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President Samia Suluhu Hassan presents the African Food Prize 2023 award to Dr Jean Claude Rubyogo, the Pan-African Bean Research Alliance (PABRA) director, who is also the head of the bean project, on behalf of the PABRA at a State House dinner for leaders and participants of the Africa Food Systems Forum (AGRF) on Thursday. Looking on (C) is former president Jakaya Kikwete, the African Food Prize award committee chairman. Photo: State House

Revenues hit 26.2trn/- during fiscal year 2022/23

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government collected 26.2trn/- during fiscal 2022/23, equivalent to 93.7 percent of target compared to 24.39trn/- collected the previous year.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa told the legislature yesterday that tax revenues attained the 21.411.4bn/- compared to 95.6-percent of the target while 3,845.5trn/- which is equivalent to 83.5bn/- of the target.

Revenues from local governments stood at 984.9bn/- equivalent to 97.3percent of the target with various strategies put in place to control the seepage of revenues, he said.

There are challenges like embezzlement by unfaithful public servants, he said, pointing at the lack of strong technological systems to control such losses.

Mindful of the challenges, the government has been working on strengthening control systems and improving the doing business environment, fostering greater participation of the private sector, he said.

The government was digitally registering businesses to expand

the tax base, reinforcing voluntary compliance in paying taxes, he said.

During fiscal 2022/23, fertiliser use increased from 362,599 tonnes the previous year to 538,000 tonnes, a 48-percent increase on account of subsidy measures taken by the government, he said.

He said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan worked to ensure that fertiliser was available everywhere so that farmers obtain inputs at an affordable price. Higher fertiliser application was also in line with higher production of food crops, easing food availability, he stated

Projected demand for fertilizer for fiscal 2023/24 stands at 849,219 tonnes where by end of last month a total of 480,666 tons had been put to the market, equivalent to 56.6percent of expected fertiliser use, he said.

Fertiliser subsidy will be maintained during the coming farming season to reduce the burden from farmers and thus increase production, he said.

The Ministry of Agriculture needs to administer the distribution of fertilisers among the farmers, by setting up more distribution centres in various districts, he added.

By Getrude Mbago

AFRICAN governments need to align policies and legal frameworks to enhance resilient inclusive food systems, the government has appealed.

Dr Doto Biteko, the deputy prime minister, issued this appeal when wrapping up the four-day Africa Food Systems summit that was also its annual forum, in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

He stressed the need for governments to work on regenerating land resources by adaptation, innovation and technology for sustainable food production amid impacts of climate change.

Without taking robust joint strategies to strengthen inclusive food systems, the majority of Africans will be toiling in hunger and poverty, he said, emphasising that the continent needs to work hard to support vulnerable communities.

There are multiple innovative solutions to build farmers' resilience and transform agrifood systems to fight hunger and improve incomes, he said, noting that the summit deliberated major issues of interest in agro-sector strengthening.

Bold thought leadership to accelerate actions towards translating food systems pathways and commitments into actionable strategies and investments targeting the youth and women was one such issue, he stated.

Agenda clear as food systems gala winds up



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa congratulated by some MPs shortly after adjourning the National Assembly session in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Govt: 650bn/-suffices to attain 75pc quality seeds supply by 2025

By Getrude Mbago

A TOTAL of 650bn/- is needed to facilitate production of quality and improved seeds locally by up to 75 percent by 2025. Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe made note of this need at a discussion during the Africa Food

Systems summit in Dar es Salaam this week, noting that investing in massive local seed production would reduce import dependency. He hailed private seed-firms for immense efforts in producing

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EAC elated at visa scrapping for DRC

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

INTEGRATION among member states of the East African Community (EAC) has taken a step forward with the decision by Kenya and Tanzania to waive visa requirements for travellers from the

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the EAC secretariat has declared. Dr. Peter Mathuki, the secretary general, said in a statement yesterday, that following the measures - that became effective August 25th and September

1st respectively - DRC lifted visa restrictions for Kenyan nationals. Allowing DRC citizens to travel freely to Kenya and Tanzania and vice versa amplifies moves towards cementing application of the EAC Common Market protocol, he said.

So far the visa waiver touches traders and other short duration travellers, a step in the common market vision of the free movement of persons and right of establishment, which means the right to seek work and start a household anywhere in

the region. He said waiving the visa requirements was a demonstration of political goodwill among the partner states in promoting regional integration, thus boosting intra-regional trade and the welfare in the zone.

"In addition to improving intra-regional trade, free movement of persons will promote the free movement of goods, labour, cultural exchange and domestic tourism in

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Agenda clear as food systems gala shutters

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This will permit optimal use of available resources in the agriculture sector to ensure sustainable food systems, the deputy premier affirmed, stressing his belief that the next forum will be as vibrant, with wider opportunity for thinkers, researchers and innovators.

The government is set on implementing inclusive strategies to transform food systems, boost production and strengthen food security, he said, affirming that the forum gave participants ranging from thinkers, policymakers, innovators and investors to explore recent breakthroughs and best practices in transforming agriculture and food systems.

Amanth Pathe Sene, the African Food Systems Forum managing director, said the forum has been vibrant and successful, bringing together over 3,000 participants from over 90 countries in Africa and globally.

He said that national leaders, the private sector and other stakeholders are committed to strengthen efforts for more resilient food systems where the youth and women are at centre of initiatives.

Ambassador Amina Mohamed, the United Nations deputy secretary general, in a virtual address staked for collective sustained effort, political will and renewed commitment across the continent and globally, to transform agrifood systems and deliver better nutrition.

She called for efforts to accelerate the pace of implementation of strategies and programmes improving the nutrition outcomes of the African population, offering UN support all the time in supporting those initiatives.

"Many African countries have increased crop production but more efforts are needed to overcome challenges that threaten food systems such as climate change hazards and financial gaps," she told the gathering.

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe set out ministerial commitment reached at the forum, affirming that Africa "must act to deliver better for nature and climate, but we can only do this by recognising the central importance of food security and livelihoods for the growing African population."

The ministers are also committed to tackling poverty and hunger, the core part of the battle against climate change and other environmental drawbacks. Hunger and poverty are the biggest enemies of Africa's populations, he said.

"We are committed to put youth and women at the center of the food systems transformation agenda, and we recognise the need to prioritise the creation of decent and fulfilling jobs for millions of our youth and women emerging in the labour market each year," he stated.

Abdallah Ulega, the Livestock and Fisheries minister, said that leveraging financial resources, technological innovations, tailor made training and support can foster a new generation of agripreneurs.

Additionally, breaking down gender barriers will lead to a more inclusive and equitable food systems, he stated, summing up the discussions as showing vividly how agriculture and food systems can be positively transformed.

"Youth and women should be at the centre as in doing so, we will create more jobs and employment opportunities for younger generations thus building a better tomorrow," he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi speaks to Muslim faithful moments after the Friday prayers at Mitulaya Salum Mmaka Mosque in Urban District, West Region yesterday. Photo: State House

EAC elated at visa scrapping for DRC

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East and Central Africa," he stated. Urging other partner states to follow this spirit of reciprocity, he said it is a positive step towards consolidating the gains made in implementing the protocol and integration as a whole. It is set to expand trade and investment opportunities, scaling up growth,

he asserted. DRC became the seventh EAC member last year, joining Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania, with its vast trade opportunities helping to ignite movement towards further common market initiatives, experts say. Article 10 of the protocol gives citizens of the member states the liberty to accept employment

within the EAC zone, with the secretariat chieftain asking those that have not yet waived visa requirements for DRC citizens to expedite negotiations to that effect. Article 7 of the protocol demands non discrimination of citizens of other partner states based on nationalities, ensuring entry of such citizens without a visa and their free movement across the

sub-region. EAC citizens are allowed to stay in the territory of a partner state and exit without restrictions, the protocol intimates. President William Ruto directed the lifting of visa restrictions on July 29 in Mombasa, saying that Kenya was removing DRC from category 2 to category 1 of the country's visa regulations.

President Museveni demands churches, mosques to block 'strangers'

KAMPALA

UGANDA'S President Yoweri Museveni has spoken out about the importance of staying alert due to terrorism threats.

He's urging all Ugandans to be cautious when it comes to their places of worship and places for fun.

In a TV speech to the nation, President Museveni advised everyone not to let unfamiliar people enter their churches and mosques. If you see someone strange, tell the police about it.

He said: "Don't let anyone you don't know into your church or mosque. If strangers want to enter, ask them questions, keep them away, and let the police know."

He also mentioned hotels and lodges, saying they should take down the information of people who stay there. Make sure they show you their ID cards with their pictures on them.

President Museveni wants everyone to stay calm despite the threats from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) militants.

He assured people that the security forces are actively searching for them. This comes after the police in Uganda stopped a bomb attack at a church in Kampala and found five more explosives the following day. So, it's crucial to stay vigilant to keep everyone safe.

AGENCIES



Deputy Prime Minister Doto Biteko speaks at the climax of Africa Food Systems Forum (AGRF) 2023 Summit in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

South Africa continues to address tourism safety

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa will get a boost in tourism safety in the next few weeks with the deployment of 2,200 tourism monitors to key tourist areas in all nine provinces to tackle crime, a senior government official has said.

South African Tourism Minister Patricia de Lille said the department has allocated 174.5 million rands (about 9.11 million U.S. dollars) for this

financial year for the deployment of the tourism monitors.

"We have worked with the private sector to revise and improve the training curriculum for tourism monitors, which also includes training by the South African police," de Lille said at the Tourism Business Council of South Africa leadership conference in North West Province. Between 2022 and 2023, there were two incidents where tourists

were killed, and that caused "untold damage" to the country's tourism industry, according to the minister, who noted that President Cyril Ramaphosa has signed into law the legislation on the use of audio and visual link to present evidence in court.

"This entails instituting virtual court proceedings, which would allow tourists to be part of the proceedings even if they had left the

country before the conclusion of a case, and alternatively tourists could connect through audio-visual link at the South African missions in their countries of origin," she said.

De Lille said they are confident of surpassing the pre-COVID tourist levels by March next year, judging by the increase in visitors and spending in the country.

AGENCIES

Govt: 650bn/- suffices to attain 75pc quality seeds supply

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quality improved seeds, slashing seed import needs compared to previous years, highlighting that in fiscal 2020/21 local seed production stood at 20 percent of demand, which has since been checked. The demand for seeds this year stands at 120,000 tonnes, with about half that tonnage already produced locally, he stated, noting that the increase in production was pushed by potential demand.

With half the needed tonnage and potential demand increasing, the government is investing in public farms to encourage the private sector to work with them to push up seed production, he said. "This year we have started to put up irrigation facilities and very soon we will build infrastructure on our public farms to have pivot technology like sprinklers to be used for seeds production," he elaborated.

There are 17 public farms with adequate infrastructure to allow private firms to engage in the production of quality seeds, he said, underlining intentions of the government to amplify investments in research to develop improved seeds to cater the country's demand and increase crop yields.



Retired Commissioner of Police Dr Mussa Ali Mussa during a farewell ceremony held at the Kurasini Police Academy in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Courtesy of Tanzania Police Force

Government dispenses 1.6m HIV self - testing equipment

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has so far distributed 1.6 million HIV self-testing (home testing) equipment in the period between 2021/2023.

Ummu Mwalimu, the Minister for Health said in Dodoma during the forum organised by the government in collaboration with National Council of People Living with HIV in Tanzania (NACOPHA).

She said that the distribution was from the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG).

She said the two ministries will continue to push forward efforts of distributing the equipment to enable people to conduct self - tests to know their HIV/AIDS status.

Mwalimu said that the government has also extended the Care and Treatment Clinic (CTC) - centres up to 8,529 centres.

"I kindly call upon people living with HIV to focus on doctors' prescriptions and ensure protection of themselves and others," she said.

The minister described the government's plan to offer screening and treatment to people living with HIV/AIDS and ensure the centres also become CTC by 95 per cent in 2025.

"The government will ensure the availability of medicine and chemical reagents to people living with HIV/AIDS," she said, lauding NACOPHA for organising a forum to celebrate 20th anniversaries since its inception. Health sector recognises your contribution in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Deogratias Rutatwa, NACOPHA CEO said

that NACOPHA, TACAIDS and other stakeholders are opting to have HIV/AIDS health financing sustainability.

He said that the decision of the council to hold the forum is to complement the government efforts to have zero prevalence.

Rutatwa said that the strategic future plan is to reduce dependency on HIV/AIDS relief support from the donor's countries who are contributing more to support the government efforts to reach zero prevalence by 2030.

Currently, 95 percent of the support towards fighting the virus and the largest supporter of HIV/AIDS relief are from the US government through PER FAR.

"Our target is to have health financing sustainability instead of depending on the donor's fund. The experience has shown there is a slow drop-in finance support towards fighting the virus," he said.

Director of Advocacy and Information at TACAIDS Jumanne Issango said that over 1.5 million HIV-positive Tanzanians are on antiretroviral treatment enabling them to live longer, healthy lives.

He said the national HIV/AIDS prevalence stands at 4.7 whereby the high HIV prevalence among adolescent girls and women is highly noted.

"We are finalising the Tanzania HIV Impact Survey (THIS), and its results will be released December this year, the statistics we have are THIS 2016/2017," he said.

According to the director, the government target is to reach zero HIV prevalence by 2030.

Norway signs pact with UNCDF to support initiatives in climate change

By Getrude Mbago

THE Norwegian government has signed a three-year agreement with the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) worth 7.4bn/- aimed to support initiatives in climate change adaptation investments in the country.

The pact aims to build local climate change resilience and strengthen the capacities of local governments to plan budgets and report on climate

change actions.

Speaking during the signing ceremony in Dar es Salaam, Beate Tvinerheim, Norwegian minister for International Development underlined the value of bringing partners together for enhanced sustainability of climate action.

"The agreement with UNCDF is part of the implementation of the MoU on climate partnership between Norway and Tanzania that we have signed,"

she said.

She said the agreement with UNCDF will contribute to building the capacities of the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government as well as local government authorities as the mainstream climate change and community-driven adaptation in local government development planning and financial systems in support of climate resilient development and low carbon growth.

The Norwegian Minister noted that climate change threatens many of humanity's biggest achievements as well as its future goals as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Progress on SDG13 is falling short of what is needed to meet the targets of the global agenda by 2030.

Peter Malika, Head of UNCDF Tanzania said the new partnership is a continuation of the existing inter-

ventions in Chamwino, Kondo, and Mpwapwa districts where local communities can prioritize climate challenges and identify local-based solutions and investments.

"UNCDF through its local climate adaptive living facility provides performance-based finance and technical support to integrate climate change adaptation into local governments planning and budgeting systems while increasing awareness and

response to climate change at the local level," he said.

The Tanzania National Environmental Master Plan for Strategic Intervention covers 2022/32 adverse impacts of climate change already being experienced including shifting rainfall patterns, extreme precipitation that causes flooding, prolonged periods of drought, and sea level rise leading to submerging of small islands.



The defendant in the murder case of Miriam Mrita who is the widow of the late businessman Erasto Msuya being escorted by a Prison Officer shortly after arriving at the High Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Government set aside 22.5bn/- for stipends to Ward Councillors and village chairpersons

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has set aside 22.5bn/- in 2023/ 24 financial year for stipends and allowances for Ward Councillors and village chairpersons in 168 district councils countrywide, the National Assembly was told yesterday.

Deputy Minister of state in the President's Office, Regional Administration, and Local Government (PO-RALG), Dr Festo Dugange said in the National Assembly when responding to a question by Tarime Rural legislator Mwita Waitara. The MP wanted to know when the government would increase sitting allowances for ward councillors and village chairpersons countrywide.

In response, the deputy minister said the government recognises the good job

done by ward councillors and village leaders countrywide in facilitating service delivery.

"According to the local government authority section 290, every district council is supposed to set aside funds to pay ward councillors and village leaders from internal sources," he said.

The deputy minister said due to challenges in revenue most district councils fail to do so and the government started paying them instead.

He said the government will continue to support local government authorities together with controlling losses through electronic systems.

The minister said through various means, the government through various means continues to support local councils to pay the officials their entitled

allowances so that they implement their roles.

KATIKA BARAZA LA ARDHI NA NYUMBA WILAYA YA KINONDONI MWANANYAMALA SHAURI LA MADAI NANBARI 67 LA 2021 JOHN KENGERE BOGOMBA.....MUOMBAJI/WAOBBAJI DHIDI YA

1. SOPHIA KAONEKA
2. SELEMAN KAONEKA
3. KILUA KAONEKA
4. MAJEMBE AUCTION MART LTD.....MADAI/WADAIWA WITO KUITWA SHAURINI

1. SOPHIA KAONEKA 3. KILUA KAONEKA
2. SELEMAN KAONEKA 4. MAJEMBE KAONEKA.....PODOTE ULIPO/ULIPO

JOHN KENGERE BOGOMBA amefungua shauri mbele ya Baraza la Ardhi na Nyumba lililopo Kinondoni (Mwananyamala). Shauri husika limepangwa kutajwa/Kusikilizwa tarehe 19/9/2023 saa 03:00 asubuhi/Mchana mbele ya Mh. J.W. SILLAS. Hivyo unahitaji kuitwa mbele ya Baraza siku hiyo bila kukosa. Imetolewa na kutiwa Saini na Mhuri wa Baraza hii leo tarehe 03 Mwezi wa 08/2023.




Advertisement

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below goods/service package at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 55km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast, and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced, and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-23-07-06	Sulphide and NON carbonate Sulphur (S-IR06a) Analysis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory/Company/Firm profile High level schedule of similar work indicating all major milestones. Must be capable of performing sulphide and non-carbonate sulphur sample analysis by S-IR06a method. Experience in conducting similar projects in large scale Underground mines across the world. International accreditation with more than 10 years of experience. Updates of calibration history for all testing machines Proof of previous sulphide and non-carbonate sulphur sample analysis by S-IR06a method. Resumes of all technical staffs with more than 5 Years experience in Material Testing Laboratory.

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead if your company qualifies as per the **pre-qualification criteria** together with the additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile;
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration
- Time frame to complete the project. (including site mobilization stage)
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner
- BRELA detailed search certificate i.e statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 1800hrs on the **15th September 2023**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

If you do not hear from us in 21days after the deadline date, please consider your EOI unsuccessful.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of **BGML**.

For and on behalf of **BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**.

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Ministry of Energy Permanent Secretary Eng Felcheshi Mramba (C) with the Indian Industry delegation shortly after their talks at his office in Dar es Salaam recently. They discussed several issues about energy sector. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'BoT sold \$500 million on foreign exchange market'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) sold \$500 million on the foreign exchange market from March 2022 to August 2023, the National Assembly was told yesterday.

Minister of Finance Dr Mwigulu Nchemba made the remarks in the National Assembly when responding to a question by Biharamulo West legislator John Chivelesa who wanted to know what the government was doing to strengthen availability of forex in the country.

The minister said the government has lined several strategies to strengthen availability of forex in the country including purchasing gold and increasing exports.

"The government was also involving commercial banks, bureau de change and other stakeholders in regulating the foreign exchange market in the country," he said.

The legislator wanted asked, in rescuing the economy from collapsing due to the scarcity of the United States dollar in the country.

In response, the minister said the government has put in place

long and short term strategies to address the scarcity of the foreign exchange to facilitate economic growth.

He said the challenge has been brought by the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change.

"Others causes are the implementation of the fiscal policy which aims at decreasing liquidity by several countries including the United States of America to control inflation," he said.

He said the incidents have affected the production value chain, circulation and demand of services on the global market.

He however said despite the scarcity, the state of availability of foreign exchange remains intact where the country had a forex reserve of \$5,246.7 million as of July, 2023 which is enough to import goods for a period of 4.7 months.

"The money is also able to import services for a period of 4.7 months compared to the four months which were targeted," he said.

Govt urges stakeholders to chip in to transform livestock sector

By Guardian Reporter

ENTREPRENEURS, researchers, development partners, and financial institutions have been called to support the efforts of the Tanzanian government in bringing meaningful change to pastoralists who currently engage in nomadic pastoralism, owning approximately 95 per cent of the country's livestock.

Livestock and Fisheries minister Abdallah Ulega made the call yesterday when speaking in Dar es Salaam at the just-ended Africa Food System Forum (AGRF) on sustainable livestock and pastoralism transformation.

This year's AGRF theme: "Recover, Regenerate, Act: Africa's Solutions to Food Systems Transformation"

He said: "When this group of pastoralists undergoes transformation, it will contribute to the increased production of livestock products (meat and milk) within the food system."

He said Tanzania is endowed with a high number of livestock resources about 77 million, whereby 95% of livestock are indigenous breeds that are reared under the communal grazing system, while the remaining 5% are raised in ranches and private lands.

"The communal grazing land have been gradually shrinking and losing its quality due to various factors, in-

cluding the increasing human and livestock population. For instance, during independence 1961, Tanzania had a population of 9 million people, however the population has significantly increased to 61 million people. The population growth has led to increased demands for land for settlements, agriculture, livestock production and other social-economic activities."

He said that the common production system in Tanzania is an extensive grazing system that is associated with pastoralists' movement from place to place in search for grazing lands and water. This system has negative effects on the contribution of

the growth of the livestock sector and food systems at large.

The sustainable Livestock and Pastoralism Transformation- Interventions in the country include policy reforms-review of Livestock Policy of 2006 that aims to restrict uncontrolled movement of livestock.

It also involve enhancing implementation of grazing land and Animal feed Resource Act CAP 180 Section 20 which enable grazing land Inspectors to notify livestock keepers to harvest excess livestock in specified area as well as encouraging livestock keepers and others to participate in the identification, demarcation and gazette grazing land currently, a total of 3.19

million hectares of grazing land are demarcated.

We also need efficient utilization of National Ranching Company (NARCO) by promoting the involvement of youth and women along the livestock value chain of milk, meat, pasture, hides and skins

Ulega however, said: "The government is also taking various measures to transform nomadic pastoralism into productive and commercial livestock farming to increase the contribution of the livestock sector to food security in our country and across Africa.

Some of the steps taken by the government include establishing demo

pasture farms in various districts to educate pastoralists in pasture production and preservation as well as educating pastoralists on the importance of individual land ownership for grazing and discouraging nomadic pastoralism.

The focus is to ensure that livestock are raised according to the carrying capacity of the grazing lands while adhering to the proper timing of livestock harvesting.

"We also work on training pastoralists on sustainable management of grazing lands, including clearing bushes, removing invasive weeds, planting forage crops, and investing water infrastructure for livestock."

TRA and Mining Commission enter agreement to control loss of revenue, non-tax collections

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the Tanzania Mining Commission have entered an agreement to control loss of revenue and non-tax collections.

Minister of Finance Dr Mwigulu Nchemba made the remarks in the National Assembly when responding to a question by Iringa urban legislator Jesca Msambatavangu who wanted to know why the government was not connecting revenues by artisanal miners with the Mineral Market Management Information System (MMMIS).

In response, the minister said mineral revenues from artisanal miners are collected by the Tanzania Mining Commission on behalf of TRA.

"Following the directives by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to link up revenue systems to ensure they read each other and TRA is now harmonizing systems to ensure they read each other Market Management Information System," he said.

President Samia unveiled the government's commitment to end claims of double taxation that has been among the chronic outcry among businessmen operating in the country.

In 2019/2019 the government directed all regional commissioners to establish mineral trading centres in their regions to boost the sector's contribution to individual incomes and the national economy.

The decision was part of the efforts to make sure that minerals benefit the people, elevate the incomes of small-scale miners as well as boost government revenue from the sector.

The government also offered incentives to small-scale miners including abolishing 18- percent VAT and five per cent withholding tax to curb illegal mineral trade, which denies the government and miners income.



Following the directives by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to link up revenue systems to ensure they read each other and TRA is now harmonizing systems to ensure they read each other Market Management Information System



Minister of State Vice President's Office Union and Environment, Dr Selemani Jafa (R) and the Norwegian Ambassador to Tanzania Tonne Tinnes sign the 7.5bn/- climate change investment contract agreement between the two countries in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Emmalovenes Mkanula/TUDARCO

Govt to strengthen Tazara railway line to boost trade

By Guardian Reporter

THE government will continue to put in place strategies to ensure that the transportation of goods by rail is strengthened by allocating funds every year to facilitate the transportation of goods in and outside Tanzania

transported through the Dar es Salaam port.

Transport Minister Prof. Makame Mbarawa made the pledge on Thursday when speaking during a virtual meeting that involved him, Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania, Zambia Transport and Logistics

minister. Prof Mbarawa said that strengthening the country's rail transport, especially the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA), will reduce the challenges of cargo transportation, especially for cargo going to Zambia and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

"The holding of the meeting is the implementation of the agreement reached between the President of Tanzania and Zambia to ensure that TAZARA is revived and here we have discussed the best ways to revive it where the committees that have already been formed are continuing their

work and will submit reports for decisions to be made," Minister Mbarawa said.

He added that currently three committees have been formed to discuss the best way to strengthen the TAZARA railway line to ensure that the organization transports more cargo.

Chinese Ambassador below, Chen Mingjian also said that her government, as a major stakeholder in the railway, is ready to ensure that the organization is improved to contribute to the country and facilitate the transportation of goods. Frank Tayali, Zambian minister for Transport and Lo-

gistics assured Minister Mbarawa and Ambassador Chen that Zambia is ready and as part of the shareholder of the organization continues to implement various agreements entered into between Tanzania and Zambia with the aim of reviving the organization.

TRA ventures on new campaign to promote EFDs receipts issue

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in Ilala tax region has embarked on a new campaign dubbed: 'Tuwajibike' (let's be responsible) to sensitise traders to issue receipts using Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs) in their transactions.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam's Gongolamboto suburb, Masau Malima, Ilala Tax regional manager said the campaign is aimed at encouraging the public on effective use of e-fiscal devices (EFD).

"We're encouraging people to know the importance of demanding correct EFD receipts whenever the purchase anything as it helps TRA to collect the right taxes for the development of the nation," he said.

"Our tax is our development, so traders make sure you give receipts every time they make a sale and buyers demand correct EFD

receipts every time they buy goods or get services," Malima said, noting that the campaign was in line with showcasing the newly established Gongolamboto tax services center.

"The idea is to bring TRA services closer to people and we want to make them comfortable and be able to visit at any convenient time," said Ambele Mwaissunga, head of Gongolamboto tax services center.

Mwaissunga also welcomed all traders at the center and understood activities and services offered by TRA, as the authority services have now been moved closer to traders in their business areas so they should not hesitate to visit and get various tax services.

Some of the traders who were at the launch of the campaign praised TRA for moving services closer to their areas, thus reducing the cost and time of getting tax services.



Ilala Tax regional manager Masau Malima (C) and assistant manager of services for the taxpayer Penda Nkuba and other businesspersons in a group photo at the launch of the 'Tuwajibike' (Let's be responsible) campaign at the Gongolamboto tax services centre in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AI becomes new challenge for professional publishing - don

By Guardian Reporter

TECHNOLOGY development has brought great benefits, but writing of academic works has brought many challenges including publications through artificial intelligence (AI), which is being done by untrustworthy people.

Prof. Alex Makulilo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) in charge of learning technologies and regional services unveiled this yesterday when open-

ing the editorial training for editors of academic journals of the varsity in Kibaha town, Coast Region.

Prof. Makulilo said that technology has made it much easier to access self-study publications through various networks and also to facilitate the conduct of various studies.

He however said that there are people who are not honest and can use artificial intelligence to make publications and make them appear to have great ability to do research and produce many publications per year, but

in reality they have not done research but it is AI that did the job of producing those publications.

"Artificial intelligence has the ability to produce a text or even a book, this has forced some institutions of higher education to give attention to academics and students to admit whether the work they provide is theirs or they have obtained it through artificial intelligence. This is done through a special system known as plagiarism check. So, in this lesson, one of the discussions should be how you as editors can deal with this

problem arising from the development of technology," Prof. Makulilo said.

He also pointed out that what makes many African countries lag behind in research and producing quality publications is the lack of research budgets. Many governments in Africa allocate small budgets or do not allocate research budgets at all, which makes researchers pay for themselves with the little money they have and thus the quality of research and publications resulting from that research are not reached.

Dr Harrieth Mtae, OUT director of research, publications and discovery said that there is currently a great need for magazines to receive publications from academics and researchers. "This is due to the Tanzanian government encouraging research in colleges including lecturers and students. However, despite the need being great, the output of these publications has been stagnant."

"This training is to improve the existing journals in the college. This college has seven magazines, but its publication has not been in the program

of periods or the required period of publication. So this training has brought together all the editors to see where we are hindering considering the need for people to produce publications is very great." Said Dr. Let's go.

Prof. Magreth Bushesha, varsity director of advanced degrees who is also the Editor-in-Chief of the Huria magazine said that the training is very important for them because it is going to solve the challenges they have been encountering in serving the existing magazines.



Deputy minister for Agriculture, David Silinde (R) shares a light moment with crop stakeholders shortly after opening a session on increasing diplomatic and business cooperation organised by the Cereals and Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB) in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Centre is the Malt Mazao director Riyaz Khan and the board director Nicomed Bohay. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Minister instructs TBA to collect 81.5bn/- debts

By Guardian Reporter

WORKS minister, Innocent Bashungwa has instructed the Tanzania Buildings Agency (TBA) to ensure that they collect the debt of 81.5bn/- from their tenants in parallel with removing the debtors from the houses so that the funds can support the implementation of other projects in the country.

Bashungwa said on Thursday in Dodoma when he visited the agency for the first time and spoke with the management of TBA where he emphasised productive investment for employees and the nation as a whole.

"TBA should enforce the law on anyone who does not pay taxes, even if they are leaders, write them a notice to pay their debts and if they don't pay, remove them, there are others out there waiting to be given a house so that they can pay their taxes on time and we will use the money collected to build another house," the minister said.

He also instructed the TBA to ensure that they come up with strategies that will help build affordable houses, especially for young people who are employed in the public service, especially in Dodoma, to be able to afford the cost of living.

"There are young people who are entering the public service

cadre and have not yet been able to build a house for themselves, through TBA you can build cheap houses for these young people to make their living expenses easier," said Bashungwa.

He also asked the agency to have a mechanism to build the capacity of the professionals they have to keep up with the pace of technological change, especially in terms of construction and development of various buildings.

Daud Kondoro, TBA Chief Executive Officer said that the agency will ensure that it seeks solutions to the existing challenges and promised minister Bashungwa that the agency will prepare good strategies that will help provide better services to the people.

Kondoro said that until now TBA continues to implement the project of construction of 3500 houses for public servants in Nzuguni Dodoma where the first phase of 150 houses has reached 95 per cent and the second phase of construction of 150 houses has reached 10 per cent.

Other projects are the construction of 20 houses for leaders in Dodoma which aimed to curb the shortage of houses for leaders after the government moved to Dodoma where the project has been completed 100 per cent.

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

Tanzania surpasses UN's set targets to combat HIV

TANZANIA has successfully surpassed the United Nations (UN)'s set 95-95-95 targets to fight against HIV by the year 2030, according to the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.

The UN's global set targets, among others, focuses to ensure that 95 per cent of people living with HIV know their status, 95 per cent of people who know their status are receiving treatments, as well as 95 per cent of people on HIV treatment having a suppressed viral load by 2030.

The PM made the remarks when speaking during the climax of the special dialogue on strengthening partnership between the government, the stakeholders and communities for the sustainable achievement towards negating the disease in the country, the premier unveiled that 96 per cent of the people living with HIV knows over their infection status.

"Today, at least 96 per cent of the HIV positive Tanzanians are aware of the status, whereby 98 per cent are currently undergoing lifesaving antiretroviral treatments, and 97 per cent have managed to stop replication of the HIV/viruses in their blood cells," the premier unveiled.

Majaliwa stated that the sixth phase government was continuing working tooth and nail in cooperation with the key stakeholders and local communities to step up more intervention against the killer disease across the country in order to stand a better path to attain the much-needed target of having zero infections by 2030.

"We will work hard to roll out more financial investments towards supporting HIV interventions in the country, including capacitance of the AIDS Trust Fund,

as well as to help implement diverse programs against the disease from the grassroots," the premier added.

The helpful national dialogue was organised by the National Council of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Tanzania, being part to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the vital Council in Tanzania.

Health Minister, Umy Mwalimu expressed that the country was performing impressively in the war against the spread of the disease, noting that more strategies were being initiated.

She similarly hailed Prime minister Kassim Majaliwa for his patriotic determination to push for the needed national efforts against the disease.

"Your honorable Prime Minister, since when we seriously embarked on the national campaign against HIV in 2015/16,

you have always been there to inject us with diverse support, especially by accepting the Ambassador for sensitising the men communities across the country to test for the disease," she appreciated.

She communicated that, by the year 2016, HIV positive population who knew about their infection status in the country was at 61 per cent, but due to intensive interventions the percentage has increased to the tune of 97 per cent.

"We're very proud of you for the positive manner to which you have assisted us to have the HIV testing regulations improved as it now allows the 15 aged youth to legally test for the disease without seeking for their parents concern and permissions, the development assisted a lot," she said.

Before, the country's HIV testing regu-

lations restricted the youth at 15 years of age to test for the disease without being permitted by their parents.

"The other milestone that we managed to achieve under your shadow was the enactment of the law to allow self testing among the citizens," she unveiled.

"I would so like to deep appreciating the great roles being played by NACOPHA in the war against new cases of HIV infections in the country, as well as the victims on how best to live through adhering to the advisory habits, including making a properly use of the ARVs in order to protect themselves and the others within communities," she added.

Leticia Moris, NACOPHA chairperson said the council was appreciating the concerted efforts being taken by the government in cooperation with the stakeholders and the communities in large to fight the disease, but also, in improving HIV health services across the country.



Sino Tan Industrial Park chairman Kwala in Kibaha District, Coast Region, Janson Huang (2nd L) briefs members of the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) on the development of the project during their visit yesterday. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Govt refutes allegations by GGML blacklisting youth

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has refuted claims that Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has blacklisted youth whose employment has been terminated for various reasons, as claimed by some individuals.

In its investigation, it has been found that GGML has established a system to keep records of the performance and conduct of its employees, including actions and incidents of violation of rules and regulations committed during their employment.

Patrobas Katambi, Deputy Minister, Office of the Prime Minister (Labor, Youth, Employment, and Persons with Disabilities) revealed yesterday the House in Dodoma when responding to a question from the Geita town MP, Constatine Kanyasu, who asked whether the government is aware of GGML's practice of blacklisting youth in the country and how many youth are currently blacklisted.

Responding Katambi said that in the hiring process, almost all companies and employers follow up on the performance information of job applicants with their previous employers.

"Therefore, GGML provides per-

formance information and conduct of employees who have worked with them when requested to do so. Additionally, despite providing that information, GGML does not prohibit the specific mine from hiring applicants in any way.

"I would like to take this opportunity to urge youth who are confident that their service at GGML was faultless and can prove that they have been blacklisted by the company to contact my office so that appropriate measures can be taken," he said, adding:

"I urge all youth to work with honesty and integrity to avoid the consequences of having a negative employment record, which hinders their economic advancement and participation in the nation's development."

Among other things, Katambi said that if there is evidence of youth being blacklisted, it should be provided to ensure that the rights of those Tanzanians are upheld, as it is our government's responsibility to protect the rights of all parties.

In addition to promising to visit the mine, he said that if someone has already been punished, it is unfair to continue to deny them the right to be employed elsewhere.

Anti-GBV committee members suggest marriage issues to be taught in schools

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

COMMITTEE members of the anti-gender-based violence (GBV) in Zanzibar have advised the creation of a system that will provide an opportunity for marriage education to be taught at various levels of education.

The move is meant to give young people a chance to learn the basics of marriage and understand it before entering into marriage.

The advice came after realising that the lack of such a system leads many young people to get married without getting enough education on the matter, which causes an

increase in unnecessary divorces.

The committee members made the advice during the session to submit a three-month report on monitoring and providing education against such acts in the community organized by Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA, Zanzibar) through a project to use the Media Forum to combat gender-based violence (GBV) carried out in collaboration with the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA).

The committee is made up of officials from different government departments at the district level including those from police gender

desks, community development, courts, GBV coordinators, and clerics

Some members of the committee said recently there has been an increase in family conflicts and led to many marriages breaking up, which is caused by the lack of sufficient education for young people to understand the basics of marriage before getting married.

Ali Sheha, community development officer in Zanzibar's Central District said that in that district for a period of three months there have been reported seven cases of neglect, three cases of foster care, three cases of rape, one case of as-

sault causing bodily harm where the main source of these cases is the result of neglect resulting from marital conflicts.

Dodo Rajab Ismail, gender officer in Zanzibar's West A District said that despite the fact that the Mufti Office takes efforts to establish special classes to provide marriage education in collaboration with the Community of Imams but still that education is not enough to build young people to recognize the basics of marriage due to it is offered for a limited time and to special people.

He advised the creation of a special system that will create an environment of necessity for all young

people to get marriage training from the initial level.

"In order to deal with this problem of increasing divorce, we need to have special classes to teach marriage lessons in schools and madrasas so that young people learn in detail about marriage issues and not get that training only when they want to get married," he said.

Jamal Himid Hassan, a police officer at Mwera station in Zanzibar's West District A explained: "We must change, many parents have become liars and hypocrites, everyone does not accept the fault of their child even if the child makes a mistake."

Project officer, Zaina Salum en-

couraged the committee members to continue working closely together in monitoring incidents of humiliation and providing education to the community so that such acts end in Zanzibar.

"The project to oppose acts of cruelty and humiliation started in 2018 and ends in September 2023, even if this project ends, these movements will not end and we will continue this cycle so that we do not perpetuate these acts in Zanzibar and keep the whole community safe," Zaina said.

Committee members are from the five Districts of Unguja, including South, North A & B, Central, West A.

Ulega hails Heifer International

By Getrude Mbago

MINISTER for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega has hailed Heifer International's robust commitment in backing up the government's efforts to support small holder farmers adopt innovative practices to increase yields and income.

Ulega made the remarks in Dar es Salaam at the just ended Africa Food Systems Summit when he attended Heifer Networking Cocktail which was convened on the sidelines of the summit.

According to the minister, Heifer has for years been supporting women and youth in bolstering technology in the livestock and agriculture sectors thus increasing productivity.

Ulega said the non for profit organisation's relationship with Tanzania dates way back from the era of the founding father of the nation Mwalimu Julius Nyerere requested his counterpart former US President Jimmy Carter to help the country to improve and strengthen the livestock sector.

"Among the programmes which Heifer will be embraced for is the 'Kopa ng'ombe Lipa Maziwa' whereby through the investment of modern technologies major revolutions have been encountered in southern highlands region which is the country's milk basket comprising of Rungwe, Njombe, Iringa and among others," Ulega said.

He noted that recently the organization supported Tanzania to transform Msomera village in Handeni District, Tanga Region as a hub for livestock by establishing groups of herders.

According to him, the groups were doing very well and in fact a youth group in the area has adapted the vision of the Building a Better Tomorrow Life in their endeavors. He noted that in collaboration with the Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB), Heifer and the International Fund for Agriculture Development another programme is being carried out in the Lake

Zone under T13P to help strengthen milk production.

"We envision more milk production, the goal being to meet our own demand and surplus to sell to other countries," the minister noted.

He explained that the efforts have started by putting up big industries, stressing that with more investments and partnerships the goal of producing surplus milk which bring foreign direct investment (FDIs), thereby creating more employment for women and youth can be realised.

Chief Executive Officer and president of Heifer, Surita Sandosham noted that they work with small holder farmers to make sure they get a sustainable livelihoods.

"Heifer has been in Tanzania for almost 50 years and within that time the organisation has worked with smallholder farmer families to get a sustainable living income by partnering with the government taking into strong account that farmers are the drivers of the economic engine around agriculture," she said.

She added: "Our main goal is to intervene where it's appropriate and support small holder farmers to get sustainable living incomes."

Sandosham observed that the organisation was very focused on women and youth and what is really important is to ensure that they find ways to create an ecosystem to allow the woman to be an investable unit.

She said working with the responsible ministries, various corporations, development organisations, research institutions and CSOs present in the country through partnership they will be able to figure the best way to make it possible.

Besides, Heifer is present in Africa, America and Asia specifically in Africa they have set base in 11 countries, the goal is to ensure youth participate in the agriculture sector technology

Heifer's country director, Mark Tsoxo revealed that the impact made since the organisation set base in Tanzania has helped reach over 1.5 million households by removing them out of abject poverty.



Special Seats Councillor in Mkuranga District, Coast Region Fatuma Kingwande airs her opinions during the development stakeholders meeting for Coast and Dar es Salaam regions at Mbaga on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

World Vegetable Centre, IFDC sign five-year MoU to strengthen collaboration to promote research in agriculture

By Getrude Mbago

THE World Vegetable Centre and the International Fertiliser Development Centre (IFDC) have signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaboration to promote research in agriculture and nutrition.

Speaking after signing the agreement in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, Marco Wopereis, director general of the World Vegetable Centre said the collaborations will facilitate

more research in the areas of farming and fertilizers applications by measuring if there is a need for vegetable farmers to apply fertilizers.

He said the pact will involve heightening relations in areas of common interest, capitalising comparative advantages, complementarities and synergies toward shared goals of agricultural transformation, food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation.

"The ultimate objective of the collabora-

tion is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs) in particular SDGI and 2 which involve enhancing food and nutrition security, reducing rural and urban poverty and increasing employment opportunities to youth and women.

He said that during the implementation of the MoU, experts will research the productivity of fertilizer use in vegetable farming and this is continuation of the ongoing studies in Unguja and Pemba and six other small

islands on soil health.

"So, this is not the first time we partnering with the IFDC, we have implemented several initiatives to help find durable solutions to various challenges facing farmers," he said.

Henk van Duijn, IFDC president and CEO said the MoU also involves cooperation in exchange of staff to encourage sharing of experiences, scientific knowledge and technology advances.

According to him, the agreement will enable farmers to be aware of when and where to ap-

ply fertilisers as per soil health so as to produce vegetables and crops with full nutrients.

He added the implementation of the MoU will further help improve research and development of vegetable crops, enhance nutrition, and increase food security in the country.

Director of the Tanzania Chapter of the World Vegetable Centre, Dr Gabriel Rugalema said investing in proper production of enough vegetables will strengthen availability of more nutritious products thus boosting health and income.

Transition to cleaner energy cannot be reversed - says Kerry US envoy

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

THE US government's climate envoy, John Kerry at the first ever African Climate Summit has said that the transition to cleaner energy cannot be reversed even by climate sceptic leaders.

"This transition is going to happen, in my judgment because the private sector gets involved in a much greater degree than today," he said when speaking at a news conference in Nairobi, Kenya's capital.

The first African Climate Summit opened on Monday with heads of state and others asserting a stronger voice on a worldwide issue that affects their continent the most even though its 1.3 billion people contribute to global warming the least.

Kerry said 17 of the world's 20 countries most impacted by climate change are in Africa - while the world's 20 richest nations, including his own, produce 80% of the world's carbon emissions that are driving climate change.

Asked about the Kenyan president's call for a carbon tax discussion, Kerry replied that President Joe Biden has "not yet embraced any particular carbon pricing mechanism."

Kenya's President William Ruto declared on Tuesday that it is time to have a global conversation about a carbon tax on polluters, adding that climate change is eating away at Africa's economic progress.

The U.N. has estimated that loss and damage in Africa due to climate change are projected to be between \$290 billion and \$440 billion in the period from 2020 to 2030, depending on the degree of warming.

The summit's opening speeches included clear calls to reform the global financial structures that have left African nations paying about five times more to borrow money than others, worsening the debt crisis for many.

Climate finance is key, speakers said, with richer nations' promise of \$100 billion a year in climate finance to developing countries still unfulfilled.



Open University of Tanzania (OUT) deputy Vice-Chancellor Alex Makulilo speaks at the opening of editorial training for the university's academic journals chief editors at Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School in Kibaha District, Coast Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

AfDB unveils new initiative to cushion farmers from climate change effects

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has unveiled the Africa Climate Risk Insurance Facility for Adaptation (ACRIFA). The initiative is aimed at insulating countries against catastrophic weather-related events.

The facility, which will be hosted by the Bank, expands its pioneering Africa Disaster Risk Insurance Program into a facility that will develop insurance to help African countries, specifically, their agriculture sectors, prepare for, adapt and build resilience against adverse effects of climate change such as flooding and drought.

AfDB Group President Dr. Akinwumi Adesina announced the new adaptation facility on Tuesday 6 September, at a side event held at the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi. He said it would raise an initial \$1 billion of concessionary high-risk capital and grants to catalyze the development and uptake of insurance solutions to help countries, businesses and communities adapt to climate change.

"This is our effort to scale up support to insure countries, households against extreme weather patterns," Adesina told attendees at the event.

"Extreme weather patterns negatively impact the livelihoods of many

millions of farmers in Africa, the majority of those being women. One way we can tackle this issue is to be sure that farmers have access to crop and livestock insurance," he added.

The Africa Climate Risk Insurance Facility for Adaptation will also extend credit insurance to investment portfolios related to climate, agri-food system and enterprise development, as well as engage primary insurers across Africa to ensure business opportunities flow through them to continental and international re-insurers. In addition, it will support national governments to more efficiently manage climate disasters.

Comoros President Azali Assoumani, Chair of the African Union, who spoke at the event, described it as a necessary innovation. "Considering the frequency and impact of national disasters in African countries, ACRIFA has come at a time when African countries are facing enormous challenges affecting agriculture, such as floods and drought. It will help us to strengthen our adaptation and resilience capacities."

Assoumani added: "Comoros is just 2,000 square kilometers. We cannot unlock our touristic potential when we face severe climate risks, and therefore the importance of this

facility to Comoros, which continues to experience adverse realities of climate change."

"[The Africa Climate Risk Insurance Facility for Adaptation] will help to scale up what [African Risk Capacity Group] is doing. Risk transfer is not just about premiums. It is also about what happens before the disaster strikes. The facility will help to build data that feeds early warning systems in Africa," said Ibrahima Diong, Director General of the African Risk Capacity Group and United Nations Assistant Secretary-General.

ACRIFA will expand on partnerships to carry out services to clients,

such as the World Food Programme. "We are very excited about ACRIFA's potential to expand insurance cover to farmers who need it. The Facility will help to unlock private sector capital. We can inject trust in the market and unleash more capital than is currently provided in the market," said Martin Frick of the World Food Programme.

Following a panel discussion about the facility's potential, African Development Bank Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development Dr. Beth Dunford, said it needed to move into action quickly.

"What we're talking about today,



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Zanzibar Khamis Abdulla Said (R) and the Turkey based Rok Development Chief Executive Officer, show the agreement documents in Unguja yesterday shortly after signing a contract agreement for construction of schools in Zanzibar. Photo: Correspondent

Don't isolate PWDs, expert tells Tanzanian community

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

ISOLATION and discrimination people with disabilities in the community will not end until society changes its attitudes and becomes more sensitive to their special needs, according to specialists.

Faustina Urassa, spinal cord injury specialist and founder and managing director of Songambe Initiative made the call here recently when opening the month-long series of activities, which is a part of her organisation's events to mark the International World Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) which is observed on September 5, every year.

"The day is aimed at creating awareness on spinal cord injuries to the community members on spinal cord injury as I'm one of the victims of the challenge. Through this campaign we also provide wheelchairs, and other assistive devices to the victims," Faustina said.

She tasked the need for the community to inculcate the habit of not isolating and discriminating people with different disabilities, as they provide a vital role in society.

According to her, they are going to have a month-long series of activities including creating awareness on spinal cord injury to the school children within their schools, community members in markets, churches, mosques in all districts of

Kilimanjaro region.

"We are also going to create awareness in collaboration with different stakeholders including doctors, Physiotherapists, Social Welfare officers, among many others, through radio and TV programmes," she said.

Dr. Haleluya Moshi, physiotherapist from the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) said that the spinal cord can be damaged through trauma as a result of accidents, or as a result of illness and infection.

"The impact of the damage depends on where the spinal cord is injured, for example if the injury is in the cervical or thoracic (upper spine) loss of the use of arms and legs can occur and breathing may be affected, while lower spinal cord injuries may affect use of the legs and control of the stomach, bladder and bowels."

"Each injury and its effects can be unique to the sufferer and depends on the cause, circumstances and how quickly the injury is treated. Research is still ongoing worldwide, yet many scientists are confident that advancements will make spinal cord repair possible sometime," Dr Moshi said.

The event attracts various non-governmental organizations including Gabriella Children's Rehabilitation Centre (GCRC), AJISO, KCMC, CCBRT, and SIMAUJATA.

China's efforts to combat desertification inspiration for Africa, says Egyptian expert

By Marwa Yahya, Cairo

CHINA, through years of dedicated efforts in desert control, is now a major driving force behind global green development and a source of inspiration for African countries, Magdy Allam, an Egyptian environment expert has said.

"Turning deserts into forests is an inspiration for African countries that are battling land degradation," said Allam, an advisor to the Global Environment Facility, also sec-

retary-general of a federation for Arab environmentalists.

China's successful management of climate risks such as drought and heatwaves as well as its actions for addressing global warming is a real contribution to global ecological conservation, according to the expert.

During the year 2012 to 2022, China's accumulative afforestation area reached 960 million mu (64 million hectares), while 165 million mu of grassland was improved, and more than 12 million mu of wetlands were

added or restored, official data showed.

"Adaptation to different climates, soil, locations and ecosystem, China has established green belts around many cities, and cultivating large swaths of land controlling desertification or soil loss," Allam said, stressing that "China is a real model for adaptation to climate change."

Most African countries are struggling with land degradation linked to human activities and climatic shocks, the expert said, adding that China has found out the experience for

desert control, offering solutions for African nations.

The Green Great Wall, an initiative launched in 2007 by the African Union, aims to restore the continent's degraded landscapes and transform millions of lives in the Sahel.

Joint China-Africa programs on the environment, including in the above initiative, enable China to provide technology and expertise to African nations on halting the spread of deserts and encroachment of sand

in agricultural areas, Allam noted.

He believed that green belts, a Chinese successful model, are effective ways to reduce the negative impacts of sand dunes and protect traditional crops from extinction.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change, approximately 46.2 percent of the Earth's land surface, which hosts a three billion population, corresponds to drylands.

Optimal resource use inadequate for energy inclusion, try reforms

EACH moment of policy dialogue is a landmark in how global policy psychology is managed, as no one has prior answers on a consensus building tone at the start of any conference. Even if no hard hitting benchmarks are decided in such a gathering, all contributions matter and add to the pillars of building global sensitivity on issues, if not consensus in principle. That would be the case for the spate of international conferences we have just been following, starting from the climate gathering, the food systems summit and energy mix ahead of COP 28 slated for the Gulf towards the end of the year.

Contributing to the Nairobi preparatory conference on an Africa-wide position on financing or renewable energy, African Development Bank president Akinwumi Adesina strenuously appealed for investments in renewable energy in Africa. He cited the continent's rich energy mix, while a few countries like Kenya, without a reliable hydropower base or gas resources, have set high flung objectives for transition to wind and solar energy. This we all dispose of aplenty.

There would hence have been plenty of ideas on 'Harnessing Africa's renewable energy potential,' the cornerstone of attaining a negotiating platform ahead of the global gathering, notorious for its dawn end of sessions to attain a minimum of consensus.

Under a usable aphorism that every economy can only go as far as the energy it produces, he pointed at an equally visible truism, that Africa has tremendous potential in hydro and wind power, solar, geothermal which remains untapped. Let us leave aside the energy demand and focus on the resource part.

What was relevant there was that at the moment, despite all the progress made,

rather than the available potential, frankly, upwards of 600m people on the continent are living without access to electricity. Furthermore, the rate of harm from fuelwood is staggering, with UN data suggesting that upwards of 300,000 women die every year from use of unclean energy in cooking. It is also possible there are complicating issues like air circulation in households, methane effects.

Moving from this sort of basic data to achieving universal clean energy access is a tall order, even if governments do what they can in optimising the potential that Africa has, like using natural gas. The AfDB and African leaders accept that natural gas is essential and strategically vital at the moment, but the European Union is doing all it can to scuttle gas projects, especially with pipelines, etc. Their view is less access to high quality energy mix but skip big fuel, industries.

That is why African leaders are usually more relaxed when they talk with European Union bureaucrats and diplomats about conservation, and have greater problems in confronting energy issues. While COP 28 and those meeting in the preliminary strategy brainstorming session in Nairobi could have largely agreed on the need for optimisation of renewable energy mix, and pursuit of robust conservation, gas sector investments are in the private sector and this shift won't be assisted by developed countries. Without basic reforms involving capital into Africa's mining, industry and commerce will raise living standards, modernise agriculture, paving the way for affordability of whatever energy mix. Global conferences optimise state resources to cushion local institutions, but development financing can't compensate for scant revenues or energy poverty.

Time for AU to be firm on military coups

IN recent decades, military coups in the African continent have been extremely rare as democracy took hold, sort of.

Apart from the likely growth in human and constitutional rights abuses, coups also tend to be a curse to economic growth. Investors tend to be discreet to put money into economies that are run by the whims of a military dictator rather than market forces.

This often results into a lack of economic growth, increased inflation and unemployment – some of the very things the military often cite as the reason they took power in the first place.

Hence recently, Niger and Gabon militaries, no doubt pushed by what was seen as a popular uprising against their presidents, did just that, toppled them. But before these two there were also coups in Guinea and Mali.

They are usually followed the trade mark condemnation from across the globe, Africa in particular with its political grouping - the African Union (AU) suspending the countries and calling for swift return to democratic norms. It is still to be seen whether that may happen.

But as often as it happens, coups in Africa tend to embarrass the AU, apart from exposing its hypocrisy. In many cases it doesn't know what to do with them, let alone correctly react thereto, despite the existence, of a protocol defining what to do.

In 2003, AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) to deal with cases of unconstitutional changes of government (UCG), among other things.

Ratified by 51 countries, the Protocol relating to the establishment of the PSC specifies that it shall 'institute sanctions [in conjunction with the AU Chairperson] whenever an unconstitutional change of government takes place in a member state, as provided for in the Lomé Declaration', but does not define the sanctions more clearly, and that is where the dilemma starts.

In Zimbabwe in late 2017 when President Robert Mugabe was forced by the

military to give up power, at first the AU hesitated to define it as a coup or a mere removal of one man - a palace coup. In the end the continental body condemned it any way and called for immediate restoration of a democratically elected government.

When in 2013 Egypt's military led by Gen Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi toppled the democratically elected government of President Mohamed Morsi, the AU condemned the coup to the skies, promptly suspended Egypt membership from the body and called for immediate return to democracy.

Not only democracy was not restored, hardly two years later the same AU considered Al-Sisi to have enough legitimacy to be elected its Chairman. To say the development was outrageous and beyond comprehension, is no doubt an understatement.

Earnestly, this man had absolutely no right to join, let alone head, an organisation that promotes democratic norms among its members.

It is time the AU did some soul-searching and come up with some formula on how to deal with forceful removal of democratically elected governments.



This often results into a lack of economic growth, increased inflation and unemployment – some of the very things the military often cite as the reason they took power in the first place

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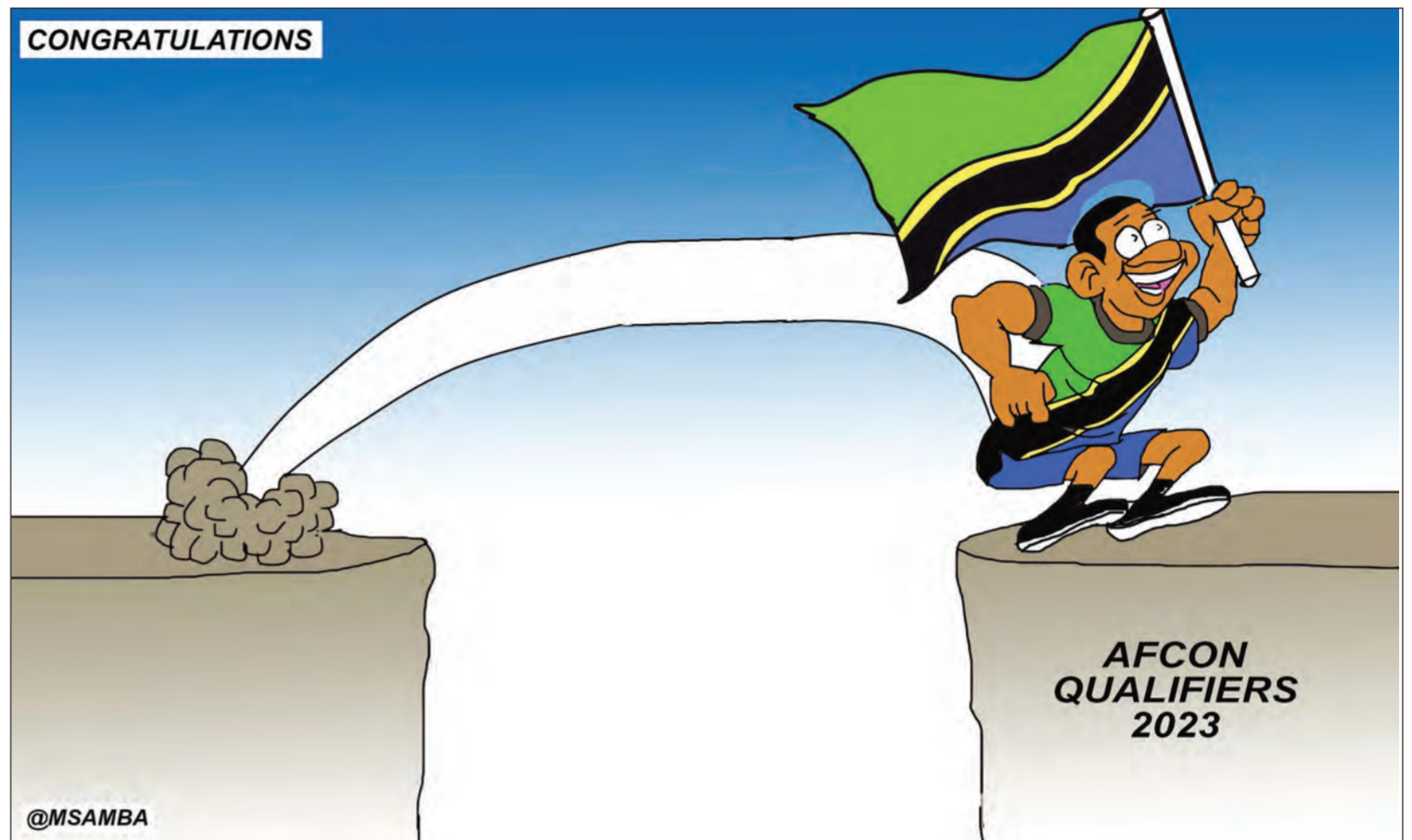
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CONGRATULATIONS



Why Uganda, SA and Nigeria skipped Africa Climate Summit

By Special Correspondent

WHEN 14 African presidents jettied into Nairobi this week for the inaugural Africa Climate Summit (ACS), President Yoweri Museveni was a no-show, as were Presidents Cyril Ramaphosa and Bola Tinubu.

But why? It has been learnt from three senior Kenyan foreign ministry officials that Uganda's Museveni wrote to Kenya declining his invitation, stating categorically that he could not sit and be lectured by US climate envoy John Kerry, who hails from a Global North country that is among the world's biggest polluters.

According to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), more than 30 gigatonnes of CO2 are released into the Earth's atmosphere every year: this is the main source of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change, and most of these gases come from the use of fossil fuels, non-renewable energy production and polluting human activities.

The top ten polluters include China - 10,065 million tonnes of CO2, the United States - 5,416 million tonnes, India - 2,654 million tonnes, Russia - 1,711 million tonnes, Japan - 1,162 million tonnes, Germany - 759 million tonnes, Iran - 720 million tonnes, South Korea - 659 million tonnes, Saudi Arabia - 621 million tonnes and Indonesia - 615 million tonnes of CO2, while Africa, an entire continent, accounts for only four per cent of global carbon emissions, despite being the continent suffering the most devastating effects of the climate crisis.

That is why, according to the 1992 Rio Declaration, now known as the polluter pays principle, those who cause pollution should bear the costs of dealing with it to prevent damage to human health or the environment, as the world agreed that the biggest polluters must take action to reduce their carbon emissions, but also to offset their carbon footprints by supporting environmental projects around the world.

According to President Museveni, it was 'very disrespectful' to sit in a room and be lectured on climate change by the very people who have plunged Africa and the global south into this devastating crisis, a senior official explained.

Secondly, the Ugandan president was also unwilling to engage and associate with a leader from the US, given that America protested and 'punished' Uganda after he signed into law an anti-LGBTQ bill that is considered the harshest in the world, as it allows for the death pen-



alty for homosexual acts.

The new law prompted an official statement from US President Joe Biden, who described it as "a tragic violation of universal human rights - one that is unworthy of the Ugandan people, and one that jeopardises the prospects for critical economic growth for the entire country."

"In his letter declining to attend the ACS, President Museveni made it clear that Africa is not a slave to anyone and reserves the right to conduct its own affairs as it sees fit," another senior official told the Press in an interview.

President Ruto's closing remarks during the 3rd day of the Africa Climate summit

A member of the Ethiopian delegation to the ACS, who spoke to the Nation but was not authorised to speak on the record, agreed with the senior Kenyan official.

"President Museveni refused to attend the ACS because of John Kerry's involvement and the fact that he came to address African leaders, yet he comes from the global north, the world's biggest polluter."

The Kenyan official also revealed why Nigeria and South Africa pulled out of Africa's first climate summit this week.

"South Africa also formally withdrew because the government is protesting against pressure from some European partners to abandon coal and go the way of renewables, yet 80 per cent of energy in South Africa comes from coal.

They simply did not want to be lectured to and be in the same room with European partners from the West who are the world leaders in pollution but who are planning to impose levies on certain carbon-intensive imports from South Africa at a time when they are struggling with load shedding," he said.

Nigeria, Africa's top oil producer, wrote to Kenya saying it did not want to come to the summit and become a bystander to be lectured by the worst emitters.

Africa Climate Summit: President Ruto makes the Nairobi declaration

"We tried to talk to some people in the government there, but they did not feel comfortable coming and listening to the phase-down and phase-out of fossil fuels at the same time, or discussions on the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty initiative." The treaty initiative is spurring international cooperation to end new fossil fuel development, phase out existing production within the agreed climate limit of 1.5°C, and develop plans to help fossil fuel-dependent workers, communities and countries build secure and healthy livelihoods.

Nigeria is currently pumping 1.67 million barrels of oil and condensates a day, up from just under a million barrels a few months ago, according to the Nigerian government.

At the climate summit, leaders failed to agree on a new development model that would end the

continent's dependence on fossil fuels.

The Nairobi Declaration calls for 'commitments to a fair and accelerated process of phasing out coal and the elimination of all fossil fuel subsidies', missing the opportunity to recognise the urgent need to phase out all fossil fuels as an essential first step towards a just transition in Africa.

In an interview with journalists Dr Fadhel Kaboub, associate professor of economics at Denison University and president of the Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity, said he was not surprised.

"It is sadly not surprising, but extremely disappointing, that the Africa Climate Summit got stuck in the fossil fuel trap. While it could have been an opportunity for African leaders to demonstrate their potential for climate leadership, and for the countries of the North to help the continent benefit from it, this summit merely reproduced the usual economic dynamics that underpin inequalities and are known as 'development policy'," he told the Nation.

"Africa is not a bottomless pit for the rich countries. On the contrary, they owe the African people a monumental debt. It is time for them to show real international cooperation, which means helping the continent to gradually and equitably move away from dependence on fossil fuels to accelerate its energy transition," Dr Kaboub said.

"It is time for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, the missing mechanism to enable Africa and the world to build a fossil fuel free future."

Twenty years on from the UN bombing in Baghdad, what has changed?

By Khaled Mansour

TWENTY years ago this month, a colleague saved me from a likely gruesome death. He insisted I stay in his Baghdad office of the World Food Programme (WFP) for a hot drink. "You can't leave us without trying the tea I made for you! The best in Iraq."

I drove back to my office half an hour later than scheduled. Near the grim building of the Canal Hotel, the UN headquarters in the Iraqi capital, I caught sight of a column of smoke and a grey cloud forming on the horizon.

A tragedy was unfolding. People were shouting and crying, while dust, sweat and the scent of molten iron irritated my eyes and nostrils. An American soldier stopped me, brandishing his weapon. He and his unit usually stood idly by their armoured vehicle, leaving the main entrance under the care of local security men. "Let me through, this is my office, I work here!"

The soldiers didn't speak or argue; they were tense and firm as they held their weapons in a ready position. What happened while I was away? Why couldn't I get into my office? I felt an urge to force my passage through the soldiers, to enter the apocalyptic grounds.

The gate at the back of the compound was open.

Inside, survivors were scattered, their faces pale and covered with a film of dust, sweat and blood. Many were sitting on the grass scorched by the summer heat in the spacious garden or on the grounds of the parking lot, staring into nothingness, while others trembled in tears as they embraced each other.

"Sérgio is dying," cried a colleague before collapsing into my arms.

I slipped through a small back door and onto my office on the second floor. The broken glass of shattered windows crushed under my feet as I cautiously took one step after another in dim dusty corridors. I passed over doors torn off their hinges by the force of the blast, thrown onto the ground or leaning against the wall. Desks, drawers, shelves and paper littered the corridors.

My laptop was there but many keys had popped out due to the force of the explosion. Large, sharp glass fragments had lodged in the back of my chair. Had I been there, any of them could have pierced my back.

I walked in darkness until a soldier stopped me at the office of Sérgio Vieira de Mello, the head of the UN mission in Iraq. De Mello had been sent there a few weeks earlier by the then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. His mission was to help the invading Americans reach a political way out and hand over power to Iraqis, after the military and political foundations of Saddam Hussein's regime had been destroyed earlier that year in an ill-conceived and illegal war that had not even been sanctioned by the UN Security Council.

I asked the soldier to let me through. With a vacant look in his eyes, he said, "There's no 'through'. There is nothing there; that part of the building is vaporised. If you stepped behind that door, you'd fall several stories onto rubble, iron rods, and concrete blocks."

I entered the adjacent office where a colleague and I used to smoke whenever we had the chance. Her cigarettes and lighter were on her desk covered by a thin layer of dust that enveloped everything in the room. She was among the missing, and I would later learn that she died in the explosion.

What I had missed

It took hours for us to piece the initial story together. Around 4:30pm on 19th August, 2003, a suicide bomber drove a truck heavily loaded with explosives into the UN compound. His deadly cargo detonated upon impact, destroying a whole corner of the building, burying those inside it under the collapsed floors. The attack killed 22 people, most of whom were UN staff members.

I spent the evening that day in a UN vehicle with colleagues moving from one hospital and medical centre to another, checking on the wounded and searching for some missing UN staff. We ferried some walking wounded back to their hotels.

For a few days, we worked all our waking hours, surrendering ourselves to an immense flow of adrenaline, meetings, calls, and emails.

There was no time to be angry about the UN failure to anticipate the attack or better protect its staff. There was no time to be angry at the mindless, murderous terrorists, or to contemplate the role of the US invasion and the disastrous de-Baathification policy, and the emerging Baath/jihadi coalitions which created a wave of terror that haunts the region today. There would be time for that, later.

I remained oblivious to how the attack impacted me psychologically for several weeks until the long-delayed recognition of the enormity of this horror finally arrived after I returned home to New York. I began a tough journey of recovery, where I had to deal with survivor's guilt and disturbing flashbacks, not to mention what happens usually in such circumstances when upsetting memories swept under the rug of the unconscious creep up and pull you down to very dark caves.

I was very fortunate (and the UN was probably very worried about liability and litigation) to be able to have a fully paid year of leave during which I underwent intensive psychotherapy, also paid for by my health insurance. Millions of Iraqis, including UN contractors, were not that lucky. It took years to fully integrate this harrowing experience and move on. I now accept, rather than avoid, the waves of sadness—and sometimes anger—this memory brings. I know now how not to inflict my suffering on others. This required hard, personal work, and the support and love of friends, family members, and professionals.

I managed to return to work, including in conflict zones, after about a year.

Who was accountable?

The direct responsibility for this horrific attack rested with the terrorist Al-Qaeda group. For them the UN was a proxy target, easier to hit than the US military, which was then their nemesis, but had been an ally of their jihadi ideological fathers in Afghanistan in the 1980s. A wave of propaganda relying on a grain of truth that the UN was whitewashing the American invasion dominated Iraqi and even wider Arab conversations about the international organisation. Al-Qaeda recruiters exploited it cleverly to convince volunteers and followers that the UN was a legitimate target.

In a few months, the UN completed a detailed investigation and pointed the internal fingers of blame at dysfunctional security systems and officials. It shied away from directly blaming the decision-making process for hasty deployment of such political and humanitarian aid missions to danger zones without adequate planning, especially when such decisions were pushed by interested influential capitals.

I remember long discussions among senior UN officials and colleagues before and after the attack on how humanitarian aid had become too politicised and how this had turned us, aid workers, into a soft target for attacks which had been increasingly aimed at civilians and civilian infrastructure.

The day of the attack

On 19th August, 2003, a few hours before the attack, a colleague was trying to park our car inside the UN compound after passing through extensive security checks. As I got out of the car, I noticed a woman and a child behind a side unguarded gate. The child had managed to insert himself in the slight opening of the gate held together by a rusty chain and an old padlock. His slim figure was almost inside the compound when he noticed me.



Rural women in El Salvador participate in a literacy class in the Santa Rosa canton of the municipality of Sensuntepeque, in the northern department of Cabañas. Education authorities in this Central American country have done very little to continue with programs that teach adults to read and write, especially in rural areas. CREDIT: Edgardo Ayala / IPS

We exchanged conspiratorial smiles. Before he could fully push his body through, his mother grabbed his arm and pulled him back.

I thought I should inform the UN security officer, who was walking towards me, about what had just happened. They had excessive security measures at the main entrance while leaving that side gate easily passable for a small person. Before I could utter a word, the security officer shouted, "Move your car from here, these spots are reserved for the mission leadership!"

We exchanged some terse words. I pointed towards the gate. The woman and the child had already left. I said that this was a serious security lapse. He got angrier and shouted, "This is my job, don't teach me my job, move your car now!"

A few hours later, the explosives truck drove into this rickety side gate dislodging it.

Undoubtedly, there was a clear failure and negligence on the part of security personnel and systems. Some of them faced subsequent administrative sanctions. However, understanding how the flawed security system allowed the terrorists to easily carry out the attack does not help us understand why they considered and planned such an attack against the UN in the first place.

How the UN became a target

Over the past 30 years, many people, especially in societies that receive aid or are affected by the UN resolutions and interventions, have increasingly viewed the organisation as a part of a scheme to maintain a western-dominated international order. From jihadists and armed militias to aid-receiving governments and communities, the UN has increasingly been perceived as subservient to neoliberal ideologies and western capitalist interests. My colleagues and I have heard this from government officials in Khartoum and Kabul, militia men in Darfur and Faizabad, and from refugees and displaced people in Palestine and Lebanon. Those who receive UN assistance always appreciated the help but often complained that aid had not addressed the root

causes of their misery. They sometimes raised doubts about the motives of big aid agencies.

In the face of complex and unresolved conflicts, it is easier to adopt a superficial and simplistic view of how the UN works and claim that its myriad of organisations and programmes are mere tools of western foreign policy. And there is probably a grain of truth to such claims, especially since the end of the Cold War. Western capitals provide over 75 per cent of the funding for humanitarian organisations, they dominate their governance systems, and monopolise the top positions in the most important global humanitarian organisations, namely Unicef, WFP and the UNHCR. The first two have almost always been led by Americans, some of whom had served in senior political positions in their governments.

During the 20th century, the aid enterprise became increasingly intertwined with transnational politics. In addition to altruistic motivations and legal underpinnings, it was also increasingly influenced by realpolitik considerations to ensure that conflicts, poverty, and natural disasters did not undermine the stability of strategically important interests or region.

With the evaporation of the Soviet bloc in the late 1980s, disintegrating states and armed non-state actors emerged as the main threat to the international world order championed by the west. Al-Qaeda, though a former ally of the US in its global anti-Soviet campaigns, attacked the US on the home front. The murderous terrorist carnage on 11th September led to a massive and excessive response by the US and its allies in Afghanistan in 2001 and then in Iraq in 2003. The humanitarian enterprise played a large, albeit secondary, role to mitigate the impact of these wars on civilians. This role was largely shaped and funded by the US and its allies.

Since then, ideologically driven armed militias, remnants of the hard Stalinist left, and also some liberal and realist circles, started to perceive UN organisations as largely dominated by western capitals, and as a part of their toolbox in global undertakings, whether peaceful or military.

These are factual elements that fed the conspiratorial world view which enabled the bombing of Baghdad UN offices 20 years ago.

Modern humanitarian aid has not been free from political prerogatives since its formal evolution in the early 20th century. It became one of the Cold War battlegrounds after World War II. Then it metamorphosed again in the 1990s following the collapse of the Soviet Union, as the dominant powers tried to subject it to their national priorities. This was evident in several conflict areas in the 1990s. For example, in the Balkans, the UN created safe havens to partly prevent the flow of refugees to western Europe. While food and shelter were provided, protection was not available, resulting in the deaths of thousands of Bosnians in places like Srebrenica.

Humanitarian organisations operate in a hyper-political environment while striving to adhere to principles of neutrality, independence, and impartiality. It is true, however, that UN senior leaders and staff on the ground can sometimes take inappropriate decisions and carry out their work in ways that are inconsistent with UN values. Such actions taint the entire UN and contribute to blanket perceptions such as "the UN is corrupt".

None of this is to excuse, much less justify, a vicious strategy by armed groups involved in acts of terror that target international aid groups. It is to try to understand the environment in which these groups recruit and operate. It is also to show how innocent people can be crushed between the political machinations of the international community and the armed groups (or states) that control their lives.

How the train of politics twisted the tracks of humanitarian work

The politicisation of humanitarian aid was evident when I joined the UN in 1999 in Afghanistan, where the Taliban on the ground and donors in Washington and other capitals held many of the levers for the allocation and delivery of aid.

After 11th September, meetings with US-Aid in Islamabad focused on trying to pre-

vent a humanitarian catastrophe in Afghanistan after the US invasion. Afghanistan was already suffering from cyclical droughts, poor social services and a crumbling economy after being dominated by armed conflict for decades. They did not want to allow the Taliban to use the humanitarian cost of the war against them. The UN flooded the country with flour, oil and essential food items, and the feared famine never materialised.

Aid politicisation went into a higher gear of integration in 2002, during the months leading up to the Iraq War. The then US Secretary of State Colin Powell believed that foreign aid provided political incentives, supported free market democracy, and helped counter disorganised transnational migration.

In the autumn of 2002, humanitarian plans by UN organisations were shared with Washington. Before the war broke out organisations sought firm financial commitments from the US to start pre-positioning supplies.

Predictably, the shift in Middle Eastern and South Asian public opinion against the UN and aid agencies continued with rising allegations of bias and subservience to western interests. The complexity of functions, the competition for funding and a perception of clashing roles and priorities within UN organisations further complicated efforts to counter these allegations.

For example, the UN Security Council has at various stages imposed sanctions on Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan and Syria—measures that have severely affected the civilian populations rather than the targeted regimes and their proxies. Meanwhile, UN aid organisations like Unicef, the UNHCR, and the WFP continued to spend hundreds of millions of dollars (the total global budget of these organisations in 2022 exceeded \$26bn) on millions of refugees, internally displaced persons and those harmed by the war and by these very sanctions.

Some of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, notably Russia and the US, have been implicated in strikes on medical and health facilities during conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, launching drone attacks against enemy targets killing many civilians in the process (what they call collateral damage), assassination attempts against opponents and arbitrary detentions. At the same time, they joined other western countries and Japan in providing the largest share of humanitarian needs (over \$20bn in 2022), sometimes in the same places where they carry out or support seemingly endless military conflicts, such as in Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan.

These examples illustrate the complexity of behaviours of states and international organisations driven by often clashing motives and considerations.

However, in an era of dis- and misinformation and the quest for the ultimate sound bite, it becomes easier to view the UN as a failed international humanitarian conglomerate serving western political interests, incapable of leading the world to achieve just peace, enhance sustainable development or better protect human rights. (These were the three main pillars of the UN when its charter was put together after World War II.)

On the other hand, the authorities in recipient countries influence decisions about aid distribution: who receives assistance and who gets local contracts. A well-documented report in 2022 about aid operation in Syria revealed transactions involving tens of millions of dollars between UN organisations and private sector companies, some of which were owned or controlled by security agencies or senior Syrian officials who had been subject to western sanctions. These companies received around 47 per cent of the total UN contracts in 2019 and 2020.

Until the bombing of the UN headquarters in Iraq in 2003, humanitarian workers took simple and logical security precautions—most notably, the display of their insignias on their offices, homes, and vehicles. The message that we, the UN, were neutral and impartial largely worked.



Livestock and small-scale and subsistence agriculture are the main economic activities in the canton of Santa Rosa, in the jurisdiction of Sensuntepeque, in northern El Salvador. CREDIT: Edgardo Ayala / IPS

Innovative index-based livestock insurance launched in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

In a significant development for Tanzania's agricultural sector, ACRE Africa, in partnership with Phoenix of Tanzania Assurance, part of the esteemed MUA group, has launched an innovative Index-Based livestock insurance (IBLI).

This groundbreaking insurance product promises to transform the livelihoods of livestock keepers and promote resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

Prof. Hezron Nonga, Director of Veterinary Services, and Chief Veterinary Officer IBLI aims to empower livestock keepers across Tanzania by offering a safety net for pastoralist communities that rely on their animals for sustenance and income.

Prof Nonga said the product leverages cutting-edge technology and data analytics to provide farmers with financial protection against climate-related risks and market fluctuations. IBLI covers a variety of livestock, including cows, goats, and sheep, ensuring the well-being of these valuable assets.

"Our ministry has consistently focused on various key objectives, from increasing livestock feed and meat trade markets to modernizing livestock farming. We aim to create employment opportunities and income within the livestock sector's value chain, thereby enriching our national income," he said.

He said initially, IBLI focused on farmers in regions including Morogoro, Arusha, Kagera, Manyara, Mara, Mwanza, Simiyu, and Tanga, with plans for expansion to other areas in the future.

According to Prof Nonga, the in-

novative insurance product aligns seamlessly with the government's goals.

"For too long, our livestock farmers have been at the mercy of unpredictable weather patterns, diseases, and market instability. But with this new index-based model, our farmers can finally have the financial security they need to invest in better veterinary services and modern farming techniques. This not only elevates the quality of livestock farming but also opens doors to new markets, both local and international," he said.

He said: "This is not just about risk management; it's about empowering our farmers to be part of a more robust, sustainable, and modern livestock value chain. By providing them with the safety nets they need, we are boosting not just individual livelihoods but also our national income and employment rates."

He explained that over the next five years, from 2023 to 2027, the IBLI program aims to provide insurance coverage to 1,500,000 livestock keepers. It will initially focus on farmers in regions including Morogoro, Arusha, Kagera, Manyara, Mara, Mwanza, Simiyu, and Tanga, with plans for expansion to other areas in the future.

Ewan Wheeler, Acre Africa CEO said they feel proud to establish the insurance in the country and said the insurance product aims at protecting livestock keepers.

"I am delighted to be part of the product that aims to benefit livestock keepers in the country. I call on all animal breeders to join the product.

Jerome Katz, Phoenix Assurance's CEO said: "Our index-based



Director of Livestock Services of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Prof Hezron Nonga (3rd R), cuts the ribbon to launch new livestock insurance dubbed: "Index-Based Livestock Insurance (IBLI) in Dar es Salaam. Looking is Chief Executive Officer of Phoenix Assurance, Jerome Katz (2nd R), and chairman of the Association of Tanzania Insurers (ATI), Khamis Suleiman (R). Others include the Chief Executive Officer of ACRE Africa, Ewan Wheeler (L), the director of Skyworks Insurance, Burak Buyuksarac (2nd L), the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA)'s regional head of Eastern, Frank Shengeli (3rd L), and one of the breeders Sawasawa Lupedo (4th L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

livestock product represents a significant leap forward in addressing the challenges faced by livestock farmers in Tanzania. We are well aware that agriculture is the backbone of Tanzania's economy, employing the majority of our citizens. Our aim is to give more Tanzanians the confidence to invest in their farms, knowing that they have a safety net to fall back on."

To ensure broad accessibility, the cost of registration for index-based livestock insurance in Tanzania is only

Sh10,000 per registration, covering livestock valued at Sh100,000. Registered members will receive a membership card with their name, insurance value, and location details. Adjusting coverage is straightforward, with members being able to add the value of animals they wish to insure.

Farmers can register their membership cards using a dedicated mobile USSD platform and a short code printed on the card, accessible to farmers across all telecom providers in Tanza-

nia. The index-based model leverages data and technology to automatically trigger payouts when specific conditions, such as drought or excessive rainfall, are met.

Frank Shengeli, Regional Head of Eastern Zone at TIRA commended ACRE Africa and Phoenix Assurance for their unwavering commitment to the well-being of Tanzanian farmers and the development of our insurance industry.

"The IBLI product aligns seamlessly

with our objectives to enhance financial security and risk management for the agricultural sector, and we fully endorse this initiative. TIRA recognizes the far-reaching economic implications of this initiative, as it empowers farmers to thrive in a changing environment, stimulates economic growth, and fosters greater financial inclusion. We are confident that it will serve as a model for future collaborations and contribute significantly to the prosperity of Tanzania."

Zimbabwe: Rusty caravan provides wedding relief for lovebirds

HARARE

In Harare, a rusty caravan helps brides and grooms in a hurry.

It's the local Las Vegas for lovers in a hurry to get married, or for long-standing couples married according to tradition but not yet in front of the mayor: a khaki caravan awaits them in front of the courthouse in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe.

In this southern African country plunged for years into deep economic crisis, Daphne Siwardi, face framed by short dreadlocks, leads this flourishing operation designed to "make women prettier on the big day".

"Young or old, they all come here," enthuses this elegant 37-year-old in a forest-green frock coat over a burgundy dress.

For over ten years, she has been running this wedding dress

rental boutique out of her rusty white-topped van, offering fincées in need not only white lace dresses but also bouquets, decorations and quick make-up and hair services.

Up to six clients drop by each morning to get ready before accompanying their future groom to court," she explains, as she reviews a row of white dresses hanging from a rod.

Most of them come before the

big day to choose a dress, have it washed and fitted. The dresses all come from China.

The in-laws -

The most popular is long, adorned with rhinestones. It doesn't reveal too much, and avoids unpleasant glances from in-laws," explains the shopkeeper.

Gloria Mutero, 45, married her husband in a traditional ceremony eleven years ago. She

now wants to regularize her civil status, for financial reasons. But without leaving a fortune behind.

There's no point in breaking the bank for an outfit she's going to wear for "three or four hours", says the pragmatic mother-of-one. "I like this one," she continues. "It does the trick and it's priced right."

"If I negotiate hard, maybe they'll give it to me for \$50" (46

euros), tries this plump woman with a playful smile, looking towards the boss and her assistants.

Daphne Siwardi's caravan is one of three, parked in the dirt parking lot on the side of the courthouse, close to a few trees, that offer the same express services to brides.

Inside, alongside the flowers and outfits, a small bed and wooden desk serve as a make-up

and hairdressing corner.

Widowed and a former teacher, Daphne Siwardi, smiling broadly, has been in the business for fifteen years. A real "coup de Coeur."

Her customers quickly make her their confidante, especially "those who are in a hurry."

"Sometimes they call me a month later. To tell me 'I already want a divorce', she confides, bursting into laughter.

Advancing the market development of clean cooking solutions

By Correspondent Imanuel Muro

A common sight in the city of Dar es Salaam at bus terminals and alongside pavements are women preparing hot chapatis and mandazi on burning charcoal stoves for commuters on their way to work and during lunch breaks.

Wood charcoal is the energy of choice for most households and small enterprises in the bustling city of Dar es Salaam. Across the country, the wood charcoal trade is a substantial source of revenue for producers, transporters, wholesalers, retailers down to local governments and villages.

From logging to transport, millions of Tanzanians count on the continued usage and trade of traditional sources of energy such as charcoal for their daily bread.

This industry, however, has several drawbacks which require unique lenses to determine its usefulness without total condemnation. The environmental impact of forest degradation and deforestation as well as the health complications from emitted smoke are some of the darker sides of the trade.

Drawing from cash outflows, wood charcoal appears to be accessible and affordable as it can be purchased in small quantities and does not require large upfront costs. On aggregation however, it is relatively expensive when compared with other forms of clean cooking solutions.

To address the issue of clean cooking solutions, a market must be developed and formalized. This is no easy task and requires a holistic approach. The current state of the market is such that both providers and consumers face numerous difficulties, the most significant being availability: this has significantly hindered the growth of a clean cooking energy market.

The market development of clean cooking solutions is complex, consisting of factors such as ensuring an adequate energy mix, storage, infrastructure development, change of policies and long-lasting awareness



CookFund programme manager Imanuel Muro looking-in on the progress of CookFund grant recipient Doreen Enterprise, a liquefied petroleum gas super dealer in Ubungu, Dar es Salaam and viewing their records of service delivery forms for new end-users.

campaigns to change mind sets and ill-conceived cultural barriers.

The best way to improve the market is to create and develop it. The CookFund programme seeks to meaningfully address the challenges of the clean cooking market by strengthening the capability of companies and enterprises to provide solutions. This programme is the first of its kind in Africa. The 17-million euro backing by the European Union (EU) begins the process of bridging the gap between Tanzanian enterprises, companies, and end-users across five targeted urban areas: Mwanza, Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Coast.

The push will empower companies and energy suppliers to benefit from the market gains while also ensuring sustainable and safe and clean energy consumption.

Through offering grants to private sector actors along the value chain the programme aims to create a diversified clean-cooking energy market.

As the Fund Manager and Implementer of the CookFund programme, UNCDF manages the grants offered to clean cooking energy companies and enterprises.

This support from the European Union is a testament to the potential of a robust, diversified market to provide solutions for urban populations and the country at large. Investing in local companies improves the capacities of small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) which currently contribute about one-third of the country's Gross

Domestic Product (GDP) and offer up to 40% total employment.

Developing a market thus has implications for human development and revenue for SMEs and the economy at large.

The programme's aim to increase accessibility to much-needed clean solutions is in line with the government's national priorities of 80% adoption of clean cooking energy by 2033. A year into the implementation of the program 32 enterprises and companies have received the first instalment of their grants and continue to add thousands of urban Tanzanian households to their distribution networks. The environmental effects of the program are also significant: about 23,000 hectares of forest trees will be saved, and 185,000 MT of charcoal will be avoided.

Advancing the clean cooking energy market will undoubtedly change the lives of urban populations, environments, industries, and the economy. The development of this market will positively alter how energy is consumed in millions of urban households and businesses. The vision is that in the future, the hot chapatis we buy will be cooked on a safe, efficient, and clean energy jiko. A win for all.

Immanuel Muro is the CookFund Programme Manager/Senior Finance Specialist United Nations Capita Development Fund (UNCDF)

SADC's election report leaves Mnangagwa with only one option – reform

By Jonathan Moakes, George Chichester and Emily Osborne

As the crowds of press-ganged supporters spilt into Zimbabwe's National Sports Stadium for President Emmerson Mnangagwa's inauguration ceremony on Monday 4 September 2023, one group of guests was conspicuous by its absence.

Of the 16 presidents of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), only three – South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa, Mozambique's Filipe Nyusi, and DRC's Félix Tshisekedi – bothered to attend.

From the 51 remaining African countries, not one head of state was present, represented instead by an eclectic retinue of ambassadors and junior ministers.

This snub is a damning indictment of the illegitimacy of Zimbabwe's much-derided elections and will be harshly felt by Mnangagwa. It is one thing for his regime to have been condemned and sanctioned by the West, but entirely another to be ostracised by fellow African leaders.

The president has been forced to scramble around for support: former Zambian president Edgar Lungu made a rare public appearance at the inauguration at Mnangagwa's (last minute) invitation. But this matters little when Zambia's current president, Hakainde Hichilema, has refused either to congratulate Mnangagwa or attend his inauguration, sending Foreign Affairs Minister Stanley Kakubo in his stead.

SADC's unexpected censure

Hichilema's cold shoulder is an important diplomatic signal. As Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, his judgement carries great weight in the region.

The refusal of most SADC heads of state to support Mnangagwa's inauguration – and the absence of all three presidents in the SADC Troika – follows the unprecedented condemnation of the elections by the body's observer mission.

Dr Nevers Mumba, appointed head of mission by Hichilema, delivered the hammer blow to Zanu-PF's hopes of publicly spinning these elections as anything other than deeply fraudulent.

SADC's preliminary report accused them of falling short of the requirements of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, the Electoral Act, and the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections. Since then, Mumba has described the elections as "the most fraudulent in the history of SADC".

Condemning these elections outright was a momentous – and courageous – break with tradition by Mumba. The bloc has a history of rubber-stamping Zimbabwe's deeply contested elections. But Mumba and his team laid bare Zanu-PF and the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission's (ZEC) long-running tactics to suppress turnout and manipulate the final vote count.

These tactics included a refusal by ZEC to release a finalised voters roll; changes to constituency boundaries that smacked of gerrymandering; and the intimidation of voters by a Zanu-affiliated organisation called FAZ, who placed menacing agents outside polling stations on election day.

These grave concerns were echoed by all other major observer missions, including the African Union (AU), European Union (EU), the Commonwealth, and the Carter Center. They also condemned the arrest of around 40 observers from local NGOs on election night in a blatant attempt by the government to cover its tracks; the equipment used by these observers to conduct an independent Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) was seized in order to prevent its publication.

On election day itself, what should have been 12 hours of voting turned into a marathon process spanning two days and nights. Dozens of polling stations, largely concentrated in opposition strongholds of Harare and Bulawayo, remained shut late into the night as they waited for ballot papers to arrive.

ZEC's handling of the situation, according to SADC, cast "doubts about the credibility of this electoral process". As a blatant ploy of voter suppression, it was incredibly successful: national voter turnout fell to a meagre 69%, down from 85% in the 2018 elections. The opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) urban heartlands were the hardest hit, with turnout in Harare and Bulawayo falling by 19% and 25% respectively.

Despite these exhaustive efforts, the electoral commission still struggled to secure a conclusive victory for Mnangagwa. Announcing the results late on Saturday night, ZEC claimed the president had won 52.6% of the vote, while CCC candidate Nelson Chamisa had just 44%. These results have been highly contested, and ZEC maintains its refusal to publish the results at a polling station level.

But even if these figures are accurate, they provide a pitiful return for such lengths of coercion, intimidation, and voter suppression. They also depict Mnangagwa, known as "the Crocodile" for his ruthless reputation, as demonstrably less popular than his parliamentary party – a bad look for any autocrat looking to keep his job.

No choice but reform

Commentators in both Africa and the West predicted with glum certainty that these elections would be conducted, and concluded, in



President Emmerson Mnangagwa inspects the guard of honour after he was inaugurated at a local stadium on 4 September 2023 in Harare, Zimbabwe. (Photo: Tafadzwa Ufumeli / Getty Images)

much the same way as five years ago. But 2023 has not been a complete rerun of 2018. For the first time ever, SADC has declared an election within its bloc invalid. This is a major development for Zimbabwe and southern Africa as a whole.

That is not to say the next five years will not be a brutal struggle for millions of Zimbabweans, toiling under a regime that consistently and violently disregards their basic human rights. Even since the election, opposition activists have reportedly been detained and tortured. On Monday, human rights lawyers Doug Coltart and Tapiwa Muchineripi were arrested while trying to assist two such victims and charged with obstructing the course of justice.

However, the reaction of Zimbabwe's friends and neighbours offers hope. Mnangagwa can no longer pretend it's business as usual while his fellow presidents give him the brush off.

Meanwhile, international bodies like the Commonwealth and the African Development Bank (AfDB) will feel galvanised in their condemnation. AfDB has previously indicated that any hope of renegotiating Zimbabwe's debts is contingent on democratic reform.

Likewise, Commonwealth heavyweights like the United Kingdom and Australia will feel less pressure to admit Zimbabwe while their concerns are echoed by African nations.

It also reflects a broader shift towards

democracy in southern Africa that has already been underway for several years. In 2019, Malawi's Constitutional Court nullified the country's fraudulent elections after widespread and credible reports of vote tampering.

In Zambia, former president Edgar Lungu's abortive attempt to hold onto power following the 2021 elections was de-escalated with the help of former president Rupiah Banda and the leader of the AU's observation mission, Ernest Karoma, former president of Sierra Leone.

Outright sham elections are now increasingly rare in southern Africa and even less rarely tolerated. If Mnangagwa has any hope of re-engaging with his

neighbour states – let alone re-joining the Commonwealth or negotiating Zimbabwe's debt burden – fair elections will have to come first.

By ensuring the region's outright condemnation, Hichilema and Mumba have fanned the flames of democratic reform in Zimbabwe so high that even the Crocodile himself will struggle to take the heat. DM

Jonathan Moakes, George Chichester and Emily Osborne work for the SABI Strategy Group, a communications and campaigning firm based in London and Johannesburg.



Regional leaders at the Official Opening Ceremony of the 42nd Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government held at the Palais du Peuple in Kinshasa, DRC. (Photo: GCIS)

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

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BUSINESS

Global shocks widen current account deficit

By Guardian Reporter

The external sector of the economy continues to experience the adverse effects of the global shocks, led to the widening of the current account deficit, following a significant increase in import bills.

In the year ending July 2023, the current account deficit widened to US\$4,441 million from a deficit of US\$3,770.7 million in the year ending July 2022, as imports increased faster than exports, according to Bank of Tanzania.

They include lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, supply-chain disruption caused by the war in Ukraine, climate change effect, and monetary policy tightening through interest rate hikes in advanced economies.

Imports of goods and services increased to US\$16,796.5 million in the year ending July 2023 from US\$14,298 million in the previous year.

The main drivers of the rise include machinery, white petroleum products, industrial transport equipment, fertilizers and service payments, particularly freight payments.

The import of white petroleum products, which accounted for 20.9 percent of the total imports bill, increased by 12.5 percent, owing to price increases effects.

On monthly basis, goods worth US\$1,090.7 million were imported in July 2023, higher than US\$1,044.1 million in July 2022.

Nonetheless, the current account position is expected to improve owing to the downward trend of commodity prices in the world market observed since December last year, lessening of aggressiveness of monetary policy tightening in advanced economies in the recent months, and measures adopted in the country to address the imbalance in the current account.

Exports of non-traditional goods recorded a growth of 6.1 percent, largely on account of minerals, particularly gold, coal, and diamonds, and manufactured goods.

Coal exports increased to US\$220.7 million in the year to July 2023 from US\$67.3 million a year earlier, owing to growing demand in the wake of supply shortages, following the war in Ukraine.

Exports of diamonds almost doubled to US\$46.8 million from US\$29.2 million in the year ending July 2022 due to

price effect.

As for gold exports, the rise was largely due to the volume effect. Manufactured goods exports also recorded notable growth, largely steered by fertilizers, cement, and glassware.

Traditional goods exports also increased to US\$782.6 million from US\$750.6 million, with all traditional goods recording increases except cloves and cashew nuts.

On monthly basis, traditional goods worth US\$66.5 million were exported in July 2023 compared with USD 36.2 million in a similar month in 2022, while non-traditional exports increased to US\$634.6 million from US\$546.6 million.

In addition, seasonal earnings from tourism activities and the export of traditional crops are expected to improve the current account position.

Foreign exchange reserves remained adequate, mainly driven by external loans and grants received by the Government, as foreign exchange inflows from exports were fully absorbed by rising import bill.

The reserves amounted to US\$5,246.7 million at the end of July 2023, slightly below the level reached at the end of July 2022, on account of sale in the interbank foreign exchange market to support importation of goods and services.

The reserves were sufficient to cover about 4.7 months of projected imports, which were consistent with the country and EAC benchmarks of at least 4 and 4.5 months, respectively.



Nonetheless, the current account position is expected to improve owing to the downward trend of commodity prices in the world market observed since December last year, lessening of aggressiveness of monetary policy tightening in advanced economies in the recent months, and measures adopted in the country to address the imbalance in the current account

Foreigners conduct 7.3bn/- shares sellout in one week

By Mnaku Mbani

In what is seen as shift from emerging market to attractive fixed assets in United States due to higher rates and strong greenback, foreign investors made shares sellouts valued 7bn/- in one week.

This is the largest valued sellout involving foreign investors since the start of the third quarter of this year, as the recorded amount was nearly a third of total DSE turnover recorded since July.

This has therefore translated into net outflow of 9bn/- since the start of the current quarter. Up to Thursday's close, a total turnover of 18bn/- has so far been recorded at DSE, of which foreign investors have sold shares amounting to 9bn/-.

The sellout amount is 58.464 percent of total value of shares sold since the start of the third quarter.

"Foreign investors continue to remain generally cautious across Sub-Saharan African markets, turning bearish to key blue chip stocks," said Raphael Masumbuko, Chief Executive Officer, Zan Securities Limited, broker and member of DSE.

Analysts expect this trend to persist in future, but this will depend on US inflation trend and monetary policy.

Speaking with the Guardian yesterday, Masumbuko said:



Raphael Masumbuko, Chief Executive Officer, Zan Securities Limited

"In Tanzania, we have seen this resulting in a net outflow, primarily due to concerns about foreign exchange issues".

However, Masumbuko further noted, in terms of both turnover and indices, the domestic market performance continue to portray optimism and growth.

The DSE market reports show that foreign investors conducted a sellout of shares valued 254mn/-,

which involved NMB counter on Monday, while on Tuesday, they sold shares valued 431mn/- of Tanzania Cigarette Company (TCC) under block trade.

On Wednesday, the market report shows that foreign investors also sold shares valued 57bn/- on Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) counter under the block trade arrangement.

The report shows on Friday, foreign investors sold

shares valued 924mn/-, involving TCC counter in block trade arrangement.

However, all shares sold by foreign investors were bought by local investors with 100 percent, which indicates internal strong absorption capacity.

The market report shows, since the start of the quarter, foreign investors have so far bought shares valued 792mn/-, which is only 4.32 percent of total value of shares

bought in the market, while local investors buying activity accounted for 95.68 percent of the total value.

Imani Muhingo, Head of Research and Financial Analytics, Alpha Capital told the Guardian yesterday that this is consistent with recent foreigners' participation trend and global economic development that prompt the outflow of foreign investors from emerging markets.

According to Muhingo, this weeks' outflow bring a net foreign outflow in the last nineteen months close to 16bn/-.

"We expect for the trend to persist in the foreseeable future. But that is also dependent with US inflation trend and direction of the Federal Reserve monetary policy," Muhingo added.

According to report by African markets, the market research hub, the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange All Share Index (DSE) has declined by 0.21 percent year to date on Thursday's close, mostly due to bearish trends of cross listed companies.

However, the decrease was less than other markets including Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), Uganda Securities Exchange (USE), Tunis Stock Exchange (BVMT), and Stock Exchange of Mauritius (SEM).

Revenue collections improve despite global shocks

By Carlos Banda

Despite the global economic shocks and its spillover effects, domestic revenue collection trend has shown positive trends.

According to the Bank of Tanzania Monthly Economic Review (MER) for August 2023, the total domestic revenue collections for the central bank and local government authorities amounted to 2,072.2bn/- in July, being a target reach by 91.9 per cent, a growth of 11.7 per cent from collections recorded in July 2022.

The review shows that the central government revenue amounted to 1,981.4bn/-, of which tax revenue was 1,674bn/-, being 94.3 per cent of the target, and the remainder was non tax revenue.

According to the computations by the Ministry of Finance and Planning and Bank of Tanzania (BoT), taxes on imports rose to 670.7bn/- in July 2023, an increase of 13.5bn/- from 652.2bn/- recorded in the same month last year.

However this was a short of an estimated target of 765bn/- for this year.

Income tax rose to 517.7bn/- in July 2023, which is an increase of 124.4bn/- from 393bn/- recorded in the same month last year.



The rise is however 113.6bn/- short of the estimated target of 631.3bn/-.

Taxes on local goods and services jumped to 380.1bn/- in July 2023, which is an increase of 37.6bn/- from 342.5bn/- recorded in the same month last year.

This is an uphill growth of 131.1bn/- above the target set of 249bn/- for this year.

Data on other taxes ex-

perienced a rather low rise of 105.5bn/- in July 2023, a 12.1bn/- increase from 93.4bn/- recorded in the same period last year.

However, the rise was still 25.2bn/- short of the estimated target of 130.7bn/- for July this year.

Non-tax revenue stood at 307.4bn/- for July 2023, an increase of 9.1bn/- from 298.3bn/- recorded in the same month last year.

Despite the growth, the

amount collected was 66.5bn/- short of the estimated target of 373.9bn/- aimed for July this year.

The review shows total expenditure in July 2023 amounted to 2,462bn/-, whereas 1,588.9bn/- and 873bn/- was recurrent and development expenditure respectively.

The MER further noted that 797.9bn/- was accounted for locally financed development ex-

penditure, which is 91.4 per cent of the total development expenditure.

According to the computations, expenditure on wages and salaries rose to 797.6bn/- in July 2023 in an increase of 64.7bn/- from 732.9bn/- recorded in the same month last year.

However, the growth was less of the estimated target of 837.6bn/- for July this year.

Interest costs for the month of July 2023 rose to 227.5bn/- an increase of 11.5bn/- from 216bn/- recorded in the same period last year.

Despite the growth, the increase was less than the estimated target of 230.9bn/-.

On other recurrent expenditure, there was a decrease of 563.9bn/- which is 276.7bn/- less from 840.6bn/- recorded in the same period last year.

The record is also 117bn/- less than the estimated target of 680.9bn/-.

Development expenditure amounted to 873bn/- which is 55bn/- lower compared to 928bn/- spent in the same period last year.

The development allocation was however 157.8bn/- less than the estimated target of 1,030.8bn/-.

EcoGraf eyes graphite manufacturing hub in TZ



PERTH

Graphite developer EcoGraf is weighing further investment in Tanzania, where the company is progressing its Epanko project.

Speaking to Mining Weekly Online on the sidelines of Paydirt's Africa Downunder conference, EcoGraf COO Dale Harris said the company was studying the establishment of a manufacturing hub to produce spherical graphite in Tanzania.

"It is a pretty power-intensive process, and the technology is rather bespoke, but given Tanzania's low energy cost, it would not be a bad place to be," Harris said.

Harris said that the study into the midstream manufacturing hub would match the Stage 1 production of the Epanko project and that the mine and the manufacturing project would likely be brought online with similar timelines.

The company earlier this year updated the economics of Epanko, increasing the pro-

ject's pre-production capital cost from the \$88.9-million considered in the 2017 bankable feasibility study (BFS) to \$134-million.

The initial BFS was based on the production of 60 000 t/y of natural flake graphite products and would have an initial mine life of 18 years, delivering a pre-tax net present value (NPV) of \$211-million and yearly earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) of \$44.5-million.

The project is now estimated to have a pre-tax ungeared NPV of \$348-million and average yearly Ebitda of \$79-million over the initial ten years, with an ungeared internal rate of return of 36 percent.

Harris said that studies were also under way to increase Epanko's capacity to 300 000 t/y with future stages of development.

"We are doing some drilling work at the moment, and we are undertaking conceptual studies around how we will, in time, build the project out. We are very confident that the

drilling will give us additional resource," Harris told Mining Weekly Online.

In April 2023, EcoGraf signed a framework agreement with the Tanzanian Government for the Epanko Graphite project, which will provide supply diversity and scale-up optionality.

EcoGraf's presentation to the Government on its Tanzanian graphite strategy, included the future expansion of production at Epanko to support growth in battery graphite demand, the development of its Merelani-Arusha Graphite Project and an evaluation of the potential for in-country mechanical shaping facilities to create a global Tanzanian graphite supply base.

In response to increasing demand for graphite, EcoGraf has commenced an evaluation of expansion options for Epanko to identify the most efficient pathway to scale-up production significantly beyond its initial 60,000tpa capacity to supply the high growth battery graphite market.

Tanzania joins network against illicit financial flows

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

TANZANIA has officially become a member of the African Parliamentary Network on Illicit Financial Flows and Tax Justice (APNIFFT), the vital stage which is projected to give the country a fresh impetus to spearhead the fight against smuggling of the country's revenues.

Despite of adopting and implementing diverse measures to combat illicit financial flows (IFFs), Tanzania loses an estimated \$1.5 billion annually in revenue to trade-based money laundering (TBML), which is a deprivation of the country's much-needed tax revenues.

It has been unveiled that out of each \$10 that is being injected into the country in terms of foreign aid, at least \$9 is being smuggled back through illicit financial flows.

APNIFFT is a network of members of Parliament from across the continent who have expressed a desire and commitment to spearhead the fight against illicit financial flows in Africa.

Gracing the official launching of the APNIFFT, Tanzania Chapter, yesterday in Dodoma, the Deputy speaker, Mussa Hazzan Zungu expressed high expectations that the development will play meaningful role to assist the country to uproot a wave of the unwanted economic injustice vice.

"Tanzania, like most of the Sub-Saharan African countries is experiencing a nagging economic challenge of having the country's prestigious resources

and needed revenues being smuggled outside by some unfaithful investors companies through tax cheating," he expressed.

According to him, the country's lawmakers will now join hands with their counterparts from other countries to set and implement useful campaigns for ensuring Tanzania is benefiting accordingly from its resources endowments, and not otherwise.

"The major role of the members of the Parliament under this chapter will be, among others, to advise and lobby the government to strengthen investment policies and regulations for ensuring the country benefiting accordingly from the influx of foreign investors," he detailed.

He said that the sixth phase government was working to ensure there are enough local factories for the value addition to diverse products, in order to plug the loopholes for unnecessary exportation of resources and employment. He said the government has set good investment policies which focus to attain the win-win situation between Tanzania and the foreign investment companies.

Chairperson of the Tanzania Parliamentary Network on Illicit Financial Flows and Tax Justice, Abdullah Ali Mwinyi said the country was losing billions of money through 'legal' and illicit financial flows.

He expressed existing weaknesses in the country's foreign investment contracts that have been creating a loop hole for some unfaithful giant companies to invest into the country for their



Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Mussa Hassan Zungu

own economic gains.

"Most of the major foreign companies have been injecting billions of money in the country, but for their own benefit and not for the country. What they do is just to temper with the legal weaknesses in our investment contracts policies and regulations," he said.

He said they will stand at forefront to ensure the government is setting and monitoring tight investment policies and regulations, especially towards the foreign companies that engage into the oil and gas, as well as mineral sectors.

"Oil and gas, and minerals stands among the country's key economic sectors, and they're the ones that most of the investors are using as their windows to parasite our economy and revenues," he informed.

For instance, he said in a period of the

past few years, the government issued a total of ten special mining licenses, the contracts that involved billions of money, and more other ten such licenses are under process of being granted, added: "Issuance of such vital licenses calls for vigilance and vast legal knowledge on proper international policies and regional in order to assure the country realising the needed revenues."

The chairperson of APNIFFT, Dr Khanyisile Tshabalala from South Africa, challenged the local MPs under the Tanzania chapter to the patriotic activists for their country's resources endowments.

"Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) is a dangerous venom that continues to eat away the economy of many countries across the continent thus, you must stand firmly to voice for the voices of

the common voiceless Tanzanians," she said

"I want to tell you, the meaning of been a leader in Africa, and Tanzania as well is to be a disrupter of all injustice systems that rooted from the colonialism era, and set fresh systems for ensuring your people benefiting from a large share from their national cake," she urged the MPs.

According to her, injustice and disconcerting to see the poor manner to which the African continent, which is provide the bedrock for all prestigious minerals in the globe continues to suffer from poverty at the expense of the western countries, saying it was time to unite and turn the clock into the right path.

Held under the theme of MP's Leadership in Combating Illicit Financial Flows and Tax Injustices' the event which was coordinated and the auspices of Policy Forum attracted a number of parliamentarians who form the African Parliamentary Network on Illicit Financial Flows and Tax Justice (APNIFFT) Tanzania Chapter.

Semkae Kilonzo, the Executive Director of Policy Forum expressed during the event that it was sad that between US\$50 and US\$80 billion are annually smuggled outside the African continent, the deprived move that weakens the countries financial capability to spur their economies.

"We are feeling proud to be part of this meaningful event which has opened a fresh chapter for Tanzania to further step up efforts to combat illicit financial flows," he said.

During the event, the participants highlighted over the key issues on illicit financial flows in Africa and Tax Justice and how it affects domestic revenues for service delivery, whereby diverse topics were also presented including 'The Role Parliamentarians in Scaling Up Tax Justice'.

Also, the presentations highlighted over the key areas in which the involved MPs have to focus their interventions, including investigations and enquiries, advocating and public awareness as well as strengthening international cooperation.

According to the Economic Development in Africa Report 2020 by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Africa loses about US\$88.6 billion, 3.7 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP), annually in illicit financial flows.

Moreover, the High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda (FACTI Panel) report released in February 2021 cautions that IFFs – from trade misinvoicing, tax abuse, cross-border corruption, and transnational financial crime – drain resources from sustainable development, as well as worsen inequalities, fuel instability, undermine governance, and damage public trust.

And the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in its Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 launched in February 2021, notes that illicit financial flows remain a key impediment to Africa's attainment of the 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063.

NFRA food stocks doubled in July over new purchases

By Guardian Reporter

The National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) food stock more than doubled to 94,088 tons in July, compared to 46,665 tons recorded in June, thanks to the purchase of maize, rice and sorghum.

During the same month, the agency also supplied 939.8 tons of food to councils in Arusha, Shinyanga and Songea; and bought 48,362.5 tons of food.

According to the report by NFRA featured on the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) monthly economic review for August says food purchased included 44,079.8 tons of maize, 4,007 tons of rice and 275.8 tons of sorghum.

The ministry of industry and trade data shows the wholesale prices of food commodities have continued to decline in four consecutive months, due to ongoing seasonal harvests in

different parts of the country, with exception of sorghum and round potatoes, which their prices recorded mixed trends.

However, the wholesale prices for mostly consumed cereals including maize, rice, beans, sorghum and finger millet, as well as round potatoes during July this year, were higher than the prices recorded in July last year.

The ministry's data show that the wholesale price of 100-kilogramme of maize, the main staple mostly consumed in both urban and rural areas, slightly decreased to 100,292/- in July this year, compared to 108,048/- in April this year, but higher than 87,363/- recorded in July last year.

The wholesale price of 100-kilogramme of rice, which is also consumed by the largest population, also declined to 262,907/- in July this year, compared to 300,067/-

recorded in April this year, but was higher than 203,934/- recorded in July last year.

The price of beans also went down to 264,033/- in July this year compared to 278,991 recorded in April this year, although the price was higher than 191,557/- recorded in July last year.

According to the ministry's data, the wholesale price of sorghum slightly increased to 145, 815/- in July this year, compared to June, although was lower than 148,010/- recorded in April this year.

Data show the wholesale price of round potatoes amounted to 103,741/- in July this year, compared to 98,158/- recorded in April this year.

For almost ten months up to July 2023, food inflation, particularly of the unprocessed food, was the main driver of overall inflation trend.

For four consecutive



months, this component trended downward, reaching 6.1 percent in July 2023 from 9.7 percent,

thus contributing the decline of headline inflation.

On a monthly basis, all primary

food crops experienced price moderation, with the exception of sorghum, reflecting an

improvement in the food supply from harvests in most parts of the country.

Lindi Jumbo offers opportunity for mining in Tanzania



PERTH

Graphite developer Walkabout Resources is hoping that the development of its Lindi Jumbo graphite mine, in Tanzania, would open the floodgates for foreign investment in the African nation.

Speaking at Paydirt's Africa Downunder conference, in Perth, Walkabout CEO Andrew Cunningham said on Thursday that the \$20-million to \$25-million debt funding secured for the development of Lindi Jumbo marked the first foreign debt into the Tanzanian mining industry in the past 20 years, while the project itself was the first major mine to be developed over the last 10 to 15 years.

"Lindi Jumbo really is a game changer for Tanzania, and our hope is that it will help our peers, and help get more foreign debt into Tanzania, and we are hoping that it will open the floodgates," Cunningham said.

Walkabout on Thursday pro-

vided an update on the construction of the Lindi Jumbo project, noting that civil works were more than 97 percent complete while construction of the tailings storage facility was 90 percent complete.

The current construction schedule has the connection to the power supply on the Lindi Jumbo critical path. Although grid power has been delivered to site and is awaiting to be energised, the delivery to site of the contracted 33 kV transformer is not expected until November.

To mitigate potential commissioning delays and to reduce future operating risk, Lindi Jumbo had reverted to acquiring diesel generators for full backup power. These generators were expected to arrive on site next month and would be critical for the timely commissioning and startup of the processing plant while the transformer was being installed. The cost of this risk mitigation and redundancy would add nearly \$1-million to the project

cost and was factored into the sizing of the senior debt facility, the company told shareholders.

Meanwhile, the company told shareholders that the impact of prolongation from the delays in project funding and Covid-19 had been mitigated to approximately 4.2% of the forecasted final capital expenditure value.

Walkabout said on Thursday that with the contracting of the power and camp scope changes and the Lindi Jumbo plant construction nearing completion, the final estimated capital cost for the mine is \$34.5-million, up from the \$27.8-million estimated in the original definitive feasibility study.

The bulk of this cost was incurred in 2021.

The Lindi Jumbo project would produce 40 000 t/y of graphite over a mine life of 24 years, and Cunningham said the company was hoping to go into commissioning by the end of this year.

WORLD



Britain's King Charles III (R) and Queen Camilla (left) arrive at Crathie Parish Church for a church service to mark the first anniversary of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, near Balmoral, Scotland, yesterday. AP

King Charles thanks public for 'love' as he marks death of queen

LONDON

King Charles yesterday thanked the public for their "love and support" on the first anniversary of the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth and his accession to the throne, echoing her words as he vowed to be of service to all.

Elizabeth, Britain's longest-reigning sovereign, died aged 96 on Sept 8 at Balmoral Castle, her beloved Scottish summer retreat, leading to 10 days of national mourning and condolences and tributes from across the world for her record-breaking 70-year reign.

Charles, who immediately succeeded her as king of the United Kingdom and 14 other countries including Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and his wife Camilla will spend the day privately and quietly at the Scottish royal home.

They are not due to attend any ceremonial event, nor will there be any large private family gathering to mark his 'Accession Day'.

"In marking the first anniversary of her late majesty's death and my accession, we recall with great affection her long life, devoted service and all she meant to so many of us," Charles said in a statement.

"I am deeply grateful, too, for the love and support that has been shown to my wife and myself during this year as we do our utmost to be of service to you all."

Those latter words were an echo of the mantra that Elizabeth repeated throughout her reign.

"I remain committed to serving you to the best of my ability," she said at the end of celebrations to mark her Platinum Jubilee last June - her last major public event.

'Solemn'

While Charles is not due to make a public appearance, his eldest son and heir Prince William and wife Kate will attend a private church service to commemorate the queen's life.

William and Kate, the Prince and Princess of Wales, will visit the 12th Century St Davids Cathedral, a place of pilgrimage for centuries on the Welsh west coast which also has a special stall in the choir for the sovereign.

Agencies

Nigerian court affirms president's election, rejects opposition petitions

ABUJA

A panel of five judges from Nigeria's election tribunal late Wednesday unanimously affirmed the election of President Bola Tinubu, solidifying his position as the West African nation's leader and effectively dismissing petitions by opposition parties.

Delivering the judgment which lasted over 12 hours, the five-member panel at the Presidential Election Petition Tribunal in the national capital of Abuja, said the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Labor Party (LP), which filed the petitions, had failed to prove their allegations beyond reasonable doubt.

The court ruled that the petitions "lacked merit" and dismissed them.

Atiku Abubakar of the PDP and Peter Obi of the LP, who respectively came second and third in the presidential election won by Tinubu in February, had approached the court to dismiss the election results announced by the country's election body, alleging it was fraught with irregularities. Both Abubakar and Obi have disagreed with the judgment of the election tribunal, saying they would further seek redress in court.

In his official statement following the verdict, Tinubu said he welcomed the tribunal's judgment with "a sense of solemn responsibility and preparedness to serve Nigerians, irrespective of political persuasions, faiths and tribal identities."

Xinhua



Turkey looks at BRICS with great interest, says Russian diplomat

MOSCOW

TURKEY is eyeing BRICS with great interest, the head of the Department of Economic Cooperation at the Russian Foreign Ministry Dmitry Birichevsky (pictured) said in an interview to TV BRICS.

"Indonesia is showing great interest in partnership with BRICS, although it has not joint yet. And, as far as we know, Turkey is eyeing BRICS with great interest," he said.

In his words, the expansion of BRICS came as a sensation that "made the group's common voice far louder."

"BRICS [membership] does not mean that all members must share the same views and opinions," the diplomat said. "Its members are totally equal and have to take each other's interests and attitudes into account. I'm sure that the extended version of BRICS will retain this approach."

In his opinion, members of the enlarged group are likely to stand in solidarity while promoting the organization's interests in G20, the United Nations and other platforms, and their cooperation will become "a role model for others."

The 15th BRICS summit was held in Johannesburg in South Africa under South Africa's chairmanship on August 22-24 and was a major meeting of the heads of state and governments of the global south in recent years.

Sources told the Indian Business Standard newspaper that Indonesia could have been accepted.

However, later it was reported that the participants in the summit decided to invite the Argentine Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to become full members of BRICS from 1 January 2024.

They also tasked their foreign ministers to further develop the BRICS partner country model, compile a list of prospective partner countries and report by the next summit that will be held in the Russian city of Kazan.

Agencies

Africa seeks united front on climate

NAIROBI

THOUGH Africa expects developed countries to honor their annual pledges for climate action in developing countries, experts are of the view that the continent should leverage its vast resource potential and technology to fight climate change as the crisis continues to worsen.

At the end of the three-day Africa Climate Summit on Wednesday in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, African leaders issued the Nairobi Declaration, which urged developed nations to honor their commitments to provide \$100 billion in annual climate finance for the continent. The declaration also calls for a new financing architecture that is responsive to Africa's needs, including debt restructuring and relief.

In addition to developing a new Global Climate Finance Charter through the United Nations General Assembly and Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change by 2025, leaders at the summit also resolved to promote sustainable utilization of Africa's natural assets for the continent's progression toward low-carbon development.

According to the UN, Africa holds 25 percent of the world's biodiversity, 10 percent of internal renewable fresh water, the largest reserves of cobalt, diamonds, platinum and uranium, and has the second-largest carbon sink.

"Africa is nature's superpower, hosting a quarter of global biodiversity. Congo Forest is one of the lungs of the earth and captures a lot of carbon. Niger Delta is one of the largest mangroves in Africa," said Muhtari Aminu-Kano, policy and government relations director for Africa region at The Nature Conservancy.

Financial challenges

He said African communities have played their part in conserving biodiversity since time immemorial



Kenyan President William Ruto (left), and African Union chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat shake hands during the closing session of the Africa Climate Summit at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi, Kenya, Sept 6, 2023. (PHOTO / AP)

and they should continue being at the front and center of initiatives to fight against climate change.

To address financing challenges, he said countries should catalyze funding from the private sector and development agencies in addition to putting their own money, so as to diversify and be creative in sourcing finances.

"If you depend on the Global North to solve a pressing problem like climate change, agriculture or health, then you are not going to get it done because we are seeing cases of many promises and little delivery, so you have to mobilize internally," Aminu-Kano said.

Corey Pattison, co-founder and chief executive officer of Cella Mineral Storage, said Africa's vast forests and savannas are great assets in fighting against climate change.

He said the East African Rift Valley, with about 400 billion metric tons of storage potential for mineralization, is one of the world's greatest assets in carbon removal from the atmosphere.

Piers Mudd, chief operating officer of Moroccan company Brilliant Planet, said given the scale of African coastal area, there is tremendous opportunity to apply innovative solutions all around the coastal margins.

Mudd said there is a big and talented labor pool, and many countries and

governments around the continent are committed and ready to support some of these projects.

While calling for climate justice at the summit, African experts have argued that it is unfair for Africa to lack access to funds necessary for coping with the negative impacts of climate change when the continent is responsible for less than 10 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The UN Environment Programme estimated that the cost of climate change adaptation across Africa could reach \$50 billion a year by 2050, if the global temperature increase is kept within 2 C above preindustrial levels.

Kilion Nyambuga, a research and planning expert involved in the resettlement of slum dwellers at the Mukuru slums in Nairobi, called on African leaders to develop a common African position in the run-up to the COP28 climate change conference to be held in the United Arab Emirates later this year.

"The demand for greater consideration of Africa's needs will do nothing if African governments are not pulling in the same direction," Nyambuga said. "Africans must approach climate change with a united voice, representing all the continent's people, and making their case clearly and firmly."

Agencies

PM to hold more than 15 bilaterals with world leaders on G20 sidelines

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will hold more than 15 bilateral meetings with world leaders on the sidelines of the G20 Summit set to be held under India's Presidency on September 9-10, according to sources.

On September 8, PM Modi will hold bilateral meetings with counterparts of Mauritius and Bangladesh at Lok Kalyan Marg, according to sources. He will also hold a bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden.

On September 9, PM Modi will hold a bilateral meeting with UK counterpart Rishi Sunak, and Japanese PM Fumio Kishida. He will hold a bilateral meeting with his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister will have a bilateral meeting with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.



On September 10, PM Modi will have a working lunch meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron. He will be having a pull-aside meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. He will have bilateral meetings with leaders from Comoros, Turkey, South Korea, UAE, Nigeria, Brazil, the European Union and the European Council, according to sources.

India is hosting the G20 Leaders Summit at the newly inaugurated Bharat Mandapam Convention Centre at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on September 9-10. World leaders have started arriving in India to attend the G20 Summit.

So far, Mauritius Prime Minister Argentin President Alberto Angel Fernandez, World Trade Organisation (WTO) Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, European Council President Charles Michel, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Nigeria President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and several other leaders have arrived in India for the G20 Summit.

This is the first time that the G20 Summit is taking place under India's presidency. Formed in 1999, the G20 was setup to maintain global financial stability by incorporating middle-income countries.

India assumed the G20 presidency on December 1 last year and about 200 meetings related to G20 were organized in 60 cities across the country.

The 18th G20 Summit in New Delhi will be a culmination of all the G20 processes and meetings held throughout the year among ministers, senior officials, and civil societies.

A G20 Leaders' declaration will be adopted at the conclusion of the G20 Summit, stating Leaders' commitment towards the priorities discussed and agreed upon during the respective ministerial and working group meetings.

The next G20 presidency is going to be taken over by Brazil in 2024, followed by South Africa in 2025.

ANI

China to promote construction of Giant Panda National Park

THROUGH collaborative legislation, southwest China's Sichuan province and the northwestern Chinese provinces of Shaanxi and Gansu recently made joint commitments to multiple matters, in an effort to unify criteria and standards for promoting construction of the country's Giant Panda National Park, which spans the three provinces.

China's Giant Panda National Park, with a total area of about 22,000 square kilometers, was officially set up in October 2021. Before the establishment of the national park, relevant regions protected wildlife, giant pandas

in particular, by designating scattered nature reserves and protected areas.

A good number of infrared cameras have been installed across the Giant Panda National Park, facilitating wildlife conservation efforts by recording wild animal activities.

For instance, an infrared camera caught on film activities of a wild giant panda in Tangjiahe National Nature Reserve, a part of the Giant Panda National Park, in Qingchuan county, Guangyuan

city, Sichuan province. As the video footage shows, the giant panda first scratched its belly with one of its front paws, then slowly rolled over and got up off the ground, and turned its round and chubby head to glance around.

In a giant panda Feralization and Reintroduction Base in Daxiangling Nature Reserve that straddles the border between Yingjing county and Hanyuan county in Ya'an city, Sichuan province, few signs of human activity can be seen beyond a few

buildings for scientific research and management and a metal fence enclosing a zone where giant pandas can gradually adapt to the wild after rewilding training.

"This rewilding zone covers an area of about 200 hectares. It has almost no difference from the natural habitats of giant pandas except necessary protections. After receiving the initial rewilding training, giant pandas learn to adapt to the wild here," said Song Xinqiang, a ranger at the base, pointing to a forested

area.

"Only by returning giant pandas to nature can we truly protect them," said Gong Xiaoyan, director of the working committee on environment and resource protection under the Standing Committee of the Shaanxi Provincial People's Congress.

Habitats of giant pandas in the Daxiangling Nature Reserve used to be rather fragmented, due to severe vegetation damage along the No. 108 national highway, which cut through the

mountain area of the nature reserve, as well as long-term impacts of human activities, such as bamboo shoot digging and livestock grazing.

By setting up quadrats to monitor staple bamboo regeneration, biodiversity, and other factors of the local ecosystem, the administration of the Giant Panda National Park has actively carried out habitat restoration in ecological corridors, and strengthened protection and management of the ecological corridors.

In addition to constructing

ecological corridors and restoring habitats, the administration has also made efforts to enhance connectivity between isolated patches of habitat to strengthen the protection of wild giant pandas.

"During a patrol inspection in the national park's core protected area in May this year, we found traces of rare wild animal species like takin, golden snub-nosed monkeys and tufted deer, as well as rare orchid plants like Calanthe discolor and Cypripedium calceolus.

People's Daily

G20 Summit declaration will reflect voice of Global South: Amitabh Kant

NEW DELHI

THE New Delhi leaders' declaration at the end of the G20 Summit will reflect the voice of Global South, India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said yesterday and noted that accelerating SDGs, improving learning outcomes and nutrition have been critical for India's presidency.

Addressing a joint press conference here ahead of the G20 summit which begins on September 9, Amitabh Kant said green development, climate action, climate finance have also been among India's priorities.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had stated that India's presidency should be inclusive, decisive, ambitious and action-oriented.

"When India took over the G20 presidency in Bali, we were in the midst of a scenario of slowing growth and productivity worldwide...India felt that we should start our presidency with the theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'-the world is one family. PM Modi said India's presidency should be inclusive, decisive, ambitious and action-oriented. We've lived up to his vision of being inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented and very decisive during our presiden-

cy," Amitabh Kant said.

"The second key priority for us was to have accelerated sustainable development goals because only 12 of the 169 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) are on track and we are way behind the schedule. We are midway at the 2030 Action Point. But we are way behind. Therefore accelerating SDGs, improving learning outcomes, healthy outcomes, nutrition - all these were very critical for India's presidency," he added.

Amitabh Kant said there has also been a focus on the multilateral institutions in view of the needs of the 21st century.

"We wanted the world to take the lead on Green Development in the context of climate action and climate finance. There were several components of this which we wanted to drive and therefore, green development, climate action, climate finance were our third priority.

Because both SDG and climate action require finance, particularly for developing and emerging markets in the global south. It was critical that we focus on multilateral institutions of the 21st century..." Amitabh Kant said.

"The New Delhi leaders' declara-



G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant along with MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kataria, G20 Chief Coordinator Harsh Shingla and DEA Secretary Ajay Seth address a press conference, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi yesterday. ANI

tion that you will see post the Summit, you will see it as a Voice of Global South and the developing countries. No document in the world would have such a strong voice for the Global South and the developing countries," he added.

Addressing the press conference, Ajay

Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance said that the focus and the vision of India G20 presidency is to bring focus to the global discourse issues that could make a difference to people's lives."

The G20 summit will be held on September 9 and 10 in the national capital. ANI

UN chief calls air pollution 'global emergency'

UNITED NATIONS

Air pollution is a global emergency, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Thursday, urging the international community to act together for clean air.

Guterres made the appeal in his message to mark the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, which falls on Sept. 7 annually. He pointed out that 99 percent of humanity breathes air laced with soot, sulphur and other toxic chemicals, with low- and middle-income countries suffering the highest exposures.

Every year, 7 million people die prematurely as a result, and air pollution is intimately linked to global heating, he added. Guterres noted that air pollution knows no borders, and can travel thousands of kilometers, spreading contaminants with

the wind. "Global problems require global solutions. We must act together for clean air," he said. The UN chief underscored the need to accelerate "a just and equitable transition away" from fossil fuels, particularly coal, toward clean renewable energy.

"We must also support the transition to clean cooking and electric vehicles," he said. "We must encourage walking and cycling in cities, and put in place systems to make responsible waste management second nature. And we must act on the pledge to reduce methane emissions." The UN General Assembly in December 2019 established Sept. 7 as the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, underscoring the importance of clean air for the health and day-to-day lives of all. Xinhua

Lavrov says West sought to undermine constructive work at East Asia summit

DHAKA



WESTERN countries sought to undermine constructive work at the East Asia Summit by using every excuse to bring up the issue of Ukraine, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said following talks with Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Abul Kalam Abdul Momen.

"The 'Western collective' with the participation of some of their partners from the Asian part of this summit tried every possible way to undermine the constructive work, using various pretexts to raise the Ukrainian issue at one angle or another," he said.

Lavrov said that the summit "was a success thanks to the tremendous work done by the Indonesian chairmanship." The minister also said Russia supports "the chairmanship's efforts to ensure the focus of all participants on those issues that are on the agenda <-> of the forum."

"This is above all the acceleration of sustainable development of the countries in the region, solving problems in the field of food and energy security, improving emergency preparedness, the adoption of the digital economy and much more," he continued. "As a result, the declaration that was endorsed at the summit this morning aims all ASEAN countries and their eight partners, this is the makeup of the East Asia summits, to address these very issues." The minister also stated that attempts to undermine the work of the summit were stopped and it was made reaffirmed that "the East Asia summits will continue to pursue their previously agreed agenda, which does not include problems of geopolitical scale <-> and does not deal with the settlement of any crisis and conflict situations." "Ultimately, what prevailed was the spirit of ASEAN, which remained true to its principles of seeking a balance of interests and consensus," he said.

"As for the attempts to Ukrainianize anything and everything, which are being made by our Western colleagues, these attempts are increasingly tiring for countries that want to engage in concrete affairs rather than support propaganda in favor of the Kiev regime, which is being used by the West to wage war against Russia," Lavrov said.

The East Asia Summit opened today in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta. Such summits are held once a year in conjunction with the fall events of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Lavrov is representing Russia at the summit.

The East Asia Summit was established in 2005 as a platform for strategic dialogue among leaders of the Asia-Pacific region on pressing issues of ensuring security and economic growth and promoting practical cooperation. The forum is attended by ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) and their dialogue partners (Russia, Australia, China, India, New Zealand, South Korea, the United States and Japan). East Timor, as a candidate for ASEAN membership, has been invited to this year's East Asia Summit events. Agencies

Advancing relationship with India will be priority this week, says US Secy ahead of G20 Summit

NEW DELHI

US Secretary of the Treasury, Janet L. Yellen on Friday said that America is looking forward to advancing the US-India relationship at the G20 summit and increasing collaboration in supporting the global agriculture and food security program.

Speaking at a press briefing, she said, "We hope to move forward our efforts such as supporting the global agriculture and food security program. Continuing to advance the US-India relationship will be a priority this week. We highly value our bilateral relationship with India. We also welcomed PM Modi to the US in June. The United States is the home to the largest Indian diaspora outside Asia and is India's largest export market."

US Secretary affirmed that India's leadership in the G20 remain highly effective and the group has achieved success on multiple important issues under its presidency.

Yellen said, "G20 has been effective, especially under India's leadership. Our goals for the G20 have coincided with those of India. We have tackled very important challenges and we have had considerable success in changing way the entire multilateral development system."

Yellen also commented on the World Bank's concerns about high-interest rates and slow global growth and stressed that Russia's war on Ukraine has inflated energy and food prices.

She said, "Certainly, we are aware of the risk to global growth. The most negative influence is Russia's war on



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa being welcomed on his arrival at the Palam Air Force Station to further attend the G20 Summit, in New Delhi yesterday. ANI

Ukraine which has escalated energy and food prices. At many G20 meetings have stated repeatedly, that the most important thing we could do for global growth is for Russia to end its brutal war on Ukraine.

Recently the IMF has somewhat improved its economic projections."

When asked about Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jin-

ping not attending the G20 Summit in Delhi, she emphasised that the G20 is a prime solution to global challenges and an important platform for taking on critical challenges.

She added, "It is important to emphasise that the G20 is a prime solution to the global challenges. We see it as a premier organisation on a global basis that is taking on critical challenges facing the global economy and particularly the

global South. I believe the G20, in spite of obvious problems due to Russia's war against Ukraine and Russia's general absence from G20 initiatives, has been extremely effective, especially under India's leadership. Our goals for the G20 have coincided closely with those of India. We have tackled very important challenges. I think we have had considerable success in changing the way the entire multilateral development system is operating."

India is hosting the G20 Leader's Summit in the national capital at the newly inaugurated Bharat Mandapam on September 9-10.

The summit is being attended by more than 30 heads of state and top officials from the European Union and invited guest countries and 14 heads of international organisations.

The countries taking part in the G20 Summit include Nigeria, Argentina, Italy, the AU (represented by Comros), and South Africa. Bangladesh, the United Kingdom, Japan, Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Korea, Egypt, Australia, the United States, Canada, China, Russia, the U.A.E, Brazil, Indonesia, Turkey Spain, Germany, France, Mauritius, the European Union, and Singapore.

During the two-day summit, several dignitaries are scheduled to visit Rajghat to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi. ANI

East China's Hangzhou gears up for first carbon-neutral Asian Games

HANGZHOU city, capital of east China's Zhejiang province, is gearing up to make the 19th Asian Games, which is slated to run from Sept. 23 to Oct. 8 in the city, the first carbon-neutral Asian Games in history.

Determined to host a "Green, Smart, Economical and Ethical" Asian Games, Hangzhou has arranged for all 65 venues and office facilities for the event to run fully on green electricity from March through December this year.

The city has already completed transactions for 621 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of green electricity for the event, bringing electricity produced from renewable energy sources thousands miles away to venues for the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Games through ultra-high voltage (UHV) grids.

Photovoltaic (PV) power generation projects in areas along the ancient Silk Road, such as the Qaidam Basin in northwest China's Qinghai province, Jiayuguan city in northwest China's Gansu province, and the Loess Plateau in northern China, as well as wind power projects in places including Hami city in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, have all contributed green power to the event.

In addition, green electricity produced by projects in Zhejiang province, including distributed PV power projects and offshore wind power projects, has also converged in the national grid, lighting

up facilities of the upcoming Hangzhou Asian Games together with wind and solar power from regions along the ancient Silk Road.

It's worth noting that a single crystal double-sided PV module of a PV power generation project located in Hainan Tibetan autonomous prefecture, Qinghai province, can generate 2.2 kWh of electricity daily. After being transmitted to Hangzhou through China's west-to-east power transmission program, this 2.2 kWh of green electricity can power a single energy-efficient light bulb at the gymnasium of Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center cluster, the main venue for the 19th Asian Games, for 220 hours.

Electric vehicles are expected to contribute to the formation of a new trend toward green travel during the Hangzhou Asian Games.

According to credible sources, the State Grid Hangzhou Power Supply Company is pressing ahead with the full coverage of charging piles at venues for the Hangzhou Asian Games, and is building a green travel service system in key areas related to the event, including Hangzhou's Xiaoshan district and Binjiang district, as well as their surrounding areas. The company also endeavors to build a one-kilometer radius charging circle in areas related to the Hangzhou Asian Games by equipping the Hangzhou Asian Games village in Xiaoshan

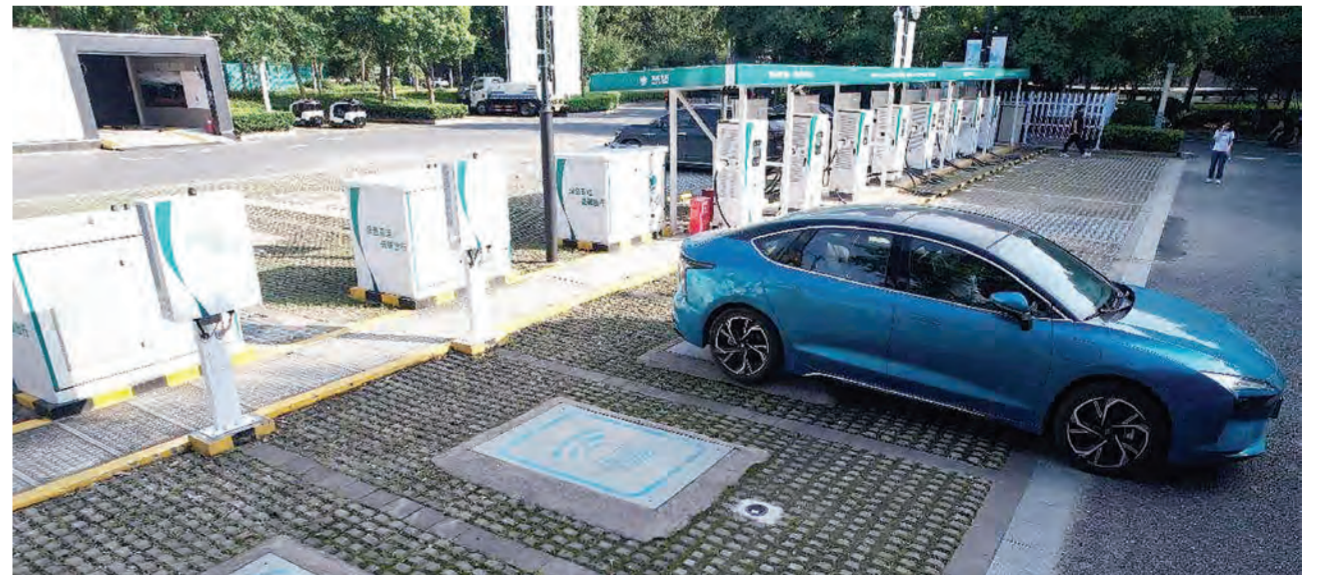
district with China's first high-power wireless charging station for new energy vehicles (NEVs) and building charging station at the Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport.

The company has built a cumulative total of 102 charging stations and 2,024 charging piles in the city, striving to provide all-round services for green travels during the Hangzhou Asian Games.

The concept of green and low-carbon development has been ingeniously integrated into the design and operations of competition venues for the Hangzhou Asian Games. Among the venues of the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center cluster, a butterfly-shaped venue that incorporates a natatorium and a gymnasium has drawn great attention because of its novel appearance and eco-friendly design.

The venue is equipped with 210 light tubes, which diffuse natural light from the outdoors to the indoors through top skylight covers. Compared to fluorescent lights, these light tubes are flicker-free, environmentally friendly and energy-saving. They have a lifespan of up to 25 years, and can be turned on and off. More importantly, they can save approximately 100,000 kWh of electricity annually.

The roof of the Fuyang Water Sports Center, a venue for the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Games, has an area of approxi-



A new energy car is being charged through a wireless charging pad at a State Grid charging station in the Hangzhou Asian Games village in Xiaoshan district, Hangzhou city, capital of east China's Zhejiang province. File photo

mately 24,000 square meters covered with soil. It is planted with green plants including Carthusian pink, common zinnia, and Chinese rose, blending in with the surrounding natural landscape. These plants have not only increased the greening rate of the entire venue to 45 percent, but also benefited people by helping with carbon fixation and oxygen release, heat insulation, and stormwater runoff reduction.

Yangshan Sport Climbing Center, located in Keqiao district, Shaoxing city,

Zhejiang province, is a venue for the Hangzhou Asian Games that has been transformed from an abandoned mine into an international competition venue and a youth rock climbing base.

The venue has adopted a semi-open design, allowing athletes and spectators to enjoy the natural scenery of the original quarry during competitions.

With a total construction area of 850,000 square meters, the Hangzhou International Expo Center in Xiaoshan district will serve as the main media center,

the venue for squash competitions and training, as well as the official reception hotel for the Hangzhou Asian Games.

In order to reduce waste generation at the point of origin, the center, which used to generate 4,000 tonnes of various types of waste annually, has introduced an intelligent waste sorting system. The system provides real-time statistical analysis of the waste generated in the venue and hotel areas, and timely carries out harmless treatment, significantly minimizing the production of waste. People's Daily



Hassan Mwakinyo

Mwakinyo to take on Okwiri in IBA Light Middleweight title bout

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN pugilist Hassan Mwakinyo is set to tussle for the International Boxing Association (IBA) Light Middleweight title against Kenyan Dayton Okwiri at Ubungo Plaza, Dar es Salaam on September 29.

Mwakinyo, who was initially supposed to fight for the World Boxing Organization (WBO) World title but could not take the ring due to a lack of competitive boxing bouts, now hopes to fight for the IBA title after the two parties reached an agreement.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam recently, the fight's promoter Ali Mndeme pointed out they have already agreed with the IBA for Mwakinyo to fight for the championship title against Okwiri.

"We are headed in good stages of preparation and we have already reached an agreement with Okwiri who will take part in the main card against Mwakinyo for the IBA International title, the IBA's headquarters are in the United States."

"Regarding where the fight will take place, we have agreed that this time the showdown will take place at the Ubungo Plaza Hall on September 29. We have another big and competitive fight that will be made public as time goes on," Mndeme noted.

Mwakinyo holds a record of 24 professional fights in his career, boasting 21 victories, 13 of which are Knockouts, three losses- two of which are Knockouts.

The pugilist, also known as "Tornado", last fought on April 23 against Congolese Mardochee Kuvesa Katembo in an international, non-

title bout in Dar es Salaam and won by unanimous decision.

It was Mwakinyo's second bout for over seven months since losing to English pugilist Liam Smith in an international, non-title bout held in Liverpool, England on September 3, 2023.

Kenya's hard-hitting boxer Okwiri, alias 'Boom Boom', has participated in world tournaments, including the qualifying tournament for the 2016 Olympics held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The Southpaw stance boxer secured his place in the Welterweight event in the Rio Olympics by winning the gold medal in the 2016 African Boxing Championship, serving as a qualifier for the Olympics.

He defeated Ghana's Mohammed Azumah in the semi-finals before going on to beat Egypt's Walid Sedik Mohamed in the final to end as one of the Kenyan team's members in Rio.

The 37-year-old made his professional debut on February 4, 2017, defeating Tanzanian Salehe Mkalakwa at the Crowne Plaza in Nairobi.

He won the African Boxing Union Middleweight title in his sixth professional fight on June 8, 2019, beating Hussein Itaba of Tanzania.

With African boxers' various bouts having gone unrecognized by Boxrec, Okwiri holds a professional record of nine bouts, with none of them having been declared a draw. Eight of them have ended in victory and one ended in a loss.

His most recent loss was registered in Johannesburg, South Africa last year, losing to Congolese pugilist Emanny Kalambo.

Oliveira warns Al Ahly ahead of AFL quarterfinals

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S Simba SC head coach Roberto Oliveira has revealed that after a series of friendly games his squad took part in at the outfit's training ground, it is ready to face Egypt's Al Ahly in the maiden African Football League.

The Tanzania representatives have been drawn against record CAF Champions League winners, Al Ahly, in the quarterfinals of the inaugural African Football League.

The Msimbazi Street giant has embarked on intensive drills with players that have not had a call-up for their respective countries national teams, with the squad winning 5-1 against a Dar es Salaam club, Cosmopolitan FC, in one of the friendly duels early this week.

Jean Baleke, Andre Onana, Shabani Chilunda, Aubin Kramo, and Moses Phiri were all on the score sheet to put on a massive performance following the squad's 3-0 win over Kipanga FC on September 2.

The AFL quarterfinals' first leg between Simba SC and Al Ahly will take place in Dar es Salaam on October 20, before the outfits take on each other a week later in Cairo to decide the team that reaches the semi-finals.

In case Al Ahly makes it through to the last four rounds,



Simba SC head coach Roberto Oliveira 'Robertinho'.

the Egyptian giant will face either South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns or Angola's Petro de Luanda, whose participation in the showdown is yet to be confirmed.

Speaking of the match and his club's progress,

Oliveira disclosed: "I am happy to face Al Ahly because Simba SC is a strong team that performs well in the CAF Champions League."

The Brazilian pointed out: "We are among the top 10 teams in Africa, and we

are currently in seventh place. We have a strong team, (boasting) a mixture of experience and youth, and I am completely satisfied with the performance and strategy we play with."

"I see this as a good opportunity for us to perform

well and showcase our skills. The match against Al Ahly will be a pulsating tie and a big game, and we have the opportunity to showcase our best," the Brazilian gaffer revealed.

"I am ready to play anywhere. Secondly, I respect all competitors, but for me, football is not about the past or the future, it's about the present. All competitors should respect Simba SC because it is one of the best teams in Africa," the tactician stressed.

The tactician noted: "We have a strong team, and I love playing in derby matches. It will be a strong derby match, and I respect all competitors."

"We will give our best in our matches, and we haven't been defeated in the league and the Tanzania Community Shield Cup," Oliveira said.

Simba SC will have several more friendly games and two tricky Second Preliminary Round ties against Zambia's Power Dynamos scheduled for September 15 and September 29, eyeing a spot in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group Stage.

JKU SC faces KMKM FC in 2023/24 Charity Shield clash

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Zanzibar Football Federation (ZFF) has revealed rivals JKU SC and KMKM FC are today set to take on each other in this season's Charity Shield encounter at Mao Tse Tung Stadium in the Isles.

Suleiman Jabir, ZFF president, on Thursday, said preparations for the match are through and asked football lovers from both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar to flock to the stadium to watch the match which marks the 2023/24 season kickoff.

He said the Zanzibar Premier League- which is sponsored by Zanzibar Peoples Bank- is set to kick off on Wednesday next week at two venues- Mao Tse Tung Stadium and Finyani Stadium.

"The Zanzibar Premier League will kick off Wednesday next week with matches taking place in Pemba and Unguja and, setting the tone, will be domestic football powerhouses JKU SC and KMKM FC slated to clash at Mao Tse Tung Stadium on Saturday, it's the Charity Shield match," he

said.

The ZFF president said he expects the match to be more competitive considering that both teams JKU SC and KMKM FC are coming from CAF inter-club showdowns.

"It will be a good match, KMKM FC and JKU SC are coming from CAF inter-club assignments, whereby, despite not performing well they have learned a lot and both teams have beefed up their squads ahead of the coming season," he said.

Jabir further said that the long-time sponsor of the Charity Shield tie, Zanzibar Insurance Corporation, has committed to again bankroll the event this year.

However, the ZFF president stopped short of mentioning the beneficiaries of the event, saying the federation is still working on the logistics such as identifying beneficiaries and appearance fees for the teams.

According to Jabir, once the federation is through with the procedure, it will make the issue public.



Traditional dance troupe artists entertain attendees with 'litungu' dance at a public meeting coordinated by a Tanzanian opposition political party Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo, commonly known as CHADEMA, in Tarime, Mara. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

Dar judo player in action in 2023 African Judo Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIAN judo player Andrew Mlungu was yesterday morning set to confront Gaye Serigne of Senegal in the ongoing African Judo Championships taking place in Casablanca, Morocco.

Mlungu, fighting in 73kg, is Tanzania's sole representative in the 44th edition of the continental championships which are taking place at Mohammed V Sports Complex.

Judo Association of Tanzania (JATA) President Zaidi Omari, currently in Morocco, said he is confident that France-based Mlungu will

do well against the experienced Serigne.

Omari noted: "The championships started today (Wednesday) but our judo player, Mlungu, will be in action tomorrow (yesterday) morning against the Senegalese, Gaye Serigne, now ranked 155th in the world, he is a good judo player, he has won many international events."

"We are confident that Mlungu who competed in the 2016 Olympics will do well, my confidence is fuelled by the fact that he was in France training under the tutelage of top trainers, even his physical appearance speaks volumes about his

readiness," he said.

Omari said the winner of the bout between Mlungu and Serigne will face a Moroccan judo player currently ranked 42nd in the world.

The continental championships, which commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the African Judo Union (AJU), also serve as African judo players' qualifiers for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

Tanzania was set to feature three judo players in the African Judo Championships but Omari said Adam Mwakisoma and Ahmed Magogo- based in Uzbekistan- did not travel to Morocco due to visa hitches.

"They are sponsored by the International Judo Federation (IJF), they are under the Uzbekistan Judo Federation and based in Tashkent City," the JATA leader disclosed.

Omari said: "There was a problem with their visas, the issue is that Morocco has no embassy in Uzbekistan, so, it was a challenge and IJF also wanted a performance report of the two."

"Thus, it was a bit complicated but the good thing is that there are two other qualifying events scheduled for November 11-12 in Cameroon and November 18-19 in Senegal," he revealed.

France close on Euro 2024 spot, Netherlands beat Greece

PARIS

FRANCE took a huge step towards qualifying for Euro 2024 with a 2-0 victory over Ireland on Thursday, while the Netherlands and Denmark claimed big wins as they eye places at next year's finals in Germany.

Aurelien Tchouameni and Marcus Thuram scored either side of half-time and France could have added several more goals as they outclassed Ireland at the Parc des Princes in Paris in qualifying Group B.

Captain Kylian Mbappe had a goal disallowed for offside and Ousmane Dembele later hit the post for a France side who saw Olivier Giroud limp off with an ankle injury in the first half.

Last year's beaten World Cup finalists have a maximum 15 points and have yet to concede a goal after five matches in the group, which they lead by a massive nine points from both the Netherlands and Greece.

"It is an important step. We have enjoyed a perfect campaign so far but we are not going to rest on our laurels," said France coach Didier Deschamps.

Ronald Koeman's Dutch side, who have played just three games, beat Greece 3-0 in Eindhoven with all the goals coming in the first half.

Marten de Roon smashed in their opener, Liverpool's Cody Gakpo made it 2-0 and Wout Weghorst headed in the third on 39 minutes.

Ireland, with just three points after four games, will surely need to beat the Netherlands at home on Sunday to maintain a realistic chance of going through with the top two teams in each group qualifying.

"At home since the full crowds have been back the energy of the crowd has been important and we will need that," Ireland manager Stephen Kenny said about that upcoming game in Dublin "We have a lot to think about in relation to how we are going to play after tonight."

Elsewhere, Robert Le-

wandowski scored two late goals as Poland beat the Faroe Islands 2-0 in Warsaw.

The veteran Barcelona striker's first came from the penalty spot on 73 minutes and he added another seven minutes from time.

Poland, coached by former Portugal boss Fernando Santos, are third in Group E with six points, two points behind leaders the Czech Republic and one behind Albania.

The Czech Republic were held to a 1-1 draw by Albania in Prague.

- Northern Ireland misery -

In Group H, a late Oliver Antman goal gave Finland a 1-0 in Kazakhstan, damaging the Central Asian nation's hopes of qualifying for a first major tournament.

Finland top the group with 12 points, two points ahead of Denmark and Slovenia who both also won on Thursday.

Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg, Joakim Maehle, Jonas Wind and Christian Eriksen netted as Denmark defeated San Marino 4-0 in Copenhagen as new Manchester United signing Rasmus Hojlund appeared off the bench in the second half.

Andraz Sporar scored twice as Slovenia beat Northern Ireland 4-2 in Ljubljana.

A Jonny Evans own goal and a strike by RB Leipzig's Benjamin Sesko made it a miserable night for the Northern Irish, although Evans did also score at the other end.

Northern Ireland have lost four of their five games in the group with the return of Michael O'Neill as manager not having the desired effect.

Meanwhile Hungary are three points clear of Serbia at the top of Group G after coming from behind to win 2-1 in Belgrade.

Attila Szalai's own goal gave Serbia the lead but Barnabas Varga equalised and Willi Orban got the winner.

Lithuania drew 2-2 with Montenegro in the same group.

AFP

Messi winner gets Argentina under way in World Cup qualifying

BUENOS AIRES

A TRADEMARK, curling free-kick from Lionel Messi got world champions Argentina off to a winning start in South American World Cup qualifying on Thursday with a 1-0 victory at home to Ecuador.

Colombia beat Venezuela 1-0 while 10-man Peru held on for a 0-0 draw at Paraguay as the long journey of South American qualifying for the 2026 World Cup got under way.

Messi, who led Argentina to their third World Cup triumph in Qatar in December, has yet to confirm whether he will continue with his national side all the way to 2026, but he showed his importance yet again with the breakthrough in what had threatened to be a frustrating night for Lionel Scaloni's team.

Lautaro Martinez won a free-kick in a central area in the 78th minute, just outside the Ecuador penalty area and Messi executed to perfection with his effort floating over the wall and dipping perfectly to beat the stationary Hernan Galindez.

With the goal, Messi drew level with former Barcelona teammate Luis Suarez of Uruguay as the all-time leading scorers in the South American qualifiers, both with 29 goals.

The Albiceleste had dominated possession against an Ecuador side which defended in numbers and limited their attacks to the occasional break on the counter.

The first opening of the game fell to Messi in the 16th minute when he was found on the edge of the box but put his side-foot effort wide of the post.

Tanzania hold Algeria to end AFCON exile, Uganda win in vain

CAIRO

THE Taifa Stars knew avoiding defeat in Annaba would be enough to seal their spot at next year's finals in Cote d'Ivoire.

And the East Africans side produced a dogged, determined display to frustrate their illustrious hosts and gain the point they needed.

Tanzania's resolute performance denied an Algeria side who had already booked their qualification as Group F winners.

The draw ends Tanzania's AFCON exile, with the Taifa Stars returning to the continent's showpiece tournament for only the third time ever.

Despite dominating possession and carving out several chances, Algeria were unable to break down their stubborn opponents.

Tanzania also posed an occasional threat on the counter-attack to keep the Desert Foxes honest throughout.

The result leaves Algeria manager Djamel Belmadi disappointed after his side's winning run was ended.

But for Tanzania, this hard-fought draw will feel like a triumph after defying the odds to achieve



Taifa Stars

their target.

***Niger 0-2 Uganda**

Meanwhile, Uganda ended their TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations, Cote d'Ivoire 2023, qualifying campaign with a 2-0 win over Niger on Thursday but it was not enough to seal qualification.

First-half goals from Aziz Kayondo and Joseph Ochaya secured victory for the Cranes in Marrakesh.

But elsewhere Tanzania earned the point they needed against Algeria to finish second in Group F

behind the Desert Foxes.

That left Uganda's triumph over Niger irrelevant as they were consigned to third place.

After a bright start, Kayondo opened the scoring for Uganda in the 17th minute thanks to Fahad Bayo's assist.

Ochaya then doubled their advantage before the break as they took control of the game.

The second half was more subdued with qualification out of reach for the Cranes.

The victory was the first for Uganda during qualification after four consecutive draws.

But ultimately the damage had already been done as Tanzania's stalemate with Algeria saw them pip Uganda to an AFCON spot.

It means Uganda will be absent from the finals for the second straight tournament.

***Tunisia 3-0 Botswana**

Tunisia signed off their TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations qualifying campaign in style with a domi-

nant 3-0 victory over Botswana on Thursday.

The Carthage Eagles were in control from the outset as they looked to round off Group J on a high.

Despite first-half chances, the deadlock remained at the break with Botswana defending resiliently.

But Tunisia's pressure finally told when Alford Velaphi's own goal put them ahead on the hour.

With the Zebras wilting, substitute Youssef Msakni added a second after 82

minutes following good work from Ali El Abdi.

Msakni was not done there, wrapping up his brace in stoppage time as Mohamed Ali Ben Romdhane provided the assist.

The emphatic victory sees Tunisia finish above already-qualified Equatorial Guinea to top Group J.

***Ghana 2 - 1 Central African Republic**

Group E for the 2023 AFCON qualifiers delivered its verdict on Thursday September 7. Ghana, who hosted the Central African Republic, won 2-1. However, the Black Stars went behind as early as the 25th minute when Louis Mafouta scored.

The Ghanaians then sounded the revolt, first equalising through Mohamed Kudus (43rd) before Ernest Nuamah gave his team-mates qualification (92+2). Ghana thus finish top of their group with 12 points.

The other qualifier from Group E is Angola (9 points). The Palancas Negras held Madagascar to a goalless draw to secure second place at the Finals. The Central African Republic, with 7 points, missed out. Madagascar is in the dunce's bonnet with just 3 points.

Agencies

Antony facing fresh abuse allegations from two more women

By James Ducker

THE Manchester United and Brazil winger Antony was at the centre of a fresh storm on Thursday night as accusations by two more women against the player were made public.

Rayssa de Freitas, an influencer and law student, claims she suffered bodily injury after being assaulted by Antony and a woman in May last year, according to reports in Brazil.

Brazilian newspaper Extra claim that De Freitas reported the alleged incident to the Sao Paulo Civil Police on May 20 last year for which she required hospital treatment.

Another woman, Ingrid Lana, a banker, has claimed in a television interview with journalist Roberto Cabrini from Record that she was pressured by Antony to have sex while on a business trip to England last year.

Lana alleged that Antony invited her to his house and pushed her against a wall which led to her banging her head. "He tried to have a relationship with me and I didn't want to," Lana claimed in the interview. "He pushed me against the wall and I hit my head. My purpose was just business. Arriving there at his invitation, I realised he had ulterior motives."

Antony's representatives were approached for comment on Thursday night. Telegraph Sport understands Antony strenuously denies the allegations. United declined to comment.

An £85 million signing from Ajax last summer, Antony, 23, is currently being investigated by police in Greater Manchester and Sao Paulo over allegations he assaulted a former girlfriend, Gabriela Cavallin.

He released a statement on Instagram on Monday in which he said his relationship with Cavallin had

been "tumultuous, with verbal offenses [sic] from both sides".

But the Brazilian vehemently denied "any physical aggression" and said he trusted "the ongoing police investigations will reveal the truth about my innocence".

In the police report filed by De Freitas, it was alleged that she got into a car being driven by Antony and containing two other people - a woman and a man - after a night out at a nightclub in Sao Paulo. De Freitas claimed that she was involved in a falling out with the woman because she did not want to "continue the fun" with the other three passengers, after which a fight broke out inside the car.

It was at that point that De Freitas alleges she was attacked by Antony and the woman, according to the police report. When the car stopped at traffic lights, De Freitas claimed she opened the back door and fled. De Freitas reported the alleged incident to the police and is said to have been assessed at hospital, according to the report filed.

The claims by De Freitas and Lana follow a string of allegations made by Cavallin.

United have strenuously denied explosive claims that the club tried to cover up allegations that Antony attacked Cavallin at a Manchester hotel.

Cavallin, a DJ and influencer, has made the claims in relation to an alleged attack on her by Antony at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Manchester on January 15, the day after United beat Manchester City 2-1 at Old Trafford.

In a legal request by Cavallin's lawyer Daniel Bialski to Sao Paulo Civil Police, it is claimed United tried to "hush up" the alleged attack by using a club employee to arrange for a private doctor to treat the woman instead of Caval-



Antony

lin going to hospital where she may have been questioned about the alleged incident.

The request filed by Cavallin's legal team has alleged that Antony, "in one of his violent bouts of jealousy", headbutted the women, causing a cut on her head, and that the alleged attack led to one of her breast implants being damaged for which she later required surgery.

United have emphatically refuted claims of a "cover up". In a statement, the club said: "Any suggestion that the club covered up these allegations is categorically false."

Police are investigating allegations that Cavallin was subjected to a number of attacks by Antony between June last year and May this year. Greater Manchester Police are looking into the alleged incident at the Hyatt and accusations of an attack by Antony on Cavallin at a house on May 8, the day after the Brazil winger played for United in a 1-0 defeat away to West Ham in London.

United have confirmed that a member of staff arranged for a private doctor to visit Cavallin at Antony's request but say no club medical staff were involved in treating her.

United also insisted that neither the club nor member of staff had any indication of the medical issue being related to any form of violence. The club add that it is commonplace for their welfare department to arrange for doctors to see partners and family members of players.

Antony was dropped from the Brazil squad on Monday night for their forthcoming World Cup qualifiers against Bolivia and Peru.

United resisted calls from domestic abuse charities to suspend Antony on Wednesday but announced in a statement on Wednesday that they were treating the matter "seriously", with "consideration of the impact of these allegations and subsequent reporting will have on survivors of abuse".

United were severely rebuked for their handling of the Mason Greenwood case. The club said they had listened to the criticism and learned lessons from that as they now deal with the situation around Antony, including seeking external expert advice from Women's Aid and the Professional Footballers' Association.

Sources said the club had been advised to proceed cautiously on the basis that police enquiries are taking place in both Brazil and

the UK and innocence unless proven guilty remains an important principle in both jurisdictions.

Greenwood was suspended by United after being arrested in January last year following the publication on social media of images and audio clips.

After charges of attempted rape, assault occasioning actual bodily harm and controlling and coercive behaviour against Greenwood were dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service in February after key witnesses withdrew and new material came to light, United launched an internal investigation.

Following their inquiries, United said they were satisfied that Greenwood "did not commit the offences in respect of which he was originally charged", despite admitting they had "limited powers of investigation". United had also been unable to interview the alleged victim.

United had been preparing to reintegrate Greenwood into their squad only for the news to leak and spark a fierce public and internal backlash.

It led United to announce on August 21 that Greenwood would leave the club and on Friday the striker joined Spanish club Getafe on a season long loan.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Tanzania hold Algeria to end AFCON exile, Uganda win in vain

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President Samia lauds Taifa Stars for making it to AFCON finals



Tanzania's national football team defensive midfielder, Mzamiru Yassin (R), dribbles past Algeria's midfielder Hamid Abdell when the two sides faced each other in a 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers' Group F match at 19 May 1956 Stadium in Annaba, Algeria on Thursday night, climaxing in a 0-0 draw. AGENCIES

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S national football team has secured a place in the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals at the expense of neighbours, Uganda, prompting a heartfelt congratulation from President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Taifa Stars' historic qualification for the prestigious tournament marks the third time the squad will compete on the continent's grandest footballing stage.

This remarkable feat was sealed in a hard-fought goalless draw with Algeria in Group F clash of qualifiers that took place at the May 19 1956 Stadium in Annaba which happened to be a thrilling finale on Thursday night.

The game witnessed the visiting Taifa Stars holding their ground, denying the formidable Algerian side victory and making history in the process.

After the game, President Samia took to social media to express her joy and appreciation, saying: "You have written history."

Samia revealed: "This is our third time to qualify since the establishment of this tournament. I wish you all the best."

Her message echoed the sentiments of a nation proud of its team's accomplish-

ments.

With these results, Tanzania secured a second-place finish in the Group F of qualifiers, accumulating a total of eight points.

Algeria, which had already secured a place in the continental tournament, finished atop the group with an impressive 16 points from six matches.

The draw with Algeria showcased Taifa Stars' professionalism, successfully halting Algeria's five-game winning streak.

Even with star players like Riyad Mahrez entering the game in the second half, Algeria could not penetrate Tanzania's solid defensive unit.

Meanwhile, Uganda's 2-0 victory over Niger in the group's other clash that took place in Marrakech, Morocco

the same day, was not enough

to secure the East African country side's qualification.

Left-back Aziz Kayondo and midfielder Joseph Ochaya scored for Uganda in a dominant first half performance to deliver a result they needed on the night.

It was however too little too late in the end for the Cranes as they finished one point behind Tanzania.

This achievement marks Tanzania's return to the AFCON finals' stage after a four-year hiatus, given it last made it to the 2019 AFCON finals. It is as well the third time in the team's history.

Taifa Stars' previous appearances were in the 1980 edition held in Lagos, Nigeria and the 2019 AFCON finals held in Egypt.

Tanzania needed to avoid defeat against Algeria to qualify for the 2023 Africa Cup

of Nations at the expense of Uganda Cranes.

The two sides went into the last match of the qualifiers with a chance of qualifying, but it was only Tanzania who had fate in their hands, and they managed a goalless draw in Algiers to book a slot to early next year's competition in Cote d'Ivoire.

The visiting Taifa Stars put up a professional performance to halt Algeria's winning streak that had stretched to five games.

With Algeria already qualified and having little to fight for, star players like Riyad Mahrez only came into the game in the second half but could not unlock the solid Tanzanian defensive unit.

The draw in the North African country's squad nullified any hopes the Cranes had following their 2-0 win over Ni-

ger in Marrakech.

Kayondo and Ochaya scored for Milutin Sredojevic's charges to register their second win of the qualifiers, but victory alone was not sufficient as Tanzania's draw moved them to eight points, one ahead of Uganda.

The result will now see Tanzania return to the AFCON stage for the first time since 2019 and for the third time in history, having also featured at the 1980 edition held in Lagos, Nigeria.

Algeria ended the qualifiers top of Group F with 16 points, while Tanzania needed eight points to qualify as the second team in the group. Uganda finished third with seven points, while bottom-placed Niger only managed to register two points.

5 EATV MONDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

5Sports

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zote Kuntu
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

5Sports

The week's local and international sporting events as well as indepth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Simba SC cancels friendly duel versus Gor Mahia

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S Simba SC has decided to cancel the club's highly-anticipated international friendly match against Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Premier League record champions, Gor Mahia.

The Msimbazi Street side was all set to travel to Nairobi at the beginning of the week for what promised to be an exciting clash.

The club, then, made the decision to scrap the game, citing concerns over fans' attendance.

Opting for cancellation has not only impacted Simba SC's friendly against Gor Mahia, but also cast a shadow over the former's match against Kenya Police FC, which was scheduled to be played at the Nyayo National Stadium in Nairobi.

Simba SC's coordinator, Abbas Ally, confirmed the abrupt change of plans, shedding light on the reasons behind it.

The official noted: "We had two friendly matches lined up, but the Football Kenya Federation has asked us to play these matches behind closed doors, without allowing our passionate fans to attend."

"This presents a significant challenge given the massive support our team enjoys on both sides," the official revealed.

"We fear that our fans will turn out in large numbers, a turnout that we may have underestimated," he explained.

This unexpected development has left both Simba SC and Gor Mahia fans disappointed as they were eagerly looking forward to witnessing the clash between the two East African football giants on the pitch.

The canceled friendly was intended to serve as vital preparation for Simba SC ahead of the outfit's highly anticipated 2023/24 CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round encounters against Zambian powerhouse Power Dynamos.

The 2023/24 CAF Champions League has already kicked off and Simba SC has been eyeing a strong start to its campaign.

The Msimbazi Street club's first leg match against Power Dynamos is scheduled to take place at the revered Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola on September 16.

Simba SC was handed automatic progression to the continental showpiece's Second Preliminary Round based on the outfit's impressive record in the 2022/23 season's showdown.

In the 2022/23 CAF Champions League, the Tanzanian outfit booked a place in the last eight and suffered loss to Morocco's Wydad Athletic Club.

Premier League Board reforms golden boot prize winner's criterion

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi



Tanzania Premier League Board Chairman, Steven Mguto.

THE Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) has reformed articles on top goal scorer's rule in the event that two players are tied at the end of the NBC Premier League and Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC).

Last season, Simba SC's attacking midfielder Said Ntibazonkiza netted 17 goals, as was the case with former Yanga talisman Fiston Mayele, and, with no clear rules, both players were awarded the golden boot.

Steven Mguto, TPLB Chairman, has said that if the players are tied for goals, the board

will look at the player that has not scored goals via penalties and, if both have some goals scored via spot kicks, the player with fewer penalty goals will be the best goal scorer.

Mguto revealed: "When we made these rules, we did not look at them critically back in the days but, from the experience of the last season, we have learned and we have made reforms on the rules about the scorer and how to award winners on goal, about two weeks ago we had a meeting with the clubs' top leaders and this rule was discussed."

"The best goal scorer is the one with a lot of goals but, if a tie hap-

pens, we look at the criteria that if a player scores a normal goal in 90 minutes, it takes two points and if he scores a penalty it is one point, so this will help us distinguish the best goal scorer," he explained.

The Chairman moreover explained that the rules will soon be made clear to the public and raise awareness of other changes such as how to find the best player in the league involving the criteria of the minutes he played for his team throughout the season.

So far various Premier League teams are on short break due to international games. Thirty-eight goals have been scored in

the top flight's two rounds of matches, with 20 goals having been scored by domestic players and 18 goals scored by foreign players.

Azam FC midfielder, Feisal Salum, so far leads the goal scoring charts with four goals, with all of them netted in the opening clash against newly promoted Tabora United.

Yanga is the most scoring team in the NBC Premier League with 10 goals from two games and two clean sheets.

Azam FC has posted six goals and two clean sheets while Simba SC has notched six goals and one clean sheet.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

