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COVID-19: Tanzania ranked first in 2022 vaccination coverage

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has emerged the best-performing country out of 34 reviewed African countries in uptake and favourable access to Covid-19 vaccination.

Dr Zabulon Yoti (pictured), the country representative of the World Health Organisation (WHO), said in a statement yesterday that Tanzania's vaccination uptake increased from 2.8 percent recorded in January 2022 to 49 percent by the end of January 2023.

Following this performance, Tanzania has become one of the best performing countries that were below 10 percent of the targeted population to be vaccinated by January 2022.

Vaccination strategies were laid out by WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Global Vaccine Alliance (GAVI), launching the Covid-19 vaccine delivery partnership (CoVDP) in January 2022.

The purpose was to take up the urgency in turning vaccine doses available in various countries into vaccinated, protected communities hitherto having low



Sometimes addressing the barrier to vaccination was as simple as having a sign that says 'COVID-19 vaccines here

performance in vaccination. The partnership supported countries to overcome bottlenecks to vaccination, the statement noted.

Praising the level of political involvement and cross-sectoral collaboration, the representative lauded implementing partners for their efforts to expand reach and services beyond immunization teams and enable targeted approach.

They ensured that priority groups are identified, and thus became enablers of Tanzania's exponential increase in vaccination during the period under review, it affirmed.

"The rapid increase in Covid-19 vaccination is a consequence of heightened political commitment at the national, regional and district levels," it said, highlighting that the groundwork was laid at a technical meeting, coordinated and facilitated by WHO in May 2022.

The government and partners leveraged on the national leadership's positive stance, to develop and endorse a rapid plan of action for an accelerated vaccination campaign, which renewed commitment as WHO facilitated partners mapping and providing technical guidelines.

This enabled the implementation of region-specific mass vaccination campaigns, on the basis of logistical convenience of partner NGOs enlisted to accelerate vaccination coverage. This engendered healthy competition to increase coverage at the regional level, it

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JKCI signs paediatric cardiac accord with Zambia, Rwanda

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

THE Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) yesterday signed trendsetting agreements with the Zambian National Heart Hospital (NHH) and the Rwanda King Faisal Hospital (KFH).

The agreements culminate years of planning and investment by Save a Child's Heart (SACH), an international humanitarian organisation NGO based in Israel. It is a humanitarian initiative providing cardiac healthcare to children worldwide, founded in 1995 at the Edith Wolfson Medical Center near Tel Aviv, the old capital of Israel.

The agreements are a new milestone in enhancing cooperation in pediatric cardiac care with the two countries, making JKCI serve a wider regional community.

Dr Seif Shekalaghe, the Health permanent secretary and his Zambian counterpart Dr George Sinyangwe, witnessed the signing, where Dr Peter Kisenge, the JKCI director signed the accords, in the presence of SACH representatives.

Dr Chabwela Shumba, the Zambia National Heart Hospital's senior medical superintendent and Dr Frederic Ndirabacu, the King Faisal Hospital deputy CEO were also present.



...JKCI independently performs hundreds of pediatric cardiac procedures, both surgeries and catheterizations

Cooperation was made possible on a longstanding partnership between SACH and JKCI, which includes treating more than 1,000 Tanzanian children for congenital heart conditions over the past two decades.

The link also enabled training 23 medical professionals in specialised pediatric cardiac care, the provision of equipment and donating medical disposables, plus other JKCI activities.

Dr Kisenge said he was enthusiastic for the collaborations that the JKCI will establish with the Zambian and Rwanda hospitals.

He said JKCI independently performs hundreds of pediatric cardiac procedures, both surgeries and catheterizations, thanks to SACH training programs and ongoing medical missions, sponsored by SACH (Canada).

The signing of the new agreements now paves the way for knowledge transfers between the JKCI and the two medical centers with SACH assistance, including training of medical teams at JKCI, sending medical missions to the partners and supporting new teams on the ground, he stated.

SACH is currently training in Israel the first pediatric cardiac team of Zambian medical professionals, among them Zambia's first specialist pediatric cardiac surgeon, who recently returned home after completing four and a half years of training in Israel, and leads the programme at the Zambia National Heart Hospital.

This week a team of three physicians from the King Faisal Hospital in Kigali will arrive in Israel to start their training in pediatric cardiology, pediatric intensive care and anesthesia.

Dr Lior Sasson, the SACH lead surgeon, expressed satisfaction with the lifesaving activity taking place at the JKCI, citing his student Dr Godwin Godfrey, the first pediatric cardiac surgeon in the country.



Congo Street, easily the most-frequented festive-season shopping 'zone' in Dar es Salaam, as usual closed to vehicular traffic yesterday as people made last-minute purchases, chiefly for children's wear, in readiness for Eid al-Fitr celebrations. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Speaker directs MPs to probe tractor lease pact

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

AN in-depth investigation on a tractor lease agreement between farmers and a tractor manufacturing company, Ursus through the National Development Corporation (NDC) will be conducted, following complaints.

National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson ordered an investigation yesterday, directing the parliamentary standing committee on Industry, Trade, Agriculture and Livestock to start working on the matter.

The committee will first meet with officials in the Agriculture ministry, the NDC and the Industry, Trade and



Upon completion of its work, the committee will present its findings during the on-going budget session

Investment ministry before moving to Manyara Region to meet with farmers and other stakeholders.

Making a ruling on the matter at the end of the question and answer session, she said that while in Manyara, committee members will listen to farmers' challenges in regard to the signed lease agreement.

"Upon completion of its work, the committee will present its findings during the on-going budget session," she stated, noting that this will help legislators to have detailed information to find solutions on the matter.

She arrived at the decision after

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Germany grants 16bn/- to reduce wildlife intrusions

By Guardian Reporter

GOVERNMENT efforts in biodiversity conservation and mitigation of human-wildlife conflict have attracted a 6m euros (16bn/-) grant from Germany, via its development agency, GIZ.

Mohamed Mchengerwa (pictured), the Natural Resources and Tourism minister, said yesterday that one of the key challenges of wildlife conservation is intrusion into settled areas and farms.

This threatens food security, destroys



properties and impacts on wildlife conservation when people move to poison such animals with vegetable or meat set as a trap.

At the signing ceremony for implementation of the project to mitigate the human-wildlife conflict in Dar es Salaam, he said that the three years project will focus on the Selous ecosystem in the southern wildlife circuit.

Tanzania will, apart from mitigating such conflicts, reduce government

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Speaker directs MPs to probe tractor lease pact

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receiving a report from the committee chairman after having met with MPs from Manyara Region, she said in her remarks.

"The National Assembly has seen the importance of working on farmers' complaints raised by their representatives," she said, telling the House that she instructed the committee chairman to meet with the MPs and other concerned parties.

Lawmakers from Manyara Region complained about the lease contract between farmers and Ursus Co. through NDC when contributing to budget estimates of the Prime Minister's Office for the coming financial year.

The MPs showed serious concern on how people in the region have been affected by the contract. This was part of issues covered in the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report for fiscal 2020/2021 where the National Assembly had already presented its recommendations.

A report on implementation of recommended measures by the government will be placed by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), the Local Authorities Accounts Committee (LAAC) and the Public Investment Committee (PIC).

The committees will present an implementation report in the November session where MPs will have a chance to discuss it and advise the government, she added.

Germany grants 16bn/- to reduce wildlife intrusions

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expenditures in paying compensation to affected communities, as the pact will improve human and food security and enhance cooperation between conservation authorities and communities, he stated.

Communities will be empowered through training on appropriate mitigation methods, facilitating the use of modern technologies in mitigating intrusion of animals such as colouring of elephants and ge-fencing.

Experts say geo-fencing creates a virtual geographical boundary that triggers action on a mobile device when a targeted beast enters or exits that boundary.

The government has been taking various initiatives to enhance conservation activities, like the national strategy for managing human wildlife conflicts, for 2020/2024, he said.

Through the strategy, the ministry has established 154 ranger stations across the country to respond to wildlife intrusions, with 15 other stations now being built, he affirmed.

Village game scouts were trained and equipped to respond to intrusions, with 120 such groups starting training by the end of this month, he said.

"In addressing conflicts, the

government is working with conservation and development partners in building capacities among agencies and communities, he said, noting that Germany has been a key bilateral partner in biodiversity conservation since independence.

For the past six years, Germany has supported conservation with euro 124m grants, he said, while German ambassador Regine Hess said Tanzania has managed to conserve a large part of its land compared to many other nations.

The conservation efforts have resulted in the increase of wildlife species in particular elephants, she stated.

Dr Mike Falke, the GIZ zonal director for EAC, said the agency has been providing support in mitigation of wildlife intrusions, apart from supporting sectors like water, health, mitigation of climate change effects and alleviating gender based violence.

Dr Maurus Msuha, the wildlife director, said through the project communities are expected to benefit via Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).

Conservation is for the people as it contributes to economic growth and people's development, he said. The tourism sector provides employment to 1.5m people throughout the country, he added.

Government, NGO call for action programmes on child trafficking

By Correspondent Mutayoba

Arbogast, Bukoba

HEKIMA, the Bukoba-based Non-Governmental Organisation, has called for strong collaboration of action programmes between the government and stakeholders to fight against child trafficking.

The organisation's chief executive officer, Chui Majaliwa made the call recently during celebrations of International Day for Street Children, a special day to celebrate the lives of street children and highlight the efforts to have their rights respected and their needs met in a caring and respectful manner.

This year's theme focuses on what makes street-connected children feel safe or unsafe, and what governments and communities can do to ensure that street children are protected from harm.

Majaliwa said their priority is to stand for the safety and security of Children working and living in the street by identifying them, giving them skills, and later connecting them to their families.

According to him, the organisation has succeeded in reuniting 35 families, 60 families were reached with support, five children are still in apprenticeship and eight children returned to school.

"We currently support 25 children who during the day attend at the organisation's centre to get skills and later go back home," he said.

One of a male child living and working in the street told participants that in the streets they face a number of challenges

including rape something which affect them psychologically.

SP Bashir Abdul Bashir of the Police Force in the district urged members of the public to collaboratively work to protect children as these are the future of the nation.

He said there are a lot of quarrels and misunderstandings in families which deny children their rights to be loved, cared for and given needful requirements so they decide to quit their homes.

Hellen Rocky, district community development officer said the government is working closely with NGOs to protect children's rights which include fighting all forms of violence that affect their development.

In 2015, global leaders made a commitment to end all forms of violence against children by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



We currently support 25 children who during the day attend at the organisation's centre to get skills and later go back home



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (in glasses) presents iftar foodstuffs at a Dodoma mosque on Wednesday to Aisha Nobbe, director of the city's Alhaafidhu Islamic Orphanage, at the conclusion of a Quran competition. To the Speaker's right is Dodoma regional commissioner Rosemary Senyamule. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

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asserted.

Implementing partners included WHO, UNICEF, the United States International Development Agency (USAID) FHI (an organisation dedicated to support projects in HIV/AIDS prevention), the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and others adopted specific regions for special technical and financial support to increase vaccine uptake. Dr Yoti further explained other strategies that contributed to the sustained increase in COVID-19 vaccination.

A socio-ecological approach to hesitancy enabled a positive environment for acceptance of COVID-19 vaccines, while service delivery through a house-to-

house strategy made COVID-19 vaccines readily available at zero cost, acceptable and affordable to beneficiaries, it further affirmed.

As of February 2023, a total of 32,093,549 people had been fully vaccinated countrywide, about 45 percent of the total population and 87 percent of the target population, above 18 years.

More than 38,900,000 vaccine doses were received in the Mainland and Zanzibar through bilateral agreement and the COVAX facility and more than 90 percent doses distributed to regions, the representative noted.

Since the beginning of 2022, available data show a sustained reduction in the number of hospital admissions related to COVID-19. The

trend can be plotted on the curve of increase in access to vaccination, he stated.

In June 2022, Tanzania was one of 11 countries selected through the Global Vaccine Access (Global VAX) initiative based in the US, where partnership with Tanzania raised the need for awareness about the importance of getting vaccinated.

It amplified investment in expanding COVID-19 vaccine delivery efforts including cold chain and supply logistics, vaccine confidence and demand, data and analytics, local vaccination plans, etc.

The initiative boosted demand for the vaccines where more than 70 percent of its eligible population was fully vaccinated by December

2022.

Mahesh Swaminathan, the CDC country director, said that CDC focused on vaccinating people at highest risk for getting sick due to COVID-19, including people with HIV, staff in healthcare facilities, and community workers. Sometimes addressing the barrier to vaccination was as simple as having a sign that says 'COVID-19 vaccines here,' he stated.

The first case of COVID-19 in Tanzania was registered on 16 March 2020, then spread in all the 31 regions. The mainland, accounting for 98 percent of cases and 96 percent of deaths experienced four waves of the outbreak, followed by a sustained decline in cases and deaths in the past year, he added.



Kamila Labani, Mwanza Region's acting Fire and Rescue Force commander, has a close view of a boulder said to have touched off panic among residents of parts of Igoma ward in Mwanza city on Wednesday after reportedly beginning moving from its original location heading for nearby residences. Photo: Correspondent Vitus Audax

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

CHADEMA: Local councils should hire their own executive directors

THE opposition Chadema has advised that local Council executive directors be hired by the respective councils aimed at enhancing accountability and ward off embezzlement of public funds.

The advice comes only a few days after the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) Audit Report disclosed embezzlement of public funds in various projects implemented at local councils' level.

CHADEMA secretary for Nyasa Zone, Gwamaka Mbuzi issued the advice at the weekend when party leaders from the zone were briefing reporters on CAG report analysis for the councils in Nyasa zone.

He said according to the laws of the country, local councils' directors are supposed to be accountable to

the local councils but reality they are accountable to the President who appointed them hence denying Councillors the opportunity to hold them to account when they err.

Mbuzi said the CAG report shows that many councils in the zone performed poorly in regard to public expenditure, the situation that would have been controlled by the executive directors but did not do so with the Councillors unable to hold them to account.

"As for now, Councillors have no legal powers to hold the directors to account, there were some local councils that made unauthorized

purchases while others made mistakes in regard to revenue collection using POS machines," he said.

He said in some councils, the machines were switched off for a period of one to 65 days, the issue that caused loss of government revenue with the money benefitting public officials.

He said if a Council Director is employed by the Council, he will be directly answerable to the Councillors who will have legal powers to hold him to account when he errs.

Former Chadema Tunduma

Member of Parliament Frank Mwakajoka said in regard to the current implementation of ongoing projects in many areas, the coming CAG report will disclose many instances of embezzlement and theft of public funds than what it revealed in the current report.

He said many projects are implemented below standard due to poor supervision on the part of government officials, adding that they will not last long.

He called on the government to take immediate steps to control the embezzlement of funds to avoid huge loss of government funds.



East African Commercial and Logistics Centre director general Cathy Wang (R) briefs Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday on the project the firm is implementing in Dar es Salaam's Ubungo suburb. This project is a four-floor complex which, when completed, is expected to accommodate more than 2,000 high-quality shops and 1,000 parking spaces. To provide "one-stop" services for cross-border businesses, all-related service institutions such as customs, tax bureau, commodity inspection bureau, shipping and logistics companies as well as financial service companies will be stationed on the fourth floor. Left is Angellah Kairuki, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments). Photo: PMO

PM launches \$100m business complex in Dar

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has launched a one-stop multipurpose business complex in Dar es Salaam which will provide more than 15,000 direct jobs and about 50,000 others.

The facility is owned by East Africa Commercial and Logistics centre (EALC) which will accommodate more than 2,000 shops and will provide 15,000 direct employments. The centre is of 75,000 square meters and the preliminary planned investment of more than \$100million. It is set to be one of the key commercial projects in Tanzania and will be at the former Ubungo Bus Terminal.

Upon its completion, the project will include four function areas,

commercial theme trading area, comprehensive logistics supporting area, central business district and leisure service supporting area.

Majaliwa said the center is strategic as it will have large and small shops and will help to a large extent to grow the economy and it will expand opportunities for many Tanzanians where small and famous traders known as Machinga will also get a chance to do business outside the building and the nation will get a large income from the project which he said is based on the instructions contained in the CCM Manifesto for the year 2020 and 2025.

The Prime Minister said that the shops will have household goods, agricultural tools, clothes and various industrial products and he congratulated them for the great creativity they did in establishing the center and that the center is in

a strategic location as many roads meet there and it has been easy to reach for people coming from various areas of Dar es Salaam.

"Ubungo is accessible from Mbagala, from Gongolamboto, Mbezi, Kariakoo, Kivukoni and other places, I call on the residents of Dar es Salaam to increase the infrastructure, if there will be 2,000 shops, it means people of the neighboring countries like Rwanda, Burundi and Congo DRC, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambians will come to do their shopping here, so these lodges here will not be enough, you should add more," he said.

Cathy Wang, director of the East Africa Commercial & Logistics Center said this project was planned to start in 2015 however, the dream has been completed and the project begun December 2022.

She said EALC Limited is determined to build this leading strategic project in East Africa for the trade of services and products by copying the Chinese model of Yiwu market and Dubai Dragon Mart and bringing it here in Tanzania.

She said the project will enable the development of small businesses in the country and expand those businesses within the larger African market.

She said the company has contributed a lot in promoting the relations between our two countries, "For example through our company, various business and investment promotion institutions in the country have collaborated with us to attend and organize international business and investment conferences where these conferences have contributed to the promotion of agricultural products produced in Tanzania and also to attract investors from China to invest in Tanzania," she said.

Some 400,000 children missed vaccines during COVID-19 in Tanzania - UNICEF

By Guardian Reporter

THE number of children who missed vaccines during the COVID-19 in Tanzania stands at about 400,000 with global public perception on the importance of vaccines for children declining during the pandemic in 52 out of 55 countries studied, a new report on immunisation by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) shows.

In this regard, UNICEF in Tanzania, is supporting the government to strengthen its primary health care system to respond to the zero-dose issue by focusing on: assessing and identifying zero-dose communities and tailoring strategies to reach those children. This works on ensuring the deployment of community health workers; targeted social and behaviour change communication that improves knowledge and attitudes; and increasing the proper vaccine management and storage capacity.

"I am confident that government and with support from the UN system in Tanzania such as UNICEF and World Health Organization, and with the help of development partners, we will see a big reduction in the number of zero-dose children across the country," said Shalini Bahuguna, UNICEF Representative in Tanzania.

The State of the World's Children 2023: For Every Child, Vaccination reveals the perception of the importance of vaccines for children declined by more than a third in the Republic of Korea, Papua New Guinea, Ghana, Senegal and Japan after the start of the pandemic.

In the new data, collected by The Vaccine Confidence Project and published yesterday by UNICEF, China, India and Mexico were the only countries studied where the data indicates the perception of the importance of vaccines held firm or even improved.

In most countries, people under 35 and women were more likely to report less confidence about vaccines for children after the start of the pandemic.

"Vaccine confidence is volatile and time specific. Additional data collection and further analysis will be required to determine if the findings are indicative of a longer-term trend," the report reads.

The report said despite the falls, overall support for vaccines remains relatively strong. In almost half the 55 countries studied more than 80 per cent of respondents' perceived vaccines as

important for children.

However, the report warns the confluence of several factors suggest the threat of vaccine hesitancy may be growing. These factors include uncertainty about the response to the pandemic, growing access to misleading information, declining trust in expertise, and political polarisation.

"At the height of the pandemic, scientists rapidly developed vaccines that saved countless lives. But despite this historic achievement, fear and disinformation about all types of vaccines circulated as widely as the virus itself," said Catherine Russell, UNICEF Executive Director.

"This data is a worrying warning signal. We cannot allow confidence in routine immunizations to become another victim of the pandemic. Otherwise, the next wave of deaths could be of more children with measles, diphtheria or other preventable diseases."

Alarming, the decline in confidence comes amid the largest sustained backslide in childhood immunisation in 30 years, fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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TENDER NO. PIT/CO/103/FY23

- Plan International Tanzania is an International humanitarian child-centered development organization without religious, political or government affiliation. Plan's mission is to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries through a process that unites people across cultures and adds meaning to their lives. Plan Tanzania has a physical presence and implements projects in the following Regions: Dar Es Salaam, Coast, Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Rukwa, Kigoma (Refugees Emergency Program in Kibondo District). Plan Tanzania directly sponsored 30,000 children and support directly more than 2.4 million people in the program areas. Plan Tanzania also works with other stakeholders in various projects countrywide
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- Tenderers must submit the proposals in a sealed envelope by hand or post to: The Country Director, Plan International Tanzania, Plot no. 496 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area, P O Box 3517, Dar es Salaam before 14:30 Friday 05th May 2023, marked the respective Tender number. Not to be opened before 14:30 Friday 05th May 2023. Electronic and Late tenders will be rejected.

Country Director
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Dar es Salaam

217384601

Govt pays 204bn/- in salary arrears to public servants

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government has paid 204bn/- salary arrears for public servants. Ridihiwani Kikwete, deputy minister in the President's Office-Public Service Management and Good Governance said yesterday in the National Assembly when responding to a question by Special Seats MP, Halima Mdee (Chadema) who demanded for the government's response the delay to salary arrears for public servants.

The MP was contributing to the 2023/2024 budget estimates for the Ministry of State, President's Office (Good Governance and Public Services).

Kikwete said the government was working on the arrears and in the past two years of the sixth phase government, the servants have been paid 204bn/-.

"The government is aware of the arrears that it has for public servants and has been working hard to ensure that it clears all of them, President Samia Suluhu Hassan is determined solve problems facing public servants so as to increase efficiency at work," he said adding: "For a short period of time, the government has already paid a huge amount and will continue to do so to ensure that our public servants fulfill their duties well."

MP Halima also congratulated President Samia for her good work, saying that at least she has shown good intentions towards public servants by reducing their problems. "Just looking at the report of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) for a few years, in 2019/2020 the arrears were 333bn/-, while in 2020/2021 reached 429bn/-," she said.

"I recognize the great efforts that are being made, but we still have work to achieve better conditions

for public servants by eliminating all the problems, clearing arrears," Halima said.

The deputy minister also said that the government was working on complaints over decisions on employment for university lecturers being placed under the state organ—Public Service Recruitment Secretariat.

He also said that they have already met with leaders of public universities, calling for patience as it works to resolve the matter.

Kikwete said: "I want to admit before the House that information provided by Ubungo MP, Dr Kitila Mkumbo is completely true. The government met with leadership of public universities led by their Dean who is the Vice Councillor of Ardhi University and talks were held. I ask my fellow MPs to be patient while the government looks into the matter."

The deputy minister said that it is necessary to look at the factors that led to such decisions; stressing the need to look at what to be done to move forward.

He said the aim of the government is not to take over powers from universities, but there are administrative cadres that have to be under the state.

He added that apart from lecturers, public university's administration staff will continue to be under the Public Service Recruitment Secretariat.

Ubungo MP, Prof Kitila Mkumbo raised concerns over decisions by the government to place university lecturers' employment under the Public Service Recruitment Secretariat, saying it violates the University Act, No 7 of 2015.

Prof Mkumbo noted that the National Assembly came up with the law to protect universities' academic freedom.

UNIDO joins TBS to promoting quality and standards of MSMEs

By Guardian Reporter

KEY experts from the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) are attending special pedagogical training for trainers (ToTs) organised by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) with the aim of building their capacity to promoting compliance, costs reduction and market access among micro-, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the country.

The first phase training, which is taking place between April 17 and 28 this year, is part of a series of capacity building interventions under the European Union (EU)-funded QUALITAN project which aims to promote quality and standards for Tanzania's MSMEs.

A total of forty from TBS headquarters and zonal offices including those in charge of planning, standardization, testing and metrology, training and research, among others, are participating in the training which is taking place in Bagamoyo, Coast region.

The project supports the Government of Tanzania agenda of promoting economic growth through industrialization, to create employment and income opportunities to women and youth through vibrant MSMEs and thereby improve their livelihoods.

This is through facilitating MSMEs to access compliance testing, reducing compliance costs whether in monetary terms or time delays, and facilitate market accessibility and cross-border trade.

These interventions will also contribute towards synchronization of various elements of the quality infrastructure.

Speaking about the training, the UNIDO Tanzania National Programme Officer, Gerald Runyoro said that the objective of the training is to prepare TBS trainers to be able to educate their colleagues and other stakeholders involved in manufacturing, particularly the MSMEs, in order to realize the objectives of the project.

This, he said, is part of the QUALITAN project which focuses on strengthening TBS' capacity including the functioning and reach

of laboratories, standardization activities, ICT and management of information systems.

"The ultimate goal is to support the MSMEs to comply with quality and standard requirements to enhance both consumer safety and access of the MSMEs to local and international markets," he disclosed.

According to him, the project squarely fits into UNIDO's mandate which is also fully recognized by Sustainable Development Goal nine (SDG-9), which calls for building resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

"As a specialized Agency of the United Nations, UNIDO promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability. We appreciate the financial support by the European Union and collaboration from TBS for jointly working together to achieve the overall objective of the project," Runyoro said.

TBS Director General, Dr Athuman Ngenya, expressed appreciation to UNIDO and EU for the project describing it as a shot in the arm to them in efforts to ensure quality and standards in the country. "Our goal is to have sustainable standardization for high quality livelihood society through the promotion of standardization, safety and quality assurance in industry and commerce. So the QUALITAN project adds to our efforts towards that overall objective," he said.

Dr. Ngenya explained that through the project, TBS endeavors to increase MSMEs' compliance with quality standards to widen their market access and enhance consumer protection.

Besides the pedagogical trainings, the QUALITAN project, which is implemented in Tanzania by UNIDO in partnership with the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade; will also build capacity of TBS laboratories across the country through trainings and equipment provision, provide field attachments and study tours to key TBS experts.



Mbeya Regional Police Commander Benjamin Kuzaga speaks at Mbeya city's Kabwe bus stand yesterday at the climax of the commemoration of Road Safety Week. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Dawasa plants trees to protect water sources

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA), has started to plant trees to protect water sources as an implementation of the directive from the Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa to plant trees to improve and maintain the environment.

Speaking during the planting of the trees, the manager of DAWASA Mabwepande, Haruna Taratibu said that planting trees in the area is one of the steps to take care of the environment and water sources and also prevent soil erosion as well as improve the appearance of water service areas.

"The Prime Minister directed all institutions and people in general to plant environmentally friendly trees, we DAWASA in the service region of Mabwepande have decided to come and plant trees in this area of the Malolo tank to improve the environment as well as take care of our water sources," he insisted.

He said that more than 1,000 trees have been planted by the employees of the Authority including fruit trees, shade trees and flowers in various service areas of the Authority.

Meanwhile, more than 300 residents of Mbezi ward, Ubungo district, who have been using salt water through the Mpiji Magoo community water project in the

ward are currently using clean and safe water from the authority.

This comes after (DAWASA) was entrusted with the community project and given the project and connect it to the network of the Authority.

Speaking about the implementation of the project, DAWASA Mabwepande Service Regional Project Engineer, Adam Makinda, said what they are currently doing is to visit customers and replacing old meters to officially enter into DAWASA services.

"These residents have been using salt water for a long time, but now they are all going to get clean and safe water from DAWASA, the testing exercise has already started and more than 120 customers have

already filled application form to get water connection," said Engineer Makinda.

The chairman of Kibesa Street, Said Diuchille, commended DAWASA for the initiatives to connect water in his area and added that now they are sure of their health because they are going to use clean and safe water.

Henry Ngumuo, a resident of Igoma Street, commended the Government through DAWASA for the project that will give his people clean water.

"Salt water is not good for our health and it was difficult for us to use it so this clean and safe water is a blessing for us, we are ready to provide all kinds of cooperation to DAWASA," he said.



Kakozi Ambribrhamu, assistant registrar of Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) for Mtwara Region, makes remarks on Wednesday during operational training for secretaries of cooperative societies in Nanyumbu District. It was coordinated by the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank. Photo: Correspondent Hamisi Nasri

New project out to 'mentor' drivers, mechanics on road carnage

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A four-year road safety programme seeks to train driving instructors, drivers and mechanics with the view of exposing them to state-of-the-art knowledge and the world's best practices.

The AfroSAFE project implemented in Tanzania and two other African countries-Ghana and Zambia and funded by the European Union to the tune of euros 4 million (over 10bn/-) will also involve learning institutions offering transport courses as well as relevant government agencies and authorities.

The project coordinator, Aliaksei Laureshyn, from Lund University, Sweden said that the primary objective of the project is to propagate a safe system within the road safety work context in African

countries.

He said the project will also sharing knowledge, tools and methods for road safety improvement-adjusted to the African conditions and cooperation with the local actors. "Impressive traffic safety improvement in some other parts of the world are often attributed to the adoption of the safe system approach to safety management," "AfroSAFE project will deal with the five major pillars of road safety-management, vehicles, road users, infrastructure, and post care," he said.

He, however said that the project will specifically focus on two important aspects.

Which are vulnerable road users, pedestrians and cyclists and also powered two wheelers are the largest but most underprivileged road user group in Africa

disproportionately impacted by traffic accidents.

"There are good reasons to believe that the safe system can be a major game changer in Africa. However, it cannot be exported or enforced from the outside, but must be adopted by Africa experts who know and understand local conditions," he said.

He said creating a safe environment for them will have a direct impact on public health and well-being, gender equality, gender, sustainability and live ability of the cities.

Others are local expertise building, adding the project adopts "train-the-trainer" approach, creating the initial momentum and concentration of local expertise that will continue to spread after the project ends.

Principle Investigator from

the college of Engineering at the University of Dar es Salaam, Dr Jaqueline Masaki said the stakeholders are set to meet in Dar es Salaam next month to design how the training can be conducted to the local expertise.

The stakeholders National institute of Transport, (NIT), St Joseph University, Dar es Salaam institute of Technology (DIT) AMEND, Road Safety Ambassador, traffic police, tax drives, UDART, Tanzania National Road Agency (TANROADS), and teachers.

"It is an opportunity for us as the host to ensure the intended goal is achieved of protecting the lives of our people," she said.

Dr Masaki said with increasing, motorization, traffic fatalities and injuries are expected unless decisive actions are taken to tackle the problem.



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND
 TECHNOLOGY**
 MZUMBE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Name of Project: Tanzania Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET)

Country: Tanzania

Credit No. IDA-68870

Project ID No.: P166415

Assignment Title: Provision of Consultancy Services for Undertaking Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) at Mzumbe University Tanga Campus

Reference No: PA.013/WB-HEET- P166415/336925/2022/23/C/05

- This request for Expression of Interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in United Nations Development Business (UNDB) Issue No. **WB-OP0015674** of **28.11.2021**.
- The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania through Mzumbe University has received funds from the World Bank for implementation of Tanzania Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for Consultancy Services for Undertaking Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) at Mzumbe University Tanga Campus.
- The Consultancy Services ("**the services**") intent is to carry out Consultancy in accordance with this Terms of Reference (ToR) including the applicable National Legislations as well as World Bank Policy requirements for the proposed seven (7) construction projects at Mzumbe University Tanga Campus under the World Bank financed Project [Tanzania Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET)]. The initial period of this assignment will be 3 months starting from May 2023 which may be extended based on satisfactory performance and project needs.
- The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the assignment are available in the following website www.taneps.go.tz and www.mzumbe.ac.tz. The Consultant will be required to register on the Tanzania National Electronic Procurement System (TANePS) to be able to participate in this selection process. All requests for clarification should be sent through TANePS and the Client will send Responses to Clarifications and Amendments through TANePS - <https://www.taneps.go.tz> and email notification will also automatically be sent to those Consultants who have started working on this Request for Expression of Interest. The Consultants will be responsible for ensuring that any addenda available on the website is also downloaded and incorporated.
- The Mzumbe University now invites eligible Consulting Firms ("**Consultants**") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The short-listing criteria are:
 - Core business of the firm and six (6) years in business.
 - Relevant similar experience, which should specifically include the below:
 - Experience of at least three (3) similar assignments completed in the past ten (10) years - information to be provided should include name of assignment, name and full contact address of the client, contract value (in equivalent US dollars) and period (dates) of execution of the assignments and the role played in the assignment (Lead or JV partner).
 - Demonstration of experience of working in similar conditions.
 - Technical and Managerial capability of the firm. (Provide only the structure of the organization, general qualifications and number of key staffs. Do not provide CV of the staffs. Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.)
- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" Fourth Edition, November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a Joint Venture (JV), all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. Therefore, each member of JV shall independently meet the requirements of the evaluation criteria. The experience, technical & managerial capability of the Sub-Consultant shall not be evaluated to enhance the qualification of the Lead Firm or JV
- A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Consultant's Qualifications Based Selection (CQS)** method set out in the Procurement Regulations.
- Expressions of Interest must be submitted in **Hard Copy** at Mzumbe University Main Campus, Confidential Registry, Room no. D114, Administration Block D on or before 2nd May, 2023 at 1000 Hours EAT. Expression of Interests opening shall take place at Mzumbe University Main Campus, Kingalu Area, PMU Office on **2nd May, 2023 at 1030 Hours EAT**.

**VICE CHANCELLOR
 MZUMBE UNIVERSITY**

Administration Block, Block D, Academic Street, P.O. Box 1 Mzumbe, Tel:+255 0232931212
 Fax: +255 0232931212, Email: vc@mu.ac.tz, Website: www.mzumbe.ac.tz

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UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND
 TECHNOLOGY**
 MZUMBE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Name of Project: Tanzania Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET)

Country: Tanzania

Credit No. IDA-68870

Project ID No.: P166415

Assignment Title: Provision of Consultancy Services for Design, Preparation of Bidding Documents, Cost Estimates and Supervision of Construction of New Infrastructures for Mzumbe University Tanga Campus

Reference No: PA.013/WB-HEET- P166415/336932/2022/23/C/06

- This request for Expression of Interests follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in United Nations Development Business (UNDB) Issue No. **WB-OP0015674** of **28.11.2021**.
- The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania through Mzumbe University has received funds from the World Bank for implementation of Tanzania Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for Consultancy Services for Design, Preparation of Bidding Documents, Cost Estimates and Supervision of Construction of New Infrastructures for Mzumbe University Tanga Campus.
- The consulting services ("**the services**") include Consultancy Services for Design, Preparation of Bidding Documents, Cost Estimates and Supervision of Construction of New Infrastructures of as follow:
 - Academic Block with 35 offices for 65 staff, Mini library for 80 students, 6 classrooms for 360 students, One (1) training lab for 80 students and One (1) lecture theatre for 300 students,
 - Two (2) Students' Hostels each to accommodate 180 students,
 - One (1) Cafeteria with a seating capacity of 450 people,
 - Dispensary building,
 - Four (4) Staff Houses each with approximately built up area of 190m²
 - Construction of 1No. Wastewater Treatment System with the following scope; Site Clearance and grubbing within the limits of permanent works 1,345m², Pipe laying from end users to the ponds/conveyance system including excavation and backfill 4,000m, oxidation ponds and other necessary associated works and, Solid Waste Dumping Site (425m²)
 - Construction of Reservoir Tank with a capacity of 400,000Litres
- The initial period of this assignment will be 25 months have been allocated for this assignment where by six (6) months will be for design assignment, one (1) month for mobilization of contractors and eighteen (18) months for construction and supervision.
- The detailed Terms of reference (TOR) for the assignment are available in the following websites www.taneps.go.tz and www.mzumbe.ac.tz or can be obtained at the address given below.
- The Mzumbe University now invites eligible Consulting Firms ("**Consultants**") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The short-listing criteria are:
 - The firm should have at least ten (10) years' experience in the building industry.** (such as Certificate Registration of Consultant Firm)
 - Relevant similar experience, which should specifically include the following:**
 - The firm must demonstrated capabilities of undertaking works of similar nature, value and volume.
 - Experience of at least three (3) projects of similar nature executed by the firm within the previous ten (10) years (2012-2022) and this experience must be supported by documentation.
 - Firm's ability to manage at least three (3) projects of not less than the cumulative total of TZS 12 Billion delivered within expected project parameters
 - Technical and Managerial Capability of the firm**

The Consultant must provide the structure of the organization, general qualifications and number of Key staffs. (Do not provide CV of the Key staff. Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage).
- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" Fourth Edition, November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Consultant's Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)** method set out in the Consultant Guidelines
- Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a Joint Venture (JV), all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. Therefore, each member of JV shall independently meet the requirements of the evaluation criteria. The experience, technical & managerial capability of the Sub-Consultant shall not be evaluated to enhance the qualification of the Lead Firm or JV
- Expressions of interest should be submitted online through Tanzania National Electronic Procurement System (TANePs) (www.taneps.go.tz) on or before **8th May, 2023 at 1000 Hours** East African Time. The Consultants will be required to register on the TANePS to be able to participate in this selection process. The Client shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Consultants of any updates, the Client shall not be liable for any information not received by the Consultant. It is the Consultants' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to this selection process. Expression of Interest will be opened promptly through TANePs. Tender not received through TANePS shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

**VICE CHANCELLOR
 MZUMBE UNIVERSITY**

Administration Block, Block D, Academic Street, P.O. Box 1 Mzumbe, Tel:+255 0232931212
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Stakeholders call for repeal of Media Services Act 2016

By Correspondent Rose Mwalongo

MEDIA stakeholders have called upon Parliament to repeal section 5(e) of the Media Services Act 2016 due to the latter providing the powers to the Director of Information Services to license print media as if it were a business entity.

Instead, they proposed that the provision have been amended to incorporate word register media outlets to ensure security of tenure. The call to that end was made in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a one day stakeholders' meeting organised by the Tanzania Editors Forum to discuss the proposed amendment in the Media Services Act 2016 and propose a way forward.

Section 9 (a) of the Media Services Act of 2016 gives the Director of Information Services Department or such other person acting on his behalf the power to reject an application which does not comply with the prescribed licensing.

While Section 9(b) grants the latter the power to cancel the license in the event of failure of a licensee to comply with the prescribed conditions of a license.

In his presentation earlier, advocate James Marenga raised concern over the few amendments taken aboard saying stakeholders had proposed amendment of 21 sections of the law but the Misc. Amendment Act no I. 2023 had only taken aboard nine, leaving some of the other issues behind.

For his part, Deus Kibamba a member with the Coalition for the Right to Information mentioned one of the proposed amendments on the law which had been left behind as Section 7 (2) (b) (iv) which provides the government with the power to instruct a media outlet to print news relevant to the government.

Section 7 (b) (iv) of the Media Services Act mentions one of the duties of the licensed Private Media as to publish news or issues of national importance as the Government may direct.

This, according to Kibamba, interferes with the editorial independence as it makes the government a chief editor, something which is dangerous to the editorial freedom.

"The media should not allow anyone to interfere with the editorial independence. This section should be amended as it makes the government a chief editor of all media outlets," said Kibamba.

Stakeholders have also requested omission of criminality to the media professional as is the case with other professionals such as doctors, accountants and others where misconducts are dealt within the profession.

Stella Aron, an editor with Jamhuri Media, said it was important to amend all the proposed provisions as they are important to the media sector as well as to spearhead national development.

Neville Meena, TEF member, showed optimism that there was still a chance for the Committee to take aboard their recommendations to improve the law.

The session brought together editors and long-serving journalists from the mainland and Zanzibar.



The media should not allow anyone to interfere with the editorial independence. This section should be amended as it makes the government a chief editor of all media outlets

Tembo Nickel executes projects worth 200m/- in Ngara District

By Guardian Reporter

TEMBO Nickel Corporation Limited has handed over completed community-based development projects worth over 200m/- implemented in Ngara District between July 2022 and earlier this month.

The projects are part of Tembo Nickel's corporate social responsibility (CSR) contribution in the sectors of education and health as agreed upon with the Ngara district council and the company.

The handling of the project held yesterday at Nyabihanga primary school was witnessed by retired Ngara district commissioner. Col. Mathius Kahabi among others.

Tembo Nickel has facilitated construction of seven classrooms at Mukivumu, Gwenzanza, Muganza and Nyabihanga primary schools, provided 160 desks and other 80 desks to Rulenge secondary school alongside 80 tables, renovated four classrooms at Ruhuba primary school and completed three offices at Gwenzanza, Muganza and Nyabihanga primary schools.

The company's contribution in the health sector is marked by completion of construction of a maternity ward at Bugarama dispensary and the supply of medical supplies and equipment at both Bugarama and Rwinyana dispensaries along with the support to train community health workers.

Tembo Nickel's host communities are key partners in creating shared value from Kabanga Nickel. The company is dedicated to collaborative engagement with the project impacted communities, District and Regional Authorities, national and international stakeholders to ensure sustainable development.

DC Kahabi added: "Tembo Nickel is a true partner in development, we are already enjoying the benefits

from this major stakeholder in our region, not only through these community development projects, but also through local content."

Tembo Nickel is confident that the approach is most effective for long relationships and a key to creating a mining and beneficiation champion through the equitable sharing of economic benefits.

Tembo Nickel's partnership with the government has been formally established for the mining, processing, and refining of battery-grade nickel to deliver shared value, based on equity and trust.

Manny Ramos, site general manager at Tembo Nickel said: "Although we are not producing metals yet and therefore not making a profit, we still see the need and responsibility that we must step up to, in order to contribute to the development of the country, even at this early stage;

We will be making a commitment once again in 2023 for the agreed upon projects. It is always our aim to ensure that communities around our project benefit from our presence."



Tembo Nickel is a true partner in development, we are already enjoying the benefits from this major stakeholder in our region, not only through these community development projects, but also through local content



Lawyers' Environmental Action Team (LEAT) legal officer Clay Mwaifani facilitates at a legal aid education session for residents of Mpomvu in Geita Town Council's Mtakuja ward earlier this week to arm them with skills to help them knowledgeably observe the law when dealing with various challenges and problems. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Foundation, Barrick Gold support Tanzania students to improve learning environment for needy children

By Guardian Reporter

NOS Vies en Partage Foundation (NVEP) in collaboration with Barrick Gold have issued a \$20,000 (47m/-) to support the Tanzania Student Achievement Foundation (TanSAF) and Parakuyio Secondary School to improve the learning environment for children with special needs.

The support is part of the funds donated by the Nos Vies en Partage Foundation (NVEP) sponsored by CEO and the President of Barrick Gold, Mark Bristow to support special groups such as women,

children and other needy groups that do not benefit from the continent's economic growth.

Speaking during the handing over event in Dar es Salaam yesterday, manager for Barrick Gold Tanzania, Melkiory Ngido said in support the two organisations will get \$10,000 each.

He said that in every quarter of the year, Barrick has been issuing support that in turn brings positive outcomes to the society.

"So far, we have been able to provide grants to over 10 organisations through NVEP,

and this is just the beginning, we will continue impacting more institutions, we are here today to bring change in two institutions by providing them with the support for them to facilitate smooth learning environment for children with special needs," he explained.

TanSAF's director of planning, Alex Elifas commended Barrick Gold for the support saying that the funds will also support children from poor families to study in various universities inside and outside Tanzania.

Kilosa district commissioner, Wapa Mpwewe who received

the check on behalf of Parakuyio secondary school, said the support will help in construction of dormitories for students.

"We thank Barrick for this support because some buildings in the school were destroyed by rains last year, so with these funds, we will get relief," he added.

Bruno Bruno, one of the students from Kisimiri secondary school in Arusha Region who also attended the event said he is expecting to travel to the United States (US) for a degree programme and TanSAF has supported him to study at the university.



Barrick Tanzania Country manager Melkiory Ngido (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a dummy cheque for US\$10,000 to Tanzania Student Achievement Foundation (TanSAF) programme director Alex Elifas (2nd-R). It was a donation by the Nos Vies en Partage Foundation (NVEP), itself sponsored by Barrick president and CEO Mark Bristow. Looking on Bruno Basley Bruno (L) and Isaya Charles, students pursuing training under TanSAF programmes. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TAMWA stresses need for child protection during Eid-el Fitr

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Media Women Association in Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) has urged parents and guardians to ensure protection of their children from ill incidents such as rape, sodomy and kidnappings during the Eid-el Fitri celebrations.

TAMWA-Zanzibar director Dr Mzuri Issa made the call yesterday in her statement as Muslim believers are preparing to celebrate Eid after the end of the month of Ramadan.

She said, despite of being a joyful

day, there are some people with bad intentions who decide to cause serious harm to children walking around carelessly and therefore change the beautiful day into a disaster.

According to her, in the previous Eid celebrations more claims of abuse were reported at an average of five per day affecting children under the age of 18 the most.

Dr Mzuri stated that data from the Office of the Chief government Statistician shows that a total of 1,173 children were affected by humiliation acts and violence in 2022.

According to the data, a total of 883 incidents (75-percent) that were reported were children between the ages of 11 and 17, a move which put them at risk of experiencing acts of humiliation and violence.

"Usually there are groups of children who appear to be unprotected roaming the streets throughout the holiday period asking for an Eid hand in an environment we believe that some people can use as an opportunity to commit their evil deeds," Dr Mzuri added.

Sometimes, some children unknowingly find themselves

entering into houses where unkind people live and trap them with Eid gifts and eventually committing the evil deeds.

At the same time, the Director called on the police to beef up security at various children's playing grounds as well as inspecting passenger's vehicles throughout the holiday period as another measure to reduce the unwarranted acts of abuse.

"I would like to wish all the women, children and the general public a happy and joyful ceremony amid completion of the holy month of Ramadhan," she said.



Jackson Shayo (L), a senior ICT officer with the Health ministry, briefs acting Mbeya regional administrative secretary Ernest Hinju earlier this week how ICT equipment available at the region's m-mama programme dispatch centre is to ensure the referral emergency transport system helps cut maternal mortality. This was shortly after the recent launch of the programme's operations at the Mbeya Regional Referral Hospital under a partnership involving the Tanzanian government, Vodacom Tanzania Foundation, Pathfinder, Touch Foundation and USAID. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mpanga-Kipengere reserve in Njombe Region famous for its unique flora, fauna

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

THE Mpanga-Kipengere Game Reserve in Njombe Region has been cited as one of the current attractive areas which currently draw a number of tourists from inside and outside the country.

The reserve is famous for its unique flora and fauna, scenic beauty, cultural heritage in Nyumba Nitu forest and Kimani waterfalls in Njombe Region which are very attractive for nature tourism.

Upendo Kimaro, wildlife conservation officer I, told this paper in an interview that the presence of waterfalls, Chief Mkwawa historical Cave as well as beautiful flowers has been a big reason for many people to visit the forest.

The reserve, which covers a total area of 1,574 square kilometres, has been attractive for many tourists due to its uniqueness and being rich with resident and migratory birds including Denham's bustard and migratory birds such as blue swallow and abdimis stork.

"We are happy to see the great response of tourists to visit Mpanga Kipengere reserve, currently we receive 30 to 50 domestic tourists per month and 15-20 foreigners, which is a large number compared to how it was before, I am sure that the current efforts that we taking to market the tourist attractions here, the number of tourists will continue to increase," she explained.

She said that in efforts aimed to ensure that the game reserve continues to attract more people including those in the southern highlands zone, the government is working hard to improve infrastructures as well as accommodation.

"We have completed the construction of tourist bedrooms that have taken into account the needs of everyone at an affordable

cost as per the current living conditions of Tanzanians as well as foreigners," she said.

Upendo however said that the game was facing poaching challenges contributed by some people who bring their livestock in the game reserve with others engaging in farming.

"There are some people who have been entering in the reserve to harvest fruits known as "Chikanda", which have a huge market in Zambia, so this a challenge, but we are making efforts to overcome them," she added.

Lenard Nsajingwa, wildlife officer II said the Chief Mkwawa historical cave is one the areas that attract most of the tourists who come to the reserve.

The Kipengere ranges, Mpanga highlands, Lugala and Chafukwe Mountains provide beautiful scenery of green mountains, plains and the dramatic valleys.

Chafukwe Mountains are best for recreation where tourists can enjoy the beautiful scenery of green mountains, plains and the dramatic valleys.

These mountains are also ideal for trekking, mountaineering, walking and hiking. A visit to this reserve is quite a special and lifetime experience. There are abundance of natural wonders such as cascading waterfalls, rivers and beautiful flowers.

Plant species with attractive flowers include tuberous orchids. Among varieties of fauna including rodents, primates (monkeys and baboons), mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish.

Endemic species found in Mpanga - Kipengere Game Reserve are Nosed chameleon, marsh widow, Njombe cisticola and Kipengere seedeater, while the rare Fufumka bird has been recorded to live in the reserve.

Dar court sentences man to 30-year imprisonment for defiling daughter

By Correspondent Mutayoba

Arbogast, Bukoba

BYEJU villager in Mutukula ward, Missenyi District, Kagera Region, Elias Francisco (40) has been sentenced to 30 years in jail after he was found guilty of raping his six-year old daughter.

The sentence was issued on April 12, by Missenyi district court magistrate, Yohana Myombo who said this should be a lesson to him and other people.

District public prosecutor

(PP), Inspector of police Yohana Napengwa told the court that the offender was living with his three children whose mother died and the father took advantage of the situation by assaulting his daughter.

Napengwa said on October 21, 2022 during the night the father took her daughter forced and raped her.

"Some women at the surrounding recognised that the child was not able to walk properly like someone who is ill, they asked her what was wrong and she told them that her father had raped her," he

explained.

The matter was reported to the village leadership and later to the Police who arrested the father and brought him before the court on October 28, 2022.

During trial, the prosecutor used witnesses and evidence to prove that the defendant committed the crime.

Napegwa asked the court to give a severe punishment considering that the man did the assault on his own daughter who he is supposed to protect her.

The magistrate said the evidence

produced is beyond reasonable doubt

Davis Gisuka, early childhood development specialist and technical advisor with children in crossfire (Cic) Tanzania, when reached by this paper for his comment, commended the court for providing justice but insisted the community to enhance social values and respect human dignity to end child violence.

According to Police Force report, there were 537 cases of rape in 2016 in the country, and they doubled to 1,114 in 2021.

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

MZUMBE secondary school alumni association has provided over 4,000 text books, 30 computers and renovated school library all with a value of 65m/-.

Made up of regional commissioners, directors of public and private institutions, non-governmental organisations, the association given the support to the school as part of bringing back what they have been achieved after graduating at the school. Edward Tarawa, chairman of the alumni association handed over 2,713 books and the renovated library to the school as the first-phase of the donations.

Tarawa said his goal is to increase enthusiasm and determination for students to continue their studies so that they can do well and later become leaders in this nation.

He said after visiting the school they were challenged by the lack of textbooks and therefore they decided to raise money together with contacting various stakeholders who helped to contribute.

"We are especially grateful to TICTS Tanzania, Coca-Cola, FINCA

Mzumbe Secondary School alumni association donates 4000 textbooks

Microfinance and Mzumbe Alumni Saccos for collaborating with us to contribute to this exercise to support our Mzumbe secondary school," said Chairman Tarawa.

Apart from donating books and the renovated library, the association has revamped toilets as part of improving teaching and learning environment at the school.

He said that in stimulating the state of success in the school, the union has been able to give 2m/- as a gift to students who do well in various studies and exams in parallel with teachers who have the subjects they teach and get high results in a program that is sustainable.

Mkata Nyoni, coordinator of the campaign to support the school, said that despite deciding to donate the books, they realized that the library was in a state of disrepair and needed repair, so they approved a joint venture to do a major repair that cost three million.

Nyoni said that the union has released the first phase of the textbooks and 2713 additional books and before the end of this year they will complete the rest of the books

as well as providing 30 modern computers that will be connected to the Internet so that students can study and learn various subjects.

Mzumbe Secondary School headmaster, Mbaraka Mohamed said they had the challenge of lack of textbooks and extras, so after they are found, he believes the success will increase and he thanked the unity of the students who used to study at Mzumbe secondary school.

Kigoma Regional Commissioner, Thobias Andengenyé said that the success he achieved until he reached various national levels was due to the school, so he has seen the importance of contributing to eliminate the challenges it faces.

Trustee board member of Mzumbe Secondary School, Donald Tarawa, wanted the students to continue with their studies to take care of the infrastructure and the books for the benefit of their future colleagues.

Donald, who is also a student of the school, said that the availability of those books should be a great incentive to do well in studies and that the school could be on the map to do well in this country.



Technicians move to clear rainwater from a section of downtown Dar es Salaam's Sokoine Drive yesterday to enable rehabilitation to continue. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR DISPOSAL OF EQUIPMENT

MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED (MCCL) is a subsidiary of the Holcim Group with its industrial operations based in Plot No. 1/1 Tunduma Highway, Songwe Industrial Area, Mbeya.

MCCL hereby invites all interested individuals, organizations and the public to participate in an expression of interest for used company equipment which are to be disposed. The items being disposed on the condition of "as is where is". Interested party shall be required to send a proposal to email address provided below

Email: mcc.tender@lafarge.com

Subject: **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - DISPOSAL OF EQUIPMENT**

All assets shall be inspected at site between Tuesday 2nd to Thursday 4th May 2023 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. All who will visit the site they are required to wear protective gears to comply to safety standard.

Deadline for submission of Bid proposal: Friday 5th May 2023.

LIST OF EQUIPMENTS

SN	Equipment	Make	Model/Registration
1	CONCRETE BATCHING PLANT	FANGYUAN GROUP	HZS60
2	FRONT END LOADER	KOMATSU	WA500-A
3	FRONT END LOADER	CATERPILLAR	980G
4	FRONT END LOADER	BELL	L2208C
5	FRONT END LOADER	LIUGONG	CLG862
6	FRONT END LOADER	LIUGONG	CLG862
7	EXCAVATOR - FRONT SHOVEL	CATERPILLAR	235B
8	EXCAVATOR - BACK HOE	CATERPILLAR	345B
9	EXCAVATOR - BACK HOE	KOMATSU	PC450-8R
10	ARTICULATED DUMP TRUCK	BELL	B25C - TZP1046
11	ARTICULATED DUMP TRUCK	BELL	B25C - TZP1047
12	ARTICULATED DUMP TRUCK	BELL	B40D - T566A00
13	ARTICULATED DUMP TRUCK	BELL	B40D - T314ARN
14	TIPPER	TATA	T211 BZJ - LPK2325
15	BACKHOE - LOADER	SDLG	B877
16	COMPRESSOR	ATLAS COPCO	XAS1100
17	DRILL RIG	ATLAS COPCO	442PC
18	DRILL RIG	ATLAS COPCO	460PC
19	DOZER	CATERPILLAR	D8L
20	DOZER	KOMATSU	D155A
21	FORKLIFT	CATERPILLAR	DP30N
22	FORKLIFT	HELI	CPCD30
23	ELECTRIC GENERATOR SET	OLYMPIAN	GEP18-2
24	DUMPER	THWAITES	

FRIDAY 21 APRIL 2023

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Life-saving equipment vital in cutting road carnage impact

IRINGA Regional Police Commander Allan Bukumbi at the weekend showed journalists breathalysers, devices police commonly use in discerning the amount of alcohol a motorist has taken and which he said would now be used on motorists as well as police officers on duty across the region.

Indeed, this a commendable move by the Police to curb road accidents especially drunken driving. However, the breathalysers should be applied countrywide. Individuals, families and society suffer significant economic losses as a result of the injuries. The losses resulting from the expense of treatment as well as missed production for individuals killed or crippled by their injuries and for family members who must miss work or school to care for the injured.

Reduced enforcement at these times, large quantities of traffic and rush hours among pedestrians and motorists, as well as people crossing roads in non-designated or dangerous areas and being hit by speeding cars are the causes of these incidents.

Many of the above-mentioned traffic accidents are entirely avoidable. It is not difficult to reduce the number of traffic accidents. All it takes is for people to drive more responsibly and for the government to enforce traffic laws and punish those who attempt to breach them.

It is critical for drivers and motorists to be adequately equipped with life-saving equipment to assist in lowering the number of fatalities in traffic accidents. Boda boda riders should be encouraged to join saccos and insure their lives and

motorcycles.

Furthermore, the authorities and society as a whole should play a role in deterring minors from working as boda boda riders. They should also work together to deter vices like unlawful activities, untrained riders, violation of traffic restrictions, drug and substance abuse and speeding.

Road traffic safety refers to the methods and measures used to prevent road users from being killed or seriously injured. Typical road users include pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, vehicle passengers and passengers of on-road public transport mainly buses.

The basic strategy of a safe system approach is to ensure that in the event of a crash, the impact energies remain below the threshold likely to produce either death or serious injury. This threshold will vary from crash scenario to crash scenario, depending upon the level of protection offered to the road users involved.

As sustainable solutions for classes of road safety have not been identified, particularly low-traffic rural and remote roads, a hierarchy of control should be applied, similar to classifications used to improve occupational safety and health. At the highest level is sustainable prevention of serious injury and death crashes, with sustainable requiring all key result areas to be considered.

At the second level is real-time risk reduction, which involves providing users at severe risk with a specific warning to enable them to take mitigating action. The third level is about reducing the crash risk which involves applying the road-design standards and guidelines.

'Bailout' plan for parastatals ignores key current priorities

IN another illustration of what is going on at high levels of the government, the office of the Treasury Registrar has announced a transformation plan aimed at enhancing performance and competence in public institutions. It figures out that supporting cash trapped parastatals needs 1.1trn/- in Treasury capital input, which is evidence of a one-track mind set on the issues. When there are failing public institutions in commerce or service delivery the answer is to bail them out.

Newly appointed registrar Nehemia Mchechu said at a meeting with board chairmen and CEOs of those institutions that the plan is meant to strengthen the registrar's oversight role "as an advisor, custodian and supervisor of public institutions and statutory corporations." It is hard to say if this is the legal role as the office can't possibly cater adequately for upwards of 350 such institutions, or as it reconstitutes the office of the registrar into another version of the National Development Corporation, original supervisor of all new public organisations.

What is substantive about the new plan is that its unveiling seeks to create consensus among key stakeholders, in the sense of the parastatal sector as a whole and failing corporate entities in particular. And ipso facto be taken up by the government on account of that consensus. The issue of creating a national investment advisory board to advise the government, that is, the Treasury and finally, the registrar on how best to invest and transform the management of public institutions and parastatals is unconvincing. Indeed, the real plan was stated later.

The reason this element is being added in the plan outline is to assuage public sentiments as to how far the 1.1trn/- funds will be spent

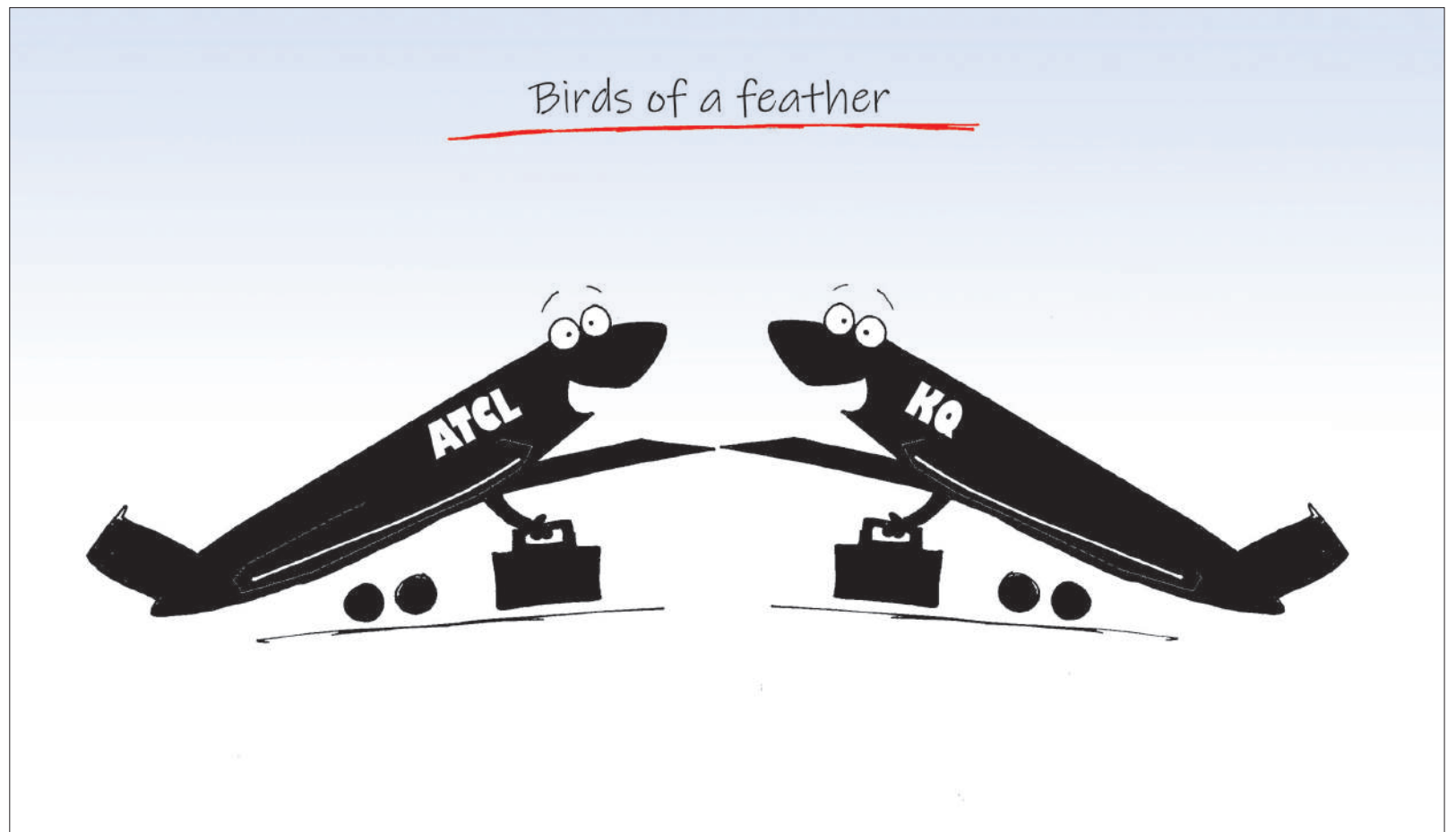
by parastatals, and what assurances there are it will not be wasted, wholly in large measure. Voting such amounts for Treasury in-house plans as development expenditure would face hurdles. The MPs own minds are elsewhere, on the nearly debilitating shortages of teachers and medical staff in dispensaries, health centres and hospitals, nearly all.

And this is where the shoe pinches, as it projects similar capital infusion for two more years, evidently coinciding with the lifetime of the present government, to a total of 3.3trn/-. It roughly implies taking all tangible surpluses to shore up parastatals as this what stakeholders want. Seeking the input of foreign investors isn't part of the design; they confine them to new projects, protect own operations.

The reason such plans are making headlines even as President Samia Suluhu Hassan invites major foreign companies to take a foothold in the economy is that liberal approaches to economic activity have never been popular with the country's intellectuals. The reason is largely the fact that in 1967 there was a nationalisation exercise which created Tanzania's economic system based on parastatals and protecting them against competition. Reform efforts have been tried and mostly failed but adopting the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a snag.

Parastatals can longer control the market and set their own prices as it used to be the case in classical socialism. As reforms started during the second phase, they patched up with the local private sector to demand effective protection, and even with AfCFTA they push for tariff rise in EAC imports by 10 per cent from 25%. Admittedly the governments aren't paying as much attention as the lobby wishes.

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Arrest the rebels and treasonable subversives!

By Femi Fani-Kayode

IT is time for the intelligence and security agencies and the Muhammadu Buhari administration to rise to the occasion and face the challenge of these subversive and destabilising elements squarely and with a very firm hand.

...the ban that has been placed on anti-inauguration protests by the Federal Government is deeply encouraging and is a clear indication of the total commitment of the Buhari administration to preserving and protecting democracy, and to ensuring that there is a smooth transition of power to the incoming president-elect and his government.

Last Tuesday I was sent a video of an angry crowd of members of the opposition violently marching through the streets of our nations capital, Abuja, loudly chanting and proclaiming that the INEC Chairman, Professor Mahmood Yakubu, was nothing but "a thief" and that the inauguration of our President-elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, which is scheduled to hold on 29th May must not be allowed to proceed.

As if that were not bad enough, later on the same day I was sent another video which showed the same members of the opposition protesting at the gates of Defence Headquarters in Abuja and loudly calling on the military to take over power in our country.

Assuming these videos are authentic, these acts are not only outrageous, subversive and dangerous but they are also acts of treason, rebellion and insurrection.

We have warned about these sinister plots and plans for months and well before the presidential elections but no one took us seriously and it was to no avail.

Now the signs are obvious and ominous and it is clear that there is something evil afoot.

It is heartwarming and encouraging that the DSS, as alive to its duties as ever, finally issued a statement in which it vindicated us.

The security agency confirmed the fact that there are some elements within the political class who are planning to use violence to impose an Interim National Government on the country and went on to not only warn those who seek to implement this hidden agenda but also to assure those of us who are against it that they would take strong measures and move against them.

This is vital in order for us to protect and save our democracy from those that seek to truncate it and establish an unconstitutional form of Government in its stead.

It is incumbent upon us all as

democrats to speak out in support of the DSS and to help it thwart the evil plans of the unscrupulous conspirators, dangerous plotters, unpatriotic elements and fascistic forces that want to topple our government and abort the democratic process.

Those of us who are politicians and who still believe in democracy must stop being lazy, cowardly, undiscerning, insensitive and complacent in the face of this challenge.

We must appreciate the fact that there is a major play going on in the background and it is not yet Uhuru.

We must stop pretending that we do not know what is going on and we must desist from sitting on the fence and hedging our bets.

We must rise to the occasion that this challenge and very real danger and threat presents and we must defend and preserve democracy by resisting the forces of chaos, anarchy and tyranny.

These young ones who are protesting have no idea about the inherent horrors of military rule and what it really means because they were not born when the soldiers held sway in our country, and they do not know the indignities and bondage that we were subjected to as a people during the course of those years.

As a senior citizen, a former public office holder, a public figure and a major stakeholder in the Asiwaju project, I can no longer sit by idly and stomach this nonsense. It would be irresponsible and cowardly to do so.

For 16 years, from 1983 till 1999, many of us fought against military rule and paid a high price in that fight. Others that came before us fought it between 1966 and 1979. They also paid a high price.

During the course of all those years many suffered, many were tortured, many were exiled, many lost everything, many were destroyed, many were jailed and many were martyred.

These young ones who are protesting have no idea about the inherent horrors of military rule and what it really means because they were not born when the soldiers held sway in our country, and they do not know the indignities and bondage that we were subjected to as a people during the course of those years.

The fact that some are openly calling for a return to those dark days gives many of us deep concern.

The last thing we need in our country today is military intervention, a military coup d'etat or any other form of unconstitutional government, including an Interim National Government.

It is obvious that these young

ones who are calling for military intervention are being encouraged, sponsored and used by elements in the opposition to truncate our democracy.

When one couples these calls for a coup d'etat with the words of Datti Baba Ahmed, the vice presidential candidate of the Labour Party, on Channels Television last week, when he said that he had no faith in the courts and election tribunals, that the swearing-in of Asiwaju Tinubu as president would be an invitation to a military coup, that Tinubu is a Mafia Don who is deeply involved in organised crime and that his swearing in would be a danger to "all our lives", one gets the message and can connect the dots of this great conspiracy.

The Atiku group, through their numerous spokespersons, have said equally disturbing things, including consistently calling the president-elect a "Pablo Escobar-like drug baron" in order to incite the people, the international community, the civil society, the people of Nigeria and the Nigerian Armed Forces against him.

Outside of that, the opposition have also targeted INEC and the Nigerian judiciary for a campaign of calumny, demonisation and destruction, and they have engaged and induced elements in the international community, including politicians, leaders, businessmen, diplomats, international institutions and both local and foreign NGO's, who they have misled and fed with the most horrendous lies and propaganda, to assist them.

It is time for the intelligence and security agencies and the Buhari administration to rise to the occasion and face the challenge of these subversive and destabilising elements squarely and with a very firm hand.

They should arrest those who appear to be behind this evil plot, including Peter Obi, Datti Baba Ahmed, Atiku Abubakar, Ifeanyi Okowa and their numerous spokesmen, associates and foreign collaborators in order to find out exactly what their role is in this matter and the part, if any, that they are playing in it.

They should also identify, ascertain and arrest their collaborators, both foreign and local, in this treasonous plot.

It is also important to arrest and charge to court those young men and women who participated in Tuesday's protest and openly called for a coup d'etat, in order to deter others from doing so... Failure to do this will encourage others to do same and suggest that there is far more to the whole thing than meets the eye.

None of them enjoys immunity and none of them is above the law.

Shielding and protecting them from being held accountable for their utterances and actions and for supporting anarchy, chaos, treason and rebellion is becoming increasingly dangerous and does not augur well for the peace and stability of our country.

It is also important to arrest and charge to court those young men and women who participated in Tuesday's protest and openly called for a coup d'etat, in order to deter others from doing so.

Failure to do this will encourage others to do same and suggest that there is far more to the whole thing than meets the eye.

In this respect, the ban that has been placed on anti-inauguration protests by the Federal Government is deeply encouraging and is a clear indication of the total commitment of the Buhari administration to preserving and protecting democracy, and to ensuring that there is a smooth transition of power to the incoming president-elect and his government.

It is this clear commitment that has kept the peace and given us hope, in spite of the shenanigans and mischief of an irresponsible, bitter, vicious, dangerous, petty, hostile and increasingly desperate, belligerent and violent opposition, which is capable of doing anything to take power.

In conclusion and for the avoidance of doubt, let me state clearly and categorically that democracy is here to stay and we will defend President-elect Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu's mandate with the last drop of our blood and every fibre of our being, if and when necessary.

There will be NO military intervention and NO ING and if they try either, this WILL undoubtedly lead to a major conflict and a second civil war in our country.

Those who are harbouring these dark and sinister plots, plans and thoughts should desist from doing so before it is too late.

I call on all BATTISTS to be vigilant, courageous, prayerful and to maintain the peace.

In two months, our leader shall be sworn in as president, we shall be in power and we shall usher in a new dawn and era of unity, peace, prosperity, strength, courage and progress in the affairs of our nation.

Permit me to end with the following. In the Book of Isaiah 54:15-17, the Holy Bible says, "surely they shall gather but it shall not be by me: whosoever gathers against thee shall be scattered for thy sake".

The gathering of the subversives, fascists and enemies of democracy in Nigeria shall be scattered by God and their plots, plans and conspiracies shall come to nought and be in vain.

Dissolution of marriage, custody of children and division of assets

THE Contract of marriage is a sacrosanct union treated differently before the law compared to other ordinary contracts. Due to its peculiarity, the government plays major role in ensuring parties who opt to enter into such contract on their own free will comply with their respective obligations therein.

Contract of marriage can only be called to an end after a court of law is satisfied with tangible evidence tendered by the parties to the extent that the marriage is broken down irreparably. It is only after this that an order of divorce or separation can be issued. It is important to take note that it is only a court of law vested with mandate to terminate marriage contract unlike other ordinary contracts.

It is a matter of law that once an order of divorce or separation is issued, then the court is always duty-bound to deal with questions of first, custody of children sired in that marriage and second, division of matrimonial properties.

The above two aspects are natural consequences of the contract of marriage which must be overseen by the court. This article takes you through some of the key highlights on the question of division of matrimonial property while the aspect of custody of children shall be expounded on in the next article.

Emphasis here is that division of matrimonial properties is among areas with good number of disputes within families when an issue of divorce or separation emerges. Therefore, it is imperative for the spouses to be aware of basic knowledge on the same instead of relying on misleading information about division of matrimonial assets.

Unlike the Republic of Kenya, where there is separate act of parliament dealing with all issues of division of matrimonial assets namely the Matrimonial Property Act No 49 of 2013; in Tanzania this issue is covered under a single provision namely Section 114 of the Law of Marriage Act.

In subsection 3 of the above provision, two circumstances are provided to described assets namely (i) assets acquired during the subsistence of marriage and (ii) assets acquired before entering into contract of marriage but which were substantially improved by other spouse during the subsistence of marriage.

For example, if a husband owned a semi-finished house before entering into contract of marriage while completion of the same house was done during the subsistence of marriage in which the wife plays some



roles to ensure the house is finished, then the aforesaid house may be subject to division as it is a matrimonial property within the meaning of the law.

As for the registration of properties in the name of one spouse, it is a settled principle in our jurisdiction that a property registered in the name of one spouse either acquired during subsistence of marriage or prior to marriage is presumed in the eyes of the law to belong to the registered spouse unless there is sufficient evidence to rebut the said presumption as stipulated in section 60 of the Law of Marriage Act.

The duty of the other spouse is to adduce evidence to rebut the said presumption that the property was substantially improved by that spouse although the same was acquired before entering into contract of marriage. An example is the land case No 7 of 2018 between Sikudhani Rajab vs Ecobank Tanzania Ltd and 4 others.

But if the property is registered under both names, then the law presumes each party has equal beneficial interest, unless it is proven otherwise.

Section 114 (1) of the law of Marriage Act requires the court to exercise its power under two ways in respect of matrimonial properties: (i) to order for division of matrimonial properties or (ii) to issue an order of sale of matrimonial properties and its proceeds be apportioned to the spouses.

Now the question which is frequently being asked is what are the conditions used by the court to either divide matrimonial properties or proceeds of the sale of matrimonial property?

There are four major conditions which courts ought to consider at the time of division of matrimonial assets as provided in Section 114(2) of the Law of Marriage Act.

Condition one is customs of the community to which the parties belong. Here the court takes into account the possibility that a property owned by one spouse may be for future generations of family and community and most of these properties are ancestral

land bequeathed from that spouse's parents. Evidence tendered by that spouse and its location normally determines whether the same is owned customarily or otherwise.

Condition two is the extent of contribution made by each spouse towards acquisition of that asset. Contribution can be made by way of monetary or non-monetary such as domestic work like housekeeping, childcare and others.

In the Matrimonial Case No 6 of 1977 between Rukia Diwani Konzi vs Abdallah Issa Kihenga, the High Court of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam clearly said that domestic work must be regarded as part of joint efforts or contribution towards acquisition of assets.

This was a liberal approach to those spouses who do not go to work but remain at home and take care of children of the marriage and matrimonial properties.

Condition three dwells on any debts owed by either party which were contracted for their joint benefits. Here, the court is required to look into the said matrimonial properties which were deposited as security but only for the benefit of the family. In that case, both spouses are charged with that liability until the same is discharged or otherwise.

Condition four considers the needs of infant children, if any. The court considers which party should stay with such children before matrimonial home is apportioned for the purposes of upbringing of such minors.

Sometimes, circumstances may not allow issuances of an order of sale or division of a matrimonial home. In such circumstances, the court may issue conditional order in a sense that one spouse remains with children in the matrimonial home and once children attain the age of majority, then the same can be sold and its proceeds divided between spouses in the decided allotment.

Lastly, let's take a look at these two wrong or misleading perceptions which have been circulating in our society. One is that the spouse who caused the breakdown of marriage is not entitled to division of matrimonial properties. That is not correct position of the law.

The fact is the spouse whose actions contributed to the breakdown of marriage by seeking issuance of an order of separation or divorce by the court cannot lose his or her entitlement in the divi-

sion of matrimonial properties.

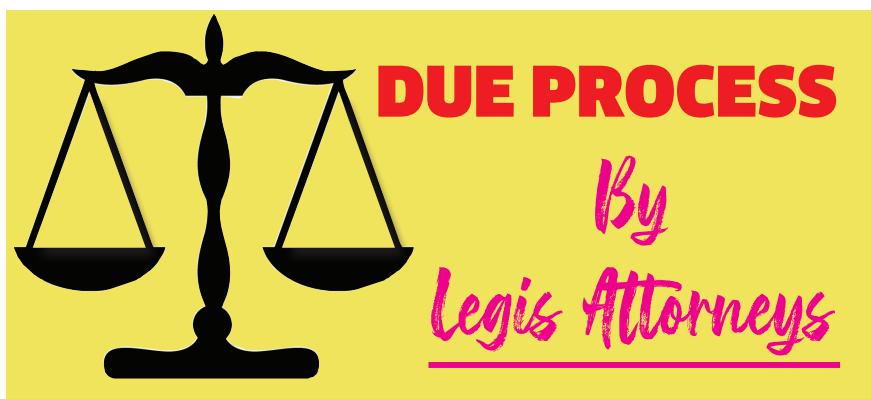
Legal grounds for dissolution of marriage are different from grounds for division of matrimonial properties. In the case of Robert Arango vs Zena Mwijuma (1985)1984 page 7, the appellant disputed why the subordinate court awarded the respondent equal share of their matrimonial properties while she was the sources of breakdown of the marriage.

The court held that grounds for dissolution of marriage are different from grounds for division of matrimonial assets. In division of matrimonial assets, the court is required to deal with grounds provided in section 114 in connection with evidence on record.

The second misleading perception is that entering into a contract of marriage gives an automatic ownership of properties to either party. This is a wrong perception because section 58 of the law of marriage allows a spouse to own personal properties in their name unless that position is rebuttable under section 60 of the law of marriage.

Note: the material and information contained in this article are for general information purposes only. They only provide either elementary or basic legal knowledge on the above subject. Anyone considering legal action should consult an experienced lawyer to understand current laws and how they may affect a case in question.

You can send questions or comments to our email info@legisattorneys.co.tz or postal address **Managing Partner, Legis Attorneys, P. O. Box 3750, DSM. You can visit our website www.legisattorneys.co.tz**



New Treasury Registrar's plan for struggling parastatals long-overdue

By Mark Mapambano

THE recently-appointed Treasury Registrar Nehemiah Mchechu has hit the ground running with a grand plan to give new lease of life to struggling state-owned companies and corporations, some of which are on the brink of total collapse.

Unveiling the plan to board chairpersons and CEOs of those institutions in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, Mchechu said his idea includes a bail-out package to the tune of 1.1trn/- in capital assets to cash-strapped entities.

Mchechu's plan has been informed by the fact that despite boasting over 200 companies and corporations, most of them are cash-strapped and only a handful pay the government dividends, hence need for a shot in the arm.

Does the capital injection and reinvestment thing in loss-making parastatals sound familiar? It does, to me. But investment management guru apparently knew that and came up with what could be exactly what the doctor ordered for any state-owned business—strong oversight.

For, he said that the aim of the plan is to strengthen oversight roles of the registrar's office as an advisor, custodian and supervisor of public institutions and statutory corporations.

To that end, the plan will see his office establish a national investment advisory board to advise the government on how best to invest and transform the management of public institutions and parastatals.

Allow me to add that this national investment advisory board should also recommend the privatization of perpetual loss-making entities that gobble up billions and even trillions of our hard-earned money in the name of recapitalization.

Mchechu said the plan will see capi-

tal uplift for parastatals reaching more than 3trn/- in the next three years to make institutions, declining in recent years, be placed on a new footing as some had completely failed to conduct viable operations.

Again, I have unsolicited advice for Mchechu: increasing the capital should not be a priority for all the entities because that will be nothing but vanity fair. Instead, after the first shot in the arm for all listed beneficiaries, subsequent recapitalization should be merit-based with only performers benefitting.

It's encouraging to know that, without mincing words, Mchechu told board chairs and CEOs that there will be evaluation and that the transformation envisaged in his plan will involve sacking failing boards to increase performance. It's a good thing they heard it from him.

"Then there will be restructuring to give them the power and freedom to make decisions," he affirmed, elaborating that each company needs to have relationship managers to enable the registrar's office "understand what is going on within institutions where the government holds shares."

Additionally, Mchechu's plan will allow established investment boards to have special funds for reinvestment should some institutions suffer financial challenges, he stated, specifying that the overall aim of the plan is to strengthen accountability and performance of public institution and statutory corporations.

It is expected that this will ensure the organizations' effectiveness to increase revenue, reduce unproductive expenditures and make profit. Fantastic plan, isn't it? With the unveiling of this plan, Mchechu understands that his work is cut out for him. He has in a way set a trap for himself. I say so because given the history of parastatals in Tanzania, there are countless doubting Thom-



Treasury Registrar Nehemiah Mchechu

ases who wait for the usual disappointing results.

But there are those of us who have hope. I have hope for two reasons. First, the long-overdue plan has finally been unveiled by Mchechu and the second reason is the man who unveiled the plan—Mchechu.

It is his wealth of experience in top management positions in both private and public sectors that give me hope that naysayers may get it wrong this time. Mchechu has practised both private sector efficiency and public sector bureaucracy which gives him what it takes to deliver.

It should be remembered that prior to the new post, he was the director general of the state-run National Housing Corporation (NHC) for the second time. Yes,

President Samia Suluhu Hassan reinstated him to the position in March last year. He had been removed under leadership of the late President John Magufuli in 2021 for alleged but not proven misconduct. What is not in doubt is that under Mchechu, the NHC was transformed from a bureaucratic state-owned corporation to being among the best-performing real estate companies in Tanzania.

His removal left a slew of real estate projects unfinished. Some of the projects include the multi-billion shilling Morocco Square and Kawe Satellite City in Dar es Salaam as well as Iyumbu and Usa River satellite cities in Dodoma and Arusha respectively.

It was believed that President Samia reinstated

Mchechu at the helm of NHC so that he could implement his multi-billion brainchild projects to the end.

However, apparently, in her wisdom, the President has concluded that overseeing one corporation is not enough for him to manage and made him custodian of all government entities. Who am I to doubt him?

What ChatGPT and artificial intelligence means for small businesses

By Martin Labbé

AS 2022 came to a close, ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence chatbot, became the fastest-growing app in history, reaching an estimated 123 million users less than three months after its launch.

It is the most prominent specimen of AI-tools that generate content such as text, pictures, and software code. The International Trade Centre (ITC) reflects on what this could mean for the international trade development sphere.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is not new for those using Siri, Cortana and other (virtual) personal assistants. Algorithms powered through massive data have also been determining how we get from A to B when we use a ride-hailing app, whether in a car in Manila or on a "boda boda" in Kampala.

Likewise, AI can screen job applicants in asynchronous video interviews. Cancer diagnosis research, automatic dental prosthetic design and medical image analysis are other examples of how AI is being used in the healthcare sector.

However, the natural language processing functionality of ChatGPT allows us to

have a human-like conversation with AI.

This next generation chatbot has the potential to become an alternative to traditional search engines, hence the urge of other big tech companies like Google to launch their own chatbots in 2023 to keep up with the times - and profit.

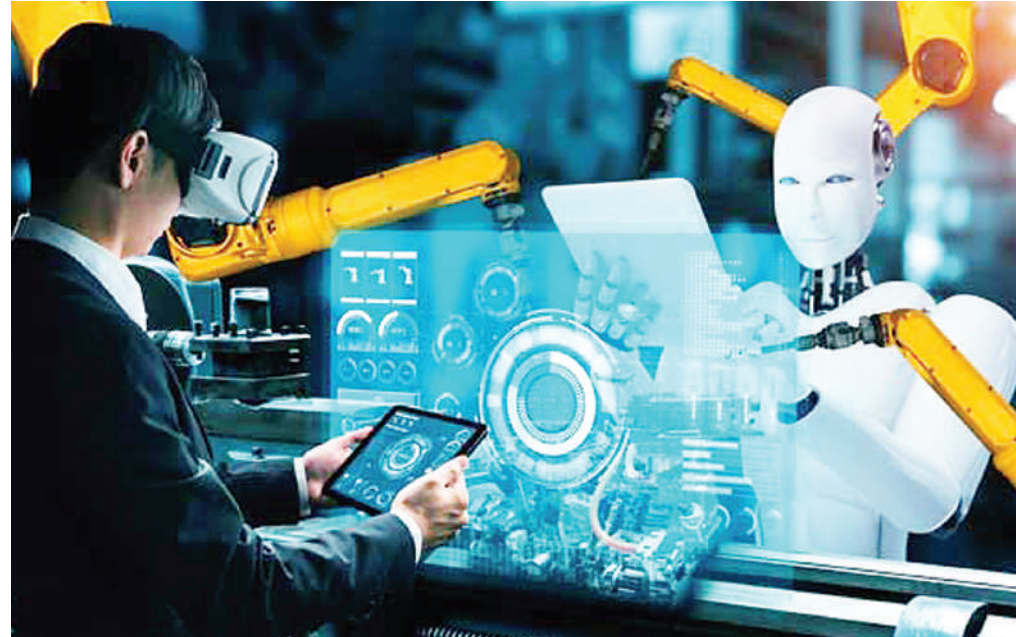
In the meantime, for many of us, ChatGPT has become a tool we use daily - for research and support in content development. According to Satya Nadella, the CEO of Microsoft, which is said to have recently invested more than \$10 billion in OpenAI (the scallop behind ChatGPT), this marks the emergence of a "symbiotic relationship between humans and machines".

Whether this will be a choice rather than a necessity remains to be seen.

AI is capital intensive both because of the massive amounts of data and the computer power required, which means it will be difficult to see global challengers emerge outside of the OECD.

Software companies in Africa venturing in this field, for instance Baamtu in Senegal, are struggling to access the required data despite their expertise. Data has become the new oil.

Back in 2019, our colleagues at the World Intel-



An artificial intelligence chatbot ChatGPT became the fastest-growing app in history, reaching an estimated 123 million users less than three months after its launch. Credit: Shutterstock

tual Property Organization (WIPO) spotted the exponential growth of AI in related patent applications since 2012, mainly originating in the United States and China. Now, the rest of the world is trying to catch up.

You can count on impact at scale across the board: from government, business, civil society to education, healthcare and financial services.

Smart digital technologies are already widely used in agriculture in high-income countries. For instance, AI is being used in robotic milking systems in places such as

Braz, Austria, to decide which cow should be milked when, with little supervision from the farmer.

In low-income countries, on the other hand, AI is mainly limited to small-scale smart farming and satellite imagery processing at the level of smallholder farming. But looking around, we can anticipate future uses, if an appropriate business model can be found.

The concept of "dark factories", where industrial robots produce under remote human supervision, is not yet widespread. What will

happen to the three million workers in the Bangladeshi ready-made garment industry assembling \$5 t-shirts, with a monthly \$70 salary, when the current equipment is ready for renewal?

Moreover, service jobs automation is around the corner - even in tech. AI is already sourcing code in code libraries at the request of software developers who use it to increase their productivity. Is this happening at the expense of junior software developers?

Other service sectors will be affected: in Senegal, chat-

bots are being used instead of customer care operators as clients and investors alike want to reduce costs.

In the Philippines, some of its 1.2 million business-process-management jobs - to a large extent customer care for global clients - could be replaced through robotic process automation.

This technology automates repetitive and routine tasks, allowing businesses to streamline their operations, reduce errors, and increase efficiency.

Beyond the business process management industry, generative AI is also likely to take entry-level gigs from game artists, people who create content for video games, or graphic designers, who often operate on a freelance basis.

If we look at the above under Schumpeter's Creative Destruction theory, new jobs that don't exist yet will replace the ones that will be made obsolete. In this context, continuous learning, re- and upskilling will be essential for blue- and white-collar workers.

AI will impact our trade-related technical assistance. AI will accelerate how we analyse trade data analysis. AI will also help us improve the learner experience in ITC's SME Trade Academy, which

is already experimenting with tools such as Synthesia to produce videos with human-like avatars in multiple languages and accents.

We need to help our beneficiaries leverage this technology as well, for instance the tailor in Burundi who is using ChatGPT to draft marketing materials like brochures and website content.

How we deliver our technical assistance and in which languages will also change to the benefit of our clients: text-to-speech in multiple languages can make our trade information accessible to farmers who speak a different language from the one the information was published in and who prefer to dial in rather than to read online.

All the above will not happen overnight, but nevertheless, we need to start preparing for it.

Founded in 1964, the International Trade Centre is a multilateral agency which has a joint mandate with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations through the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Martin Labbé is Tech Sector Development Coordinator and NTF V programme manager @ International Trade Centre.

Biogas and biomethane to fuel development in Cuban municipality

By Luis Brizuela

THE first five biomethane-fuelled buses in the Cuban municipality of Martí will not only be a milestone in the country but will also represent a solution to the serious problem of transportation, while reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and bolstering local development.

Yaisema Fabelo, a librarian at the local prep school, told IPS that "the buses will boost the quality of life of the residents" of the municipality located in the north of the western province of Matanzas, about 200 kilometers east of Havana.

Fabelo, who is also a farmer from the Los Tres Hermanos agroecological farm, stressed that using biogas on an industrial scale and on individual farms "to produce electricity, cook food and obtain biofertilizers for organic crops" will benefit the 22,000 inhabitants of the municipality and surrounding areas.

The project

Turning pig manure and crop waste into biogas is the focus of the project "Global Action for Climate Change in Cuba: Municipality of Martí, towards a carbon-neutral sustainable development model."

The project, carried out by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Ministry of Economy and Planning with 5.5 million dollars in financing disbursed by the European Union, began to be implemented in 2020 and is to be completed in 2024.

"The main problem that Martí has in the case of greenhouse gases is waste, responsible for 57 percent of our emissions," explained Sobeida Reyes, director of territorial development for the town.

In an interview with IPS, the official pointed out that with the project and as part of the local development strategy, the aim is to gradually contribute to decarbonization with the use of renewable energy sources and incorporate

biogas to biomethane conversion technology.

Biogas is composed mainly of methane and carbon dioxide, obtained in biodigesters from the decomposition of organic residues such as agricultural or livestock waste by bacteria, through anaerobic digestion, without oxygen.

Biomethane, also known as a renewable gas, is derived from a treatment process that removes carbon dioxide, moisture, ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, among other impurities from biogas, which brings its composition closer to that of fossil natural gas and favors its use to generate electricity and heat and to fuel vehicles.

The plan is to strengthen the public transport system through "16 buses powered by biomethane, the first five of which are to be tested in February 2024, after a bidding process outlined in the project that will facilitate their importation," Reyes said.

"There is a commitment that these buses will be driven by women," she added.

The future biomethane plant, which has already been awarded in tender, will provide, according to the plan, about 150 cubic meters per hour of gas suitable for bottling.

It will depend on the Martí I and Martí II covered lagoon biodigesters, which will be the largest in the country and will produce around 1,800 and 3,600 cubic meters of biogas per day, respectively, when they come into operation.

These, in turn, will each be fed by a pig breeding center belonging to the Matanzas Pork Company.

A third of the 14 kilometers of gas pipelines that will connect both biodigesters to the biomethane plant have already been put in place.

The generator is also being installed, while the lagoon is being filled with water to check its operation. The last thing needed is to put in place the membrane that will cover it.

This part is expected to be operational in February of next year, as well as the biomethane plant, so that the first five buses can then



José Luis Márquez, Yaisema Fabelo and their son Yadir stand around a table holding fruits harvested from their Los Tres Hermanos agroecological farm, in Martí, a municipality in northwestern Cuba. CREDIT: Jorge Luis Baños/IPS

be tested, according to the established time-frame.

With the help of an electricity generator, the Martí I biodigester is to provide 100 kilowatts per hour, equivalent to the approximate consumption of 80 to 100 homes. The Martí II will provide even more.

Greater commitment to biogas

A potent greenhouse gas, methane has 80 times the climate-warming power of carbon dioxide, studies show.

Scientists argue that proper management of methane resulting from the decomposition of agricultural waste and livestock manure helps to mitigate water and soil pollution and to combat climate change.

Its extraction and energy use, especially in rural and semi-urban settings, can be a cost-effective solution to reduce the consumption of electricity based on fossil sources. In Cuba there are an estimated 5,000 small-scale (up to

24 cubic meters per day) biodigesters.

In this country of 11.1 million inhabitants, a significant percentage of the 3.9 million households use electricity as the main source of energy for cooking and heating water for bathing. Renewable energy sources account for only five percent of the national energy mix.

In the case of biogas, "the main obstacle to its expansion is the availability of manure, as there is a low number of pigs and cattle, due to problems with feed and animal nutrition," Anober Aguilar, an expert with the Indio Hatuey Pasture and Forage Experimental Station, located in Perico, another municipality of Matanzas, told IPS. This scientific research center for technological management and innovation in the field of livestock production is in charge of the technological assembly of the biodigesters of the covered lagoon in Martí.

In the context of an economic crisis that has lasted for three decades, exacerbated by the tightening of the U.S. embargo, the COVID

pandemic, and failed or delayed economic reforms, Cuba has limited imports of animal feed due to the shortage of foreign currency.

Furthermore, insufficient harvests do not guarantee abundant raw material to produce feed, while the scarcity of construction materials and their high cost make it impossible for many farmers to undertake the construction of a biodigester.

Conservative estimates by experts suggest that there is potential to expand the network of biodigesters on the island to up to 20,000 units, at least small-scale ones.

"If we look at the cost of the investment in the short term, it is more feasible to focus on wind or solar energy, because setting up a biodigester requires more financing, more time and specialized personnel," explained Aguilar.

But seen at a distance of 10 to 15 years, "the investment evens out, because the potential of photovoltaic cells declines, repairs are made difficult by the rapid changes in technology, or the blades of the windmills deteriorate, in addition to the fact that both are more vulnerable to tropical cyclones," the expert said.

"As long as they have raw material, biodigesters produce 24 hours a day," he added.

He specified that one of the objectives of the project is "to demonstrate that the biodigesters are economically feasible for Cuba, that connected with large pig farms they can be used to generate electricity and contribute to the economy."

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Samia's specialist programme: Gamechanger for Tanzania's transformation of health sector

By George Mwita

IN recent years, Tanzania has been grappling with a shortage of specialist doctors and nurses in regional referral hospitals, leading to inadequate healthcare services and long waiting times for patients. However, the government's introduction of the Samia Suluhu Super Specialist programme is set to transform the country's healthcare system.

The programme, which aims to train over 400 doctors within and outside the country, is a significant step towards addressing the shortage of specialists and nurses in regional referral hospitals across Tanzania. With a cost of at least 8 billion shillings, this program is a massive investment in the country's healthcare system, which will have a transformative impact.

Firstly, the Samia Suluhu Super Specialist

Programme will help to address the shortage of specialists in Tanzania's healthcare system. This shortage has been a significant challenge for the country, with many patients not receiving the specialised care they need. As a result, many Tanzanians have had to seek medical treatment abroad, which is often prohibitively expensive.

With the training of more specialists, the programme will enable Tanzanians to access the healthcare services they need within the country. Patients will no longer have to endure long wait times or travel long distances to access specialist care. As a result, one of the most significant benefits of the programme is the reduction in the cost of referrals to far tertiary hospitals. Currently, patients in need of specialized care have to travel long distances to access these services, which is not only costly but

also time-consuming. With the availability of specialized doctors in regional referral hospitals, patients will be able to access quality healthcare services closer to their homes, which will reduce the cost of referrals significantly. This will not only improve the health outcomes of Tanzanians but will also reduce the burden on the country's healthcare system.

Secondly, as a health international NGO offering health services in the refugees camps, I am convinced that the program will improve the quality of healthcare services for refugees in Tanzania who are hosted in far districts of Kigoma region. Medical Teams International, in partnership with UNHCR, has been providing healthcare services to refugees in the country since 2018. However, the lack of specialized doctors has often resulted in the referral of patients to far ter-



President Samia Suluhu Hassan

tiary hospitals, which is not only costly but also poses a significant challenge in terms of transportation. With the introduction of the programme, specialised care will be readily available, which will significantly reduce the cost of referrals and improve the overall quality of healthcare services for refugees.

Thirdly, the Samia Suluhu Super Specialist Programme will help to improve the quality of healthcare services in Tanzania. By training doctors and nurses to a higher level of expertise, the programme will ensure that patients receive the best possible care. This will improve the overall health outcomes of Tanzanians, reduce the number of preventable deaths, and contribute to the country's economic development.

Moreover, the programme will also have a positive impact on the country's healthcare infrastructure. By investing in the training of specialists, the government is also investing in the healthcare facilities where they will work. This will help to improve the quality of healthcare infrastructure across the country, which will further contribute to the country's economic development.

I am optimistic that, the Samia Suluhu Super Specialist Programme will create new job opportunities for Tanzanians. As the program is implemented, it will create new positions for doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals. Most importantly, the program will help to address the brain drain of skilled healthcare profes-

sionals from Tanzania. Many doctors and nurses leave the country in search of better opportunities, which leaves a significant gap in the healthcare system. However, with the introduction of the Samia Suluhu Super Specialist programme, Tanzania is set to create a more conducive environment for healthcare professionals to stay and work in the country.

Finally, the Samia Suluhu Super Specialist Programme is a testament to the government's commitment to improving the health sector in Tanzania. By investing in the programme, the government is demonstrating its commitment to providing quality healthcare services to its citizens. This will not only improve the health outcomes of Tanzanians but will also help to build a stronger, more resilient healthcare system that can respond effectively to future challenges.

In conclusion, the Samia Suluhu Super Specialist Programme is a game-changer for Tanzania's healthcare system. The programme will help to address the shortage of specialists and nurses, improve the quality of healthcare services, create new job opportunities, and demonstrate the government's commitment to improving the health sector in Tanzania. With this programme, Tanzania is on track to building a stronger, more resilient healthcare system that can provide quality healthcare services to all its citizens.

Dr. George Mwita is the Tanzania country director, Medical Teams International.

EABC underscores role of business associations in AfCFTA implementation

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) emphasises the vital role of business associations in the successful implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Speaking at the panel session of the AfCFTA Business Forum, John Bosco Kalisa, EABC executive director, stressed the importance of

accelerating AfCFTA implementation at the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) level, with respective business councils facilitating intra-African trade.

According to Kalisa, the business councils in the RECs have a critical responsibility in creating awareness of AfCFTA's instruments to enable the business community to take advantage of the opportunities presented by

AfCFTA.

"RECs are the building blocks of AfCFTA integration, and business councils in the respective RECs can actualize trade through capacity building of the private sector," Kalisa said.

EABC has successfully sensitized over 300 private stakeholders on the protocol on trade in goods across EAC countries with support from Development Partner.

"As we are talking here, the East African private sector has managed to export a range of products to Ghana under AfCFTA's Guided Trade Initiative," he said.

Three countries in the EAC, namely Rwanda, Kenya, and Tanzania, are enrolled in the Guided Trade Initiative, and Uganda is steadfast to also be enrolled in the second phase, which will be launched in June this

year. The role of the private sector in the AfCFTA integration has been emphasized with the launch of the African Business Council (ABC), which brings together private sector associations under the coordination of Business Councils and Private Sector Associations at REC levels.

The panel discussion recommended development partners to provide tech-

nical support to Business Councils to enable them to build the capacity of the private sector to understand and apply AfCFTA instruments and dialogue with the public sector on the effective implementation of AfCFTA.

The EABC is committed to fostering a conducive business environment that facilitates trade and investment in the EAC and beyond.



As we are talking here, the East African private sector has managed to export a range of products to Ghana under AfCFTA's Guided

Focus on reproductive rights rather than population numbers, UN urges

GENEVA

RATHER than fixating on the impact of the world's soaring population, the world should look at women's reproductive rights to shore up "demographic resilience", the United Nations has said.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) - the UN's sexual and reproductive health agency - acknowledged there was widespread anxiety over the size of the world's population, which is expected to peak at around 10.4 billion during the 2080s.

But the UNFPA said the focus should be on giving women more power to control when and how they have children.

"The question is: 'Can everyone exercise their fundamental human right to choose the number and spacing of their children?'," said UNFPA chief Natalia Kanem. "Sadly, the answer is a resounding no."

She said that "44 per cent, almost half of women, are unable to exercise bodily autonomy. Unable to make choices about contraception, healthcare and whether or with whom to have sex. And globally, nearly half of all pregnancies are unintended."

She said countries with the highest fertility rates contribute the least to global warming and suffer the most from its impact.

In its flagship annual "State of World Population" report, the UNFPA found the most commonly-held view is that the world's population is too big.

But it said that passing the 8 billion mark "should be a reason to celebrate. It is a milestone representing historic advances for humanity in medicine, science, health, agriculture and education".

"It is time to put aside fear, to turn away from population targets and towards demographic resilience - an ability to adapt to fluctuations in population growth and fertility rate," it said.

"The world population is rapidly reordering itself," Kanem told a press conference.

While the population is now the largest ever seen, "the global average fertility rate is the lowest in living memory".

Kanem said the ranking of the world's most populous countries would change significantly over the next 25 years, with India currently overtaking China at the top.

Eight countries will account for half the projected growth in global population by 2050: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pa-



kistan, the Philippines and Tanzania.

The report said two-thirds of people were living in countries with low fertility.

"This is the first time in human history where not every country is getting bigger," said Kanem.

The countries with the highest fertility rates were all in Africa: Niger (6.7), Chad (6.1), DR Congo (6.1) Somalia (6.1) and Mali and the Central African Republic (5.8).

The territories with the lowest birth rates were Hong Kong (0.8), South Korea (0.9), Singapore (1.0), Macau

and San Marino (1.1) and Aruba and China (1.2).

Europe is the only region projected to experience an overall population decline between now and 2050.

The report said the world fertility rate per woman was currently 2.3. Life expectancy is 71 for men and 76 for women.

"All populations are ageing largely because we're living longer lives. Since 1990, the average life expectancy has increased by about a decade," said Kanem.

Twenty-five per cent of the world's population is

aged 14 or under; 65 per cent are aged 15-64 and 10 per cent are aged 65 and over.

The report found anxious governments were increasingly adopting policies aimed at raising, lowering or maintaining fertility rates. However, such efforts are very often ineffective.

"Half a million births every year take place among girls aged 10-14... girls too young to consent to sex, girls married off, abused, or both," Kanem added.

Africa now squeezed to the bones due to funding gaps

By Baher Kamal

As many as 45 African countries -out of the Continent's 54 nations-, all of them grouped in what is known as Sub-Saharan Africa, have now been further squeezed to their bones, as funding shrinks to lowest ever levels, and as a portion of the so-called aid goes back to the pockets of rich donor countries.

In its April 2023 World Economic Outlook, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) talks about a rocky recovery. In its reporting on that, it lowers global economic growth outlook as 'fog thickens.'

It says that growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to slow to 3.6 percent as a "big funding squeeze", tied to "the drying up of aid and access to private finance," hits the region in this second consecutive year of an aggregate decline.

Squeezed

Well, in its April Outlook, the IMF devotes a chapter to Sub-Saharan Africa, titled "The Big Funding Squeeze".

It says that growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to slow to 3.6 percent as a "big funding squeeze", tied to "the drying up of aid and access to private finance," hits the region in this second consecutive year of an aggregate decline.

If no measures are taken, "this shortage of funding may force countries to reduce fiscal resources for critical development like health, education, and infrastructure, holding the region back from developing its true potential."

Some arguments

According to the IMF, public debt and inflation are at levels not seen in decades, with double-digit inflation present in half of countries -eroding household purchasing power and striking at the most vulnerable.

The rapid tightening of global monetary policy has raised borrowing costs for Sub-Saharan countries both on domestic and international markets.

All Sub-Saharan African frontier markets have been cut off from market access since spring 2022.

The US dollar effective exchange rate reached a 20-year high last year, increasing the burden of dollar-denominated debt ser-

vice payments. Interest payments as a share of revenue have doubled for the average SSA country over the past decade.

With shrinking aid budgets and reduced inflows from partners, this is leading to a big funding squeeze for the region.

The giant monetary body says that the lack of financing affects a region that is already struggling with elevated macroeconomic imbalances.

Unprecedented debts and inflation

In a previous article: The Poor, Squeezed by 10 Trillion Dollars in External Debts, IPS reported on the external debt of the world's low and middle-income countries, which at the end of 2021 totalled 9 trillion US dollars, more than double the amount a decade ago.

Such debts are expected to increase by an additional 1.1 trillion US dollars in 2023, thus totalling 10.1 trillion US dollars.

Now, the IMF reports that "public debt and inflation are at levels not seen in decades, with double-digit inflation present in about half of the countries -eroding household purchasing power and striking at the most vulnerable."

In short, "Sub-Saharan Africa stands to lose the most in a severely fragmented world and stresses the need for building resilience."

Like many other major international bodies, the IMF indirectly blames African Governments for non adopting the "right" policies and encourages further investments in the region, while some insist that the way out is digitalisation, robotisation, etcetera.

The big contradiction

Here, a question arises: are all IMF and other monetary-oriented bodies' recommendations and 'altruistic' advice the solution to the deepening collapse of a whole continent, home to around 1.4 billion human beings?

Not really, or at least not necessarily. A global movement of people who are fighting inequality to end poverty and injustice, grounded in the commitment to the universality of human rights: Oxfam, on 13 April 2023 said that multilateral lender's role in helping to insulate people in low- and mid-



The IMF has made some encouraging improvements in paying attention to social protection, health, and education, but it needs to do much more to avoid, in its own words, "repeating past mistakes", says new report. Credit: Charles Mpaka/IPS

dle-income countries from economic crises is "incoherent and inadequate."

For example, "for every \$1 the IMF encourages a set of poor countries to spend on public goods, it has told them to cut four times more through austerity measures."

Countries forced to cut public funding

The global civil society movement explains that an important IMF initiative to shore up poor people in the Global South from the worst effects of its own austerity measures and the global economic crisis "is in tatters."

New analysis by Oxfam finds that the IMF's "Social Spending Floors" targets designed to help borrowing governments protect minimum levels of social spending - are proving largely powerless against its own austerity policies that instead force countries to cut public funding.

"The IMF's 'Social Spending Floors' encouraged raising inflation-adjusted social spending by about \$1 billion over the second year of its loan programs compared to the first year, across the 13 countries that participated where data is available."

IMF's austerity policies

By comparison, the IMF's austerity drive has required most of those same governments to rip away over \$5 billion worth of state spending over the same period, warns Oxfam.

"This suggests the IMF was four times more effective in getting governments to cut their budgets than it is in guaranteeing minimum social investments," said incoming Oxfam International interim Executive Director, Amritabh Behar.

"This is deeply worrying and disappointing, given that the IMF had itself urged countries to build back better after the pandemic by investing in social protection, health and education," Behar said.

"Among the 2 billion people who are suffering most from the effects of austerity cuts and social spending squeezes, we know it is women who always bear the brunt."

A fig leaf for austerity?

In its new report "IMF Social Spending Floors: A Fig Leaf for Austerity?," Oxfam analysed these components in all IMF loan programs agreed with 17 low- and middle-income countries in 2020 and 2021.

Oxfam's report: "The Assault of Austerity" found inconsistencies between countries. There is no standard or transparent way of tracking progress and many of the minimum targets were inadequate.

The IMF has made some encouraging improvements in paying attention to social protection, health, and education, the report goes on, but it needs to do much more to avoid, in its own words, "repeating past mistakes".

The farce of aid budget

In another report titled "Obscene amount of aid is going back into the pockets of rich countries," Oxfam informed that on 12 April 2023 the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD DAC) published its preliminary figures on the amount of development aid for 2022.

According to the OECD report, in 2022, official development assistance (ODA) by member countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) amounted to USD 204.0 billion. This total included USD 201.4 bil-

lion in the form of grants, loans to sovereign entities, debt relief and contributions to multilateral institutions (calculated on a grant-equivalent basis); USD 0.8 billion to development-oriented private sector instrument (PSI) vehicles and USD 1.7 billion in the form of net loans and equities to private companies operating in ODA-eligible countries (calculated on a cash flow basis), it adds.

Total ODA in 2022 rose by 13.6% in real terms compared to 2021, says the OECD.

"This was the fourth consecutive year ODA surpassed its record levels, and one of the highest growth rates recorded in the history of ODA..."

The rich pocketing 'obscene' percentage of aid

In response, Marc Cohen, Oxfam's aid expert, said: "In 2022, rich countries pocketed an obscene 14.4 percent of aid. They robbed the world's poorest people of a much-needed lifeline in a time of multiple crises."

"Donors have turned their aid pledges into a farce. Not only have they undelivered more than 193 billion dollars, but they also funnelled nearly 30 billion dollars into their own pockets by mislabeling what counts as aid".

Rich countries inflating their aid budgets

"They continue to inflate their aid budgets by including vaccine donations, the costs of hosting refugees, and by profiting off development aid loans. It is time for a system with teeth to hold them to account and make sure aid goes to the poorest people in the poorest countries."

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 415 00--

Word fit puzzle grid with clues: 3 letters: EWE, OIL, MAO, DIN, POI, SON, MEN; 4 letters: SONE, SWAT, LOSS, LOME, POOL, ALAS; 5 letters: SKELL, ALIAS, SHAPE, NKOMO, ENOKI; 6 letters: WIENER, ENDIVE; 7 letters: HOMELESS; 13 letters: NELSON MANDELA.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: Across: 1. Native of Libya; 5. List of dishes available; 8. A small insect that lives in colonies; 10. finished; 12. froth formed on the surface of liquids by agitation, a mass of small bubbles; 14. the living kingdom in East Africa; 16. mineral; 17. a place where people gather for conversation; 19. doctrine; 21. form an idea; 23. noisy; 24. two like things put together as a match.

Solutions for the word fit puzzle: EWE, OIL, MAO, DIN, POI, SON, MEN; SONE, SWAT, LOSS, LOME, POOL, ALAS; SKELL, ALIAS, SHAPE, NKOMO, ENOKI; WIENER, ENDIVE; HOMELESS; NELSON MANDELA.

Solutions for the crossword puzzle: Across: 1. Native of Libya; 5. List of dishes available; 8. A small insect that lives in colonies; 10. finished; 12. froth formed on the surface of liquids by agitation, a mass of small bubbles; 14. the living kingdom in East Africa; 16. mineral; 17. a place where people gather for conversation; 19. doctrine; 21. form an idea; 23. noisy; 24. two like things put together as a match.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. A detailed program schedule for Monday through Sunday, listing various news bulletins, shows, and music programs with their respective start and end times.

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One. Social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, along with the Radio One logo.

GLOBAL HOUSING MARKET TO GROW BY 2PCT, REPORT SHOWS

By Guardian Correspondent

ACCORDING to Research and Market, the world's largest market research store, global construction of houses is expected to increase by 2 percent per year through 2026 to 60.4 million units.

The gain will be supported by increasing rural-to-urban migration and rising populations in the Asia/Pacific and Africa/Mideast regions and increasing demand for multifamily units in urban centers, rising income levels in many developing countries in the Asia/Pacific and Africa/Mideast regions.

Ongoing efforts by governments to boost the supply of social housing to reduce the population living in substandard, informal dwellings is also another contributing factor, according to the report.

However, new housing construction will be limited by low growth in North America and Western Europe resulting from high construction costs, rising mortgage interest rates, long lead times for construction projects due to labor shortages, and weak population gains.

According to the report, the other factor will be declines in China, the world's largest housing market stemming from population loss, defaults by large building developers, and efforts by the government to stabilize the housing market and prevent a housing bubble.

"Countries around the world dealt with high levels of inflation and rising mortgage interest rates throughout the course of 2022, which increased the cost of home purchases for all buy-



ers, using lending to finance their purchases," the report says.

"High mortgage rates and other economic uncertainty such as that caused by the Russia-Ukraine war are holding down housing markets in many areas as potential purchasers delay investments while they wait for conditions to stabilize."

The report says: "While the reduced movement of people and closed economies halted construction and home sales in many areas, it also boost-

ed purchases of larger, single-family homes away from urban centers as those who could look to remove themselves from crowded areas."

As the pandemic winds down and government and corporate policies moderate, new multifamily housing construction will outpace that of single-family housing.

Multifamily housing is often more affordable, particularly for those in crowded areas who need access to public transportation, according to the

report.

In addition, longer-term trends continue to support the market, including ongoing migration to urban centers from rural areas in developing nations such as India, Brazil, and Nigeria government efforts to reduce the number of people living in inadequate housing

"Rising interest rates and high home prices make single-family dwellings unaffordable, especially in countries where potential buyers commonly rely on financing to back their purchases," it says.

Single-family dwellings accounted for 63 percent of the global housing stock in 2021 and are the most prevalent type of housing in rural areas.

As such, areas in which a larger share of the population is rural - such as many parts of the Asia/Pacific and Africa/Mideast regions - see high proportions of single-family housing.

Industrialized countries with low population densities per square kilometer such as Australia, Canada, and the US, also tend to have larger shares of single-family dwellings, as lower population densities generally make the land less expensive and more readily available, even in urban areas.

By contrast, both Western and Eastern Europe have high proportions of multifamily dwellings, the report notes.

In Western Europe, population densi-

ties are generally higher than in Australia, Canada, and the US despite generally similar levels of affluence, and multifamily units house many people with only limited use of relatively expensive land.

In Eastern Europe, centralized construction policies resulted in a large stock of multifamily dwellings, many of which were built in the first decade after the end of the Second World War.

"Multifamily units are generally more affordable, especially in the rental market, which has also led to increasing demand," the report says.

However, the single-family housing market will remain larger.

Informal Housing

In spite of generally higher incomes in urban areas, the quality of urban housing can vary widely as in developing countries, economic opportunities in urban settings have encouraged migration from rural to urban areas - a process that has generated demand for new housing.

A lack of land tenure laws and other property rights has contributed to the use of informal housing, or urban slum dwellings, to satisfy that housing demand, especially in countries with large low-income urban populations.

Most high-income countries, on the other hand, have very small portions of their population living in slums or other improvised housing.

Halotel brings smiles to orphans ahead of Eid al-Fitr celebrations

By Guardian Correspondent

IN an effort to support the Tanzanian community, mobile phone company Halotel Tanzania has provided special needs to an orphanage Centre in the Pwani region as part of its community outreach program.

This gesture aims to improve the lives of those in needs, show love and bring smiles to people facing difficult circumstances.

The company provided food, goats, and other essential social supplies to the Fadhilla Orphanage Centre, which is located at the Misugusugu area of Pwani region, in anticipation of the Eid Mubarak Celebration.

While presenting the donations, Halotel's Head of Marketing Department, Sakina Makabu, said that such support is a normal practice for the company to remember the community, especially children living in difficult situations.

"In addition to supporting orphans and those living in challenging circumstances, the company has directed its regional offices throughout Tanzania to help similar groups, as they have done in Pwani", Sakina said in her statement.

The Fadhilla Centre, which received the donations, cares for and educates 168 children, all of whom are orphans due to losing their parents or other reasons. Many of these children have faced numerous challenges, and the centre provides a safe

and loving environment where they can receive the care and support they need.

"Today we are providing 150 kilos of rice, 50 kilos of beans, 60 liters of cooking oil, 100 kilos of cornmeal, 50 kilos of sugar, 100 packets of noodles, (02)two goats, soap for personal hygiene and laundry, diapers for disabled children, and school supplies. The main goal of these gifts is to bring smiles and love to these children during the Eid Mubarak Celebration, so they can celebrate and enjoy it like others," added Sakina.

Speaking about the contribution, the Director of the centre, Sureya Shehe, expressed her gratitude to Halotel, saying, "We are very grateful for this significant contribution from Halotel. It will make a big difference to the children here, who are in dire need of basic necessities such as food and school supplies, and most importantly, this love will enable them to enjoy the Eid Mubarak celebration. We appreciate Halotel's efforts to help our Tanzanian community and hope they continue to do so to improve the lives of Tanzanians".

Halotel's support for this centre is part of a regular practice to build good relationships with the community, who are also customers and Tanzanians as a whole.

This practice is implemented through the company's excellent policies for community outreach, in addition to providing the best communication services throughout the country.



Halotel Tanzania (Coast Region) director Rodrick Paul (L), and Halotel Tanzania Head of Marketing Department, Sakina Makabu (C), hand over two goats and food items include rice, flour, cooking oil, and others to the director of Misugusugu based Fadhilla Orphanage, Sureya Shehe (R), as part of a programme to give back to the community. Photo by Guardian Correspondent



Watumishi Housing Investment CEO Dr Fred Msemwa

WHI to construct modern apartments in Chamwino

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

WATUMISHI Housing Investment (WHI) is contemplating to construct the number of modern residential housing units in Buigiri ward area, Chamwino District Dodoma Region.

To be constructed in terms of different statuses flats on the plots number 383, 384, 385 and 549 in the fast-growing ward of Chamwino district, the project focuses on allowing the civil servants in the region to afford owning modern apartments.

Speaking during an exclusive interview with The Guardian, WHI's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Fred Msemwa said the state-owned company was currently working to obtain a loan of at least 20bn/- from the

finance ministry in readiness to implement the vital project.

"We're currently holding talks with the ministry of finance over the possibility to acquire at least 20bn/-, the amount which is needed for implementation of the project in a designed quality and time frame," he unveiled.

Together with that, he noted that WHI was continuing to design more projects to be implemented in the future with an eye to provide the

public workers and members of pension funds in capital city with an opportunity to become the proprietors of modern apartments.

He observed that the company was marketing the structures to the civil servants at patriot prices, and added that the buyers are however provided with a special window to pay in a friendly installment system.

In general, the CEO expressed that the company

was in a move to construct a total of 1000 residential housing units, covering a total of 100 acres at different locations across the fast-growing region, including Njedengwa, Mtumba, Kikombo and Chamwino.

Currently, WHI is undertaking a major project, dubbed 'Kisasa Hilltop Project' the initiative which raising building residential apartments of numerous sizes and selling them to the public servants at patriotic prices, ranging from 45mn/- to 98mn/- at Njedengwa areas, in the fringe of Dodoma capital city.

The 29bn/-worth project which is currently at its final stages, the project is part of the WHI's (2028-2022) and (2023-2027) strategies to heighten availability of enough and best residential apartments for civil servants and members of pension funds within the region.

"Kisasa Hilltop Project involves construction of a total of 198 landed housing units and it is currently at its final stages, whereby 95 percent of the houses have been sold out with others already in use by the occupants," he said.

WHI is a house developer and a licensed fund manager responsible for establishment and management of collective investment schemes.

WHI was established under the Companies Act (Cap 212) of 2002. The primary objective of WHI is to implement the directive of His Excellency the President of the United Republic of Tanzania to construct affordable houses and members of pension funds.

The Presidential directive is in line with the objectives of the Housing Policy (2005) contained in the Tanzania Development Vision 2025.

GOVT SET TO BUILD WINE FACTORY IN DODOMA VILLAGE

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE government is working on the modalities of putting up a modern wine processing plant at Chinangali II village in Chamwino District of Dodoma Region.

The envisaged 1bn/- worth plant which will specifically be designed to process grapes bulk juice, expected to have processing capacity of at least 15 tonnes of raw grapes in a day and with storage ability to store a total of 100,000 litres of grapes bulk juice at ago.

According to the Agriculture Minister, Huseein Bashe installation of the state-of-the-art facility is part of efforts to assist the grapes farmers within the region to deter from the long-standing challenge of unreliable market access for their produce.

He expressed that through the plant, the farmers will be assisted to process their raw grapes into bulk juice. "The bulk juice to be processed by each farmer will be measured and stored professionally while waiting for customers," he detailed.

The minister further informed that the parent ministry had decided to come up with the project after becoming aware that most of the grape farmers in the region were failing to benefit from their farm's executions due to lack of reliable markets for their produce, the discouraging move that often saw many grapes rot in the plantations.

He however observed that, huge percentage of the wine processing factories within and outside the country currently prefers to purchase grapes bulk juice and not raw

grapes, the development which calls for fresh efforts to empower the involved farmers to copy with a tide of the on-going transformation in the vital economic sector.

"Together with the factory, we also have plans ahead to educate the farmers on how to cultivate grapes through adopting recommended agronomic practices as well as application of proper inputs," he detailed.

He stated that the ministry was collaborating with the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Makutupora centre in Dodoma to implement diverse useful initiatives to help upgrading the performance of local grapes growers in terms of several areas pertaining to cultivation of the prestigious economic cash crops as well as on the sides of processing and packaging.

In further efforts to improve performance of the grape's and wine sector, the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) had recently conducted characterization for grapevine lines at the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI- Makutupora Centre) that are in progress for release as new varieties in Tanzania.

The grapevine lines in question include three table grapes (Black rose, Alphonse lalallee and Queen of vineyard), wine grapes (Syrah) and wine raisin grapes (Ruby seedless).

Matengia Swai, the Acting Director of Research and Promotion from TOSCI, expressed that the exercise was based on the tests for distinctiveness, uniformity and stability (DUS) of the five grapevine lines.



"Principally, the characterization exercise is conducted at each stage of crop development from bud bursting to berry ripening for all the grapevines," she said.

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the five grapevine lines. "Principally, the characterization exercise is conducted at each stage of crop development from bud bursting to berry ripening for all the grapevines," she said.

TARI to enhance production of improved seeds, seedlings

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has successfully managed to heighten production of improved seeds varieties for different crops from 481,23 tonnes in 2020/21 to 1,225,872 tonnes in 2021/22.

Moreover, in the same period of two years, the state-owned search research Institute also managed to improve production of seedlings/stems/plants from 7,998,784 in 2021/22 to 19,822,349 in 2023, including avocado, palms, cassava, sugar cane, round potatoes, cashews, fruits as well as spices.

Giving an exclusive interview to The Guardian in Dodoma Capital City, the Director General (DG) for TARI, Dr. Geoffrey Mkamillo said the development was part of concerted efforts by the institute to assure the farmers across the country are equipped by enough improved seeds varieties to help them expanding their crop's production and productivity.

"In terms of the distribution of the best agricultural technologies, we have succeeded in opening four Agricultural Technology Transfer Hubs (ATH) in different areas of the country, including the Nyakabindi Bub in Simiyu, Nzuguni (Dodoma), Fatma Mwasa (Tabora) and the Morogoro-based Mwalimu Julius Nyerere center," he

explained.

Together with that, Dr. Mkamillo added that as part of ensuring that research results bring about positive changes to the agricultural sector in Tanzania, the institute had successfully disseminated the outcomes of various researches to about 5,497,547 stakeholders including farmers, extension officers and other relevant stakeholders.

"The methods used to distribute these technologies include various farmers' exhibitions, farmers' days, agribusiness exhibitions, special tailor made training, innovative platforms and series of on-farm classes," he explained.

In addition to these methods, he informed that they were also to make use of various media outlets, including Radio, Newspapers, Television and social networks to educate farmers on the correct applications of the technologies that among others, focuses to help increase production and productivity in the key sector in which the national economy hinges.

Apart from distributing the innovative technologies, the institution has also managed to continue with construction works for the renovations of the important infrastructure with an eye to improve the efficiency in research.

"Construction of our offices at its Kihinga centre in Kigoma region and four staff houses has so far reached at least 68 percent, whereby



construction works of TARI headquarters in Njedengwa area in Dodoma Capital City has by now reached at least 31 percent," Dr. Mkamillo informed.

He assured that TARI will continue working faster and smart to research and breed improved seeds varieties for the all crops

that are thriving in all agroecological zones across the country, but also to disseminate the much needed technologies to capacitate the farmers to cultivate more professionally.

TARI has a network of 9 research Centres and 8 Sub Centres. The Centres are TARI Makutupora, TARI Ilonga, TARI Selian, TARI

Ukiriguru, TARI Naliende, TARI Mlingano, TARI Tumbi, TARI Uyole and TARI Kihinga. The Sub Centres are TARI Hombolo, TARI Dakawa, TARI Maruku, TARI Mikocheni, TARI Tengeru, TARI Kifyulilo, TARI Ifakara and TARI TARI Kibaha. TARI Headquarters is located in Dodoma.

Indian group to sell three tea estates in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

& Agencies

THE board of directors of Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation Limited announced that has decided to sell the plantation land/properties and assets forming part of all the 3 Tea estates in Tanzania.

The estates, measuring approximately 3957 acres (in aggregate) ("Identified Assets") is expected to be bought by Udongo Wetu Limited, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania at the total consideration of US\$1.2 million to be allocated to each assets in the sale documents, which will be executed between the parties," said a statement issued by Bombay Burmah.

"The proposed sale is subject to the receipt of necessary approvals, approvals form regulatory agencies, if any and the proposed buyer receiving appropriate authorization to acquire such plantation land", it says.

Shares of Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation Limited was last trading in BSE at Rs. 923.65 on Thursday as compared to the previous close of Rs.



903.70. "Property purchase agreements will be executed on or before April 30, 2023 along with other ancillary agreements and completion of the sale and purchase of property shall occur on or before August 31, 2023 or such other date as may be mutually agreed between the parties," the statement says.

The total number of shares traded during the day was 3315 in over 380 trades.

The stock hit an intraday high of Rs. 936.45 and intraday low of 899.10. The net turnover during the day was Rs. 3070412.00, according to the market reports.

Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation

was quoting at Rs 917.80, down Rs 5.85, or 0.63 percent on the BSE.

The share touched a 52-week high of Rs 1,115.65 on April 28, 2022 and a 52-week low of Rs 780.65 on March 28, 2023. It is trading 17.73 percent below its 52-week high and 17.57 percent above its 52-week low.

Two years ago, The Mumbai-based Wadia Group's plantation division, the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation Ltd (BBTCL) announced plans to exit the plantation sector due to management issues and competition.

Tea was first planted in Tanzania in 1902, when German settlers introduced the crop to the Agricultural Research Station in Am-

ani and Rungwe.

Commercial production began in 1926 in Usambaras and Njombe. In 1934 Tanzania produced 23 tons of made tea.

This is happening as the government of Tanzania aims to increase tea production from the 17,615 tonnes produced by April 2022, equivalent to 58.72 percent of the target to 30,000 tonnes in the 2022/23 season with the introduction of the new seeds.

Kampala-Gulu railway works start June, says URC

KAMPALA

GOVERNMENT, through Ministry of Works, with Uganda Railways Corporation (URC), as the implementing agency, has signed a Shs200b contract with China Road and Bridge Corporation to rehabilitate the Tororo to Gulu section of the metre gauge railway.

The 375-kilometre railway line, which stretches through Mbale, Soroti and Lira, before terminating at the Gulu Logistics Hub, is designed to facilitate transportation, collection, separation, consolidation and distribution of goods for national and international transit on a commercial basis.

The rehabilitation works, which will solely be funded by government, are expected to take two years.

Mr David Musoke Bulega, the acting URC managing director, said at the signing that works will start after one month because the contractor is going to mobilise equipment and manpower.

The rehabilitation, he noted, will also link the rest of the country to the main line - Malaba-Tororo to Gulu - which is intended to link up with Gulu Logistics Hub, a new project, which has been completed.

"So, we are seeing another development in business on the northern line," he said, adding that while the entire line is going to be rehabilitated, some sec-

tions such as bridges and culverts, are going to be totally overhauled, while other sections have materials, which are still usable.

Mr Dai Dexin, the China Road and Bridge Corporation country manager, said the contract, which also seeks to develop the Northern corridor, will revive the road sector, part of which has wasted away due to years non-usage.

"The cargo still needs to go to South Sudan, Burundi and that corridor had stopped operations for some years, which had also affected the roads in that corridor," he said in a separate interview, adding that after rehabilitation, having a logistics hub in Gulu will serve both railway and roads at the same time.

Mr John Linonn Ssendendo, the URC senior public relations and communications officer, said the Northern corridor is made up of the Kampala-Malaba and Tororo-Gulu-Pakwach lines.

"The Malaba line serves Kampala up to Kenya, while the route from Tororo to Gulu and Pakwach serve South Sudan and northern DR Congo," he said.

After Sogea, which was supposed to work on the stretch up to the logistics hub and would have partially completed the entire Northern line, disengaged, government has for some time been looking for a contractor until China Road and Bridge Corporation was brought on board.



TECHNOLOGY

GOVT OWES ROAD CONTRACTORS, LANDOWNERS SH145 BILLION

NAIROBI

THE government owes road contractors and landowners Sh145 billion in pending bills for certified works, adding to the working capital uncertainty for companies and timely delivery of ongoing projects around the country.

Transport Cabinet secretary Kipchumba Murkomen told Parliament on Wednesday that out of these pending bills, local contractors are owed Sh50 billion while foreign firms have not been paid Sh60 billion.

The balance of Sh35 billion is owed to landowners whose properties were acquired for road construction.

"The Ministry of Roads had an ongoing roads portfolio of over 800 projects with a total outstanding cost of Sh763 billion as of February 28, 2023," Mr Murkomen told MPs.

"Out of the outstanding pending bill, an amount of Sh145 billion is related to certified works not yet paid. This is the pending bills."

While responding to questions from MPs on the floor of the House, Mr Murkomen said most pending projects are either undergoing slow implementation or have completely stopped as a result of the government's failure to provide resources to pay contractors.

He said most road projects had stalled for more than five years while nine have been abandoned for a period longer than 10 years.

"We have negotiated with the Roads Annuity Fund, which has agreed to release Sh12 billion to us to pay some contractors," he said.

"I thank contractors and a number of banks that we have talked to and agreed to allow us to look for money. Some of these contractors could



Kenya's Transport Cabinet secretary (minister), Kipchumba Murkomen

have been auctioned. This situation is unfortunately inherited."

The Cabinet secretary added that the amounts that the Treasury disbursed to the Roads Ministry were spread among contractors and sub-contractors for them to go back to work and that no new road projects would be started before the ongoing or incomplete works are finalised.

When he appeared for vetting last year, Mr Murkomen told MPs

that the government would consider floating a roads bond to pay pending bills, guaranteed by funds collected from motorists through the road maintenance levy and transit tolls.

The State collects Sh18 per litre of petrol and diesel under the Roads Maintenance Levy Fund Act for road construction and rehabilitation.

The Kenya Roads Board collected Sh87.4 billion comprising roads maintenance levy and transit tolls for the development and maintenance of the road network in Kenya in the year to June 2022.

By the end of June 2022, the government's pending bills had climbed to Sh504.7 billion, a 40.39 percent jump from Sh359.5 billion the previous year.

In his inauguration speech, President William Ruto promised to prioritise the settlement of pending dues passed down by the outgoing administration, giving businesses hope of improved cash flows.

Construction equipment rental market to hit \$225bln by 2032

DUBAI

THE global construction equipment rental market is forecast to register its name in the billion-dollar fraternity down the line of seven years, by exceeding a revenue of \$225 billion by 2032 with a projected CAGR of 4 percent over 2023-2032, according to a report by Global Market Insights.

The market growth is mainly driven by the rising demand for tech innovations in construction equipment for implementing the latest smart city technologies such as Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, and electromobility into infrastructures, stated the report by the key market research and consulting firm.

Besides, increasing mining and construction initiatives in Latin America are driving the adoption of construction equipment.

Organizations in this industry lease out or rent construction equipment such as cranes, scaffolding, crane lorries, work platforms, graders, bulldozers and excavators to carry out building activities.

In addition, growing mineral consumption throughout Peru, Chile, and Argentina will prompt the demand for mining trucks, excavators, loaders, and dozers throughout the region, it stated.

Key providers in the construction equipment rental market are engaging in strategic initiatives such as partnerships, mergers and acquisitions, R&D investments, and new product launches to gain a competitive edge in the industry.

For instance, in January 2023, Al Faris Group recently extended its portfolio with addition of 24 Liebherr mobile cranes to its fleet, said the report.

The delivery includes a range of models with lifting capacities from 110 to 700 tonnes, including four LTM 1500-8.1s with a lifting capacity of 500 tonnes.

Overall, the construction equipment rental market is segmented in terms of product and region, it added.

Based on product, the concrete equipment product segment is expected to depict over 5% CAGR during the forecast timespan. The rising preference for high-capacity, innovative batching plants will drive the demand for such equipment, said the report by Global Market Insights.



Nairobi's Central Business District

Construction of Nairobi city train starts

NAIROBI

KENYA Railways Corporation (KRC) has launched construction works on Phase 1 of The Nairobi Railway City project. The ground-breaking ceremony was held in December 2022 at the Nairobi Central Railway Station.

The Kenyan government is redeveloping the Nairobi Central Railway Station and converting its surrounding areas into "The Nairobi Railway City" - a multi-modal, transit-oriented, and urban development. The project is part of the Nairobi Integrated Urban Development Plan.

Designed by UK firm Atkins Global in partnership with local engineering design and management consultancy Howard Humphreys, the main objectives of the Nairobi Railway City project include the creation of a transit hub with multi-modal transport facilities, regeneration of the area around the Nairobi Central Station, expand Nairobi to the Southeast, providing a liveable and sustainable urban space, and an iconic development to position Nairobi as a leading world city and commercial hub.

The project is located on 425 acres of land, of which Kenya Railways owns 292 acres, and is situated between Haile Sellasie Avenue, Uhuru Highway, Landhies Road, and Bunyala Road in Nairobi.

The Nairobi Railway City project is being developed in phases, and is expected to be completed in 2030.

Appearing before the Transport and Infrastructure committee of the Kenyan Parliament on March 7, KRC managing director Philip Mainga, stated that early works and construction of the 80-metre pedestrian bridge linking Kenya Polytechnic and Bunyala road in the Industrial area are currently underway.

Mainga further told the committee that KRC has requested the government of Kenya, through the National Treasury, to help secure financing for the design and construction of the Central Station and Public Square from UK Export Finance (UKEF). "It is expected that the main contractors for works shall have been procured before the end of the first quarter of the financial year 2023/24" he added.

Phase 1 is funded by the UK (through UKEF) and Kenyan governments. Phase 1 includes the construction of a pedestrian footbridge across the Nairobi railway yard, a new Nairobi Central Railway Station, and a public square. The station will be a multi-modal hub in CBD that will connect the Nairobi commuter rail, three BRT lines, city buses, and non-motorised transport.

Construction works in Phase 1 will also include: securing the railway station and public park site; detailed drainage upgrades within the Nairobi railway yard; a new structural steel locomotive shed planned for the Makadara yard; the relocation of the existing shed at the Nairobi Yard; paving of Kenya Railways' headquarters driveway and car park.

Wakulima Market will be converted into a park. The Technical University of Kenya will also be turned into a Techno Research and Development Institute, according to the project objectives.

A residential area will also be established towards Landimawe, a ward in Nairobi, and the Industrial Area. It is expected to accommodate about 28,000 people with mid, affordable, and social housing. There are plans for at least 10,000 affordable housing units on 40 acres of Railway City, a police station, a fire station, and a disaster response centre.

"The pedestrian footbridge across the Nairobi Railway yard will be all-weather, modern, and will also be convenient for people living with disabilities. We have already begun the construction work. The contractor is already on site, and soon we will begin seeing changes," said Phillip Mainga, Kenya Railways managing director.

On completion, the Nairobi Railway City is expected to decongest the central business district by encouraging businesses to shift from the city centre to the new development's special economic zones.

US housing markets stabilise for two months

WASHINGTON

US single-family homebuilding increased for a second straight month in March, while permits for future construction surged, offering some glimmers of hope for the depressed housing market ahead of the busy spring selling season.

The improvement in the single-family housing market segment, which was reported by the Commerce Department on Tuesday, likely reflected buyers taking advantage of a retreat in mortgage rates. A survey on Monday showed falling mortgage rates and tight supply of previously owned houses were supporting the new home market.

"Mortgage rates have pulled back from the peaks in October/November, helping to provide a jolt to demand and sales activity," said Ben Ayers, a senior economist at Nationwide in Columbus, Ohio. "But the environment remains challenging with high input and labor costs for builders and expensive financing options for buyers."

Single-family housing starts, which account for the bulk of homebuilding, rose 2.7 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 861,000 units last month. Data for February was revised higher to show single-family homebuilding rising to a rate of 838,000 units instead of the previously reported pace of 830,000 units.

Single-family homebuilding increased 4.4 percent in the Northeast and soared 23.6 percent in the Midwest. It advanced 4.8 percent in the densely populated South, but plunged 16.0 percent in the West. Single-family housing starts dropped 27.7 percent on a year-on-year basis in March.

The Federal Reserve's aggressive interest rate hikes have pushed the housing market into recession, with residential investment contracting for seven straight quarters, the longest such streak since the collapse of the housing bubble triggered by the 2007-2009 Great Recession.

There are, however, signs the



The housing sector seems poised to have some new completed inventory in the coming months," said Colin Johanson, an economist at Barclays in New York.

housing market is stabilizing at very depressed levels. The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Market index climbed to a seven-month high in April.

Mortgage rates have fallen from last year's highs, with the average rate on the popular 30-year fixed mortgage declining from a peak of 7.08 percent in early November to 6.27 percent last week, according to data from mortgage finance agency Freddie Mac.

Those rates have decreased in tandem with U.S. Treasury yields on hopes that the Fed would not continue raising borrowing costs beyond next month amid signs that the economy was slowing.

But the recent financial turmoil following the collapse of two regional banks could result in banks and mortgage lenders tightening underwriting standards.

"Tighter credit conditions would result in homebuilders having a harder time financing new projects, which would weigh on future construction

activity," said Doug Duncan, chief economist at Fannie Mae.

Stocks on Wall Street were trading lower. The dollar fell against a basket of currencies. US Treasury prices rose.

Starts for housing projects with five units or more decreased 6.7 percent to a rate of 542,000 units. Multi-family housing construction remains underpinned by demand for rental accommodation.

But economists see limited scope for further gains, noting an increase in empty apartments. The inventory of multi-family housing under construction is at record highs.

"There is a hint here that the baton is maybe being passed from rental construction to construction for home purchase," said Conrad DeQuadros, senior economic advisor at Brean Capital in New York. "None of this is to suggest a strong revival in housing activity, but it does support the view that the worst of the declines may be behind us for now."

With the decline in multi-family

homebuilding offsetting the rise in single-family projects, overall housing starts fell 0.8 percent to a rate of 1.420 million units last month.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast starts would fall to a rate of 1.40 million in March.

Single-family building permits jumped 4.1 percent to a rate of 818,000 units in March, a five-month high.

They rose in the Northeast, South and West, but were unchanged in the Midwest.

Permits for housing projects with five units or more plummeted 24.3 percent to a rate of 543,000 units. Overall, building permits dropped 8.8 percent to a rate of 1.413 million units.

The number of houses approved for construction that are yet to be started declined 3.0 percent to 291,000 units. The single-family homebuilding backlog fell 2.3 percent to 130,000 units, the lowest level since February 2021, while the completions rate for this segment rose 2.4 percent to a rate of 1.050 million units.

WORLD

People 'lost faith in childhood jabs' during COVID pandemic

LONDON

PEOPLE all over the world lost confidence in the importance of routine childhood vaccines against killer diseases like measles and polio during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new report from UNICEF.

In 52 of the 55 countries surveyed, the public perception of vaccines for children declined between 2019 and 2021, the UN agency said.

The data was a "worrying warning signal" of rising vaccine hesitancy amid misinformation, dwindling trust in governments and political polarisation, UNICEF, the United Nations Children's

Fund, said.

"We cannot allow confidence in routine immunizations to become another victim of the pandemic," Catherine Russell, UNICEF executive director, said in a statement. "Otherwise, the next wave of deaths could be of more children with measles, diphtheria or other preventable diseases."

The change in perception was particularly worrying, the agency said, as it comes after the largest sustained backslide in childhood immunization in a generation during COVID disruptions.

In total, 67 million children missed out on one or more potentially lifesaving vaccines during the pandemic, and



A girl gets a shot of the CoronaVac vaccine at a vaccination center in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 15, 2022, on the first day of a COVID-19 vaccination campaign for children ages 3 and 4. File photo

efforts to catch up have so far stalled despite increasing outbreaks.

The picture on vaccine confidence varied globally, according to the UNICEF report, its flagship annual State of the World's Children.

In countries including Papua New Guinea and South Korea, agreement with the statement "vaccines are important for children" declined by 44 percent, and by more than a third in Ghana, Senegal and Japan. In the United States, it declined by 13.6 percentage points. In India, China and Mexico, confidence

remained broadly the same or increased, the report added.

The report stressed that vaccine confidence can easily shift and the results may not indicate a long-term trend.

Despite the fall in confidence, more than 80 percent of respondents in almost half of the countries surveyed still said childhood vaccines were important.

The data was collected by the Vaccine Confidence Project at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. **Agencies**

Any weapons supplies to Ukraine to be considered as anti-Russian move – diplomat

MOSCOW

MOSCOW considers any supplies of weapons to Ukraine as an openly hostile anti-Russian move, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said yesterday, commenting on South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol's statements on possible deliveries of South Korean weapons to Ukraine.



"Russia is conducting defensive military operations against the collective West, which has chosen the puppet regime in Kiev as an instrument of its hybrid proxy war against us. In this situation, we will consider any supplies of weapons to Ukraine, wherever they might come from, as an openly hostile anti-Russian move," she stressed.

"Such steps will negatively impact bilateral relations with those states that take them and will be taken into account when elaborating Russia's positions on issues concerning core security interests of the relevant countries. As for South Korea, it might be about the approaches to the settlement of the situation on the Korean Peninsula," she said.

She recalled that Russian forces deliver high-precision strikes solely at military targets, not at civil infrastructure facilities. "As for concerns about victims among civilians, regrettably, this is a reality Donbass residents were faced with back in 2014 as a result of the aggression by the junta which seized power in Kiev. It was one of the key causes of the current crisis. We have seen no compassion for these numerous victims from the collective West, including Seoul," Zakharova stressed.

In an interview with Reuters on Wednesday, the South Korean president said that South Korea could begin weapons supplies to Ukraine in case of serious threats to civilians in that country. **Agencies**

China, Gabon agree to bolster ties

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping and Gabonese President Ali Bongo Ondimba agreed to elevate bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership on Wednesday as the two nations pledged to bolster cooperation on infrastructure, agriculture and the response to climate change.

In talks with Bongo at the Great Hall of the People, Xi also reiterated Beijing's unwavering support for African nations in following an independent path of development and its firm backing for Africa's efforts in advancing food security, industrialization and green development.

Before their talks, the president gave the Gabonese leader, who is on a four-day state visit to China, a grand welcoming ceremony with a 21-gun salute, a review of the guard of honor and the performances of military bands.

The two heads of state also witnessed the signing of bilateral co-operation agreements covering investment, agriculture, housing, urban development and climate change.

Xi told Bongo that the two

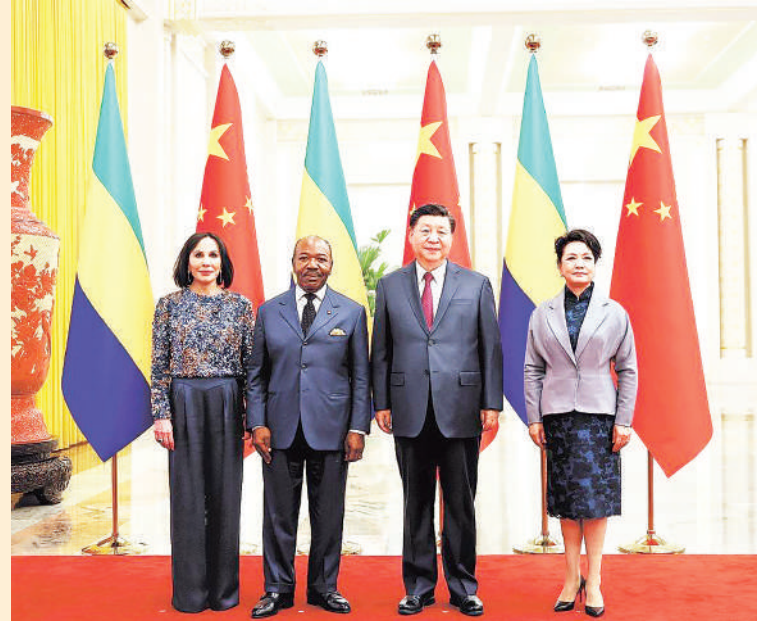
sides, which are set to celebrate the 50th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations next year, have built their friendship on a rock-solid foundation.

Calling Bongo "an old friend" of the Chinese people, Xi said the Gabonese president was the first African head of state he had hosted since being reelected as the Chinese president, which fully demonstrates the importance and high level of the China-Gabon relations.

China is willing to enhance exchanges of state governance experience with Gabon, deepen strategic mutual trust, and extend firm support over issues concerning respective core interests and major concerns, Xi said.

He expressed readiness to further strategic alignment with the Gabonese side, move forward with cooperation in infrastructure construction, forestry, fisheries, the digital economy and the development of industrial parks and support the nation in the diversification of its economy and industry upgrading.

The two sides should step up people-to-people exchanges and work more closely together on tourism, rural vitalization and poverty alleviation, said the



President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, pose for a photograph with Gabonese President Ali Bongo Ondimba and his wife, Sylvia Bongo Ondimba, in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Wednesday. Photo: CHINA DAILY

president. It is important for the two countries to strengthen strategic cooperation on multilateral platforms such as the United Nations, safeguard global peace, development and international fairness and justice and protect the common interests of developing countries, he said.

Speaking of China-Africa ties, Xi pointed out that with the

world now facing multifaceted challenges and various crises, it is even more necessary than ever for China and Africa to reinforce unity and cooperation.

He appealed to both sides to resolutely oppose hegemony and power politics in any form, oppose interference in the domestic affairs of other countries and promote the building of a

community with a shared future for mankind.

Beijing firmly supports Africa becoming a key force in global political and economic development and is willing to offer new opportunities to Africa with its own development, he said.

According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, trade between China and Gabon reached \$4.55 billion in 2022, registering a year-on-year increase of 50.8 percent. China has been a major purchaser of crude oil, manganese ore and wooden products from Gabon.

Bongo noted that the two sides, with a high level of political mutual trust, have always respected and supported each other.

He expressed his hope that both nations can further build up cooperation in infrastructure, agriculture and tourism, saying that his country welcomes Chinese businesses to take part in the construction of industrial parks and is willing to offer a good environment for Chinese firms.

Premier Li Qiang and Zhao Leji, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, also had separate meetings with the Gabonese president on Wednesday. **Xinhua**

Stampede at aid center kills at least 80 in Yemen's capital

SANAA

AT least 80 people were killed and more than 220 others injured in a stampede Wednesday at an aid center in the Bab Al-Yemen area of Sanaa, Yemen's capital, according to the Houthi-run health authority.

Anis Al-Subaihi, the official spokesman for the Houthi health authority, confirmed the incident to Xinhua, saying that medical teams immediately responded and transferred the injured to several hospitals in the capital for treatment.

The Houthi-run al-Masirah TV reported that the interior ministry of the group claimed the disaster was caused by a stampede during the random distribution of cash by local merchants, without organiza-

tion or collaboration with the ministry.

Abdul Khaliq Al-Ajri, spokesman for the ministry, was quoted by the TV as saying that the authorities have arrested two merchants responsible for the uncoordinated distribution of money and are investigating the incident.

Many Yemenis, impoverished by years of conflicts, flocked to charity centers for basic needs as Eid al-Fitr, one of the most important festivals for Muslims, is approaching.

The stampede took place during the distribution of charitable donations by merchants in the final days of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the Houthi-controlled Ministry of Interior's spokesperson said in a statement.

Hundreds of people had crowded into a school to receive the donations, which amounted to 5,000 Yemeni riyals, or about \$9 per person, two witnesses involved in the rescue effort told Reuters.

A video posted by Houthi television on Telegram messaging app showed a crowd of people jamed together, some screaming and shouting and reaching out to be pulled to safety. Security staff fought to push people back and control the crowd.

Another video after the stampede showed scores of discarded shoes, a crutch and clothing on the steps of the building, and forensic investigators in protective white suits sorting through personal belongings.

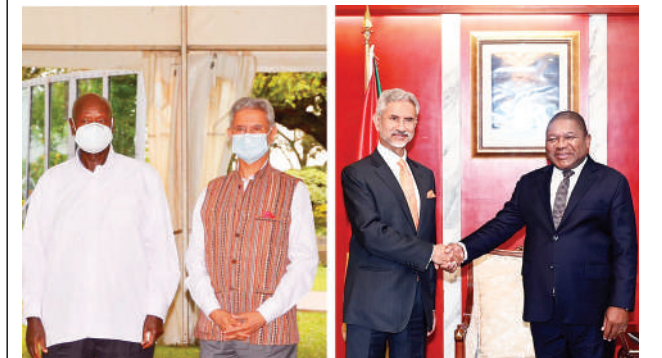
Yemen has been mired in a civil war since

late 2014, when the Iran-backed Houthi militia seized control of several northern provinces and forced the Saudi-backed Yemeni government out of the capital Sanaa.

The war has killed tens of thousands of people, displaced 4 million and pushed Yemen to the brink of starvation.



Many Yemenis, impoverished by years of conflicts, flocked to charity centers for basic needs as Eid al-Fitr, one of the most important



India Foreign Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar with President of Mozambique Filipe Nyusi and President of Uganda Yoweri Museveni

A song of great love: China's international medical assistance contributes to human peace, development

THIS year marked the 60th anniversary of China sending its first medical team to Algeria on April 6, 1963.

So far, batches of Chinese medical teams have offered sincere assistance to countries in need with outstanding medical skills and noble ethics. They have explained the spirit of the Chinese medical team featuring no fear of hardships, willingness to dedicate, saving lives and great love with practical actions, winning wide applause from the international community.

Patients from various countries thanked Chinese doctors for "creating medical miracles," while foreign doctors applauded them for passing on valuable experiences from China.

Chinese medical workers have shown their great love with dedication. Over the past 60 years, China has dispatched around 30,000 medical personnel to 76 countries and regions across five continents, providing 290 million diagnoses and treatments for local people.

Currently, Chinese medical teams work at 115 sites in 56 countries, nearly half of which are in remote areas with harsh conditions. Overcoming difficulties in work and life, Chinese medical personnel are benefiting the people in those countries with medical proficiency and ethics.

Dedicating all their efforts to international medical assistance, they believe that the smiles of the patients are the

motivation for their persistence, and doctors must do everything they can to save lives against all odds. The words interpret Chinese doctors' respect for life.

Chinese medical workers are not only "angels in white" who save lives, but also envoys of friendship who pass on love.

In Algeria, Chinese medical teams of ten host academic saloons, lectures, acupuncture training programs and other teaching activities.

In Vanuatu, Chinese medical teams join local patrol missions, offer free clinical treatment, and launch investigations and health education activities apart from providing routine medical assistance. In Malta, a traditional Chinese medicine center established by Chinese

medical workers has held over 10 acupuncture training sessions, which were joined by trainees from multiple European countries including Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Serbia.

Chinese medical teams have also trained local practitioners based on each trainee's aptitude, cultivating local medical talents for the community. With concrete actions, they tell Chinese stories to the international society and forge a closer people-to-people bond between China and other countries.

In the 1970s, Mei Gengnian, the leader of China's first medical team to aid Ethiopia, sacrificed his life in the country when practicing medical service to local people and was buried in a local

village. His tomb has been "guarded" for decades by local resident Zewdie Haile and his family for generations, which has become a warmhearted tale spreading throughout the village.

The Chinese people love peace and cherish lives, which is illustrated by their efforts in international medical assistance.

After the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, China sent more than 1,200 medical workers to treat over 800 patients and provided public health training for more than 12,000 people.

After the outbreak of COVID-19 globally, China has shared pandemic prevention and treatment plans with 180 countries and over 10 international and

regional organizations and held video conferences on pandemic response exchanges with over 160 countries and international organizations. It has also sent 38 expert teams to 34 countries, and offered anti-pandemic materials to more than 150 countries and 15 international organizations.

Besides, China has also sent short-term medical specialist teams overseas for particular diseases to safeguard the health of people in developing countries. Whether in regular health services or in response to major public health emergencies, China has always been an active provider of assistance, which fully showcases the country's major-country responsibility. **People's Daily**

Quake fears boosts demand for tiny houses, caravans in Türkiye

ANKARA

IN the wake of devastating earthquakes in February, the demand for tiny houses and caravans surged in Türkiye as citizens seek safer accommodations in the earthquake-prone country.

The two massive earthquakes on Feb. 6 claimed over 50,000 lives in southern Türkiye, toppling tens of thousands of buildings and leaving millions of people homeless.

Amid quake fear, many citizens living in seismically active zones, who do not feel safe in their current houses but have a limited budget to settle in a new apartment, are turning to alternatives – tiny houses and caravans, according to industry veterans.

"Following the earthquake there's been an explosion in demand for tiny houses," Galip Olmez, CEO of Yako Groups, Türkiye's biggest company producing tiny houses, told Xinhua.

"Whenever there is a crisis, there is a soaring interest for tiny houses in Türkiye," just like it was during the COVID-19 pandemic, Olmez said.

Tiny houses, some of which are on wheels and can be towed around anywhere, are priced between 20,000

and 30,000 U.S. dollars with their sizes ranging from 15 to 40 square meters.

In Olmez's view, it would be much more time and cost-efficient to establish tiny house villages in seismically active zones rather than engage in huge social housing projects.

He stressed that Turks used to live in rural communities but found themselves squeezed into big cities over time. Olmez said his company aimed to motivate citizens to reside in safe and practical tiny houses and form modern rural communities.

There is a 10-fold increase in demand since the earthquakes, particularly in earthquake-prone cities such as Istanbul and Izmir, reported local media citing Cem Demirer, the founder of another tiny house manufacturer.

Istanbul, with its 16 million inhabitants, lies close to the North Anatolian Fault Zones, and the deadly tremors in February have revived the worries of a powerful earthquake that experts have long been raising alarms about. Sinan Sefik and his wife Zerin, both retired teachers, are currently weighing their options to purchase a caravan in Izmir,



An employee works on a caravan at a factory in Ankara, Türkiye, on April 19, 2023. In the wake of devastating earthquakes in February, the demand for tiny houses and caravans surged in Türkiye as citizens seek safer accommodations in the earthquake-prone country. (Photo by Mustafa Kaya/Xinhua)

Türkiye's third largest city located on the western Aegean coast.

Sefik told Xinhua that the massive quakes have prompted him and his

wife to take action as Izmir also lies close to active seismic faultlines.

"The quakes were a wake-up call for us, we were already considering

moving to a caravan or a tiny house, but now we are quite determined," the pensioner said.

Xinhua

Indian court rejects defamation conviction stay for Gandhi

AHMEDABAD

A COURT in India's western state of Gujarat yesterday rejected Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's petition seeking a stay of conviction in a defamation case, fueling uncertainty over whether he will be able to contest an election due next year.

Gandhi was convicted last month in a case brought by a state lawmaker from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after comments he made that were deemed to be insulting to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other people surnamed Modi.

"The Surat district court has not granted a stay on Rahul Gandhi's conviction," Naishadh Desai, a Congress leader and lawyer, told reporters.

"We are going to challenge the decision in Gujarat High



India's opposition Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi arrives at a court in Surat, India on March 23, 2023. A court in India's western state of Gujarat yesterday rejected Gandhi's petition seeking a stay of conviction in a defamation case. (PHOTO / AP)

Court tomorrow. We have full faith that the judiciary will uphold justice and save the democracy," he said.

While Thursday's ruling was a setback for Gandhi, his jail sentence remained suspended until he exhausts all his legal challenges to the conviction.

Gandhi, 52, lost his parliament seat in March after being convicted and sentenced to two years in jail for comments made during an election campaign rally in 2019.

The law that governs elections in India mandates disqualification of any lawmaker who is "convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years".

Agencies

West has no intention of forgiving Ukraine's debts – former prime minister

MOSCOW

UKRAINE'S national debt is in the stratosphere, and at some point, Western states will demand that Kiev return the money now allocated to support it, says Ukrainian ex-Prime Minister (2010-2014) Nikolay Azarov.

"The West has no intention of forgiving the debts of the Kiev regime. In one year, Ukraine's external debt has reached a record-high \$132 billion. [...] In absolute figures, by the end of the year, the total state debt may reach a record-high \$173 billion (compare that to the current \$132 billion).

And, although some Western aid comes in the form of grants, the bulk of the money from the US, the EU, other countries and organizations - are loans. And they will have to be paid off eventually!" Azarov (pictured) said on social media.

He noted that Ukraine's total debt in relation to its GDP increased from 64.6% to 89% in 2022, and, by the end of this year, it will exceed 100%, meaning "the state will owe more than the entire volume of all goods and services it produces." According to Azarov, Ukraine has never owed so much.

The former prime minister believes that the situation with Ukraine's budget revenues is un-

likely to improve this year, so the debt will only keep growing.

"Currently, the Ukrainian budget is formed based on Western aid, which makes it possible to calculate the debt as 120% of GDP, but, if we look at our revenue alone, then the debt will stand at 300%.

Yes, the creditors have given Ukraine a grace period until 2027, but a delay does not mean that the debt can be ignored," Azarov underscored.

Ukraine's budget for this year has a record-high deficit of \$38 billion. Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky expressed his hope that the West will help Kiev cover the budget deficit.

In April, the European Commission announced that Kiev notified G7 countries that, thanks to financial aid from the International Monetary Fund and the EU, the budget deficit for this year has been covered.

According to the Verkhovna Rada financial committee, this year's budget will see an increase in the state debt limit to \$172.7 billion, or 102.3% of Ukraine's predicted GDP in 2023.

Agencies



China-Europe freight train service continues making new progress

CHINA-EUROPE freight trains made 4,186 trips and transported 449,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of goods in the first quarter this year, up 15 percent and 28 percent year on year, respectively, according to statistics released by China State Railway Group Co., Ltd., or China Railway, on April 10.

In particular, 1,488 trips were made and 162,000 TEUs were transported in March alone, growing 31 percent and 52 percent respectively from a year ago. It marked the 35th straight month since May 2020 that China-Europe freight train trips exceeded 1,000.

On the morning of March 24, a freight train loaded with automobile parts and other cargo departed from Wuhan, central China's Hubei province. It was the first China-Europe freight train heading for Zhodzina, Belarus from the Chinese city, and the third new route for the cargo service opened in Wuhan this year.

So far, the transportation channel in the central Chinese city has 44 stable cross-border routes involving 109 cities in 40 countries on the Eurasian continent.

Since this year, a number of Chinese cities have launched new routes or stations for the China-Europe freight train service, including Beijing, north China's Tianjin municipality, Anyang of central China's Henan province and Zhongshan of south China's Guangdong province. The cargo service has constantly expanded its transportation network with increasing channels.

Besides, upgraded services also enriched the sources of cargo and clients for China-Europe freight trains. In particular, the seamless connection between the land-based "Silk Road Economic Belt" and the oceangoing "21st-century Maritime Silk Road" has opened up new prospects for rail-sea intermodal train services.

Recently, a cargo vessel from the Port of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam arrived at the Haitian Container Terminal at Xiamen Port, southeast China's Fujian province. After fast transit formalities, cargo on the vessel was soon transferred to a China-Europe freight train bound for Almaty, Kazakhstan.

According to an employee of the China Railway Nanchang Group in east China's Jiangxi province, the rail-sea intermodal train services could shorten the cargo transportation to only 20 days, which is 45 days less time than whole sea transportation. It has become the best logistics route between Southeast Asia and Central Asia, the employee added.

In the future, Xiamen's China-Europe freight train service will promote cross-border LCL (Less than Container Load) business, selecting the fastest shipping schedule to gather bulk cargo from South Korea, Japan and Southeast Asian countries to Xiamen, and then transfer them to Europe through railway, the employee said.

The constant upgrading of infrastructure and relevant ser-



A fully-loaded China-Europe freight train departs from Yiwu, east China's Zhejiang province, for the capital of Spain, March 9, 2023. (Photo by Lyu Bin/People's Daily Online)

vices has significantly improved the efficiency of China-Europe freight trains.

Xi'an International Port in northwest China's Shaanxi province, a departure station and return destination of China-Europe freight trains in Xi'an, has expanded its handling capacity by 30 percent after three rounds of upgrading.

The China Railway Beijing Group has opened two cargo routes in a China-Europe freight train base in Shijiazhuang, north China's Hebei province, which improves loading capacity by 50 percent.

In Wuhan, the customs department and the railway department are sharing logistics data of the China-Europe freight train service, which reduces the time for customs clearance by one to two days.

Today, the types of cargo transported by China-Europe freight trains have been significantly expanded, including automobiles, wood, furniture, chemical products, machinery, fertilizers and others.

On the morning of April, 8, a China-Europe freight train carrying new energy vehicles (NEVs) departed from south-

west China's Chongqing municipality. These vehicles were expected to head for Duisburg, Germany via Alashankou Port in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

Thanks to the prospering development of the NEV sector in China, the type of vehicles are driving the cargo volume of China-Europe freight trains. "China-Europe freight trains have become a new choice for Chinese automakers like Geely and BYD to export their products," said an employee of the Xi'an International Port, which has launched a service for whole-vehicle exports.

According to the China Railway Zhengzhou Group in Henan province, the group has launched customized reinforcement plans for different vehicle models during shipping. Each container is able to carry up to four vehicles at most, which has largely reduced the logistics cost for auto exporters.

The continuous recovery of China's macro economy has helped many cities set new records in the China-Europe freight train service. *People's Daily*

Beijing: World does not need 'G1'

THE world does not need a "Group of One" dictating to the rest of it, Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin warned on Wednesday in denouncing a G7 statement that grossly interfered with China's internal affairs.

Speaking at a regular news conference in Beijing, Wang (pictured) added that it is dangerous to seek the so-called "solidarity" of a few at the cost of a divided world.

On the same day, Liu Jingsong, director of the ministry's Department of Asian Affairs, met with Koizumi Tsutomu, chief minister of the Japanese embassy in China, to make stern representations with the Japanese side.

Liu expressed serious concerns and strong dissatisfaction over negative moves concerning China during the G7 foreign ministers' meeting, which concluded on Tuesday in Japan.

Wang said, "If the G7 is really opposed to hegemonism and coercion, then it should reflect on itself and make sure that invasions similar to those in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria will never happen again."

The bloc should also reject long-arm jurisdiction and unilateral sanctions and say no to any policy that puts a certain country first at the expense of others, he said. Wang noted that the world today does not need a "G1" that lets a certain country give all the orders nor does it need a so-called "alliance of shared values".

"There is only one order and one system in the world. That is, the international order based on international law and the international system with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter at its core," Wang said.

Wang said that in today's world, it is more important that countries respect each other despite their differences in ideology, values and development level, and they should cooperate to build a global community with a shared future for mankind.

The spokesman also noted that the real status quo of the Taiwan question is that both sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to one and the same China. "Taiwan is part of China and China's sovereignty and territorial integrity has never been split," he said.

Wang said that some countries claim that



they follow the one-China policy, but in the meantime refer to the Chinese side's efforts to oppose "Taiwan independence" separatist activities as changing the status quo.

"Such an act encourages the provocations of 'Taiwan independence' separatists and hinders China's reunification and creates a peaceful secession, which completely deviates from the one-China principle," he said. *Xinhua*



There is only one order and one system in the world. That is, the international order based on international law and the international system with the purposes and principles

Xinhua

South Sudan, UNDP launch 10 mln USD project to boost climate change resilience

NAIROBI

SOUTH Sudan's Ministry of Environment and Forestry in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Wednesday launched a project worth 10 million U.S. dollars to boost climate change resilience and adaptation in two states.

The five-year project, funded by the Global Environment Facility, will benefit the pastoral communities in Terekeka County of Central Equatoria State, and Kapoeta North County of Eastern Equatoria State, which have been severely affected by climate change over the years. Terekeka is impacted by seasonal flooding, erratic rainfall, and frequent dry spells while Kapoeta is directly affected by drought events and flash floods.

Josephine Napwon, minister of Environment and Forestry, said floods and drought caused by climate change have displaced more than 2 million people in the country since 2019.

"The climate crisis is worsening in our country, and over 2 million people are internally displaced due to flooding and drought, excessive heat, heat waves, and rain patterns have resulted in crop failure," Napwon said during a two-day climate change validation workshop held in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

UNDP Resident Representative in South Sudan Samuel Doe said the project will see a multi-hazard early warning system equipped with five manual and three automatic stations established. He said they will collaborate with the leading University of Juba to establish the Center for Climate Change Studies within the School of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies. "The purpose of this is to develop a research-based curriculum for a master's program in climate change to build the next generation of experts who will engage in finding solutions to challenges caused by climate change," Doe said.

Moro Isaac Genesio, Central Equatoria State minister of local government and law enforcement, said the project will help Terekeka County to have access to clean drinking water.

"Terekeka County is one of the beneficiaries in Central Equatoria state, especially on the aspect of access to water, capacity development, and many other valuable micro-projects that are going to be directly implemented in Terekeka," Denesio said.

Xinhua

SPORT



A doctor Khadija Hamis (R), sanctioned by Tanzania Professional Boxing Regulatory Commission (TPBRC), conducts a medical check on a boxer, Ali Ngwando, in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Ngwando is one of the pugilists set to take part in fights, dubbed 'Mfalme katika Ufalme', slated to take place in Morogoro this weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

TAHA: Junior teams will excel in Africa-Zone V Handball Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadonga

THE Tanzania Handball Association (TAHA) leadership has said it is confident that national junior teams will clinch medals in this season's International Handball Federation (IHF)-sanctioned Africa-Zone V Championships slated for the end of this month in Dar es Salaam.

Michael Chibwala, TAHA president, said in a recent interview the national junior sides' players who are camping in the city are all ready for the championships.

The seven-day showdown will start at National Indoor Stadium on Monday and climax on Sunday. Chibwala said morale in the camp is high and, currently, the technical staff is preparing the players to be ready physically and psychologically.

"You know age group tournaments, especially the youths category, are always very tough as they want to showcase and prove a point by winning but our coaches are planning and preparing our players well," the TAHA boss noted.

"I'm sure many medals will remain home as that is the only way to show our appreciation to the government's support to sports in the country and handball in particular," he said.

The country will be represented by 39 players now camping in Temeke District. Female players forming the sides come from Zanzibar and Mainland Tanzania and were selected in the last year's National Inter-Secondary Schools Games (Umisseta) and National Inter-Primary Schools Games (Umitashumta).

They have been divided into two teams made up of 19 players and 20 players each and they will be under head coach, Kombo Ally Kombo, assisted by Phillippo Makumbi, Daudi Martin, and Moshi Ally while Grolia Mtui is the teams' matron.

The players are Gloria Chiwaliya, Angela Mahwata, Maimuna Mnyamuke, Agnes Mhawe, Irene Ndawa, Mary Elikana, Animal Mgbwene, Prisca Maige, Rehema Seme, and Frola Kahawa.

Others are Sweatheart Okeyo, Juliana Kapinga, Fatuma Burushafi, Maria Chalema, Augenia Haule, Ashura Mushi, Shemsha Juma, Jokha Salum, and Khajira Juma.

The other squad is made up of Halima Khatibu, Thumaiya Hassanm, Blandina Amos, Umukuruthum Hassan, Zulfia Hajji Kheri, Fatma Ame, Khadija Selemani, Sada Maulid, Leyla Abdallah, and Sada Yusuph.

Subira Haji, Asha Hassan, Wahida Makame, Halima Kombo, Suhaila Ali, and Mwanakheri Issa are the other players.

The championships have attracted national junior handball teams from Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and the host Tanzania.

Officials sanctioned by IHF and African Handball Confederation (CAHB), Peter Kovacs from Hungary and Zambian Victor Banda, appointed to oversee the championships, are expected in the country on Monday.

The championships will be held alongside coaches and umpires course targeted to facilitate Tanzania's quest for having many qualified coaches and umpires.

The course's instructors, George Asimeto from Kenya and Coulibaly Nanga from Algeria will train coaches and umpires respectively.

Officials for the championships are Antonio Escurinho and Gomes Elvio from Angola, Ghol Maheddine and Chergui Oussama from Algeria, and Togo nationals Aduay Sentowu and Aduay Tonkomabu.

Egyptians Mustapha Hossein and Kedis Mostafa, and Tunisians Haggui Sahara and Haggui Roua are the other officials.

Mbeya City FC confident over realizing Premier League survival

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MBEYA City FC assistant coach Anthony Mwamlima has admitted that they need to get positive results and play the best football to boost their chances of maintaining their place in the NBC Premier League.

The Mbeya-based squad had an impressive start in this season's Premier League, apart from booking a place in the quarterfinals of this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC), which is the first time in the outfit's history.

However, the outfit is lately experiencing unsatisfactory results and the situation has made the club's fans and football stakeholders in Mbeya fear that it will be relegated due to the poor results.

Mbeya City FC, which has played the Mainland Premier League without being relegated since it was promoted in the 2013/14 season, is now sitting 13th in the top-flight standings after collecting 27 points with four fixtures remaining.

The squad has away fixtures against Kagera Sugar and Geita Gold FC and will thereafter host Yanga and Kinondoni Municipal Council FC and wait for its fate.

Mwamlima said that much as the current results have not been favourable, the situation has not weakened them.

The gaffer noted his outfit will keep on maintaining its place in Premier League next season by winning the remaining four matches.

He said that they can though not be overly confident of realizing the feat due to the current battle, noting that they continue to plan to ensure that they start with a win in the next match against Kagera Sugar, to be played today.

Mwamlima pointed out they will later play their hearts out when coming up against Geita Gold FC to ensure their squad returns home with six points.

The gaffer noted: "It is true that the results are not very good but, according to our calculations, we see good signs because we have planned we will not lose any points in the remaining games."

"We start with Kagera Sugar and the certainty of garnering three points is there, basically the fans should not be under pressure... the side will not be relegated if we all stick together," Mwamlima noted.

SPORTS

Youths calm after online pushed habits raised furore during Easter

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

THINGS might cool down a little on how youths relate to one another, though there is the scant suggestion that street bonding as well as virtual groups in apps like WhatsApp will change in character.

The situation is that this model of interaction and communication, tied with happy situations, especially in music platforms, is hard to obviate from in daily activities, as it is on the menu of what youths will be doing when they wake up in the morning, or at midday. The pattern is a network.

Why things might cool down arises from the intensity of being disturbed that is being heard from elders, especially clergy and a section of the public authorities.

Yet the concern expressed is not the same thing as hostility, and thus youth groups meet at night in various entertainment spots, the more visible among them being the miniskirt girls, either young women in street corners or selected concentrations with some darkness or distant street lighting.

Operations against them are half-hearted and that appears to be the model for those whose affinities are more troublesome.

Clerical platforms were seen to be especially active at the time of the expected arrival of United States Vice President Kamala Harris, and some quarters even started the rumour that the visitor will demand that unnatural affinities be legalized.

Nothing of the sort was on the table, the issue was not touched one way or another by a long shot, and thus youths did not feel any shift in the way things are, as the visitor left.

Preaching and sermons during Quaresma and Ramadan were replete with cautions.

A sister newspaper in this group set things rolling two months or so earlier with a report on school books that teach children same-sex relationships.

Authorities in the concerned ministry caught napping, looked into the issue, and rounded up copies of offending books, putting under stern warning school operators engaged in that malpractice.

At an interactive event of clerics and activists ahead of the arrival of VP Harris, an activist asserted that they were now putting online children's cartoons largely to the same effect, and some other subtle



Waluguru Original Band's musicians entertain revelers during the troupe's recent show that took place in Morogoro. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

ways could be seen, with a sobbing woman (on foreign television), and two women, embracing, sympathize.

While these heady exchanges were taking place in adult platforms, especially between clerics and activists though politicians chipped in somewhat, youths were on an illustrative event as to what is happening in their ranks.

A Tanzanian musician Faustina Mfinanga, who is popularly known as 'Nandy', was marking the birthday of her husband, not as popular as herself among the public but equally noticeable for aficionados. The young lady who has a child the fellow musician decided to make it an example.

Pundits had a stomach's fill trying to figure out if the gesture was either deep love or mere style, not to say show off as such, but someone came up with a good reason for such a gesture, that for an endowed artist, it is inappropriate to stay with a car until it starts to look like you deserve.

For a commonplace listener, that means high-flung artists are in a position to change cars virtually like clothing, trying to get the point as to when one must change a car. At any point, but not five years!

Nandy was calling a bash to mark the hubby's big day, and as usual, the current age either of the husband or the wife was their secret, but what the fans were going to celebrate is handing over a brand new Range Rover which pundits were saying costs around 80m/-.

If this is tied to the original problem, someone who can give an 80m/- gift to a loved one, and this is part of a fashion of changing cars, surely can spend upwards of 1m/- per week entertaining friends.

Assuming that there are numerous entertainers, and other categories of service providers awash with this kind of money on a daily or weekly basis, getting groups of youths for fun is easy.

As their songs show, their ins and outs are least marked by fidelity or loyalty of the old school of dance, or as clerics and activists have been trying to insist, especially those taking the mikes due to the reminders of lawful

behaviour learned anew during the fasting month.

Whether they will remember later is another thing, as the needs of everyday life compel someone to choose a fruitful circle of friends, get away with some pocket money and enjoy that entertainment. It is a cycle of happiness.

As is usually the case in history, when new things come up they are first ignored, then as they spread to become more common or familiar, they are vehemently opposed, like the miniskirt in the past.

Finally, they become part of everyday life, even if with various sections of society they will still be kept out of sight, but society loses the energy to try and put an end to such behaviours.

For once, the simple reason is that the needs of a daily character push up the habit.

The miniskirt and its current resemblances are all part of trying to adapt to unemployment and poor prospects of marriage tied to the same, to try and live happily all the same.

Dar virtual artists win praise

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadonga

MEMBERS of the Germany-based arts group, Asante Sanaa organization, who recently visited Tanzania, have praised local virtual artists for their creativity and uniqueness.

Five members of the group that was in the country for three weeks had, among others, visited some tourist attractions and conducted several workshops with virtual artists in Zanzibar and Mainland Tanzania.

They are Frida Schymura, Mirjam Bernath, Anna Bergmoser, Sakob Neugebauer, and Jan Schultheis.

Anna, who spoke on behalf of her fellows, said the Asante Sanaa organization started in 2020 as a university students' group to help Tanzania's virtual artists.

She said they started with 20 virtual artists but now there are 45 members of the fraternity and they have a good network with other artists in Kenya.

She said the idea of helping Tanzania's virtual artists was hatched by one of their friends who visited the country and was amazed by creative pieces sold by local artists.

"In 2020 one of our friends was here in Tanzania and explained to us how creative Tanzania's virtual artists are, she told us that it is not just Tanzania's artists are creative but also conceptual, she said most of the customers of the pieces are foreign tourist," she noted.

"But the Coronavirus pandemic is affecting them, we agreed

that although Germany is also affected by the Coronavirus pandemic, we can do something to help them earn a living and at the same time expand their base," she said.

She said its other mission is fighting injustice, promoting good livelihood, and fostering intercultural exchange through arts.

"We sell virtual artistic works at art galleries, shops, hotels, cafes, and we also have an online shop, selling Tanzania virtual artworks in Germany also helps to build a cultural bridge between the two countries," she explains.

She went on to disclose that to widen their base and attract all generations, pieces of works of virtual artists are reprinted on clothes like T-shirts, hoods, and burlap bags and are sold in Germany.

"The original and unique paintings of the artists inside are sold in Germany, they have created a fashion brand around the art which diversifies the income of artists and contributes to the sustainable fashion consumption, it shows the beauty of East Africa paintings," she explained.

The member said plans are underway to open shops in Germany and expand to other parts of Europe, noting this will benefit many African virtual artists.

"On top of creating cultural understanding and give the artist an international stage on which they express themselves," Anna stated.

"We also believe that we will connect many African artists with their friends in Germany and Europe in general," she said.



Members of the Germany-based arts group, Asante Sanaa organization, who visited Tanzania recently, pose for a photo with a Tanzanian virtual artist after the former's tour. The group, which promotes artworks created by Tanzania's virtual artists and their counterparts in East Africa, had visited some tourist attractions and conducted several workshops with virtual artists in Zanzibar and Mainland Tanzania. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Inter set up all-Italian Champions League semi with AC Milan

MILAN INTER Milan set up a blockbuster derby in the Champions League semi-finals on Wednesday after a 3-3 draw with Benfica saw the Italians through 5-3 on aggregate.

Simone Inzaghi's side will face local rivals AC Milan in the last four thanks to goals from Nicolo Barella, Lautaro Martinez and Joaquin Correa which ensured straight-forward qualification.

Both Milan giants are trying to become the first Serie A side to win Europe's top club competition since Inter last lifted the trophy in 2010.

"It was a big night for everyone at the club, and we deserved to go through over the course of the two legs," said Inzaghi.

"The players were incredible over the two matches. Getting to the semi-finals is a dream and now that we're here we want to go try and go all the way."

Inter had come into Wednesday's clash in a miserable run of form in which their only win in their last eight games had come in last week's first leg in Portugal.

The win set up two mouth-watering clashes with Milan next month after the Italian champions saw off Napoli on Tuesday night.

It also snapped a three-match home losing streak in which Inter hadn't scored a single goal and continued their impressive season in cup competitions while their league campaign flounders.

Martinez and Correa ended worrying goalscoring droughts with their strikes, as well as making sure that Fredrik Aursnes, Antonio Silva and Petar Musa netting for the away side made no difference to the outcome of the tie.

"We're really happy, we're really proud to represent the badge and this great club," said Martinez.

"We knew that this (going through) meant playing a derby in the semi-finals of the Champions League. I play this sport to win everything possible, I'm really happy to be in the semi-finals, this club deserves to be there."

Silva and Musa netted late on for Roger Schmidt's team when Inter had already long made sure that they would be tussling Milan for a place in the June 10 final in

Istanbul.

- Flares thrown -

If there were any pre-match nerves among the sell-out San Siro crowd they were soon eased as Inter immediately played like the team in two cup semi-finals rather than the one which has lost 11 times in Serie A.

They could have been ahead as early as the sixth minute when Lautaro wasted a great counter-attack by playing a poor pass to Federico Dimarco who was haring into the box.

However Martinez redeemed himself for the opener, snaffling up possession after Edin Dzeko battled with the Benfica defence and exchanging passes with Barella who unleashed a perfectly placed curler with his left.

However a defensive lapse allowed Aursnes to pull Benfica on the night seven minutes before the break, the Norwegian midfielder left completely alone to power a header past Andre Onana.

Inzaghi said before the match that Inter would not simply defend but they sat back as Benfica pushed for an unlikely passage to the next round.

And with the home crowd enraged by Benfica fans throwing flares from the top-tier away end down onto home supporters, Martinez ensured Inter would go through in the 68th minute.

Dimarco was neatly found by Henrikh Mkhitaryan and the full-back put in a fizzing cross which Martinez expertly guided home to net his first goal since early March.

And a perfect night for Inter fans was completed with 12 minutes remaining when Correa shrugged off Nicolas Otamendi and curled in his first goal since early October.

Silva nodded home Alejandro Grimaldo's cross with four minutes remaining but the home crowd was already singing ribald songs about Milan fans.

And Musa's low finish deep in stoppage time, which Inzaghi later said they conceded because someone had blown a referee's whistle in the crowd, was nothing more than a second consolation for the defeated Portuguese.

AFP

Thiago Silva demands 'strategy' to fix Chelsea crisis

LONDON

THIAGO Silva has urged Chelsea to come up with a "strategy" to prevent the club's slump stretching into next season after Real Madrid ended their Champions League campaign.

The Blues' final hope of salvaging a disastrous season was snuffed out on Tuesday as the Spanish side wrapped up an emphatic 4-0 aggregate win in the Champions League quarter-finals.

Brazil defender Silva admitted the season had been tough for the club and said Chelsea's bloated squad ensured there were always unhappy players.

Chelsea have spent more than £500 million (\$620 million) on transfers since a consortium led by Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital Group bought the London club from Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich last year.

Frank Lampard, the current caretaker boss, is their fourth manager this term following the sackings of Thomas Tuchel and Graham Potter and one game under interim coach Bruno Salto.

Lampard has lost four successive matches since returning on a temporary basis, with his side scoring just once in that period.

Chelsea are languishing in 11th place in the Premier League table -- 17 points adrift of the top four

-- with seven games to go and are unlikely to qualify for European competition.

Silva, speaking after Tuesday's 2-0 home defeat to champions Real in the second leg of their quarter-final, said it was important to assess what had gone wrong rather than apportioning blame.

"It is not enough to look at the coach, say 'it's this person's fault, it's that person's fault' if we don't assume our responsibilities," he said.

He added: "We have to stop and have a strategy to not repeat the same mistakes next year."

Silva, 38, said the club had been forced to increase the size of the changing room to accommodate their huge squad, with eight new signings in January alone.

"I think it is a difficult time for the club, with a lack of definition at the beginning, a change in owner, many players arriving -- they even had to increase the size of the dressing room because there was not enough room for all the players," he said.

"A positive point is that there are great players in the team but a negative point is that someone is going to get upset, because not everyone can play and the coach has to pick 11 players and there are 30-something."

AFP

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We have to stop and have a strategy to not repeat the same mistakes next year

Man City's new steel can help purge past European traumas

BY Oliver Brown

THERE is no greater imperative for Manchester City this season than to purge their past traumas in Europe. You felt it in the snarl they brought to this brawl in Bayern Munich's bunker, with their fans so high up in the stands as to be almost above the cloud line. Ilkay Gundogan might be miniature in stature next to Joshua Kimmich, but he still shoved the home captain in the chest just to make his presence felt. His was one of four bookings for City, whose latest audition to be champions of Europe combined their usual tactical nous with a new-found pugnacious streak.

It was all too much for Thomas Tuchel. The Bayern manager had already worked himself into a theatrical frenzy at what he saw as lenient refereeing of City's tackling, making a mocking 'use your eyes' gesture towards the fourth official at half-time. When Aymeric Laporte rugby-tackled Kingsley Coman in the closing stages he could stand it no longer, erupting with such splenic rage that he was sent to the stands. This is the effect that City exert even on a club that has won the Bundesliga 10 years in a row. They have become so maddening to play against, they can drive the most dominant opponents to distraction.

Jack Grealish fell flat on his back at the final whistle, exhausted by the scrap. It had been far from the prettiest exhibition by these City sophisticates, but it was among the most professional, a sign of their maturing in this competition of endless jeopardy. This was light years removed from their previous stumbles at this stage, a healing of the scar tissue that had formed after agonising last-eight exits against Lyon and Tottenham. But there is at least one more Rubicon left to cross, the first a reunion with Real Madrid in the semi-finals in three weeks' time.

Of all Guardiola's gripes since last lifting the Champions League



Erling Haaland has scored 12 Champions League goals for City. No player has ever scored more for an English club in a season. (Agencies)

trophy in 2011, it was City's last-gasp collapse against Real a year ago that grieved him most. Everything suggested they were poised for a second straight final, until Rodrygo's two last-gasp goals gave him cause to fear he was cursed in this tournament. The recovery has been remarkable. The calmness with which they quelled Bayern's first-half bombardment here spoke of a team who have learned how to negotiate the moments with the highest stakes.

Guardiola congratulated himself briefly on reaching a third consecutive semi-final. But then he remembered how faintly absurd this sounded in the context of City preparing to confront true European royalty, the 14-time champions.

It was tempting to characterise City versus Real last year as a case of the aristocrats versus the arrivistes, but realities have changed. City are proving to everyone that they are setting a daunting standard, with even Tuchel heralding them as the "benchmark" in Europe. A Treble, 24 years after Manchester United became the first club in English foot-

ball to accomplish it, remains firmly within reach.

It seems strange to recall how Guardiola, exasperated by his players' sketchy defending, claimed as recently as January that City were "far" from their highest level. Now they are arguably reaching beyond, striving to match their irresistible attacking play with greater defensive steel. This target was achieved at Bayern, with John Stones and Manuel Akanji soaking up much of the threat, even if they left Coman too much space at times. They never allowed Bayern, so formidable when their 75,000 supporters are in fullest voice, to entertain the idea that they could turn this tie around.

Still Guardiola, perfectionist to a fault, was not fully satisfied, explaining how City's passing in the middle third was not sufficiently sequential for his liking. Such is his importance to this seemingly unstoppable super-club.

As Chelsea have shown of late, you can sweep up as much eye-wateringly expensive talent as you like, but none of it amounts to much

if you lack the leader to join the disparate elements together. Guardiola earns over £20 million a year, but from City's perspective, his is a wisdom that no money can buy. Even after engineering this 4-1 aggregate win over his old club Bayern, a statement result if ever there was one, he was still frantically working out how to perfect the template.

A standard approaching perfection will be required if City are to vanquish Real. The temptation to anoint them favourites should be resisted, given the opposition's pedigree. But the intelligence with which they navigated a tricky path in Bavaria should send an ominous message. They have long had the heavy artillery to pick off Europe's best, but now they have the system, the experience to eliminate previous errors. Plus, they have Erling Haaland, who has never looked more lethal. City had little need for any super-strength German beers as they headed out into the Munich night. For Guardiola is producing the most intoxicating brew of all.

THE TELEGRAPH

Bayern's Tuchel gamble laid bare after Champions League exit

LONDON

BAYERN Munich's Champions League exit on Wednesday has turned the focus on the club's hierarchy and their surprise decision to sack former manager Julian Nagelsmann.

The six-time winners drew 1-1 at home against Manchester City but went out 4-1 on aggregate in the quarter-finals, after a 3-0 first leg demolition in Manchester.

Nagelsmann was sacked in late March with the club still in the mix for a treble.

In six matches under Tuchel, Bayern have won two, drawn two and lost two, being eliminated from both the German Cup and the Champions League.

But while Tuchel is likely to be spared much of the criticism due to the little time he has had in the job so far, the focus has been laid squarely on club leadership.

Chief executive Oliver Kahn and sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic have come under fire from fans, not only for firing Nagelsmann, but the direction of the club as a whole since taking over from Bayern figure-heads Uli Hoeness and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

Even if Bayern win a record 11th straight Bundesliga title this season, the club's hierarchy is still facing its first true test.

- Eight from eight -

With resources that dwarf every other German club, domestic superiority appears secure for Bayern -- even if they only currently have a two-point Bundesliga lead over Dortmund -- placing more weight on Champions League glory.

Given the importance the tournament carries in Munich, the decision to sack Nagelsmann is even more perplexing.

He had won eight from eight, twice dispatching Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain and semi-final-

ists Inter Milan, without conceding as much as one goal.

Despite all the talk of the club's stuttering performance under Nagelsmann, Bayern only lost three of 37 matches in all competitions this season.

Bayern put significant faith in Nagelsmann, paying upwards of 25 million euros to release him from his RB Leipzig contract, the highest transfer fee for a manager, before signing him to a five-year deal.

Salihamidzic, the architect of the Nagelsmann deal, said the new manager would be a "long-term project" in the vein of club legends Ottmar Hitzfeld and Jupp Heynckes.

Just days after a 2-1 loss to Bayer Leverkusen left Bayern second, one point behind Dortmund, club management pulled the trigger and Nagelsmann was out.

The club bosses had sought to recreate the treble-winning season of 2019-20, where caretaker manager Hansi Flick was appointed mid-season for the fired Niko Kovac, with Bayern going on to claim every trophy on offer.

Management even referenced Tuchel taking Chelsea to a Champions League title after being installed mid-season.

- 'Question management policy' -

In the lead-up to Wednesday's match, Kahn told Bild "of course, we imagined it a little differently", discussing the team's German Cup exit, Bundesliga form and likely Champions League elimination since the Nagelsmann decision.

Besides Nagelsmann's sacking, recruitment decisions have come under fire, particularly the failure to properly replace star striker Robert Lewandowski.

Summer arrival Sadio Mane, 31, brought in to much fanfare, has failed to hit his Liverpool heights and has

not scored for Bayern since October.

Across both legs against Manchester City, Bayern could only manage one goal - a penalty from captain Joshua Kimmich on Wednesday.

Besides Kimmich, defenders Dayot Upamecano, Benjamin Pavard and Matthijs de Ligt have been the only players to get on the scoresheet in Bayern's past five matches.

A banner unfurled by Bayern fans at the end of Wednesday's game read: "Goals can be missed, but values of the club may not: question management policy."

Tuchel addressed the banner after Wednesday's match, saying: "I can promise the fans that we are taking good care of the club."

Meanwhile, Bayern Munich coach Thomas Tuchel insisted on Wednesday there was "no difference in class" between his side and Manchester City despite the English club's comfortable victory in their Champions League quarter-final tie.

Pep Guardiola's City eased into the semi-finals with a 4-1 aggregate success, following up last week's 3-0 first-leg win with a 1-1 draw at the Allianz Arena.

"There's no difference in class. It looks like that from the results, but it's actually a difference in self-confidence and in form," Tuchel said.

"For the little we allowed (City) to do, we were brutally punished."

Tuchel took over from the sacked Julian Nagelsmann as Bayern boss earlier this month, despite the Bavarians boasting a perfect record in this season's Champions League.

"We played against the best team in Europe today, the most in-form team in Europe," the former Borussia Dortmund and Chelsea coach said.

"We played completely on the same level, (but) in either game we didn't have even a tiny bit of luck."

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

**Man City's new steel can help
purge past European traumas**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Tanzania's women's cricket team opener, Saum Godfrey, takes a shot during the squad's clash against Kenya women's cricket team in this season's Victoria Women's Twenty20 International Series in Uganda yesterday. Tanzania's women's cricket team commanded a 101-run victory over Kenya's women's cricket team. PHOTO: COURTESY OF UGANDA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Dar women's cricket squad prolongs winning run in 2023 Victoria Series

By Guardian Reporter

FATUMA Omari blasted 37 runs as Tanzania women's cricket team prolonged its winning run in the 2023 Victoria Women's Twenty20 International Series with a crushing 101-run win over Kenya at Lugogo Cricket Oval in Kampala yesterday.

It was the second win in a row for Tanzania's women's cricket team in the series, as the squad commanded a seven-wicket victory over the United Arab Emirates in the opening fixture on Wednesday.

In yesterday's clash, Kenya won the toss and elected to field, a decision the squad would probably regret given it could not prevent the opponent from making the most of the chance to lay hands on the bat.

Tanzania women's cricket team took the crease and went on to notch 146 runs for the loss of four wickets in the match which was reduced to 17 overs because of rains.

The experienced Fatuma made members of Kenya women's cricket team bowling unit pay for their mistakes, as the skipper efficiently notched her 37 runs from 33 balls.

Two other top-order batters, Perice Zakayo, and Saum Godfrey, saw to it that Tanzania women's cricket squad completes the innings with a better score, having also ended with impressive two-digit figures.

Perice ended her batting stint with an 18-ball 34, Saum maintained her stellar batting performance as she scored 35 runs.

In the opening match against the United Arab Emirates, Saum was the most impressive at the crease for Tanzania's senior women's cricket team, given the opener made her way back with 40 runs.

Even though Kenya women's cricket team's Flavia Odhiambo had a four-wicket haul whilst giving away 25 runs in four overs, she could hardly thwart efforts by Tanzania women's cricket team to put a challenging total to be chased by the former's team.

With Kenya's women's cricket team needing 147 runs to grab a victory, it happened to be an uphill task as the team was ultimately skittled for paltry 45 runs in 14.5 overs.

Two batters, Mercyline Ochieng and Marion Juma, were in the end the players that made their way back with a significant contribution at the crease for the squad. Mercyline chipped in with 12 runs from 27 balls and Marion posted 11 runs.

Perice led Tanzania women's cricket team bowling onslaught, as she posted 3-14 in four overs to complete an impressive all-round showing for the winning squad.

She was ably assisted by Sophia Frank that wrapped up her bowling stint with 2-6 in two overs and Agnes Qwele that chipped in with one wicket giving away four runs in two overs.

It was a third successive loss for Kenya's women's cricket team which has for that matter lost hope of clinching the trophy, managing to post an inferior net run rate of -3.196 so far.

Kenya women's cricket team, in the past two outings, lost to the United Arab Emirates and Rwanda.

The day also saw the host, Uganda women's cricket team, stretch its winning run after commanding a six-wicket victory over the United Arab Emirates.

Tanzania women's cricket team, as a result, leads this season's Victoria Women's Twenty20 International Series table with victory in two ties which has seen the cricketers notch the 3.265 net run rate.

Much Uganda women's cricket team has also commanded a win in two outings, the host is sitting second after settling for a 1.741 net run rate.

Third-placed Rwanda women's cricket team has notched a victory in one tie and a loss in the other to post a 0.290 net run rate.

The United Arab Emirates is occupying the fourth place with a -0.284 net run rate, having recorded one win and two losses.

In today's encounters, Uganda's women's cricket team will lock horns with Tanzania's women's cricket team in what is billed to be a thrilling top-of-the-table clash at the Lugogo Cricket Oval.

Hosting Zone Five Judo Championships a milestone in sports development - JATA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Judo Association of Tanzania (JATA) has described the country's hosting of Zone 5 Eastern Africa Judo Championships as a milestone in sports development.

The country will host the Zone 5 Eastern Africa Judo Championships in Dar es Salaam at the end of this month.

Innocent Mallya, JATA Secretary-General, said preparations for the championships are going on very well and so far Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Zanzibar, and the host Mainland Tanzania have all confirmed their participation in the championships.

"Preparations are going on very well, we want to make the hosting of these championships very memorable, you know hosting of the Zone Five Judo Championships is great and a milestone to sports development in the country," he said.

However, Mallya could not mention the venues that will host the championships, saying his association is inspecting them and the venues will be announced depending on the number of delegates to be presented by each of the participating nations.

The judo governing body recently revealed it needs 25m/- to host the regional championships. Mallya, however, disclosed that they have not received any financial support from the National Sports Council (NSC) and the corporate world.

He disclosed that the association's officials were set to meet the government this week.

The championships were scheduled for last month - April 22-26 - but were postponed to this month.

The postponement was a result of a request from member states, which said the decision will ensure they feature in last month's Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) Games held in Rwanda.

Tanzania will be represented by 15 judo players now undergoing intensive training at Ukonga Prison's venue in Dar es Salaam under head coach Omari Mgowo.

The judo players camping are Vincent Joseph, Ahmed Magogo, Bakari Ngapa, Abu Mcheteka, Thomas Mwenda, Oscar Ponsin, Raphael Daudi, and Andrew Thomas.

Others are Philemon Kabege, Lawrence Mpachi, Hamisi Mrutu, George Grant, Yohana Jiji, Adam Makoloma, and Asiyatu Juma, the only female player on the team.

The last year's Zone Five Championships, which were held in Uganda, witnessed Tanzania's judo players take third place, having garnered three gold medals, two silver medals, and three bronze medals.

Tanzania was represented by Joseph, Mwenda, Kabege, Daudi, Ngapa, Nyasha Emmanuel, Hagai Mwandambo, Gervas Chilipweli, Adam Mwakisoma, Andrew Mlungu, and Jeremiah Makeme.

Polisi Tanzania can hardly afford to slip up, hosts Ihefu SC



Polisi Tanzania's right-back, Datus Peter (L), challenges Geita Gold FC's left-back, Amos Kadikilo, when the clubs faced each other in a past Premier League clash in Geita. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GEITA GOLD FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE opening fixture of the weekend in 2022/23 NBC Premier League takes place this afternoon and sees relegation-threatened Polisi Tanzania meet Ihefu SC.

The game will be played at the Ushirika Stadium in Kilimanjaro. The hosts are currently positioned at the bottom of the table having recorded 19 points and the visitors are sitting seventh.

Polisi Tanzania head into this clash in poor form as a 3-0 defeat away to Singida Big Stars last time out in the league means that the Mwinyi Zahera-coached side is winless in the previous three matches in the Tanzanian top-flight.

Zahera's team remains at the bottom of the table with four games to go and needs maximum points against Ihefu SC to retain slim hopes of avoiding relegation.

With eight points separating the Kilimanjaro squad from safety

positions, the squad is aware only maximum points will leave them with a chance to stay up in the division.

The best they can hope for is to avoid automatic relegation to get a second chance in the playoffs.

They will rely on former Mtibwa Sugar striker, Kevin Sabato, for inspiration upfront in a campaign that has seen goal-scoring turn into one of their major issues.

Polisi Tanzania has scored only 19 goals in 26 games, and only second-bottom-placed Ruvu Shooting has managed less.

The law enforcers have struggled for home wins this season. They have claimed just 11 points from 13 home matches this season, and their last outing as hosts ended in defeat at the hands of Mbeya City FC.

Ihefu SC is safe from relegation with 33 points and with little else to play for other than aiming for their highest-ever finish in the league.

The Mbarali District-based side is five points ahead of 13th-placed Mbeya City FC in the promotion/relegation playoff spot.

The visitors are coming off a heartbreaking 2-0 loss to Simba SC at home last week.

Ihefu SC had kept Simba SC at bay before

the former somehow conceded twice in the final five minutes to lose the fixture.

Away form in the league shows Ihefu SC has won three of their last five games on the road including back-to-back victories against Dodoma Jiji FC and Tanzania Prisons in their latest outings.

Ihefu SC will look to attacker Yacouba Songne who clinched February's Best Player of the Month award, winger Rashid Juma, an attacker Obrey Chirwa for goals with Juma Nyosso and Lenny Kissu shielding the back.

Nelson Okwa and Victor Akpan, who are on loan from Simba SC, could be pulling the strings in Ihefu SC's midfield.

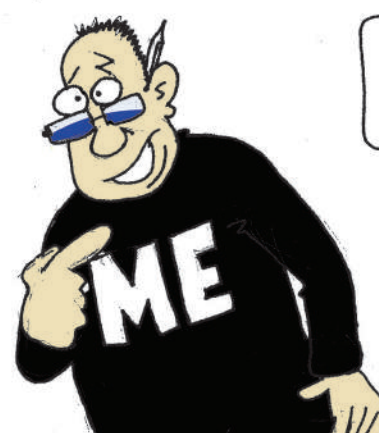
Ugandan international Nicholas Wadada and Zimbabwean midfielder Never Tigere are also in line to offer more experience to Zubeir Katwila's side.

In head-to-head stats, Polisi Tanzania and Ihefu SC have met in three league matches since the start of last season. Polisi Tanzania has claimed one win, with one game ending in a draw.

Their meeting earlier this season, in Mbarali in November 2022, saw the law enforcers claim a 2-1 away win for their first three-pointer in the rivalry.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

Do you want me to be...



POLITE OR HONEST?

EATV WEDNESDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 MJADALA (r)
13:30 Movie
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 Movie
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
16:00 Hot Spot
16:30 Zote Kuntu
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 UJENZI
21:30 Mid Week Movie
23:00 KURASA
23:05 Club Bangers

UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM