work that deprives them of receiving adequate education, health, leisure and basic freedoms, violating this way their rights. Of these children, more than half are exposed to the worst forms of child labour. These worst forms of child labour include work in hazardous environments, slavery, or other forms of forced labour, illicit activities such as drug trafficking and prostitution, as well as involvement in armed conflict.

The significance of the World Day Against Child Labour is to pay attention to the problem of child labour and to find ways to eradicate it. The day is used to spread awareness about the harmful mental and physical problems faced by children forced into child labour, all over the world. Emphasising the link between social justice and child labour, the slogan for the World Day in 2023 is 'Social Justice for All. End Child Labour! Child labour can be eliminated, if the root causes are addressed. More than ever, it is urgent for all of us to contribute to bringing solutions to people's daily problems, and child labour is - possibly - the most visible of these problems.

We therefore consider the 2023 World Day Against Child Labour to be a moment for all of us who are committed to ending child labour to demonstrate that change can be achieved when will and determination come together and provide a momentum for efforts to be accelerated in a situation of great urgency.

We should reinvigorated international action to achieve social justice, particularly under the envisaged Global Coalition for Social Justice, with child labour elimination as one of its important elements;

Since 2000, for nearly two decades, the world had been making steady progress in reducing child labour. But over the past few years, conflicts, crises and the COVID-19 pandemic, have plunged more families into poverty - and forced millions more children into child labour. Economic growth has not been sufficient, nor inclusive enough, to relieve the pressure that too many families and communities feel and that makes them resort to child labour. Today, 160 million children are still engaged in child labour. That is almost one in ten children worldwide.

Africa ranks highest among regions both in the percentage of children in child labour - one-fifth - and the absolute number of children in child labour - 72 million. The Africa and the Asia and the Pacific regions together account for almost nine out of every ten children in child labour worldwide. While the percentage of children in child labour is highest in low-income countries, their numbers are actually greater in middle-income countries. Globally over 1.5 billion people live in countries that are affected by conflict, violence and fragility. At the same time, around 200 million people are affected by disasters every year. A third of them are children. A significant proportion of the 168 million children engaged in child labour live in areas affected by conflict and disaster.

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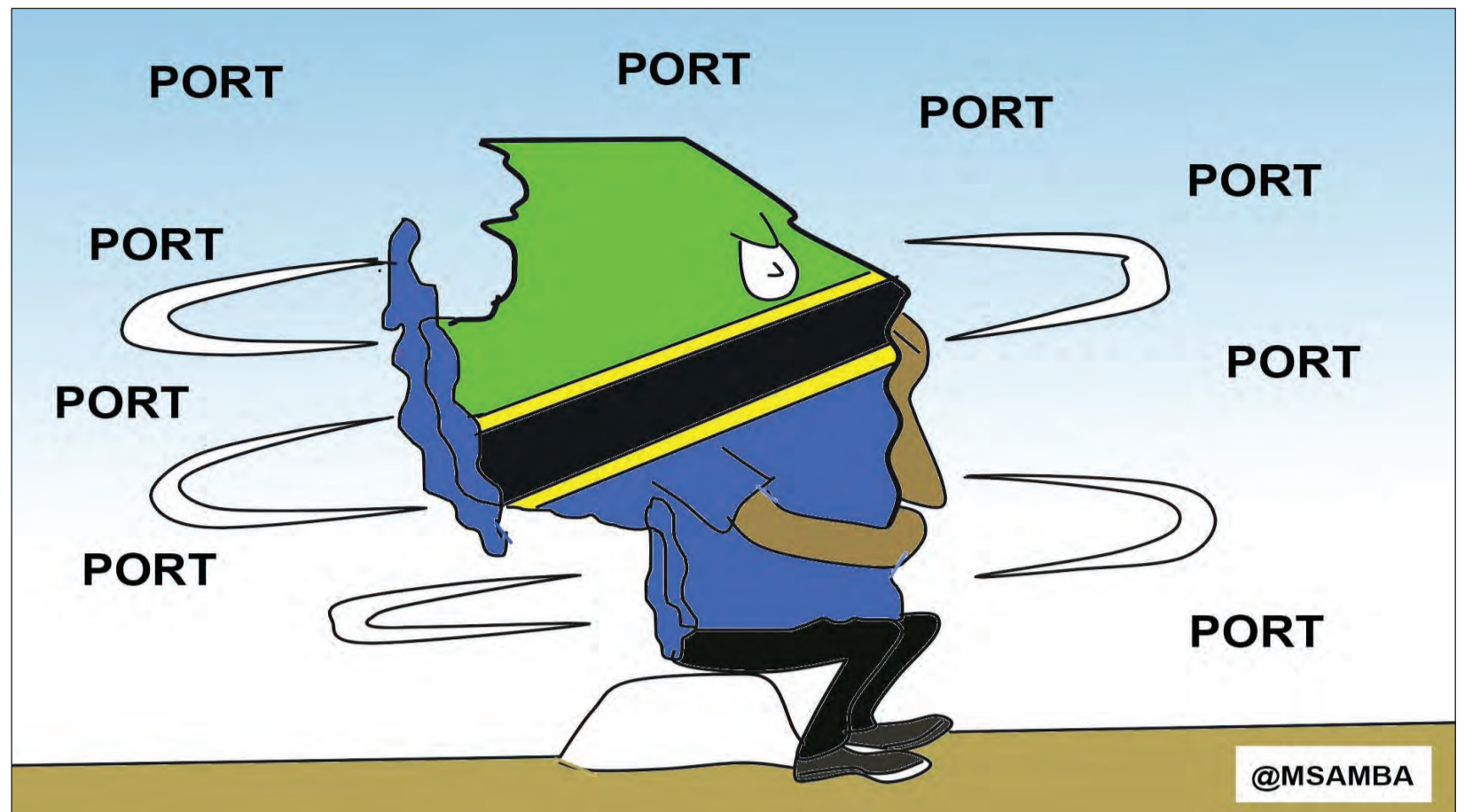
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Hate is taught: It can be fought

By Alice Wairimu Nderitu

A new initiative 'The Game Plan' by the UN and partners will help counter hate speech through engagement with Sports

In the lead up to the International Day to Counter Hate Speech marked every year on 18 June, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Alice Wairimu Nderitu, reflects on hate speech in sports and why we should counter it:

Events that were both heartwarming and poignant unfolded in Madrid on Wednesday 24 May 2023. Inside Spain's largest stadium, Santiago Bernabéu, the home team Real Madrid stood in solidarity with their teammate, Vinícius Jr, who days before had been a victim of hate speech.

The 23-year-old Brazilian star had endured racist chants during a match that had left him disenchanted and consequently expressing his desire to leave Spain and its football league, La Liga.

On that Wednesday night, however, as Vinícius Jr walked onto the pitch before Real Madrid's match against Rayo, he may have felt a little different. All the players were donning 'Vini Jr. 20' shirts in solidarity with him. Players of the two competing teams held up a banner together that declared: "Racists, out of football".

It is, as we have come to under-

stand, a slogan for a new campaign initiated by the country's sports authorities to fight racism in football - a blight that is not unique to one sport or one country.

Sport, especially football, attracts millions of viewers around the world, and because of this, hate speech uttered during a game, like we saw in Valencia, reverberates around the globe. But when players united to fight hate speech directed at Vini Jr., the whole world heard about it too, and it seemed to gain more traction than the original hateful chants

Not far from the Santiago Bernabéu, Madrid's women's team and basketball sides also wore 'Vini Jr' shirts before their games - another show of solidarity with the Brazilian star.

On that Wednesday night, unlike the Sunday before in Valencia, there was solidarity. There was humanity. There was promise, and hope.

Since then, numerous sports stars have come out in support of Vini Jr. following that ugly, despicable episode in Valencia, as have sports managers and politicians.

There is growing recognition that if this kind of hate is not fought, this beautiful game will continue to be afflicted by an ugly stain.

It is the recognition that, just as this hate is taught, it can be fought. We must do all we can to counter hate in all its forms, including those

expressed in racist narratives and chants. This renewed recognition bears promise.

Indeed, we are all the same, in our diversity as human beings. But this sense of commonality can be quickly eroded by expressions of hatred on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, gender, refugee and immigration status, disability, or any other form of identity.

My office works day and night to address and counter hate speech, which was very much on display in those racist chants against Vini Jr.

Situation in Brazil

Coincidentally, I had just returned from Vini Jr.'s home country, Brazil, where people of African descent like him, and indigenous peoples, continue to face challenges that need to be expeditiously addressed.

Sport, especially football, attracts millions of viewers around the world, and because of this, hate speech uttered during a game, like we saw in Valencia, reverberates around the globe. But when players united to fight hate speech directed at Vini Jr., the whole world heard about it too, and it seemed to gain more traction than the original hateful chants.

Within this context, we have, together with other partners, developed a Plan of Action to Counter Hate Speech through Engagement with Sports: the GAME PLAN, launched in December last year,

which we started expanding with the 'Eradicate Hate Sports Summit' in the United Kingdom, hosted by the Liverpool Football Club in April this year.

The GAME PLAN is based on the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech and is fully aligned with international human rights law, in particular, the right to freedom of expression and opinion - a right which is to be protected, and not misused.

There is growing recognition that if this kind of hate is not fought, this beautiful game will continue to be afflicted by an ugly stain

The GAME PLAN is informed by the knowledge that the perpetrator of a hate crime most often has encountered hate speech that dehumanized his/her target. It is also based on the fact that most perpetrators are like most ordinary people who are, like you and me, sports fans. With the endorsement, in July 2021, of 18th June as the International Day for Countering Hate Speech, the UN General Assembly recognized the need to counter discrimination, xenophobia and hate speech, and called on all relevant actors, including countries, to increase their efforts to address this phenomenon, in line with international human rights law.

Throughout history, hate speech has been known to stigmatize, marginalize, and ultimately incite hate crimes and large-scale violence, including genocide.

Solving the out of school problem in Nigeria

By Special Correspondent

NIGERIA'S out of school problem is followed globally, not just because the problem is large and growing but because global progress by 2030 depends on how it is solved in Nigeria. According to the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), there are over 10 million children at the primary level and a further eight million children at the junior secondary level who are out of school. [1]. Nigeria therefore accounts for 15% of the total number of out of school children globally.

When numbers are this large, we forget what they mean. Behind each number is a child. Eight million dreams unrealized. Ten million futures limited before children have a fair chance to reach their potential.

Children are exposed to untold risks when they don't go to school - heightened chance of being under-nourished and under-immunized, forced into child labour and increased likelihood of being married and pregnant too young. These risks not only violate children's fundamental human rights but trap them in intergenerational cycles of marginalization and poverty.

It is no surprise then that poverty is the most significant barrier to school access exacerbated by school fees and other hidden costs of education. Some 17% of children aged 12-14 years in Nigeria are involved in economic activity for 14 hours or more each week. There is an urgent need to prioritize primary and secondary education for girls, Alma-

jari children, and children with disabilities.

The system itself also limits opportunities. Chronic underfunding of education perpetuates challenges in access, as well as learning quality. Nigeria's education allocation remains consistently low and regressive - at 1.2 per cent of GDP [2] against an international benchmark of 4-6 per cent. Countries of similar development status - Ghana and Indonesia for example - which invest significantly more in education see impressive returns. Nigeria's underinvestment, on the other hand, is driving severe shortfalls in infrastructure and teaching staff, contributing to overcrowded classrooms and poor learning outcomes.

Disruption to education remains an all-too-familiar phenomenon in Nigeria, as conflict and insecurity in the north and central regions regularly shutter schools for millions of children - including for 1.3 million children in 2020/21 alone, according to the Ministries of Education of Kaduna, Sokoto and Zamfara States.

These deprivations are strongly interlinked and demand comprehensive solutions. But Nigeria is also in the enviable position of having abundant evidence on what works to solve these persistence problems. Over the past 10 years, federal and state governments in Northwest Nigeria with the support of UNICEF and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) tested solutions in formal and non-formal schools through the Girls Education Project Phase 3 (GEP3).

We now know through rigorous evaluation of

GEP3 that putting cash in the hands of families and schools, combined with community-led enrolment campaigns and high-quality early grade reading and numeracy interventions - a set of interventions known as "cash plus" - brings millions of children, particularly girls into the schooling system and keeps them there.

So powerful and enduring is the impact of this approach that gender parity is achieved, school retention increases, performance in English, mother tongue and in math improves, youth literacy levels rise and early pregnancy and marriage decline.

That we have collectively showcased what works to get more children into school through GEP3 is cause for celebration. That we have not yet scaled what we know to work is cause for concern. While development partners work with government to generate evidence on how to improve access and quality, the mandate and resources to scale these interventions to every child in Nigeria rests with government. The induction of new governors last week in Abuja by the Nigeria Governors' Forum is an opportunity to redouble efforts to act with speed and at scale on the available evidence and to create an enabling environment for scaling.

So, what does an enabling environment look like? It involves spending more on education. Little change will come to the life experience of children and the economic outlook for Nigeria unless it sees investment in education in the range of 15-20 per cent of government expenditure at federal and state levels.

When constitutional right to work becomes problematic in marriage

By Telesphor Magobe

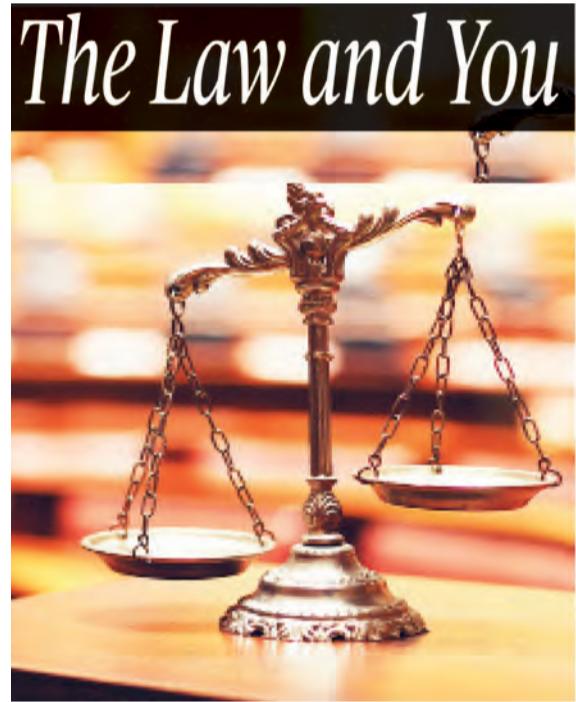
LAST week, we briefly looked at the evidence of a single witness in respect of identification of a person implicated in a criminal offence. We looked at a case which may make one empathise with the 'victim' but in the eyes of the law, when a criminal case is brought before a court, it must be proved beyond reasonable doubt, short of which the accused is set free.

To avoid disappointment, one needs to be acquainted with the law one is subject to. Otherwise, there will always be disappointments because the court grants only legal remedies or relief after the weighing of evidence and nothing else.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at the right to work. The other day I met a married lady who was working with a certain airline, but this time when I met her again, she was no longer working with the airline because her husband had stopped her from working and now she just stays at home as a housewife. Her husband is employed by a certain company in the Lake Zone.

Of course, she is not the only one to stop working and relying on her husband's income. I have also come across stories from other married women who at the beginning of their marriage were working, but after sometime their husbands asked them to stop working and stay home to look after children and take care of the house.

In stories like these, what often comes out is jealousy - that if the wife is working, then she could be tempted by her male colleagues and even fall in love with any of them. How about the husband being tempted by his female colleagues and perhaps falling in love with one of them? In my opinion, the main reason could be that if a husband and wife are working, then the husband may feel that he won't be able to control his wife well.



The Law and You

How can he control her if she is also employed and has a salary and perhaps she is paid better than her husband?

Some men like to see their wives staying home rather than working somewhere and with that they make their wives depend on them financially, which has also some consequences for the wife. If the wife depends on her husband financially, she will be limited in many ways. For instance, the husband may be away and his mobile phone cannot be reached. Now suppose the wife or a child falls sick, what will she do to

go to hospital if the husband didn't leave any money at home?

Look at it this way: if as we saw above, the husband out of jealousy suspects his wife may have another man, what will happen if the wife too becomes jealous and asks her husband to stop working so that they both stay at home to ensure none cheats on the other? Will that be practical?

Article 22(1) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977 (as amended until 2005), provides for the right to work. It states that: "Every person has the right to work." Furthermore, Article 25(1) states that: "Work alone creates the material wealth in society, and is the source of the wellbeing of the people and the measure of human dignity."

If work is the source of wellbeing of the people and the measure of human dignity, can we be justified to stop a person from working where that person is legally employed?

Section 58 of the Law of Marriage Act, 1971 (as amended until 2019) provides for separate property between spouses and subject to section 59 and to any agreement to the contrary that the parties may make, a marriage shall not operate to change the ownership of any property to which either the husband or the wife may be entitled to or to prevent either the husband or the wife from acquiring, holding and disposing of any property."

When a marriage breaks down irreparably, the aggrieved party is entitled to petition for separation or divorce (section 99). When the court

is satisfied that the marriage has broken down irreparably, it shall grant a decree of separation or divorce (section 110). What follows after this is the dissolution of marriage (section 112) and then the power of the court to order the division of matrimonial assets (section 114). When the marriage is dissolved, each party to the marriage is free to remarry [section 112(2)].

Now, if we take the above example, where the husband is working and the wife is not working and then the marriage breaks down irreparably and is then dissolved, who will be at a disadvantage in terms of wealth accumulation and investment?

Obviously, the man is at an advantage over his wife because if he invests in his property which he has accumulated on his own, he won't

be at the same level as his wife who just looks after children and takes care of the house and depends on her husband economically. There is a need to improve marital relationship because if spouses separate or divorce, it has consequences not only to both of them, but also children.

Today's proverb: "The fountain is clearest at its source."

The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at tmagobe@gmail.com

Here are six types of fear that can stand between you and success

By Luther Mugosha

BEFORE you put any philosophy into successful use, your mind must understand it fully. The preparation isn't difficult. It begins with study, analysis and understanding three enemies which one has to clear out. These are indecision, doubt and fear.

The mind cannot function efficiently while these three negativities remain on it. Members of this stubborn trio are closely related, while one is found, the other two are close at hand.

Indecision is the seedling of fear. Remember this as you read. It is formed by doubt and the two blend and become fear. The blending process is often slow. This is one reason why these enemies are so dangerous. They germinate and grow without their presence being observed.

As you follow this article, you will see a description which must be attained before a philosophy as a whole can be put into practical use.

This piece also analyzes a condition which has lifted a huge numbers of people out of poverty and what must be understood by those who wish to succeed whether in terms of money or state of mind of far greater value than money.

The purpose of this article is to turn the spotlight on the cause of and ability to remove the six basic fears from the mind. Before you defeat an enemy, you must know its name, its habits and its place of living. So, as you read, analyze yourself carefully, and determine which if any of the six common fears stands between you and success.

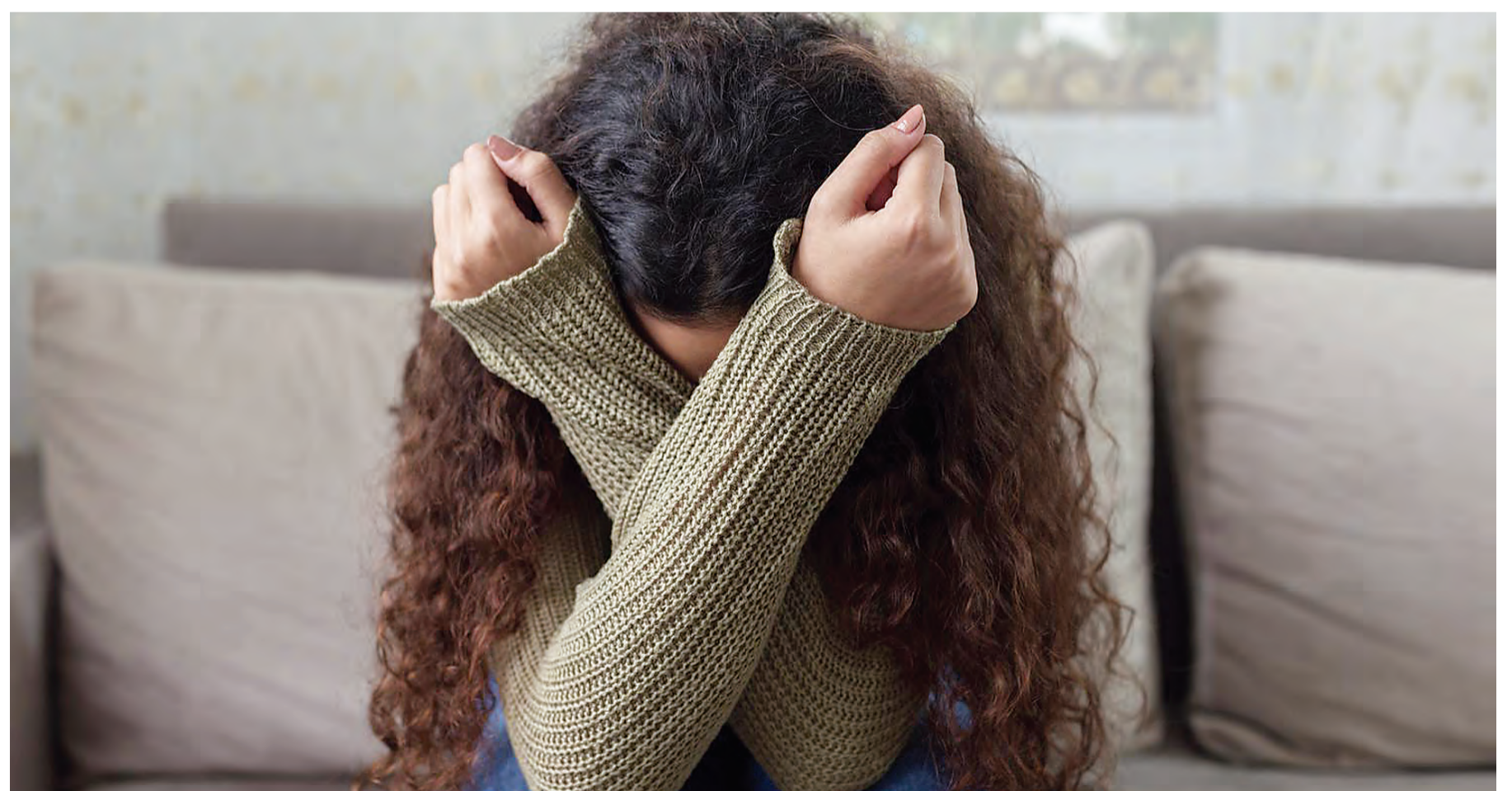
Do not be deceived by the habits of these subtle enemies. Sometimes they remain hidden in the subconscious mind where they are difficult to locate and become more difficult to eliminate.

The six basic fears

There are six basic fears with some combination of which every human suffers at one time or another. Some people are fortunate that they do not suffer from the entire six.

These fears are the fear of poverty, the fear of criticism, the fear of ill health, the fear of loss of love, the fear of old age and the fear of death. All other fears are minor and can be grouped under these major six.

Fears are nothing more than states of mind. One's state of mind is subject to control and direction. A hu-



man being can create nothing which he or she does not first conceive in the form of an impulse of thought.

A person's thought impulse begins immediately to translate into its physical equivalent, whether those thoughts are voluntary or involuntary.

Thought impulses which are picked up by mere chance (thoughts which have been released by other mind) may determine one's financial status, professional or social destiny just as sure as do the thought impulses which one

create by intent and design.

This article tries to lay a foundation for the presentation of a fact of great importance to a person who doesn't understand why some people appear to be lucky while others of equal or greater ability, training, experience or brain capacity seem destined to ride with misfortune.

This fact may be explained by the statement that every human being has the ability to completely control his or her own mind. This control obviously points that every

person may open his or her mind to the tramp thought impulses which are being released by other brains or close the doors tightly and admit only thought impulses of their own choice.

Nature has endowed every human being with absolute control over his or her mind but many people do not practise this. This fact is coupled with the additional fact that everything which a person creates begins in the form of a thought and leads one very near to the principle by which

fear may be mastered.

All thoughts have a tendency to clothe themselves in their physical equivalent. It's equally true that thought impulses for fear and poverty can't be translated into courage and financial gain.

The fear of poverty

There can be no compromise between poverty and riches. There are two roads: one leads to poverty and the other leads to riches and they travel in opposite directions. If you want riches, you must

refuse to accept any circumstance that leads toward poverty. The word riches is herein used in its broadest sense - meaning financial, spiritual, mental and material estates.

The starting point of path that leads to riches is desire. In this article, you will have complete understanding on how to prepare your mind to make practical use of desire.

(To be continued)

Luther Mugosha is a psychologist and author of motivational books based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0626 267 969.

When President of UN General Assembly was elected by tossing coin

By Thalif Deen

WHEN the United Nations General Assembly elected its President for 2023-2024 last week, it continued a long-standing tradition of male dominance in the UN's highest policy making body.

The new President for the 78th session, Ambassador Dennis Francis of Trinidad and Tobago, a long-standing career diplomat and a former Permanent Representative, was elected June 1 "by acclamation".

While all nine secretaries-general* (UNSGs) have been men, there have been only four women out of 78 who were elected as presidents of the General Assembly (PGAs): Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit from India (1953), Angie Brooks from Liberia (1969), Sheikhha Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa from Bahrain (2006) and Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés from Ecuador (2018).

But the blame for these anomalies has to be shouldered by the UN's 193 member states who are quick to adopt scores of resolutions on gender empowerment but fail to practice them in the highest echelons of the UN totem pole—described as a classic case of political hypocrisy—as they rarely, if ever, nominate women candidates for the presidency.

Meanwhile, as a long-practiced tradition, "elections" to some of the highest UN offices and committees are no longer voted by member states, as it was done in a distant past.

The age of competitive elections has largely come to an end—and it's the "gentleman's agreement" that matters (but where in the world are the ladies?)

Lou Charbonneau, UN Director of Human Rights Watch says UN votes for seats on important bodies like the Security Council and Human Rights Council often make a mockery of the word "election." They typically have little or no competition, ensuring victory for even the least-qualified candidates.

Under an unwritten rule, the five "regional groups" at the UN take turns - on the basis of geographical rotation—and decide what offices they should claim undermining the very concept of democratic elections.

The five regional groups include the African Group; the Asia and the Pacific Group; the Eastern European Group (even though Eastern Europe has long ceased to exist after the end of the Cold War and the dismantling of the Soviet Union); the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC); and the Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

And all these decisions are taken behind closed doors, with rare instances of member states breaking this rule - or unceremoniously jumping in, to claim a post which could result in an election by ballot, not by acclamation.

Meanwhile, there was at least one instance in recorded history when the president of the General Assembly was elected, on the luck of a draw -- following a dead heat.

With the Asian group failing to field a single candidate, the politically-memorable battle took place ahead of the 36th session of the General Assembly back in 1981 when three Asian candidates contested the presidency: Ismat Kittani of Iraq, Tommy Koh of Singapore and Kwaja Mohammed Kaiser of Bangladesh (described as the "battle of three Ks"—Kittani, Koh and Kaiser).

On the first ballot, Kittani got 64 votes; Kaiser, 46; and Koh, 40. Still, Kittani was short of a required majority - of the total number of members voting. On a second ballot, Kittani and Kaiser tied with 73 votes each (with 146 members present, and voting).

In order to break the tie, the outgoing General Assembly President - Rudiger von Wechmar of Germany- drew lots, as specified in Article 21 relating to the procedures in the election of the president (and as recorded in the Repertory of Practice of the General Assembly).

And the luck of the draw, based purely on chance, favored Kittani, in that unprecedented General Assembly election.

But according to a joke circulating at that time, it was rumored that the winner was decided by the flip of a coin - but the tossed coin apparently had two heads and no tail.

Samir Sanbar, a former UN assistant secretary-general and head of the Department of Public Information (DPI), told IPS the 1981 election brought back memories of his early years at the U.N. "when Ismat Kittani, in varied positions at the UN, was always proud of his Iraqi Kurdish heritage".



At the request of member states, electoral assistance is currently provided - for presidential and legislative elections mostly in developing countries - by the UN's Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA). Credit: United Nations

He served as Chef de Cabinet of Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, Iraq Representative to the U.N., Director-General of Iraq Ministry of Foreign Affairs and candidate for GA President, said Sanbar, who served under five different secretaries-general during his professional career at the UN.

"When we visited Baghdad with the Secretary General, he was part of the U.N. team; Saddam Hussein, then Iraqi Deputy President requested he return home. And he did".

"Yet his loving and beloved wife refused to go, agreeing to reside in Geneva. The tale of a coin with two heads and no tail is a reflection of Kittani's vibrant sense of humor. And may his soul rest in peace", said Sanbar, author of "Inside the

United Nations: In a Leaderless World"

Going down memory lane, Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, who was a member of the Bangladesh Mission to the UN back in 1980, told IPS: "Coincidentally, I was in Paris on the day of the election attending, as part of the Bangladesh delegation, the first UN Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) hosted by the French Government."

Bangladesh was so confident of winning that Ambassador Kaiser's election team had arranged for bottles of champagne for the victory celebration.

"Delegates comforted us by saying that Bangladesh did not lose face as the vote ended in a tie. So, it was a bad luck for Ambassador Kaiser, not a defeat. Losing by vote would have been worse and a clear verdict against his candidacy," he added.

Setting the record straight, Ambassador Chowdhury said there was a fourth "K" who was also a candidate in that election- Abdul Halim Khaddam, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of

Syria.

So, there were really four "Ks" - Kaiser, Kittani, Koh and Khaddam, not 3 "Ks"—reflecting the multiplicity of candidates.

According to the Rules Procedure, the two candidates getting the highest votes in the first ballot were eligible for a second and subsequent ballots till the winner emerged. So, Koh and Khaddam were dropped from the second ballot.

That ballot produced the tie between Kaiser and Kittani, said Ambassador Chowdhury.

the first UN Under-Secretary-General from Bangladesh and High Representative of the UN.

Meanwhile, in the 1960s and 70s, when UN member states competed either for the presidency of the General Assembly, membership in the Security Council, or for various UN bodies, the voting was largely undermined by offers of luxury cruises in Europe—and with promises of increased economic aid to the world's poorer nations tied to votes at the UN.

In a bygone era, voting was by a rare show of hands, particu-

larly in committee rooms. But in later years, a more sophisticated electronic board, high up in the General Assembly Hall, tallied the votes or in the case of elections to the Security Council or the International Court of Justice, the voting was by secret ballot.

In one of the hard-fought elections many moons ago, there were rumors that an oil-soaked Middle Eastern country was doling out high-end, Swiss-made wrist watches and also stocks in the former Arabian-American Oil Company (ARAMCO), one of the world's largest oil companies, to UN diplomats as a trade-off for their votes.

So, when hands, both from right-handed and left-handed delegates, went up at voting time in the Committee room, the largest number of hands raised in favor of the oil-blessed candidate sported Swiss watches.

As anecdotes go, it symbolized the corruption that prevailed in voting in inter-governmental organizations, including the United Nations - perhaps much like most national elections in authoritarian

regimes.

Just ahead of an election for membership in the Security Council, one Western European country offered free Mediterranean luxury cruises in return for votes while another country dished out - openly in the General Assembly hall- boxes of gift-wrapped expensive Swiss chocolates.

So, it wasn't surprising that the Ambassador of a middle-income developing country, who kept losing successive elections, jokingly told his Foreign Ministry officials: "Let's stop running for elections until we can practice the fine art of stuffing ballot boxes - as we do back home."

Fathulla Jameel, a former UN Ambassador and later Foreign Minister of the Maldives, recounted a story of how his resource-poor island nation, categorized by the UN as a Small Island Developing State (SID), would appeal to some of the richer nations to help fund the country's infrastructure projects.

At least one rich Asian country, a traditional donor, was the first to respond - and magnanimously too, he said. The project would be fully funded - free, gratis and for nothing.

But there was a catch: "If there is a vote at the UN, and it is not of any national interest to your country", said the donor country's foreign ministry, "we would like to get your vote."

The offer was a clever political payback. Development aid with no visible strings attached.

The nine all-male Secretaries-General over the last 78 years include Trygve Lie from Norway, 1946-1952; Dag Hammarskjöld from Sweden, 1953-1961; U Thant from Burma (now Myanmar), 1961-1971; Kurt Waldheim from Austria, 1972-1981; Javier Perez de Cuellar from Peru, 1982-1991; Boutros Boutros-Ghali, from Egypt, 1992-1996; Kofi A. Annan, from Ghana, 1997-2006; Ban Ki-moon, from the Republic of Korea, 2007-2016 and António Guterres, from Portugal, 2017-present.

This article contains excerpts from a recently-released book on the United Nations—largely a collection of political anecdotes. Titled "No Comment - and Don't Quote Me on That,"

IPS UN Bureau Report



Voting by secret ballot in a bygone era. Credit: United Nations

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MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIVEVUMA 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



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China's report 'coercive diplomacy' enlightening as it reveals the truth

By Darius Mukiza

MANY experts in the world, like me, are quietly watching how the sanctions and penalties imposed on other countries by the United States are negatively impacting the world economy and people's life, especially those who live in the countries concerned.

One of the recent reports titled: "America's Coercive Diplomacy and Its Harm", exposed the means and dangers of the US coercive diplomacy. The report argues that coercive diplomacy is a standard instrument in the US foreign policy toolbox, and containment and suppression in political, economic, military, cultural and other fields have been used to conduct coercive diplomacy around the world for pure US self-interest.

It also cited Stanford University professor Alexander George's definition of "coercive diplomacy", saying it concerns the use of threat or limited force to coerce an adversary to stop or reverse its action.

The report detailed the consequences of sanctions imposed by the US on countries like Cuba, Venezuela, North Korea, India, China, Russia and some African countries.

According to the report, in 1962, the United States imposed an economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba which continues to this day. The 61-year-old embargo has brought enormous losses and grave humanitarian disasters to Cuba. The US sanctions and blockade on Cuba cover almost everything from fuel, food and daily necessities to medicine, leaving the island facing a chronic and severe shortage of supplies.

Since 2006, the US has imposed

sanctions on Venezuela, preventing Venezuela from entering the US financial system. During the Trump administration, the US expanded economic and financial sanctions against Venezuela, froze all assets of the Venezuelan government in the US, and imposed sanctions on its oil, banking, mining industries and more than 140 government personnel, which severely hit the Venezuelan economy.

The report states that the sanctions have left more than one third of the population of Venezuela in a serious food crisis and a shortage of basic medical supplies and equipment; conditions of health care services have deteriorated and maternal, infant and seriously ill patients deaths have increased.

In Africa, the report cites Sudan, Burundi, the Central Africa Republic, Somalia and Zimbabwe. For example, according to the report, the US sanctions on Sudan have led to a severe humanitarian crisis in the country, with a large number of children dying of malnutrition, according to a report released by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Sudan.

Zimbabwe has been targeted by US sanctions for over 20 years, following a government decision to repossess land from minority white farmers for redistribution to landless indigenous Zimbabweans in 2001.

A 2021 report disclosed that since the sanctions came into effect, Zimbabwe has lost access to more than \$100 billion in bilateral donor support, grants, and loans from the IMF, the World Bank, and the African Development Bank. World Bank data shows that at the height of sanctions, Zimbabwe's



Protesters attend a demonstration near the US Embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe, on Oct. 25, 2021. Zimbabweans marked the Anti-Sanctions Day with demonstrations around the country to urge the United States of America to remove sanctions it imposed on the southern African country about two decades ago. (File/Photo)

GDP contracted from \$6.78 billion in 2001 to \$4.42 billion in 2008.

Despite the fact that many African leaders, including former Tanzanian president John Magufuli, South African president Cyril Ramaphosa and Senegal's president Macky Sall, have called for lifting the sanctions against Zimbabwe, Washington has not changed its stand.

In April this year, US President Joe Biden extended sanctions against Zimbabwe, saying on-going repression by the country's government "presents a continuing threat to peace and security in the region". In 2015/2016, sanctions were imposed by the US on Burundi at the height of a political crisis following the late President Pierre Nkurunziza's extension of his tenure, which triggered protests. More than 330,000 Burundians fled to Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and

the Democratic Republic of Congo, during the political crisis. Referring to China, the report states that the US launched a trade war with China in July 2018, and escalated the war in May 2019 by announcing further increase of tariffs on Chinese goods. Moreover, Washington has put more than 1,000 Chinese companies, including ZTE, Huawei and DJI, on various sanctions lists, using national security act to clamp down on Chinese social media apps such as TikTok and WeChat.

The specific reasons for US sanctions differ from case to case, but they all relate to one objective, that is, to maintain US global hegemony.

As US scholars have pointed out, the essence of US coercive diplomacy lies in the idea that "you are either with us or against us. The US should lead, and its allies should

follow, and the countries that oppose the supremacy of the US will suffer."

In order to maintain its global hegemony and contain the development of other countries, the US is keen to force others to join the "democratic alliance" by means of drawing ideological lines and imposing tariffs.

What the US has done has escalated confrontation and heightened the risk of the world falling into a new Cold War.

The US coercive diplomacy hinders the development of emerging economies and developing countries represented by the BRICS countries. The economic sanctions and blockade imposed by the US on developing countries such as Venezuela, Cuba, Myanmar and Syria have directly interrupted the sustainable development process of these countries.

Since the Russia-Ukraine conflict broke out in February 2022, the United States has implemented a broad sweep of sanctions, focused on isolating Russia from the global financial system, reducing the profitability of its energy sector, and blunting its military edge. These sanctions add to a bevy of economic punishments that Washington imposed on Moscow after it annexed Crimea in 2014.

What should be done then to rectify the situation? The answer to this question might be difficult because of different situations that lead to US sanctions or penalties for other countries.

However, it is vital for the world to realize that the US is the inventor and master of coercive diplomacy, and that its coercive policy has not only increased the misery of the people in target countries, but disrupted global industrial and supply chains and hindered the process of regional economic integration, according to the aforementioned report.

It's interesting to note that the G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué adopted last month in Japan professed G7 opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo and claims about "economic coercion" that allude to China. These accusations are unfounded because it is not China, but the US and its allies, that have been conducting "economic coercion" against perceived challengers, as the report has elaborated.

Above being said, China's report on US coercive diplomacy is enlightening as it has revealed one of the biggest challenges facing international cooperation and global development.

Dr Darius Mukiza is a lecturer at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Dar es Salaam.

SADC, UN commit to identify potential areas for collaboration

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations and Southern African Development Community (SADC) have discussed possible areas of collaboration as well as preparations for the 3rd UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries to be held in Rwanda in 2024.

The meeting follows the previous 2nd conference that was held in Vienna, Austria.

During the meeting at SADC Secretariat Headquarters in Gaborone, Botswana, the UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS), Rabab Fatima and Elias Magosi, Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), they agreed on the urgent need to prepare

and finalise a Memorandum of Understanding that will facilitate collaboration on the implementation of identified priorities of mutual interest.

Fatima apprised the Executive Secretary that the 2nd conference adopted the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries (2014-2024), which aims to contribute to the eradication of poverty.

She said the planned 3rd conference is meant to

review progress on the implementation of the programme of action.

She highlighted that most of the countries classified as landlocked, transit, small island states and least developed countries (LDCs) are in Africa. She said of the 32 LDCs, 16 are in Africa, therefore, necessitating the need to strengthen cooperation and partnership with Regional Economic Communities (RECs), including SADC.

The SADC Executive Secretary observed that the priorities of the UN-OHRLS are aligned to the overarching priorities of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2020-2030) and the Prioritised RISDP Projects that were recently approved by the SADC Council, which is used by the Secretariat to inform the engagement of partners, in March 2023.

He mentioned that currently the focus of SADC is on impact

as more work has been undertaken to lay a good foundation in the context of developing key policies, protocols, and strategies. He highlighted that now the priority is to implement key hard infrastructure projects that contribute effectively to the implementation of the regional integration agenda.

Magosi said the key priorities of SADC include peace and security, which has been identified as a foundation pillar and

enabler of regional integration. He said although the Region has remained largely peaceful, there are sporadic security situations in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique.

He said the relevant structures of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security are seized with these matters, with a view to arrest the prevailing security threats and attainment of long-lasting peaceful solutions.

The role of natural gas in energy transition in Tanzania

By Baraka Thomas

SUPPLYING sufficient energy to people globally while reducing its impact on the planet is one of the 21st century's greatest challenges. Natural gas can help to meet that challenge by reducing emissions and improving air quality when it replaces coal and oil.

Tanzania, a country rich in natural resources, has embarked on a journey towards energy transition to meet its growing energy demands while reducing its reliance on traditional fossil fuels. In recent years, the role of natural gas has gained significant attention in Tanzania's energy sector. For instance, the Ministry of Energy recently announced that negotiations for construction of a \$30 billion Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal between Tanzania, Norway's Equinor, and UK's Shell are complete.

The presence of a vast reserve of natural gas in Tanzania can play a pivotal role in the energy transition, moving away from high-carbon energy sources towards low-carbon alternatives, thus protecting our planet from harmful pollution. Natural gas is crucial not only for providing sustainable energy in the country but also for helping the nation achieve its energy transition agenda, as follows:

Tanzania is blessed with vast natural gas reserves, particularly offshore in the Indian Ocean. According



to estimates, the country's proven natural gas reserves stand at approximately 57 trillion cubic feet (tcf), making it one of the largest natural gas holders in East Africa. Such abundance provides Tanzania with a unique opportunity to leverage natural gas as a transitional fuel in its journey towards a sustainable energy future.

Natural gas is considered a cleaner and more environmentally friendly source of energy compared to traditional fossil fuels such as coal and oil. When used for power generation, natural gas emits significantly lower levels of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, contributing to improved air quality and reduced carbon emissions. By utilizing its natural gas resources, Tanzania can mitigate the adverse

environmental impacts associated with traditional fossil fuels.

The availability of natural gas has enabled Tanzania to diversify its energy mix and expand its power generation capacity. Natural gas power plants have the advantage of being flexible, allowing for quick start-up and ramping up of electricity production. This flexibility supports the integration of renewable energy sources into the grid by providing a reliable backup during intermittent periods. Increased power generation capacity not only ensures a stable and reliable electricity supply but also stimulates economic growth by attracting investment, creating job opportunities, and supporting various industries. It is important to note that The Natural gas emits between 45% and 55% lower

greenhouse gas emissions than coal when used to generate electricity, according to available data by the International Energy Agency. Therefore, Natural gas has become significant in reducing air pollution.

Tanzania's natural gas reserves have the potential to not only meet domestic energy demands but also contribute to regional energy integration. The country is strategically located within the East African region, and its natural gas resources can be utilized for regional power projects and cross-border gas pipelines. Collaborative efforts with neighboring countries can create a regional energy market, enhancing energy security and fostering economic cooperation in the region and attaining energy transition goals in the East African Commu-

nity (EAC).

The exploration and production of natural gas in Tanzania have attracted significant investment from both domestic and international companies. This influx of capital has not only contributed to the development of the natural gas sector but has also facilitated the transfer of advanced technologies and knowledge. The acquisition of new technologies, expertise, and skills will further enhance Tanzania's capacity to efficiently utilize natural gas resources and strengthen its energy transition endeavors.

Natural gas can be utilized in heavy industries such as iron, steel, cement and chemicals, switching from coal, hydro, or oil to gas to produce the intense heat required in furnaces can significantly reduce emissions.

It is crucial to strike a balance between natural gas development and renewable energy sources in Tanzania's energy mix. While natural gas can play a significant role in the transition, it should not overshadow the importance of diversifying the energy portfolio and investing in renewable energy technologies. A well-planned energy strategy that integrates natural gas with renewables can provide a more resilient and sustainable energy system for Tanzania.

It is also worth noting that to fully realize the potential of natural gas in Tanzania's energy transition, it is essential to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework and invest in infrastructure. The government of Tanzania has recognized this and has been actively working towards creating an enabling environment for natural gas development. It has implemented policies and regulations to attract investment, encourage exploration and production activities, and ensure environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

As Tanzania progresses towards its energy transition goals, the role of natural gas becomes increasingly important. Its abundance, cleaner attributes, and contribution to power generation capacity offer significant advantages to the country. By harnessing its natural gas resources, Tanzania can reduce its dependence on imported fuels, enhance energy security, stimulate economic growth, and promote regional integration. However, it is crucial for Tanzania to adopt a balanced approach that simultaneously embraces renewable energy sources and promotes sustainable development to ensure a greener and more resilient energy future for the nation.

How small team of doctors cleared backlog of surgeries in record time

By Elri Voigt

At the end of March, a small team of healthcare workers completed the project called "Surgical Recovery", which ran from May 2022 and was originally planned to conclude 12 months later.

While this hasn't cleared the entire backlog of people waiting for surgery at Grootte Schuur, it has helped the hospital return to about the same waiting-list level it had before the Covid-19 pandemic, according to Dr Lydia Cairncross, the head of general surgery at the hospital.

The surgeries took place mainly in the E4 Surgical Day Ward which, Cairncross explains, was built as a day ward - meaning it handles surgeries where patients don't require an overnight stay before or after surgery - with the aim of increasing day care surgery capacity for the hospital. And for the past 12 months it has been the host of the Surgical Recovery Project.

E4 has 16 patient beds, four recovery beds and two theatres, which were completed just as the pandemic hit the country. During the third wave it was used as a Covid high care unit.

According to Dr Shrikant Peters, a public health specialist and the medical manager of theatre and ICU services at Grootte Schuur, hospital CEO Dr Bhavna Patel "had the foresight to request provincial use of Covid funding to develop the space as Covid high care, and eventually to be used long-term as an operating suite and high care ward in line with prior hospital plans".

The Surgical Recovery Project

By the end of the third wave of the pandemic, according to Cairncross, there were discussions about how to catch up on the surgeries that had to be postponed because of Covid-19.

"The backlog in surgery comes on top of a pre-existing backlog. So, it's not that the backlog was created by Covid, but it made it much, much, much worse," she says. "In November 2021, we did an audit of how many patients were just physically waiting for surgery at the hospital. It was around 6,000 plus. We don't actually have a baseline for pre-Covid, but we knew that we lost about 50% of our operating capacity," Cairncross says.

"So, the idea was really to find a way to utilise this theatre space so that we could catch up with some of that backlog."

From here, the Surgical Recovery Project for Grootte Schuur was born with the ambitious target of performing 1,500 surgeries in 12 months.

Funds from the project came from three sources. Kristy Evans, head of the Grootte Schuur Hospital Trust, tells Spotlight that fundraising for the project was kick-started by a R5-million donation from Gift of the Givers. The recently established trust focused on Surgical Recovery as their first project to fundraise for. An additional R1-million was raised by the Trust from more than 500 corporate and private donors.

"People are always willing... [they] give what they can. We had donations from people who would transfer R10 into the account, sometimes people transfer R180,000," Evans says.

She adds that the project will continue into its second year, but the details regarding targets had not yet been finalised by the time of publication.

The Western Cape health department also donated about R6.5-million to the project from their budget for surgical recovery after Covid-19. According to provincial health spokesperson Mark van der Heever this money was part of the R20-million that the department allocated to various surgical backlog recovery initiatives.

"[The] Covid-19 pandemic meant that elective surgical services had to be significantly de-escalated, as staff were deployed to Covid services, and this resulted in an increase in the backlog of operations. Hence, a specific practical plan to address this backlog in the short and long term has been developed," says Van der Heever. "Similar projects and initiatives across hospitals have already taken shape and also yielded success, such as at Karl Bremer Hospital, which also received a portion of the R20-million from the department. The hospital was able to perform an extra 328 procedures since August last year."

Working around difficulties

At Grootte Schuur, the project had to find a way to



An inspiring project at Grootte Schuur Hospital in Cape Town has reached its target of slashing its backlog by 1,500 surgeries. (Photo: Nasief Manie / Spotlight)

work around the difficulties of surgical catch-up. According to Cairncross, with any surgical catch-up, the challenges don't just come from needing a physical space to operate in but also from having the appropriately trained staff. Not having enough trained staff in the public health sector, such as theatre and surgery nurses, makes it hard to implement a surgical catch-up programme, even if there is money to do so.

To work around these difficulties, they came up with a centralised model for surgical recovery, where one theatre team of nurses could be employed on a contract rate for the 12 months. This team, led by Sister Melinda Davids, the nursing operations manager for the E4 theatre, would work Monday to Thursday in one of the E4 theatres and occasionally the other theatres in the hospital for each of the 1,500 surgeries.

According to Cairncross, many surgeons, herself included, would operate on patients in addition to their normal surgeries and other duties. The funds, a total of about R12.5-million, were used to pay the staff involved in the surgeries. The day-to-day operations were run by Davids and Peters.

According to Peters, the 1,500 operations occurred across all surgical specialities, from cataract to cardiothoracic.

Success factors

Cairncross attributes the success of the project to the existing systems at Grootte Schuur, supportive management, and the dedication of the surgical team and surgeons who gave

their time to the project.

She says that because the hospital has a relatively functional system to start with and a supportive management team, it allowed for "enough of a regulatory environment to keep things safe and above board but not to the extent where you can't move".

It was also about having the right person in charge of the team, she adds, gesturing to Davids.

Davids, who started her nursing career in 1989 and qualified as a theatre nurse in 2009, started working at Grootte Schuur six years ago. She explains that the surgical team at E4 consisted of about 18 people. This includes herself, five scrub nurses, three anaesthetic nurses, three floor nurses, a registered nurse who assists in recovery and a clerk. There are also two surgical medical officers and two anaesthetic registrars.

According to Davids, when the project started, several of the nurses had not worked in a theatre before so had to be trained and upskilled by her and some of the specialist nurses on the scrub nurse team. She also had to get creative about having the right equipment for each surgery, which sometimes meant she had to borrow from other theatres.

"It's been a challenge, but it's a good challenge that's kept me going," she says. "We're a good team."

"Trust [in staff] has been fundamental to this," says Peters, "I mean, the ability to trust junior staff to upskill themselves to become scrub nurses, to hand surgeons the right instrument

when they asked for it. That's been really heart-warming."

"Behind every number on the list is a patient"

When asked why it was so important to do this kind of catch-up, Cairncross says the surgeries that were postponed during the pandemic weren't urgent or emergent, but those patients who were bumped still struggled physically because of the delays.

"Behind every number on the list is a patient with a story of either progressive blindness, invasive skull tumours, or tumours around the auditory canal that result in hearing loss, chronic pain from joint problems and urinary retention with recurrent infections and admissions or having a stoma bag [a colostomy bag] with them for months longer than needed," Cairncross says. "Heart-breaking stories, and often these were the patients who kept getting cancelled [on]. They would come in and if something urgent would come up, they would be cancelled or the Covid wave would come."

She adds that at the time when the idea for Surgical Recovery came about, the morale among the surgical teams was at a real low. Patients would be coming to the outpatient clinics and asking, for the umpteenth time, "when am I going to have my operation?" to which the healthcare workers had to keep responding that they didn't know.

"It's just a terrible thing and so people [staff] started to feel disempowered and disillusioned and I really think that the project helped them to at

least see some progress. That there were some changes or some shift in what they were dealing with," Cairncross says. "It hasn't cleared our entire backlog, and a one-off project will not do that, but it has reset us pretty close to where we were pre-Covid-19."

Peters adds that while the backlogs haven't been fully cleared, "for every case that we've done in the project, it's someone off of a waiting list".

Health system at a 'precipice'

While the Covid-19 pandemic caused many surgeries to be postponed and added tremendously to surgical waiting lists, it isn't the only factor contributing to backlogs. According to Peters, a shrinking health budget for tertiary services will continue to add to backlogs across the country.

"There's this building backlog coming up against the shrinking budget. And that's going to be with us for multiple years going into the future and if the clinicians aren't protecting the budget for these patients that get missed, we're going to focus as we have been on the emergency patients that come through the door," he says. "But it's always difficult for tertiary academic services because to keep up the skills of surgeons to maintain the quality of care, they do need to be managing waiting lists of booked patients. And so, I think across the country we're going to be struggling with that across all tertiary services."

Cairncross tells Spotlight that

the project is just a temporary measure. In the long term, healthcare systems need to be fixed to address issues like surgical backlogs.

"The lesson, I suppose, is that these are temporary measures. We can do them, but fundamentally we need to fix the health system at a core, structural level. And we can't work in isolation from the rest of the country because we are one health system and tertiary hospitals are only a part of that ecosystem," she says. "The services at Grootte Schuur Hospital, for example, cannot be sustained if the health systems from primary care to district health facilities, in urban and rural facilities, and across provinces are not supported and strengthened."

The health system is at a precipice, according to Cairncross, and big academic hospitals need to be anchoring elective surgical services together with emergency services, as the problem with emergency services will only get bigger down the line if electives aren't dealt with now.

"We know that postponed elective surgery just becomes emergency surgery over time, making cancelling elective surgery a false economy. We need to plan robust systems that ensure all types of surgical services are maintained," she says.

"The strongest voice [in defence of the health system] is a conscious and motivated health workforce. So, where the nurses and doctors and managers are standing and defending patient services, they are supporting the health system," she says.

I think this is an example of health workers standing up and saying, we can't allow this deterioration in services. We've got to do more. We really want to tell the story, so that people can see it can be done."

RADIO One RAIIBA 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 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 7:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:30 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 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 SPOTT LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAKKA 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 7:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 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 SPOTT LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGU LA DJ 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 7:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS SPOTT LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGU LA DJ 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 7:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 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 SPOTT LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS MAMBO BONGO 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 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 7:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS CHAGU LA LAKO 15:00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18:00 HRS SONG TEN 19:30 HRS SPOTT LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 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 7:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:00 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 11:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18:00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19:30 HRS SPOTT LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MAMBO MSETO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS RAFIKI I 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00-05:00 MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One Radio One



Dollar peels off two-week lows ahead of ECB deluge

LONDON

The dollar bounced off two-week lows on Friday, shrugging off some of the weakness that has set in this month as expectations have grown that the Federal Reserve may not raise interest rates again for some time.

Next week is packed with key monetary policy meetings, including those of the Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan.

Meanwhile, data on Thursday that showed a rise in the number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits surged to the highest in over 1-1/2 years last week pushed the dollar index down 0.8 percent - its largest one-day fall since the depths of the regional banking crisis in March.

The index, which measures the US currency against six others, is down 0.6 percent for the week, set for its biggest weekly fall also since mid-March when fears about the health of the banking sector roiled markets. It was last up 0.2 percent on the day.

"This jump put jobless claims close to a two-year high and has been read by markets as a clear sign of coming weakness in the US economy and a more-hesitant-to-hike Fed," CaxtonFX strategist David Stritch said.

"The question now becomes, is this data isolated and the market simply read too much into it, or is it the first red flag that the US economy may be weaker than first expected?"

Money markets show traders are placing just a one-in-four chance of a 25-bp rate hike next week by the Fed, which

would bring US rates to 5.50 percent.

"Before the meetings that we had this week I would have said I was expecting the status quo, now I'm not excluding something surprising, because a central bank like Canada, that had clearly telegraphed it was on hold, raised rates and said it was concerned about inflation," said Chester Ntonifor, FX strategist at investment provider BCA.

The Bank of Canada and the Reserve Bank of Australia both jolted markets earlier this week by raising interest rates to tackle stubborn inflation, which has raised expectations for other central banks to stay tough on price pressures.

The ECB meets on Thursday and is widely expected to raise eurozone rates by 25 bps to 3.50%, given core inflation is still rising, even though headline inflation has softened.

"For me, it's clear that the ECB is going to stay hawkish, I don't think they're going to be more hawkish than what's already priced in by markets, what is interesting is the Fed," Ntonifor said.

The euro eased 0.2 percent to \$1.0762, backing off Thursday's two-week high. Sterling, which jumped nearly 1 percent on Thursday, was flat at \$1.2546, near one-month highs.

The dollar rebounded against the Japanese yen, rising 0.46 percent to 139.55 after BOJ Governor Kazuo Ueda reiterated the central bank's resolve to keep monetary policy ultra-loose.

The Turkish lira tumbled more than 1 percent against the dollar to a record low after President Tayyip Erdogan appointed Hafize Gaye Erkan, a finance executive in the United States, to head Turkey's central bank.

Oil set for second weekly drop over demand concerns

SINGAPORE

Oil headed for a second weekly drop as demand concerns returned to the fore, snuffing out gains driven by Saudi Arabia's unilateral pledge to cut production.

West Texas Intermediate fell below \$71 a barrel and is down about 1 percent this week. Optimism around Riyadh's move to reduce output by at least 1 million barrels a day was fast replaced by a worsening outlook for consumption.

Data released Friday showed China's inflation remaining close to zero in May, giving fresh evidence that the world's second largest economy was cooling further.

Reports in Middle Eastern media - including Israel's Haaretz newspaper - that the US and Iran had made progress on nuclear talks that could lead to more supply from the Islamic Republic helped push crude down 1.7 percent on Thursday. However, US officials said reports of an interim deal are false.

The US oil benchmark has fallen around 15 percent from a peak in mid-April on signs that China's recovery is stalling and the US will need to keep hiking interest rates to rein in inflation. Russia's exports of crude have also been more resilient than anticipated, adding

to supply.

"The fall in oil prices since the OPEC+ meeting likely reflects global growth fears and oil demand concerns," said Vivek Dhar, director of mining and energy commodities research at Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Still, the Saudi cuts "are likely to tip oil markets into a shortfall later this year."

Meanwhile, China's onshore crude stockpiles hit a two-year high in May as demand fell short of expectations amid a disappointing economic recovery. Consumption in Asia's biggest economy has stagnated at the same time as processors have idled facilities for spring maintenance.



Move seeks to open companies' beneficial owners' details access

By Guardian Reporter

The government is looking into amending the Companies Act and its regulations of 2021, to enable an increase of the number of institutions eligible to access information of incorporated companies' beneficial owners' available at the Business Registration and Licensing Authority (Brela) register.

Currently, only law enforcement organs are legally eligible for directly access beneficial owners' information; but the targeted amendments will include financial institutions, designated other non-financial business and professionals as well as legal persons.

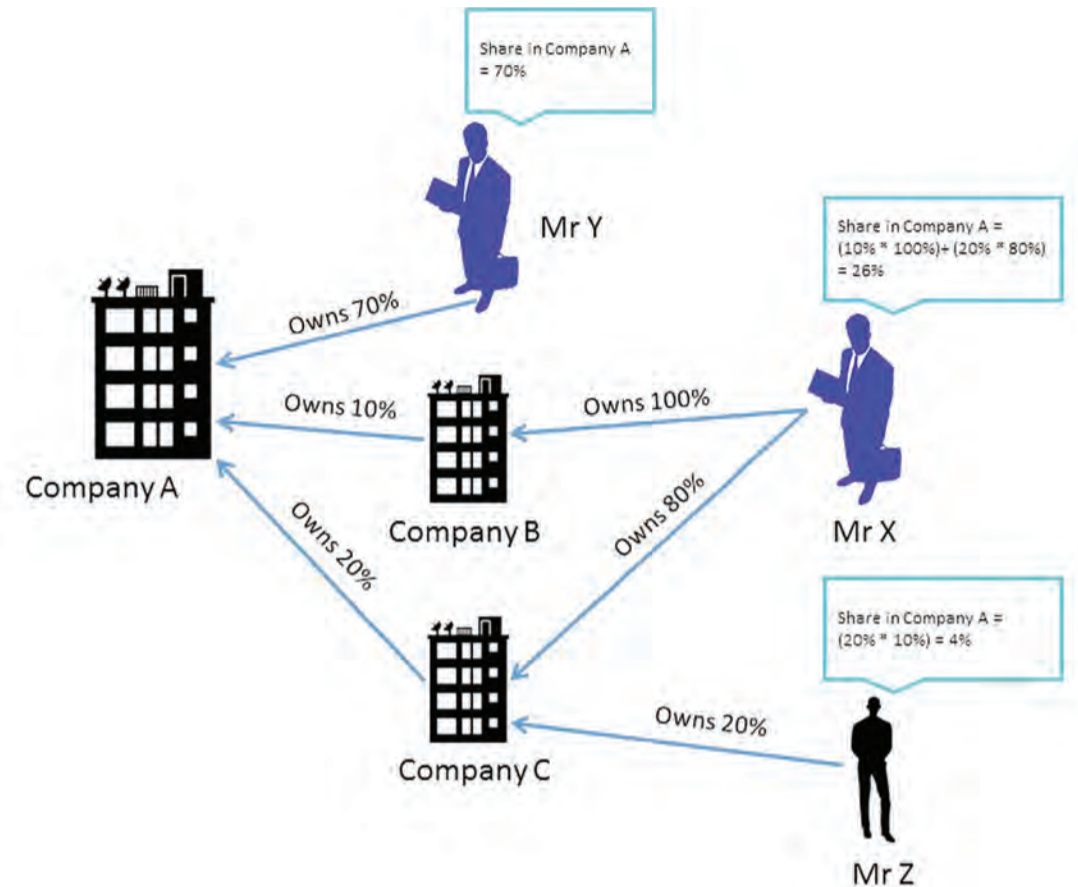
In domestic and international commercial law, a beneficial owner is a natural person or persons who ultimately owns or controls an interest in a legal entity or arrangement, such as a company, a trust, or a foundation.

The Brela acting director of companies and business names Menradi Rweyemamu revealed this in Dar es Salaam on Thursday during a meeting with editors and journalists to give an update of ongoing collections of beneficial owners of companies incorporated by Brela to promote transparency and integrity.

He gave an example of Ghana where beneficial owners' information accessed freely by the general public; although he reminded that doing so in Tanzania, may limit investment inflows.

This is being done to comply with the recommendations of Financial Action Task Force, global action to tackle money laundering, terrorist and proliferation financing, of which, after evaluations, Tanzania has committed and is on the gray list, the second bottom rank.

However, the gray list means that the country is actively working



with the FATF to address strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing.

The mandate of the FATF is to set standards and to promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and the financing of proliferation, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

According to last monitoring and evaluation report, Tanzania has made progress in addressing some of the technical compliance deficiencies.

"Tanzania will remain in en-

hanced follow-up and will continue to inform the East and Southern Africa Anti Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) of the progress made in improving and implementing its Anti Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism measures," says a report available on TAFT website.

Rweyemamu said since last year, many companies have not submitted their beneficial owners' information as a only 20,000 have done so out of targeted 70,000.

Currently, the Brela portal shows more a total of 200,000 have been incorporated, but many are dormant, and this is pushing Brela to collaborate with the National Bureau of Statistics

(NBS) and Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to conduct a study to determine the exact number of active incorporated companies in Tanzania.

He said non-disclosure or false disclosure of beneficial owners of incorporated companies is subjected to administrative action of a five to ten million shilling fine or criminal procedure.

According to Rweyemamu, even newly incorporated companies are now required to submit beneficial owners 30 days after registration.

This targets those who own at least five percent shares of a company, those with voting rights and those with powers to appoint company directors.

Government to bolster cashew production in Singida Region

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Singida

THE government in Singida region has launched special guidelines to help direct professional establishment, development and handling of cashew block farms in Manyoni District.

The guidelines were launched by the Manyoni District Commissioner (DC), Kemirembe Lwota, in cooperation with the Cashew Board of Tanzania (CBT) targeting to increase productivity and quality management.

Speaking during a special round table meeting tailored for the official launching of the guidelines, which attracted key stakeholders in the cashew sector across the country, DC Lwota said the district authority is very determined to ensure mass production of the crop.

"Among others, the guidelines we're launching today are expected to play meaningful role in solving the challenge of farm cleaning and preparation and access to extension services by farmers," she said.

Speaking on his part, the Director General (DG) of the Cashew Board of Tanzania, Francis Alfred hailed the Manyoni district authority for fully managing the investment of cashew farms, unveiled that during last year's marketing season most of the customers praised the Manyoni cashew nuts for having good quality, especially in terms of sweetness.

The DG detailed that CBT has built an office and placed cashew experts in the district as part of concerted efforts to help improve production and productivity in the cultivation of the vital economic cash crop in the popular district within Central zone.



Cashew Board of Tanzania director general Francis Alfred

"So far, we have provided our experts in Manyoni with all necessary working tools, including motorcycles to ensure they manage to reach many plantations to provide the farmers with the much-needed extension services, especially to impart them (farmers) with recommended agronomic practices," he expressed.

He said the development has so far played impressive role through enabling the agriculture extension officers to easily reach out and serve a number of the in Manyoni, Itigi and Ikungi.

However, he challenged the cashew farmers who are cultivating outside the district to register themselves in a special developed 'cashew farmers registration sys-

tem' so that they can stand chances to receive necessary support from the board and the ministry of agriculture.

"Through the system, all cashew farmers in Tanzania are providing their key farming information, including their farming acreage, and phone number," he said, added that more than 100,000 cashew farmers were already registered.

Currently, cashew is produced within more than 12 regions, and records show that the sector continues to attracting a number of the farmers.

However, the export markets for the Tanzania cashew is expanding at an impressive percentage and satisfying prices, according to statistics from the crop board.

For instance, in Ivory Coast, the opening ceremony of the cashew sales season took place on February 27, 2023 and the indicative price of raw cashews is between US\$1,280 to US\$1,300 per ton.

Moreover, in Ghana, the new season has already started and the price of raw cashews from Tanzania is estimated to be US\$1,300 per ton for cashews with a quality of "50-51 lbs" and the price of US\$1,325 for a ton of cashews with a quality of "52 lbs" for the Indian market.

Tanzania is one of the largest cashew producers in Africa, with exports providing between 10 and 15 percent of the country's foreign exchange.

Zambia, Tanzania to resolve Dar corridor challenges

LUSAKA

The Governments of Zambia and Tanzania have signed a communiqué to resolve challenges in the Dar-Es-Salaam Corridor to ensure the seamless flow of traffic and reduced cost of trade between Kapiri-Mposhi and Dar-Es-Salaam.

The communiqué was signed on Thursday evening during a two-day Bilateral Road Transport Meeting between the ministries of transport from the two countries held at Ukinga Hotel in Tunduma in Tanzania.

The Road Transport Bilateral Meeting was convened to review and resolve the challenges transporters are facing along the Dar-Es-Salaam Corridor, following a joint technical committee report that had input from the assessment of the transport route from Kapiri-Mposhi to Dar-es-Salaam.

Ministry of Transport and Logistics Permanent Secretary Frederick Mwalusaka (pictured) signed the communiqué on behalf of the Zambian Government while Tanzania's Ministry of Works and Transport Permanent Secretary Gabriel Migire signed on behalf of his country.

The Ministry of Information and Media Kennedy Kalunga also attended the transport bilateral meeting and witnessed the signing of the communiqué, noting that the outcome of the meeting will create a common under-



Frederick Mwalusaka

standing between the two sister countries to enhance the flow of goods and services that pass through the Nakonde/Tunduma One Stop Border Post.

In the communiqué, Zambian and Tanzanian authorities re-affirmed their commitment to implement the decisions agreed upon during the similar meetings held in Lusaka in September 2022 and June 2023 in Tunduma, Tanzania.

The communiqué stipu-

lates that Zambia and Tanzania constitute a Technical Working Group to oversee all the harmonisation related to issues impeding on the smooth flow of traffic along the Dar-Es-Salaam Corridor and in particular the harmonisation of charges along the corridor.

Both Governments also reaffirmed their commitment to addressing all transport infrastructure challenges in order to mitigate congestion

difficulties at Nakonde-Tunduma One Stop Border Post (OSBP) and along the Corridor.

"To this effect, Zambia is currently implementing the Chinsali-Nakonde Rehabilitation Project while Tanzania is also upgrading Tunduma-Igawa Road into the dual carriageway," the communiqué reads in part.

The communiqué also urges the Clearing and Forwarding Agents operating on both sides of the One Stop Border Post

(OSBP) to start pre-clearing their consignments as a measure to long periods of waiting, an effort aimed at reducing congestion at Nakonde-Tunduma Border.

"This is also in line with the aspirations of President Hakainde Hichilema to create a Non-Stop Border Post system.

Further, the two Government Revenue Authorities were directed to extend the implementation of the Electronic Cargo Tracking System from Nakonde/

Tunduma OSBP to Kumbalesa Border Post to promote a seamless flow of traffic and enhance security.

Other commitments contained in the communiqué include enhanced enforcement of road traffic safety regulations and weigh-bridge regulations to bring about sanity in the sector, while the private sector was encouraged to uphold best business practices to promote cross-border trade along the Corridor.



Citigroup drops FX strategy team, cuts analysts

NEW YORK

Citigroup Inc. has dismantled its global team that provides commentary and analysis on foreign-exchange markets, according to people familiar with the matter.

All jobs within the CitiFX global FX strategy team are affected, although some people may continue to work with Citi in other capacities, according to a person who asked not to be identified discussing personnel matters. Employees in London and New York are leaving the firm.

Citigroup made the change because other parts of the bank, such as its research division, are offering similar services, according to a person with knowledge of the plans.

Separately, Citigroup has also dismantled its Latin America corporate bond trading team as liquidity tightens and issuance dries up, Bloomberg News reported earlier Thursday.

Those leaving or expected to leave Citigroup include Ebrahim Rahbari, global head of FX analysis and content; Benjamin Randol, lead North America macro FX strategist; and Giammarco Miani, according to people familiar with the matter.

Vasileios Gkionakis, head of European FX strategy, hasn't formally left, but is in a consultation process, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Thomas Fitzpatrick, global head of CitiFX Technicals at the bank's FX Strategy arm, also exited the firm last week, Bloomberg reported.

A spokesperson for New York-based Citigroup declined to comment. Gkionakis wasn't available for comment. Randol, Miani and Rahbari didn't immediately respond to requests for comment sent via LinkedIn.

The Latin America move affected traders including Christopher Castelli, Albert Chang, Nabilah Kamal and desk strategist Miguel Garcia de Onrubia – all of whom were based in New York, said the people, who requested anonymity because they're not authorized to speak about it.

A Citigroup representative declined to comment on the Latin America decision. The traders and analyst didn't respond to messages seeking comment. Some of those affected are interviewing for other positions at the bank, while others have departed, the people said.

Citigroup began cutting hundreds of jobs across the company, with the Wall Street giant's investment banking division among those affected, Bloomberg reported in early March. The cuts amount to less than 1 percent of Citigroup's 240,000-person workforce, people familiar with the matter said at the time.

Staffers across the firm's operations and technology organization and US mortgage-underwriting arm were also among those being affected, with the routine cuts part of Citigroup's normal business planning, the people said. There's been no broad mandate for managers to cut staffers; instead, various divisions have been grappling with different reasons for the cuts.

TBL Group's quarterly gross profit hits 100bn/- mark

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) Group quarterly gross profit hit 100bn/- mark, after reaching 102.6bn/- during the first quarter of this year, compared with 93.4bn/- recorded during similar quarter of last year.

Unaudited quarterly financial statement shows the revenue increased to 262.7bn/- compared with 247.5bn/- respectively, while costs of sale went up to 160bn/- from 154bn/-, driven by strong performance in the core and core plus segment of the business.

However, profit before tax slowed to 48.4bn/- during the first quarter of this year, from 53.7bn/- recorded during Q1, 2022 due to increase in administrative expenses, selling and distribution costs, amid slowing other expenses.

"Operating profit declined by 10 percent contributed by increase in distribution costs due to increase in price of fuel and anticipated pressure on commodity prices and difference in timing of certain items of expenditure in the corresponding period prior year," said Jose D. Moran the group's managing director.

Selling and distribution costs went up to 38bn/- compared with 25.4bn/-, mainly by beer subsidiary, while administrative expenses slightly increased to 16.2bn/- compared with 14.5bn/- respectively.

Moran explained that operating margin decreased by 3.3 percent to 18.4 percent compared to 21.7 percent in the same period last year.

Profit after tax for the quarter de-



creased by 7 percent compared to prior year impacted by escalation of costs in the quarter, he said.

According to him, a total of 17,757mn/- was invested in capital expenditure over the period compared to 8,624mn/- in 2022 with a focus on capacity to support volume growth.

Cash generated from operations was 6,848mn/-, together with prior quarter balances, 21,508mn/- was utilized to pay corporate income tax, 17,757mn/- to pay for capi-

tal expenditure the remaining funds were retained for future activities.

"I would like to thank the Board, management and employees for their engagement and commitment in delivering the results and most importantly our customers, consumers and partners for their continued support and trust in our brands," he added.

Total assets of the largest listed company at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) with the market capitalization of 3.2trn/- increased to 1.127trn/- compared with

1.122trn/- respectively, due to increase or current assets, amid decreased non-current assets.

Current assets went up to 627bn/- during the first quarter of this year, compared with 618bn/- recorded during similar period last year due to increased inventories as well as trade and other receivables.

Inventories gained to 146.4bn/- compared with 115.5bn/-, while trade and other receivables went up to 112.7bn/- compared with 103.5bn/- respectively.

SA current-account deficit narrows more than expected

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's current-account shortfall narrowed more than expected in the first quarter, as the value of gold and merchandise exports increased.

The deficit in the current account, the broadest measure of trade in goods and services, shrank to an annualised 1 percent of gross domestic product, or R66.2-billion, from a revised 2.3 percent of GDP in the prior quarter, the South African Reserve Bank said in a statement.

The median estimate of 12 economists in a Bloomberg survey was for a gap of 2.8 percent of GDP.

South Africa has now posted a current-account gap for a fourth straight quarter. The central bank in May revised its estimates upwards for a current-account shortfall of 2.5 percent of GDP in 2023 and 3.1 percent next year.

The better-than-expected deficit was largely driven by the widening of the annualized trade surplus to R103.2-billion from R34.2-billion in the fourth quarter,

the central bank data show.

The value of gold exports increased to a nine-quarter high and goods and services to a record, according to its data.

A smaller shortfall on the services, income and current transfer account also contributed to the overall deficit narrowing.

It shrank to 169.4 billion rand, from 189.5 billion rand in the fourth quarter, the central bank said.

The data may support the rand, which has remained volatile because of record

power outages and angst over South Africa's relations with Russia.

Last month, Africa's most industrialised nation was accused by the US of trading arms with the sanctioned country, allegations it has denied.

A gap on the current account and a consolidated budget shortfall – the Treasury sees the latter at 4 percent of GDP for the current fiscal year – are key risks for South Africa because it makes the country vulnerable to external shocks.

Kenya's rich get richer as gap with the poor widens

NAIROBI

The gap between Kenya's richest and poorest widened after a dip during the peak of the coronavirus pandemic, with the wealthiest taking home a record share of the nation's income.

Income inequality rose to 38.9 percent in 2021, from 35.8 percent a year earlier, according to the Kenya Nation Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) data made public on Thursday.

This is measured by the Gini coefficient, which varies from 0 percent in cases of perfect equality to 100 percent in the most unequal distribution.

Inequality dropped during the pandemic as high earners suffered bigger percentage drops in earnings, while the poorest benefited from a temporary increase in benefits which was withdrawn in early 2021.

The KNBS data expose the extent to which wealth distribution is skewed in favour of a tiny clique, with Nairobi having the widest income inequality among Kenya's devolved units.

A Gini coefficient mark of 40 percent is viewed by analysts as the point at which social dissatisfaction may come to a head.



satisfaction may come to a head.

"Overall, the poorest quintile accounts for 7.4 percent of total consumption while the richest quintile accounts for 42.2 percent of consumption implying significant disparities in welfare," said KNBS in a report that also showed that the number of poor Kenyans reduced by over a million.

The earnings inequality has partly been attributed to the previous centralised system of government, which guided sharing of resources since Inde-

pendence.

The devolved system of government, which took off in 2013, raised hopes of addressing the economic imbalance, as analysts say there is a need to offer incentives to attract private investors to counties and spread the wealth.

Modest economic activity in the past three years has entrenched income inequality, with fewer jobs and stagnant pay hurting the middle-class most.

While the size of the country's economy has been growing, the wealth is concentrated in the

hands of a small segment of the population.

The gulf between the rich and poor based on the Gini coefficient widened from 39.1 percent in 2016 to 40.7 percent in 2019.

In 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic ravaged Kenya's economy the most, the inequality eased with a measure of 35.8 percent.

Covid-19 has unleashed an economic storm that hit the poor and vulnerable hardest, prompting the World Bank to warn that more than 100 million people were pushed into extreme poverty by

the pandemic.

It could take more than a decade to reduce the number of people living in poverty back to pre-crisis levels, said development NGO Oxfam International.

The trend of the widening wealth gap between the rich and the poor during and after the pandemic was global.

Billionaires, including Amazon's Jeff Bezos and Tesla founder Elon Musk, have seen their wealth soar during and after the pandemic while the world's poor faced years of hardship.

This prompted charity Oxfam to demand steps to tackle inequality. In Kenya, President William Ruto won a hotly contested election last August on a platform of planning to lift millions out of poverty, but he is facing challenges from the high cost of living and growing debt repayments.

The poverty report, which was released on Thursday, shows that a fifth of the country's rich population accounted for over 40 percent of the country's total spending.

Interestingly, Kenya's richest county, Nairobi, and the poorest, Turkana, according to official data, have the highest and second highest inequality respectively.

Inequality levels in the two counties are higher than the national rate.

Nairobi, Kenya's capital city and commercial hub, had the widest gap between the rich and the poor with a Gini coefficient of 40.9 percent—breaching the red line for social upheaval.

Turkana had 39.9 percent, Nandi 36.8 percent, Kitui 35.7 percent, Machakos 35.3 percent, and Meru 35.1 percent.

The least unequal county is Vihiya with a Gini coefficient of 21.1 percent, followed by Makueni (22.6 percent), Bomet (23 percent), Busia (23.7 percent), and Nyandarua (23.8 percent).

The number of dollar multimillionaires in Kenya more than doubled in the decade to 2022 after individuals with a net worth of Sh620 million (\$5 million) and above rose to 1,890 in a decade.

This was contained in a report by Oxfam, Patriotic Millionaires, the Institute for Policy Studies and Fight Inequality Alliance, which draws its data from Forbes and Wealth X.

Of the 1,890 individuals, 130 have a net worth of over Sh6.2 billion (\$50 million) and a combined wealth of Sh2.3 trillion (\$18.7 billion).



China's factory deflation steepens as demand wanes

BEIJING

China's factory gate prices fell at the fastest pace in seven years in May and quicker than forecasts, as faltering demand weighed on a slowing manufacturing sector and cast a cloud over the fragile economic recovery.

As rising interest rates and inflation squeeze demand in the United States and Europe, China is in contrast battling a sharp decline in prices with factories receiving less for their products from key overseas markets.

The producer price index (PPI) for May fell for an eighth consecutive month, down 4.6%, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Friday.

That was the fastest decline since February 2016 and bigger than the 4.3 percent fall in a Reuters poll.

"The risk of deflation is still weighing on the economy," said Zhiwei Zhang, chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management, in a note. "Recent economic indicators send consistent signals that the economy is cooling," he added.

China's economy grew faster than expected in the first quarter, but recent indicators show demand is rapidly weakening with exports, imports and factory activity falling in May.

The consumer price index (CPI) rose 0.2 percent year-on-year, speeding up from a 0.1 percent rise in April but, missing a forecast for a 0.3 percent increase.

Food price inflation, a key driver of CPI, slowed to 1.0 percent year-on-year from 2.4 percent in the previous month. On a month-on-month basis, food prices fell 0.7 percent.

The Australia dollar eased 0.2 percent to \$0.6704, tracking a fall in the Chinese currency yuan after the inflation data.

The government has set a target for average consumer prices in 2023 to be about 3%. Prices rose 2% year-on-year in 2022.

"We still think a tightening labour market will put some upward pressure on inflation later this year, but it will remain well within policymakers' comfort zone," said Julian Evans-Pritchard, head of China economics at Capital Economics in a note.

"The government's ceiling of 'around 3.0%' for the headline rate is unlikely to be tested and we doubt inflation will become a barrier to increased policy support," he added.

Policy makers have repeatedly signalled their intention to lean on China's 1.4 billion consumers, after the economy last year reported one of its slowest paces of growth in nearly half a century.

"So far, monetary policy and fiscal policy have remained tight, along with lower income growth, so domestic demand is depressed," said Dan Wang, chief economist at Hang Seng Bank China.

Some economists expect the People's Bank of China (PBOC) to cut rates or release more liquidity into the financial system. The bank cut lenders' reserve requirements ratio in March.

China's biggest banks on Thursday said they had lowered interest rates on deposits, providing some relief for the financial sector and wider economy by easing pressure on profit margins and reducing lending costs.

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WORLD

Trump faces federal charges in classified documents case

WASHINGTON

FORMER US President Donald Trump faces a new legal challenge - this time from the government he used to lead - with charges for illegally retaining classified documents and other crimes expected to be filed next week in federal court in Miami.

The indictment of a former US president on federal charges is unprecedented in American history, a case made more extraordinary by the fact that Trump is also the front-runner of his party for the Republican presidential nomination next year.

Trump faces seven criminal counts related to his treatment of sensitive government materials he took with him when he left the White House in January

2021, according to a source familiar with the matter.

Investigators seized roughly 13,000 documents from Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, nearly a year ago. One hundred were marked as classified, even though one of Trump's lawyers had previously said all records with classified markings had been returned to the government.

Trump has previously said he declassified those documents while president, but his attorneys have declined to make that argument in court filings.

"I AM AN INNOCENT MAN!" Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform on Thursday, after he announced that he had been indicted.

Trump lawyer Jim Trusty told CNN those charges include conspiracy, false



Former US President Donald Trump watches from a box on the 18th green during day one of the LIV Golf Invitational - DC at Trump National Golf Club on May 26, 2023 in Sterling, Virginia. (PHOTO / AFP)

statements, obstruction of justice, and illegally retaining classified documents under the Espionage Act. He said he expects to see the charging document by Tuesday, when Trump is due in court.

Trump is the first current or former president to face criminal charges.

It is the second criminal case for Trump, currently the leading candidate for the Republican nomination for the 2024 presidential election. He is due to go on trial in New York next March in a state case stemming from a hush-money payment to a porn star.

Popular with republicans
Trump's legal woes have not

dened his popularity with Republican voters, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling. His main rivals have so far lined up behind him to criticize the case as politically motivated.

Trump served as president from 2017 to 2021, and he has shown an uncanny ability to weather controversies that might torpedo other politicians. He describes himself as the victim of a witch hunt and accuses the Justice Department of partisan bias.

Special Counsel Jack Smith, who is heading the investigation, is also leading a second criminal probe into efforts by Trump and his allies to overturn his 2020 election loss to President Joe Biden, a Demo-

crat.

He has been given a degree of independence from Justice Department leadership to pursue the politically sensitive cases.

Trump also faces a separate criminal probe in Georgia related to efforts to overturn his loss to Biden in that state.

Smith convened grand juries in both Washington and Miami to hear evidence, but has opted to bring the case in the politically competitive state of Florida, rather than the US capital, where any jury would likely be heavily Democratic.

Legal experts say that could head off a drawn-out legal challenge from Trump's team over the proper venue.

Trump is not the only top government official to draw scrutiny for retaining classified documents.

Attorneys for Biden and for Trump's then-vice president, Mike Pence, have said the Justice Department is also looking into their handling of sensitive papers they retained after leaving office.

Biden's documents dated back to his tenure in the US Senate and as vice president. The Justice Department last week closed its investigation into Pence without filing any charges.

Study reveals how immune system trip wire that detects COVID-19

CALIFORNIA

INFLAMMASOMES are part of a complex network of molecular sensors that our bodies utilise to detect infection. However, immunologists have been intrigued by the processes behind these sensors, which activate responses to dangers such as invading infections.

University of California San Diego researchers disclose a previously undiscovered manner that the immune system recognises some viruses in a new study. CARD8, an inflammasome immune protein, they discovered, may act as a trip wire to identify a variety of viruses, including SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19.

Researchers led by Matt Daugherty of the School of Biological Sciences and colleagues from the University of Washington and UC Berkeley discovered that CARD8 acts differently between animals and even amongst people in the human population.

The findings, which came from a series of tests involving human cell lines and an examination of CARD8 genetic diversity in mammalian species, were published in the journal PLOS Biology.

"In a version of CARD8, we found that some humans have lost the ability to sense coronavirus infections based on a single genetic difference but have gained the ability to sense viruses in a different family, the enteroviruses—which includes rhinovirus (common cold) and poliovirus," said Daugherty, an associate professor in the Department of Molecular Biology. "So that means it's an evolutionary tradeoff and CARD8 diversity in humans impacts which viruses can be sensed and which ones cannot."

The research team found that the bat version of CARD8 is not able to sense coronaviruses. This could explain how coronaviruses are able to infect bats so easily and become a virus "reservoir."

The findings provide evidence that CARD8 has evolved substantially across different species of mammals and individual humans. According to the authors, "Our findings establish CARD8 as a rapidly evolving, polymorphic, innate immune sensor of positive-sense RNA viruses."

Daugherty said researchers have only found the tip of the iceberg in terms of the way immune sensors sound the alarm about pathogens and infection.

"It's amazing to see this evolutionary balance of one virus to another going from sensing to not sensing—it's mind-blowing," said Daugherty.

More studies are needed to thoroughly determine CARD8's role in the severity of COVID-19 infections and long COVID symptoms.

"It is tempting to speculate that diminished CARD8 inflammasome activation may be a contributing factor to variation in COVID-19 disease outcomes, and more generally for other human pathogenic coronavirus and picornavirus infections," the authors note. **ANI**

US, UK back new 'Atlantic Declaration' for economic ties

WASHINGTON/LONDON

BRITAIN and the United States backed a new "Atlantic Declaration" on Thursday for greater cooperation on pressing economic challenges in areas like clean energy, critical minerals and artificial intelligence.

The joint declaration described the partnership as the "first of its kind" in covering the broad spectrum of the two countries' economic, technological, commercial and trade relations.

Under the plan, Britain and the United States will strengthen their supply chains, develop technologies of the future and invest in one another's industries, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's office said.

Sunak and US President Joe Biden also agreed to launch a new civil nuclear partnership as part of their clean energy cooperation, which will include setting up new infrastructure over the long term and cutting reliance on Russian fuel.

The two countries also agreed to work together on ensuring the safe development of AI technology, starting with Britain hosting a global summit later this year.

The United States was looking to Britain to help lead a common approach on AI safety and regulation, Biden said at a joint news conference with Sunak in Washington.

The two nations will also begin negotiations on a critical minerals agreement, which would allow some UK firms to access tax credits available under the US Inflation Reduction Act.

The minerals, such as lithium, nickel, cobalt, graphite and manganese, are critical for batteries for electric cars, smartphones and solar panels.

Britain and the United States will also co-operate on telecoms technology including 5G and 6G and quantum technologies, the Atlantic Declaration said. **Agencies**

Dollar decline driven by US weaponisation

MANY insiders believe that de-dollarization has emerged as a financial trend in the past one or two years, manifesting itself as a concerted effort by an increasing number of countries to diminish the prominence of the US dollar in international trade, and the desire by a clear majority of central banks around the world that gold should become a more prominent reserve asset in place of the dollar.

One of the driving forces of this trend, they say, is the US' weaponization of the currency.

Sourabh Gupta, senior fellow at the Institute for China-America Studies in Washington, said the centrality of the dollar's role in the global financial system has been gradually shrinking in the past 10 to 15 years.

"But this year that debate has been given added impetus by the sanctions imposed by the United States against Russia," Gupta said. "Many major countries and emerging markets are questioning the outsized role of the dollar in the international financial system."

A newly released report by the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, a US think tank focusing on foreign policy, described de-dollarization as "an unstoppable trend".

"A major driver is Washington's weaponization of its currency via sanctions, covering 29 percent of the global economy," it said.

In another commentary published last month in the online magazine Responsible Statecraft, Frank Giustra, co-chair of the nonprofit Crisis Group headquartered in Brussels, said the idea that the dollar could lose its dominance had been unthinkable in most of the developed world until



A Pakistani money trader shows US dollar banknotes at a currency exchange office, in Lahore, Pakistan, Jan 28, 2023. AP

the US and its allies froze Russia's currency reserves and shut it out from the SWIFT system, after the Russia-Ukraine conflict broke out in February last year.

"Financial systems are built on trust, and if they are weaponized they lose the trust necessary to retain their dominance," he wrote.

Even US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen acknowledged that the sanctions could cause or exacerbate the de-dollarization trend. In an April interview, she said "there is a risk when we use financial sanctions that are linked to the role of the dollar that over time it could undermine the hegemony of the dollar".

The dollar remains a powerful currency in international markets in terms of usage or reserve, Gupta said, and it will stay like that for a long period.

"So, the idea is not to eliminate or significantly reduce the role of the dollar, because that is a very long-term process. But the process of shrinking the salience, the footprint of the dollar, is an ongoing one, and it has been supercharged this year, or in the last

two years, by US' weaponization of its currency."

The US has been weaponizing the dollar since the mid-2000s by using it "as a tool of leverage to punish opponents", targeting small countries at first and now confronting a state as huge as Russia, a move that "has given a real fright and anxiety to a lot of countries in terms of what the US could potentially do", Gupta said.

Countries took fright as to what could happen because the US could use such leverage against them, and coerce them into changing their foreign policies, not just their financial or economic policies, he said.

"They are worried because almost every country maintains a fairly significant amount of its hard currency reserves in dollars at the Federal Reserve Bank... and if these dollars are suddenly not obtainable, their assets are frozen. It has significant implications in terms of financial, monetary and economic management.

"The countries are trying to diversify out of the dollar because the US has not been a responsible

stakeholder in managing the dollar to the benefit of all as a public good. And this is why there is fright, anxiety and a need to diversify out of the dollar."

Compared with two strategic waves of de-dollarization in history - the anti-Bretton Woods movement in the 1960s led by France and the birth of the euro in 1999, which sought to reduce the influence of the dollar in Europe - this round is more by initiative from a political perspective, with the primary driver being defense against US blackmail, Gupta said.

Other factors such as hyperinflation and debt ceiling negotiations also impact currency diversification and de-dollarization, because they provide added fright to foreigners that the value of their dollars in the Fed might "depreciate and crater", he said.

"If the US is seen as irresponsibly managing its economy, it will necessarily impact the value of its currency," he said. "There will be that effect of trying to move away from holding assets in dollars."

Underlying factors

In a recent interview on the podcast The Jay Martin Show, Lyn Alden, a macroeconomist, investment strategist and the founder of Lyn Alden Investment Strategy in New Jersey, named two big underlying factors kicking the de-dollarization trend into high gear. One is that "other countries have lost trust in US government bonds"; another is the fear that the US government may seize their reserves at any point.

"Other countries know that the status of their dollar reserves is at the mercy of a few politicians in Washington," she said.

Gupta said countries are now realizing there are complications

with placing so much faith in the dollar.

"And that's why, in this regard, the renminbi's rise is very welcome."

There is no need to exaggerate the RMB's role or how quickly it can become the world's central currency, he added.

"I think it still has at least one or two more decades to go", and it will require China to open up its financial markets and liberalize its capital account, he said.

Describing "an ideal international financial system", Gupta said: "So, perhaps an ideal balance would be about two or three competitive and stable currencies in the international system, and we may be getting to that point, maybe in one decade, or probably two decades, where we might have the US dollar still having a very significant role, but with the RMB also playing a much more important role, as the euro, hopefully, also keeps growing in terms of its role as an international currency."

Digital currency has "enormous importance" in the global currency system and de-dollarization process, he said, adding digital currencies will essentially create an alternative architecture that is no longer in the existing US-centered financial clearing, plumbing and correspondent bank network which underpins the dollar's strength.

"And that is the area which is gaining great importance, especially with US' weaponization of the dollar, because the way that the Treasury Department enacts sanctions is via that plumbing network, over which it has jurisdiction."

Agencies

CHINA is one of the countries that see the largest desertification areas with the largest population affected, and the most severe wind-sand hazards in the world.

It has made remarkable achievements in its combat against desertification, which comprises millions of touching stories of the Chinese people.

According to the results of the sixth national monitoring survey on desertification released at the end of 2022, China's desertification and sandification areas had been on a decline for four consecutive monitoring periods, and for the first time, all provinces surveyed reported desertification and sandification reversals. This indicates that China has successfully curbed the expansion of desertification.

Desertification is a major ecological is-

China writes new chapters of desertification control

sue facing the world and remains one of the most pressing environmental problems.

For a long time, China has taken the prevention and control of desertification as an important strategic task and adopted a series of effective measures to tackle the problem.

It follows a philosophy that "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets," carries out holistic conservation and systematic governance of mountains, rivers, forests, farmlands, lakes, grasslands and deserts, and strengthens ecological and environmental protection in all fields, regions, and processes.

As a result, the country has achieved remarkable progress in combating de-

sertification and sandification, blazing a new trial of prevention and control with Chinese characteristics. It has realized a historic transformation from "sand forcing humans to retreat" to "trees forcing sand to retreat," and built a virtuous circle of environmental protection and livelihood improvement.

China, though achieving phased results, is still in a critical period of desertification control from a long-term perspective.

Land desertification is caused by both humans and nature. To restore harmony between men and nature on degraded lands, more science-based guidance shall be provided for desertification control.

To optimize its control plans with dynamic changes in desertification, China launches a nationwide monitoring survey on desertification every five years, and a new annual dynamic monitoring activity in 2021.

So far, the country is working to implement projects including afforestation, desertification control, returning farmland to forest and grass, and tea-oil camellias planting. Last year, relevant departments for the first time reported afforestation plans with specific location information and assigned targeted afforestation tasks.

Desertification control is a long-term and arduous task that calls for efforts of the whole society and the wide partici-

pation of the people in control areas.

From Saihanba of Hebei province to Youyu county in Shanxi province, from Kubuqi Desert in Inner Mongolia autonomous region to Kekeya in Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, the people in these places have made ceaseless efforts to fight desertification in the past decades.

Their motivation came from the spirit of resilience and perseverance, and help them find ways to shake off poverty while combating desertification.

According to statistics, 48 million tons of dried and fresh fruits are produced in China's desert areas each year, accounting for about a quarter of China's total production with a total annual output

value of 120 billion yuan (\$16.81 billion). These products have helped approximately 15 million people get rid of poverty. In key areas, over half of farmers' net income is from the fruit business.

Synergetic promotion of economy and ecology under moderate utilization can mobilize people to widely join desertification control, advance large-scale land greening action, and build a strong ecological barrier.

Thanks to its constant efforts, China has taken the lead in the world to realize zero net land degradation. The country will work to consolidate its achievements, implement conservation measures, offer more scientific and technological support, and mobilize more social participation, so as to write new chapters of desertification control.

People's Daily

Rwandans angered by UN court's unfit-for-trial ruling on genocide suspect

KIGALI

RWANDANS have expressed dissatisfaction over a ruling of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) in The Hague which said Felicien Kabuga, a Rwandan genocide suspect, is unfit to stand trial.

The trial of the 88-year-old suspect opened in September last year, following his arrest in France in 2020. Judges on Wednesday ruled that based on a report of three court-appointed medical experts, "Mr. Felicien Kabuga is unfit to participate meaningfully in his trial and is very unlikely to regain fitness in the future."

Tom Ndahiro, a Rwandan scholar on the study of genocide said the court "fell for Kabuga's tactics to evade justice." "I think Kabuga is playing usual games; he evaded justice for many years.

After being arrested, this is the only tactic he can now use to evade justice," Ndahiro said. "Since he can hide for years without being arrested, how can he fail to participate in a court



Felicien Kabuga

proceeding?"

The medical experts noted that Kabuga's cognitive and physical functions have progressively and significantly deteriorated since the pre-trial stage due to "severe dementia."

The judges agreed with the experts that participation in a complex pro-

ceeding, such as the present trial, requires, at a minimum, a functioning memory, including the ability to retain information over a period of time, as well as the ability to process and express a view about that information.

Janvier Bayingana, commissioner of justice of IBUKA, an umbrella orga-

nization for genocide survivor associations in Rwanda, said survivors are not satisfied with the court's decision.

"With the court's decision, as survivors, we are not happy because justice was half rendered. During the opening of the trial, Kabuga pleaded guilty to the charges... this shows that he has the capacity to understand the charges, he also has defense lawyers. The court should have continued with his trial to its conclusion," Bayingana said.

He said IBUKA's wish is that courts expedite the trial of genocide cases in view of the fact that some suspects are in advanced ages.

The Rwandan genocide occurred in 1994 when about one million people were killed, most of whom were from the Tutsi community and moderate Hutus.

The IRMCT said it would "adopt an alternative finding procedure that resembles a trial as closely as possible, but without the possibility of a conviction."

This was important to victims, survivors, and the international community to see the genocide crimes against Kabuga still addressed in court, according to the judges.

Kabuga, who was arrested in Paris in May 2020 after 26 years of hiding, would not be required to attend the alternative legal process.

He was charged with genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, persecution on political grounds, extermination, and murder as crimes against humanity, committed in Rwanda in 1994.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges. Kabuga was indicted by the Tanzania-based International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in August 1998, and an international arrest warrant was issued for him the next year.

Clementine Turayisenga, a resident living in the capital Kigali whose family members were killed in the genocide, said she was "disturbed by the court's ruling." "We all know the central role Kabuga played in provoking hatred of Tutsis and dehumanizing innocent people, which paved the way for genocide," she said.

Xinhua

US-India bilateral trade plays key role in addressing shared challenges in global economy -Ambassador

NEW DELHI

THE US-India trade relationship is crucial and bilateral trade plays a key role in addressing shared challenges in the global economy, US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti said here on Friday.

"The #USIndiaTrade relationship is crucial, and bilateral trade plays a key role in addressing shared challenges in the global economy. I look forward to focusing on strengthening trade ties & advancing our economic relationship," the US Ambassador tweeted on Friday. Garc-

etti on Thursday met Union Minister of Consumer Affairs Piyush Goyal and the two discussed ways to enhance collaboration across various sectors to give a further push to the growing India-US strategic partnership.

"Delighted to meet US Ambassador Eric Garcetti today. Discussed ways to enhance collaboration across various sectors to give further impetus to our growing strategic partnership," Goyal tweeted on Thursday.

Recently, the US Mission in India held its 7th Annual Student Visa Day



countrywide with consular officers interviewing Indian Student Visa applications.

While speaking at the US Embassy, Garcetti said that more Indians through the United States as students than from any other country.

"It was so inspiring to see the work of this mission and to feel the strength of the United States and India relationship.

More Indians come to the United States as students than students from any other country. Last year, India became number 1 and I don't see that changing ahead in the future. I see that relationship at the very top of

how we articulate our values of welcoming not just Americans to higher education but to opening that door to people worldwide," the envoy said.

"One out of every 5 US students visa was issued here in India in 2022. One out of five in the world which is more than the proportion of the Indian population in the world.

So, Indians have not only pursued an education in the United States but for decades have shown their excellence in the United States and we are on track to process the highest number of

visa applications in our history," he added.

Earlier, Garcetti said he will prioritize working with India to build green energy solutions.

"As Ambassador, I will prioritize working with India to build green energy solutions and will support our growing bilateral effort to ensure a successful green energy transition," Garcetti said at the "Conversations on US & India: Actions for Clean Air and Better Health" event at the India International Centre.

ANI

North Ossetia - one small region in the big family of brotherly nations

By Andrey Avetisyan

ON the 12th of June we celebrate Russia Day - the National Day of the Russian Federation. Last year I wrote about Moscow - the Russian capital. I believe it can be of interest to Tanzanians to know more about my country which is a federation of 89 subjects or regions - a unique common home for 160 different nationalities, each with its own rich history, language and culture. Followers of all traditional world religions have been living here in peace for centuries.

Today I'm happy to present to you a very special place for me, the place I come from, which is the Republic of North Ossetia - Alania. Being one of the smallest Russian regions North Ossetia is a pearl lying on the northern slopes of the central Caucasus between two of the highest mountain peaks in Europe, Elbrus and Kazbek.

Here in Tanzania when I see Kilimanjaro or drive up to Lushoto and walk around villages in the Usambara Mountains, pictures of the far away homeland come to my mind.

With this first little glance at North Ossetia I would like you to become interested in visiting this fantastic place and see its beauties with your own eyes and meet its kind and hospitable people who will welcome you with their sparkling dances and songs about ancient heroes, with famous Ossetian pies and dark homemade beer made with recipes handed down by their revered ancestors.

North Ossetia with the territory of 8000 square kilometres (0.05% of the territory of the Russian Federation) and the population of around 700000 people is one of the most populated regions of Russia.

The outputs of industry and agriculture are of approximately equal value. The region is very rich in natural resources. Copper, lead, zinc, gold, silver etc. are mined and processed. The main industries, concentrated in the capital city of Vladikavkaz, are metallurgy, wood processing, textiles, food processing.

The main crops are corn, wheat, potatoes and fruit. Cattle-breeding farms produce high quality meat and milk. Mineral water springs of North Ossetia are famous for their taste and healing effect.

Since before recorded history, North Ossetia-Alania has been the crossroad of main Caucasus routes and a bridge between Transcaucasus and Europe. Due to its strategic geographical position, North Ossetia-Alania has always been the subject of dispute for all the great empires.

The Great Silk Route, which bound all



civilized mankind from China to the Atlantic coast at the beginning of our time, passed through the Alan kingdom, from which Ossetia inherited its ethnic and cultural traditions. During the times of II-I millennia BC one of the oldest cultures of the world - the Coban culture, transient from the Bronze to the Early Iron Age, was formed in the territory of modern Ossetia. "The Narts" cultural literature, known worldwide, is a witness to the culture and ways of life, social and economic structure, traditions, habits and religious beliefs of the Ossetians for thousands of years.

In 372, the nomadic tribes of the Huns invaded Europe from Central Asia. This invasion was the reason of migration of the Alans to the most inaccessible mountain areas on both slopes of the Greater Caucasus mountain range. In the 6th-7th centuries, Alania was again a relatively powerful state with a dense network of well-fortified settlements, developed agriculture, trade and crafts. At the beginning of the 10th century Christianity became the state religion in Alania.

In the 12th century, Alania experienced the feudal period and was divided into principalities fighting against each other. They were unable to unite against the Mongols who invaded the region in the 13th century. The Mongols ravaged the plain part of the country, but the resistance continued in the mountain areas.

The final blow in a series of tragic events of the 13th-14th centuries was the invasion of the troops of Tamerlane in 1395. Almost all of the Alans were killed, the state of the Alans collapsed. The survivors took refuge in the mountains where they mingled with the local population of other



language group and later became known as the Ossetians.

In the 15th-17th centuries, the Ossetians fought for survival in extremely cramped conditions of the mountains (the plain was occupied by Adygeyan tribes). In the 18th century, the Ossetians were in need for resettlement on the plains because of the extreme shortage of land. Ossetia was also important for Russia, as the region that controlled the strategic passes in the Caucasus.

In 1774, the territory of North Ossetia was among the first regions in the North Caucasus, which joined the Russian Empire. Vladikavkaz, the capital city of North Ossetia, was founded in 1784 during the reign of Catherine the Great on the right bank of the Terek River as the first Russian outpost in the area. In the 19th century, the Ossetians migrated from the mountains to the plains.

In the Soviet times, Ossetia was divided into two parts. The part north of the Caucasian ridge came under the jurisdiction of the present Russian Federation, the part to the south came under control of the Georgian Republic (South Ossetia declared its independence from Georgia in 1990).

During the Second World War, fierce battles took place on the territory of the Republic; the northern and western parts of North Ossetia were occupied by the Germans. In November, 1942, the German advance was stopped near Vladikavkaz.

Having developed since then into a big industrial city Vladikavkaz preserves its charm of a quiet provincial town. It is also being regarded as an intellectual and cultural center of the North Caucasus.

The scientific and cultural potential of Ossetia is very high. There are four higher educational establishments: the National University, the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, the Medical Academy and Agrarian Academy. With annually increasing number of scholarships provided by the Government of the Russian Federation, any Tanzanian boy or girl can apply and be admitted to one of these universities and not only become a well trained professional but also make new great friends and enjoy their student years in such an atmospheric place.

As a home for many different nationalities Vladikavkaz has always been multi-cultural and multi-religion. Churches and mosques are numerous as well as theaters, art-galleries and concert halls.

Actually there are many ways to enjoy this land. Since the middle of the 19th century, Ossetia was positioned as one of the tourist centers in the North Caucasus. The beauty of the North Ossetian mountains attracts tourists from all over the world for they have the opportunity of hunting, mountain climbing, trekking and alpine skiing. Numerous spa treatment facilities as well as eco and food tours have become an important part of the local economy.

Just about two hours by air from Moscow - which is a very short trip by Russian standards - and you find yourself in North Ossetia - a good starting point in exploring the limitless wonders of Russia. And we will also continue to introduce you to different regions of the Russian Federation. Each and every one of them has a lot to offer to our old and new friends.

Innovation transforms China's saline-alkali fields into fertile land

HOHHOT

STANDING in a sprawling crop field in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, farmer Wang Chenglin sees a bumper harvest on the horizon. A once-barren field under saline-alkali stress is now teeming with life.

Wang hails from Wuyuan County in the city of Bayannur. Situated at the northernmost end of the Yellow River, Wuyuan is home to 1.23 million mu (82,000 hectares) of saline-alkali fields, accounting for over half of its total arable land.

"There was nothing we could do but to leave the land lying wasted in the past," Wang recalled. "Thanks to soil improvement techniques and irrigation technologies, the land is now able to support the growth of multiple crops such as sunflowers and corn. And our wallets have been fattened."

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made an inspection tour from Monday to Tuesday in Wang's hometown Bayannur.

At a modern agricultural demonstration park, Xi, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, watched displays of soil and seed samples and commended local practices of putting idled saline-alkali lands and desertified lands into good use, as well as advancing scientific irrigation methods and promoting modern agriculture.

In fact, this is not the first time Xi has focused his attention on saline-alkali land.

Less than one month ago, Xi arrived in Cangzhou City, north China's Hebei Province.

On a plot of saline-alkali wheat land, he learned about how saline-alkali land has been harnessed, how wheat is planted in saline-alkali land and how the agriculture there has been industrialized.

He stressed the need to prioritize the comprehensive use of saline-alkali land, leverage the key role of scientific and technological innovation, expand the cultivation area of suitable crops and develop the intensive processing of farm products.

In October 2021, when visiting the Agricultural High-tech Industrial Demonstration Area of the Yellow River Delta during an inspection tour in east China's Shandong Province, Xi said the comprehensive use of saline-alkali soil is of strategic importance to national food security.

Saline and alkaline soil is notoriously difficult to farm, producing low crop yields.

China has about 1.5 billion mu of saline-alkali land, of which around 500 million mu is available for utilization.

To restore and harness these lands, localities across the country have been dedicating themselves to working out innovative solutions with respect to soil, fertilizer, irrigation and seedlings.

Like many other farmers, Wang Chenglin benefited from a saline-alkali soil restoration project launched by Inner Mongolia from 2020 to 2022. It was aimed at turning 122,000 mu of saline-alkali fields into arable land in six banners and counties.

Through measures such as leveling soil and building underground pipes to drain salt, the overall soil salinity has been reduced and crop yields have increased by around 25 percent during the period, according to the regional agriculture and animal husbandry department.

Scientists and technicians are also screening and nurturing crop seeds that can withstand saline-alkali stress.

In the Agricultural High-tech Industrial Demonstration Area of the Yellow River Delta which Xi visited in 2021, wheat crops labeled "Jimai60" registered a record yield of 460.98 kilograms per mu on average in the summer harvest of 2022 in a field with high salinity and alkalinity.

The progress was made possible by both technical breakthroughs in seed breeding and the utilization of saline-alkali tolerant germplasm resources.

Several research institutes have collected and stored a total of 21,000 germplasm resources with such properties in the demonstration area.

Xinhua



Wonlo Coulibaly

Simba SC in advanced talks with ASEC Mimosas defender

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S Simba SC is in talks with Ivory Coast's ASEC Mimosas over a two-year-deal move for Ivorian defender Wonlo Coulibaly.

The Msimbazi Street club's head coach Roberto Oliveira, also known as Robetinho, is keen on bolstering his defensive options.

The Tanzanian outfit has revealed the Brazilian has pinpointed the 31-year-old defender as a potential recruit.

Coulibaly made over 20 league appearances for ASEC Mimosas since joining the club at the start of the 2022/23 football season.

Simba SC is currently in advanced discussions with the defender, and the deal could be sealed in the following days.

There is a need to sign a central defender at Simba SC because it is an area that needs adjustment soon given the squad is keen on ensuring such a deal is completed as soon as possible.

If the move materializes, Coulibaly

will be expected to use his experience to guide the younger players in the current Msimbazi Street squad, especially those in defensive positions.

Horoya AC of Guinea, and an unnamed lower divisions outfit in France, had previously been linked with seeking the Ivorian defender's services.

Born in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Coulibaly started his professional career with the local side, Tanda.

He then earned a move to ASEC Mimosas in 2017 for his first stint at the club before making a move to five-time African champions, TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), after two seasons.

In 2021 the center-back left TP Mazembe, alias 'Ravens', and moved to Omani side Al Suwaiq where he stayed for one season before returning to ASEC Mimosas.

Coulibaly made his senior national team debut in 2018, has 23 caps for his country, and was part of the Elephants squad that played in the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt.

Malya College now to produce sports instructors for schools

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

PERMANENT Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports Saidi Yakubu has affirmed that Malya Sports Development College located in Kwimba District, Mwanza is ideal for producing professional sports instructors for schools.

He disclosed the news during his official visit to the college to inspect the institution's development projects.

Vice President Phillip Mpango recently directed three ministries to make sure each school in Tanzania has a sports instructor.

Mpango issued his directives to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Governments (PRO-RALG), and Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports when he presided over the launch of this year's National Inter-Primary Schools sports tournaments (Umitashumta) and National Inter-Secondary Schools sports tournaments (Umisseta) at Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium in Tabora.

Yakubu said that all graduates at the Malya Sports Development College have qualifications and competence that can enable them to flourish in sports promotion.

He said the move will see to it sports and physical education are taught effectively and improve sports in schools.

According to the Permanent Secretary, there are vast opportunities in sports, promising his



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports, Saidi Yakubu.

ministry will hand over about 100 balls to be used in the college.

"Malya Sports Development College is a unique college in East and Central Africa region, it's our responsibility to honour it because it equips its students with knowledge and skills, about 95 percent of its graduates had already been employed."

He further explained according to statistics issued by the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology there are about 19,000 primary schools and 400 secondary schools in Tanzania, therefore, if each school gets one sports instruc-

tor, there is a need for 21,000 sports instructors out of 23,000 personnel.

He stated that so far the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) has trained 704 sports instructors.

The Permanent Secretary pointed out Malya Sports Development College has so far trained 701 sports instructors thus making it a total of 1,405 trained personnel, a number below the government's target of training 2000 sports instructors.

Malya Sports Development College Principal, Richard Mganga, said that the college can register about 400

trainees in certificate and diploma courses for Physical Education and Sports, Sports Administration and Management, and Sports Training Education.

The college students' government president Baptista Kapinga said nowadays sports have turned into money-spinning initiatives, improving its stakeholders' lives.

Kapinga revealed it is the right time for sports experts to use their experience, knowledge, and skills to gain from such a profitable endeavour, with the government being at the forefront of promoting the sector.

Onyango refutes departure reports, reflects on his third season at Simba SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC defender Joash Onyango has opened up about the club's collective disappointment over the trophyless campaign it has experienced this season.

With a heavy heart but an unwavering spirit, the Kenyan

center-back has shared his thoughts on the challenges they faced, the lessons learned, and the determination to return stronger.

Onyango, the former Gor Mahia defender, expressed his honesty as he began discussing the season's trials and tribulations.

The defender revealed: "Season was not good for us at the club, to everyone at the club because we did not win anything."

"We had high hopes and worked tirelessly day in and day out but sometimes, despite our best efforts, the results just don't come."

Simba SC, a club renowned

for its rich history and passionate fan base, had set its sights on lifting multiple trophies, hoping to add more silverware to its collection.

"We had high hopes to go far in the CAF Champions League but we failed to get past defending champions Wydad Casablanca, but all in all, I am happy we reached the quarterfinals," he added.

Simba SC still has one Premier League match remaining against Coastal Union but the points gathered will count for nothing as Yanga has been crowned champion.

Meanwhile, Onyango, also the former Western Stima defender highlighted the importance of staying focused as he went on to deny reports that he is planning to leave Simba SC.

"I want to make it clear that I have not spoken to anyone about leaving Simba SC," Onyango stated firmly.

"The media's failure to report the truth has created unnecessary confusion. I am still very much a part of this team, and I have no intention of leaving unless the coaches and administration decide to terminate my contract."

Onyango joined Simba SC in 2020 from record Football Kenya Federation Premier League champions Gor Mahia on an initial two-year contract.

The club renewed its contract with the defender in June 2022 after the two parties agreed to extend it for another two seasons.

It is worth noting that in May 2021, South African giants Orlando Pirates showed interest in signing the player, and the then Simba SC spokesman Haji Manara (now at Yanga) revealed his side had placed a hefty tag on him.

TRU official unveils rugby development plans

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA Rugby Union (TRU) has outlined massive plans to grow the game in the country.

This comes less than a fortnight after the TRU announced the appointment of Kenya's South Coast Pirates head coach Kevin Amiani to head Tanzania's national squad coaching staff.

Jacob Jona, TRU Chairman, revealed that it will no longer be business as usual as plans to shape rugby in the country get underway.

According to the Chairman, part of the union's long-term goals is seeing to it that Tanzania successfully battle for honours on the global stage. The leader stated that TRU is looking to organize friendlies for the national rugby team.

In the national side's first friendly, it took on Welsh side Brynccenthin RFC at the University of Dar es Salaam on May 28, with Tanzania XV Select succumbing to a 17-7 loss.

"Our arms are wide open to anyone/country that wants to come and share their experience with us through friendly matches," the Chairman disclosed.

According to Jona, TRU seeks to register at least 22 clubs by the end of 2026, adding so far, since last year the union has registered 10 men's clubs and four women's clubs.

"We want to at least have 22 clubs by (by the end of 2026) that will entail development for age grade and women senior teams that can feed the national teams... we have 10 clubs for men and four clubs for women as of now," he disclosed.

Jona envisions a future that will have Tanzania setting the trend for not only Africa but also the world.

"Our long-term goal is to have a competitive rugby nation with a regional reach and sports trendsetters both on and off the pitch. We are aiming to be the next hub of rugby in Africa and the world," he noted.

Recently, the TRU appointed South Coast Pirates' head coach Amiani to spearhead Tanzania's rugby coaching unit.

With Amiani having led South Coast Pirates to two Kenya Rugby Union (KRU) championship semi-finals, whilst having Level II certification, it is now a matter of when and not if TRU's dream is feasible.



Joash Onyango

Inter stand in way of Man City's treble chance in Champions League final

LONDON

MANCHESTER City are huge favourites heading into today's Champions League final against Inter Milan in Istanbul as Pep Guardiola's side aim to finally get their hands on the greatest prize in European club football, and complete a historic treble.

City have been building towards this moment ever since the transformative 2008 takeover of the club by the Abu Dhabi United Group.

They have become England's dominant force, winning seven Premier League titles in the last 12 seasons and following their latest triumph by claiming the FA Cup last weekend.

It has happened just as they have become the club with the greatest revenues in world football according to analysts Deloitte, with income of 731 million euros (\$788m) last season.

Question marks surround their success, given that City were charged in February by the Premier League with 115 alleged breaches of its financial rules between 2009 and 2018.

In Europe, meanwhile, City were banned for two years from UEFA competitions in February 2020 for "serious financial fair-play breaches", but that sanction was overturned later by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Now they can match the achievement of Alex Ferguson's Manchester United in 1999 by beating Inter at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium and securing a treble.

- How to stop Haaland? -

Beaten finalists in 2021, City lost in last year's semi-finals to Real Madrid, but the addition of Erling Haaland appears to have taken Guardiola's team to a new level.

The Norwegian has scored 52 goals since arriving from Borussia Dortmund, and City land in Turkey having been beaten just once in their last 27 games.

That 1-0 defeat at Brentford came on the last day of the Premier League season, after the title had been secured.

City have not lost in Europe this season and dished out heavy beatings to RB Leipzig, Bayern Munich and Madrid in the knockout rounds.

So there is surely nothing to fear in the final against the third-best team in Italy, except perhaps their own past demons in crucial Champions League games.

"We've still not won it yet," warned Kevin De Bruyne.

"I've been here eight years and it's been incredible. Could I come here and think about all the amount of games and trophies we would win in eight years?"

"Probably not. But it is something we have not won yet and it is something that we want to win. Hopefully it will be Saturday."

Yet as Guardiola eyes what would be the third Champions League of his career, City cannot overlook the threat of an Inter team who qualified from their group ahead of Barcelona before seeing off Porto, Benfica and city rivals AC Milan.

They have maybe not faced a team of City's calibre, but they have a clear Cup pedigree, having recently retained the Coppa Italia.

"I mean, they're in the Champions League final for a reason," warned John Stones, whose move from central defence into midfield has been key to City's outstanding form.

"They've got incredible players, we can all see that. How they played in a big occasion, in a derby game in the Champions League semi-final, is never easy. We know what we're up against."

- 'No fear' for Inter -

Inter know what they are up against too, not least veteran 37-year-old forward Edin Dzeko. The Bosnian played for City between 2011 and 2016.

He has scored 14 goals this season and has been an excellent foil for Inter's star forward, Lautaro Martinez.

Simone Inzaghi's side may not have as many superstars as City, but they have a grizzled back line, dangerous wing-backs and a hard-working midfield in which Nicolo Barella excels.

"We're talking about a football match, there's no fear," said Inzaghi, who was appointed in 2021 after the Nerazzurri had won Serie A under Antonio Conte.

Defender Alessandro Bastoni added: "You are scared of murderers, not football players. It would be a mistake to talk about fear."

Inter are in their first final since winning the trophy under Jose Mourinho in 2010, the last victory in the competition for an Italian side.

They have lifted the trophy three times before, while City's only European silverware to date remains the Cup Winners' Cup, which they won in 1970 by beating Poland's Gornik Zabrze 2-1 in the final.

Saturday's game will need to go a long way to equal the drama of the last final at the Ataturk stadium.

In 2005, Liverpool recovered from a three-goal half-time deficit to draw 3-3 with Milan before winning on penalties.

AFP

Inter and the impossible task of the Champions League final

By Miguel Delaney

WHEN Pep Guardiola and his staff began to properly prepare for this Champions League final, they found something they haven't really experienced in, well, years.

It has been very difficult to identify patterns or trends in Inter's play because there don't appear to be any. During the quarter-final against Benfica, it became clear that the Portuguese side had much more of an idea of play, in that they had an idea at all. Inter's forward players, by contrast, didn't seem to be coordinated. There were moments when some would press and some wouldn't, as if it was completely ad hoc.

A few figures in the game have quipped that it is like something out of the turn of the millennium, or even 1990, and that it certainly shouldn't be working in 2023. It is most definitely not a product of the pressing-dictated world that Guardiola himself has been so central to creating.

It is not the only way that Inter have defied the norms of the modern game in reaching their sixth Champions League final.

They may be one of football's grandiose names and one of the most successful clubs in the competition's history, having already lifted the European Cup three times, but they are currently not a "super club" and very far from one of the better eras in their own 115 years of existence. It is actually funny how football works, even as it has changed.

None of the stellar Inter squads that featured - among others - Ronaldo, Roberto Baggio, Chris-



Lautaro Martinez with the Inter fans after reaching the Champions League final (Getty Images)

tian Vieira, Lothar Matthaus, Jurgen Klinsmann, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Youri Djorkaeff or Karl-Heinz Rummenigge ever got within a breeze of a Champions League final and yet here they are with Robin Gosens and Matteo Darmian.

There are enjoyably nostalgic threads you could follow there about how the club was run, how former owner Massimo Moratti was too fixated on stars, how one of their best European runs came in the Uefa Cup just before the Champions League was expanded and how the sport as a whole had a greater competitive balance.

Even allowing for all that, though, Gosens and Darmian are part of a squad that is currently the oldest in Serie A. It also has 12 players out of contract this summer just at a point when Inter badly need to sell. That points to how financially stretched the club are, with many potential buyers understood to be circling in the belief that such a historic name can be bought for a relatively low price.

Previous issues have already ensured Inter are part-owned by the Chinese state, even if that is not for reasons of soft power or "sportswashing". It does mean the club almost represent a cautionary tale in what can happen when an autocratic country suddenly abandons a huge international football plan, which has never been more relevant.

It also means it should never have been more difficult for Inter to get this far. They may have part state-ownership, just

like Manchester City, but they almost represent the total contrast in every element of the football club. The 2023 Champions League final arguably features the greatest mismatch in this fixture since 1989.

Everything at Inter was supposed to be coming apart, and Simone Inzaghi is not one of those coaches who brings everything together under a unifying tactical ideology. He didn't even have a particularly rallying message before that epochal semi-final against AC Milan.

It was pretty much to "go out and do the club proud".

And yet it is that very lightness that has played into this run. Uncertainty about so much of the club has fostered a strange focus.

Even the one constant of this run, which is the surges from deep by the burgeoning Federico Dimarco, are impossible to predict or pin down. He can attack any space out of nowhere, suddenly driving 50 yards up the pitch before a one-two that wreaks havoc. It may be something Guardiola's staff can point to, but - in the words of one source - there's "an anarchy to it that makes it impossible to accommodate in any gameplan".

That focus from uncertainty has been gently nurtured by a manager who may be the first since Jose Mourinho to lift Inter to this stage but is "absolutely nothing like" the Portuguese.

There hasn't quite been that defiance or anger. Inzaghi has instead sought to use the circumstances to nurture a "family atmosphere", that very much

comes across in the spirit in the group.

Even the directors and general staff are all quite close with the players, something that could be sensed on the club's mandated media day before this final. That formality involves squads having to go through open training for 15 minutes, but all finalists of course use that for warm-ups, with the serious business behind closed doors.

Not that you would have noticed that much of a difference with Inter. There are no drills instilling a grander idea.

Inzaghi never plays the same way twice. His approach is entirely reactive, to arguably a greater degree than anyone in this modern systemised era.

That is possibly why so many league games are battles, and they have never looked like reclaiming the title delivered by Antonio Conte in 2020-21.

It can be hard for players to buy into that approach for a game against Spezia, and they run out of ideas and impetus. The Champions League meanwhile fosters something very different. Conscious of the stakes, the players become charged for the changes that Inzaghi makes. That is where the age of the squad is an advantage, as so many players sense a last chance or even redemption. Much has been made of how Edin Dzeko and Romelu Lukaku have been almost in a relay as regards the number-nine role, the Bosnian accentuating his age-old qualities through experience, the Belgian in arguably the best physi-

cal condition of his career.

This is also where there is at least something of a 2010 vibe, at least in terms of so many seasoned individuals applying an emotional intensity to the competition. They are the ultimate "cup team" in that way, and have got into their heads that they are one of those vintage Champions League sides. No matter the form in the league, they have that rare momentum in this competition.

Many might fairly say that comes from the most forgiving run of fixtures in a split knockout stage, but it actually goes back further. City may have had a harder series of opponents in getting to Istanbul, but Inter first came through one of the hardest groups you are going to get. Squeezing through to the last 16 between Bayern Munich and Barcelona first fostered this conviction. It was seen as "ridiculous for the group - and huge".

From that, and especially the grand show in the first leg against Milan, you just would not guess there is such a cloud over the club above a professional executive department.

"It is like many are almost embarrassed to talk about the ownership situation," one source said.

None of that was visible on the San Siro pitch in the immediate aftermath of the semi-final. There, the employees and families came together with the players for a true moment of community.

It was glorious, one of the club's great nights, even when the very stadium surrounded them with so much illustrious history.

That points to the present difference. Some warned that it could be like Tottenham Hotspur at Ajax in 2019, where the emotional peak could only ever come in the semi-final.

This Inter squad just don't see themselves like that, though.

They see themselves as winners, even if the rest of the world doesn't.

It goes against everything building up to this final. That very contradiction, however, is what has got them to Istanbul.

THE TELEGRAPH

The key battles in the Champions League final

LONDON

MANCHESTER City are heavy favourites to win their first ever Champions League as the super-rich club take on one of Europe's old guard in resurgent Inter Milan.

Here AFP looks at the battles which could define Saturday's final in Istanbul:

***Erling Haaland v Francesco Acerbi**

Monster striker Haaland gives City a whole new dimension of attacking threat and if Inter are to have any chance of stopping Pep Guardiola's team they need to stay right on top of the Norwegian.

Inter have been without former captain and star centre-back Milan Skriniar, who is off to Paris Saint-Germain in the summer, for months due to a back injury and in theory there should be no match between Haaland and Acerbi.

Veteran Italy international Acerbi has been a capable replacement for Skriniar but he has not had to deal with this sort of striker, who will top

the Champions League scoring charts for the second time in his career aged just 22.

The difficulty of Acerbi's task was summed up by a young fan outside Inter's training ground who gave the 35-year-old a fishing net with which to try and catch Haaland.

***Kevin De Bruyne v Henrikh Mkhitaryan**

Haaland might be the killer but De Bruyne is the man who loads the bullets for City and all-action midfielder Mkhitaryan will be crucial to stopping him from running riot.

De Bruyne has set up seven goals in 11 matches since the last international break, including two in City's 4-0 destruction of Real Madrid in the second leg of their semi-final which confirmed their passage to Istanbul.

Inter's midfield is a unit which attacks and defends as one but former Manchester United man Mkhitaryan, assuming he is fit to play, will be the lucky one from a three-man central trio who will

most have to deal with De Bruyne's forays.

***Federico Dimarco v Kyle Walker**

Milanese born and raised and a lifelong Inter fan, wing-back Dimarco has become a key player for his boyhood club in his mid-20s after spending years away on a series of loans.

The 25-year-old provides width and dynamism on the left flank and delivers mean crosses and set-pieces, and his battle with pacy England full-back Walker will be key to how Inter

build attacks and break on City, who are likely to dominate the ball.

A fixture this season in Inzaghi's side following the departure of Ivan Perisic to Tottenham, Dimarco has played in 10 of Inter's 12 Champions League matches and set up five goals during their European campaign.

***Lautaro Martinez v Manuel Akanji**

Argentina forward Martinez is on another one of his characteristic goalscoring streaks and the latest has come just at the right time to do

some damage to City.

Martinez has netted 11 times in his last 12 matches in all competitions and is perfectly happy linking up with either Edin Dzeko or similarly on-form Romelu Lukaku.

With one of Dzeko and Lukaku occupying Ruben Dias as more traditional centre-forwards, Lautaro will be buzzing around the City backline and targeting the area occupied by Akanji.

*Ilkay Gundogan v Hakan Calhanoglu

Gundogan tends to step up when it counts for City, providing the midfield thrust with Rodri and the occasional important goal, such as winning his double in the FA Cup final against Manchester United.

Calhanoglu meanwhile has found a new lease of life since switching from one side of Milan to the other two years ago, and has the added incentive of trying to win the Champions League in his home country.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Inter and the impossible task of the Champions League final

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Geita Star Boys hammer Kongwa Boys in 2023 TCA U-18 League 35 Overs Zone B

By Guardian Reporter

MWANZA's Geita Star Boys garnered a comprehensive 97-run victory over Kongwa Boys of Dodoma in this season's Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) U-18 League 35 Overs Zone B encounter in Gairo, Morogoro on Wednesday.

The national cricket governing body has hosted the showdown to offer up-and-coming cricketers a chance to gain experience, as well as improve the promotion of the game domestically.

The tie witnessed Kongwa Boys winning the toss and choosing to bowl, they nevertheless could not prevent Geita Star Boys from ending their innings with a convincing total after notching 141/10 in 30.4 overs of the 35-over clash.

Kongwa Boys expressed their desire to wreak havoc on Geita Star Boys' batsmen, taking their first wicket within 13 overs, Mwanza youngsters however showcased resoluteness.

Geita Star Boys' opener Isaac John was sent back to the pavilion via a delivery by Nason Leahao of Kongwa Boys having posted nine runs.

The batting side resorted to a calm approach, with the other opener Joshua Majaliwa executing several solid shots and ending with 20 runs.

There was another early dismissal of Samson Leonard, deployed at number three, making his way back with two runs whilst ending as Leahao's other victim.

Godfrey Vincent that went in following the dismissal of fellow top-order batsman Leonard attempted to boost the Mwanza team's score having recorded 11 runs which included a boundary.

There was a notable improvement in the quest for a convincing score once other key players, Isaac Henry, and Jackson Tomas, laid their hands on the bats.

Henry slotted in as a middle-order performer, was ultimately the top run-getter for Geita Star Boys, nailing 28 runs that included four boundaries.

Tomas also made his way back with a two-digit score, recording 17 runs. Nightwatchman Jackson Shija brought the innings to an end with the bat in hand whilst ending six runs short of a two-digit score.

Alex Richard was in the end the bowler with impressive statistics for Kongwa Boys, given the youngster took six wickets giving away 31 runs in his seven-over stint.

In response, Kongwa Boys found the going tough, given they were skittled for 44 runs in 18.2 overs.

The batting squad could hardly withstand Geita Star Boys' bowling attack, with the former's cricketers returning to the pavilion in quick succession.

None of Kongwa Boys' cricketers had managed to notch two-digit figures, with Leahao turning out to be the performer with what could be viewed as a notable showing.

The player, deployed at number three, ended two runs short of a two-digit score, clearing the boundary once.

Skipper Albert Joshua, assigned as the opener, was four runs short of a two-digit figure for the losing squad.

Geita Star Boys' Samson Leonard, Isaac John, Jovinary Mapambano, and Ibrahim Twaha that notched two wickets each played a key role in seeing to it frustrate an attempt by Kongwa Boys to mount a successful chase.

Isaac John of Geita Star Boys received the Player of the Match prize for his impressive all-round showing in the tie.



Players making Tanga's Kwakaeza Primary School's boys cricket team and their coach pose for a picture after triumphing in this year's regional junior league at the Usagara grounds recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Dar female tennis players cruise to Billie Jean King Cup Africa Group IV finals



Tanzania's girls' tennis team player, Shana Mao, showcases her virtuosity in the 2017 African Junior Teams' Championships played in Morocco.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S women's tennis team will today afternoon take on Madagascar in the finals of the 2023 Billie Jean King Cup Africa Group IV tournament in Kigali, Rwanda.

This is the first time that Tanzania women's tennis team is taking part in Billie Jean King Cup Africa Group IV.

The side reached the finals after beating Angola 2-1 in a highly competitive last-four match held yesterday.

Tanzania's duo of Barbara Mollel and Naitoti Singo outclassed Angolans Gabriela Martins and Mariam Yulaca in both Singles and Doubles

duels.

On Wednesday, Tanzania's women's team made up of Shana Mao and Esther Nankulunge beat Mozambique's Chirley Jemuse and Tania Rafael 3-0.

Edna John, Tanzania's women's team captain, said she is confident the team will do well in today's finals

against Madagascar.

The skipper noted: "Everyone is looking forward to the finals tomorrow (today), all players are in good shape."

"We are just looking forward to the finals and we are asking Tanzanians to pray for us so that we can emerge as champions," she

said.

Tanzania women's squad made up of six players had held sway in Group A while Madagascar came out top in Group B.

Other teams in Group A are Ethiopia, Rwanda, Angola, and Mozambique, teams in Group B are Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Cameroon, Senegal, Lesotho, and the Republic of the Congo.

Tanzania's women's team consists of Esther, Shana, Barbara Mollel, Naitoti Singo, Nasha Singo, and skipper Edna John, seeking to win honours for their nation in the tournament taking place at Kigali Ecology Tennis Club.

On Tuesday, the team started on a good note, given in the Singles category, given Esther and Shana overcame Rwandans Gisele Umumararungu and Chantal Mutuyimana respectively, the former commanding 2-1 wins.

However, in the Doubles category which took place on Wednesday, Tanzania's team that had Shana and Barbara lost 2-1 to the host side that had Gisele and Olive Tuyisenge.

In another tie that took place on Wednesday, Tanzania's women's team beat Ethiopia 2-1 in both Singles and Doubles ties.

Esther and Shana defeated Sara Kassim and Mekedes Shumeti in the Singles category while in Doubles the duo of Shana and Esther beat Sara and Zewdie Eden.

Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA) president Francis Thomas who also bankrolled the team's trip to Rwanda said he is confident that the team will perform well in Rwanda.

"I'm sure, our team has all it takes to perform well in the tournament, we have players who are hungry for success, and morale among them is also very high," he said.

Before taking part in the 2023 Billie Jean King Cup Africa Group IV, Shana was in Kampala, Uganda where she took part in the 2023 J30 International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Tour Junior.

Shana partnered with Ghananian Sisu Makena Tomegah and the duo emerged as winners in Girls' Doubles category.

The pair triumphed 7-6, 6-2 over Indians Shanvitha Nukala and Pia Mistri in the tournament which took place from May 24-26.

Eleven African countries are battling it out in the 2023 Billie Jean King Cup Africa Group IV tournament which is taking place for the first time in African soil.

Bayi faults facility for 2023 Umitashumta, Umisseta trials

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S athletics legend Filbert Bayi has faulted the state of the running track at Coast Region's Kibaha Secondary School.

The track is used for the selection of athletes set to represent Coast Region in this year's National Inter-Secondary Schools Sports Tournaments (Umisseta) and National Inter-Primary Schools Sports Tournaments (Umitashumta).

Bayi pointed out the track is water-lodged, adding such a state hinders athletes from displaying their potential and it is also very risky health-wise.

He noted in an interview yesterday the running track at the school is not good as its lane lines are very faint and need to be repainted.

According to the athletics legend, the situation at Kibaha Secondary School track is similar to that of many other grounds where a selection of youngsters for this season's sports showdowns are taking place.

Bayi, therefore, appealed to authorities to give athletics similar priority that football enjoys.

The athletics great pointed out: "The running track at Kibaha Secondary School is not good, athletes cannot



Athletes are in action during the previous season's National Inter-Secondary Schools Sports Tournaments (Umisseta) which took place at Mtwara Teachers College ground. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL OF TANZANIA

showcase their talents, it is difficult."

"You find at some running grounds there are bushes and thorny shrubs, the situation at the institution is similar to other places."

"I'm calling upon authorities to give priority to athletics as is the case with football," he said.

Bayi, also serving as Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) Secretary-General, said two standard types of running tracks are ideal for up-and-coming athletes, namely cinder tracks and all-weather tracks.

The TOC official disclosed:

"Up-and-coming athletes can freely and comfortably showcase their talents at cinder (dirty) track like that of Filbert Bayi Schools at Mkuza, Kibaha and all-weather track (rubberized) artificial running surface (tartan) akin to Benjamin Mkapa Stadium's track."

"These are tracks which give freedom to young athletes, they are free and comfortable," he said.

Meanwhile, Kibaha Town Council (KTC) Sports and Culture Officer Burwan Tilusubya said the selection of athletes to represent the region in this year's Umisseta

was postponed to today.

He said they suspended the exercise to allow the running track at the Kibaha school to be cleared of water that has covered the track, as well as other unnecessary objects.

"We have suspended the athletics events to tomorrow (today) to clean and remove water at the running tracks, the running track is not that good," Tilusubya pointed out.

"We advised authorities but they did not take heed of it so we have to continue using it but, as for other sporting activities they are going well as planned," he said.

The issue of sports infra-

structure also irked the government, given Vice President Phillip Mpango on Tuesday said the government is committed to continue developing sports infrastructure in the country.

Mpango pointed out the program will enhance a favourable environment that will see athletes perfectly showcase their talents.

He made the affirmation when he presided over the launch of this year's Umitashumta and Umisseta at Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium in Tabora.

The Vice President also directed the President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Governments to cooperate with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to ensure each primary and secondary school has at least one sports teacher.

"Sports timetables in schools should be respected, there is a tendency that some teachers are using sports periods to teach other subjects and this behaviour should be stopped," Mpango stressed.

Mpango noted schools should always create enough space for learners to conduct sports activities and never encroach on such places.

"Areas reserved for sports should not be tampered with," he said while stressing the need to identify talents from the grassroots level.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

