

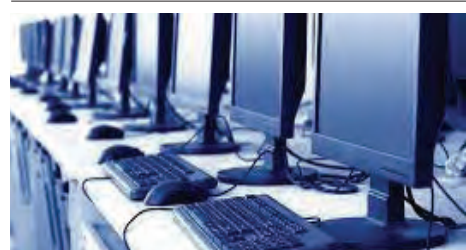


AGRICULTURE



GOVT ALLOTS 400,000 HECTARES OF LAND TO WHEAT CULTIVATION PG 2

EDUCATION



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Experts make case for Pan African payment and settlement system

CRDB, USAID, DFC provide 100bn/- in support of education, health, SMEs and informal sector

Muhimbili team separates conjoined twins

By Henry Mwangonde

MUHIMBILI National Hospital yesterday made history by successfully separating conjoined twins in a complex surgery lasting some seven hours.

A team of 31 experts took part in the procedure, which included separation of critical internal organs such as liver, heart sack, arteries and some chest bones which the twins shared.

MNH pediatric surgeon Dr Zaitun Bokhary said after the surgery that the team took time to separate the liver, apart from other shared organs.

"The main task and complexity was on the separation of the liver that was mostly being shared by the two, but also the heart sack, to make the surgery successful," she said.

The surgery started around 9am with radiologists, anaesthetists, haematologists, plastic surgeons and others involved.

Out of the 31 specialists, 26 are Tanzanians, making the operation a learning moment for doctors, the lead surgeon noted, elaborating that the team had a liver specialist "who has done a great job in separating the organ in collaboration with other specialists."

Prof Martin Corbally, a liver specialist from Bahrain, said the surgery was complex and it has been successful with the help of other specialists.



The main task and complexity was on the separation of the liver that was mostly being shared by the two, but also the heart sack, to make the surgery successful

The twins will now be in the Dar es Salaam-based referral medical facility's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for a couple of days while experts follow their progress, he stated, admitting that the surgery was complex as it demands an extensive understanding of the anatomy.

The anatomy inside can be distorted and not predictable, such that "things that you think will be in the same place are not in the same place, so the complexity was a shared liver and other sensitive organs inside," he stated.

MNH announced the surgery earlier this week on the twins from Mwabande village at Mwigwa Ward in Maswa



Surgical separation of nine-month-old conjoined twins Neema and Rehema from Mwabande village in Maswa District, Simiyu Region, in progress at Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The rare operation was conducted under a panel 31 specialists and lasted some seven hours. It was without incident. Photo courtesy of MNH

Ministry hires 1,600 hospital doctors, new nursing staff

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Health has recruited 1,605 new medical staff who are required to report in the next two weeks to be assigned to their working stations.

The large batch of recruits comprises doctors, pharmacists, pharmacologists, laboratory technicians, radiologists, optical technicians, nursing officers, practical therapists, physicians, environmental health officers and assistant health officers, the ministry said in a statement yesterday.

Prof Abel Makubi, the permanent secretary, said that some specialist vacancies that missed applicants "will be filled in accordance with the rules and regulations for employment in the public service." The new employees are required to report at the Mirembe College of Nursing and Midwifery in Dodoma within 14 days with their original qualifying certificates, cautioning that reporting without the required certificates will be detrimental to being enrolled.

They will mainly be assigned to newly established health facilities, along with zonal and regional hospitals, he said, citing Mtwara and Chato regional hospitals, Sekou Toure (Mwanza), Mawenzi (Kilimanjaro), Maweni (Kigoma), Mbeya regional hospital, Kibong'oto Infectious Diseases Hospital (Kilimanjaro) and Mirembe (Dodoma).

The jobs were announced back in April when the ministry obtained approval to hire 1,650 professionals of various cadres, with the

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Corporal's death fallout: Police bring 25 to court

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

A TOTAL of 25 residents of Ngorongoro District in Arusha Region yesterday appeared before resident magistrate Herieth Mhenga, in connection with the murder of policeman number G 4200, Corporal Garlus Mwita.

The suspects, including the ruling party chairman for Ngorongoro District, Ndirango Laizer and nine ward councillors were brought to the court under heavy security.

Reading the charges, state attorney Upendo Shemkole alleged that the suspects conducted the felony on June 10, causing the death of the

police officer.

Garlus was hit by an arrow shot by an unknown person while guarding over a land demarcation exercise in the Loliondo game reserve area.

Upendo Shemkole and Jeremia Mtobesya stood for the prosecution, while defence lawyers namely Jebra Kambole, Joseph ole Shangal,

Peter Madeleka, Denis Mosses, Ado-If Temba, William Ernest, Yonas Masiaya, Nicholous ole Senteu, Samaito Mollé, Julius Lukumay, Ngeeyan Laizer, Deogratias Njau and John Lairumbe are all listed to defend the 25 on the charge list.

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12 African states report 1,782 monkeypox cases

ADDIS ABABA

A TOTAL of 1,782 cases of monkeypox have so far been reported from Africa, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has disclosed. Ahmed Ogwell, acting director of Africa CDC, said yesterday that twelve countries reported outbreaks, with 1,678 being suspected cases out of the

1,782 cases of monkeypox reported in Africa, while 104 are confirmed cases. The cases have been reported in endemic and non-endemic countries to monkeypox, with Benin, Morocco and South Africa the non-endemic countries reporting confirmed cases of the disease. "Unfortunately, 73 deaths have been reported in the continent as a result of the monkeypox

outbreak, bringing the case fatality rate of the disease to 4.1 per cent of those infected," he said. Africa CDC is offering training to 20 health experts in Nigeria, drawn from different parts of the continent to help build the capacity for laboratory diagnosis of monkeypox in their respective countries, he stated. "The training is important as

it enhances the capacity of member states to confirm suspected cases," he stated, noting that clinical laboratory confirmation for the disease has been slow across the continent. The Africa CDC Institute for Pathogen Genomics is working on sequencing genes from samples of monkeypox to document variants found in African states.

"We will continue to sequence gene samples of monkeypox as we did for COVID-19 to determine the kind of pathogens that we are dealing with in the continent," he affirmed. Ethiopia, Guinea, Liberia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Uganda -- all countries with no previous incidence - have also reported suspected cases, the UN health body, WHO said in a recent report.

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Corporal's death fallout: Police bring 25 to court

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The prosecution told the magistrate that the case was brought for hearing, requesting space to alter the charge sheet to add one charge, while advocates Mtobesya and Madeleka objected to this application saying it was not yet time for making such changes.

"It is clear that the case is in its early stages, so there is no way one can alter charges. It is contrary to procedure as this court has no jurisdiction to hear the case, we are requesting the court to reject the request," the lead advocate intoned.

In response, the prosecutor said while the court had no jurisdiction to hear the case and it is early stages of investigations, there is no procedural limitation on altering the charge sheet. After the legal battle, the court was adjourned and later resumed to issue a minor ruling on the matter.

The resident magistrate said that after going through the arguments from the two sides, he agreed with the prosecuting side to make changes to the charges. The procedure does not violate any right of the accused, he asserted. Reading new charges to the accused, state attorney Shemkole in the first charge claimed that the accused conspired to kill government officers including police guards who were participating in a demarcation exercise. In the second charge, it is alleged that on June 10 at Ololosokwan village in Ngorongoro district the suspects killed a police officer on duty. Defence lawyer Mtobesya requested the state to fast track investigations, saying some of the suspects are aged and others are students and need the case to be over in a timely manner. The magistrate asked the accused not to say anything as the court had no jurisdiction to hear the case, adjourning the case to July 14 for mention.



Patrick Mwakoyoma (R), an investment officer with the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco), pictured yesterday explaining to visitors to the firm's pavilion at the on-going 46th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair on progress in the implementation of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Plant and Dam project. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Ministry hires 1,600 hospital doctors, new nursing staff

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remaining 29 posts being worked upon by the Public Service Commission as they are not directly related to health. Specifically, 19,464 applicants completed the application process online with 8,404 applicants failing to complete their applications as required,

he said, noting that 7,897 applicants met the initial criteria. These included compliance with service structures for health cadres, demanding that applicants be drawn from 2020 graduates or later, excepting specialist doctors, medical equipment engineers, medical technicians, technologists and the disabled, the statement indicated.

Applicants included employees working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), those working on employment contracts via work permits and those aged from 35 to 44 and meet the criteria were considered, he said. Out of the 1,605 new employees, 921 are men (57 percent) and 684 women (43 percent), with priority being given to

those showing interest to work in remote areas. Some applicants missed the opportunities by failure to properly fill application forms, indicating their registration numbers provided by their district councils, the ministerial executive lamented, pointing out that some applicants made mistakes by using other people's registration numbers.

"This makes it difficult to recognize them. Some applicants used examination registration numbers instead of those provided by the district council," he affirmed. Some job applicants applied for posts for which they do not qualify, for instance when a diploma holder seeks a post demanding qualification at degree level, he added.



Dr Tasseni Mbwambo of Mirerani health centre in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, administers a Covid-19 vaccine to popular Mirerani township newspaper vendor Juma Msangi (L) on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Muhimbili team separates Simiyu conjoined twins

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District, Simiyu Region. They weighed 4.9 kilogrammes at birth last September 21, sharing the liver to an extent, and a bone in the chest. Specialists at Muhimbili examined the twins after they arrived from Bugando referral hospital in Mwanza on November 12, weighing 7kg, and by the time they were going into surgery they weighed 13.3 kilos. Similar cases occurred in 1994 and in 2019,

where in the first case one of the twins died and the other is now aged 28. In the second case the conjoined infants both survived, and are now three years old. The surgery is another milestone for the key referral hospital which has in recent years enhanced its capacity to provide major services. The first was cochlear implant, radiology intervention, kidney transplant and then bone marrow transplants.

Govt allots 400,000 hectares of land to wheat cultivation

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE government has earmarked a total of 400,000 hectares of land for cultivation of wheat, a move aimed at ending shortage of the crop in the country, Hussein Bashe, Minister of Agriculture has said.

Bashe said the 400,000

hectares of land will be cultivated with wheat in wheat growing regions within three years beginning in 2022.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Tanzania produced 70,000 tonnes of wheat in 2021 while the country imports between 800,000 tonnes and 1 million tonnes of wheat annually.

Speaking to stakeholders of the crop from various regions that met in the capital Dodoma, Bashe said the Ministry of Agriculture is in the process of distributing 50,000 tons of wheat seeds to farmers.

He urged regional commissioners from wheat producing regions to oversee the

massive cultivation of the cereal without fail.

Omary Mgumba, the Songwe regional commissioner, said wheat farmers in the region abandoned cultivating the crop and shifted to growing other crops after prices of wheat had dropped.

The Ministry of Agriculture's

draft for the Agriculture Sector Development Program (ASDPI 2021-25) indicates that 70 percent of locally consumed wheat is imported.

The government spends 1.3trn/- annually to import wheat, sugar, maize seeds and crude oil due to lacklustre domestic production of the vital

cash crops.

According to the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI), there are at least 25 varieties of wheat species registered in Tanzania, out of 586 plant varieties of at least 33 different crops registered by the institute.

Other crop species with

number of available varieties in brackets as maize (160 varieties), rice (20), sorghum (15), beans (30), cowpea (5), pigeon pea (6), sesame (4), sweet potato (15), cassava (15) and sunflower (7) vegetables (210), coffee (15), cashew nut (40), sugar cane (7), tea (7), and round potato 7 varieties.

Govt to begin monitoring tender process at municipal council level

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities), Patrobas Katambi, has said the government will soon start monitoring tender process at municipal council level.

According to Katambi, the monitoring exercise is meant to identify municipal councils that have been purposely qualifying young bidders in tendering process.

He made the remarks in Dodoma yesterday when speaking at a function to handover different equipment to youth with disabilities. The equipment have been provided with the support from the national apprenticeship training programs.

Katambi noted that the country's procurement laws as well as directives from President Samia Suluhu Hassan want 30 percent of all the tenders at municipal councils to be given to youth.

"We will start to investigate the tendering process at municipal level; officials from the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government should assist in the exercise. Youth must be given priority in municipal's tendering process as one of the ways to empower them", he said.

He however urged the councillors to ensure that youth become successfully

bidders as per directives from President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

He said the government through the apprenticeship training programs has now started to offer equipment to youth especially those with disabilities to enable them to establish income generating activities.

The donated equipment includes 400 sewing machines, 75 welding machines and 70 sets of machines are used in making aluminium equipment.

He said the equipment worth 371m/- will help youth to employ themselves. He said the government encourages youth to form groups to be easily accessible and benefit from loans provided at district level.

The ministry's Permanent Secretary, Prof Jamal Katundu, said a total of 1,741 youth have benefitted with the donated equipment. He said the youth are from 175 groups in 26 regions.

The PS noted that previously the government was providing youth with loans whereas some of them failed to spend the money for targeted goals.

Assistant Director (Local Government Department) in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Humphrey Mniachi said distribution of the equipment proves the government intention to support and empower youth.



Judge Imani Daud Aboud, President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, briefs journalists in Zanzibar on Thursday shortly after closing the first tripartite judicial dialogue involving the continental court, the East African Court of Justice and the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Political declaration to halve road traffic deaths and injuries by 2030

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has welcomed the political declaration to be adopted by member states during the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on global road safety.

The declaration commits to cut road traffic deaths and injuries by 50 percent by 2030, a milestone for road safety and sustainable mobility.

The meeting took place from June 30th to July 1st 2022 under the theme: 'The 2030 horizon for road safety: securing a decade of action and delivery'.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO said that road safety affects everyone because people step from their homes every day onto roads that take them to jobs, schools and to meet their vital daily needs.

"Our transport systems remain far too dangerous. No death should be acceptable on our roads. The future of mobility should promote health and well-being, protect the environment and benefit all," he said.

Dr Etienne Krug, WHO Director of the Department for Social Determinants of Health said: "Road traffic deaths upend countless lives and cost

countries around 3 percent of GDP each year. This is an unacceptable price to pay for mobility. Putting safety at the heart of our mobility systems is an urgent health, economic and moral imperative. Let's work together to scale up what works, save lives and build streets for life."

The WHO boss noted that it requires transformative leadership from the highest levels of government to act on the political declaration to make the vision a reality.

Worldwide, road crashes currently kill around 1.3 million people each year - more than 2 every minute, and more than 90 percent occur in low-

and middle-income countries.

Crashes are the biggest killer of children and young people globally. More than 50 million people have died on the world's roads since the invention of the automobile, more than the number of deaths in the First World War or in some of the worst global epidemics.

WHO is the lead agency for road safety in the United Nations and supported the President of the UN General Assembly in preparing this High-Level Meeting in collaboration with other UN agencies.

Through the declaration governments from around the world commit

to provide leadership and coordination at the highest level of government to ensure all parts of the society are included to act on road safety and commit to boost policies and actions to reduce deaths and injuries.

The declaration calls for the development and funding of national and local plans with clear targets and funding.

In September 2020, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to proclaim the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030. WHO and the UN regional commissions, in cooperation with other partners in the UN Road Safety Collaboration, have developed

a Global Plan for the Decade of Action, which was released in October 2021.

The plan calls for continued improvements in the design of roads and vehicles, enhancement of laws and law enforcement, and provision of timely, life-saving emergency care for the injured. In addition, it promotes healthy and environmentally sound modes of transport.

Urban planners and engineers must prioritize safety as a core value in all transport infrastructures while businesses can influence and contribute to strengthening road safety by applying safety-first principles to their entire value chains.



Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone Commander Jumanne Muliro (gesturing) briefs journalists shortly after opening Tanzania Police Female Network meeting the city yesterday. Right is Ilala Police Commander Debora Magiligimba. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

East, central Africa agree on need for uniting on female genital mutilation

By Guardian Correspondent

STAKEHOLDERS from East and Central Africa who are involved in the fight against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) have agreed on the need for collaboration to end the malpractice in the region.

The stakeholders from Ethiopia, Tanzania, Somalia, Kenya and Uganda made the agreement yesterday in Arusha at the end of a two days forum on strategies to end harmful traditional practices. Among those present were government officials, Civil Society, religious leaders from respective countries and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) resident representative to Tanzania Dr Majaliwa Marwa.

Dr Marwa said UNFPA prepared the forum in collaboration with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in collaboration with a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) called C-SEMA. "Participants of the meeting have agreed

to work together in partnership to ensure there is no girl child who undergoes such practices," said Dr Marwa.

He said the countries share traditions and borders saying perpetrators may use the borders to conduct the practices beyond their countries through collaboration. Head of programme at C-Sema Michael Marwa said the agreement will help in ending the tendency of crossing girls to other countries for FGM which has been happening in the past.

"Every country can have its own strategy of implementing the agreement, but our aim is to ensure the malpractice comes to an end. Marwa explained that religious leaders have a role to play with the fact that they have huge following in the public; they can use their influence to inform the public of the negative impacts of the malpractices.

Head of Communication at UNFPA Warren Bright said the agency has been at the forefront to protect the health of girls and women.

TICTS donates computers, laboratory gear to boys' secondary school in Lindi Region

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania International Container Terminal Services (TICTS) has donated computers and science laboratory equipment worth over 45m/- to Rugwa Boys high school in Nachingwea District, Lindi Region.

Donation of computer equipment and supplies for the school laboratory will enable it to start conducting computer classes for science and other students.

The donation will benefit more than 1600 boys students to be enrolled at the newly constructed secondary school. The 1st batch of 'A'

level pupils will commence studies at the school this month.

The donation of computers was received by Nachingwea District Commissioner, Hashim Komba during a handover ceremony held at TICTS offices along Sokoine Drive in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Speaking at the function, Komba remarked that the donation has come at the right time when the government has announced the provision of free education from primary to 'A' level secondary school.

Matthew Clift, TICTS Deputy Chief Executive Officer said: "We are proud to support the government

initiatives to provide free education and anticipate that these computers will enhance students' academic performances during their studies at school"

Clift said the total cost of the donated items is 46,320,000/-.

The assistance is one of on-going TICTS initiatives to support the government and community projects in educational and other sectors in the country, he said.

"It is also part of our company Dock School program, a Hutchison Ports global initiative designed to provide support and assistance to the schools in port's vicinity especial-

ly those with financial challenges," stated Clift.

TICTS operates the container terminal at the Port of Dar es Salaam. The port handles more than 90 percent of the country's seaborne trade.

As Tanzania's leading container handling facility, TICTS is committed to moving ahead and strengthening its role as the country's premier maritime gateway to Eastern, Central and Southern Africa.

The company continues to enhance the operational productivity and customer service through on-going investment in people, systems and cargo-handling equipment.

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Chinese soldier rescues drowning girl

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

A Chinese soldier, Yun Long, has rescued five-year-old girl Nyankubi Nyanda who was about to drown in Lake Victoria while playing along the beach.

The incident occurred some days ago at the Rock Garden beach at Capripoint area in Nyamagana District, Mwanza Region.

Speaking to this paper, Nyanda's mother, Neema Julius, a resident of Nyamhongolo in the city said: "I went to the beach at the Rock Garden accompanied by my child but suddenly she jumped into the water."

She said when the incident occurred there were some Chinese nationals sitting near them whereas one of them decided to immediately jump in the Lake to rescue the drowned child.

The Chinese soldier, who is in the country for an official visit, went to see the child the following day, only to find out that she was feeling well.

Narrating, Neema said that Nyankubi was playing along the beach and she suddenly opted to get into the water in search of fish where she ended up being drowned.

"I was careful watching her as she played; I moved some steps to talk to someone over the phone, the child took advantage of my absence and jumped into the Lake," she explained.

Neema: "I screamed for help and right then a Chinese soldier jumped into the water and rescued my baby. We took her to the hospital, but doctors said she had no any health problem despite the minor injuries on her right hand."



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Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority executive director Shariff Ali Shariff has an audience with members of Dar es Salaam's College of Business Education management team yesterday in Zanzibar, where the college is considering establishing a campus at Fumba village. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Free trade pact to lift up to 50 million Africans from extreme poverty

By Guardian Reporter

A new World Bank report prepared in partnership with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat states that the free trade pact has the potential to bring significant economic and social gains for the region, leading to higher incomes, lower poverty, and faster economic growth.

If fully implemented to harmonise investment and competition rules, the trade pact could boost regional incomes by as much as 9 percent—to \$571 billion.

It could create almost 18 million more jobs, many of them higher-paying and better-quality jobs, with women workers seeing the biggest gains.

By 2035, the resulting jobs and income growth could help up to 50 million people exit extreme poverty.

The implementation of the trade agreement would also lead to larger wage gains for women and skilled workers. Wages of female workers are expected to be 11.2 percent higher in 2035 as compared to the wage level without the agreement, outpacing 9.8 percent growth of male workers' wages.

The report, Making the Most of the African Continental Free Trade Area, extends the work done in 2020 when the World Bank initially assessed the economic potential of AfCFTA.

As part of its first phase, which took effect in January 2021, the AfCFTA will gradually eliminate tariffs on 90 percent of goods and reduce barriers to trade in services.

The report, examines the effects of the larger trade market on the continent's ability to attract investment

both from within Africa and outside—and the resulting economic impact.

"The AfCFTA comes at a critical time when regional cooperation is needed to navigate compounded risks and enhance the resilience of supply chains, to support green, resilient and inclusive growth in Africa," said Mari Pangestu, Managing Director for Development Policy and Partnerships, World Bank.

Pangestu added: "Countries must work together to make the AfCFTA a reality and reap its many benefits—including reducing barriers to trade and investment, enhancing competition, and ensuring markets function fairly and efficiently through clear and predictable rules."

Wamkele Mene, Secretary-General of the AfCFTA Secretariat said: "Today Africa is one of the least integrated regions globally. African countries

trade more with the outside world than with each other. The pact can help countries to simplify and harmonize trade and transit procedures, improve infrastructure, transport and logistics and spur the flows of goods, services, capital, and people that are so vital for development."

The report discusses two scenarios to assess the benefits for a market of more than 1.3 billion people with a combined GDP of US\$3.4 trillion.

The key findings indicate that the AfCFTA has the potential to encourage greater foreign direct investment (FDI) required for Africa to diversify into new industries, such as agribusiness, manufacturing, and services, and reduce the region's vulnerability to commodity boom-bust cycles.

A deeper integration beyond trade and trade facilitation measures, that

harmonizes policies on investment, competition, e-commerce, and intellectual property rights could boost market efficiency and competitiveness, reduce regulatory risks, and attract even more foreign direct investment.

By 2035, the integration would increase incomes by 9 percent, or US\$571 billion, and create 18 million new jobs, with 2.5 percent of the continent's workers moving to new industries. This would expand the number of people leaving extreme poverty to 50 million.

The report finds that greater FDI could raise Africa's exports up to 32 percent by 2035, with intra-African exports growing by 109 percent, especially in the manufactured goods sectors.

All countries in Africa will see their intra-African exports increase

that includes Tanzania (126 percent), Tunisia (165 percent), Cameroon (144 percent), Ghana (132 percent) and South Africa (61 percent).

As barriers to trade and investment are reduced, export sectors likely to grow the most are textiles and apparel; chemical, rubber and plastic products; and processed foods. Deeper integration would lower trade costs and boost capital inflows boosting exports from services sectors such as transport; communications and hospitality.

To unlock these potential gains in trade, investment, and jobs, countries must first successfully conclude the negotiations and the treaty's most ambitious goals must be carried out by each country. The report highlights several other areas countries could reform to amplify economic gains from trade.



Vivienne Penesis (C), Vodacom Tanzania Plc's director of human resources, presents a consignment of books, chairs, 100 tables and 20 sets of solar power equipment to Hollness Moshi, headmistress of Bethsaida Secondary School of Mpiji Magoe, in suburban Dar es Salaam on Thursday. The event was held at the school, which chiefly caters for orphans, with the items donated by members of the firm's staff. Others are Vodacom risk and compliance director Agapinus Tax (2nd-R) and some school's students. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

RC calls on local, foreign investors to tap into fuelling stations business in Songwe

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

SONGWE regional commissioner Omary Mgumba has called on local and foreign businesses to invest in various projects including fuel stations in Momba, Ileje and Songwe districts.

Mgumba said there are fewer fuel stations in the districts compared to Mbozi and Tunduma districts. He said the government would provide land for such investments at no cost or conditions.

Mgumba made the statement yesterday when speaking shortly after launching a fuel station at Mlowo area in Songwe Region. He said investors should consider putting such structures in Momba because there are no a single fuel station in the district.

"Residents in Momba District are forced to walk for long distances in search of fuel; construction of a petrol station here would facilitate availability of the products," he added.

Mgumba applauded the investor for bringing the service closer to people and that the investment will relieve residents from walking for dis-

tances to town areas in such of fuel.

Mgumba called on local and foreign businesses to also establish fuel stations at Chitete—the district headquarters. He said Chitete residents walk 90 kilometers to purchase fuel in Tunduma town.

Mgumba congratulated investors in the region for reducing the burden to the government through creation of jobs as a number of young people have secured temporary and permanent jobs.

"The investments does not only bring services closer to the people, but also contributes in improvement their welfare," he added.

Sarafina Mwashalawa who works at the newly launched fuel station said they are expecting to open another station in Momba District.

Songwe region was formed from the westernmost half of Mbeya Region on January, 2016 with headquarters in Vwawa. The region has four districts namely—Mbozi, Ileje, Songwe and Momba.

It borders Malawi and Zambia, with Tunduma serving as the primary point of entry into Zambia and Isongole serving as the vital point of entry into Malawi.

Mwinyi urges judicial officers to promote access to justice

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has urged judges from continental and regional courts in Africa to be inspired by vision which is the most important ingredient that Africa requires in promoting access to justice.

"The very critical human rights to development cannot be achieved without justice," said Dr Mwinyi during the official opening of a three-days first Tripartite Judicial Dialogue held in Zanzibar, which was organised by the three courts, that is the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights, the East African Court of Justice and ECOWAS Community Court in collaboration with various partners led by the Roul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

He said: "The Rulings that you make to-

day will determine the fates of future generations of Africans on issues as diverse as health, economics, sociology, politics and even religion, only vision can guide courts as yours in responding to such demands given that you deal with legal rules that are international in nature, but seek to respond to questions that are ultimately for national implementation."

President Mwinyi said the objectives of the judicial dialogue was to enhance the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights through effective collaboration between the continental and regional courts and encouraging exchange on judicial issues as well as best practices and to make recommendations to the common challenges faced by the 3 courts in protection of human rights.

"Let me share the sentiments and expecta-

tions of ordinary citizens about the manner which judges and courts should discharge their duties. The most relevant maximum in this respect is that justice must be done but it must also be seen to be done," the president stated.

Dr Mwinyi told the participants at that ordinary citizen are not privy to the internal functioning of the courts; they are only left with their perception about how justice is rendered.

He said the dialogue therefore will gain relevance if its helps reinforce the capacity of your courts to deliver decisions that are of the best quality as inspired by the facts of the cases, applicable law among other factors.

Justice Nestor Kayobera, President of East African Court of Justice said that EACJ despite not having explicit human rights juris-

prudence on the protection of rights of individuals in East African Community under Articles 6 (d) & 7 (2) of the EAC Treaty on fundamental and operational principles of the community, which include protection of human rights and freedoms.

He added that the court has handled over 600 cases which are not enough due to limited awareness on the Court by the public.

Lady Justice Imani D. Aboud, President of the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights said that dialogue has become a critical tool to achieve justice in an increasingly globalized world, the purpose and gains are now established and undeniable.

ECOWAS Court President represented by Lady Justice Dupe Atoki said the court was initially strictly an interstate court without individual's direct access to the court.

She said in 2005, a Supplementary Protocol was adopted which amended the initial protocol on the court, expanding its initial mandate into four distinct mandates and these include; as Community Court; an Administrative Tribunal for ECOWAS Public Servants Human Rights Court and an Arbitration Tribunal.

Representing the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Maymuchka Lauriston said that enhancement of human rights protection throughout the world is a common goal for the United Nations systems and its international human rights mechanisms as well as for many regional mechanisms dealing with human rights matters.

She added that regional and sub-regional bodies make important contributions to the process of domestication of international and regional human rights law through adjudication of legal norms and standards.

Patients at Mafia, Kibiti hospitals 'assured' of clean and safe water

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PATIENTS at Mafia and Kibiti hospitals in Coast Region have been assured on the availability of clean and safe water services after a Berlin based company—Boreal Light GmbH agreed to supply solar-powered water desalination units.

Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was held on Thursday between the Coast Region Administrative Secretary, Wanasha Rajabu and the Boreal Light GmbH Chief Executive Officer, Dr Hamed Beheshti.

Speaking after signing the MoU worth US\$ 240,000 with the company, Wanasha said the support was for its hospitals in Mafia and Kibiti.

She said patients seeking medical treatment at the two hospitals will now be getting clean and safe water.

"Mafia and Kibiti are places that face shortage of clean and safe water due to its land nature. The new desalination machine will help to treat bore drilled water and purify it to be fit for human consumption," she said.

Wanasha extended gratitude to supporters of the project and called upon other good Samaritans to join hand in the efforts. She said the support came at the right time and will help ensure the people in her region get clean and safe water for its two hospitals.

She assured them that the support will be extended to the privileged people. The decision to support the two districts complements the government efforts of assuring people with clean and safe water.

She said since President Samia Suluhu Hassan assumed the office, she has been on the forefront to ensure that water services reaches all people.

Currently, access to water had reached over 85 percent in urban and over 75 percent in rural areas adding that concerted efforts was still needed to ensure the services reaches every citizen in the districts.

Samwel Kinyanjui, director of the WaterKiosk Limited commissioned to assemble and install the machine said they will conduct training to the local people to conduct minor maintenance after it had been installed to make it sustainable.

He said apart from the hospitals, the majority of people from the privileged areas will also benefit from the support.

"We have also installed the same machine at Medwell hospital in Kibaha district, Coast region," he said.

He said his company in collaboration with Boreal Light GmbH will also install another water treatment plant in Arusha.

The waterkiosk currently, supplies Zanzibar's largest hospital, Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Stone Town, with 100,000 litres of clean drinking water per day.

WaterKiosk Limited is a registered entity specialized on renewable energy solutions for water treatment facilities. The company installs, operates and maintains solar water desalination systems for off-grid communities around Africa.

The systems are manufactured in Germany by the affiliate company Boreal Light GmbH and they are capable of delivering high quality hygiene drinking, irrigation, fish farm and sanitation water from any kind of high saline and polluted water resources.

WaterKiosk ensures inclusivity in its model of operation ensuring impact-oriented results, engaging community stakeholders and promoting women as kiosk operators.



NMB Bank Plc Dar es Salaam zone manager Donatus Richard (5th-R) briefs Mkuranga district commissioner Khadija Nasri (to his left) yesterday on desktop computers the bank has donated to the district's Kiparanga Secondary School alongside 200 corrugated roofing sheets for use at a local dispensary. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

East African newborns seen more likely to have neural tube defects

By Special Correspondent

NEWBORNS in Eastern Africa are nearly five times more likely to have Neural Tube Defects (NTDs), according to a study by Penn State College of Medicine researchers.

Newborns, whose brains, spines or spinal cords do not properly develop in utero; can be born with NTDs, increasing their risk of physical disabilities, intellectual impairments and death.

According to researchers, one way to prevent NTDs is to ensure that all women of reproductive age get enough folic acid throughout their prenatal care and pregnancies.

To help support these efforts, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration began enriching certain foods with folic acid in the 1990s.

However, this is problematic for women living in developing countries, where foods are not fortified with folic acid and supplementation is seldom part of prenatal care.

Researchers said that fortifying foods with folic acid and promoting supplements could help improve health outcomes for neonates in low- and middle-income countries.

Dr Paddy Ssentongo, lead investigator, assistant professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences said: "The burden of neural tube defects in Eastern Africa is unacceptable. Cost-effective interventions including fortifying staple foods with folic acids should be a priority in countries that have not mandated this practice."



Dr Alain Zingraff Lekoubou Looti, assistant professor in the Department of Neurology and Penn State Neuroscience Institute said: "It is our hope that the results of this study contribute to making NTD prevention a high priority among local and regional governments."

The researchers conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of 20 studies published through December 2021. They analyzed data from 752,936 individuals living in eastern African countries that had data on the prevalence of neural tube defects, such as Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Malawi and Eritrea.

According to them, spina bifida occurs when the spinal cord improperly forms during the first trimester of pregnancy while anencephaly is often fatal and results when a baby is missing parts of their brain and has an incomplete skull.

According to the findings, newborns in Ethiopia had the highest prevalence of NTDs.

The lowest rates were found among babies in Malawi. Across eastern Africa, the most common NTD was spina bifida.

The researchers found that the prevalence of spina bifida was two times higher than anencephaly and 10 times higher than encephalocele.

The researchers also found NTD rates have increased over the past 40 years at a rate of roughly 4 percent per year.

Researchers said the health benefits from folic acid could improve outcomes for women and babies living in low- and middle-income countries as well.

SADC to increase renewable energy generation to curb carbon emissions

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) is developing the Regional Gas Master plan to enable utilisation of its abundant gas reserves and to reduce its reliance on coal in the wake of the global commitment, including the Paris Agreement's ambition to decrease carbon emissions and maintain global temperatures below 1.5° Celsius.

This was said by Dr Theminkosi Mhlongo, SADC Deputy Secretary for Regional Integration, during a meeting with Yuka Fujino, the Chargé d'affaires of the Japanese Embassy in Botswana.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD-8), as well as other issues of mutual interest to the two parties.

Dr Mhlongo highlighted SADC's efforts to expand solar energy generation

output in order to increase its power generation capacity, corridor involvement, and economic prosperity while also reducing the Region's carbon footprint.

He said that in light of the recent increase in the number and severity of disasters, there was a need for increased collaborative efforts with partners to put in place mechanisms, including the operationalisation of the SADC humanitarian and emergency operations centre that will aid the region in mitigating disasters and monitoring all disaster risk factors.

Dr Mhlongo underscored the importance of the existing cordial relations between the Japanese government and the SADC Region, in particular the technical assistance offered by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which has successfully assisted in the implementation of a number of programmes in the region.

The programmes include the recently built Kazungula Bridge which connects Botswana and Zambia, and support towards the implementation of the SADC forestry programme, as evidence of Japan's dedication to serving the SADC community.

Fujino emphasised the Japanese government's willingness to collaborate with SADC and the entire African continent as part of its international policy.

The envoy underlined the significance of working on engagement mechanisms to promote a more inclusive relationship.

Fujino stated that her government will spearhead the 8th TICAD, which will be held in Tunisia on the 27th and 28th of August 2022, with the participation of heads of state and government from African countries, as well as co-organisers from the African Union, United Nations, United Nations Development Programme, and World Bank.

GLOBAL PROGRAMS

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Job Opportunity – Recency Technical Lead

Location : Dar es Salaam
Application deadline : July 11, 2022
Start date : August 1, 2022

Background:

The University of California San Francisco (UCSF) is engaged in a five-year Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention– Tanzania (CDC-Tanzania) to provide strategic information and health information systems (HIS) technical assistance to the Ministry of Health (MOH) as well as the United States' President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and their implementing partners (IPs). As part of our strategic information portfolio, UCSF will be responsible for providing technical assistance (TA) and guidance for the training and roll-out of recent HIV infection testing and surveillance.

To oversee this activity, UCSF is recruiting an individual through our affiliated international NGO 'Global Programs' to serve as Recency Technical Lead. This is a full-time 12-month position with the possibility of extension subject to continued funding. The position is expected to start on August 1, 2022 and will be based in Dar es Salaam.

Main duties and responsibilities:

The Recency Technical Lead will be responsible for coordinating all UCSF-Global Programs' recency-related TA and support. This will include coordinating recency training and providing ongoing technical assistance and support to PEPFAR implementing partners (IPs) and facilities that are implementing recency testing.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Manage all UCSF-Global Programs recency activities and ensure deliverables and timelines are clearly delineated and met.
- Manage a team of approximately five lead trainers and coordinate training of trainer (TOT) sessions with PEPFAR clinical IPs to train on all aspects of the recency testing protocol.
- Provide ongoing TA and technical guidance to support IP-led step-down trainings for clinical sites and activation of new recency sites.
- Provide ongoing QA/QC support and monitoring for clinical IPs who have been trained and are implementing recency testing.
- Support protocol amendments and modifications as needed.
- Continuously document implementation progress and lessons learned and make recommendations for continuous quality improvement for recency testing.
- Support analysis and visualization of recency data.
- Collaborate with and provide guidance for MOH and stakeholders in relation to HIV recent infection surveillance.
- Collaborate with members of the UCSF-Global Programs team throughout Africa who are engaged in recent infection surveillance, including through regular zoom calls, to exchange best practices and lessons learned.
- Liaise with technical advisors at UCSF HQ to ensure delivery of outputs.
- Communicate regularly with the UCSF

Program Manager about key deliverables in the scope of work and any challenges.

- Periodic travel (15% or less) within Tanzania may be required.

Experience, skills, and minimum required qualifications:

- Undergraduate degree in public health, Laboratory Science, Bio-Statistics, epidemiology or related fields is required. A Master's degree in a relevant field is an advantage.
- Minimum of five years of progressive professional experience in public health surveillance. Previous experience managing HIV and AIDS projects in the PEPFAR setting is strongly preferred.
- Knowledge of concepts of public health, epidemiology, and surveillance. Knowledge of HIV recent infection surveillance and laboratory testing and methods is strongly preferred.
- Demonstrable experience with analysis, interpretation, and reporting of surveillance data.
- Experience writing and updating protocols and procedures relating to surveillance data collection, storage, reporting, sharing, and dissemination.
- Strong analytical, problem-solving, and decision-making skills.
- Excellent communication and organizational skills.
- Demonstrable experience working with a variety of organizations and stakeholders, including experience collaborating with MOHCDGEC.
- Ability to work professionally and collaboratively in a multi-cultural, internationally based team setting.
- Fluency in oral and written English and Kiswahili are required.

Other desired skills/qualities:

- Ability to prioritize, work under deadlines, work with minimal supervision, and multi-task.
- Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings as required (in order to liaise with colleagues abroad).
- Ability to travel in-country to support project activities
- Strong interpersonal skills.

To Apply:

All applicants must address each selection criterion detailed in the minimum requirements above with specific and comprehensive information supporting each item.

All applications must include the following:

- A current CV with names and telephone numbers for at least 2 referees of whom one must be from the current employer.
- Copies of academic and professional certificates

Applications and supporting documents should be sent via e-mail to info.tanzania@ucglobalprograms.org and must be received by July 11, 2022.

NOTE: Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



Mary Mwita (standing), a facilitator with suburban Dar es Salaam's Kipunguni Information and Knowledge Centre, makes an informal presentation on entrepreneurship to residents of the area earlier this week. The idea was to ease unemployment and curb cases of violence induced by poverty. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AfDB's \$125m loan for water projects to benefit Bahi, Chemba and Chamwino district residents

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) and the government have signed a \$125.2million loan agreement for the Dodoma resilient and sustainable water development and sanitation programme (Phase I).

The finance for the country's Dodoma resilient and sustainable water development and sanitation programme has been agreed by AfDB.

The project is expected to benefit more than two million residents in the Bahi, Chemba and Chamwino districts, which have suffered droughts and recorded high population growth.

Minister for Finance and Planning, Mwigulu Nchemba said: "This has been a long-awaited project by the people of Dodoma. It is a project that President, Samia Suluhu Hassan, wishes to see implemented. The signing of this loan agreement will bring great benefits to the people and also provide access to safe water for industrial use."

The project includes construction of the 470-meter Farkwa water dam, a 128,000 cubic meter long clean-up, and a water treatment plant with a capacity of 128,000 cubic meters per day.

The programme will be implemented within five years.

Tanzania has also asked the bank to consider expanding the project area to include Singida Region which is also grappling with an acute water problem.



The project includes construction of the 470-meter Farkwa water dam, a 128,000 cubic meter long clean-up, and a water treatment plant with a capacity of 128,000 cubic meters per day

Wildlife experts call for proper protection of wildlife corridors

By Guardian Reporter

WILDLIFE experts have called for proper protection of wildlife corridors in the country to address the human wildlife conflict (HWC) and make communities living close to corridors benefit from them.

Corridors are essential links between different wild animals' population to ensure genetic viability and habitats through migration route.

"If corridors are properly protected,

there will be no challenge for animals to attack humans and destroy their products," said Dr Steven Nindi, a Principle Research Officer at the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI).

He made the call during a virtual biodiversity conservation breakfast debate organised by Journalist Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) through the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Project.

Dr Nindi explained that, animals need to move to safer areas because wherever they go they are going to do important

biological and social ecological work.

He said, safer passage will protect the animals lives from being interfered and disturbed, also helps if there is crisis in their areas they can use corridors as part of their refuge.

According to Dr Nindi, in order to preserve, protect and restore corridors as well as making sure they benefit the communities surrounding them, the government has been engaging various stakeholders to create a trusted platform in which they all meet together to negoti-

ate the best way to preserve and protect corridors.

"The government has adopted a participatory approach that communities must also be involved in the restoration of corridors", he said.

Corridor protection is a dynamic process where all stakeholders have to work together because government alone cannot be able to do it, said Dr Nindi, adding there is a need to create a mutual benefit solution in such a way that citizens will benefit from living close to the corridors.

Joseph Olila, Landscape Planning and Biodiversity Specialist-RTI, a USAID Contactor implementing Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity, said that currently they have an on-going project where they are collaborating with the Southern Tanzania Elephants Programme (STEP) to restore the Kilombero elephants corridor that was used by elephants.

"In implementing the project we are using a participatory approach, we have started the process in 2018 by involving the community, talking to them to find

out the extent of the problem, and the next step we collectively discussed a permanent solution in order to allow elephants to move safely without affecting human habitats," Olila explained.

He added that, in the whole process the community is not forced but people are participating voluntarily. He said so far the land use plan process is on-going and that continuous meetings are being held together with the community as well as provision of education on how to deal with elephants.



Implementation of the Dar es Salaam bus rapid transit (DART) project in progress earlier this week with the construction of a strategic bridge along the Mbagala-Gerezani stretch. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Katavi RC directs PCCB to deal with officials involved in embezzlement of 378m/- in Mlele

By Guardian Correspondent, Katavi

KATAVI Regional Commissioner, Mwanamvua Mrindoko has directed the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to take appropriate measures against servants involved in the embezzlement of 378m/- in Mlele District.

Mrindoko issued the directive when addressing a full council meeting convened to discuss the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) audit reports for the year 2020/2021.

She said the money were collected by various servants and agents but were not deposited in any of the government owned payment and revenue collection systems. She said the deadline for submission of the funds has already passed, but no single shilling has been deposited.

"If the monies are not deposited in the government account, it means the money has been stolen. We cannot tolerate anyone engaging in embezzlement of public funds," said the RC urging the PCCB commander in the region to work on submitted list of servants who were supposed to deposit the money.

Acting Head of PCCB in Katavi, Faustine Maijo promised to work on all the directives insisting that all those involved in the scandal should return the money or they are going to face legal actions.

In his report, CAG Charles Kichere said a total of 970 public entities received unqualified opinions (equals to 97 per cent), 19 qualified opinions, six adverse opinions and the remaining four entities received disclaimer opinion from the CAG.

General and performance audits report for the financial year ending June 30, 2021 showed an increase of unqualified opinion compared to 89 per cent that were recorded during the year 2019/2020.

Child marriage on the rise in Horn of Africa as drought crisis intensifies

NAIROBI

GIRLS as young as twelve are being forced into child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) at alarming rates in the Horn of Africa, according to UNICEF analysis.

The number of children at risk of dropping out of school across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, due to the impact of the crisis, has tripled within three months - leaving vast numbers of adolescent girls at greater danger of a number of child protection risks, including undergoing FGM and being forced into marriage.

"We are seeing alarming rates of child marriage and FGM across the Horn of Africa - with some destitute families arranging to marry off

girls as young as twelve to men more than five times their age," said Andy Brooks, UNICEF Regional Child Protection Advisor for Eastern and Southern Africa.

"Child marriage and FGM end childhoods - driving girls out of school and leaving them more vulnerable to domestic violence and a lifetime of poverty. The figures we have do not capture the magnitude of the problem: large swathes of the Horn of Africa have no specialist facilities where cases can be reported," said Brooks.

He added: "This is a children's crisis, and we urgently need more funding to scale up our response in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia - not only to save lives in the short-term but to protect them in the long-term."

Across the Horn of Africa, families are facing desperate choices to survive as drought, driven by climate change dries up water sources and kills livestock, and the domino effect of the war in Ukraine exacerbates spiralling food and fuel prices.

More than 1.8 million children are in desperate need of treatment for life-threatening severe acute malnutrition in the region, with 213,000 people now judged to be at risk of famine in Somalia, according to the Famine Early Warning Network. Growing numbers of parents or caregivers are marrying off girls to secure dowries to help support the rest of the family, to have one less mouth to feed, or in an attempt to help the bride enter a better-off household.

Data on child marriage and FGM is limited, due to a lack of reporting and services in the region. UNICEF's analysis of available government data and humanitarian assessments found that in the Horn of Africa, there are increasing numbers of girls in danger of leaving school as the crisis deepens, putting them at higher risk of child marriage and FGM.

The number of children at risk of dropping out of school in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia due to the impact of the drought has tripled in the space of three months from 1.1 Million to an estimated 3.3 million children.

In Kenya, girls are also facing greater risks of child marriage and FGM. 14 of the 23 counties affected by drought are already FGM

hotspots, with prevalence rates up to 98 per cent. Girls in these areas are now in danger of being cut at younger ages, as families prepare them for marriage.

There are also reports of girls living in border regions being taken to neighbouring countries to undergo FGM, or being married to older men in neighbouring countries, where rates of FGM may be higher.

Across the region, women and girls in drought-affected areas walk longer distances to access water and other basic needs, leaving them vulnerable to sexual violence.

In Kenya, women and girls are walking more than three times longer than before, up to 30 km in some locations, according to analysis by the Kenya Red Cross.

African low carbon pioneers address urgent global challenges

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN organisations are once again revealing their leadership with climate solutions which tackle three more of today's biggest issues – energy crisis, food insecurity and challenges faced by refugees around the world.

Finalists in the 2022 Ashden Awards were announced yesterday at the end of the international London Climate Action Week (LCAW2022) conference.

Four of the six organisations that delivered the solutions were from Africa.

Speaking at the LCAW22 which this year focused on low carbon solutions from Africa, Harriet Lamb CEO of climate solutions charity Ashden said: "With the crucial COP27 climate talks taking place in Africa in November, it's great to see the continent's dynamic innovators proving how climate solutions can lower emissions and also create work and reach the most disadvantaged too.

"These innovators are seizing the youth population's enormous potential. In Togo and Zimbabwe, Energy Generation and Zonful are helping young people get the skills and opportunities to find a future in clean power sector. Both organisations are targeting support to women, building a more diverse and inclusive industry," said Lamb.

She said the bright sparks at Kakuma Ventures – creating solar-powered internet connectivity in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya have an inspiring model for others in Africa to follow.

She said Sokofresh from Kenya are worthy finalists for helping smallholders access affordable,

sustainable cooling for their produce.

At a time of global food crisis, this initiative is even more important, she added.

Lamb said: "We call on governments and investors to get behind these solutions, and for the wider climate community to put them centre-stage at COP27."

"Our rigorous awards research confirms that more support for green jobs, skills and livelihoods is urgently needed. That's why the work of our skills-focused finalists, creating opportunities including for more marginalised communities, is so inspirational," said Lamb.

The Ashden Award finalists cover a range of countries and industries bringing jobs and clean energy to low-income and marginalised communities. Finalists from other countries include Imece Initiative training refugees as solar engineers in Turkey and Collectives for Integrated Livelihoods Initiatives (CINI) which creates community-led production hubs in India's tribal areas.

An extra award for Natural Climate Solutions is calling for entries specifically from the Congo Basin and the Amazon and there is also a UK-specific set of Awards.

Ashden has been spotlighting and supporting climate and energy innovators in low-income countries and the UK since 2001.

The winners of the Ashden Awards will be announced in Nairobi in October 2022 in the run-up to COP27 in Egypt in November. The finalists will be judged by international specialists on each award category and will receive financial and strategic support.



Tanzania Commercial Bank loans officer Cornel Mlay (R) pictured with colleagues on Thursday explaining the bank's services to a prospective customer (L), who was on a tour of the on-going 46th edition of Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Sustainable practices improve farmers' wellbeing

By Guardian Correspondent and Agencies

SMALL-HOLDER farmers in the country can improve food security and their wellbeing by adopting agro-ecological practices, according to new research findings.

Led by Newcastle University, the research funded by UKRI Global Challenges Research Fund revealed that agro-ecological practices, such as agroforestry, have a variety of positive impacts, with significant improvements for the material indicators, such as financial savings, land area and household assets.

Another area with strong positive links to agro-ecological practices is security, which includes providing for dependents, security from theft and a higher number of different livelihood-generating activities.

Lead author, Dr Marion Pfeifer, Associate Professor, Landscape Ecology and Management at Newcastle University's School of Natural and Environmental Sciences said: "We show that practices taking advantage of nature's contributions to people within agricultural systems can contribute positively to food security and human well-being of small-

holder farmers in rural landscapes of the tropics.

Dr Pfeifer said the findings are important for the formulation of policies relevant for land use and management, such as how to manage rural landscapes for biodiversity and wellbeing outcomes.

He said during the past year, the university has been working with partners in government and industry as well as farmers to exchange and discuss our findings. "We will continue to work with them to identify pathways that allow increasing adoption of agro-ecological practices, where feasible. As an added

bonus, this may well allow us to increase or conserve the trees planted on and around farmed land, adding climate change mitigation values and opportunities for potentially tapping into carbon payment schemes," he added.

The research team conducted 467 household surveys in the country and found that most farmers applied at least one agro-ecological practice in their farms. The most common agro-ecological practices were mulching, intercropping, and post-harvest use of residues.

The findings show that a transition to more ecological farming can have posi-

tive impact on human well-being, even if that transition complements rather than fully replaces conventional farming.

The research also highlights the importance of fundamental technical training and capacity building of smallholder farmers for the uptake of sustainable agricultural practices.

The university implemented the research in collaboration with the University of Leeds, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and National Museums Kenya and partnership with NGOs – Restore Africa.

A sister project, funded through the

Science and Nature People Partnership, has been building on findings and discussions to think about the way the restoration and conservation sector will need to adapt to be more effective and equitable in the coming years.

Rural tropical landscapes used for farming and other natural resources provide a tremendous potential for global biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Acknowledging the challenges associated with this potential is important to find solutions that are equitable and sustainable on the long run.



Motorists, pedestrians and small traders alike have for long found this badly damaged road at the backside of Dar es Salaam's popular mixed-goods market especially challenging, as Correspondent Sabato Kasika confirmed earlier this week.

Watch out for online crime, youth advised

By Guardian Reporter

FOLLOWING an increased incidents on online crimes, the Alliance to Counter Crime Online (ACCO) has advised youth to be careful when using social networks to avoid being conned.

"Tanzania has a growing number of youth who are using various social networks for the first time, hence the need to educate and protect them against online scams," said ACCO Executive Director Gretchen Peters when speaking during a virtual press conference in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday.

Gretchen said they have decided to come up with a programme to help control the problem which has seen increased incidents for Kiswahili speakers using various social networks such as TikTok, Instagram, Facebook and so many others.

She said the programme will involve youth, student and teachers whereas the media will also play a role in taking information to the public. She said there are a good number of Tanzanian youth who are victims of online scams, hence the need to assist them.

She said Tanzania like any other African countries has a number of reported online scams because the country has many young people who are using social networks for the first time and they are less informed on online crimes.

Shubert Mwarabu, ACCO Tanzania coordinator said they have joined efforts to tackle cybercrime due to exist-

ing challenges in the social networks whereas some people are conned through smartphones.

He said according to the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) report of April 2021, Tanzania is estimated to have about 21 million internet users.

Mwarabu said many people are encouraged to use the internet to communicate with friends and share various opportunities online, but some of them are not cautious with the scammers.

"People are surfing the internet with caution on scammers. This alliance has come together to educate the public and make sure they are safe when using the internet," said Mwarabu, noting that online crime is a cross-cutting issue that affects the whole world.

He said to ensure citizens are safe, there should be efforts to educate them on safer use of social networks.

"There are people in social networks who claim to offer loans within 24 hours as well as advertising job opportunities within and outside the country. Internet users must clearly check the information before jumping to grab the opportunities and end-up being conned," he said.

The country's Cybercrime Act 2015, has not much been used by courts and the government to go after criminals and prosecute them. The Act punishes and prohibits many online scams and crime including selling illegal goods.

COVID-19 pandemic spurs financial inclusion

By Guardian Reporter

THE COVID-19 pandemic has spurred financial inclusion-driving a large increase in digital payments amid the global expansion of formal financial services.

This expansion created new economic opportunities, narrowing the gender gap in account ownership, and building resilience at the household level to better manage financial

shocks, according to the Global Findex 2021 database.

"The digital revolution has catalyzed increases in the access and use of financial services across the world, transforming ways in which people make and receive payments, borrow, and save," said World Bank Group President David Malpass.

Malpass added: "Creating an enabling policy environment, promoting digitalisation of pay-

ments, and further broadening access to formal accounts and financial services among women and the poor are some of the policy priorities to mitigate the reversals in development from the on-going overlapping crises."

The pandemic has also led to an increased use of digital payments. In low and middle-income economies (excluding China), over 40 percent of adults who made merchant in-store or online payments using a card, phone, or the

internet did so for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

The same was true for more than a third of adults in all low- and middle-income economies who paid a utility bill directly from a formal account. In India, more than 80 million adults made their first digital merchant payment after the start of the pandemic, while in China over 100 million adults did.

Two-thirds of adults worldwide now make

or receive a digital payment, with the share in developing economies grew from 35 percent in 2014 to 57 percent in 2021.

In developing economies, 71 percent have an account at a bank, other financial institution, or with a mobile money provider, up from 63 percent in 2017 and 42 percent in 2011.

Mobile money accounts drove a huge increase in financial inclusion in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Misplaced students: Reporting first creates a fait accompli, a dilemma

MEMBERS of Parliament were lately raising queries on misplacement of students supposed to join Form V rather than technical or vocational colleges when results of the National Form IV examinations are published. They seek to join an appropriate institution but local administrators, wishing the matter be closed anyway, don't work hard enough on the issue, so the matter remains as a complaint. Many aren't sure what to do next.

When the matter was put across in the last question and answer session in the National Assembly, it earned a response from the responsible minister, Innocent Bashingwa. He is charged with Regional Administration and Local Governments in the President's Office, and his response on the issue was to say the least, salutary. He left the students on their thirst, not issuing any definite assurance that the cases would be fairly or positively resolved, directing his remarks more to the students than to regional administrators.

The minister affirmed that the placement issue needs to be resolved two weeks

after examination results are published, which means or rather implies that the student can follow up on the matter from home, then proceed to the right place when it is solved. And if this fails, could then decide to take up the second rate offer, that of proceeding to a vocational education centre, or a technical facility. But then he or she could be kept out for missing deadlines, as the reporting period is also sup-

posed to be within two weeks.

This was the tantalizing point, that regional administrations ought to sort out placements fast enough so that those who have qualified to proceed to high school can do so, and if this fails, take up the secondary offer. This isn't what the minister affirmed, opting to formalize what regional and district officials prefer. It is to say the student reports to institution of initial placement, and the correction will be conducted 'within two weeks.'

After a student has reported, much of the urgency dissipates, to school or other administrators, as their principal interest is to jot in the numbers, not the specific individuals and their correct placement. So long as a student is yet to report anywhere, the query or wish for relevant placing makes sense or it would matter even to a district official. After having reported to this or that vocational school or technical college, raising the matter as urgent is likely to be complicated, missing out the two weeks mandatory deadlines that institutions usually prefer.

It makes the first selection virtually final, as the issue of actual placement becomes a matter of someone 'feeling different,' while school administrators have 'other things to do.' We wouldn't say that this is how it will go all the time, but if there a genuine wish to make the correct placement, why ask someone to report to an institution he or she doesn't like and has no actual intention to study there? Is there no element of compulsion in this outlook?

Urbanising rural settings helps absorb pressure on towns, cities, but so what?

RAPID progress in connecting most villages with electricity, and in quite a few of them tarmac roads coming right to the doorstep - or at least to the main bus stand - the face of rural Tanzania seems to be changing faster than most of us would have expected.

With diminished commercial openings in towns owing to lower purchasing power per capita even if one compares with ten years ago, many of those who have two dwellings, one in town or in one of the cities, and another at home as it is habitual for those born in villages to retain their roots there, streaming back is catching up.

There are other factors at work, like the solid improvement of horticulture to export craze.

The rural areas are teeming with new agro-based occupations, one being the cultivation of exotic crops like vanilla, being advertised on FM radios as capable of yielding millions if one can spare an acre of usable soil for that purpose.

There are even some specialised companies handling the production process, but it is unclear whether in this partnerships the likely benefits will be as high. But as it is a new crop, some expert guidance is all but unavoidable.

One major problem which was also preoccupying members of Parliament in the Budget session was crops being cultivated and them missing out on markets.

The worst villain seems to be tomatoes, and it is indeed one of the more rapidly per-

ishable, though most vegetables can't stand any length of time.

MPs' dreams of setting up cold chains for fish and vegetables were met with more realistic responses from ministers, emphasizing on drying fish rather than procuring deep freezers for numerous fishing centres countrywide.

There is hence a plausible impression that rural areas might diminish the pressure on urban settings that find it hard to absorb a teeming youth population in particular.

That isn't to say that rural settings are the new panacea for the youth but rather they may reduce some of the urgency in migrating to urban areas, or the compulsion to stay put in an urban area even when one lacks anything worthwhile to take up most of his day time. When people are doing more building and more farming, day to day hiring will be prevalent as in urban areas.

The rapid dispersion of motorcycles being loaned out to youths to make a living makes the conduct of routine business more feasible, as Toyo taxis are cheaper to hire to carry goods from district centres to shops in more remote areas, or produce from far off villages to market centres in district centres or similar places.

Building schools, dispensaries and vocational centres will also add to more diversified needs, boosting service provision in small urban areas or rural settings. You could say that it all begins with a tarmac road!

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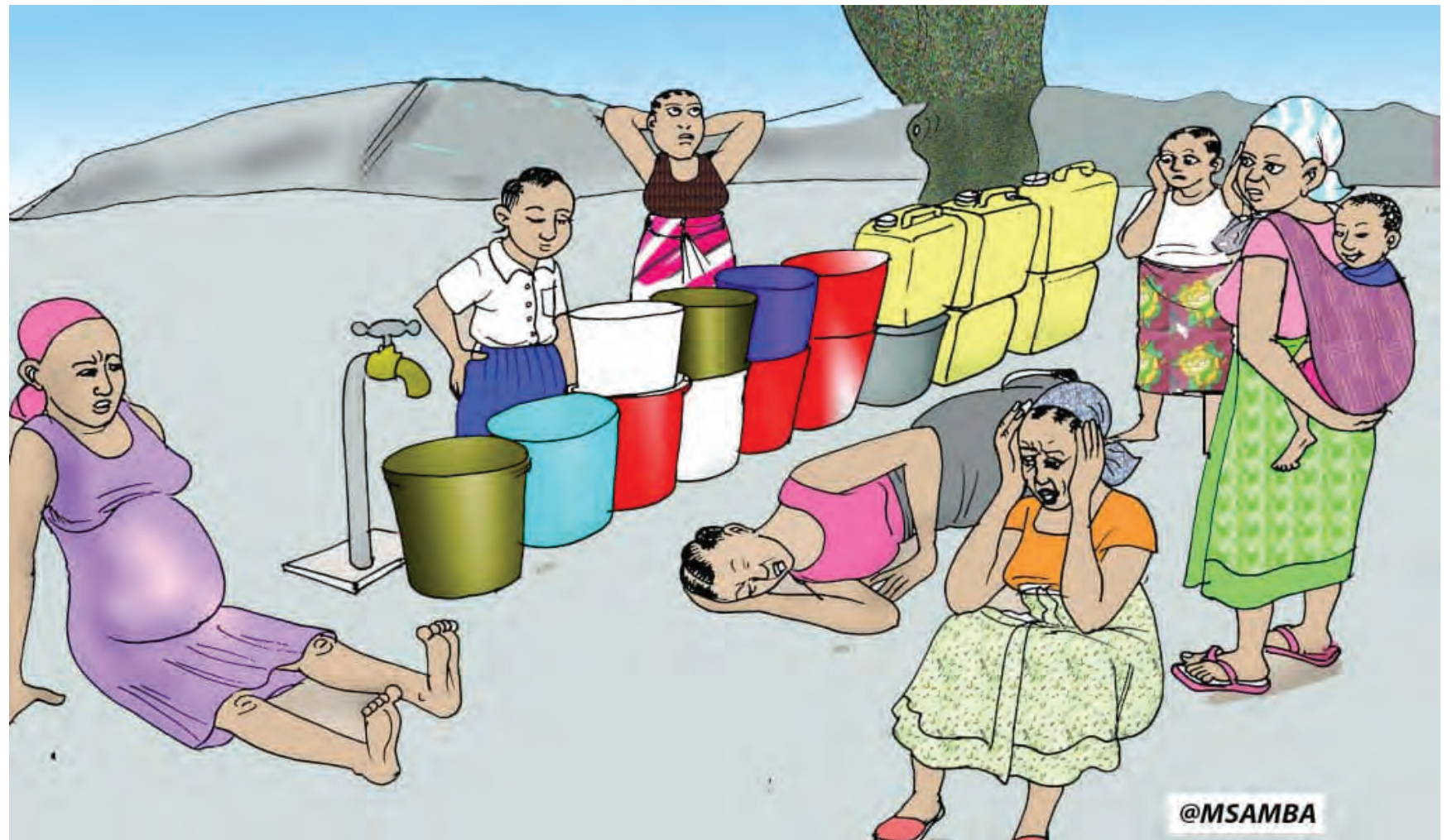
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Stopping the menace of vote buying in Nigerian elections

By Special Correspondent

PREMIUM TIMES believes that it is not enough for the EFCC or the police to arrest a handful of party foot soldiers who are sharing money to compromised voters on election day.

The recent off-season Ekiti State governorship election was blighted by vote buying, among other malpractices. Vote buying has become an obscene phenomenon that increases in every election in Nigeria without any decisive official response to counteract it. This bodes ill for the 2023 general elections which might end up being decided by the size of the 'bribe budget' rather than the choice of citizens. Vote buying must be checkmated to guarantee the right of the people to freely exercise their democratic franchise.

A total of 16 political parties participated in the Ekiti election. According to reports from election observers and the media, some voters received between N5,000 and N10,000 each, under a "See and Pay" subterfuge, in which a thump-printed ballot was displayed to a party agent who stood around a polling booth. While the bigger parties allegedly shelled out these huge sums, some smaller parties purportedly offered between N1,000 and N2,000 per vote. In its corroboration of this grotesque indulgence, the Centre for Democracy and Development, a non-profit organisation, said its field observers documented 41 bribery cases in six local government areas of the State. Segun Oni, the candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), who feels cheated by the vote-bazaar, has vowed to challenge the outcome of the poll on this score, amongst other reasons.

The Socio-Economic and Peoples Right (SERAP), in its nudge for action, gave the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) a seven-day ultimatum within which to identify and prosecute the perpetrators, just as the British High Commission in Nigeria stressed that, "buying and selling of votes has no place in a democracy." The U.K. authorities could not be more correct.

The official tally from INEC showed that 749,065 Personal Voter Cards were issued for the election, out of which 360,753 were used by voters. Cash provision to buy a significant number of these registered voters, at either N5000 or N10,000 per vote, would run into billions of naira. This is simply unacceptable. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and National Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) reportedly made a handful of arrests during the Ekiti election. This is not deterrent enough to curtail this menace.

Admittedly, this kind of electoral malfeasance did not originate in the Ekiti State poll. It has prevailed in every election, and grown with each new poll. In times past, bags of rice, N500 or more were freely given out to induce voters. But this clutched a notch higher in the recent presidential primaries of the two main political parties this year in Abuja, where delegates allegedly received as much as \$15,000 each. And conscious of that infamy, INEC warned against monetization on the eve of the Ekiti poll, while unveiling its partnership with the EFCC and



the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Offences Commission (ICPC). Corruption of the process also happened in the November 2021 governorship election in Anambra State.

But that election showed that the vice is not insurmountable with the aggressive sensitisation of electorates and enforcement of the country's anti-graft laws, which are in many of our statutes. A viral video in circulation shows rural women in Ukwulu, Dunukofia Local Government Area of Anambra State criticising party representatives who attempted bribing them with N5,000 to vote for a particular candidate. One of the women, Eunice Ngozi Onuegbusi, said that even though she was poor and had no N5,000, she would not vote against her conscience. Her fidelity to principle later paid off, as the then state governor, Willy Obiano, subsequently rewarded her with N1 million.

As the "Show and Pay" Ekiti script suggested, the electoral process was compromised by a slew of officials, including INEC and security personnel.

This is where technology could play a critical role. If it were possible that INEC had installed surveillance cameras at the polling units, these would have captured all the shenanigans that took place during the exercise and even raised public consciousness of the danger in running afoul of the law. The use of such equipment should be considered in future elections. A polling booth is supposed to be an enclosure set up to ensure that voters can secretly thump print and cast their ballots. As another governorship election holds in Osun State in July, INEC should ensure that no security personnel or party agents

stays around the areas designated for citizens to vote in secret. At the beginning of the vote-buying crisis, voters were using their phone cameras to take pictures and show whom they voted for. It was for that reason that INEC outlawed the carrying of phones into voting booths.

It is possible to reverse the vote buying practice. For instance, it is generally known that politically exposed individuals usually withdraw humongous amounts of cash from banks a few days to elections. As such, it is the responsibility of security agencies to monitor such funds and ensure that they act if these monies are used in violation of the Money Laundering Act 2011, as amended.

The law's 12 Sections were strengthened in 2012. Under the Act, the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit and Special Control Unit in the EFCC are to checkmate money laundering activities. Through automation, according to the law, a bank should alert the EFCC on transactions that fall within "suspicious thresholds." This mechanism has been rendered nugatory. The practice of having billions withdrawn from banks on the eve of elections for vote buying, without the relevant authorities acting, must stop.

PREMIUM TIMES believes that it is not enough for the EFCC or the police to arrest a handful of party foot soldiers who are sharing money to compromised voters on election day. Arresting their main sponsors and making them face the full weight of the law, along with complicit banks, will go a long way in containing this conundrum. It is a farce for anyone to declare an election, in which the will of the people is subverted by vote buying, as "free, fair and credible." A candi-

date who wins an election through the financial inducement of voters will obviously not serve the people, but go into public office to loot the treasury to recover the money used to wrangle his way through.

INEC has had great difficulty in stopping and lacks sufficient capacity to adequately address electoral abuses such as vote buying, ballot box stuffing and snatching, and thuggery, which have risen to an industrial scale nationwide. It reported 870,000 and 900,000 of these cases in the 2011 and 2015 general elections respectively, but could only prosecute about 200 cases in each electoral cycle. Now is the time for an effective response to pervasive electoral menaces and to establish the much-talked about Electoral Offences Commission and Tribunal to handle, and put a stop to these concerns. The National Assembly should get out of its usual indolence and pay attention to critical issues of national importance such as the speedy consideration of the proposed Bill on the Commission and Tribunal.

PREMIUM TIMES calls on Nigerians to properly see the rather unfortunate phenomenon of vote buying as a very critical impediment to genuine democratic consolidation, which it truly is.

The rogue route to political office that vote buying has opened must be closed immediately. Voters who allow unscrupulous politicians to use them to get into office by means of this electoral shenanigan should know that they are throwing away their fundamental rights to democratic accountability through this selfish act. They, and their benefactors, are only fit to be treated as felons and thrown behind bars. The EFCC and ICPC must act accordingly.

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

Inequality: Hard nut to crack that derails efforts to eradicate poverty

THE poorest half of the global population owns just €2,900 (about 7mn/) in purchasing power parity per adult, while the top 10 per cent owns roughly 190 times as much. The richest 10 per cent today snaps up 52 per cent of all income while the poorest half gets just 8.5 per cent. This is according to IMF's global inequalities report for 2022/23.

In 2018, Development Finance International (DFI) and Oxfam warned that southern Africa was the most unequal region in Africa, highlighting that some of its governments had realised the need to take stronger measures to reduce inequality.

This year, using their Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index (CRII) framework, the report by DFI, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and Oxfam found that many Southern African Development Community (SADC) member governments' are showing considerable commitment to fighting inequality but still nowhere near enough to offset the huge inequality produced by the market and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Presenting research findings on SADC commitment to reducing inequality contained in the latest report entitled *The Crisis of Extreme Inequality in SADC* through video conference from Nairobi, Kenya, during Policy Forum's breakfast debate on Friday last week in Dar es Salaam, Inequality Research Coordinator at Oxfam International Anthony Kamande said the organizations have produced the document to encourage member governments in the bloc to scale up their efforts to reduce inequality.

The CRII index enables citizens and civil society organisations to hold governments to account for their real commitment and progress towards building fairer and more inclusive societies. The country-specific content was entitled 'Leaving no one behind: Policies and approaches to reduce inequalities in Tanzania'.

It ranks 158 countries on their policy performance to reduce inequality through public services, progressive taxation and labour. It also looks at the policy taken by the governments, how successful their implementations are and the impact on inequality.

The key message from the SADC CRII report includes the finding that Southern Africa is the most unequal sub region in the world. Though some countries are trying to fight inequality, others are do-



Clotilda Ndezi, a representative of the Christian Council of Tanzania, speaks during a Policy Forum breakfast debate on inequality in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Photo: Daniel Semberya

ing far too little.

It found that investment in agriculture is very low, impacts of climate change, rocketing food and energy prices being some of the challenges the bloc needs to address.

But it notes that it's not too late to act, suggesting that concerted efforts from governments, regional bodies, and the international community are urgently needed to change the situation.

According to the report, 192 million people within SADC went into the pandemic with no coverage of basic health care services, 33 million of them being Tanzanians. Tanzania is on the bottom third in public services and labour, but does relatively well on taxation.

Tanzania ranks poorly on public sector pillar where it is listed 138th globally, 33rd among African countries and 14th out of 15 SADC member countries.

Low spending on health and education, and large gaps in coverage that leave the poorest behind, are significantly undermining the equality, reducing potential of essential services and social safety nets, says the study.

On education, Tanzania's budget allocation to of 14.08 per cent ranks the country 4th lowest in SADC and puts it far from meeting the internationally recommended 20 per cent of national budget as set by Education for All Partnership. Comparatively, Namibia currently spends 25.4 per cent, which is the third-highest education share in the world.

The report has also revealed that health spending in Tanzania is very low at just 5.4 per cent of the budget. This puts the country at the very bottom of the

rankings in the SADC region, and 37th in Africa.

The report says more than half of the country's population (57 per cent) lacks access to essential health services, and 4 per cent of households had to pay more than 10 per cent of their income to fund health services.

With regard to social protection, Tanzania is the second highest spender among SADC countries as per percentage of budget at 23.4 per cent. However, this is mainly spending on civil service pensions, and most citizens left out.

The report further unveils that 86 per cent of the population is not covered by any social protection scheme and pension coverage is the second lowest in SADC at just 3.2 per cent.

Overall, public spending on health, education, and social protection is reducing income inequality as measured by the Gini coefficient by just 0.014 (3.5 percent). This ranks Tanzania 13th out of the 15 SADC countries on the redistributive power of its public spending.

On the tax pillar, Tanzania is performing well, ranking 5th in SADC and 39th globally. However, beneath this headline there are some areas that require significant improvement, especially on what the report terms "unprogressive personal income tax (PIT), regressive Value Added Tax (VAT) and poor tax collection."

On labour rights pillar, Tanzania ranks bottom among SADC countries and 144th globally. It scores low on minimum wages and wages

inequality.

The report states that Tanzania is ranked 13th among SADC countries and 39th in Africa on labour rights, citing the Penn State University Index on labour rights 2017.

One of the discussants at the debate, Fr Florence Rutaihiwa, Director of Pastoral Services at the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC), commended the government for deciding to offer free education from primary to form six.

However, he called on the government to ensure there is a proportionate number of teachers and pupils so as to eliminate the existing inequality in public schools.

On health, he suggested that the government increases health budget and increase uptake and affordability of health insurance schemes to move away from out-of-pocket payment for health.

As for agriculture, he called upon the government to implement its good policies on agriculture as outlined in the just endorsed national budget to enable farmers move from subsistence to commercial farming, including value addition of produce for increased productivity and revenue.

Nelson Kisare, Menonite Church Archbishop in Tanzania, who also doubles as Chairperson of ISCEJIC said tax collection and distribution is critical for national development.

He urged the government to collect every single cent according to the law and that is due to it but was quick to caution that the state should not collect more than it is supposed to.

"If tax is collected well, it has direct impact on the lives of taxpayers. It can be applied to reduce the gap between the poor and the rich in society," he said.

Dr Saleh Abdallah, Health Affairs Advisor at the Muslim Council of Tanzania (Bakwata) urged development stakeholders to work with the government in place and not to put it in place.

He urged his fellow religious leaders to advise decision and policy makers in the country to execute their duties diligently so as to eliminate inequalities in societies.

Clotilda Ndezi from the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT commended the government for increased budget allocation for the agriculture sector but was quick to urge disbursement is key to ensure that funds benefit smallholder farmers who are mostly women.

Authors of the report urged the government to among others; allocate at least 10 per cent of national budgets to agriculture, especially in countries where agriculture is a key sector for employment and incomes.

They urge countries to develop national agriculture investment plans that are gender-sensitive and seek primarily to support small scale farmers in non-cash crop sectors and show how each country will achieve food security and end rural poverty by 2030.

IPBES shoring up private sector support for biodiversity science

DOMINICA

IN the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, the changing climate often eclipses the loss of ecosystems and species in funding and awareness.

For years, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has been one of the world's most visible forces for policy and action, informed by science, to protect and restore nature.

IPBES is also now making headway in its goal of ensuring that biodiversity issues receive a similar level of priority and awareness to that of the climate crisis - as well as increased funding. An important part of this involves diversifying its funding sources to include the private sector and philanthropic organisations.

Funded primarily by voluntary contributions from its member governments, IPBES recently announced landmark collaborations with the luxury industry's Kering Group, global fashion retailer H&M, the BNP Paribas Foundation, AXA Research Fund and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

"There is a dual purpose in the way we have engaged with the private sector over the last few years, both to find opportunities for their support and to engage them more closely with our work

and its outcomes, so that they can use those in their own activities as well," IPBES Head of Communications Rob Spaul told IPS.

To protect the objectivity and credibility of the Platform's scientific research, formal collaboration with private sector companies follows a rigorous due diligence process that can take up to one year and is spearheaded by a legal team from the United Nations Environment Programme, which hosts the IPBES secretariat.

"We ensure that any kind of contribution that might be received from the private sector has no influence on the science that IPBES publishes. It was really important for our member States that we implement a model that protects the independence of the Platform," Spaul said. "We accept contributions, but those contributions go into the IPBES Trust Fund."

IPBES says the science is clear - businesses can be a vital part of the solution to the biodiversity crisis.

"We want to help the private sector move forward, and we want them on board with us. Our vision is that through their commitment to the work of IPBES, we also help the private sector to better understand and decrease its impact on biodiversity," said Sonia Gueorguiev, IPBES Head of Development.

"More and more businesses are understanding how biodiversity



River and mountain in the interior of Dominica. IPBES' collaboration with the private sector funds research and evidence that helps businesses make better-informed decisions to protect biodiversity.

is strongly interlinked with their core business, as companies rely on nature for resources, and they are recognising how important it is for them, both for ethical and economic reasons, to progressively incorporate biodiversity into their strategies and business models."

IPBES has produced some of the world's leading and most cited scientific reports, including the 2019 Global Assessment Report, which concluded that one million

species of plants and animals face extinction, while human activity has significantly altered 75 per cent of the earth's land surface and over 60 percent of the ocean area. For Spaul, IPBES' budget pales in comparison to the Platform's value, which includes the many years of voluntary expert contributions to every IPBES report.

"For example, on the Global Assessment Report, we did a bit of a back-of-the-envelope calculation and added up the different per-

son-hours that were contributed free of charge by the experts over the three years that they worked on the report. It added up to more than 17 years of work, which was essentially a voluntary expert contribution to the Platform. The operating budget doesn't actually reflect the immense value that is created by the Platform."

These recent private sector collaborations are a solid foundation for IPBES' funding diversification but represent a small fraction of

what is needed for greater financial stability. "They are a good start, but they are still a start. That is one of the reasons why we are looking forward to the future where hopefully, we will be able to expand into new sectors with other kinds of private sector and philanthropic organisations in a similar way," said Spaul.

IPBES is already working on a number of new reports. Two highly anticipated assessments will be released in July, after four years of

work, one on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species, and one on the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature.

IPBES will publish another report next year on invasive alien species and their control and is already working on one about reaching simultaneously sustainable development goals related to biodiversity, water, food and health, as well as one on transformative change. A new business and biodiversity assessment is also planned that will assist businesses with assessing their impacts and dependence on biodiversity.

"The IPBES assessments enjoy strong global recognition and visibility," Gueorguiev said. "As populations of plants and animals are shrinking and nature's contributions to people diminish, individuals and providers of funds will make consumption and investment choices that will exclude those companies whose activities contribute to the decline of biodiversity. Public-private partnerships and collaborations are one of the solutions to both the biodiversity crisis and the climate crisis," said Gueorguiev.

"Biodiversity is set to become a social issue as unavoidable as climate change, and we are working with companies with strong sustainability leadership in their industries, which can enable them to set sustainability standards," she said. **IPS**

By Peter Fabricius

Pan-African Parliament elects Fortune Charumbira president

I took a stern intervention from African Union (AU) Commission chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat. But eventually, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) in Midrand, South Africa, managed to elect its president and four vice presidents this week – one year late.

A year ago the attempted elections collapsed in farcical chaos, verbal abuse and even violence. The southern African region had insisted that the general AU principle of rotation among the continent's five regions should be applied to the PAP.

Southern African MPs prevented elections that would probably have elected a Malian candidate from going ahead. They said West Africa had already held the presidency, as had Central Africa (twice) and East Africa. So it was now the turn of the South and the North.

The South put up a candidate, Zimbabwean Chief Fortune Charumbira – a traditional chief and senator nominated to the Zimbabwean Parliament by the Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front government. The others would have none of this, saying no AU rotational principle could be forced on the PAP, which was an autonomous body that had never adopted this principle itself.

Faki meanwhile ordered his legal advisers to investigate the issue. They advised that the rotational principle be applied. This was endorsed by the AU's executive council and its Assembly of heads of state, Faki said at the PAP this week.

South Sudan's government claimed this decision had never been endorsed by the AU and insisted on the legitimate candidacy of its MP, the former child soldier Albino Aboung.

Faki acknowledged this week that the principle of rotational presidency had unfortunately not been ratified by the required number of states, and so was legally unenforceable. He nonetheless urged the PAP to adopt it to resolve the embarrassing deadlock that had tarnished the image of this institution and that of the entire continent, rendering it incapable of performing its functions properly.

"The unbearable scenes projected on



The swearing-in of new members at the opening ceremony of the Pan-African Parliament ordinary session held at its headquarters in Midrand, Johannesburg, on 28 June 2022. File photo

TV and social media, which were seen by Africans, belittled the Parliament. It was a disgrace for the continent," he lectured from the podium.

Thus suitably chastened, the PAP adopted the principle of rotation, South Sudan stood down and Charumbira was duly elected unopposed, with 203 votes for, 161 against, 31 abstentions and 11 spoilt ballots. He declared: "I am a president for all of you, despite how you voted," and urged MPs to put aside linguistic and other divisions and conflicts.

The unseemly 2021 non-elections merely served to reinforce the widespread perception that without any real purpose, the PAP had simply degenerated into an arena of contestation over positions, per diems and patronage rather than programmes and principles. The non-elections had already been preceded by a hiatus

of almost a year when the previous president resigned under a cloud of corruption.

The PAP was launched in 2004 as part of a panoply of pan-African institutions of the newborn AU. It was conceived by the AU's founding fathers (mainly South Africa's Thabo Mbeki, Nigeria's Olusegun Obasanjo and Algeria's Abdelaziz Bouteflika) as an august body that would help Africa's people hold their leaders to account and eventually attain legislative and not just consultative and advisory powers.

The latter has never happened and seems unlikely to – as the same Malabo Protocol that would have endorsed the principle of rotation and conferred legislative powers on the PAP has never entered into force, because of insufficient national ratifications.

In any case, it is almost impossible to imagine AU

member states conceding any real powers to continental legislators. Most leaders, arguably, don't concede such power even to their own legislatures.

Which, as Institute for Security Studies (ISS) senior researcher Liesl Louw-Vaudran points out, lies at the heart of the problem. How do you get a legitimate Parliament continentally, when democracy is so weak in many countries? How can one really believe in a supposedly democratic institution that will now be headed by someone appointed by his government, not elected? And in a country not well known for the legitimacy of its elections anyway?

Charumbira will have to rise well above his national limitations if he is going to make an impact.

Louw-Vaudran nonetheless believes that the PAP, even without such far-off legislative powers, could still

serve a useful purpose by functioning as an oversight body, mainly holding the institutions of the AU to greater account. She finds it telling that it took Faki to come to Midrand this week to tell the PAP how to conduct its elections.

That was a reversal of the proper roles, she noted, as the AU Commission – after all merely the bureaucracy of the AU – should be taking advice from the PAP. But because of the undignified spectacle of its elections last year, Faki's adult supervision was unfortunately necessary.

Louw-Vaudran believes the PAP should be sending observers to African elections as it used to, and its president should routinely address AU summits, to elevate its importance.

It has in the past scrutinised AU budgets, but this role should be strengthened and given institutional status, one should add.

The East African (EA) Legislative Assembly – the continent's most successful multilateral legislature – monitors the East African Community's (EAC) economic functions. Ideally, the PAP should play a similar role over the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement say – though this would require great technical skills.

The EA Legislative Assembly, incidentally, is directly elected by voters of the EAC constituent countries. Whatever its powers, the PAP would surely benefit from similar direct elections, versus the present indirect elections through national parliaments, which appear to have diminished opposition representation over the years.

As Louw-Vaudran notes, African governments no doubt see little benefit in a strong PAP which would hold them to better account. It must surely then be Africa's citizens – particularly its national legislators – who bear the responsibility to shape the PAP into something worthwhile. Though in its usual rumbustious way, the MPs of South Africa's Economic Freedom Fighters have played some of that role in the PAP by questioning its purpose.

She also notes that at their summit in Lilongwe last August, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) leaders resolved to transform the existing SADC Parliamentary Forum into a Parliament, albeit as "a consultative and a deliberative body."

If the PAP is anything to go by, that would be a terrible idea. At the very least, SADC should be embarking on a region-wide campaign to seek the advice of its citizens on whether this would be a good idea; and if so, what would be necessary to make it work. **DM**

Female motor mechanic inspires women to break gender barriers in Zimbabwe

CHITUNGWIZA

WHEN most people think of a motor mechanic, what they often visualise is a man covered in grime and grease – the idea of a woman under the hood is still strange to many people.

Memory Bere (pictured), however, is not the stereotypical mechanic. She is among a growing number of female motor mechanics smashing gender bias and driving change in the male-dominated automotive repair and maintenance industry.

"As a female mechanic, my goal is to break the gender bias in the motor mechanic industry and create the next generation of vibrant female motor mechanics," Bere, 30, told Xinhua at her workshop in Chitungwiza, a town near Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe.

Her ambition is to encourage more women to become motor mechanics. "When I grew up, my

father had a Datsun 1500 and I used to call it a 'scoro-scuro' car because each and every time that car would give him problems. So whenever he was fixing his car I was always by his side as his spanner girl," said Bere.

When she finished high school, Bere enrolled in a motor mechanics course. "The first challenge which I faced was I was the only female mechanic in class and when I finished mechanics I started looking for a job and I couldn't find one here in Zimbabwe then I decided to go to South Africa.

When I went to SA it was also not easy since motor mechanics is a male-dominated field," she recalled. When she finally got a job, Bere said she could not find a female mentor to look up to.

"I decided that I want to show to the world as well as to the young generation which also wants to follow me that no job is meant for a man or woman. As long as you believe and have faith in yourself that you can do it, you can do it," she said.



The journey has not been easy as society has set the bar unfairly high for women who have to work harder than men to receive the same recognition.

Despite her colorful resume, some customers still lacked faith

in her and would frequently ask to be served by a male mechanic.

"There was this customer, he brought his BMW and he wanted to change brake pads.

My boss asked me to change the pads. So I changed the brake

pads and then after I finished tightening the wheels the customer noticed I was the one who was doing his car.

Then he asked one of my colleagues to cross-check if I had done the right thing. Apparent-

ly, he didn't know that the guy whom he was calling was my assistant mechanic," she said.

Bere said she realized that gender bias was ingrained in society as fellow women also failed to support her. "When I entered the field as a female, I expected to get support from other women but unfortunately I couldn't get one because some ladies were looking down upon me that have you ever seen a female mechanic.

It's something which is unbelievable especially in our culture that a lady can do a man's job," she said. Despite the lack of support, facing sexual harassment and experiencing offensive jokes at the workplace, Bere managed to create a name for herself.

"There are some incidences whereby you find that those guys might fail to fix the car and at the end of the day they will call me and I will go there and fix the car. So it means I have already proved myself that I can do this job, and I am even more qualified."

Bere's secret to success has al-

ways been going the extra mile. "I always believe in a word of saying a woman's touch is perfect. And when I am doing my job even my customers know that I always make sure I do it perfectly, and I don't have any job whereby it's a comeback job," she said.

Bere has since started going to schools encouraging girls to pursue careers in male-dominated fields. "Young girls should consider taking trades in the male-dominated fields because these male-dominated fields are more practical.

You don't need much of your education. What you need to do is only to know practical as well as to use your hands to work," she said.

The mechanic said she found her job to be a rewarding profession on many levels. Now her goal is to see more young women entering the industry. Currently, she is grooming more than 20 female mechanics who are interning at various companies.

Xinhua

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 UMJUAYVO 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

Foundation helps drug users to recover from addiction

By Felister Peter

"I started to use drugs after my parents separated and so I had to live with my father in Dar es Salaam. As years passed, I was overwhelmed by the thought of staying away from my mother who lived in Mbeya. One of my friends advised me to use drugs to stop the feelings about my mother; and that was the beginning of my addiction," narrates Fadhili Ibrahim (32), who is now registered for methadone doses at a Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) clinic.

Ibrahim, who was once in jail said after using the drugs for a certain period, he wanted to stop but did not know where and when to get proper medication for recovery.

He later on met a peer educator in Mbeya Region who advised him to enroll for methadone dose at MAT clinic—an intervention implemented by the Henry Jackson Foundation Military Research International (HJFMRI) under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) funded through the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR - TZ).

Ibrahim said that when he started taking methadone, he also met with some drug addicts who were on the same dose and they were progressing well.

"This encouraged me to continue attending the clinic. I am becoming healthy and stronger; I can see myself changing gradually. I am grateful for the service I receive from peer educators which includes counselling and behavioural therapies," he remarked.

Ibrahim who once stayed in jail for two and half months, said drug users serving jail terms or in remand face various challenges because some of the police and prison officers have limited information on drug abusers, especially those on methadone doses.

"It was somehow difficult for me to manage the side effects of methadone while in jail; I frequently experienced body pain and high body temperature. I continued with the dosage and followed instructions exactly believing that I will recover from addiction," he stated.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) common illegal drugs used in Africa include khat, heroin, cocaine and cannabis. Youth have been identified as the most vulnerable group and highly affected.

Drug abuse results in economic, social and health effects including; mental retardation, lung diseases, heart diseases and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), disorders in adolescence, young adults and the general public.

Janeth Mwamtobe is a peer educator and beneficiary of a drugs addiction recovery program; she was drugged into drug abuse by her male partner who was a drug dealer.



Fadhili Ibrahim

"I used drugs for twenty years before I decided to enroll for methadone treatment at a Dar es Salaam based clinic at Mwananyamala Referral hospital. I had to take medication for five years to become who I am today," said Janeth.

She added: "I had a passion to help and support other drug addicts; my dream came true when the Henry Jackson Foundation Military Research International (HJFMRI) provided me with the required training, and so, I started assisting drug users both at homes and prison.

According to Janeth, the thing that pushed her to start taking methadone dose is the kind of abuse that women using drugs go through at society level. She said the desire to help them and make sure they recover was accomplished by HJFMRI, as she can now provide the support by visiting them at their homes, prisons and courts.

"Drug users go through a lot of abuse in their communities and even from their relatives. Many are taken to court or imprisoned over lack of support. I wanted them to have their rights in the stages of methadone use, to get similar treatment services that other people receive even when in the police custody or prison," she said, noting at times peer educators are forced to bail them out so they can continue with treatment.

She acknowledged efforts by HJFMRI, Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) and WRAIR - TZ for providing training to prison and police officers, as they are now cooperating when dealing with inmates and remands taking methadone doses.

Rwanda Central Prison Head, Ahmad

Selemani said that at first he considered drug users as unworthy in the society. He said after the training in February this year HJFMRI, Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) and WRAIR - TZ, he now have a good understanding of drugs and the kind of help that people using drugs require.

He said as per country laws, the use of drugs is illegal, but community members should help drug users to get back to normal.

"Here at Ruanda, we always make sure drug addicts, both prisoners and detainees are given chances to attend their clinics," said Selemani.

Andrew Kantimbo, Head of Criminal Investigations in Mbeya Region said the harm reduction training provided to them by the above mentioned organizations helped to increase the offi-

cials' understanding on drugs and contributed to reduce stigma.

"Drug use is a criminal offense and we have been always considered users as criminals. After the training I realized that there were people who had their professions like teachers, servants and doctors who were once addicts," he stated.

Kantimbo underscored the need for addicts to be provided with proper medication to control infection of diseases such as HIV/Aids, Tuberculosis (TB) and hepatitis C.

He added: "We have plans to provide education to the community, we want young people to have a variety of activities including sports that will keep them busy," said the official, calling for more training to executives, especially those dealing with criminal justice.

HJFMRI Executive Director, Sally Talike Chalamila said their interventions aims to help people using drugs through medications in combination with counselling and behavioural therapies, which is effective in the treatment of opioid use disorders.

She said foundation works closely with the government at various levels as well as partners for purposes of achieving the goal of eradicating HIV/Aids by 2030. In southern highland regions, HJFMRI operate in Mbeya, Songwe, Rukwa and Katavi regions.

Sally said that they also support two MAT clinics at the Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital and Tunduma in Songwe and operate at 21 of the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) health facilities across the country.

"We help drug users to get treatment (methadone) at our MAT clinics. We also have a system to enable them to get other type of medications whenever required," remarked Sally.

She said HJFMRI has also established dropping centres in Mbeya where addicts can meet and engage in various social activities. She said the centres, they are also provided with behavioural change counselling to help them return to normal and contribute to the country's development.

The UNODC world drug report 2022 indicates that around 284 million people aged 15-64 used drugs worldwide in 2020, a 26 per cent increase over the previous decade.

Globally, the report estimates that 11.2 million people worldwide were injecting drugs. Around half of them were living with hepatitis C, 1.4 million were living with HIV, and 1.2 million were living with both.

Investment and growth of corporate entities should not be at expense of the environment

By Baraka Thomas

THE word environment includes composite elements found in the surroundings, tangible and non-tangible things which include rivers, lakes, mountains, plains, air sound and available natural resources.

The same environment is used for various different purposes by the community from livelihood, settlement, undertaking business and multiplying the sources of income. The existence of any corporation is not viable in absence of an environment

Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) is the commitment by corporations (industry) to act in environment-friendly ways and contribute to overall environmental improvement while carrying out business.

CER is based on principles of sustainable development centered on decision-making processes that take into consideration all related environmental aspects keeping in mind the immediate and long-term impacts of activities. This is because investment in extractives resources is prone to environmental population

Extraction activities are inherently disruptive to the environment producing enormous quantities of waste that can have deleterious impacts for decades. Extraction activities are also prone to environmental pollution which can be amplified and identified such as water pollution, air and atmosphere pollution, marine pollution, land pollution, and noise pollution.

Therefore while exploiting natural resources, environmental protection is important.

Liability generally means a legally enforceable obligation, whether it is voluntarily entered into a contractual obligation, or is imposed unilaterally such as liability to pay taxes. The law

both establishes liabilities and determines who is responsible for discharging them

Environmental responsibility is the term used for the process through which responsibility for the cost of damaging the environment is transferred back to those that cause the damage.

The principle under which environmental responsibility operates is called the 'polluter pays principle', its ultimate objective is to reduce damage to the environment.

Globally the interface between business and the environment started when the Brundtland Report, 1987, commissioned by the United Nations to examine long-term environmental strategies.

The report argues that economic development and environmental protection could be made compatible. Any business activities (investment in extractive resources) should be done without causing harm to the environment and therefore corporations started to develop different strategies to protect the environment while conducting their business.

Tanzania has a legal framework in place which its ultimate goal is to prohibit the corporates investing in extractives sectors (mining, oil and Natural gas), especially in the upstream subsectors not to externalize environmental costs to the general public.

The Environmental Management Act, (EMA) is the principal legislation which regulates the environment in Tanzania. Any human activities including investment in extractive resources (minerals, oil and natural gas) should abide by EMA.

The law under sections 5(3) and (7)(3) among others provide for guiding environmental principles such as polluter pays and sustainable development principles which corporations must abide by while they are



performing their activities.

The law recognizes various economic instruments under section 80 (4) means an instrument for environmental and natural resources management designed to influence the behavior of economic agents (corporates) in order to ensure sustainable use and protection of biophysical resources and includes fiscal instruments, charge systems, property rights, market creation, performance bonds and deposit refund systems, liability systems, provision of information and finan-

cial instruments.

EMA demand the establishment of the environmental performance bound under section 227 for the purposes of rehabilitating the environment.

Most important, EMA establishes the institution for the enforcement and implementation of this law such as the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) under sections 16, 17 & 18. The law requires that before human activities such as mining are conducted, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be conducted.

The Mining Act is the principal legislation which governs the mining activities in Tanzania. Any corporation dealing or investing in the mining sector (extractives) must comply and be guided by this Act.

The Act among other things requires that all holders of mining licence (companies) shall make sure that environment is protected and that even after the production of minerals the environment is rehabilitated.

The Act provides for holders of the mining licenses, especially large mining licenses to

maintain rehabilitation bonds whose purpose is to rehabilitate the environment. Also, the Act requires that a mineral right holder must sign an integrity pledge which among others demand maintaining insurance for damage to the environment under section 106.

The law also demands the holder of mining licenses adhere to environmental principles as provided under part IX while conducting mining activities. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) must be conducted by a holder of a mining license before the operation of mining activities.

It establishes a mining commission under section 21 with functions provided under section 22, among others to monitor and audit environmental management, environmental budget and expenditure for progressive rehabilitation and mine closure. Also, the commission has the function of examining and monitoring the implementation of environmental management plans and reports of mining Companies

Petroleum Act is the principal law regulating other petroleum (oil and natural gas) operations in the upstream sub-sector. The law provides for the holders of upstream subsector licenses to conduct EIA and adhere to the environmental principles as highlighted under sections 208-214.

The law under section 187 requires the holder of licenses in the upstream petroleum subsector to prepare decommissioning plan and submit it to Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA) on how the cessation of upstream petroleum operation will be.

It provides for the establishment of decommissioning fund under section 188 to be used for rehabilitation of the upstream environment which damaged during petroleum operation ac-

tivities. Generally speaking, the Legal framework in Tanzania requires corporations investing in Extractives resources in Tanzania to adhere to the established legal frameworks to protect the environment while conducting their business.

However, the experience has shown that some of the corporations investing in mining activities in Tanzania have violated environmental principles and caused damage to the environment which badly affects host communities in their operations.

Tanzania undergoing huge investments in petroleum activities such as the development of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), and the construction of East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) projects, should be keen to closely monitor and evaluate environmental implications which might be occurred and strict adherence with environmental principles while these projects are undertaken.

CER is anchored under various laws of Tanzania as shown above. The corporates investing in extractive resources are prohibited by the law to externalize environmental costs to the public for environmental damages that they caused.

For the CER principle to work effectively; strong and independent institutions must be in place to enforce the above laws, and close monitoring and evaluation is needed to see if corporates are complying with environmental standards and principles while conducting their business of exploitation of extractive resources, skilled personnel for the enforcement of legislation is needed, and transparency and accountability are a key for CER principle to work effectively to make sure that environment surrounding host communities is protected for the benefit of current and future generation.

MADRID

New world records: More weapons than ever - and a hunger crisis like no other

WHILE the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Summit ended in Madrid on 30 June with net commitments to double spending on weapons and to increase by eight-fold the number of troops in Europe, the total of hungry people worldwide now marks an unprecedented record.

As advanced by IPS in its: NATO Summit Set to Further Militarise Europe, Expand in Africa? The Western military Alliance Declaration states that its member countries continue to face distinct threats from "all strategic directions."

"The Russian Federation is the most significant and direct threat to Allies' security and to peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area."

Militarising migration policies?

Furthermore, the NATO Summit Declaration emphasises that terrorism, "in all its forms and manifestations, continues to pose a direct threat to the security of our populations, and to international stability and prosperity."

The Summit, therefore, decided to increase its military deployment in Southern Europe, in particular in Spain and upon its request, as a way to prevent and combat terrorism.

The decision was adopted by NATO leaders just four days after the massive entry of migrants to the Spanish cities of Ceuta and Melilla, both located in the North of Morocco, which

was brutally stopped, killing around thirty migrants.

"Instability beyond our borders is also contributing to irregular migration and human trafficking," says the Declaration.

In short, NATO has opted for further militarising its US, Canada and European countries' migration policies, which they continue to claim that are based on international laws and human rights, etcetera.

Cyber, space threats?

The Madrid Declaration also says that NATO members "are confronted by cyber, space, and hybrid and other asymmetric threats, and by the malicious use of emerging and disruptive technologies."

As expected, the NATO Declaration emphasises that the Russian Federation "is the most significant and direct threat to Allies' security and to peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area."

At the same time, NATO leaders have made a clear reference to China.

"We face systemic competition from those, including the People's Republic of China, who challenge our interests, security, and values and seek to undermine the rules-based international order."



Conflict is still the biggest driver of hunger, with 60 percent of the world's hungry living in areas affected by war and violence

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 316 00--

3 letters
UNA, TAU, BAR, AHA, KIK, DAP, AMU

4 letters
NILE, EACH, SCAM, CODDLE,

5 letters
MILES, PAINT, MKAPA,

6 letters
MAKE UP, PEYNOTE, REMAND,

8 letters
ZANZIBAR, ZIMBABWE,

9 letters
SUEZ CANAL, NETANYAHU,

CLUES: Down

- Third phase President of Tanzania
- Head of State of the Youngest nation in Africa
- a person visiting a place
- modern Persia
- Italian-speaking person
- a thought
- founding father of Zambia
- country ruled by Adolf Hitler
- a large tailed primate
- Judge in India
- Berber people of the western and central Sahara
- a group of words which when used together have a special meaning
- Second populous country on earth
- a miniature version of something
- Garden of God

Across:

- citizen number one of Uganda
- country of thousand hills
- Capital city of Zambia
- Number two producer of Oil in Africa
- cease
- the act of possessing something
- largest state in U.S
- Second largest continent on earth
- Sana'a is her capital city
- Uncolonised country in Africa
- autonomous region of Somalia

By Margezi: felixmargezi@gmail.com

Any mention of hunger?

Unless hunger has been dealt with by the Western military Alliance as a "top secret, confidential" topic, the NATO Declaration makes no clear mention of the current unprecedented hunger crisis. Perhaps NATO includes the deadly hunger as part of its package of "threats" to their safety and security?

The fact is that right now 811 million people go to bed hungry every night, the Peace Nobel Laureate World Food Programme (WFP) warns.

The number of those facing acute food insecurity has soared - from 135 million to 345 million - since 2019. A total of 50 million people in 45 countries are teetering on the edge of famine.

Money for weapons, not for saving lives

While needs are sky-high, resources have hit rock bottom, warns WFP, while emphasising that it requires 22.2 billion US dollars to immediately reach 137 million people in 2022.

"However, with the global economy reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic, the gap between needs and funding is bigger than ever before."

The urgently needed funding to face the pressing need to save lives is hard to be met. In its Nuclear-Armed Powers Squander \$156.000 Per Minute on Their 'MAD' Policy, IPS reported on how nine nuclear-armed states spent 82.4 billion US dollars in just one year, prior to the unfolding war in Europe, on these weapons of mass destruction.

Now in view of the NATO Summit decision to further increase military spending to face not only Russia but also to more heavily spending on deadly arms to challenge what they now consider as the Chinese threat, there will be little chance to address the devastating hunger.

Why is the world hungrier than ever?

WFP mentions four causes of hunger and famine. This seismic hunger crisis, it explains, has been caused by a deadly combination of four factors:

Conflict is still the biggest driver of hunger, with 60 percent of the world's hungry living in areas affected by war and violence. Events unfolding in Ukraine are further proof of how conflict feeds hunger, forcing people out of their homes and wiping out their sources of income.

Climate shocks destroy lives, crops and livelihoods, and undermine people's ability to feed themselves.

The economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are driving hunger to unprecedented levels.

And, last but not least, the cost of reaching people in need is rising: the price

WFP is paying for food is up 30 percent compared to 2019, an additional US\$42 million a month.

Hunger hotspots: a ring of fire

By the way, none of these factors has been caused by any of these millions of hungry humans.

According to the Rome-based WFP, from the Central American Dry Corridor and Haiti, through the Sahel, Central African Republic, South Sudan and then eastwards to the Horn of Africa, Syria, Yemen and all the way to Afghanistan, there is a ring of fire stretching around the world where conflict and climate shocks are driving millions of people to the brink of starvation.

In countries like Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen, WFP is already faced with hard decisions, including cutting rations to be able to reach more people. This is tantamount to taking from the hungry to feed the starving.

"The consequences of not investing in resilience activities will reverberate across borders. If communities are not empowered to withstand the shocks and stresses they are exposed to, this could result in increased migration and possible destabilisation and conflict."

Is this why NATO leaders talk about pouring more billions and even trillions into their fight against "destabilisation and terrorism"?

IPS

Radio One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.30 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11.30 HRS DJ SHOW 11.45 HRS NEWS BRIEF 12.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 12.30 HRS DJ SHOW 12.45 HRS NEWS BRIEF 13.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 13.45 HRS NEWS BRIEF 14.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 14.30 HRS DJ SHOW 14.45 HRS NEWS BRIEF 15.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 15.30 HRS DJ SHOW 15.45 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.45 HRS NEWS BRIEF 17.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 17.30 HRS DJ SHOW 17.45 HRS NEWS BRIEF 18.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18.30 HRS DJ SHOW 18.45 HRS NEWS BRIEF 19.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 19.30 HRS DJ SHOW 19.45 HRS NEWS BRIEF 20.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 20.30 HRS DJ SHOW 20.45 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 21.30 HRS DJ SHOW 21.45 HRS NEWS BRIEF 22.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 22.30 HRS DJ SHOW 22.45 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.00 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 23.30 HRS DJ SHOW 23.45 HRS NEWS BRIEF 01.00 - 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BUSINESS

Bank of Uganda set to start regulating Saccos

By Dorothy Nakaweesi

BANK of Uganda (BoU) has said it is developing guidelines that will formalise its regulatory mandate among selected Savings and Credit Cooperatives (Saccos).

In its Annual Supervision Report published early this month, the Central Bank said it was working with the ministries of Finance and Justice and Constitutional Affairs to develop the Microfinance Deposit-taking Institutions (Registered Societies) Regulations, 2021, which will pave way for the supervision of registered societies otherwise known as Saccos.

"Once finalised, these regulations shall operationalise the amendments to the Tier IV Microfinance and Money Lenders Act 2016 and pave the way for the supervision of select registered societies (Saccos) by the Central Bank.

The financial sector in Uganda is subdivided into four tiers with composition under tier one being commercial banks while tier two is composed of credit institutions and finance companies.

Tier three is composed of microfinance deposit-taking institutions while tier four is composed of Saccos, non-deposit taking microfinance institutions, self-help groups and community-based microfinance institutions.

All financial institutions under tier one to three are regulated and supervised by the Bank of Uganda.

The Bank of Uganda guidelines shall, among others, provide a licensing regime, detailing structure of annual fees and renewal of licence, publication of Saccos and circumstances under which a licence is revoked.

Under the Tier IV Microfinance and Money Lenders Act 2016, a Sacco shall not carry on the business of financial services unless it is registered and licensed as a society.

The Act also prohibits Saccos from providing financial services to none members while mobilisation of funds from members and borrowing shall be guided to an amount that does not exceed the allowable limit.

It also notes that a Sacco shall be registered after it has provided a number of requirements, among which include a certified copy of the certificate of registration, evidence that the Sacco meets the minimum equity requirements, information on the prospective place of business, evidence of payment of the prescribed fees, statement on the objectives of the registered society and evidence of membership and shareholding of members.

Other requirements include a statement on the economic and financial environment of the Sacco, organisational structure and management, a business plan, credit policies and lending procedures.

The Tier IV Microfinance and Money Lenders Act was derived from amendments to the Micro Finance Deposit Taking Institutions Act, 2003, which introduced the phrase registered society to mean cooperative society registered under the Cooperative Societies Act.

The amendments require such registered societies or Saccos, which intend to provide financial services among its members, to formally write to Bank of Uganda for a licence, if their voluntary savings are in excess of 5.5bn/-.

Moses Kaggwa, the Ministry of Finance acting director for economic affairs, yesterday told Daily Monitor that large Saccos shall be regulated by Bank of Uganda while others will be regulated by the Microfinance Regulatory Authority and the Registrar of Cooperatives under the Ministry of Trade.

It is difficult to estimate the number of Saccos in Uganda, given that many of them are not registered.

According to the Tier IV Microfinance and Money Lenders Act 2016, a licence shall indicate the location of operation for which the it is issued and the issuer will take into account whether the Sacco will be operated responsibly, the nature and sufficiency of the financial resources of the applicant and effectiveness of the business plan submitted by the applicant for the future conduct and development of the business of the institution.

Experts make case for Pan African payment and settlement system

KIGALI

By Japhet Davidson

FOR quick, efficient and effective financial transactions, African countries have been urged to embrace the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), a platform that facilitates instant cross border payments in local African currencies.

This was the submissions of experts during the 23rd AGM of International Chamber of Commerce Nigeria (ICCN) and Post-AGM Talk held in Lagos.

Speaking on the topic, the workings of Pan African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), the guest speaker, Mr. Mike Ogbalu III, CEO, Pan African Payment and Settlement System at African Export-Import Bank (Afrexim Bank) who painted a graphic picture of the challenges of trading and transactions among African countries before the establishment of PAPSS stated that African do not have a central currency and has not satisfied the issue of payment among themselves, as most of the transactions done in Africa have to travel outside the borders before coming back at a higher cost.

"Most cross-border payment transactions originating from African banks are cleared outside the continent, with less than 20% of the total payment flows being cleared in Africa." It was the need to bridge that gap that PAPSS was established by Afreximbank.

According to him, Afreximbank is implementing PAPSS based on its man-

date as contained in its establishment agreement.

Ogbalu III said that PAPSS is a common framework for transacting, clearing and settling cross-border transactions, including operating rules, business practices and standards, participation requirements and funding schemes, among others.

As a central financial participants market infrastructure (FMI) to support payment arrangements for the purpose of expanding the international trade of African States, it facilitates economic and financial integration of Africa, supports safe and efficient flow of payments across the continent, provides a centralized payment and settlement infrastructure, Operate independently of domestic payment systems and payment is instant and in local currencies.

Chief Host and Chairman of ICC Nigeria, Mr. Babatunde Savage, who reviewed the events and opportunities of the body in the year commended the board members and other partners for their support and promised that "our relationship with our development partners, bilateral and multilateral institutions, member of the diplomatic corps, among others would be sustained."

On PAPSS, he disclosed that the rationale behind the development of PAPSS, is to enable a revolution in the existing financial structures for cross-border economic transactions involving local currencies and urged all to embrace it.

JNHPP construction progress pace earns government's praise



By Guardian Reporter

MINISTRY of Energy's management members have expressed their satisfaction over the progress of the Julius Nyerere Power Project (JNHPP) construction, saying the contractor has made the value for money spirits.

The visit was led by the ministry's Director of the Policy and Planning Petro Lyatuu, who stated that the tour was meant to monitor and review the implementation of the project which is of great interest to the nation.

Lyatuu said that the Ministry of Energy is the main project manager where

in addition to financially empowering the contractor implementing the project and it's responsible for closely monitoring and evaluating whether the payment is in line with the work done.

He explained that, so far the government has paid the contractor more than 4 trillion/-, equivalent to 61% of the amount due to the contractor for the work done.

"The Ministry's heads of departments are responsible for monitoring, evaluating, evaluating, and advising on the implementation of this project so that the project objectives can be achieved as intended," he stressed.

The delegates were heads of department and units from the department

of administration and human resources, policy and planning department, department of electricity and renewable energy, petroleum and gas department, procurement, legal, accounting, internal audit, ICT, communication, and environment units.

The Ministry's director of administration and human resources, Ziana Mlawa said that the ministry has made arrangements for heads of departments and units to visit the project to see and understand the pace at which the contractor is doing at the site.

Mlawa said that the visit gave them an opportunity to understand the challenges faced by staff in performing their duties in other areas, especially

in various projects implemented away from office areas.

The delegates inspected various areas of the JNHPP project, particularly the construction of the main dam bank, power station, power plant, and dam.

They also inspected the progress of the construction of a permanent bridge, roads, water supply to power plants, staff houses as well as the installation site.

At the same time, they made a visit to the site of the JNHPP project, which will be developed in the JNHPP project and distributed in various parts of the country, located in Chalinde, Coast region, as well as the 400-kilovolt power transmission line.



CRDB Bank CEO Abdulmajid Nsekela, left, and US Ambassador to Tanzania, Donald Wright, sign a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the issuance of loans worth 100bn/- which will enable the bank to expand the scope of credit facilitation for women and youths as well as extend loans in the education, health and informal sectors in the country. The event was held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

CRDB, USAID, DFC provide 100bn/- in support of education, health, SMEs and informal sector

By Guardian Reporter

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has expressed commitment to support efforts to improve Tanzania's economy.

The two agencies yesterday signed a partnership agreement worth 100bn/- with CRDB Bank Plc to facilitate access to loans for women, youth and the informal sector in Tanzania.

US ambassador to Tanzania Donald Wright said the agreement will support

access to loans in areas of health and education where the bank will issue loans amounting to 20.3bn/- which will help in construction of health centres, dispensaries as well as procurement of drugs and equipment.

On education, the bank will issue loans amounting to 37.5bn/- to the sector's value chain in secondary and primary schools as well as access to loans to facilitate learning.

On Small and Medium Enterprises, the bank will issue loans amounting to 17.9bn/- which will include improving places of conducting business among

others. Through the agreement, the bank will also issue loans to the private sector amounting to 23.1bn/- to the informal sector where priority will be in businesses run by women and youth.

"The US government recognizes that there is no single entity which can end all the challenges facing Tanzania, therefore we are pleased to sign the two contracts today which will increase access to finance among entrepreneurs," said the envoy.

CRDB Bank Managing Director Abdulmajid Nsekela said the bank was

impressed to work with the two US agencies in improving access to loans among entrepreneurs in Tanzania.

He said SMEs are important to the country's economy as it helps expand the ability to be loaned but also allow banks to advise them on the new methods of doing business in line with changing technology.

"In the agreement, our aim is to empower SMEs especially women and youth in their journey of entrepreneurship," he said.

United Nations Oceans conference tackles marine sustainability challenges in developing countries

By Special Correspondent

GROWING demand for fish and other seafood is rapidly changing the fishing and aquaculture sector. Consumption is expected to rise, driven mainly by fast-paced increase in population.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) presented at the Oceans conference in Lisbon Wednesday the latest report on the fisheries sector and outlined a relatively optimistic scenario.

"The bigger fish stocks are better managed and improving their sustainability very obviously over the

last decade, while the smallest stocks in more isolated places, perhaps with no management systems in place, they are deteriorating, Manuel Barange the director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division at FAO, said. So we have to make sure that 100% of stocks of fish stocks in lakes, rivers and oceans are under management because we know that management works. But this is a big ask."

Margaret Nakato, Katosi Women Development Trust Uganda, explained such an ambition was more difficult to achieve in less wealthy countries in which fisheries operate on a smaller scale.

"Any sustainability

agenda has to take into consideration and has to put small scale fishing communities at the centre of conservation. And it needs to take into consideration the social, cultural and economic components of these fishing communities so that our measures are effective. But also we can share the equitable benefits from this sustaining these resources."

The UN believes that "The growth of fisheries and aquaculture is vital to ending global hunger and malnutrition, but greater regulation and transformation are needed in the sector so that resources are not depleted in the oceans," Xavier De Lagausie.



Scrap VAT on agro-processing machines from foreign markets, TWCC appeals

By Beatrice Philemon

THE government has been advised to remove the 18 percent Value Added Tax (VAT) charged for imported agro-processing machines to help women-owned small and medium enterprises (SMEs) grow and benefit from what they've been doing.

Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC)'s chairperson Mercy Sila said in a recent interview that there is a need for the government to make an intervention on the matter.

She said that the cost of doing business in Tanzania for SMEs is still high, taking into account that most of machines that are used to add value to agricultural products are imported.

Sila suggested the need for the government to put more effort into removing constraints that face SMEs for the business to flourish in a sustainable way similar to other countries.

According to her, SMEs are struggling to access high-quality machines that can produce or manufacture products that can compete in the competitive global market.

She also noted that the move will also attract more people to engage in this sector and attract more investors to invest in Tanzania.

Women are ready to do business similarly to their counterparts in other foreign countries but they don't meet what they desire because they have a lot of challenges they face in business that's why women-owned businesses are not growing.

She also highlighted the need for the government to arrange special meetings and have a face-to-face discussion with SMEs to see the main challenges they have in business, what they need, and later on, come up with the best solution for both the government including them.

TWCC chief executive officer, Mwajuma Hamza lauded the government to increase the agricultural sector budget by more than 300% that is from 294bn/- last year to 954bn/- this year; this will massively benefit women engaged in farming and agribusiness.

According to her, women play a key role in the private sector in Tanzania, study conducted by the ILO- Mori, Neeema (2014) indicates that Tanzanian female entrepreneurs play an expressive role in the small, medium, and Micro enterprises in Tanzania.

Women-owned enterprises account for 54% of all SMMEs and 60% of all micro-enterprises.

African SMEs yet to be fully integrated into the value chain system in the region

BY THANDISIZWE MUGDLWA, CAPE TOWN

The first African Union (AU) SME Annual Forum is aimed at realizing Africa's industrialization in the context of the integrated market, experts say.

And they also add that Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) form the backbone of the African economy, representing more than 90% of businesses and employing about 60% of workers, many of whom are women and youth.

But despite the significant role which SMEs play in the development of African economies, they have yet to be fully integrated into the regional value chains system and in turn the continental trading system.

It is against this backdrop, as Commemoration of the International Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Day, the First Edition of African Union Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Annual Forum kicked off on June 2 in Cairo under the theme "Economic Empowerment of SMEs, Women and Youth Entrepreneurs to Realize Africa's Industrialization in the Context of the Integrated Market".

The forum, which was expected to end yesterday, brought together SMEs, start-ups, Senior Managers of Tech-Hubs, Incubators, Accelerators, Senior-level Representatives of AU, RECs, Member States, Development Partners Institutions, UN agencies, the private sector, SME associations, and professional associations, Business Leaders, Financial Institutions, Academia, and Civil Society.

Moreover, the Forum was convened under the auspices of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, through the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The Forum was addressed by Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

She underscored that despite their dominant representation within the SME space, women and youth enterprises are relatively smaller, less capital intensive and less profitable.

"This necessitates the design of innovative solutions aimed at providing sustainable financing solutions and interventions that are available, affordable and accessible. It is in this context that the African Union Commission's novice Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion (WYFEI) 2030 Initiative proposes a set of multi-level innovative, resilient and inclusive recovery solutions in the form of a 10-point agenda that will assist women and young entrepreneurs to climb the ladder of change towards financial and economic inclusion. The 10-point agenda includes interventions at the personal level, systems level and environmental level which call for personal income enhancement, financial sector innovation and macroeconomic policy reform, respectively," said Dr. Nsanzabaganwa.

The initiative is a response of the declaration by AU Heads of State at the 33rd Ordinary Session of 2020-2030 as the African Women's Decade on Financial and Economic Inclusion.

Dr. Nsanzabaganwa added further that "WYFEI 2030 is a public-private-women and youth (PPWY) partnership initiative that seeks to unlock \$20 Billion for at least 1 million African women and youth by contributing to empowerment, poverty reduction and improving the welfare of women and youth in Africa in a bid to tackle the systemic bottlenecks which have led to 70% of African women and youth being financially excluded and economically marginalized.

Unlocking the continent's growth potential will require bridging the credit gap, strengthening SME value chains, and boosting productivity via digitization, technology adoption, and adaptation in addition to promoting industrialisation and regional integration".

And addressing the opening ceremony, Ambassador Albert Muchanga, AU Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals (ETTMM) underscored that the establishment of the Africa Small and Medium Enterprises Annual Forum is in line with the African Union Small and Medium



Enterprises Strategy, which was adopted, in January 2019, by the Second Specialized Technical Committee on Trade, Industry and Minerals and endorsed by the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in February 2019, as a continental framework on the development of these important segments of enterprise development across Africa.

Ambassador Muchanga emphasized the importance of encouraging formalization of micro, small and medium enterprises. "The formalization will facilitate capacity building; improved business management practices; and, among others, access to finance, information and markets. These positive spill-overs will enable these enterprises develop into large-scale market players and contributors of tax revenues to national treasuries".

The Commissioner also briefed the meeting on the established of an African SME Development Program Partnership Platform (ASMEDPP). The objective is to set-up an inclusive regional and continental collaborative engagement framework for all SME stakeholder mechanisms in terms of commitment for collective responsibility, alignment and harmonization of efforts.

"This platform will greatly support the implementation of the AU SMEs Strategy and by extension, the action plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA).

"In addition to the foregoing, we are coordinating the Africa SME Strategy implementation process through the Enterprise Africa Network. This is a business development tool to be used in providing Afri-

can Start-Ups and SMEs with trade information as well as business development services through mentoring/coaching, as well as access to finance and to markets, among others," noted Muchanga.

Muchanga further stressed that SME businesses deserve full support of governments and communities across Africa to enable them to continue creating decent jobs and better livelihoods. "The policy institutions should provide an enabling environment, including, access to finance, information, and markets," said the Commissioner.

He further called on Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AU Member States to domesticate the AU SMEs Strategy in order to broaden and deepen its implementation.

"We surely have managed to diagnose the challenges that affect MSMEs, Women and the Youth. As reflected in the interventions in the Africa SME Strategy, the challenges are many. Even before the adoption of the Africa SME Strategy, we have been deploying solutions through various frameworks. The question I pose for your reflection is: what is it that we can do differently and better?", concluded Muchanga.

The opening session was addressed by the Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry; Assistant Foreign Minister of Egypt for African Organizations; the President of the All Africa Associations for SMEs; President of Africa Business Council; Executive Director of International Trade Centre; DG of World Intellectual Property; the UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa.

Square Pharma gets go-ahead to start manufacturing in Kenya-based factory

By Ahsan Habib

SQUARE Pharmaceuticals Kenya EPZ Ltd, a subsidiary of Square Pharmaceuticals, has recently received go-ahead to start commercial manufacturing in its Kenyan factory.

The company will manufacture and sell generic pharmaceutical medicine in Kenya and East African Community (EAC).

For all latest news, follow The Daily Star's Google News channel.

Square Pharmaceuticals Kenya got the certificate of good manufacturing practice and commercial manufacturing licence on May 26 from the Pharmacy & Poison Board of Kenya, the drug regulatory authority of the east African country.

It is a big achievement for Bangladesh as Square Pharma is going to manufacture drugs in a foreign country, Muhammad Zahangir Alam, chief financial officer of the company told The Daily Star.

"The news will create a positive image for Bangladesh in the global arena."

Thanks to the approval, there is no problem in starting commercial production now, he said.

Some time is needed to start marketing of any drug in a brand-new factory, Alam said.

Once the marketing starts in full swing, the east African region would be covered from this factory, he said.

"The beginning of commercial manufactur-

ing of our drugs in a foreign land is a matter of pride for us."

The project's construction began in 2019 and the civil construction work was done by September 2021.

The trial operation started in December 2021, according to the company's annual report for 2020-21 fiscal year.

Kenya's geographical position and membership in the EAC gives it a unique opportunity to facilitate easy access to the market of around 15 crore people in the EAC.

Any production in Kenya is considered local manufacturing in the EAC, which includes Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi.

Despite being a highly disease prone zone, the pharmaceutical market is largely dependent on imports.

Nearly 80 per cent of the total market demand is met by importing pharmaceutical products, according to the annual report of Square Pharmaceuticals for 2020-21.

The Kenyan project is financed by a 40:60 debt to equity ratio.

As a part of the investment, a total amount of \$12 million has been remitted by Square Pharmaceuticals to Square Pharmaceuticals Kenya EPZ Ltd.

Today, the share price of Square Pharma rose 0.14 per cent to Tk 216 at the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

Transnet invites SMEs to help it spend billions to expand SA's major ports

BY LWAZI HLANGU

Transnet has urged small businesses to take advantage of the projected R4.8bn it will use to expand Durban's port in the next three years.

That was communicated to small business owners by the Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) in an engagement session in Durban on Thursday. The authority has been running sessions for SMEs to solidify their partnerships with small business owners and teach them about the opportunities that are open to them in all eight Transnet commercial ports in the country.

Moshe Motlohi, managing executive for the eastern region, said they have embarked on a "regionalisation" of TNPA ports since 2021, giving birth to the regions: the eastern region (Durban and Richards Bay), central (Eastern Cape) and the Western region (Western Cape).

"We were tired of always telling people that certain services can only be done at the head office, so we decided to give ports enough powers to run the day-to-day operations and meet the immediate needs of the business. We will then bring head offices close to these regions," he said.

He said the head offices will support the ports and strengthen the relationship with the provincial governments.

Motlohi detailed the impact of some of the major setbacks that they have experienced in the past few years, including Covid-19, the riots, the cyber attacks at the ports and the



cent floods in the province.

"As we are trying to move, we get something that affects our plans, disrupting our activities and hitting our finances."

"Two and a half years ago we could not spend the money we had hoped to, so jobs that we could have accrued and opportunities for SMMEs died."

He said they have engaged with customers, business chambers, government officials and political analysts to find ways of making a meaningful change in the environment – hence the need to cement the relationship with small businesses.

He said there will be a lot of opportunities for SMMEs to partner Transnet, both now and in the near future.

"We're the biggest region so it is im-

portant that we get it right here, with RIO0bn expected to be spent in the region in the next 15 years or so. Not all of it will come from us, some it will come from people who will find KZN investable.

"We have the facilities they need. Durban is the most attractive port city and Richards Bay is the most attractive when it comes to coal and liquid

products."

Siyabonga Ndwandwe, acting executive manager for the project delivery unit said TNPA understands the challenges and the national agenda to combat them and is prepared to drive it.

"Localisation of procurement growth goes hand in hand with that. The government intends to respond on various platforms, such as SMME development, BBBEE, competitive supplier programmes ... So we get the historical issues and there's a framework of how we need to address them," he said.

"There is 'black industrialisation' that is really aimed at unlocking access to finance and markets that are tapped and untapped. We're hoping to open people's minds to other things that are available within project delivery that we can upskill ourselves with, aside from pouring concrete and laying bricks."

Outlining what is in the investment pipeline for the region in the next three years, Ndwandwe encouraged SMMEs to "find the lanes that fit their services and find a way in".

"Richards Bay is looking at an investment proposal of about R590m in the next three years. At Port of Durban, it's R4.3bn. Hopefully, when we break these numbers down you will see where you fit in."

There are 66 projects in the pipeline – 39 of which are earmarked for Durban. Thirty-five have not yet started, including 15 that are still in concept stage.

Mzonyana Sidinana, acting executive manager for supply chain, outlined the processes to follow to get a tender with Transnet.

He said there are pre-qualification requirements to qualify for a tender at Transnet: BBBEE level, subcontracting and need for local content.

Though the requirements were declared invalid by the Constitutional Court in February, Sidinana said they were given 12 months to come up with a "better conditions" so they are in effect until February next year.

He said the Transnet constitution calls for a fair and equitable procurement process among suppliers.

"I heard about an 'evergreen' contractor who always gets business.

Through this restructuring of the organisation we will ensure that we have SME development that makes sure that no service provider is 'evergreen' or keeps getting contracts. The process must rotate," he said.

"Processes must be competitive, hence there is no way we can have one service provider. There must be at least three service providers competing."

Motlohi said it was imperative that people, especially from port cities, became familiar with ports – the elementary parts of the maritime language". He proposed that primary school pupils should visit ports and learn the basics.

"Everyone in the port cities must know at least some maritime language. The biggest thing we have in Durban is the ocean but people don't know even the elementary parts of the language," he said. "This will help them connect with international investors because from a language perspective we can do better. Relationships precede business because you can't do business with a person you don't trust."

Africa cocoa nations unite for fair prices as bad harvests and shortages of fertiliser

By Marc Cervera

GHANA, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria have allied in an effort to boost cocoa farmers' incomes, denouncing foul play in the cocoa trading market. The move comes as the world's largest cocoa-growing countries ramp up efforts for fair treatment and pay and eliminate adverse industry practices for good.

The cocoa regulatory authorities in western Africa claim that since the COVID-19 pandemic began, some companies have been bypassing payments of a living income differential (LID) of US\$400 per metric ton of cocoa beans.

The LID initially came into effect in 2020 to level the playing field and ensure fair payment to cocoa farmers.

However, Joseph Boahen Aidoo, chief executive of Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), has announced the creation of a list of companies that are not paying the LID and the country premiums. However, so far, the list has not been published.

"In the immediate term, we are going to begin the publication of all the buyers of cocoa from Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire who pay as well as those who do not pay the country origin differentials," he says.

According to Aidoo, some buyers are discounting the country origin differentials by as much as US\$270 to US\$300 per ton of cocoa.

This creates a market distortion where cocoa prices are moderately low - cocoa futures are trading at six months low on Wall Street - but prices on shelves keep rising.

Cocoa futures are standardized, exchange-traded contracts where the contract buyer agrees to take delivery, from the seller, of a specific quantity of cocoa at a predetermined price.

"Meanwhile, the price of chocolate in the consumer market is going up at a time when cocoa prices are falling," says Aidoo.

Furthermore, bad harvests are not pushing up cocoa prices so far.

"Several factors, including

adverse weather conditions and diseases are negatively affecting production for the ongoing season, with concerns for the size and quality of the ongoing mid-crop in West Africa," says an International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) statement.

"Following the Russia-Ukraine conflict, trade disruptions, sanctions and high freight rates are affecting cocoa and fertilizer trade. The shortage of fertilizers on cocoa farms will very likely affect the quantity, quality and size of cocoa beans."

Moreover, according to ICO, the demand for chocolate is picking up, with "positive quarterly earnings reports from major confectionery manufacturers" this 2022.

"Factors which contributed to the increase in cocoa demand include the resumption of activities in the air travel sector...as well as the commencement of seasonal festivities," explains ICCO.

The Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana partnership has gathered interest among other cocoa nations like Nigeria and Cameroon.

"Cocoa is the highest non-oil contributor to Nigeria's GDP and the country is ranked number four among cocoa producing countries in the world," says Dr. Ernest Umakhihe, the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Nigeria.

According to him, the Cocoa Farmers Association of Nigeria (CFAN), an organized umbrella body of small-holder farmers across the cocoa-producing states in

Nigeria, seeks to improve the livelihoods of its farmers by integrating the LID system of US\$400 per cocoa ton.

Cameroon has also shown interest in joining the initiative.

"The two countries coming to join Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire will create an alliance of countries, whose total production constitutes 75% of the world's cocoa supply," highlights Aidoo.

Companies boost their own farmer income programs

Confectionery giants have been playing their part to create a sustainable cocoa sector with fair prices for all and the elimination of unethical practices.

Chocolate behemoth Mars started two "farmer-first" programs that will support the sustainable living income of 14,000 smallholder farmers in Côte d'Ivoire and Indonesia. Helping farmers access, for example, the financial systems for the first time.

On child labor risks, Nestlé is offering financial incentives to farmers to reduce harmful practices and help local woman. The company is also focusing on working toward regenerative agriculture practices.

Working to make the cocoa business transparent, Koa, is working on a blockchain-based technology that allows customers to monitor the extra income paid to farmers in real-time, with transactions being public, transparent and verifiable. Koa expects to reach over 12,000 farmers in the next two years and has currently over 2,200 in its value chain.



TUESDAY 28 June		THURSDAY 30 June		SATURDAY 2 July		WEDNESDAY 29 June		FRIDAY 1 July		SUNDAY 3 July	
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI
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8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
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18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Bundesliga na DW rpt	18:15	Bundesliga na DW rpt	18:15	Bundesliga na DW rpt	18:15	Bundesliga na DW rpt	18:15	Bundesliga na DW rpt	18:15	Bundesliga na DW rpt
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live
19:30	Soap: Uzalo	19:30	Soap: Uzalo	19:30	Soap: Uzalo	19:30	Soap: Uzalo	19:30	Soap: Uzalo	19:30	Soap: Uzalo
20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
21:30	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:30	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:30	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:30	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:30	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:30	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF
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22:20	Soap: I Plead Guilty	22:20	Soap: I Plead Guilty	22:20	Soap: I Plead Guilty	22:20	Soap: I Plead Guilty	22:20	Soap: I Plead Guilty	22:20	Soap: I Plead Guilty
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02:00	DWTV	02:00	DWTV	02:00	DWTV	02:00	DWTV	02:00	DWTV	02:00	DWTV
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
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10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu
10:25	Uchumi wetu	10:25	Uchumi wetu	10:25	Uchumi wetu	10:25	Uchumi wetu	10:25	Uchumi wetu	10:25	Uchumi wetu
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12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Igizo rpt: Rebeca	12:30	Igizo rpt: Rebeca	12:30	Igizo rpt: Rebeca	12:30	Igizo rpt: Rebeca	12:30	Igizo rpt: Rebeca	12:30	Igizo rpt: Rebeca
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13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt
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14:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: Watumishi Housing	14:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: Watumishi Housing	14:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: Watumishi Housing	14:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: Watumishi Housing	14:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: Watumishi Housing	14:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: Watumishi Housing
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WORLD

UN Security Council renews sanctions on DRC

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations Security Council on Thursday renewed the sanctions imposed on the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Adopting resolution 2641 by a vote of 10 in favor to none against with five abstentions, the council renewed its arms embargo measures, travel ban and asset freezes until July 1, 2023.

China, Russian, Ghana, Gabon and Kenya voted in abstention.

In an explanation of the vote, Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, pointed out that the Security Council's sanctions on the DRC are designed to curb the violent activities of armed groups.

"Regrettably, 18 years after its initial implementation, armed groups in the eastern DRC remain rampant, while

the DRC government's security capacity has been constrained. The DRC government has repeatedly requested the council to lift the arms embargo on the country," he noted.

Recently, the security situation in the eastern DRC has deteriorated, with many civilian casualties and displacements caused by the resurgence of the March 23 Movement (M23) rebels.

"But the DRC security forces, affected by the arms embargo and other factors, do not have adequate security capacity in the face of the threat posed by armed groups such as M23," Zhang said, citing a briefing to the Security Council Wednesday by Bintou Keita, special representative of the UN Secretary-General in the DRC, who noted that the M23 is far better equipped and armed than the DRC security forces as well as MONUSCO, the UN peacekeeping mis-



The United Nations Security Council meets on threats to international peace and security, June 8, 2022 at United Nations headquarters. File photo

sion in the country.

"It is a worrisome situation, and this issue needs to be addressed," Zhang said.

During the consultation for the draft resolution, China and African members of the council expressly supported the lifting of the notification requirement applied to the DRC government, he said.

"France, as the penholder, has tried, but we were unable to reach consensus due to the opposition of some members. China finds it regrettable," he said, adding that the resolution will continue to subject the great majority of the weapons and equipment needed by the DRC security forces to mandatory notifi-

cation.

"It will artificially complicate the process and affect international partners' security cooperation with the DRC, which constrained the DRC security capacity and the efforts to find a fundamental solution to the situation in the eastern DRC," Zhang said.

Due to the reasons mentioned, the envoy said China had to abstain from the vote.

"We also hope that the DRC government can enhance its management of weapons and ammunition to gain greater confidence from council members to lift the notification requirement in relation to the DRC government," he said.

Madrid summit proved that NATO expects unconditional obedience from all states – Lavrov

MINSK

THE NATO summit in Madrid once again indicated that NATO member states expect unconditional obedience to their will from all states, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said during a joint press conference with his Belarusian counterpart Vladimir Makei on Thursday.

"I believe that it is obvious to everyone what they expect. They do not shy away from talking about it, and they said it once again yesterday during the NATO summit in Madrid.

They expect unconditional obedience from all states to their will, which reflects their egoistic interests - primarily, the US' interests," Lavrov said.

He underscored that the modern Europe, represented by the EU, is losing its independence or those signs of independence that it used to have, and completely submits to the positions, imposed by the US.

"Including in the area of economic sanctions, by rejecting Russian import, and by destroying logistical and financial chains that took decades to establish," Lavrov added.

"If we look at the existing list of sanctions - it's an interesting analysis, I recommend doing it - if you compare the sanctions imposed on Russia and Belarus by European states and those imposed by the US, the n the US, basically, try to go easy on themselves and remain not too active in the areas that will seriously damage their economy," the Foreign Minister said. "Still, they also get a negative effect from their actions, but Europe suffers much more."

According to Lavrov, Washington seeks "not only to weaken Russia, but to also weaken the EU as a competitor to the US".



Xi lauds HK contribution, says 'one country, two systems' to stay

HONG KONG

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping hailed Hong Kong's irreplaceable contribution to the motherland as he iterated the success of the "one country, two systems" principle in his speech in Hong Kong yesterday at a meeting celebrating the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland and the swearing-in ceremony of the sixth-term government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

Xi stressed the need to fully and faithfully implement the "one country, two systems" policy, saying the success of the practice had been recognized and there is no reason to change such a good system and it must be adhered to over the long run.

Upholding national sovereignty, security and development interests is the paramount principle in the policy. On the basis of this prerequisite, Hong Kong and Macao maintain their capitalist system over the long run and enjoy a high degree of autonomy, he said.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, noted that the success of the implementation of "one country, two systems" has been recognized and there is no reason to change such a good system and it must be adhered to over the long run.

The central government fully supports Hong Kong in maintaining its unique status on a long-term basis, the president said.

"Hong Kong's fundamental interests are consistent with the fundamental interests of the country..." Xi said.

The central government fully supports Hong Kong in consolidating its role as an international financial, shipping and trade center, in main-

taining its free, open and sound business environment, in retaining its common law system, and in expanding smooth and convenient linkages with the rest of the world, Xi said.

Delivering a speech at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Xi said since its return to the motherland, Hong Kong has become an integral part of the country's overall development and actively aligned with national development strategies, noting how it has continued to maintain the strengths of being highly free and open and compatible with international rules.

Before delivering the speech, Xi administered oath of office to the sixth-term Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region John Lee Ka-chiu as well as principal officials of the sixth-term HKSAR government.

He emphasized yesterday the implementation of the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong." To keep the power to administer the HKSAR firmly in the hands of patriots is essential for safeguarding the long-term stability and security of Hong Kong, Xi said. "At no time should this principle be allowed to be compromised," Xi said.

It is imperative to ensure both overall jurisdiction by the central authorities and a high degree of autonomy in the SAR, Xi said.

"Enforcing the central authorities' overall jurisdiction and upholding the SAR's high degree of autonomy are integral aspects of the same policy, and only by ensuring both can we run the SAR truly well," Xi said.

Hong Kong has enjoyed true democracy since its return to the motherland, the president said, pointing out that the democratic system of the HKSAR, which conforms to the "one country, two systems" policy and Hong Kong's constitutional status, is conducive to



President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at the swearing-in ceremony of the sixth-term government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, yesterday (PHOTO / HKSAR GOVERNMENT)

safeguarding the democratic rights of Hong Kong residents and maintaining prosperity and stability in Hong Kong.

The next five years will be crucial for Hong Kong to break new ground and launch a new take-off, Xi said, adding, Hong Kong faces both opportunities and challenges, but there are more opportunities than challenges.

Extending cordial greetings to all Hong Kong residents, Xi said, "I also express heartfelt appreciation to all fellow Chinese, both at home and overseas, and foreign friends for their support for the cause of 'one country, two systems' and Hong Kong's prosperity and stability."

The national anthem of the People's Republic of China was played and sung during the events at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition

Center. The president, who was accompanied by his wife Peng Liyuan and key mainland officials, left Hong Kong by train early yesterday afternoon.

Seeing them off at the West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link were Chief Executive Lee and his wife Janet Lee as well as former chief executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor.

Joining them were Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Leung Chun-ying, Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Luo Huining, Head of the Office for Safeguarding National Security of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR Zheng

Yanxiang, Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal Andrew Cheung Kui-nung, Chief Secretary for Administration Chan Kwok-ki, Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po and Secretary for Justice Paul Lam Ting-kwok.

Legislative Council President Andrew Leung Kwan-yuen, Convenor of the Non-official Members of the Executive Council Regina Ip Lau Shuk-ye, Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR Liu Guangyuan, Commander-in-chief of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Hong Kong Garrison Major General Peng Jingtang, and Political Commissar of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Hong Kong Garrison Navy Rear Admiral Lai Ruxin were also there.

Xinhua

SACU countries facing increasing risk of stagflation - Botswana President

GABORONE

PRESIDENT Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana on Thursday said Southern African Customs Union (SACU) countries, namely Botswana, South Africa, Eswatini, Namibia and Lesotho, are now at a stage where there is increasing risk for stagflation.

In his opening remarks on the occasion of the 7th Summit of the SACU heads of state and government in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, Masisi said the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict is dimming the economic growth prospects to a point where growth is estimated to slow down to 3.6 percent in 2022.

"We are now at a stage where there is increasing risk for stagflation," said Masisi, adding that growth projections for 2022 stand at 3.8 percent compared to 6.8 percent in 2021 with an improvement forecast in 2023 to 4.4 percent.

Masisi said the Russian-Ukraine conflict has worsened the already depressed economy due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic together with the disruptions of the global supply chains, thereby resulting in a surge in inflation the world over, including the SACU region.

The surge in inflation, especially for food and energy, remains a present global risk which is hurting consumers and wearing down their purchasing power, according to Masisi.

This calls for SACU countries to undertake countercyclical measures to cushion their economies, said Masisi. Furthermore, Masisi said the downward trend of the economy in the SACU region highlights the importance of accelerating the implementation of the respective countries' economic recovery plans and continuing to mobilize the necessary financial support.

Paulina Elago, the executive secretary of SACU, said the customs union seeks to deepen regional economic integration through the development of regional value chains in the agro-processing, textiles and clothing, cosmetics and essential oils as well as pharmaceuticals. Formed in 1910, SACU is the world's oldest customs union and has its headquarters in the capital of Namibia, Windhoek.

Xinhua

We are now at a stage where there is increasing risk for stagflation

New generation farmers active in China's construction of digital villages

AS the construction of digital villages gains momentum across China, a good number of young Chinese with digital technologies and Internet thinking, who define farmers of the new generation, actively join the development of agriculture and rural areas.

They host live streams in the fields and turn local specialties into best-selling goods on the Internet, employ Internet of Things (IoT) systems to improve field management, and remove obstacles hindering the transportation of farm produce through digital logistics platforms.

"I sold 400,000 yuan (\$59,681) worth of homemade fermented bean curd

once during a livestreaming show," said Zeng Qinghuan, a young farmer from Xinhua county, Loudi city, central China's Hunan province.

Live streams recording the girl doing farm work, going to the fair, and selling local specialties have won the young vlogger six million followers on a Chinese short video sharing platform. Through her camera, the agricultural and sideline products from her hometown have found favor with a large number of her followers.

Zeng's e-commerce demonstration base is located in an ordinary farmhouse. It has different settings for making videos, livestreaming studios for

promoting products of characteristic local industries, warehousing, refrigeration, packaging and logistics workshops, and multifunctional training rooms.

A live streamer training program has been launched here, which provides a month of free training for farmers and helps them gain prosperity through digital technologies.

Xinhua county has established 412 online stores and 2,885 shops for poverty alleviation on e-commerce platforms. Promoting the application of digital technologies and e-commerce to agriculture has become an important driver of the county's economic

growth, leverage for boosting rural vitalization, and a major force in promoting industrial development.

With keen Internet thinking and market-oriented insights, young farmers have explored new business forms in the agricultural sector, enhanced driving forces for rural development, and injected new vitality into the transformation of traditional agriculture.

At an industrial park of Hu sheep, a species native to Huzhou city, east China's Zhejiang province, in Lyushan township, Changxing county, Huzhou, Wang Chenchen, a young shepherd born in the late 1990s, uses remote sensing technology to monitor in

real-time the number of sheep, their feed, as well as environmental factors like humidity and temperature in the sheep barn, making it possible for one person to raise 3,000 sheep easily.

After repeated experiments, Hunan girl Mo Xiaoyu and the engineers in her team turned nearly 270 water outlets in an experimental cotton field in Yuli county, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, into intelligent electric irrigation outlets and equipped the field with advanced automatic fertilization and irrigation machines, realizing remote fertilization and irrigation at specific times and designated points.

During this year's spring ploughing, Anren county, Hunan, a major grain-producing area in China, developed a program to integrate and match agricultural machinery resources with the needs of farmers, enabling grain growers in need of agricultural machinery to place orders and contact nearby providers online.

Big data, 5G, artificial intelligence (AI), IoT and other digital technologies have become indispensable "farm tools" for farmers in new generations, thanks to the rapid development of information infrastructure construction in rural areas.

People's Daily

Zelensky's message delivered by Indonesian president to Putin wasn't in writing – Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE message from Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky that Indonesian President Joko Widodo delivered to Russian leader Vladimir Putin wasn't in writing, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"It wasn't a written message. That's the only thing I can tell you," he said, when asked by TASS to elaborate on the message.

Putin and Widodo held talks in the Kremlin on Thursday and the Indonesian president said afterward that he had delivered a message from Zelensky to the Russian president.

He also expressed willingness to help with a dialogue between the two leaders. Before Moscow, Widodo traveled to Kiev where he met with the Ukrainian president.

Zelensky's Spokesman Sergey Nikiforov earlier said that the Ukrainian leader, whenever he wants to deliver a message to someone, does so through his public speeches.

WHO ramps up response in East Africa amid looming health crisis

NAIROBI

THE World Health Organization said on Thursday it's intensifying its operations as the looming health crisis in eastern Africa amid acute food insecurity.

Ibrahim Soce Fall, WHO Assistant Director-General for Emergency Response said the health risks in the region are increasing while access to healthcare is deteriorating.

"The cost of inaction is high. While the clear priority is to prevent people from starving, we must simultaneously strengthen our health response to prevent disease and save lives," Fall said in a statement issued in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

Fall was earlier this week in Nairobi where WHO convened a two-day meeting to plan its response across the seven countries affected by the health emergency – Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda – and coordinate with other UN agencies and partners.

The UN health agency said its setting up a hub in Nairobi, from where it will coordinate the response and organize the delivery of life-saving medical supplies to where they are needed most.

These supplies, it said, include medicines, vaccines, as well as the medicines and equipment needed to treat children who are severely malnourished.

WHO said the eastern African region faces acute food insecurity, the worst in 40 years, caused by conflict, extreme weather events induced by climate change, rising international food and fuel prices and the impact of the pandemic.

The UN health agency said its emergency response is focused on ensuring affected populations can access essential health services, treating sick children with severe malnutrition, and preventing, detecting and responding to infectious disease outbreaks.

WHO said it's also working with ministries of health in the affected countries to set up robust disease surveillance systems to be able to quickly detect and respond to disease outbreaks.

Morocco repels attack on city of Nador

RABAT

THE Security Forces of the Kingdom of Morocco have repelled over 2000 illegal migrants who attempted to escalate the border of the northern Morocco city of Nador, separating it from Melilla.

The illegal migrants, armed with batons, machetes and knives, forced parts of the iron fence to collapse due to the weight of the huge number of illegal migrants trying to reach the other side resulting in 23 deaths and 76 injuries.

Most of the attackers, which was infiltrated through the border with Algeria, took advantage of the laxity of this country's security forces in controlling the borders between the two countries.

However, the Moroccan security forces showed high responsibility and professionalism when trying to stop the attackers without using live ammunition, with 140 agents injured.

According to a statement issued by the Moroccan Foreign Affairs Ministry, Morocco reiterates its engagement in South-South cooperation, which places the human element at the centre of actions, projects and initiatives.

The statement highlighted that "thousands of sub-Saharan live in Morocco, some study there (more than 12,000 students via the cooperation channel, 90% of whom are scholarship holders from the Kingdom), and others work there. They are all fully integrated.

"Kingdom of Morocco, under the leadership of the King, has always pleaded for humanist, global, pragmatic and responsible migration, making Morocco a land of welcome, which has allowed the regularisation of tens of thousands of sub-Saharan since 2013 by allowing them to benefit from the same public services as Moroccan citizens."

It added that the Kingdom of Morocco firmly applies the Kingdom's international commitments to migration and asylum and respect for human rights, which are reflected in the implementation of the National Immigration and Asylum Strategy.

Agencies



Most of the attackers, which was infiltrated through the border with Algeria, took advantage of the laxity of this country's security forces in controlling the borders

Iran calls nuke talks in Doha 'positive'

TEHRAN

IRAN'S foreign minister described as "positive" the latest round of talks on the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal in Doha, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

Iran is serious about reaching "a good, robust and lasting agreement", which is at hand "if the United States acts realistically", Hossein Amir-Abdollahian told his Qatari counterpart Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani in a phone conversation on Wednesday evening, the ministry said on its official website on Thursday.

"We are determined to continue the negotiations until a realistic deal is reached," he added.

Amir-Abdollahian also thanked Qatar for hosting the negotiations on Tuesday and Wednesday.

For his part, the Qatari foreign minister called the latest EU-brokered indirect talks between Iran and the United States "constructive and positive", promising Doha's efforts to get all sides back to their commitments.

Iran signed the JCPOA with the world powers in July 2015, agreeing to curb its nuclear program in return for the removal of sanctions on the country. However, former US president Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the agreement



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian speaks during a press conference with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy at the foreign ministry headquarters in Iran's capital Tehran, June 25, 2022. AFP

in May 2018 and reimposed unilateral sanctions on Iran, prompting the latter to drop some of its commitments under the pact.

The Iranian nuclear talks began in April 2021 in Vienna, but were suspended in March this year because of political differences between Tehran and Washington.

'To keep in touch with EU'

The Iranian foreign ministry said earlier on Wednesday that the Islamic Republic and the EU will remain in contact as always over the next phase of

the talks to revive the 2015 nuclear deal as the two-day indirect negotiations between Tehran and Washington ended in Doha.

"As the talks on the removal of the sanctions continued, intense negotiations were held through the mediation of (EU coordinator) Enrique Mora in Doha," ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani tweeted.

"Iran presented its views and proposals about the remaining issues and the other side voiced its concerns."

After "two intense days of proximity talks in Doha," Mora wrote on Wednesday that the EU team has yet

to achieve the progress they hoped for.

'Respond to reasonable demands'

China's permanent representative to the United Nations on Thursday urged the US, as the party responsible for the Iranian nuclear crisis, to respond positively to the reasonable demands of Iran.

The US should face up to its responsibility, correct its mistake once and for all, make a political decision as soon as possible, and take concrete measures to respond positively to the reasonable demands of Iran, Zhang Jun said while addressing a Security Council briefing on the Iranian nuclear issue.

"The previous US administration, in disregard of objections from the international community, unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA, and launched a maximum pressure campaign against Iran. We must admit that is the root cause of the current Iranian nuclear crisis," he said.

While repeatedly stating its readiness to seek a return to compliance, the US is escalating sanctions against Iran and third parties even during the process of resumed talks.

"Doing so is obviously detrimental to any positive progress in the talks. The United States should live up to its words and lift all relevant unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction measures against Iran, so that Iran can fully partake of the economic dividends of the JCPOA." *Xinhua*

Israeli parliament dissolves, Lapid becomes caretaker PM

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI lawmakers voted to dissolve the parliament on Thursday, ending Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's year-long coalition government and sending the country back to polls for the fifth time in fewer than four years, in a move that could see former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu back in power.

The 120-member parliament voted 92-0 to dissolve itself and hold the next elections on Nov. 1, a parliamentary spokesperson said in a statement.

Bennett is expected to hand power to Yair Lapid, Israeli foreign minister and leader of the centrist Yesh Atid party, under the power-sharing deal they agreed upon following inconclusive elections in 2021.

The change of power will be effective as of Friday and Lapid will hold the position until the next government is formed.

Lapid, a former journalist and media personality, will become Israel's 14th prime minister, replacing Bennett, the country's shortest-serving leader.

Video footage on social media showed Bennett at the parliament plenum after the vote, ris-

ing up from his chair and gesturing to Lapid to exchange seats with him.

As interim prime minister, Lapid, 58, has a schedule filled with diplomatic and security issues. On Sunday, he will host his first cabinet meeting as prime minister. Two days later he will travel to Paris to meet French President Emmanuel Macron.

In mid-July, he will be the one

to meet with U.S. President Joe Biden, whose pre-scheduled trip to the Middle East covers Israel and Saudi Arabia. Israel hopes the White House will help form security cooperation with Saudi Arabia against possible Iranian attacks.

The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain in Gulf agreed in 2020 to normalize their ties with Israel under the U.S.-brokered Abra-

ham accord.

to meet with U.S. President Joe Biden, whose pre-scheduled trip to the Middle East covers Israel and Saudi Arabia. Israel hopes the White House will help form security cooperation with Saudi Arabia against possible Iranian attacks.

Eight killed in Sudan as protesters rally on uprising anniversary

KHARTOUM

At least eight protesters were shot dead in Sudan on Thursday, medics said, as large crowds took to the streets despite heavy security and a communications blackout to rally against the military leadership that seized power eight months ago.

In central Khartoum, security forces fired tear gas and water cannon in the afternoon as they tried to prevent swelling numbers of protesters from marching towards the presidential palace, witnesses said.

They estimated the crowds in Khartoum and its twin cities of Omdurman and Bahri to be at least in the tens of thousands, the largest for months. In Omdurman, witnesses reported tear gas and gunfire as security forces prevented protesters from crossing into Khartoum, though some later made it across.

The protests in the capital and other cities marked the third anniversary of huge demonstrations during the uprising that overthrew long-time autocratic ruler Omar al-Bashir and led to a power-sharing arrangement between civilian groups and the military.

Last October, the military led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan toppled the transitional government, triggering rallies demanding the army quit politics.

Some of Thursday's protesters carried banners calling for justice for those killed in previous demonstrations. Others chanted, "Burhan, Burhan, back to the barracks and hand over your companies," - reference to the military's economic holdings.

In the evening, protesters in Bahri and Khartoum said they were starting sit-ins against Thursday's deaths, one of the highest single-day tolls to date.

June 30 also marks the day Bashir took power in a coup in 1989.

"Either we get to the presidential palace and remove al-Burhan or we won't return home," said a 21-year-old female student protesting in Bahri.

It was the first time in months of protests that internet and phone services had been cut. After the military takeover, extended internet blackouts were imposed in an apparent effort to weaken the protest movement.

Staff at Sudan's two private sector



Sudanese anti-military protesters march in demonstrations in the capital of Sudan, Khartoum, on Thursday. AP

telecoms companies, speaking on condition of anonymity, said authorities had ordered them to shut down the internet once again on Thursday.

Bridges shut

Phone calls within Sudan were also cut and security forces closed bridges over the Nile linking Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri - another step typically taken on big protest days to limit the movement of marchers.

On Wednesday, medics aligned with the protest movement said security forces shot dead a child in Bahri during neighborhood protests that have been taking place daily.

Thursday's eight deaths, six in Omdurman, one in Khartoum and another child in Bahri brought the number of protesters killed since the coup to 111. There were many injuries and attempts by security forces to storm hospitals in Khartoum where they were being treated, the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors said.

There was no immediate comment from Sudanese authorities.

The United Nations envoy in Sudan, Volker Perthes, called this week on authorities to abide by a pledge to protect the right of peaceful assembly.

"Violence against protesters will not be tolerated," he said.

Military leaders said they dissolved the government in October because of political paralysis, though they are yet to appoint a prime minister. International financial support agreed with the transitional government was frozen after the coup and an economic crisis has deepened.

Burhan said on Wednesday the armed forces were looking forward to the day when an elected government could take over, but this could only be done through consensus or elections, not protests.

Mediation efforts led by the United Nations and the African Union have so far yielded little progress.

Agencies

First African American woman sworn in as US Supreme Court justice

WASHINGTON

KETANJI Brown Jackson was sworn in at noon on Thursday to formally become an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, making her the nation's first African American woman to serve in that role.

Chief Justice John Roberts administered the constitutional oath for Jackson (pictured) while Associate Justice Stephen Breyer, whom she clerked for, administered the judicial oath, in a ceremony before a small gathering of her family at the Supreme Court on Capitol Hill.

Jackson, in a statement, said that she will administer justice "without fear or favor." The ceremony was streamed live on the homepage of the Supreme Court's website. A formal investiture ceremony will take place at a later date, according to the court.

It came a day after 83-year-old Breyer, who had served in the Supreme Court since 1994 and announced his retirement from the court early this year, said he would step down from the Supreme Court bench on Thursday.

U.S. President Joe Biden nominated Jackson, 51, to succeed Breyer in late February, and Jackson was confirmed by the Senate in a 53-47 vote in April. It was one of Biden's major promises to fill a potential Supreme Court vacancy with an African American woman.

The Supreme Court is the final appellate court of the U.S. judicial system, with the power to review and overturn lower court decisions, and is also generally the final interpreter of federal law, including the country's constitution.

Since the Supreme Court was established in the United States in 1789, 116 justices have been confirmed to the bench. Of them, 108 are white men and only six are women, including Jackson.

The justices have life tenure and can serve until they die, resign, retire, or are impeached and removed from office.

Born in Washington, D.C. but



raised in Miami, Florida, Jackson received her law degree from Harvard University and graduated cum laude in 1996.

Earlier in her legal career, she worked as an assistant federal public defender in D.C. and served as vice-chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission for four years. Jackson served more than eight years as a judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before being elevated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in June 2021.

Court watchers believe Jackson is expected to vote very similarly to Breyer, a liberal, and her ascension won't change the Supreme Court's ideological balance, in which conservatives have a 6-3 majority over liberals, but is likely to change its dynamic.

The U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and eliminated constitutional protection to abortion rights last week, in a bombshell ruling that has further divided the nation. Breyer and two other liberal justices dissented in an opinion.

"With sorrow - for this Court, but more, for the many millions of American women who have today lost a fundamental constitutional protection - we dissent," they wrote.

"Roe was egregiously wrong from the start," and "its reasoning was exceptionally weak, and the decision has had damaging consequences."

The Supreme Court has ruled this term on cases involving a series of major issues, such as guns, immigration, and emissions, in addition to abortion. *Xinhua*



Simba midfielder Mzamiru Yassin (L) dribbles past Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's footballers, midfielder Mohamed Samatta (down) and attacker Hassan Kabunda, during a 2021/22 NBC Premier League match played at Ali Hasan Mwinyi Stadium in Tabora and ended in a 4-1 win for Simba.

New Simba SC's fan favourite ought to improve his game

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SOME Simba SC fans have been heard demanding that its defensive midfielder Mzamiru Yassin should be given a two-year contract extension, although reports from the club say he has already been retained.

The statement comes at the end of the season with the club in the process of making major changes to the squad for next season.

At the beginning of the season, the situation was completely different. If any fans doubted the midfielder's ability, then Simba SC's fanatics were the ones.

Has any soccer enthusiast ever heard of the Msimbazi Street squad's fans criticizing Yassin lately?

For a long time, Yassin has not been praised by his team's fans even when he is doing well on the pitch.

The footballer will find himself facing much criticism once he makes mistakes.

All the blame is on him, especially when Simba loses a tie and he happens to be in the team.

I do not know if the midfielder has ever heard what is said about him or faced the bullying when he committed a mistake on the pitch.

It has recently reached a point where some Simba fans have been calling for him to be released.

If Simba SC officials and fans had a plan to get rid of the midfielder, I do not think they still have that agenda after seeing the midfielder turn out for Tanzania's senior national team.

In Simba's Premier League tie against Mbeya City FC which took place in Dar es Salaam, Mzamiru put scintillating showing that projected an impression he is a foreign footballer.

In Taifa Stars' AFCOCON qualifiers game against Algeria which took place in Dar es Salaam, almost everyone who came out of the stadium sang his name although Taifa Stars lost the game.

It got some fans wondering why the Tanzanian midfielder does not always display the same performance.

It should be noted that since the start of the season and Simba's failure to defend both Premier League and Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) titles, many of the squad's fans have not got a good look at the midfielder.

Former Simba head coach Pablo Franco Martin was not giving Yassin a big chance and when the tactician made a change and introduced the midfielder, many of the squad's followers grumbled. If Yassin had either heard or faced the accusations against him he would probably have given up on serving the side.

Since he was dispossessed by Yanga midfielder, Balama Mapinduzi, in the side's 2-2 draw with Simba in a top-flight duel played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on January 4, 2020, and led to Yanga's first goal, many of Simba's fanatics have lost trust in Yassin.

In this season's ASFC semi-final pitting Simba against Yanga that took place in Mwanza on May 28, 2022, Yassin's misplaced pass to Chris Mugalu was

intercepted by Yanga midfielder Yanick Bangala who executed a pass to fellow midfielder Salum Abubakar.

Abubakar then threaded an incisive pass to Feisal Salum that cracked a powerful long-range shot to beat Simba keeper Beno Kakolanya and register the only goal of the game and victory for Yanga.

Yassin's pass was intercepted when other Simba midfielders Sadio Kanoute and Taddeo Lwanga believed the team was attacking, and they moved up and failed to track back immediately and offered Salum an opportunity to attack.

Many of Simba's supporters believe Yassin could have done something different by changing the direction of the ball, as opposed to what he did.

Despite these mistakes, Yassin is a master in dispossessing opposing outfits' footballers and blocking space.

He has often concealed the weaknesses of many players by his displaying skills.

If one looks at Mzamiru he/she may not see him on the pitch but he is a hard-working midfielder and can be compared to former France international, midfielder Claude Makelele that also plied his trade at Real Madrid and Chelsea.

Yassin and Makelele, originally from DR Congo, are slightly alike in the height, the latter being slightly five feet tall and 9 cm.

The Simba midfielder is a bit short but most players of his type are very difficult to dispossess.

If they become physically fit, they can control the central area as much as they want. Yassin can intercept well and push his outfit upfront, his biggest problem however is in providing blind passes.

He has seldom been able to showcase such plays and has already lost a lot of balls in a direction that has caused damage to his team.

The problem starts when Yassin is in possession, he often looks down, most players raise their eyes before receiving the ball and look at the environment as they possess it knowing what they need to do before passing to a teammate.

If Yassin can work on his weakness, then the offensive words against him would disappear altogether.

In addition to his failure to execute accurate passes, Yassin should also learn to spot the danger from the midfield areas where he plays.

Yassin is not a footballer punished by match officials on regular basis, but he needs to know how to deal with an opponent before he can bring harm to his outfit. He has in several ties showcased what fans expected of him, he was a midfielder that was impressive in Taifa Stars' game against Algeria and the league duel between his team and Mbeya City FC.

The footballer was executing long passes and raising his eyes so he could execute the passes well.

He was changing the direction of the balls, he may have started to change given he is fighting for a new contract with Simba.

Premier League technical bench shifts a mirror into club feelings, abilities

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

CHANGING the mood in a Premier League side - or elsewhere - after either defeat or a series of defeats is often conducted by dismissing the coach, signaling that the club is ready for a fresh start.

Admittedly most changes of coach and another take over are followed by an improvement in performance but it is not always sustainable, and even within a few months one can tell which changes were successful and which were not.

It is unclear why some new coach selections succeed but others fail, is it the coaches or the club?

This was among the hallmarks of outgoing Tanzania's NBC Premier League, where several clubs hanged coached midway or thereabouts and reached divergent levels of success by getting new coaches.

The two most notable changes were conducted with the city archrivals, Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, and Simba SC, where it is clear that Yanga had a smooth ride after that and Simba SC a good ride at best, parting ways towards the very end of the season.

The change in Yanga succeeded more in its objectives.

One thing that comes up in this situation, and which has often beleaguered coaches, is the difference between coaches, trainers, and selectors of teams, which is often noticed in how national team coaches are titled.

In the England Premier League, the head coach is described or known as the manager, which is technically a wider term than coaching but its principal component is coaching.



Former Simba SC head coach, Pablo Franco Martin.

By contrast, one hears of the Brazilian national team 'selectioner,' at times used interchangeably with, say, the French national team 'trainer,' meaning the same thing, that he is the head coach. It is a different signal of the tasks.

When looking at these designations, it implies that the concept of coaching may involve a project to build a team, but ordinarily, that is a secondary dimension of the task, which starts with coaching - that is, one has a team in front of him, and is tasked with making it a winning outfit.

Adding a player or two along the way is not the main issue, or altering the whole side at the end of the season is similarly irrelevant.

In our club management format, the one managing the team is the club leader, setting out the scale of

ambitions and the means to realize those ambitions.

This involves picking players and handing them to the coach.

This premise sets out the rationale for sacking a coach for instance Pablo Franco Martin at Simba SC lately, that if the issue was a project, it would have been unlikely that the club holds him responsible for the relatively poor showing in local competitions, and underperformance in continental tournaments.

It is the club leadership that has the managerial role, and unquestionably they have been at pains to underline precisely what

sort of team can realize the club objective of making it to the semi-finals of the premier continental tournament, the CAF Champions League. They did not blame the

coach pointedly for this.

With national teams there is at times a trainer or 'selectioner,' as the range of players one needs and who fits in what position is less observable than with clubs, especially as one just picks who appears to be best suited for the position, not conducting any commerce.

The player recruitment and purchasing operation that is conducted virtually all the year round is considerably limited in the national team context, where just the coach is related in a commercial arrangement with the soccer federation, and managers of the national side.

Players are simply honoured to feature on the national side, so frankly no 'management' is involved.

In that case, impressions of hard decisions on coaches, for instance axing Pablo lately, are part of a specific design, in the sense that not all the failures were attributed to him, but on a fairly well-considered note, he did not arrive at fulfilling the part assigned to him as such.

Some raised questions as to how far he was in control of the technical bench, and indeed he did not fully control all of it, but what damage was occasioned by this situation is guesswork. Reflexes often decide whether one did his best.

One can therefore admit that technical bench shifts are usually warranted, on the proviso all the same that the preliminary understanding between club and coach, of a certain objective to be realized, is too often unrealistic.

For instance, all clubs facing relegation or playoffs contracted their coaches with a clear wish to remain comfortable in the league table, and in several cases, upper mid-table sides were gunning for the top four, meanwhile as only two clubs are in a realistic demand to take the title.

So the coaches go along with inflated expectations and the only proper contractual point is the length of the contract, as when one shortens it there is a dividend that goes to the coach for that frustration. Thus we shed no tears.



Geita Gold FC is on the brink of taking part in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup after garnering a fourth-place finish in this season's NBC Premier League.

Geita Gold FC set for continental football but encounters FIFA hurdle

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

GEITA Gold FC is on the verge of qualifying for the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup after securing fourth place in the just concluded NBC Premier League.

The Geita outfit secured the top-four finish and has one foot on a place in the second tier of CAF club tournaments after registering a 1-1 draw with Tanga's Coastal Union in the top-flight's penultimate round.

Geita Gold FC has previously cruised to a 1-0 win over Polisi Tanzania and collected 45 points which were unmatched by Kagera Sugar who had notched 38 points with one game remaining.

Geita Gold FC will have to wait for the outcome of the Azam Sports Federation Cup final between Coastal Union and Yanga slated for Saturday in Arusha to know their fate.

Should Yanga notch victory over Coastal

Union, Geita Gold FC will qualify for the Confederation Cup.

Being the outfit's first season in top-flight football, Geita Gold FC has been very strong this season winning 12 of 29 games, notching draws in nine, and losing eight times.

The Nyankumbu Stadium, Geita Gold FC's home ground, has witnessed the club end with the highest score in points accumulation.

In their last five games, the gold miners have had a good form after winning three games and posting two draws, putting an icing on the cake.

Geita Gold FC took part in its last league game, which had the side coming up against Coastal Union at the CCM Mkwakwani Stadium and registering the draw to end the remarkable season.

The Lake Zone outfit has a lot of work to do towards next season including retaining its best players like goal-getter George Mpole, this

season's Premier League's top scorer.

Making sure it avoids the FIFA sanction which has temporarily banned the outfit from registering players for the new Premier League season until the club pays its former coach Etienne Ndayiragije his dues is another task.

According to a statement issued by the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), Geita Gold FC will not be allowed to register players until the squad pays the Burundian coach.

The statement noted FIFA has stated that if Geita Gold Club fails to pay the coach on time, the matter will be referred to the federation's Disciplinary Committee for further disciplinary action.

Whether it is to qualify or not, the side must pay tactician Ndayiragije his dues.

The move will give the side a chance to make reinforcement by signing new players.

FIFA to use new high-tech for offside calls at World Cup

GENEVA

FIFA will introduce new technology to improve offside calls at the World Cup in Qatar this year, using a limb-tracking camera system.

FIFA said Friday it is ready to launch semi-automated offside technology (SAOT) that uses multiple cameras to track player movements plus a sensor in the ball – and will quickly show 3D images on stadium screens at the tournament to help fans understand the referee's call.

It's the third World Cup in a row that sees FIFA introduce new technology to help referees.

Goal-line technology was ready for the 2014 tournament in Brazil after a notorious refereeing error in 2010. In 2018, video review to help referees judge game-changing incidents was rolled out in Russia.

The new offside system promises faster and more accurate decisions than are currently made with the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system, even though the 2018 World Cup avoided major mistakes on offside calls.

Controversy has since flared in European leagues, especially where VAR officials draw on-screen lines over players for marginal calls. They have been mocked as "armpit offsides" because of the tiny margins.

"Although these tools are quite accurate, this accuracy may be improved," said Pierluigi Collina, who leads FIFA's refereeing program and worked the 2002 World Cup final in the pre-technology era.

Each stadium in Qatar will have 12 cameras beneath the roof synchronized to track 29 data points on each player's body 50 times per second. Data is processed with artificial intelligence to create a 3D offside line that is alerted to the team of VAR officials.

A sensor in the match ball tracks its acceleration and gives a more precise "kick point" – when the decisive pass is played – to align with the offside line data, FIFA innovation director Johannes Holzmüller said in an online briefing.

Ensuring soccer's biggest event is a showcase for technological progress – and avoids obvious errors that live on in World Cup lore – has been a long-time FIFA goal.

The shot by England's Frank Lampard that crossed the Germany goal-line in 2010 but was not given as a goal almost immediately ended then-president Sepp Blatter's opposition to giving referees technological aids.

Later that same day in South Africa, a clearly incorrect offside call let Carlos Tevez score Argentina's first goal in a 3-1 win over Mexico in the round of 16.

In 2014, Bosnia-Herzegovina failed to advance from the group in its first World Cup after Edin Dzeko's early goal against Nigeria was wrongly judged offside. Nigeria went on to win 1-0.

LIV tees off in Oregon amid criticism over Saudi funding

NORTH PLAINS, Ore.

THE Saudi Arabia-backed LIV Golf tour's second event teed off Thursday, angering a group of families who lost loved ones on Sept. 11 and want the Saudi government held to account for the terrorist attacks.

About 10 family members and survivors spoke at a small park honoring veterans in tiny North Plains, home to Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club.

"This event is nothing more than a group of very talented athletes who appear to have turned their backs on the crime of murder," said survivor Tim Frolich, who was injured in the collapse of the World Trade Center towers.

The LIV Golf series, funded by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, was making its first stop on American soil this week after a debut this month outside of London.

Carlos Ortiz took the lead Thursday with a 5-under 67. Dustin Johnson, the 2020 Masters winner, was a shot back. Pat Perez, Brenden Grace and Hideto Tadahara were two shots off the lead.

"You need to get off to a good start and obviously stay with it because there's no real letting up," Perez said about the 54-hole format. "Every shot, I think, means a little bit more."

The upstart series, fronted by CEO Greg Norman, aims to challenge the PGA Tour and has lured players with big signing bonuses and rich prize purses. But critics call the tour an attempt at "sportswashing" to detract from Saudi Arabia's human rights abuses, including the murder of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018.

Locally, opponents point to the 2016 hit-and-run death of 15-year-old Fallon Smart. The Saudi national accused in the case cut off a monitoring device shortly before his trial and vanished. U.S. officials believe he was spirited home by the Saudi government.

And then there's the Sept. 11 families, who have reached out to some of the individual golfers involved in the tour but have not been granted an audience. The group produced an ad that has run on local television.

"These golfers that are getting in bed with the Saudis, they should know what they're doing. Shame on them. And to the golfers that say it's just a game of golf: Shame on them," said Brett Eagleson, the head of the group 9/11 Justice, who lost his father at the World Trade Center. "I invite them to live with the pain in our eyes, hear our stories and walk in our shoes, hear what we have to say about the kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

At Pumpkin Ridge there was a noticeable police and security presence, including officers at the front gate. There were rumors of a designated protest area in one of the parking lots, but no one was sure where it was. Tickets to the event warned fans could not display political signs. **AP**

Neymar has gone from world-record transfer to superstar no club seems to want

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

THERE should be a long line of clubs queuing up to sign Neymar from Paris Saint-Germain this summer, but despite being one of the world's most recognizable footballers -- and one with an incredible goal-scoring record to justify that billing -- the Brazil forward has become the superstar that nobody seems to want.

Financial realities and changing football philosophies have conspired to make signing the 30-year-old something which makes little or no sense to every club that could afford him.

Due to the terms of the three-year contract Neymar signed at Parc des Princes 12 months ago, an automatic 12-month extension to his deal will be triggered on July 1, so it would appear that he is committed to the French champions until his mid-30s.

But it has become an open secret within the game that Neymar -- still the world's most expensive player following his €222 million (\$264m) move from Barcelona in 2017 -- is available for a loan or permanent move during this transfer window, with sources telling ESPN that PSG would happily offload his €700,000-a-week (\$730,000) wag-



Neymar

es due to the financial burden of paying Kylian Mbappe -- who himself signed a new three-year deal last month after appearing to be set for a free transfer to Real Madrid -- and Lionel Messi to be at the club.

Despite the huge wealth of PSG's Qatari owners, there is still a need for the club to project the image of being run as a viable business, so reducing the wage bill is a necessity, but Neymar's fitness record over recent seasons and his difficult relationship with the team's past two coaches, Thomas Tuchel and Mauricio Pochettino, are also factors in PSG's willingness to listen to offers for the player.

Sources have told ESPN

where Tuchel's team lost 1-0 to Bayern Munich in Lisbon, Neymar has never quite been the talisman in that competition that he was signed to become when he arrived from Barcelona five years ago.

So it is clear to see why PSG are prepared to move him on, especially now that Mbappe and Messi are above him at the club when it comes to star billing. But while it is easy to argue the reasons why PSG can thrive without Neymar -- it helps when you have Mbappe and Messi in the squad -- the absence of an obvious destination for the Brazilian is a reflection of the state of the game today and how he has become a symbol of a different age.

At 30, Neymar is still young enough to have at least four more years at the highest level and his goals record is incredible, despite all of his injury problems. Since moving to Europe in 2013, when he joined Barcelona from Santos, Neymar has scored 205 goals in 330 appearances for Barca and PSG, with an additional 136 assists. He has also scored 74 goals in 119 games for Brazil -- only Pele, with 77, has scored more goals for the five-time World Cup winners.

Neymar's misfortune is that his record pales in significance when compared to those of Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, the two modern greats who have

always overshadowed him, so he perhaps doesn't get the recognition his talents merit. But Messi and Ronaldo have also been more consistent, fitter and less affected by off-field distractions than Neymar, and his own reputation has been tarnished as a result. While Messi and Ronaldo have earned global acclaim, Neymar is still regarded as the party-loving flair player who can infuriate fans, coaches and teammates alike with his approach to the game.

There is still a match-winning player in Neymar, though, which makes it even more surprising that PSG are struggling to find a club to take him off their hands. But with the modern game demanding that every player works harder than ever, both in and out of possession, Neymar's inability, or reluctance, to contribute defensively makes him a luxury that the top teams can do without.

Manchester City could afford to pay Neymar's wages, but he wouldn't fit Pep Guardiola's requirements for a player. Manchester United would see huge commercial value in signing Neymar, but while he would have appealed to the club in recent years, the determination to re-focus on football under new coach Erik ten Hag means that Neymar is the wrong player at the wrong time. It

is a similar story for Liverpool and Bayern Munich -- Neymar just wouldn't fit in -- while the leading Italian clubs such as AC Milan, Inter Milan and Juventus couldn't afford him.

Barcelona have continually been linked with a move to take Neymar back to Camp Nou -- where he helped the club win a fifth Champions League title in 2014-15 -- but the financial situation makes such a move impossible to conceive. As for Real Madrid, having failed to sign Mbappe, it would be a humiliation to help PSG pay the France forward's new contract by taking Neymar off their hands. Chelsea, under new ownership following Roman Abramovich's sale to a group led by Los Angeles Dodgers co-owner Todd Boehly, are the club being linked with Neymar right now, but the team has other priorities and it would be an interesting decision by Tuchel, now Chelsea coach, to decide to work with Neymar again.

So PSG and Neymar may end up being stuck with each other in an ongoing relationship that doesn't work for either of them. He is too good a player for his career to drift aimlessly towards an unsatisfactory conclusion, but if you are too expensive and don't fit into the modern game, it's difficult to see a way out for Neymar and PSG.

Man United will lean on senior players, transfer market won't solve all problems

By Rob Dawson, ESPN Correspondent

ONCE Manchester United's first wave of returning players had trotted out onto the pitches at Carrington on Monday afternoon, the first thing new manager Erik ten Hag did was to gather them into a group.

Flanked by assistants Steve McLaren and Mitchell van der Gaag, the Dutchman explained what he expected to see during the first session of the summer before ending his address with a wider point -- that success next season depends on them.

Ten Hag has not hidden the fact he would like new signings during the transfer window, but in face-to-face meetings and Zoom calls with players conducted over the course of the last six weeks, he has stressed that the biggest change has to come from the squad he has inherited.

He's told individuals that a miserable season last year does not make them bad players and that aside from those who have already made it clear they want out, they will all be given a clean slate during preseason and the tour of Thailand and Australia, which gets underway on July 8.

United's budget to freshen up the squad this summer has been described as "sizeable" but those who know the finer details say there has been an insistence, even as far back as April, that supporters shouldn't expect wholesale changes.

The club immediately

distanced themselves from claims made by interim boss Ralf Rangnick following the humiliating defeat to Liverpool at Anfield that as many as 10 new players could arrive at the end of the season.

And since the announcement of Ten Hag's appointment, the message from football director John Murtough and CEO Richard Arnold has been the same -- that the former Ajax coach's first task is to get more out of the players already at Old Trafford.

"Erik will aim to maximise the potential of existing players while building towards long-term success," Murtough told a fans' forum in May.

"The squad will be strengthened and renewed this summer and Erik will be a key voice in this process, together with the recruitment department to identify and secure targets. There remains huge potential in the existing squad and strong academy talent coming through."

At his official unveiling, Ten Hag issued a similar challenge to four players in particular. Harry Maguire, Luke Shaw, Bruno Fernandes, and Marcus Rashford were all part of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's squad which finished second in the Premier League in 2021 but all suffered disastrous dips in form to collectively contribute to a sixth-place finish last season.

"We accept the current situation but also know one year ago, this club, this team was second in the Premier League," said Ten



Erik ten Hag

Hag. "There's potential and now it's up to us to get that out. It's a process, it will take time but I'm convinced we will come to that point where we get success. We have to work hard and it has to be based on

the right philosophy and strategy."

The point is that new signings like Frenkie de Jong, Tyrell Malacia, Lisandro Martinez, and Antony -- all on United's radar -- will help give the club the

feeling of a fresh start but they cannot be expected to turn things around on their own and the easiest way to start making up ground on Manchester City and Liverpool is by finding a way to recreate the standards set in 2020-21.

Only champions City scored more league goals than United two years ago thanks, in part, to Fernandes netting 18 times and scoring 28 in all competitions. In the two seasons between 2019 and 2021, Rashford scored 43 times, despite spending most of his time on the wing. At the back, Shaw was named in the Premier League's team of the year in 2021 while Maguire was picked in UEFA's team of the tournament for Euro 2020 as England reached the final.

In contrast, last season Maguire and Shaw were part of a defence which conceded more goals than Burnley, who were rel-

egated to the Championship while Fernandes and Rashford scored 15 goals between them. There is plenty of room for improvement, even just set against what they have done before.

United fans are waiting with bated breath for the first new arrival of the Ten Hag era but success in the Dutchman's first season at Old Trafford won't be determined by the new names which come through the door. Instead, it will be the familiar faces asked to shoulder the responsibility of improving standards and getting the club moving forward again in their bid to return to the top of domestic and European football.

Ten Hag has been brought in, partly, to remind an under-fire, under-pressure squad that not so long ago they were considered genuine title contenders. Their challenge now is to prove him right.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Neymar has gone from world-record transfer to superstar no club seems to want

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Coastal Union stands in Yanga's way of clean sweep of domestic titles



Coastal Union's midfielder Victor Akpan (L) keeps Yanga's midfielder, Feisal Salum, in check when the clubs met in a 2021/22 NBC Premier League tie that took place in Tanga recently.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans, alias Yanga, and Coastal Union will take to the pitch this Saturday afternoon, for the final game of the 2021/22 season.

Yanga will look to add to its already bursting trophy cabinet by beating Coastal Union in the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final match at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha. The Green and Yellow outfit claimed a record-extending 28th league title this season along with claiming the Com-

munity Shield at the start of the season and will be eager to end

their campaign with yet more silverware.

Having rested a few key players in their last game on Wednesday and neutral ground, there can be only one favourite, and that is the league champions.

If Yanga does proceed to win this match, this will be the second double triumph for the outfit since the 2015/16 season.

Forward Fiston Mayele will be Yanga's source of inspiration in front of the goal.

With 19 goals to his credit, the Congolese forward is his team's leading goal scorer, but that only tells half the story.

It is not just the number of goals, it is how he scores them that makes Mayele stand out.

In his two outings against Coastal Union, Mayele has been directly involved in four goals, scoring three and assisting one.

Coastal Union has the toughest mission in Tanzania football right now, to stop the well-oiled Yanga from winning all the titles that were on offer in the domestic scene this season.

It has been a campaign of

ups and downs for Coastal Union. In all honesty, not many would back Coastal Union to deny Yanga the treble even though this tournament is known for its upsets which have seen smaller teams beat the big guns in the climax.

Coastal Union's campaign in the cup has had a few blips. They needed to go to penalty shootouts in the Round of 16, quarterfinals, and semi-finals to fend off Mtibwa Sugar, Kagera Sugar, and Azam FC respectively.

The Tanga club's head coach Juma Mgunda is fully aware of the mammoth task ahead of him but he is confident his side is ready for the challenge.

"We don't need points in this game, just a win, this is the final," Mgunda quipped ahead of the final believing finals are to be won, not to be played.

Mgunda is no fan of changing a successful line-up, and the team he sends out today will surely resemble the first-choice team he has used in recent weeks with all eyes on Abdulhamis Suleiman 'Sopu', the tournament top scorer

5 EATV MONDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

SPORTS

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funquka
15:30 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASTAC
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Bongo Hit
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS LIVE
22:00 Zote kurusu
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipanga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipanga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Mtibwa Sugar, Prisons battle to save top-flight status

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MTIBWA Sugar and Tanzania Prisons begin their NBC Premier League relegation playoffs journey tomorrow when they take on each other at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya.

The first leg is played at the home of Tanzania Prisons which finished 14th in the league and the second leg is played at the home of Mtibwa Sugar.

The winner over two legs retains NBC Premier League status next season.

Having given their all in the regular season, the two sides will have to find another gear to see them through the crucial two games in the exhausting playoffs as other sides are breaking out for the end of the season holiday.

In terms of quality, there is little to separate the two sides who have had extremely disappointing campaigns in the regular season.

Two goalless draws were produced in the two meetings in the regular season.

Both teams could only manage seven wins in the regular seasons. They also conceded 34 goals, an average of at least a goal every game this season, this shows they deserve their league positions.

In head-to-head stats, there have been 20 league meetings between the two sides since the 2011/12 season.

Each has won four games and drawn the other 12. This proves there is little to separate the two sides.

The technical benches of both teams have continually expressed their belief that they have what it takes to win the playoffs and retain their top-flight status.

There is a second chance for the aggregate loser of the tie who will have to face the Championship club, JKT Tanzania.

Visitors Mtibwa Sugar will be without their influential attacking midfielder Said Ndemla for the crucial decider.

Ndemla that has three goals and two assists is serving a three-match ban for a straight red card he picked in a top-flight duel against his former team, Simba SC.

Ugandan import Brian Mayanja will be the man head coach Salum Mayanga will be looking to get the much-needed goals in a game that is expected to be a tight affair.

Mayanja was signed by Mtibwa Sugar from Police Uganda in the mini-transfer window, managing to score six goals since his debut in February against Namungo FC.

Benjamin Asukile has been crucial to the hosts' survival push with his three goals this season proving the difference in league wins over Simba SC and Dodoma Jiji FC. Without his goals, Prisons would have been automatically relegated.

It is not just down to stats with Asukile, but his experience and influence on and off the pitch are immense.

As mentioned, scoring goals has been an issue for Prisons all season.

Striker Jeremiah Juma tops their chart with just seven and will once again be the go-to guy for head coach Patrick Odhiambo.

Gymkhana Cricket Club lifts 2022 DC SiSi Cup 40 Overs Div A1 League title

By Guardian Reporter

GYMKHANA Cricket Club has won the 2022 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) SiSi Cup 40 Overs Division A1 League's silverware with a four-wicket drubbing of Strikers Cricket Club in the final that took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's oval recently.

Strikers Cricket Club scored 152 runs losing nine wickets in 40 overs once they took the crease first, with senior performer Ramesh Alluri playing a pivotal role in the club's ability to end with the figure.

The batsman, deployed at top-order, top-scored in the innings, given he notched 57 runs that included six boundaries.

His performance at the crease was key to Strikers Cricket Club's plan to stay in control of the innings, having lost three senior cricketers in quick succession early on.

Much as openers, Trushal Jethwa, and Karim Khan, managed to notch two-digit figures, they could not make their presence felt because of the opponents' bowlers' onslaught.

Jethwa notched 12 runs, nailing two boundaries, and fellow opener recorded 10 runs that consisted of a boundary.

Alluri that stepped at

the crease with the outfit having notched 68 runs after 21.5 overs, had his batting heroics pushing Strikers Cricket Club's score to 126 runs after 36.3 overs.

Low-order batsmen, Mukul Kumar, and Nyenje Hashim, also chipped in with two-digit figures in the closing stages with Kumar having ended with 17 runs not out, and Hashim had 10 runs.

Youthful cricketer Mohammed Yunus led Gymkhana Cricket Club's bowling onslaught with a four-wicket haul, giving away 26 runs in eight overs.

He was ably assisted by the fellow bowler, Amit Raghuvanshi, as the latter notched two wickets and conceded 32 runs.

Gymkhana Cricket Club gallantly mounted a successful chase, amassing 154 runs and dropping six wickets in 30.2 overs.

Opener Raghuvanshi, Yunus, and Kheel Suchak put notable displays with the bat in the solid chase, bravely fighting Strikers Cricket Club's pressure.

Raghuvanshi was the cricketer with most runs as he ended with 37 runs, whereas Yunus that was slotted in as tail-ender, notched 32 runs not out. Suchak registered 32 runs.

Yash Hirwania notched nine runs not out, forging an unbeaten stand with



Gymkhana cricketers in a group photo after they clinched the 2022 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) SiSi Cup 40 Overs Division A1 League's top honour with victory over Strikers Cricket Club in the final which took place recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAR ES SALAAM CRICKET

Yunus to make certain of the chase.

Alluri (Strikers Cricket Club) was adjudged Man of the Series having notched 1252 tournament points, Best Batsman prize went to Abubakar Selemani (Lions Cricket Club) who scored 166 runs.

Tambwe Rashid (Gymkhana Cricket Club) lifted the Best Bowler prize with his 18 wickets, and Mohamed Yunus (Gymkhana Cricket Club)

was adjudged the final's Man of the Match.

Gymkhana Cricket Club finally ended its trophy drought and silenced critics in a big way with its solid showing.

Atif Salim, Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) information officer, noted: "With the cricketers having been relegated to Division A1 this year, they proved that they belonged to Division A through this victory."

According to Salim,

the squad had been on the receiving end of lots of criticism for its performance in the past couple of years, especially with many players leaving the club.

The official disclosed: "Experienced all-rounder Harshel Shah took over the side's captaincy, with the squad comprising many youthful cricketers."

"The trust in the youthful cricketers has eventually paid off in a

big way considering the squad has won the top honour."

Salim revealed: "Having known so many youngsters, Gymkhana Cricket Club has a great potential in the coming years should they be able to stick together, many congratulations to them."

He concluded: "We also thank our sponsor SiSi Dawat for arranging lunch for the management of DC, players, and officials at the final."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

