



National Pg 4 Elephants fitted with tracking collars



National Pg 5 Govt embarks on 7bn/- irrigation scheme



National Pg 6 Firms accelerate online learning platform



Danish council, VPO in refugee camp meetings

By Guardian Reporter

DANISH Refugee Council officials yesterday conferred with environment portfolio officials and promised to restore the degraded environment within and around refugee camps.

Jo Povey, the manager for refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) accompanied by Alfred Magehema, the council's economic recovery manager, conversed with Dr Selemani Jafo, the Union and Environment state minister in the Vice President's Office in Dodoma.

After the discussions, the minister expressed gratitude to the agency for its concern on the environment in the camps, noting that the refugees should not leave their host communities in a degraded environment.

He underlined the government's appreciation of efforts of stakeholders to preserve the environment by planting



A view of MV Mwanza 'Hapa Kazi Tu', a passenger and cargo ship now in the final stages of construction at the Mwanza South Port, as captured yesterday. The vessel, meant to ferry 1,200 passengers, 400 tonnes of cargo and 20 vehicles, is being built by South Korean contractors in collaboration with Tanzanian Navy engineers. President Samia Suluhu Hassan, currently on a tour of Mwanza Region, inspected it yesterday. Photo: State House

...so we have decided to do conservation

trees in the camps in Kigoma Region and communities around the camps.

VPO was working on the rules and guidelines for carbon trading so that local organisations can benefit from the trade, he said, noting that the underlying challenge is cutting down trees for firewood and charcoal/

The problem is huge in various areas of the country, contributing to prolonged drought that causes a shortage of water and food, he stated, commending the stakeholders for showing interest in investing in alternative energy.

This will help reduce the rate of cutting down trees for firewood and charcoal, he said, noting that stakeholders are fully participating in protecting the environment.

Their efforts are being seen in efforts to plant trees, switching to alternative energy and investing in carbon dioxide absorption, he said, noting that the government was facilitating efforts of agencies moving to protect the environment.

The council manager said that their priority since 2021 is to cooperate with the government in tree planting efforts to preserve the environment.

In collaboration with the Tanzania Forest

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Samia: Test project quality at handover

By Henry Mwangonde

LOCAL engineers with the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TanRoads) need to take a leading role in testing adherence to quality for key projects being implemented instead of leaving the task to foreign engineers.

This position was expressed yesterday by President Samia Suluhu Hassan when inspecting the Kigongo-Busisi Bridge in Mwanza, stating that there is need for TanRoads to test the quality standards of projects before they are handed over.

"These engineers are constructing and will later leave. We will remain here with the facility," she said, noting that it will be a shame for such a bridge to collapse and cause some unforeseen disaster.

She appealed to residents surrounding the project to take an active role in providing security so that the bridge is completed on time, taking up from a summary report on the implementation of the project read at the rally.

TanRoads CEO Mohammed Besta said the project which

I could have stood here and told you that you should produce enough, and you could have asked me where the market is, but let me assure you that everything which is produced here must be taken to the market

is three kilometers long was 75percent complete, while earlier contractual provision sought that it would be 89percent completed by this time.

Some of the reasons for the delay was an increase in water depth, the Covid-19 outbreak and its effect on supply chains and differences in the geological set up of rocks in the lake, he said.

The project is billed at 706bn/- is expected to end next February, with the contractor having been paid 368bn/- as part of payments for the task, he said.

The China Civil Engineering Construction Group (CCECG) and the China Railway 15th Bureau are making progress with work on the bridge connecting two points now linked by ferry over the lake.

The bridge spans the so-called Gulf of Mwanza, a 30-kilometre inlet on the lake's south shore between Kigongo and Busisi. It will link Tanzania to Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Burundi by road,

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'Foreign exchange supply stable despite relative dollar scarcity'

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzania has adequate foreign reserves and the economy has not been hurt by the global scarcity of the United States currency, the Bank of Tanzania has declared.

BoT Governor Emmanuel Tutuba explained the situation on the sidelines of the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) meeting held last Friday at the State House in Dar es Salaam.

"All along we have had enough foreign reserves... At the moment we are selling at

least two million US dollars daily," he stated, crediting Tanzania with being the only country in East and Central Africa that still has reserves it can pump into the economy to support the market.

He affirmed that Tanzania's economy is strong and competitive "despite the global scarcity of US dollars" along with disrupted global supply chains.

He was responding to a questioner who wanted to know BoT's position on dollar scarcity, its root cause and how the country's is faring in the situation.

The dollar shortage - which experts explain as the difficulty of borrowing at current interest rates, and inability of central banks to raise the cost of the dollar and depreciate their own currencies rapidly - has been worsened by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and its resulting disruptions on global supply chains.

Disruptions have raised the price of

Govt clearing 16.4bn/- for 400KV line compensation



By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

UPWARDS of 16.43bn/- will be paid as compensation to about 6,500 people who

vacated their areas to pave the way for the 400KV power transmission project in the Southern Highlands regions.

Stephen Byabato (pictured), the

Energy deputy minister, said in Parliament yesterday that the project involves the construction of electricity transmission infrastructure for the 400KV line from Iringa to Sumbawanga in Rukwa Region.

During the first phase about 4,750 residents have received compensation totalling 13.67bn/- with preparations being finalised for paying all eligible residents by end of next month.

The government is later this month expected to commence implementation of the 1.4trn/- Tanzania-Zambia power transmission project, he said, responding to Oran Njeza (Mbeya Rural), demanding the time schedule for building electricity infrastructure for the Iringa-Mbeya-Tunduma-Sumbawanga transmission line. The project will enable Tanzania to

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Samia: Test project quality at handover

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avoiding long diversion around the lake.

President Samia also inspected the construction of a large ferry, the MV 'Mwanza-Hapa Kazi Tu' whose construction has reached 82-percent, affirming that the ship's construction was an important step in opening Tanzania to the international scene.

She appealed to members of the public to increase efforts in production to lessen the inflation spiral with an easier flow of goods.

"I could have stood here and

told you that you should produce enough, and you could have asked me where the market is, but let me assure you that everything which is produced here must be taken to the market," she said.

She promised to return in the next two months to formally launch the ship and have a first ride in the new vessel.

The ship, launched at the Mwanza South port on February 12, has capacity for 1,200 passengers, 400 tonnes of cargo, 20 small vehicles and three trucks. It is currently 82 percent complete, officials said.

Govt clearing 16.4bn/- for 400KV line compensation

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connect with transmission systems in the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) through the Zambia and Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP).

The latter extends to Kenya, making Tanzania a centre for electricity trade within the SADC and EAPP zone he said, highlighting that the project covers a distance of 620 kilometres.

It commences later this month and slated for completion in

September 2025, he stated, assuring the MP who had similarly sought for precise schedule for finishing compensations for the area's residents moving out to ease work for the power transmission line.

The project will boost reliable power supply and crop processing, thus improving the investment climate in the zone, the deputy minister stated. The energy sector ought to contribute immensely to generating economic activities, he added.

Danish council, VPO in refugee camps talk

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Services (TFS) agency and the Kibondo District Council, they are planting trees in refugee camps and in neighbouring areas restore natural growth in the area.

Refugees closely living together in one area have needs such as cooking, thus cut trees for firewood, in which case trees must be replanted, "so we have decided to do conservation," she stated.

The recovery manager noted that at Nduta camp more than two tons of waste are produced per day, from which cooking energy can be generated for the daily use of the refugees, diminishing the rate of felling of trees.

He saluted the government for paying attention to carbon trading, noting that this will reduce environmental damage. The Danish agency is uplifting motivation to preserve forests, he added.

'Foreign exchange supply stable despite relative dollar scarcity'

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commodities and limited countries' ability to borrow as the US central bank (the Federal Reserve) raises interest rates to large bank borrowings to stem inflationary trends in the US economy.

The governor cautioned that Tanzania is not supposed to be complacent about the situation, but rather initiate steps to increase foreign currency earnings with higher agro-based exports in particular.

Stepping up value-addition and increasing local production of commodities and discouraging imports of such goods are equally vital safeguards, he said.

Presentations made by private sector executives and public officials during the meeting were encouraging and a pointer to a reasonably bright future of the country's economy, he said.

The dollar scarcity is a global challenge that has emerging from the Covid 19 chaos, with each country trying to fill production holes caused by lockdowns, he said. "Every country wants to have foreign currency to import necessary commodities," he said.

Similarly, the Russo-Ukraine war has disrupted the global supply chain, making commodities and services prohibitively expensive especially over the past year, he said.

Climate change worsens the situation as some countries suffer from drought, creating food shortages and heightening grain imports. Others faced power shortages and have to mitigate the situation with importing generation capacity, machinery for oil exploration, drilling, etc.

A big number of countries were hit by floods that destroy roads and public facilities, thus having to import construction equipment tar to repair roads, all of which increase

the global demand for the dollar, he explained.

Tightened US fiscal policies are internationally blamed for an acute scarcity of dollars around the world, he stated, noting that upwards of 83 percent of international trade transactions are conducted in the US currency.

"When in different ways the US does not assure an adequate supply of dollars there is global scarcity and big demand," he stated, noting that the value of US Treasury bonds was going up and worldwide, millionaires purchase such bonds for attractive profits. The dollar becomes scarce on our streets, he explained.

Asserting that all these causes are beyond the control of the government, he said that current initiatives taken by the government are capable of skirting around the dollar supply crisis.



Presentations made by private sector executives and public officials during the meeting were encouraging and a pointer to a reasonably bright future of the country's economy



Residents of Buhongwa suburb in Nyamagana District, Mwanza Region, celebrate yesterday as they move to welcome President Samia Suluhu Hassan. She was on her way to have a first-hand account of progress in the implementation of the Busisi Bridge construction project. Photo: State House

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government is finalising processes with the Indian government to enable traders and farmers to export a total of 150,000 tonnes of pigeon peas in the South Asian country, the House heard yesterday.

Deputy minister for Agriculture, Anthony Mavunde made the statement here that the government India and Tanzania are working closely to find best ways to unlock new potentials and reinforce the existing trade opportunities including crops.

Responding to a supplementary question posed by Tunza Malapo, Special Seats MP (Chadema) on the government's strategy to find stable market of various crops, Mavunde said that the ministry was

Indian government to import 150,000 tonnes of pigeon peas

working hard in collaboration with other ministries and stakeholders to ensure that farmers secure good market inside and outside the country.

According to him, the ministry's deputy permanent secretary is in India to conduct follow up on the matter so as to ensure that Tanzania secures a stable market of pigeon peas.

"We also discussing with embassies of China, Rwanda and Burundi as to expand the wider market of cassava so as to increase productivity of the crop to our farmers," he added.

In her basic question, MP Malapo wanted to know the government's strategy to conduct research of other crops that can be grown in Mtwara Region apart from cashew.

He said the government through the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has continued to encourage farming of other crops such as cassava, sunflower, sesame, soya beans, groundnuts and others that can grow well in Mtwara Region.

"These crops have been researched well by TARI and proved that they can grow well in Mtwara, we are currently educating farmers

to adopt best farming practices in the crops for good yields," he said.

The lawmaker also wanted to know the government's strategy to provide farmers subsidized quality seeds where the deputy minister said the government will continue producing more well-researched seeds and supply them to farmers in the country.

He further detailed that the government, through TARI, has also continued to educate farmers and industrialists to invest in processing of crops so as to produce other products such as industrial starch.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (L), currently also serving as President of the African Geopolitical Group in the Inter-Parliamentary Union, exchanges greetings with IPU President Duarte Pacheco of Portugal, whom she paid a visit in Marrakesh, Morocco, yesterday. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

Human rights stakeholders hail ACHPR ruling on elections

By Guardian Correspondent

HUMAN rights stakeholders have expressed their appreciation with the ruling of the African Court on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) that called for the government to amend the National Elections Act and the criminal Procedure Code, saying their long time laments have now been heard.

Human rights stakeholder, Bob Wangwe, in collaboration with the Legal and HUMAN RIGHTS Centre (LHRC) filed Case No. 011/2020 against the United Republic of Tanzania.

The case was opposing section 6(1), 7(1), 7(2) and 7(3) of the National Elections Act that allow local government Executive Directors to oversee elections in the country.

In its judgement, the Court ruled that Sections 6(1), 7(1) and 7(3) of the National Elections Act violate the

Protocol to the African Charter of Human and People's Rights (African Protocol) that gives the right to every person to participate in the country's leadership vial elections or through their representatives.

Speaking about the ruling, LHRC managing director, Dr Anna Henga said it is time now for the government to urgently table in Parliament a Bill for the amendments to the Elections Act.

It can table it in September or January next year, it should quickly be worked upon before the 2024 Civic elections so the election supervisors should be those without any party affiliation," said Dr Henga.

She added that the ruling is a great victory for the lovers of human rights and democracy since; she added "there has been a lot of favouritism whenever local government directors supervise elections.

She added that it has reached the time for the National Electoral Commission (NEC) to have their own officers to supervise elections; it should no longer depend on local government directors on claims that many of them are CCM's cadres.

"In 2015 we conducted a research countrywide and examined the performance of the local government directors and found out that many of them were cadres of the ruling party - CCM who failed to qualify as candidates while vying for elective posts and were later appointed as local government directors," she said.

Bob Wangwe, advocate and Director of Tanzania Constitution Forum (TCF) said the judgement is a good step that leads to the attainment of true democracy.

"What has already been done is not a minor issue, it is the struggle to attain true democracy, step by step,

hence we will work on every area where we see there is a loophole," said Wangwe.

Apart from the ruling given on Tuesday, today it will be the turn of Case No. 039/2020 involving LHRC and THRDC against the United Republic of Tanzania.

The case is opposing section 148(5) of the criminal Procedure Act and the said section lists unailable offences including murder, treason, terrorism, money laundering and others. The Court had ruled that Section 148(5) of the Criminal Procedure Act violates Section 2 of the African Protocol that provided the right to every person to enjoy freedom therein without any kind of discrimination.

In addition, the Section violates Section 7(1) and 7(1)(b) of the African Protocol that provides the right for a person to be heard and treated as innocent until proved guilty.



Rose Edward (2nd-R), an engineer with the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa), briefs Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on the functioning of sewage processing plants. It was at Tuesday's launch in the city of WaterAid Tanzania's new (2023-2028) strategy and the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the agency's operations in the country. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

African Court applauds Tanzanians

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AFRICAN Court of Human and People's Rights has applauded Tanzanians of making good use of the continental court, saying nearly 50 per cent of cases are from Tanzania.

The court's President, Justice Iman Daudi Aboud made the praise here yesterday, noting that of the recently 150 judgments made by the court, 50 per cent were from Tanzania.

Justice Aboud, a Tanzanian who has been re-elected for the second and final term of two years gave the sentiments here yesterday shortly after opening the 2nd retreat of the court, held here in Dodoma.

African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Court) is a continental court established by African countries to ensure the protection of human and peoples' rights in Africa.

At least 34 member states have ratified the Protocol establishing the African Court, out of these; only eight have accepted the competence of the Court according to its Art.

According to the president, the court judges convened a three-day retreat to enhance the Court's effectiveness and improve the protection of human rights across the continent.

Speaking about the meeting, she said, "Aim is to facilitate a better coordination and the development of improved working methods and contribute to the smooth functioning of the African Court in particular and the African human rights protection system in general".

The current retreat was restricted only to judges and gives opportunity to speak frankly about the court and see how to

position the court as a central pillar in the socio-economic and political development of the continent.

Earlier, Dr Robert Eno, Registrar of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights said despite what stakeholders say about the Court or the angle they choose to look at things what is undeniable is the fact that their perception of the Court can make or mar the effective discharge of the mandate of the Court.

"Perception must not be overlooked, there is always room for improvement, perfectionism is not achievable, imperfection is guaranteed and improvement should be our goal, I believe there is also room for improvement even for organizations, including the African Court" he underscored.

He asked the judges to use the retreat to explore ways and means in which they can build on success to improve the work of the Court going forward.

"More than 16 years after its establishment, therefore, it is important for the Judges to have such a retreat where they can have a heart-to-heart, face-to-face conversation on the state of affairs of the Court Said Dr Eno

Saying it is an opportunity to have a self-introspection and ask pointing questions and have an honest, frank and constructive intra-judges dialogue and a reflection on why the Court was established, what has the Court done since its establishment and if it has met the expectations of the people it was established to serve.

He guaranteed them that the staffs of the Court are strongly behind them, ready and capable to work with to ensure the effective discharge of the task entrusted with enhancing the protection of human rights on the continent.

Govt to hire 45,000 workers next financial year to address shortage

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government plans to hire a total of 45,000 public workers in the next financial year to address the shortage of the personnel in various ministries, departments and agencies.

Deputy minister in the President's Office (Public Service Management

and Good Governance) Ridhiwani Kikwete told the National Assembly yesterday that the government recognizes the huge shortage of workers in various sectors and it has been taking measures in every financial year to close the gap.

He was responding to a supplementary question from Innocent Bilakwate, Kyerwa

MP who sought to know the government's plan to increase the number of workers in the education and health sectors in the Kyerwa District, Kagera Region.

He assured the lawmakers that the government has continued to make efforts to ensure that it improves working conditions and hiring professionals in various

sectors including education and health so as to improve services.

He said that the government has also continued to promote public workers and hire more where in the 2022/23, the government issued permits to hire 30,000 workers.

The legislator wanted to know the government's statement on the 18 employees in the district who

retired in 2018, including ward executives who have not yet been paid their benefits.

Ridhiwani responded asking the employees to send their letters to the ministry's permanent secretary so as to get their claims.

In his basic question, Bilakwate sought to know the government plan to promote to their required

level, all public servants in Kyerwa who haven't been promoted for eight years.

The deputy minister said that promoting public servants is the major government's role and commitment and it has been doing so as per availability of funds to servants to meet the set requirement.



BARRICK

NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER

NEW CRUSHING CIRCUIT PLANT

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide the following goods:

Design, Manufacture, Supply, Install and Commissioning of Containerised Motor Control Centre & Supply of Steel Rebars for New Crushing Circuit at North Mara Site

Pre-qualification Criteria		Pre-qualification Criteria	
No	Reference no	Description of work	Pre-qualification Criteria
1	NM019/2023_A	Design, Manufacture, Supply, Install and Commissioning of Containerised MCC for New crushing plant.	i. Applicants to submit Company profile with proven experience in designed, engineered, manufactured, performance tested, supplied and commissioning of Containerised Motor control centres. ii. MCC Rating 415V, 2500A, 50Hz, 50KA, VSD: ABB ACS580 (Modbus/TCP) & Soft starter iii. 12m High Cube ISO Container (for Mech. Package MCCs) iv. Specifications: SANS 1973-1, IEC 60947, IEC 61439 v. Preferred Makes: MCC incomer metering Schneider Power logic PM8000 series, Colour Electric Orange for normal, Essential (Red) and UPS sections, Electronic Overload relays Schneider TeSysT, MCC material Electro Galvanized, copper busbars and MCC with fixed patterns. vi. Type (Building, ISO High Cube Container, E-House) - 12m High Cube Container, Roof Type (Pitched), Single and double doors (with escape bar), Air Conditioning Required - 3 x 36 000 BTU / Container, Should have supplied at least five Containerised MCCs meeting above requirement in last 3 years. vii. Preferred Make - Hamar Control/Eaton /Weg Automation Africa or equivalent viii. Completion certificates of previous projects with reference list of Clients, applicant agrees - without reservation-along with proposal, that the Company has the full right to contact any of the references provided. ix. Able to supply commissioning spares & maintenance spares. x. Warranty & Guarantee period to be specified. xi. Installation and commissioning support and assistance xii. Lead time of delivery xiii. Cost of equipment, commissioning spares
No	Reference no	Description of work	Pre-qualification Criteria
1	NM019/2023_B	Supply of High Tensile Steel - Rebars for New crushing plant	i. Able to supply High tensile rebars with minimum tensile strength 500N/mm ² , 10mm - 50 MT, 12mm - 50MT, 16mm - 100MT, 20mm - 100MT, 25mm - 75MT, 32mm - 50MT ii. Length 12 metres iii. Rebars to be supplied with all test certificates as per British Standards iv. Lead time of delivery v. Cost of rebars

Submission of Proposals
If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria, submit your proposal alongside all relevant documentation to nm.proposal@barrick.com


Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective package reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email. Queries should also be directed to nm.proposal@barrick.com

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a proposal through this advertisement.

Key Dates
• Last Date to Submit Proposals **21 June 2023**

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LTD (TIPER)



INVITATION TO TENDER

FOR TWO NEW TANKS OUT OF BUNDWALL PIPING AND CIVIL WORKS

15 June, 2023

1. Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd (TIPER) is a hospitality storage facility for bulk fuel with its share divided equally between the Government of Tanzania and Dryx Energies SA (Based in Switzerland). The Company office is located at Kigamboni Industrial Area, Depot site-plot # 1, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania.
2. TIPER hereby invites via National Competitive Bidding (NCB) experienced and reputable Class III and above Mechanical Contractor with Class IV and above Civil Contractor registration to bid for Two New Tanks Out of Bundwall Piping and Civil Works. Joint-ventures are acceptable.
3. Interested and eligible bidders may request electronic copy of tender document through the following email: tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz by sending an application letter and copies of certifications from the Engineering Registration Board (ERB) or a similar certification. from **Monday to Friday at 08:00AM to 4:00PM** between **June 16, 2023 to July 12, 2023**.
4. Bidders MUST visit the site. Site visit will be conducted on **Wednesday, June 21, 2023 from 10:30hrs to 11:30hrs**.
5. Bidders are required to come with their own Personal Protective Equipment PPE's during the site visit. The minimum PPE requirement are steel toe safety boots, worker's helmet and cotton reflector vest / cotton over coat / cotton overall. Bidders who will not come with correct PPE's will not be allowed to enter onto site.
6. Bidders must submit hardcopies of bids (one original and one copy) respectively, enclosed and sealed in a single plain envelope marked Tender No: TP/06/2023/NCB/W/012 for Two New Tanks Out of Bundwall Piping and Civil Works. Softcopies MUST be submitted in a USB flash disk. All bid documents shall be addressed and delivered to Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd, P.O. Box 2608, Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam.
7. The deadline for submission of Tender documents will be 1600hrs local time Thursday July 13, 2023.
8. Late bids, portion of bids, electronic bids will not be accepted or considered for evaluation.
9. Bids opening will be conducted in the presence of the TIPER tender committee only, formed by the company. There shall be NO public opening of bids
10. TIPER reserves the right to accept or reject any tender and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any bid.

Secretary Tender Committee

Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd

P.O Box 2608, Kigamboni Depot site-1 Dar es Salaam-Tanzania

'COSTECH provided 5bn/- to science and technology innovators in five years'

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

THE government through the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has provided 5bn/- to science and technology innovators in five years, a move aimed at enhancing development of the country's industrial sector.

COSTECH director general, Dr Amos Nungu made the remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam as he officially opened the 8th annual national science, technology and innovation conference and exhibitions with a centered discussion on the national preparedness on the 4th industrial revolution by 2050.

Dr Nungu said the commission closely works with organisations with a vision to impart technical knowledge through funding innovative projects likewise capacitating organisation officials to strategically advance the organisation infrastructures.

"For five years, period of time since 2018-2023 the government through COSTECH has managed to release 5bn/- fund support to technical innovators in the country," he said.

He added: "COSTECH through BUNI Innovation Hub enrols youth with innovative ideas and provide a room to training aimed at turning their ideas to innovative products."

He noted that the Dar Teknoma Business Incubator (DTBI) strategically aims at developing innovative talents, enhancing community and country

development in general.

According to him, COSTECH in cooperation with different organisations and universities in the country has capacitated several start-up companies through products and service advancement.

"We have created 1800 direct employment and 3000 indirect start-ups with companies like Sahara Venture and Scan Code (T) limited on top of that Tanzania has managed to export technology to Malawi, Zambia and South Africa," he noted.

Prof Lughano Kusiluka, Vice-Chancellor at the University of Dodoma (UDOM) said the national preparedness for the 4th industrial revolution by 2050 agenda should give stakeholders a concern on ensuring engagement infrastructures are maintained to wave out the scenario of being consumers to main technology suppliers.

Dr Siana Nkya, a lecturer at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences said the technical agenda and implementation should also see the need to innovate on diagnosis in the health sector.

She said: "The genetics aspect has been a challenge and I think the innovative part in technology is something that they should look at."

According to her, its time the electronic system is much considered when it comes to innovations as currently the system has so many data hence with proper investment disease predictions, causes will be eased up.

NGO launches report on tax voluntary compliance

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A Non-Governmental Organisation-Sikika yesterday launched a report on tax voluntary compliance and internal auditors function highlighting a number of discrepancies including lack of tax information and auditor independence.

Presenting report findings, Geoffrey Mfumu, programme officer, Sikika Tanzania said they have discovered various challenges in regard to tax compliance such as lack of tax information, tax education, burden of paying tax and timely payment. He said the challenges are among the major hindrance factors towards voluntary tax compliance.

The event was attended by representatives from Civil Society Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Finance and Planning, President Office, Regional Administration and Local Government and journalists.

Sikika conducted report in collaboration with Germany International Cooperation (GIZ) with support from the European Union.

Mfumu said that responsible authorities do not provide tax education to taxpayers and there is no prior sharing of tax related

information to traders. He said there are also challenges in the issuance of Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs) because the receipts become unreadable after the lapse of a few days.

He said that almost half of the taxpayer's focus groups mentioned that there was no taxpayer education which would help them to understand when and how tax laws apply.

"Taxpayers need not only to be aware of the latter of the law, but they need to understand what it means or when it applies to build taxpayer's trust and confidence in the tax system," he added.

"Local government authorities should prioritize the improvement of social services and better explain how public revenues are used to change taxpayer's attitude towards tax evasion," he recommended.

He advised authorities to improve the longevity of fiscal receipts from electronic fiscal devices to improve record keeping, to collect revenues through mobile phone applications to promote timely payments and build community partnerships with traders.

Other recommendations includes to promulgate new tax laws in time, educate taxpayers to exercise their rights and obligations and provide standardized tax instalment schedules without interest and penalty charges for compliant taxpayers.

Mfumu said that the report also found that international auditor functions were constrained by resources limitations.

He said another challenge was lack of independence since the system still follows the traditional audit for management approach, meaning functionally reporting to an audit committee that is mainly composed of senior management members.

Internal Auditor from the Ministry of Finance and Planning (Auditor General Division) Mahamud Hamza said that it was better for traders to be informed about taxes and even business policy.

He admitted that lack of education was still a big challenge hindering voluntary tax compliances in the country and therefore called for the authority to increase awareness to the traders.



Mbulu district commissioner Kheri James addresses youths from Mbulu and Karatu districts on the need to protect the environment as part of a strategy to mitigate the impact of climate change. It was at a meeting held at Yaeda Chini on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Elephants given collars to track cross-border roaming and reduce human-wildlife conflict

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

A total of ten elephants in the Meatu District, Bariadi Region have fitted with new sets of tracking belts equipped with a communications satellite.

The project is undertaken by the Friedkin Conservation Fund in Association with the Mwiba Holdings.

Collaring elephants with GPS satellite belts is the initiative taken to avert human wildlife conflicts in the precinct.

The latest exercise involving the collaring of Jumbos took place in the Mwiba Wildlife Ranch and the Makao Wildlife Management Area both mapped within the Meatu District, Bariadi Region, striding the Maswa Game Reserve, Serengeti and Ngorongoro.

According to Aurelia Mtui, the

project manager of the Friedkin Conservation Fund Tanzania, the exercise to collar the jumbos has cost more than 232 million/- Tanzanian shillings.

"That is the cost of importing and shipping all belts, equipment and aircrafts to locate the elephants in the wild," explained Mtui.

"It has been realised that 99 per cent of all cases of human wildlife conflicts usually pit elephants against people, mostly farmers," the Friedkin Conservation Fund's official pointed out.

But elephant collaring in Meatu District is not a new project, it started back in 2019 when the solar powered tracking belts were fixed onto 18 jumbos. The elephants wearing the belts are usually the leaders of their respective troops.

Some of the old collars placed on ten elephants have been found to wear off and thus new and improved belts are now being

installed on the same jumbos for improved efficiency.

Now from the elephants GPS belts, information gets dispatched from the installed gadgets indicating the exact location of the animal and is cited to be the better solution to track the jumbos as it identifies the distance and location.

The elephant collaring exercise also involved experts from the state-run Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute and the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority.

Reports from Mwiba Holdings indicate that other than elephants, the collaring exercise was previously also extended to lions, especially pride leaders.

Mwiba runs conservation and tourism activities in the area. The entity also works with the Makao Wildlife Management Area, a conservation community owned by seven villages.

Meatu District is mapped within

8835 square kilometres of land but nearly 40 percent of that is covered by the Maswa Game Reserve measuring 4223 square kilometres.

Meatu, which falls under the Simiyu Region, also has a part of Serengeti National Park covering 16 per cent of the district and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area taking 3.3 per cent of the precinct.

The Makao Wildlife Management Area (WMA) measuring nearly 780 square kilometres accounts for 31.2 per cent of the total District Area.

The community conservation area is made up of communal land contributed by seven villages including Makao itself; Ginamo; Mwabagimu; Saapa; Mwangundo; Iramba-Ndogo and Mbushi.

The Friedkin Conservation Fund (FCF) works to protect millions of acres of endangered wildlife areas and stimulate community development in East Africa.

FCF has been conducting research and monitoring in order to make effective wildlife management decisions and promote long-term sustainability of wildlife and their wilderness



Jenista Mhagama (R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Coordination and Parliament), and Ridhiwani Kikwete, Deputy Minister in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), consult in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Z'bar registers 29 foreign ships in 2020/23 period

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Works, Communications and Transport ministry says Zanzibar Maritime Authority (ZMA) has registered a total of 419 ships of a total of 192,214,864 gross tonnes (GT) while 29 foreign ships were also registered in the period between

2020-2023.

This was said here yesterday during the ongoing Zanzibar House of Representatives session by the ministry's Deputy minister, Nadir Abdillatif Yussuf when responding to a question from Wingwi Representative Kombo Mwinyi Shehe who wanted to know the Authority's work performance.

He said ZMA continues to perform well in the implementation of its duties including advertising its activities in foreign countries.

The deputy minister said to the great extent the achievements have increased ZMA revenue including the nation in general.

He added that they are fully mobilised in monitoring the

movements of the ship it had registered to know they abide by the conditions in flying Tanzania's flag internationally.

"Hon. Speaker, we are well mobilised to ensure that all ships flying Tanzania's flag abide by the conditions including not to engage themselves in acts that are against our ethics," he said.

cbm
Tanzania Chamber of Business and Professions

LOSS OF ORIGINAL REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE FOR CHAMA CHA CHRISTOFFEL CHA KUWASAJIDIA VIPOFU TANZANIA.

Office Location: Tanzanite Park Building, 3rd Floor Victoria, Old Bagamoyo Road, P.O.Box 95052.

NOTICE is hereby given that the original certificate with Registration Number **SO.6144** issued on 9th September 1980 by the Ministry of Home Affairs for the undermentioned organisation has been lost/ mislaid and the holder for the undermentioned Organisation has applied to the Office of Registrar of Societies at the Ministry of Home Affairs to issue the duplicate of the original certificate.

Any person who has a claim in respect of the said certificate should lodge such claim with the Police with reference number **DAR/OST/RB/201658/2023**

By Guardian Reporter

US pledges support to fight HIV/Aids scourge in colleges

THE Global AIDS Coordinator at the United States Department of State has promised to support Tanzania's new strategy aimed at curbing spread of HIV/Aids among students in higher learning institutions.

The coordinator, Ambassador Dr John Nkengasong who is the official responsible for overseeing United States (US) sponsored humanitarian aid programmes to combat the Aids epidemic around the world gave assurance yesterday when he visited the headquarters of the National Council of People Living with HIV (NACOPHA).

According to NACOPHA, after realizing that there has been great success in preventing more infections in adults and the biggest challenge remaining among youths, their new strategy targets to ensure that proper education reaches the group in abundance.

Having engaged and listened to young people from higher learning institutions and Treatment Advocates involved in HIV service who aired out their different perspectives and insights to shape future efforts in HIV service delivery, Dr Nkengasong said his

office will support as it always did.

"We have heard your suggestions and received them. We need young people who will be in the front line to help us to completely end this epidemic which we have managed to reduce to a large extent," he said.

Available information shows that a number of daunting challenges face universities in Tanzania in designing and implementing effective responses to HIV/Aids. They include little knowledge about the vulnerability, prevalence, impact and situation of HIV and Aids in most of these institutions.

A more serious challenge today, experts note, is the growing infection rates among adolescents. Research has shown that the highest group found to be infected with the virus is the age group 15 to 24. This adolescent high-risk group accounts for 60 percent of all new infections in many countries.

"We have been very successful as Tanzania in reaching adults with HIV/Aids education but we have realized that there is still a gap on the part of young people in institutions of higher education,

this is where we are now directing our strategies," said Deogratius Rutatwa, CEO, NACOPHA.

He noted that they have already been able to engage a number of university students who will be ambassadors along with the community of youths living with HIV infection across the country.

"We will officially launch this programme in September, this year. That is where we want to direct our energy and resources because reports have indicated dire situations, thus the need for HIV education," he noted.

Pudensia Mbwiliza chairperson of the Network of Young People Living with HIV and Aids in Tanzania (NYP+) said many youths still continued to have careless sex and many were not checking their health before engaging in the act.

"Many do not have this education or they just ignore the use of preventive measures. In this situation, you find that the person with the infection isn't aware and the other also has no fear. However, this education strategy we believe will help a lot," he said.



Dr John Nkengasong (in tie), the visiting US Global AIDS Coordinator and Special Representative for Health Diplomacy, views some of the items produced by people living with HIV when he visited the headquarters of the National Council of People Living with HIV (NACOPHA) in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Left is the council's CEO, Deogratius Rutatwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt sets 7bn/- in seed farm irrigation infrastructure to increase production

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

THE government has provided 7bn/- for installing irrigation infrastructure at Kilimi Seed Farm in Nzega District, Tabora Region aimed at increasing production all the year round without depending on rains.

This was revealed here yesterday by Agricultural Seeds Agency (ASA) chief executive officer, Dr Sophia Kashenge during her inspection of the 1,000-acre project, saying the aim is to increase seeds production without depending on seasonal rains.

By Guardian Reporter

STAKEHOLDERS will commemorate this year's International Day of the African Child in a style by planting 300 trees at Tandale in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam Region and conduct educative discussions on the right of clean and safe environment for all children, especially those living in extreme poverty.

Briefing journalists on the commemoration to be held at Pakacha Street in Tandale Gasper Mbambo, Coordinator at All Together in Dignity (ATD) Fourth World Tanzania Movement said they have organized a number of activities to be held throughout the week with support from the Embassy of France, Alliance Française, the Embassy of Ireland and other partners.

He said although this year's theme is 'Rights of the Child in the Digital Environment', children from Tandale have chosen their own theme - 'Environment Care - Right of Clean and Safe Environment for All the Dar es Salaam Children'.

Mbambo said: "We want to celebrate the day by taking care of the environment because most of the children in areas that we operate face a number of environmental challenges. We are working closely with community members to ensure

She said production is envisaged to increase from 200 tonnes from the 200 hectares to 1,000 tonnes, which is the average national seeds production.

She added that when irrigation infrastructures are installed in all 400 hectares of the seed farm, production will increase and enhance seeds availability in the country's Lake and Western zones.

Dr Kashenge also expressed her satisfaction by the ongoing work in installing the irrigation infrastructures under the supervision of contractors - Pro

Day of African Child: Stakeholders to plant 300 trees in Dar es Salaam

the exercise is participatory."

He said involving children in such activities especially environment conservation builds a generation of people who loves and protect the environment. He said it is important to preserve the environment because it is crucial for development as human beings depend on it to survive.

Mbwambo said that ATD Fourth World works in disadvantaged areas of Dar es Salaam-Tandale, Mwananyamala, the Magogoni fish market, and the stone quarries in Tegeta and Boko. He said the organization activities include family visiting, a street library, supporting children to attend school, the dissemination of an international participatory research on the hidden dimensions of poverty.

Ismail Sudi from TFS in Kinondoni said they have donated the 300 trees to be planted on the day in support of stakeholders efforts towards environment conservation.

"We partly depend on the environment; poverty contributes to environment destruction, hence efforts by stakeholders to make sure an African child lives in decent environment," said Sudi.

Kassim Omary, Chairperson of

Agro Global Ltd that had reached 57 per cent completion.

Four out of seven pivot equipment have been installed in the project's First Phase while the other three were being installed.

She said that by July this year irrigation work will start in the initial 200 hectares of land while in the other 200 hectares, work was progressing and a total of 14 pivot machines will be installed in the whole 400 hectares of land.

She said similar work was going on at Msimba seed farm in Morogoro Region and Ngaramtoni area in Arusha Region and in each of them 200 hectares of land will have irrigation infrastructures installed with the work attaining 50 per cent complete.

Day of African Child: Stakeholders to plant 300 trees in Dar es Salaam

Tandale's Pakacha Street said the government supports stakeholders efforts in cleaning the environment and tree planting, adding a good environment is crucial for children's better health. He said during day, citizens will be educated on various environmental issues as well as the need to take care of the planted trees.

Winfrida Noel, a Standard Six pupil at Hekima primary school and member of the street library, commended the government's efforts in taking care of children especially girls. She commended President Samia's move to allow pregnant girls to go back to school after giving birth.

Juliana Mushy, Head Marketing Officer from Africraft said they have been engaging children on environment conservation issues especially recycling whereas the organization produces various products from wastes generated by the communities.

Marco Dotto, an officer from Nipe Fagio said: "We are implementing the Zero Waste program which involves educating people including children on how to separate wastes and use them to make different products including manure."



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISIONS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MILL LINERS (INDUSTRIAL), TANZANIA.

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of obtaining contractors for supply and delivery of Mill liners (Industrial) and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for this service as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01716	PROVISIONS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MILL LINERS (INDUSTRIAL)

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2020-2021)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01716)	60%
Proven track record of designing large mill liners (industrial) of more than 20 years	10
Proven track record of manufacturing and supplying large mill liners (industrial) of more than 20 years	10
Expertise in Energy Efficient Pulp Lifters for mill discharge liners	15
Proven track record of designing and manufacturing SAG mill liners with up to 6-month replacement life	10
Proven track record of designing and manufacturing liners with up to a 10% throughput increase and energy savings	15
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01716)** of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to **GGML**, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline why GGML is of interest to work with, what you have to offer and how your skills and experience are valuable to the company.

All LOIs and support documentation (in PDF format) must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com without copying any individual from GGML. Submission should not be later than **8.30AM 30th June 2023**. (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

Vodacom and SILABU to collaborate in expediting online learning platform

By Guardian Correspondent

With ambitions to build a digital society that leverages technology to accelerate socio-economic development, SILABU has partnered with Vodacom Tanzania PLC, to scale up and launch its e-learning platform that allows students and Tanzanians to learn different subjects and disciplines at various levels anytime and anywhere they are.

Speaking during the launch event held at the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), the Commissioner for Education at the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, Dr. Lyabwene Mutahabwa, applauded this partnership that aligns with the needs of the Tanzanian and global education sector.

"In today's world, it is no longer a necessity for both students and tutors to be physically present in classrooms in order for learning to happen. The availability of digital resources makes it easier for students and professionals from various fields to learn through online platforms.

The increase in smartphone adoption and the availability of computers, and tablets, alongside reliable internet infrastructure, continues to drive the digital revolution in the education sector.

"I congratulate Vodacom for this initiative, as I have been informed that SILABU is a result of the 'Vodacom Digital Accelerator' program, which supports innovative start-ups that use technology to provide solutions to challenges facing our Tanzanian society," said Dr. Mutahabwa.

Then known as Smart Class, SILABU is amongst the startups that participated in the first phase of the Vodacom Digital Accelerator program and emerged as the overall winner. Representing the education sector, this innovative company focused on connecting students and tutors for the purposes of online learning.

"I would like to encourage students and all Tanzanians to make good use of such digital platforms to self-educate about various subjects and topics extending far beyond their curriculum because knowledge is power.

"On the government's side, we are making strides in collaborating with the private sector especially communication and technology companies such as Vodacom to ensure that quality communication

services are available to all Tanzanians, especially those in rural areas, thus allowing them to participate in the digital economy," concluded the Commissioner for Education at the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology.

Describing the implementation of Vodacom Tanzania's vision to lead Tanzania into the digital age and change lives through technology, the company's Digital Services Director Nguvu Kamando, explained that SILABU is clear evidence that Tanzanian youths have innovative ideas and solutions and can achieve great results if given the opportunity to implement and scale.

"SILABU is a product of the Vodacom Digital Accelerator (VDA) program, where innovative startups that use technology to revolutionize education, healthcare, agriculture, transportation, finance, e-Commerce, and the like are groomed in order to allow them to scale. Earlier this year 12 startups that had qualified to enter the acceleration phase got the chance to pitch their businesses in front of expert judges at the end of the season.

Three companies emerged as winners, and besides the cash prize, they will also receive further training to empower them to become sustainable businesses, as we can see with SILABU today," concluded Kamando.

For his part, SILABU Tanzania co-founder, Adam Duma, concluded by explaining, "SILABU provides a wide range of learning opportunities through classrooms that cater to the needs of different educational levels, including early childhood education, primary, secondary, and university, as well as courses that enable individuals to acquire additional skills and knowledge. We have scheduled the classrooms that teach different subjects more flexibly to align with an individual's timetable.

"We also empower students to choose their preferred learning method, whether it's online or face-to-face with a teacher, individually, or by joining a group with other students.

"I assure you that all the teachers and instructors connected to our platform are highly competent and certified by the relevant authorities, ensuring they possess the necessary skills and experience to provide quality education and improve students' understanding and academic performance."

Helvetas, Mbeya city in joint project to boost food systems

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

HELVETAS Tanzania, an independent Swiss Development Organisation, in collaboration with Mbeya City Council are implementing the project to boost food systems in the city aimed to enhance benefits from the production of crops.

Magreth Natayi, senior agriculture officer from the Ministry of Agriculture made the remarks at the training seminar involved farming and health stakeholders, saying it aims to empower officials and stakeholders regarding food systems and help in its availability in order to fight malnutrition in Mbeya Region.

She said policies have been improved in every sector and financial investment strategies were in place to increase production and systems thereof for better health of Tanzanians.

"Investment in the farming sector has increased through the increase of the agriculture budget, I assure you Mbeya City experts that all those that had got stuck in this sector will now be implemented, including the issue of revamping irrigation infrastructures," she told Mbeya City Councillors.

Opening the seminar, Mbeya District Commissioner, Beno Malisa called on the stakeholders to have sustainable strategies that will ensure systems to food access are improved.

He said in regard to the

improvement of the health of the people, all health officers from the street, villages and ward level have in place procedures to weigh children under five years of age to know their health statuses and on how to assist them to avoid malnutrition in children.

Judith Sarapion, Project's Coordinator for boosting food systems to fight malnutrition (Ic4n) in the city of Mbeya, explained on efforts being made by the project as including empowering councillors in all 36 wards of Mbeya city to implement various mitigations on nutrition.

He said the group is crucial because they have great influence among the community hence it is easy for the plan to be implemented in improving people's health.



Investment in the farming sector has increased through the increase of the agriculture budget, I assure you Mbeya City experts that all those that had got stuck in this sector will now be implemented, including the issue of revamping irrigation infrastructures



SILABU co-founder Adam Duma (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday demonstrating to Dr Lyabwene Mutahaba (3rd-R), Commissioner of Education in the Education, Science and Technology ministry, on how the digital application works. It was shortly after the latter had launched the programme, which is chiefly meant to facilitate online learning for students and professionals in the country. SILABU was also one of the start-ups to have participated in the first phase of the Vodacom Digital Accelerator programme, emerging overall winner in the Education category. Second right is Harriett Lwakatare, Vodacom Tanzania's Customer Care Operations director. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister wants employers to extend maternity leave for workers delivering premature babies

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

MINISTER of State in the President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance, George Simbachawene, has urged employers to extend the period of maternity leave to workers who deliver premature babies.

Simbachawene gave the directive when responding to a supplementary question by Special Seats MP, Maimuna Mtanda (CCM) who queried why the government shouldn't amend the Employment and Labour Relations Act to provide for extension of leave to women who deliver premature babies.

The minister acknowledged that 84 days of maternity leave for women delivering premature babies wasn't enough as the babies need more time to be close to their mothers so as to grow well.

"I am now asking for the lawmakers to review this and see if we are required to improve them to align with the current situation, we need to observe sobriety in this because it is clear that workers who were delivering premature babies as their babies needed enough time to get into normal situation," Simbachawene said. He said that the government knows what women go through in the struggle to raise their

premature babies, so employers need to provide extension of leave to employees who deliver premature babies.

According to the minister, even the Standing Orders for the Public Service of 2009 were allowing employees to request for extension of leave in cases of illness or other cases of emergence.

He added that even some MPs were born premature and that it was better for them to feel this and bring their views on whether the law should be amended or not.

In her basic question, Special Seats MP, Agness Hikororo (CCM) had demanded to know if there

were plans so far to extend leave to parents who were delivering premature babies.

Responding, deputy minister in the ministry, Ridhiwani Kikwete the government provided maternity leave to public servants by considering the Standing Orders for the Public Service 2009 which was only providing 84 days.

He said the issue of extending days to employees who deliver premature babies is yet to be incorporated in the current regulations, but an employee is allowed to request permission from her employer whenever such challenges occur.



TCB Bank's corporate affairs manager, Gloria Mutta (R), pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting wheelchairs and crutches to Mary Nyika, head teacher of the city's Salvation Army Primary School, for use by needy students at the school. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mwinyi thanks Korea govt for supporting development efforts

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has expressed his thanks to the government of South Korea for its support of Tanzania and Zanzibar in various development issues especially in the blue economy sector.

President Mwinyi expressed his thank at Zanzibar State House on Tuesday when he met with and held talks with Korea Ocean Institute, Dr Kim Jong-Deog in which he also invited him to Africa's fisheries conference that will involve Korea Ocean Institute and other countries bordering the Indian Ocean.

He said he believes the conference will empower many people by learning many issues from the meeting, and added that it will be a good opportunity for the development of the Zanzibar fishing sector.

He said fishing is a leading sector after tourism contributing 30 per cent of the Zanzibar's economy, adding that the two sectors have a great contribution to the Zanzibar development.

Regarding seaweed farming, Dr Mwinyi told his visitor that a big percentage of communities living along the sea coast engage themselves in seaweed farming, many of who are women, hence he said his government has the responsibility to develop them economically by supporting their efforts.

He said Korea has a great contribution in supporting Tanzania, including Zanzibar in the development of the fishing sector.

For his part, Dr Kim Jong-Deog told President Mwinyi that the aim of the workshop involving Korea and Africa is to increase cooperation and exchange of experiences in ocean resources including the fishing sector.

He explained that the international conference will be the ninth and will be the first one to be held in east Africa in the Indian Ocean region and will discuss opportunities and ocean resources within the entire concept of the blue economy.

Speaking at the meeting, Tanzania's ambassador to South Korea, Amb Togolani Mavura lauded President Mwinyi for his great achievements with South Korea through the blue economy including the development of the ocean resources processing.

He said apart from Korea passing through same challenges as Tanzania in regard to the fishing sector and ocean resources, in the great extent they have made huge development strides in the areas.

Southern highland regions to produce 100 tonnes of sunflower seeds this year

By Correspondent Felix Andrew, Mbeya

A total of 100 tonnes of sunflower qualified seeds will be produced this year in the Southern highland regions, thanks to new initiatives taken by Highland Seed Growers Limited of Mbeya Region in collaboration with partners.

Speaking to journalists during a tour organised by Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT) in Mbeya city recently, acting manager of the seed company, Elizabeth Mallya said a total of 140 acres of sunflower seed farm have been cultivated at a village in Mkwajuni area in Songwe Region.

She said they have been collaborating with the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI- Ilonga) of Morogoro Region and that of Uyole in Mbeya in preparing qualified sunflower seeds.

She said after harvesting, some of the said qualified seed will be taken to the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) for certification and later to Agriculture Seed Agency (ASA) to be sold to farmers.

It is expected that a total of 100 tonnes of qualified seeds would be produced this year.

She thanked AMDT for financing the project which would increase the number of farmers to access the qualified seed. She said AMDT financing would enable farmers to harvest 50 tonnes while the remaining will come from the own source.

She also said the seed company has entered into contract farming with more than 300 farmers in Songwe and Mbeya regions.

Idd Kapiteni, operations manager at High Land Seed Growers Limited insisted the need for farmers to use qualified seed for increased results. He said qualified seeds can help farmers to harvest more and change their livelihood.

Kapiteni said one acre of the sunflower seed named 'rekodi' can produce up to 16 bags as compared to the local seed which can produce only 2 bags.

Kapiteni said the demand for the qualified or improved seed has increased on side of farmers hence more efforts were needed to overcome the challenge.

"There is a need for more players in qualified seed production so as

to enable more farmers access it and get enough harvest," he said, adding quality seeds are resistant to disease and can be planted at any environment including coastal areas.

He urged for more support from the government to create a level playing field for all producers.

Already the AMDT has committed to invest over 4bn/- to facilitate various interventions meant to transform sunflower and pulse subsectors in the country.

The amount will be issued as grants to nine partner organisations and government institutions that will co facilitate the implementation of agricultural development projects in 11 regions of Tanzania.

Speaking on the investment, the CEO of AMDT Charles Ogotu, underscored the need for partnership for development between the public and private sectors actors as a sure way of consolidating efficacy and deliverability in Tanzania agricultural transformation.

"The current global socio-economic context clearly aligns developing and emerging economies as the future pillars for the world food security and growth.

"Without transforming our agricultural economy, one sector at a time Tanzania will miss out on very important opportunities"

He added "Historically now is the best and most opportune moment to invest in Tanzanian agriculture the government through the Ministry of Agriculture has already shown the way by injecting the biggest budget for the sector with clear priorities. Our work our efforts with our partners and collaborators is to support the national transformation of our main economic sector-agriculture"

Among the key focus areas the investment will facilitate for farmers the enhancement availability and access to improved seeds, access to finance in the two crop sectors, business development services and good agricultural practices including post-harvest management.

Additionally project will also improve access to rural advisory services and value addition in sunflower and pulses. The project will cover Manyara, Singida Dodoma Lindi, Mtwara, Songwe Ruvuma Njombe and Rukwa regions.



Priscillah Kinyamagoha (L), Head of Muhimbili National Hospital's Midwifery and Reproductive Health Department, has a word in Dar es Salaam yesterday students from various schools interested in pursuing careers in medicine. They were on a study visit to Tanzania's major referral medical facility. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

AICC 'determined' to excel in MICE industry in Africa

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) is determined to make Tanzania among the top three in terms of market shares of the conferences in Africa in the next five years from the current fifth position.

According to the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA), Tanzania ranks number five in terms of International conference market share in Africa, about ten per cent of all international delegates who visited Africa in year 2022.

Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) industry; plans were afoot to develop an integrated satellite City, pitting an International Convention Centre, hospitality, financial and recreation facilities at its landed property in Kijenge within the Arusha CBD.

He said apart from the proposed construction of the Kilimanjaro international convention centre, the centre plans to develop a wide range of five star hotels, sports

arena, shopping moors and banking services

"We are determined to have state of the art facilities in our 90.8 acres of land, elevating Arusha and Tanzania not only being a tourism hub in Africa but also a sporting and entertainment enclave" he said.

Mafuru further noted that his organization has all the blessings and good will from the board, the government to develop the facilities under public private partnership model.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been very keen to see AICC becomes a power house in the MICE industry in Africa. I can't see anything holding us back from fulfilling the ambition of the Head of

State" he said. He also said AICC plans construct another integrated satellite city with a wider network of facilities including five star hotels, shopping moors and sports arena in Zanzibar and later in Dodoma.

Currently, he said AICC was reviewing its landed property Master Plan and policies to ensure that they were aligned to the envisaged master plan.

Mafuru, who was appointed three months ago to be the CEO of AICC following the death of CPA Elishilia Kaaya, said AICC was also determined to revolutionize the MICE industry Tanzania.

Available data from ICCA for year 2022 shows that South Africa was the leading in terms of number of

International conference market share in Africa, accounting for 32 per cent of market, followed by Morocco (17percent), Rwanda (13 per cent), Egypt (12 per cent) and then Tanzania (10 per cent).

"Convention Centre has one of the strongest forward and backward linkages and enabler of some of the sub-sectors like hospitality, horticulture and destination" saying the linkages provides a wider trickledown effect to the country's economy.

Within the next one year, he said AICC is also planning to upgrade the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) in Dar es Salaam to construct a 2000-seating capacity and dining facilities.

Should all the projects be implemented, Tanzania will be a force to reckon in the business tourism industry in Africa, he said.

AICC is the leading professional Congress facilities in Tanzania with two conventional Centres in Arusha and Dar es Salaam. It also manages more than 600 housing units in Arusha.



We are determined to have state of the art facilities in our 90.8 acres of land, elevating Arusha and Tanzania not only being a tourism hub in Africa but also a sporting and entertainment enclave

CTI, TanTrade give date for first TIMEXPO 2023

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) in collaboration with Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) have announced the first ever Tanzania International Manufacturers Expo 2023 (TIMEXPO) expected to take place in October this year, in Tanzania.

Speaking yesterday during a press conference CTI executive director Leodegar Lenga said the event will take place on 4th-6th in Dar es Salaam. "The Tanzania International Manufacturers EXPO 2023 marks a monumental step forward for the manufacturing sector of Tanzania as this highly anticipated event marks the first of its kind EXPO in the country which aims to unite the local manufacturing sector and peers from around the world in one unique platform," he said.

He said the meeting is expected to feature more than 500 exhibitors, ranging from innovators both local and global industrial heavyweights and will also culminate with the 17th President's Manufacturers of the Year Awards (PMAYA) recognizing the most outstanding industries, he added.

"The Expo, which is a three-day event, will feature a diverse range of activities such as exhibitions, business match-making (B2B), seminars, panel discussions, and keynote addresses from prominent local and international businessmen and decision makers," he said.

He further noted that the topics at the event are aimed at capitalizing on

the recent economic development policies that are supporting industrial growth in Tanzania as well as introducing new business models and the latest technology needed to enable greater success.

CTI and TanTrade envision that this Expo will become an annual event and will establish itself as the leading platform for Manufacturers across Tanzania and the world to connect and collaborate, he said.

He said the expo will also help to bridge the gap between the potentials of the local manufacturing industry to global importers and international buyers.

"Throughout the three days ,attendees will gain insights on topics such as extractive manufacturing (metals , minerals and plastics), agri- processing, manufacturing of consumer goods, petrochemicals, pharmaceutical, renewable energy technologies, electrical appliances, modern industrial equipment and machinery," he said.

For his part, TanTrade acting director of trade promotion Fortunatus Mhambe said that CTI and Tantrade are committed to building a conducive environment for the manufacturing sector in Tanzania, enabling brands to grow and consumers to have quality products and services.

John Mathew, director department of investment at Tanzania Investment Centre , said that TIC is ready to support and make sure that the local industries are able to grow and be able to take part in the coming exhibition and showcase their products and services.



Energy minister January Makamba (2nd-R foreground, in brown shirt), who is also Bumbuli legislator, pictured earlier this week assisting a student of the constituency's Mayo Secondary School in fixing a bucket of water on the head. It was shortly after he had launched a 430m/- water project expected to benefit over 5,000 villagers - all in the course of the annual countrywide Uhuru Torch Race in the area. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

Mayo water project to benefit 5,621 residents

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari,

Lushoto

A total of 5,621 residents of Kizanda and Mayo villages in Bumbuli council, Lushoto District, will benefit from clean and safe water services following the launch of a 430m/- Mayo water project.

Lushoto Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA), Eng Erwin Sizinga made the remarks shortly after the Uhuru Torch races leader, Abdallah Shaib Kaim launched the project recently.

He said the project

infrastructures construction was supervised by RUWASA whereas funds for its construction were provided by the central government through Covid-19 relief fund.

He said project is implemented by a local contractor-Mbesso Construction Co. Ltd for seven months, adding its completion will benefit residents of Kizanda and Mayo villages. He said the project's foundation stone was laid by Torch races leader in 2022.

Eng Sizinga said the contractor has been working February 2022 to September 30, 2022, noting the project is completed by 100

percent.

"RUWASA commends President Samia Suluhu Hassan for providing us with funds to implement water projects across the district. We will closely manage it to ensure it lasts longer and benefit more citizens," he said noting the contractor considered the required standards thus ensuring value for money.

Uhuru torch race national leader, Abdallah Shaib Kaim hailed the government saying the project has been constructed at required standards.

Lushoto District Commissioner, Kalisti Lazaro thanked President Samia for approving the funds.

He said there are a number of development project being executed in Lushoto District.

Bumbuli constituency legislator, January Makamba who is the Energy Minister said apart from water projects, the district will benefit from road improvement projects.

Makamba said the government plans to construct a tarmac road from Soni- Bumbuli- Dindira - Kwashemshi to Old Korogwe. He said the 73 kilometres stretch will facilitate transportation of goods and people and connect three districts-Mkinga, Lushoto and Korogwe.

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Expected changes to PPP Act positive, for the nation's good

THAT the government is keen about inviting private firms to contribute in a properly regulated manner to uplift the country's infrastructure in particular is taking shape with a new legislation. The National Assembly has endorsed the Public Private Partnerships (PPP) Bill, 2023 to remove the monopoly of case handling by local courts in case of disputes. It removes the law adopted in 2017 in the wake of the minerals sands shipment uproar, outliving its usefulness.

The government did not have to belabour the point that the revised Act will enhance private sector participation in implementing development projects. It basically provides room for an arbiter from outside, for instance the provision of arbitration by courts of a third country in case of dispute, as the local litigant or respondent as the case may be will be the government. The idea that any disputes relating to a joint venture undertaking or a partnership project will only be put to local courts to arbitrate essentially ruled out any significant PPP uptake later.

When that is the case, the government is compelled to borrow for all substantial infrastructure projects, as there is no dispute settlement mechanism needed for loan financing. Depending entirely on loan financing is burdensome for the state as it makes the country's foreign debt virtually unmanageable if there are many such projects. Still it is more liked by a breadth of the bureaucracy and a range of political allies as it gives local officials total control on costs, tenders, etc.

Accepting arbitration by international courts or those of a third country that is trusted by the

private sector firm and government agency contracting with it is simply to spell out before an international audience that the country intends to observe the rules of such engagement.

It presumes that it won't change policy or regulations relating to such project in mid-air to the detriment of the company involved. Only sovereignty was at issue in approving the 2107 Act, not fairness, as there was no case for presumptive goodwill, only trusting that it will be so.

All these changes are part and parcel of eroding the country's mental fixity on keeping at bay foreign interests in how the economy is run, save is they start own projects by mere provision of a piece of land.

That method is far too slow as it holds back potential infrastructure development, like building the long awaited railway line connecting Mtwara seaport with lakeside where Malawi, Zambia and DRC are easily within reach. Numerous potential clients need such a facility, but if the government just seeks loans it may take decades to do that.

Apart from acceding to the right of private firms involved to determine dispute resolution mechanisms, the new law makes these provisions take precedence over any other law where such other law is inconsistent with it regarding public private partnerships. This will limit space for battling the law's provisions by other means, either from within the breadth of government agencies or by third parties. T

he legal explanation is that precedence eliminates legal conflict when interpreting any provisions related to partnership projects with private firms. It also alters debate on a new constitution as these provisions have to be defended.

Donating blood is surely a gift that saves lives, merits support

EXIM Bank understands that blood donation has an essential, life-saving role in maternal and prenatal care. For this reason the bank continues donating blood through their 'Vein-to-Vein' campaign yearly. Last year's campaign raised 80 units and the banks is expected to raise more units this year.

The theme for this World Blood Donor Day Campaign is "blood donation as a gift that saves lives" and intends to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products as well as thanking voluntary unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.

Speaking after the six hour exercise held at the headquarters in Dar es Salaam, the bank said the number of voluntary blood donors nationally remains low as compared to the country's actual demand.

The demand for blood is actually bigger than the supply due to fear and lack of awareness...many people seem to donate blood in cases where relatives are hospitalised. This needs to change if we are to have a consistent supply of blood in our health centres.

We call upon other companies to donate blood voluntarily to save lives of other people at risk, expectant mothers and children under five, in particular.

Exim Bank's donation drive cements the bank's commitment to saving lives. Transfusion of blood and blood products helps save millions of lives every year. It can help patients suffering from life-threatening conditions live longer and with higher quality of life, and

supports complex medical and surgical procedures.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), adequate supply of blood can only be assured through regular donations by voluntary unpaid blood donors and its goal is to ensure that all countries obtain all their blood supplies from voluntary unpaid donors by 2020.

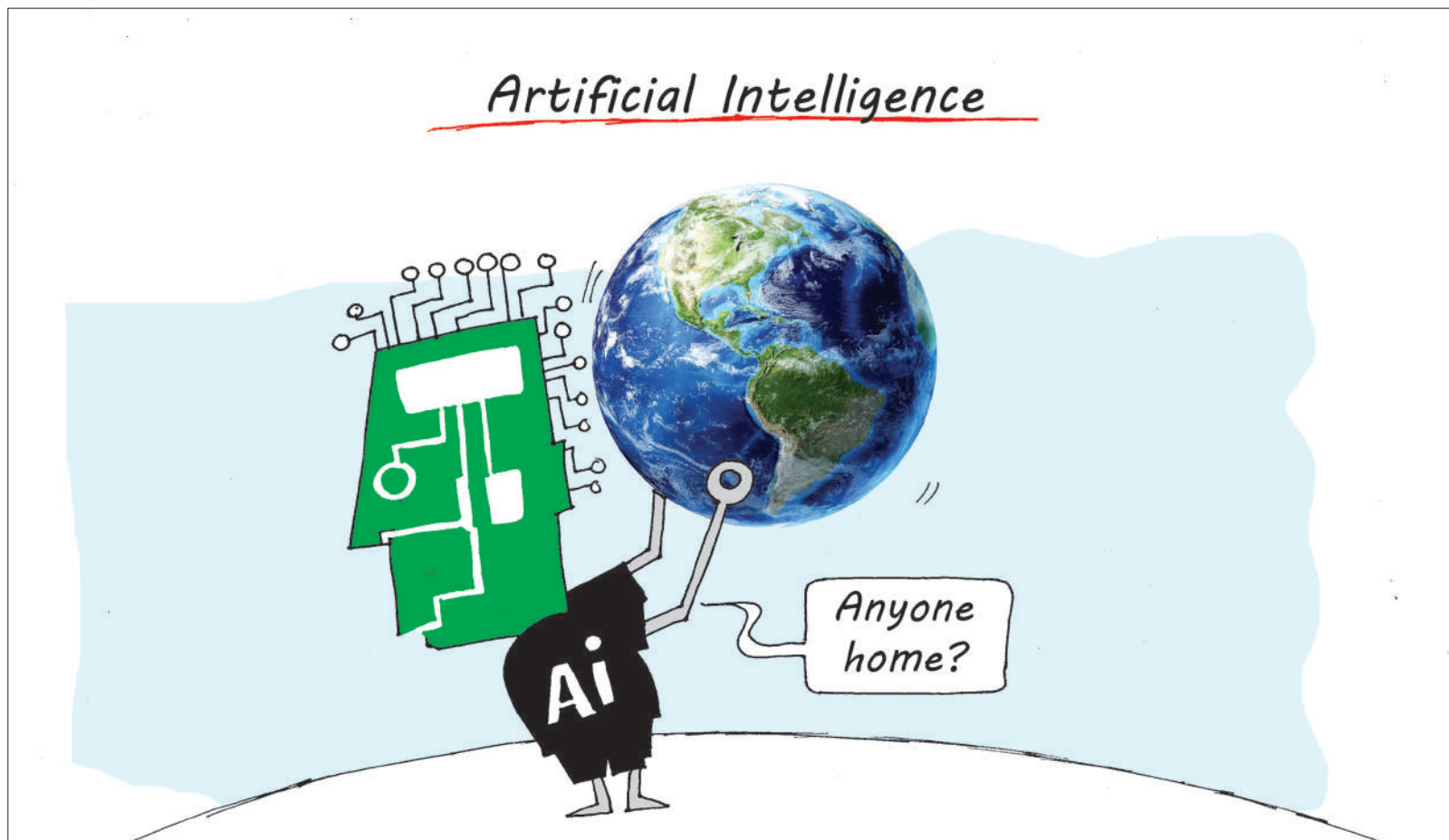
There had been campaigns aiming to highlight stories of people whose lives have been saved through blood donation, to motivate regular blood donors to continue giving blood, and motivate people in good health who have never given blood to begin doing so, particularly young people.

Today, only 62 countries get close to 100 per cent of their national blood supplies from voluntary unpaid blood donations, with 40 countries still dependent on family donors and even paid donors.

Tanzania faces acute shortages in the national blood bank due to poor collection. However, several institutions are now at the forefront encouraging their staff members to donate blood. National statistics indicate that 80 per cent of the 432 deaths in every 100,000 Tanzanian mothers that occur every year are caused by lack of blood.

The trend in the past few years has been encouraging since an increasing number of companies were heading the call for blood donations.

In developing countries such as Tanzania the availability of safe blood supplies is a scarce commodity and largely influenced by low participation rates amongst the citizens.



Under-age NEC registrants in Liberia scream

By Special Correspondent

NEC's under-age registrants scream: who's at fault? the National Elections Commission (NEC) is facing a herculean task - the toughest of time and pressure in its efforts to conduct the elections of October 10. The latest of its seemingly unceasing pressure is now the registration of over five hundred of under-age Liberians; a situation it is considering dealing with.

Of course, while the latest scream cannot be under-rated, the quest for more financial and logistical support is the pinnacle of the Commission's tension, considering the body-hugging timetable for the conduct of the elections in a free, fair, and credible fashion, to the satisfaction of the Liberian people and the always suspecting political parties.

There is no any amount of argument about the enormity of extricating and unscrambling the situation as one would say or imagine. Getting rid of over five hundred registrants from the roster is a process of extreme technicality, considering the legality associated with it as well. How lightly the would-be affected Liberians - themselves or their parents - will respond or take the issue is of paramount concern to any Liberian who has deep sense of understanding and reflection of electoral matters in Liberia, fully knowing that elections in Liberia are controversial and highly explosive undertakings.

Be as it may, the NEC has done excellently well by braving the storm to highlight or bring this issue to public glare, perhaps trying to act smart in order to portray a situation where the public can develop trust and confidence in the process. However, the coming



public does not preclude the fact and established understanding that the Commission created the situation for itself and the nation. Before the start and during the Voter's Registration Exercise, there was an eruption of noise concerning under-age Liberians' quest to get registered as well as the Commission's own mechanism to deter and stop any kind of unconsecrated sacrilege. Ordinary citizens and politicians cried the loudest that the Commission needed to act swiftly on this issue, but it paid deaf ears and did nothing at all. Here we are today!

Now, apart from not acting swiftly to arrest or prevent the situation from occurring, one would want to know how the NEC derived the decision that this particular group of registrants are under-age. What yardstick is being used by the Commission to identify and capture these so-called under-age registrants, people who endured everything to get registered, to enable them to vote in the elections?

Instead of just announcing that these people do not reach the voting age of 18, is it possible for the Commission to show an absolute and concrete proof of their findings, the methodology applied to uncover such a miscarriage?

By all accounts, the situation is the making of the Commission because it failed to close or address the loopholes that facilitated such an unwarranted deluge of ostensible under-age registrants on the official Roster. This is a matter of 'prevention is better than cure', and the NEC needs to be very meticulous in handling the issue so that it is not escalated to a level of confusion and political protestation. Let it be made clear that had the NEC deployed legal experts, counselors, and psychologists to work along with those who presided over the VRR process, the problem would not have reached to this alarming proportion. While this is about the law, let's also establish that the registrants in question are not for a particular candidate or party.

On the other side, it is possible that a good number of them could support or vote for a particular candidate or party in the elections. How do we deal with the aftermath is another troubling factor worth introspecting?

We are convinced and can safely say that the Commission is beginning to tread a very slippery and dangerous terrain with the heightening potential to trigger another form of political and social brouhaha and a possibly lengthy legal process. Deleting this group of registered voters from the VRR under the guise of 'being under-age, could spur unmanageable and uncontrollable tension on the Commission with just few months away from the elections. Though the Commission might be acting on the maxim that 'anything that was not done properly is not done at all,' we are equally beginning to sense that the NEC is putting itself in a twisted and torturous situation, wherein it could be demanded or pushed through legal means to undo the entire voter's registration process. Thus, the entire electoral process would be thrown in jeopardy and tatters.

All in all, the NEC bears the greatest portion of the blame in the registration of supposed under-age Liberians under the VRR process, and to extricate itself should not amount to deleting and removing them from the roster. It should not be about avoiding blame; rather it should be about avoiding political tension tomorrow if they wrongfully disenfranchise anyone. As it is known, some of the under-age registrants were led to some of these centers by their parents and were thoroughly quizzed and verified by agents. This is why we think the NEC needs to do due diligence to avoid catastrophic backlashes.

On soaring hunger spreading across West Africa!

By Special Correspondent

HUNGER is soaring and spreading across West Africa, with some 48 million people, a 10-year-high, facing food insecurity in the conflict-riddled region, the United Nations warned Tuesday.

Driven primarily by violence as well as the economic fallout from COVID-19 and inflation, food insecurity has heavily impacted Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, northern Nigeria and Mauritania, U.N. officials said at a press conference in Senegal's capital, Dakar.

U.N. officials said that for the first time, some 45,000 people in the Sahel region, the arid expanse below the Sahara Desert, are on the brink of starvation, one step away from famine. The vast majority facing catastrophic levels of hunger, 42,000, are in Burkina Faso, the officials reported.

Violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group has ravaged both Burkina Faso and Mali for years.

Jihadis have blockaded dozens of villages in the region, cut off access to farms and lined the roads with explosives, making it hard for

residents to move freely and forcing aid agencies to fly in food assistance, which is costly.

People living in besieged towns in Burkina Faso say they're struggling to survive.

A few aid groups have managed to provide rice, oil and beans, but women can't grind millet because there's no gas and people can't leave the town because it's surrounded by jihadis, the resident said. He would not give his name for fear of reprisals from speaking publicly.

As civilians flee attacks and militants expand their reach in Burkina Faso, hunger also is

spreading across the border to neighboring Togo and Benin.

Nearly 1 million people are expected to be food insecure in Benin and Togo, almost double the number from two years earlier, according to the UN. For the first time, both countries asked aid groups for assistance in dealing with the influx of displaced people and refugees.

Aid groups, regional governments and donor countries need to take lessons learned from the insecurity crisis in other countries and try to mitigate the fallout in the coastal states, he said.

Curriculum change should not ignore the role of vocational training

NORMALLY, curriculum changes come with a surprise, shock or moments of deep soul-searching for teachers and learners alike. For, new aspects are added and some removed from the education system. Hence, changes seem strange to many because it is not possible to involve the entire population in the process of crafting a new curriculum.

People who participate in the process of making a new curriculum are of different perspectives and interests as other human beings and hence people receive the proposed changes in different ways as well.

It is a custom that has been built in our society to associate education with social status. And it is this tendency that may lead to massive changes in curriculum but we cannot ignore the contribution of other factors.

For many years, our society has been placing a low premium on vocational training in the country, something which can have a certain negative impact in our efforts to improve our education. And the challenge seems to continue as those given a chance to come up with some proposals on improving our education seem not to appreciate the place of vocational training.

For instance, one can argue that why burden secondary schools with a responsibility of teaching courses or subjects which can be taught in a vocational training centre? Yes, subjects such as Mechanics, Beauty and Business and Entrepreneurship just to mention a few.

Taking some courses from vocational training centres to secondary schools is a direct sign of what we have discussed that the society whose members are the ones who bring proposals on curriculum change still overlook the value of vocational training.

If we want to introduce learners earlier to vocational skills, why don't we allow them to join vocational training centres instead of going to secondary schools? Why should secondary schools bear a burden to provide education which is efficiently provided by vocational training centres? Have we prepared secondary school teachers for the same?

The government has been investing a lot of funds to improve vocational training in the country so as to

CONCEPT OF CURRICULUM CHANGE

IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS

CAREFUL PLANNING

ANALYSIS OF EXISTING CURRICULUM

CONTINUOUS PLANNING

READ MORE ON PREP WITH HARSHITA

but once an individual moves to another place, the knowledge can be useless. We are advised to be a product of decision and not circumstance.

Also, it is important to safeguard the place of VETA because its centres have a lot of relevant facilities and experienced facilitators compared to mere promise to avail the same to secondary schools.

The presence of a strong VETA allows a greater learning opportunity in the country. The current system of education gives opportunity to students to study up to form four or even form six or university before they can join a vocational training institution. This gives an opportunity to an individual to increase the chances of understanding a lot of things which can help one cope with life challenges.

When an individual is exposed early to vocational education he or she may choose not to continue with other subjects even if there is a possibility to do so. This narrows the chances of a learner to expand his or her knowledge and hence unable to solve some basic challenges in life.

As we plan to improve our education through curriculum, we should not overlook the role that VETA plays in the country. It is important to be careful while changing curriculum so as to make sure that we do not incur unnecessary costs but enhance a wide range of opportunities from our education.

CLASSROOM MATTERS

By **Thomas Lyimo**
lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com

do away with the problem of unemployment. The proposed curriculum changes should not harm our Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) which is reputedly doing a good job.

VETA is of great importance in the country because of the following: One is enhancing internationality of our education. For education to be useful, it must enable learners to exploit opportunities that are available worldwide. The presence of VETA allows schools to put much effort on subjects that prepare students to explore opportunities in other parts of the world instead of teaching courses or subjects which can be taught ef-

fectively and efficiently in vocational education training centres.

Secondly, VETA offers a variety of courses on vocational training compared to few courses which will be offered as per the new proposed curriculum. Learners need a variety of courses so as to choose the ones they prefer. It is argued that a learner can perform better in a course of his or her choice compared to the imposed one.

The proposed curriculum stresses on pupils learning a vocational subject that reflects the demand of the community that surrounds the school. The idea is good

Tobacco use and the epidemics spreading fast among youths in Tanzania

By Correspondent Romana Malilya

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) identifies tobacco as an epidemic and one of the biggest public health threats the world has ever faced, killing more than eight million people a year, more than seven million of those as a result of direct tobacco use and 1.2 million from exposure to second-hand smoke.

The WHO estimates that over 80 percent of the world's 1.3 billion tobacco users live in low and middle-income countries, noting that cigarette smoking is the most common form of tobacco use worldwide. Other tobacco products include waterpipe tobacco, various smokeless tobacco products, cigars, cigarillos, roll-your-own tobacco, pipe tobacco, bidis and kreteks.

Efforts to control tobacco use globally have gained little ground because its products these days come in various forms, including flavoured ones smoked from hookah (shisha) that appeal to young people especially in urban areas.

But the WHO maintains that: "All forms of tobacco are harmful, and there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco."

It has been scientifically established that smoking causes cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung diseases, diabetes, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis. Smoking also increases risk for tuberculosis, certain eye diseases, and problems of the immune system, including rheumatoid arthritis.

Tanzania is one of the countries grappling with tobacco epidemic and health burden of its consequences as many entertainment joints in major urban centres these days allocate shisha sections that are almost always full.

Dr Mwanaada Kilima, Pulmonary and Critical Care Physician at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) said in an interview recently that there is significant increase in lung, cancer and other complications among relatively young people that can be linked to increase in tobacco use.

"Most of patients are in the age of 35 onwards and what is worrying is the huge number of people with non-communicable diseases who are below 60 years," she said.

"Unfortunately, tobacco use among young people may have increased recently because it is massively consumed in a new form called shisha."

Dr Kilima who is the current president of the Association of Physicians of Tanzania (APHYTA) recommended that use of tobacco especially in the seemingly fashionable forms such as hookah should be controlled.

"It has been established that a one-hour shisha session generates second hand smoke with as much car-

bon monoxide as 20 cigarettes and passive or second-hand inhaling can be just as dangerous as smoking," she said.

"Because MNH is a national referral facility, many patients reach us while already in bad condition and some lose life that can be saved just by avoiding tobacco use."

Lutgard Kagaruki is known for her anti-tobacco campaign for nearly 20 years now. The Executive Director of the Tanzania Tobacco Control Forum (TTCF) embarked on her campaign while aged 53 and she is now 72 but not planning to retire as long as the epidemic is not eradicated yet.

"As long as I am alive and tobacco consumption is legal, I will not retire. Only two things can see me quit: death or illegalization of tobacco," she said.

Kagaruki who holds Master's and Post Graduate Diploma in Medical and Veterinary Parasitology from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London, said after retiring from her public medical research work in 2011, she continued with her anti-tobacco campaign now as another full time job through TTCF which seeks to control both cultivation and consumption.

A recipient of the 2010 WHO World No Tobacco Day award "in recognition of her outstanding contribution to tobacco control", Kagaruki said she will the happiest woman on earth the day she achieves her goal of seeing a tobacco free Tanzania.

Speaking about success of her campaign, Kagaruki said she is proud of what has been achieved but a lot needs to be done due to new tobacco products that

lure and hook young people.

"In Namtumbo District (Ruvuma Region) for instance, where we started in 2014/15, over 90 percent of tobacco farmers abandoned the crop and started cultivating alternative crops," she said.

Tanzania joined other countries last month (May 31) to celebrate World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) whose theme was "Grow food, not tobacco." According to WHO, the 2023 global campaign aims to raise awareness about alternative crop production and marketing opportunities for tobacco farmers and encourage them to grow sustainable, nutritious crops. It will also aim to expose the tobacco industry's efforts to interfere with attempts to substitute tobacco growing with sustainable crops, thereby contributing to the global food crisis.



Food insecurity fears as Pakistan faces cyclone, monsoon season

By Ashfaq Yusufzai

A WARNING by the UN that Pakistan may face acute food insecurity in the coming months should serve as a wake-up call for the government to focus on the flood-hit areas where the people still live without shelter, medication, and proper food, analysts say.

The warning comes as the National Forecasting Centre in Islamabad warned of an extremely severe cyclonic storm Biparjoy that is expected to make landfall in the country in the coming days.

A mass evacuation of about 80,000 people from its path in Sindh province and India's Gujarat state is underway in areas where severe storms and high winds are expected.

Ahead of the storm and the expected monsoon season, a recent United Nations report warned that acute food insecurity in Pakistan is likely to be further exacerbated in coming months if the economic and political crisis further worsens, compounding the effects of the 2022 floods – which the country is yet to recover from.

The report titled "Hunger Hotspots" was jointly published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), is a stark reminder to the government, which is yet to cater to the needs of the population hit by severe floods in June-July last year. The two UN agencies have further warned that acute food insecurity will likely deteriorate further in 81 hunger spots – comprising 22 countries, including Pakistan, during the outlook period from June to November 2023.

According to the report, Pakistan, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, Congo, and Syria are hotspots with great concern, and the warning is also extended to Myanmar.

Pakistan's Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Tariq Bashir Cheema, disputed the report regarding possible "acute food insecurity" in Pakistan and termed it "an effort to spread sensationalism and declare the country a hunger hotspot like African countries."

He alleged that the two UN agencies wanted to declare Pakistan a "hotspot" for famine like African countries.

"Pakistan had a bumper wheat crop this year, and 28.5 million tonnes of wheat production had been recorded, along with the carry-over stock of the previous year," he told IPS.

However, analysts and NGOs working in the field said the report was accurate and urged the government to take strong measures for food security before the new wave of flooding.

Almost one year after unprecedented floods ravaged Pakistan, more than 10 million people living in flood-affected areas remain deprived of safe drinking water, leaving families with no alternative to use potentially disease-ridden water, Muhammad Zaheer, an economist, told IPS.

In January, donors pledged more than USD10.7 billion for Pakistan's flood-stricken population in Geneva against an estimated USD16.3 billion recovery bill.

"All the amount pledged at the conference are loans which will be sent to the government from time to time. However, the flood-stricken people are yet to benefit," he said.

Zaheer said that affected people in Sindh, Balochistan, and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa need support due to the fear of more rains.

According to the report, over 8.5 million people were likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity.

The situation has been compounded by last year's floods which caused damage and economic losses of Rs30bn to the agriculture sector.

According to the UN Development Programme (UNDP), a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) estimated flood damages to exceed USD 14.9 billion, economic losses over USD 15.2 billion, and reconstruction need over \$16.3 billion.

The food insecurity and malnutrition situation will likely worsen in the outlook period, as economic and political crises are reducing households' purchasing power and ability to buy food and other essential goods, it notes.

A UNICEF report said that an estimated 20.6 million people, including 9.6 million children, need humanitarian assistance in hard-hit districts with high malnutrition, poor access to water and sanitation, and low school enrollment.

"Frail, hungry children are fighting a losing battle against severe acute malnutrition, diarrhea, malaria, dengue fever, typhoid, acute respiratory infections, and



Temporary medical camps are still the norm in some areas of Pakistan as the country struggles to recover from last year's flooding. Credit: Ashfaq Yusufzai/IPS

painful skin conditions. As well as physical ailments, the longer the crisis continues, the greater the risk to children's mental health," it said.

UNICEF will continue to respond to urgent humanitarian needs while also restoring and rehabilitating existing health, water, sanitation, and education facilities for families returning home. An estimated 3.5 million children, especially girls, are at high risk of permanently dropping out of school.

"But much more support is needed to ensure we can reach all families displaced by floods and help them overcome this climate disaster. It will take months, if not years, for families to recover from the sheer scale of the devastation," it said.

The floods affected 33 million people, while more than 1,700 lives were lost, and more than 2.2 million houses were damaged or destroyed. The floods damaged most of the water systems in affected areas, forcing more than 5.4 million people, including 2.5 million children, to rely solely on contaminated water from ponds and wells.

Sultana Bibi, who lost her home and a few cattle in the flood in Swat district, said there was no government assistance

so far.

"We have received some foodstuff from the local NGO in the early days, but we need financial assistance to rebuild our homes. Many people still live with their relatives," Bibi, 50, told IPS.

Representatives of Al-Khidmat Foundation, a national NGO, which is on the ground in Swat and other areas to help the people, said the situation is yet to improve.

"Unsafe water and poor sanitation are key underlying causes of malnutrition. The associated diseases, such as diarrhea, prevent children from getting the vital nutrients they need. Malnourished children are also more susceptible to water-borne diseases due to already weakened

immune systems, which perpetuates a vicious cycle of malnutrition and infection," he said.

"We fear more flood as June has begun. Last year, we faced severe floods during this month. The government is required to help the people," analyst Abdul Hakim said.

Hakim, a university lecturer in environmental sciences in Swat district, told IPS that the people would be worst-hit in case of floods this year, and the people haven't recovered from the last year's devastating rainwaters.

Pakistan Medical Association's Dr Abdul Ghafoor said that people still rely on medical camps organized by NGOs as health facilities destroyed by floods haven't been operational.

"We want the government to take the FAO/WFP report seriously and safeguard the affected people against water and food-borne ailments," he told IPS.

IPS UN Bureau Report



The projected path of Cyclone Biparjoy. About 80,000 people are expected to be evacuated ahead of the storm. Credit: India Meteorological Department

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 UMJUAVYO 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

Tanzania's victory over Marburg virus: A breath of relief and a path of hope

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE recent declaration by the government about the Marburg Virus Disease prevalence in Tanzania received with a sigh of relief and ripples of excitement from the north to south and east to west of the Kagera Region.

Although the effective management and timely containment of the virus prevented its overspill to other regions, the outbreak came with a sense of fear and panic in the country.

"Marburg is over! The feeling is indescribable. We are beyond excited for this great feat of beating Marburg", underscored Issessanda Kaniki, Kagera regional medical officer.

"Indeed, the swift and efficient response to the Marburg virus outbreak needs the utmost recognition. Thanks to the tremendous support from World Health Organisation (WHO), the government, and other partners, we were able to fight and win this health emergency," said Regional Medical Officer, Dr. Kaniki.

An outbreak of Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) was declared in Tanzania on 21st March 2023, after the tests conducted on an index case who died some hours after presenting to a health facility in Bukoba with symptoms suggestive of Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers (VHF) which later returned

positive.

The cases were all eventually linked to the index case, a probable case, who was treated at Maruku Health Centre and died on 1st March 2023.

However, thanks to the swift response of the Ministry of Health with support from the WHO and other partners, the end of the outbreak was declared on 2nd June 2023. The feat was achieved through the transparency of the Tanzania government and the immediate activation of the incident management system to manage the response.

"We have officially ended Marburg outbreak in Kagera Region. Therefore, Kagera is Marburg free, Tanzania is Marburg free. Bakuba is safe! Kagera is safe! Tanzania is safe. Together with our partners, we did it", recounted Umyy Mwalimu (pictured), Tanzania's Minister of Health.

Marburg is a highly infectious disease in the same family as Ebola and has a high fatality rate of between 24 per cent and 88 per cent.

While Tanzania has never previously recorded a Marburg case, it has had to respond to other health emergencies including COVID-19, cholera, measles, leptospirosis, and dengue within the past three years.

Before the outbreak, a total of 135 African Health Volunteers Corps (AVOHC) SURGE members in Tanzania mainland including had received



intensive drills and simulations on how to detect, manage and monitor health emergencies. Twenty-nine (29) trained SURGE team members were deployed to Kagera and supported the response to the outbreak.

Dr Zabulon Yoti, Acting WHO Country Representative to Tanzania noted that the success of Tanzania's response to MVD is a result of preparedness and prompt response.

"We supported the government-led response at all levels including partner coordination at national and ground levels, we worked with the government to coordinate the response and supported interventions in Kagera region as well. Indeed, we are very happy to see results of our joint effort with the government in

strengthening emergency preparedness highly reflecting in the management of the Marburg virus" he noted.

Whilst health authorities were already dealing with several outbreaks including COVID-19, Cholera, and measles, the government through the Ministry of Health activated the incident management system and the emergency operations centre to effectively coordinate response activities of the MVD outbreak to avoid escalation of cases beyond the infected household and health facility whilst implementing preparedness activities across other regions of Tanzania.

The government also mobilized support from partners and stakeholders to rapidly implement meas-

ures that will quickly break the chain of transmission, and manage affected cases to reduce mortality and morbidity, whilst ensuring continuity of health services and equitable dedication to other ongoing health emergencies.

WHO supported the Ministry of Health with coordination, surveillance, contact tracing, identification, and management of cases and infection prevention and control.

Technical officers were also deployed to support coordination, surveillance, and all other components. WHO and UNICEF collaborative supported the surge human resources utilised during the response.

Certainly, these dedicated and committed efforts yielded the swift

declaration of the end of Marburg 2nd of June 2023. Tanzania declared an end to the MVD outbreak, over two months after the first case was confirmed. The declaration was made after no new cases were reported over the past 42 days following the second negative test results of the last confirmed case in line with WHO guidelines.

Dr Grace Saguti, the Incident Manager and WHO emergency preparedness and response cluster lead in Tanzania believes other countries can learn useful lessons from Tanzania's latest public health milestone.

"The Marburg virus outbreak has been the first of its kind in Tanzania and its effective management has lots of lessons that are worth emulating. WHO support to countries readiness has been a great and timely support from its early detection and timely communication from the government.

Kagera is among the neighbouring regions to Uganda who had the recent SVD outbreak necessitating readiness capacity building in the region.

The benefits were seen by the timely activation of the regional and national public health emergency operations centres, timely deployment of a National rapid response team for effective surveillance and case management, daily emergency meetings and comprehensive situation reports through to the intensive coordination of partner support, which indeed has been a success", she narrated.

To ensure health systems fully recovers from the effect of the outbreak and stay alert against future outbreaks, WHO has developed the 90-day post MVD recovery operational plan and is also supporting the Ministry of Health to develop the National 90-day post MVD recovery plan. Survivor monitoring and support are currently ongoing in line with the national MVD survivor programme

'Accelerating instant payments boost development in Africa'

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 350 million adults in Africa are unbanked and primarily excluded from the formal economy, relying heavily on cash or informal providers for their financial needs, which is costly, risky and leaves them vulnerable to economic instability.

According to 'AfricaNenda,' an African-led institution that is working to unlock the potential of inclusive digital financial services on the continent, countries

should accelerate implementation of more inclusive payment systems across Africa by removing barriers to instant and inclusive payments, accelerating access to digital payments and mobilizing the continent's digital financial ecosystem for inclusive growth.

The CEO of AfricaNenda, Dr Robert Ochola said: "Today, the need for a more inclusive society is becoming increasingly urgent. One of the fastest ways to achieve this is by putting in place systems

that expand access to financial services and leave no one behind. Instant and inclusive payment systems can play a pivotal role in creating universal access to financial services for all Africans."

In 2022, AfricaNenda supported its partners to mobilize \$11 million for developing instant and inclusive payment systems in Africa to support the roll out a Digital Public Goods (DPGs) in an African Country and to support a Regional system. AfricaNenda

also contributed to the scaling of the Transactions Cleared on Instant Basis "TCIB" platform in the Southern Africa Development Community along with extensive training for the West African Economic and Monetary Union.

AfricaNenda is partnering with the Rwanda information society agency to drive digitization efforts, which include advancing the country's merchant payment system on an open-source interoperability platform. Developer and the fintech communities in

the country are also benefiting from opportunities to showcase their talent, participate in a fintech exhibition and to join an accelerator programme.

AfricaNenda supported the development of seven digital finance course modules tailored to help cross-border traders in the region adopt digital payments, during the year.

The institution published a report in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the

COMESA Business Council, which recommended innovation in digital payment solutions and a custom-designed curriculum for training MS-MEs.

AfricaNenda launched the first State of Instant and Inclusive Payment Systems in Africa (SIIPS) report in 2022. The report offered a comprehensive view of Africa's current instant payment systems landscape, revealing that more intentional and dedicated focus is needed

to build the inclusivity of instant payment systems in Africa.

As a convening actor, it has established relationships with multiple national, regional, and continental stakeholders.

The network, which includes governments, central banks, regional organizations, the private sector, and development institutions, aims to foster intra-African knowledge sharing and training to support the development of instant and inclusive payment systems in Africa.

EAC region still faces fresh trade challenges in spite of eliminating ten trade restrictions

NAIROBI

THE EAC region still faces fresh trade challenges, despite eliminating ten trade restrictions. East African Community partner states resolved a total of 10 Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) as four (4) new ones emerged. This was revealed during the 42nd Meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (SCTIFI) that recently took place at the EAC headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The ministers were briefed that eight NTBs remained outstanding and were at different levels of resolution. The ministerial session of the 42nd SCTIFI that was chaired by Burundi's minister of trade, transport, industry and tourism, Marie Chantal Nijimbere, consequently directed during the minister's meeting South Sudan was accused of still charging EAC citizen's visa fees, specifically those from Rwanda and Burundi, with EAC citizens who had travelled to the country complaining of visa charges at Juba International Airport. The meeting further directed partner states that still impose visa requirements on EAC citizens to remove the requirement by November 2023.

The ministers expressed concern that partner states still impose visa requirements on EAC citizens and emphasised the need to expeditiously remove the requirements, adding that such requirements could also hinder access to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The meeting observed that it was high time the Community considered putting in place a borderless bloc to facilitate the smooth flow of capital services and goods. Among the resolved NTBs were a 25 per cent excise duty imposed by Kenya on Ugandan table eggs and 25 per cent Kenyan excise duty on onions, potatoes, potato crisps and chips from Uganda that became effective 1st July, 2022.

Also resolved was an import ban and denial of market access by Kenya through non-issuance of import permits for powdered milk from Uganda as a means of cushioning the surplus production and low producer prices in Kenya. Another resolved NTB was that of 13 roadblocks between Nimule and Juba with Ugandan



traders losing more than 150,000 South Sudanese pounds each.

South Sudan reported that she had already complied with a SCTIFI directive to remove all roadblocks, adding that there are now only two roadblocks from Nimule to Juba. Among the new NTBs is a complaint by Kenya that Uganda was denying market access to EAC Partner States under preferential treatment by charging full Common External Tariff of 35 per cent to juices originating from Kenya.

Kenya also reported that Tanzania was subjecting to discriminatory treatment Kenya exports of animal and animal products

despite their commitment in the bilateral meeting to amend the Act to resolve the discriminatory charges on Kenyan animal and animal products by June 2022.

On her part, Tanzania reported that Kenya was charging a 25 per cent excise duty on hatching eggs exported by some Tanzanian companies. Kenya said that Uganda charges 18 per cent Value Added Tax on exercise books from Kenya while Uganda manufacturers of the exercise books are VAT-exempt as per the provisions in the Uganda VAT Act.

The Partner States committed to ad-

ressing the new NTBs through the 35th Regional Monitoring Committee for NTBs. Speaking during the opening session, chairperson Nijimbere disclosed that the value of intra-EAC trade represents 20 per cent share of intra-regional to global trade making the EAC bloc the first ranked compared to other regional economic communities in Africa. Hon.

Nijimbere said that the region was still faced with challenges that included NTBs imposed by Partner States which negatively affect the movement of goods and the welfare of EAC citizens. In a speech read on

his behalf by Dr. Irene Isaka, the director social sectors at the EAC Secretariat, EAC Secretary General Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki hailed the SCTIFI as a mechanism that gives policy direction, reviews and approves policy measures and activities that EAC has been implementing or plans to implement with regard to trade, industry, finance and investment matters.

"It is in this respect that we underscore the importance of SCTIFI since it is an engine for the socio-economic transformation of the region," said Dr. Mathuki, even as he urged partner states to eliminate NTBs to boost intra-regional trade. "While we aim and work hard to increase intra-regional Trade, Non-Tariff Barriers particularly denial of market access and other institution administrative measures remains a major factor impeding the free movement of goods across the region," said the Secretary General.

Dr. Mathuki said that the SCTIFI has the mandate to adequately address the bottlenecks and challenges that undermine the Community's efforts in improving the quality of life of citizens and attaining sustainable development objectives through the implementation of the Common Mar-

The fight for equity in education continues in Africa

By M. Scott Frank

JUNE 16 marks the International Day of the African Child, a day commemorating student uprisings in Soweto Township, South Africa, in 1976. The day is meant to honor the brave students who stood against a system of violence and oppression, raising their voices for equality as human beings and for the right to learn in their native languages at school.

They were met with brutality - at least 176 students lost their lives and many thousands more were injured. The fight for equity in education on the African continent continues. Systems created by colonial powers persist, and students continue to struggle to gain access to education opportunities that meet their needs and reflect their identities.

According to UNICEF, Africa's population of children under 18 is currently at an estimated 600 million and projected to expand by 40% by the year 2050. The need for new educational opportunities that honor the diverse needs of communities across the continent is critical.

In Uganda, a community is creating a model for African students to reach their full potential. The Tat Sat Community Academy in rural Kasasa, Uganda, opened in February 2023. The school and the institutions that support it were conceived, built, and are managed by the community itself.

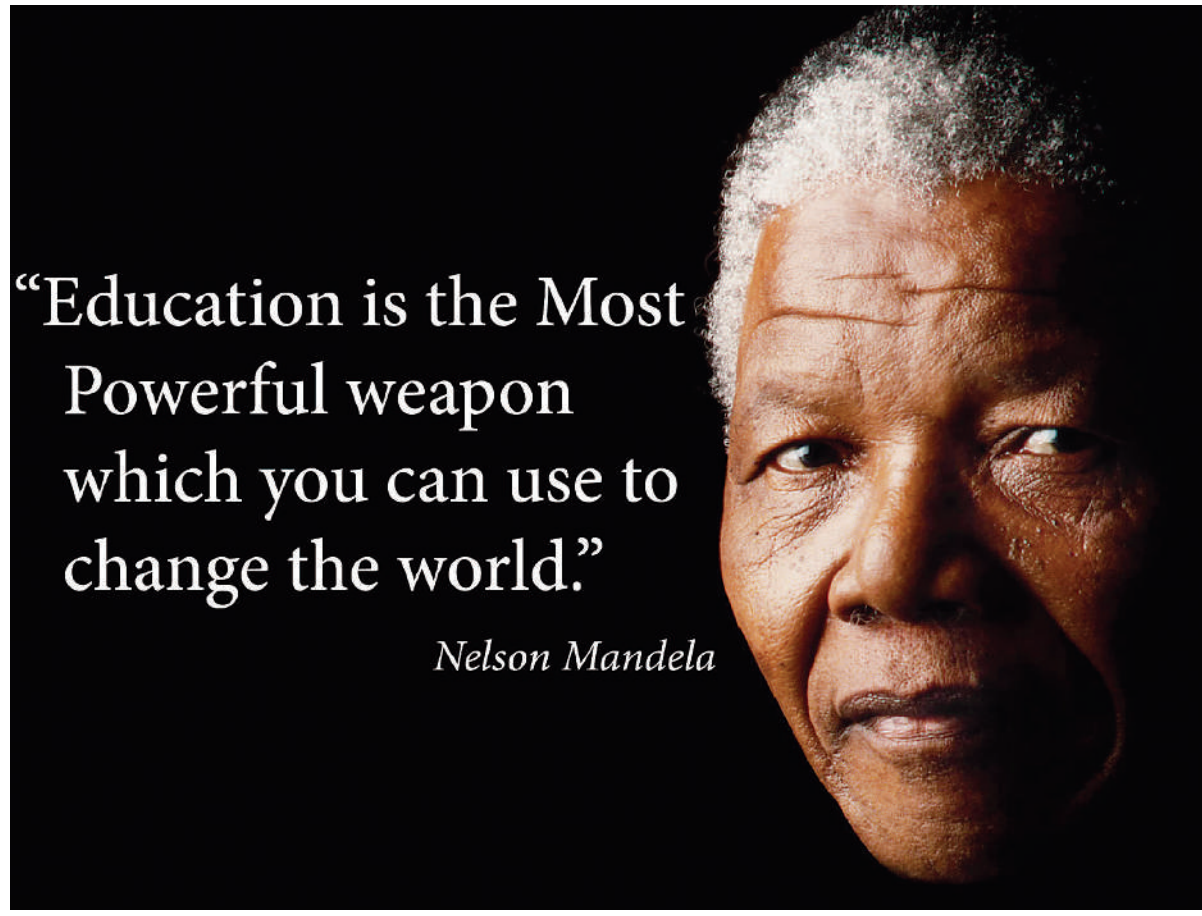
In the case of The Tat Sat Community Academy, several unique characteristics set the school and project apart from others. To help pay the necessary school fees, families can process and sell their maize at the project's local, community-owned, maize mill.

In its first harvest season, the maize mill processed 14,000 Kgs of grain from Kasasa and nearby communities, and invested in a 10-acre maize growing project within Kasasa for the next harvest season in July 2023.

Program leaders expect to process no less than 50,000 Kgs of grain within the next season. The maize mill will have purchased its own truck by the end of the year to collect maize grain from community growers, as well as deliver maize flour for sale at market in the region as well as in the capital where prices are more advantageous, providing access to better returns for farmers and their families.

Besides the school, the project has two other pillars to it: The Institute of Indigenous Cultures and Performing Arts, or ICPA, and a Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization, or SACCO.

The ICPA will allow students and community mem-



“Education is the Most Powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

bers to keep traditional knowledge alive through music, dance and other forms of knowledge to be shared by community elders and integrated into the standard school curriculum.

At the ICPA, community members, students, and community artists will also be able to exchange knowledge and share cultural experiences with visitors from across the region and world.

Program leaders also

foresee the establishment of a guest house that will allow for immersive, long-term exchanges with students within and beyond Kyotera and Uganda, as well as artists from across the world who want to engage through experiences of dance, music and other art forms and community cultures. The center will also provide income for the school and wider project through rentals, performance, and programming.

The SACCO, meanwhile,

provides economic education for students and their families and allows families to use business practices to enhance their earnings and help pay the necessary school fees, which were set by the community so that everyone may attend the school who wants to.

The community partnered with The InteRoots Initiative to develop the project. InteRoots is a Denver, Colorado-based nonprofit working both domestically and interna-

tionally on projects that are sustainable to local communities.

InteRoots employs a “roots-up” model that puts project goals, methodologies, management, and assessment exclusively in the hands of community members.

As one of the co-founders of The InteRoots Initiative, I am proud to see the work and capabilities being achieved in Kasasa.

The community is coming together to educate children, and has created

a model of community engagement and support which will allow for self-sustainability once initial start-up costs are met.

The ICPA, meanwhile, will allow the children to honor and learn from the languages, art and culture core to their identities. The ICPA will be a place for elders and youth to come together and exchange knowledge among themselves and others to honor the rich culture that has passed down through generations, and in appropriate circumstances, share this with others wanting to gain a better understanding of the cultural context of East Africa.

We must continue to nurture the extraordinary talent, ingenuity and excitement that is felt in communities like Kasasa. Though the school opened only a few months ago, students, families and community members are excited about the prospects of the project, and the investments they can make in their community. It brings me great joy to see the excitement building around Kasasa's “communitarian” model.

As International Day of the African Child nears, we want to remind people around the world that change is happening, through community-driven approaches like what is taking place in Kasasa. Bringing community-minded interactions and ideas to the forefront improves the likelihood of success, leaving a lasting impact for communities that are making sustainable, life-changing investments in their livelihoods.

Children are at the heart of this movement, because they are the next generation who will set the stage for so many issue-driven approaches to come: from climate change solutions to financing to sustainable farming practices, the children in communities like Kasasa will be at the forefront of those adaptations.

It is our job, as partners and world citizens, to prepare them for what lies ahead and equip them with the tools and skills that will lead them into the future. Communities know best what they need to make lasting change, we just need to come to their table.

We ask that you come along and join us as we work toward this mission.

M. Scott Frank is the co-founder and executive director of The InteRoots Initiative, a Colorado, U.S.-based nonprofit working with communities on sustainable projects created by local communities. To learn more, visit interoots.org.

IPS UN Bureau



Students, families and community members gather in Kasasa, Uganda, at the opening of the Tat Sat Community Academy in February 2023. (Photo courtesy of The InteRoots Initiative)

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One



Thursday 15 June 2023

Foreign investors return at DSE with 1.6bn/- net outflows

By Guardian Reporter

FOREIGN investors made a comeback on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) during Tuesday with net outflow amounting 1.6bn/- after selling and exchanging CRDB Bank Plc and Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) shares.

The daily market report shows foreign investors sold shares worth 2.1bn/- on Tuesday, which was 80.38 percent of total value of shares sold, and injected 450mn/- through shares buying or 17.22 percent of total, with all transactions conducted through blocks trade pre-arranged market board.

The move translates into nearly foreign investors' net outflows amounting to 480mn/- during the current quarter, as they have so far injected 15.5bn/- through buying shares and 16.9bn/- through selling shares or 72.25 percent of total selling value, maintaining their dominance on DSE activities.

The buying amount is nearly five times of the value of 3.4bn/- recorded during the first quarter of this year, which indicates an increased foreign investors' interests on DSE, in a time when many were exiting emerging markets to venture into US fixed incomes, due to rising interest rates by Federal Reserves.

However, US Federal reserve was expected to leave interest rates unchanged as May inflation numbers were mostly in line with expectations. But Fed watchers don't rule out a hike in July.

Nigel Green, the CEO and founder of deVere Group was quoted as saying the US central bank is now 15 months and 10

consecutive rate increases into its battle to cool red-hot inflation, but markets will be expecting that the latest CPI report will now be enough to convince officials to hit the pause button.

DSE report show the foreign investors buying value during the current quarter is still lower than 25bn/- they injected during the second quarter of last year.

Top mover during the reported day was CRDB Bank Plc, which recorded the transactions of 1,048,378 shares at a price of 465/- per share in 29 deals, of which one million shares were traded through pre-arranged block trade and 48,378 traded through normal trade, all valued 472.5mn/-.

Second top mover was TBL, which transacted 350,000 shares valued 2.1bn/- through block trade in four deals.

Other active counter were Tanzania Portland Cement Company Limited (TPCC) which transacted 4,873 shares valued 19.5bn/- traded at 4,000/- per share in four deal and NMB Bank, which transacted 3,259 shares valued 11.5bn/- at 3,500/- per share in seven deals.

Top gainers during the reported day were Jubilee Holdings Limited (JHL), which its share appreciated by 1.28 percent after closing at 3,160/-, followed by NICO which its share gained by 1.2 percent to 420/- and Tanga Cement Company Limited (TCCL), which its share increased by 2.33 percent to 1,760/-.

The appreciations of NICO and TCCL share prices have resulted into slight gain of the Tanzania Share Index (TSI), which measures the performance of locally listed



company, by 1.08 points to 4,096.17 points on Tuesday close. The East Africa Breweries Limited (EABL) and KCB were losers after their shares depreciated by 1.44 percent and 1.89 percent respectively.

The depreciations of two cross listed companies resulted into the slide of All Share Index (DSEI) by

6.67 points to close at 1,834.53 points on Tuesday close. Analysts outlook show that the market activity is expected to slow down as listed companies are currently undertaking corporate actions.

"Activity is expected to decline in the market as companies undertake the corporate actions. Major-

ity of the counter prices have declined post ex dividend trading date. As such, the market is expected to shift towards fixed income market," says Exodus Advisory Limited, brokers and DSE member.

CEOrt advocates sustainable clean investments

By Francis Kajubi

THE CEO Roundtable of Tanzania (CEOrt) has met to set strategies towards achieving clean sustainable investments as the global climate crisis escalates.

Around its targets themed 'Sustainable Investment: The Future for Tanzania', the CEOrt intends to address the pressing need for sustainable development and the transition towards a low-carbon economy.

David Tarimo (pictured) CEOrt of Tanzania Chairman said on Tuesday evening that the CEOrt sees an essence in sustainable investment that doesn't jeopardize the implications of climate change.

He said companies are considering investments and innovations in smart environment friendly sustainable energy sources towards reduction of carbon emissions.

Tarimo said the meeting focused on three main areas namely access to finance, access to market, and business performance.

He defended that sustainable investments, marked by financial decisions that account for environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors, provide a promising pathway to combat the climate crisis while fostering economic growth.

"To be sustainable both the private and public sectors have to set in place strategies with the focus on climate change in relation to the operations of companies and factories. The initiatives they should take to become green companies," said Tarimo.

He asserted that CEOrt seeks to inspire captains of industry to renew their commitment to the climate action agenda and explore diverse ways in which their organizations can contribute.

By aligning their operations with sustainable practices, he said, businesses can play an instrumental role in driving the country's sustainable future.

According to Tarimo, business operations and costs that contribute heavily to carbon emission are a great concern when it comes to climate change threats.

He said the CEOrt is much interested in seeing the world continue to be a better place for all creatures' existence free from implication attributed to climate change as the result of human economic activities.

"Energy efficiency should go abreast with the consideration of what the



world is coming to, especially when we speak about the impact of climate change on humans' life and the environment," said Tarimo.

Devang Vussonji, CEOrt Tanzania strategic consultant on economic development director and partner at Dalberg Advocates, said there are plenty of opportunities that Tanzania companies can tap into in favor of green operations. According to him, opportunities around energy efficiency have already been recognized in Tanzania for instance in the National Energy Policy 2015 and the Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2021.

He argued that high-energy consuming companies in the manufacturing, transport and logistics sectors may benefit the most from becoming more energy efficient.

He said that one way for these companies to optimize their energy use is through energy audits.

"Experience from Tanzania shows that energy audits followed up by efficiency measures can help save up to 30 percent of energy bills. Still these audits are underutilized in Tanzania," said Vussonji.

He argued that the CEOrt encourages business leaders to embrace the notion of responsible corporate citizenship, recognizing that sustainable businesses not only contribute to environmental preservation but also create long-term value for stakeholders.

"By integrating ESG considerations into their decision-making processes, companies can effectively address climate-related challenges and drive positive change," he said.

CRDB Bank hands over vehicle to winner of Simbanking campaign

By Guardian Reporter

JARED Ojweke has been declared the winner of a Toyota Crown vehicle prize, during the second "Bank with Simbanking" campaign draw held yesterday at the CRDB Bank headquarters.

Speaking during the event, Ojweke said he conducted his last transaction through Simbanking to send cash to a person who requested him for a help.

"One woman sent me a text asking for a help. She is a widow and she was asking for a help to get money for buying food as they slept without something on table. I sent a little cash to her and in just a few moments after transacting, I received a call from CRDB Bank telling me that I am the winner of a vehicle. I wondered with happiness," he said.

Ojweke said he has been using Simbanking for a long time because it is easy and is more efficient compared with other banks.

"I thank my employer who paid me a salary which has helped me to get this prize. For my fellow CRDB Bank clients, you should continue using Simbanking to win cash, mobile phone and even vehicles as what I did. You should not lose this opportunity because there is top prize which is Toyota Vanguard vehicle," he said. Ojweke who has been banking with CRDB bank since 2001 was handed over the vehicle valued 20mn/- which is also insured and is fueled full tank.

Presenting the prize to the winner, head of consumer bank-

ing Steven Adili said the development of science and technology has caused the world to migration into digital economy and Tanzania should not lag behind, that is why CRDB Bank is insisting the use of Simbanking, the improved platform meeting customer expectations on time.

"Today we are announcing Jared as the winner of the vehicle. He is the second winner after Yahya Manyani from Dodoma who won similar vehicle two months ago. Simbanking is for everyone, it can solve your entire requirement wherever you are," he said.

He said as the leading bank, CRDB assures the improved services to meet the customer needs because they are changing every day.

Simbanking ambassador Priva Abiudi Shayo said a vehicle is a necessary tool for current life because it simplify movements, specifically in urban areas where people are rushing with time.

"As vehicle, Simbanking is also important as it enables to buy airtime, pay utilities bills and other payments. The today's winner has satisfied necessary need of urban life. His children and wife will also be encouraged to use Simbanking," the ambassador said.

Simbanking Campaign was launched in February this year and will last for December and it enables customers to transact, while giving an opportunity to win various prizes issued on daily basis, before the grand prize of a vehicle.



CRDB Bank's head of consumer banking, Steven Adili (L) hands over a vehicle's keys to Jared Ojweke (R), who was declared the winner of ongoing Simbanking campaign. The event was held at CRDB Bank headquarters in Dar es Salaam. Photo by Guardian photographer

Open banking the future of payments

By Eren Muduroglu

WE can throw around impressive growth statistics around Open Banking (OB) over the last three or four years but as it has come from a very low point this could be somewhat misleading. In order to get a true picture of its potential we should look at what it does well and where it fails.

When it comes to payment initiatives it is always good to look first from the perspective of the consumer, because if the process is not user-friendly it will impact on sales completions and take-up will be slow.

Consumer uptake is growing, fuelled by merchant adoption as a checkout option and the implementation of open banking by HMRC for tax payments. Reports suggest there are currently seven million UK users.

It's a fine line to tread. If the user experience is unsatisfactory then consumers will typically not try twice. Given that OB payments take the user to their mobile banking app for payment authentication it makes sense to assume the payments journey for payments conducted on mobile phones are relatively more seamless than those taken on laptop or desktops.

The need to use your mobile phone to take an image of a QR Code and open your banking app may prove too restrictive for some and impact the checkout completion.

That said as more and more payment journeys are pushed towards 3D secure authentication methods, consumers are becoming more tolerant and indeed feeling their money is safer, by going through these anti-fraud procedures.

Some additional points to consider from a consumer perspective are the psychological boundaries of a bank payment being absolute.

There is no, or certainly a longer, route to getting your money back if the product or service is not as advertised. With cards the option to create a chargeback and the presence of buyer insurance in some cases gives this payment route protection. The other card option that OB does not cover is credit. OB is in its early stages, and we can be sure that in the same way this innovation has grown, the user journey will adapt in time, with banks potentially taking a more active role in the process by offering credit lines and specific buyer protections.

Current barriers to uptake can be sector specific. Transaction size limits can be restrictive to high value sales, returns and refund management can deter fashion and travel merchants, whilst there is still work to do on recurring payments which is slowing subscription-based sales.

The key merchant side benefits are widely touted as reduced fees. Studies show on average a reduction of around 50 percent over other methods.

Typically, OB is using a transaction-based model with fees ranging from 0.10p to 0.20p per transaction, with additional percent fees added dependant on the business risk profile. Against a typical SME or mid-size business card fee of 1.2-1.6 percent plus a similar transaction fee there is reason enough for OB to be attractive on a financial basis.

The second key benefit is the elimination of chargebacks. These cause multiple issues to a merchant, not least the fact that card schemes will increase fees or simply block accounts that show high rates of chargebacks.

For retailers the rapid increase of 'friendly' fraud is causing major concern. The concept of ordering a product and then instigating a chargeback from your bank or card scheme is rapidly increasing year on year and costing businesses £billions. OB removes this risk and puts the onus on the



consumer to deal with the merchant to prove faulty or non-delivered products.

Early adoption is being seen in the gaming industry. This is more merchant led to help eliminate card fraud. Consumer take-up is mixed, partly due to a reticence from some players to have the name of a gaming company showing on their bank statement. They prefer wallets.

Account-based payments tend to have an existing type saved for one click payments which makes it unlikely they will change with no apparent incentive. The main chance to push OB is at sign up and first deposit and here the lack of consumer knowledge of the platforms - many still want to put their brand name forward

rather than a "pay by bank" link - is proving prohibitive.

The panacea for OB is Variable Recurring Payments (VRP). This opens a whole new world of opportunity for platform providers, merchants and businesses. There are multiple benefits, but the ones making the biggest headlines are a reduction in invoice late payments and bad debt and a more flexible and potentially cheaper approach to Direct Debit payments.

This said, VRP is some way off being live in a real-life business scenario.

Overall, the speed of progress of OB is going to be reliant on a more joined-up approach between banks, technology suppliers and merchants.

Currently, banks are not sufficiently incentivised to push forward at pace and consumers are not sufficiently educated in the benefits to favour OB over cards.

Maybe if the banks were more progressive in their thinking around their online offer, they could offer credit wallets, product insurance, and refund requests, all the things that differentiate cards from OB, we would see the balance move away from the card scheme monopoly.

Eren Muduroglu (pictured) is the Senior Client Engagement Manager UK at leading payment acceptance brand exactly.com

China steps up counter-cyclical adjustment with policy rate cut

BEIJING

WITH two policy rate cuts announced on a single day, Chinese monetary authorities are making greater efforts to strengthen counter-cyclical adjustment and shore up market expectations amid post-COVID recovery, analysts said.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC), the country's central bank, lowered the seven-day reverse repo rate for the first time since last August from 2 percent to 1.9 percent on Tuesday when injecting funds into the financial system through open market operations.

Later the same day, the PBOC also announced a cut on the interest rates of its standing lending facility, with the overnight rate down by 10 basis points to 2.75 percent.

Dong Ximiao, chief researcher at Merchants Union Consumer Finance Company Limited, said the reverse repo rate cut has reflected market supply and demand for funds while signaling further counter-cyclical adjustment and efforts to stabilize the market.

"As an important variable of the macroeconomy, the central bank's rate cut on open market operations would facilitate market confidence," said Wang Qing, an analyst with Golden Credit Rating, noting that the move would further propel China's economic recovery in the second half of 2023.

The cuts came ahead of the PBOC's release of the medium-term lending facility (MLF) rate and loan prime rate (LPR) decisions, which are set for Thursday and next week, respectively.

In August 2022, when the PBOC last cut the reverse repo rate by 10 basis points, the MLF rate was brought down the same day, while the LPR, a market-based benchmark lending rate, was lowered a week later.

In a circular issued late Tuesday by four state organs, including the National Development and Reform Commission, the Chinese government said it will work to lower financing costs for business entities and increase loans to small and micro firms.

China's mild inflation has also left room for policy rate adjustments, according to analysts. In the first five months of 2023, the country's consumer price index (CPI), a major gauge of inflation, edged up 0.8 percent year on year.

The 10-basis-point reverse repo rate cut is a quite moderate move, according to Dong, who considered it conducive to striking a balance between multiple policy targets such as maintaining price and financial stabilities, supporting the real economy, and keeping the RMB exchange rate generally stable at an adaptive, balanced level.

Prior to this week's rate cuts, China's six state-owned commercial banks had moved to cut deposit rates by around 10 to 15 basis points, which will help replenish capital and boost their abilities to support the real economy.

PBOC Governor Yi Gang, during his inspection in Shanghai earlier this month, has pledged that the central bank will continue to precisely and effectively implement a prudent monetary policy while strengthening counter-cyclical adjustment, supporting the real economy, promoting employment and maintaining currency and financial stability.

The central bank will also better utilize monetary policy tools, maintain reasonably ample liquidity and keep the amount of currency and credit at an appropriate level and a steady pace, the governor said.

Meanwhile, China's credit demand weakened in May as the economy's recovery lost steam, adding to reasons for the central bank to boost stimulus to spur growth.

Aggregate financing, a broad measure of credit, was 1.6 trillion yuan (\$224 billion) in May, the People's Bank of China said Tuesday, lower than the median estimate of 1.9 trillion yuan in a Bloomberg survey of economists.

Financial institutions offered 1.4 trillion yuan worth of new loans in the month, also missing economists' forecasts of 1.6 trillion yuan. Both of the figures declined compared with the same month a year ago.

A string of economic reports show China's economic recovery lost momentum in May: inflation remained close to zero, manufacturing activity contracted, exports shrank for the first time in three months and a rebound in home sales has slowed. Private investment stagnated in the first four months of the year despite a rapid expansion in money supply.

The data came after the PBOC surprised markets Tuesday morning with a cut to its short-term policy interest rate, a sign that officials are increasingly concerned about faltering growth. Speculation about further monetary easing rose following the move.

The disappointing figures shows that "the PBOC was using the 10-basis point rate cut to comfort the markets ahead of the data," said Bruce Pang, chief economist and head of research for Greater China at Jones Lang LaSalle Inc. "The demand and dynamism among companies and households is sluggish."

Growth of M2, the broadest measure of money supply, moderated to 11.6 percent, the slowest level in almost year. The stock of credit also expanded at a weaker rate than in April at 9.5 percent.

Airtel Tanzania staff join blood donation drive

By Guardian Correspondent

AIRTEL Tanzania has today partnered with the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS) to promote blood donation being part of the company's staff Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

This year's theme of the day is "Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often" which underlines the role every single person can play, by giving this valuable gift of blood or plasma.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during the blood donation exercise, Airtel Tanzania Director of Human Resources Stella Kibacha said that donating blood is an important gesture in supporting our communities. We understand that blood is needed in hospitals by our Mothers with complications during pregnancy and childbirth, children with severe anemia often resulting from diseases such as malaria, victims of accidents, and cancer patients.

"It is for that reason that as a practice Airtel employees set time every year to do this noble exercise by donating blood to the blood bank (NBTS). The blood donation exercise reflects Airtel's strong community values in promoting good health and well-being in the country. We synthesize those able to donate blood to do so and help save a life, there are people out there under medical care in need of a pint of blood, be a reason for someone to survive by donating blood today for a better tomorrow," added Kibacha.

According to the NBTS Blood Donor Recruiter Eastern Zone, Fatma Majungu said "Tanzania blood bank needs 600,000 units of blood per year



Dorothy Nyamwihula of Airtel Tanzania's IT Department donates blood in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

for medical and emergency services, but NBTS last year collected only 65 percent of the blood required to save lives.

Fatma said "Availability of safe blood is still a challenge in Tanzania, it has been reported that 30% of maternal deaths are associated with unavailability of safe blood. In addition, children under five years of age and victims of accidents die due to unavailability of safe blood and blood components. According to the 2019/2020 blood collection

report, only 60% of the collected blood was from voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donors (VNRBDs). Among those VNRBDs, only 8% donate blood regularly (donating two times or more each year) while the remaining group donates only once and do not come back for donation".

"I take this opportunity to congratulate all Tanzanians and Airtel employees who have turned up for this important exercise this year and appeal to

them to make it a regular habit so that we can continue saving lives. Insisted Fatma

Every year, World Blood Donor Day is celebrated on June 14 all around the world. This day was first observed in 2005 and serves to recognize the need for safe blood and blood products. It is also celebrated to appreciate the blood donors for their voluntary, life-saving gifts.

The day is part of the WHO's global public health campaigns.

MARKETTRENDS



Brics currency would be no threat to the dollar

By Herbert Poenisch

FOREIGN ministers from the Brics countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - met in June along with ministers from other countries, including Iran, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

On the agenda was the possibility of expanding membership of the group to include these countries, and Russia added urgency to the proceedings because of the impact of western sanctions.

But the main topic of discussion was the creation of a common Brics currency. The New Development Bank, rather than the International Monetary Fund, was tasked with finding ideas for how to achieve this. It was hailed by pundits as a major step towards the demise of the dollar.

Russia, Brazil and China are already using their own currencies for bilateral trade payment settlement. However, such a payments system runs into problems once imbalances arise. The comments by Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Lavrov that the country is sitting on billions of Indian rupees which it cannot use

a case in point. Brics countries have to find a solution to the perennial problem: how to move from bilateral to multilateral clearing and to a common currency.

Creating a common currency is not a new idea. But if such a currency is ever achieved, it is unlikely to replace the dollar - it would exist in addition to the established dollar-based global monetary system. It will be a regional initiative rather like the euro. In the case of Europe, the process from bilateral settlements to a common currency took close to 50 years.

The main institutional achievements were the establishment in 1950 of the European Payments Union, the provision of funds from the US Treasury to cover liquidity shortages as all settlements were in gold or dollar, the establishment of the European currency unit clearing system and the introduction of the euro - first as a clearing currency and later for general public use. Even at that late stage, proponents of the euro were accused of leapfrogging political agreement by member states. The Bank for International Settlements acted as clearing agent for the EPU as well as for the ECU.

All Brics member countries



have China as their main trading partner and little trade with each other. Pegging to the renminbi and aligning their bilat-

eral exchange rates would be the first major step. At the same time, a mechanism would have to be set up to provide

credit in renminbi to countries that run trade deficits, such as India and South Africa. An organisation similar

to the EPU and a management agent like the BIS would have to be established.

China would have to shoulder the burden to keep such a clearing system afloat. This means setting up the mechanism and institutions, providing sufficient funds to support a liquidity shortfall and providing a reserve facility to deposit surplus funds. In addition, it would need to remove obstacles to the fungibility of the renminbi as surplus supply of other currencies should be freely converted into renminbi and used by other countries, eliminating the problem highlighted by Lavrov.

All this would boost the internationalisation of the renminbi and increase the pressure on China to liberalise its financial account. Both have major ramifications for the country's domestic monetary policy. China is already coming to terms with the fallout from using its currency swap agreements to prop up countries in payments difficulties. So far, China is a long way from the benign neglect which the US adopted to help the Europeans establish their own multilateral clearing system and currency.

Herbert Poenisch is Senior Fellow, Zhejiang University, and former Senior Economist, Bank for International Settlements.

Arusha pastoral council to give seed capital to Maasai women

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE Pastoral Women's Council (PWC) of Arusha Region has embarked on a new programme aimed at providing seed capital to women in Ngorongoro, Longido and Monduli Districts, Arusha Region to set-up small businesses, raise income, cope with climate change and drought in their localities.

Timothy Ole Yaile, PASTORthe council's head of economic empowerment said yesterday that under the programme, women are trained on how to establish Village Community Banks (VICOBA) that enables members to access financial services and start small businesses and learn entrepreneurship skills.

Also, women are trained on how to formulate VICOBA constitution, how to establish VICOBA's groups, how to apply and access the district councils tenders and procedures to win tenders.

So far, a total of 600 women groups have been formed in Longido, Monduli and Ngorongoro districts with a total of 18,000 members with each group comprising 30 members.

"They buy shares and issue loans to members that they mostly utilize in their small businesses they have in their localities," he said

PWC has decided to introduce this

programme after discovering that 80 percent of masai women cannot read and write, cannot comply with the loan procedures and conditions offered by CRDB Bank Plc, NMB Bank Plc and other financial institutions because they don't have registered land or collateral that can help them to access loans.

Apart from that, before taking a loan, they are required to fill out a loan agreement prevents them to obtain loans because of illiteracy.

"As PWC, we are very pleased to see what has been achieved so far because through the knowledge and skills gained from PWC, women have been able to set-up small businesses in their localities that includes saloon, set-up VICOBA's group, selling grain, bed sheets, products made from beads and other products to raise their income and cope with effects of climate change.

Also PWC has been able to establish Ingishoni Microfinance Ltd that offer loans services to different people in Ngorongoro, Monduli and Longido in accordance with their needs and demands.

For her part, Namayani Edward, Pastoral Women's Council (PWC)'s Climate Change Coordinator Action added that to start with, Watindiga and masai tribes who are affected by the drought have been benefited from PWC.

She said this recently at the just-ended one day climate change breakfast discussion that was organized by Women Action towards Economic Development (WATED) with funding from Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action. According to her, the seed capital offered to women in accordance with their needs and demands.

"As PWC we are working with women because are more affected by climate change in their localities, right now men are running away from their families and abandon their children and wives," she said.

They have decided to support them after discovering

that the majority of women are suffering a lot, they don't have any other option because the dying of cows, goats, sheep negatively affected their livelihoods because their income is raised from sale of animals or milk.

Also men migrate to places with better animal feeds, water as well as get cheap labour to support their families in coping to the situation.

While in other areas the water availability was scarce even for family consumption.

"As you know Maasai communities they normally lives in communal lifestyle. Thus, the poor are very much supported by rich people through casual labor, food distribution, animal borrowing for milking, she said noting that the impact of drought has affected both rich and the poor people," she said.

Under the programme, women were also trained on human rights so that can understand their rights and demand it including what is climate change and its effects on environment, human being and how to cope with climate change.

They were also trained on water well drilling, drilling and dam construction for cattle and human consumption, rainwater harvesting, tree-planting and water sources conservation.



PWC has decided to introduce the programme after discovering that 80 percent of masai women cannot read and write

Russia's Sberbank set to issue yuan bonds in 2023

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S dominant lender Sberbank will issue bonds in Chinese yuan this year if an opportunity arises and will continue borrowing in rubles to drive portfolio growth, the bank's finance chief told Reuters.

In his first interview since becoming Sberbank's head of finance last year, Taras Skvortsov said the bank's yuan deposit portfolio, which has grown 1-1/2 times since the start of the year, was currently more appealing than bond issues, which require active demand, good liquidity and attractive prices.

"So far there is good demand for deposits in yuan, especially from private clients, who are transferring their savings from dollars and euros to deposits in Chinese currency," he said.

"But the situation is changing and it is possible that a window of opportunity will appear before the end of this year, then we will issue yuan bonds."

The yuan's role in Russia's financial system and transactions has increased sharply since Western sanctions over Moscow's actions in Ukraine have limited access to dollar and euro markets.

But strict currency controls still limit the yuan's global reach and Russia's central bank has warned that the rise of China's yuan in Russia is not uniform, creating temporary imbalances and difficulties with foreign exchange liquidity.

Russian energy and commodities firms, such as Rusal, Polyus and Rosneft, have led the way in yuan-denominated issues. Russian firms placed bonds worth 1.7 billion yuan (\$237.5 million) in May.

Skvortsov said volatility and the small volumes on the market were affecting Sberbank's plans for now. The bank has issued 140 billion roubles

(\$1.7 billion) worth of rouble-denominated bonds this year, he said, and would continue to do so at the right price.

DIVIDEND PROMISE

Sberbank expects its profits this year to exceed 2021's record 1.25 trillion roubles (\$14.9 billion). Skvortsov said Russia's economy growing faster than expectations would drive this. The central bank estimates banking sector profits could exceed \$23.75 billion.

The International Monetary Fund in April raised its 2023 Russian GDP forecast to growth of 0.7 percent from 0.3 percent, but lowered its 2024 forecast to 1.3 percent from 2.1 percent. The head of Sberbank rival VTB last week told Reuters Russia's economy had adapted to sanctions.

Sberbank's record first-quarter profit of 357.2 billion roubles featured no one-time revenues, meaning profits should grow as the business does, Skvortsov said.

"If there are no new requirements from the regulator and the situation in the economy stays as it is now, then of course, on the coming years' horizon we also see the opportunity for Sberbank to generate high profit and, as a consequence, direct part of this profit to dividends," Skvortsov said.

Major companies' dividend payments have driven Russia's stock market in recent weeks. Sberbank and many others did not pay dividends in 2022, but the bank is paying out a record 565 billion roubles this year, using 2022 profits and part of those in 2021.

Skvortsov said he did not expect any changes to Sberbank's dividend policy of paying dividends once a year, the most optimal solution, given high volatility on the Russian market.

BANKING & FINANCE



WORLD

Trump pleads not guilty in federal documents case

MIAMI

FORMER US president Donald Trump pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to federal criminal charges that he unlawfully kept national-security documents when he left office and lied to officials who sought to recover them.

Trump's plea, entered before US Magistrate Judge Jonathan Goodman in a federal court in Miami, sets up a legal battle likely to play out over coming months as he campaigns to win back the presidency in a November 2024 election. Experts say it could be a year or more before a trial takes place.

Trump (pictured), wearing a blue suit and a red tie, frowned and leaned back in his chair but did not speak during the 47-minute hearing.

He was allowed to leave court without conditions or travel restrictions and no cash bond was required. Goodman ruled that he was not allowed to communicate with potential witnesses in the case.

Trump's aide Walt Nauta, who is also charged in the case, appeared in court alongside Trump but will not have to enter a plea until June 27 because he does

not have a local lawyer. He, too, was released without having to post bond and was ordered not to talk to other witnesses.

Supporters chanted "We love Trump" as his motorcade departed the courthouse at 3:55 pm EDT, roughly two hours after it arrived.

It was the second courtroom visit for Trump in recent months. In April, he pleaded not guilty to state charges in New York stemming from a hush-money payment to a porn star.

Trump is the first former president to be charged with federal crimes.

Authorities had prepared for possible violence, recalling the Jan 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol, but Miami Mayor Francis Suarez told reporters that there had not been any security problems.

Trump has repeatedly proclaimed his innocence and accuses Democratic President Joe Biden's administration of targeting him. He called Special Counsel Jack Smith, who is leading the prosecution, a "Trump hater" on social media on Tuesday.

During a stop at Versailles, a Cuban restaurant, after the hearing, Trump told supporters that the United States



was "rigged," "corrupt" and "in decline."

"We've got a government that's out of control," he said. Florida's Cuban-American community is a substantial Republican voting bloc in the politically competitive state.

Smith accuses Trump of risking national secrets by taking thousands of sensitive papers with him when he left the White House in January 2021 and storing them in a haphazard manner at his Mar-a-Lago Florida estate and his New Jersey golf club, according to a grand jury indictment released last week.

Photos included in the indictment show boxes of documents stored on a ballroom stage, in a bathroom and strewn across a storage-room floor.

Those records included information about the secretive US nuclear program and potential vulnerabilities in the event of an attack, the indictment said.

The 37-count indictment alleges Trump lied to officials who tried to get them back.

The indictment also alleges Trump conspired with Nauta to keep classified documents and hide them from investigators. Nauta has worked for Trump at the White House and at Mar-a-Lago.

Republican voters, rivals line up behind Trump

Recent events have not dented Trump's hopes of returning to the White House. After his arraignment Trump was due to fly from Miami to his New Jersey golf club, where he

was scheduled to speak.

Nor have Trump's legal woes hurt his standing with Republican voters.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Monday showed Trump still led rivals for the Republican nomination for the 2024 presidential election by a wide margin, and 81 percent of Republican voters viewing the charges as politically motivated. Most of Trump's Republican rivals for the nomination have lined up behind him and accused the FBI of political bias, in a sharp turn from the party's traditional support for law enforcement.

Vivek Ramaswamy, one of those candidates, said outside the Miami courthouse that he would pardon Trump if he were elected.

Espionage act cited in charges against Trump

Trump faces charges that include violations of the Espionage Act, which criminalizes unauthorized possession of defense information, and conspiracy to obstruct justice, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

That is the maximum sentence he faces, as he would serve any sentences concurrently if convicted.

Legal experts say the evidence amounts to a strong case, and Smith has said Trump, who will turn 77 on Wednesday, will have a "speedy" trial.

The judge assigned to the case, Aileen Cannon, was appointed by Trump in 2020 and issued a ruling in his favor during the investigation last year that was reversed on appeal. Goodman, the magistrate judge who conducted Tuesday's hearing, is not expected to play an ongoing role in the case.

Experts say the complexities of handling classified evidence and legal maneuvering by Trump's lawyers could delay a trial by more than a year. In the meantime, Trump is free to campaign for the presidency and could take office even if he were to be found guilty.

Trump accuses Biden of orchestrating the federal case to undermine his campaign. Biden has kept his distance from the case and declines to comment on it.

In his first presidential run in 2016, Trump called for imprisoning Democratic rival Hillary Clinton for using private email while serving as secretary of state, leading to chants of "lock her up" at campaign rallies. Then-FBI Director James Comey criticized Clinton for carelessness but did not recommend criminal charges.

Agencies

West very afraid new, large-scale war will break out, Lukashenko says

MINSK

DESPITE its latest steps, the West is very afraid about the possibility of a new large-scale war or a nuclear disaster, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said in an interview with the 60 Minutes talk show on Rossiya-1 television.

"I have met with people playing an important role in this, who make radical, drastic and final decisions in the event of an 'if,'" Lukashenko said. "What they fear most is a nuclear disaster, and they have been sincere about this. They are afraid of using nuclear weapons in Ukraine. It's only natural," he added.

Minsk does not want things to play out that way either, Lukashenko assured. "We are not seeking that either, and we, too, are afraid. Because this, experts say, could cause a global catastrophe, and this planet may be doornit, if all these weapons explode," he maintained.

According to Lukashenko, Russia may use nukes, if the enemy invades its territory or if this act of aggression threatens the existence of the state. He urged talks as long as there is an opportunity for them, but the West, he said, has been banning Ukraine from engaging in any.

"I am confident and I have it on good information that the overwhelming majority in Ukraine, including the military who has been fighting and getting killed over there, would like to stop this war now," the Belarusian leader maintained. "But then there are those hyped-up top-level officials led by [Ukrainian President] Volodya Zelensky. He is a 'hero' now, touring the globe. He is being kissed, hugged and all that. I thought he was smarter," Lukashenko lamented.

Agencies

UAE attends second ministerial meeting of Arab League and Pacific Small Island Developing States

RIYADH

KHALIFA Shaheen Almarar, Minister of State, headed the UAE delegation that participated in the second Ministerial Meeting of Members of the Arab League and Pacific Small Island Developing States, which was held today, Monday, June 12, 2023, in Riyadh, the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Participants discussed ways to enhance cooperation between Arab and Pacific Island countries in various fields, stressing the importance of strengthening joint coordination at all levels to enhance relations and strengthen peace, stability and security regionally and internationally to contribute to the development and prosperity of Arab and Pacific Island countries.

Almarar stressed that the meeting was held within the framework of the common desire to enhance cooperation between Arab and Pacific Island countries following the positive outcomes of the first meeting of foreign ministers of these countries, which was held in the UAE on June 24, 2010.

His Excellency stated the UAE's keenness to strengthen its relations with Pacific Island countries, highlighting that His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited several Pacific Island countries in this regard.

He underscored the UAE's aspirations to strengthen relations with Pacific Island countries in many areas, especially in the economic and trade fields, as the volume of non-oil trade between the UAE and Pacific Island countries exceeded USD 100 million in 2022, and that the UAE seeks to increase the volume of non-oil trade to meet the aspirations of both sides.

The UAE also aims to sign additional economic agreements with Pacific Island countries that will help promote economic and development cooperation between the two sides.

Almarar highlighted that the UAE will host the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in November 2023, which will provide an opportunity to discuss cooperation between the Arab and Pacific sides in addressing the challenges of climate change.

The UAE looks forward to the effective and high-level participation of these countries and their support for its efforts to host this global event while highlighting its effective contributions to the climate action field.

The minister also reiterated the UAE's commitment to opening additional channels of communication with Pacific Island countries to discuss opportunities for cooperation in areas of common interest and to conduct more mutual visits.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a joint statement was issued addressing a number of key issues for both sides. The statement stressed the importance of further cooperation between the Arab and Pacific sides in various fields to achieve common interests.

ANI

Qin Gang urges US to stop undermining China's sovereignty

BEIJING

THE United States should respect China's position on the Taiwan question, stop interfering in China's internal affairs and stop undermining China's sovereignty, security and development interests in the name of competition, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang said yesterday.

Qin made the remarks in a phone conversation with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, during which Qin expounded on China's solemn positions on the Taiwan question and other core concerns.

Since the beginning of this year, Qin said, China-US relations have encountered new difficulties and challenges, for which it is crystal clear who is responsible.

China always views and handles China-US relations in accordance with the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation proposed by President Xi Jinping, he added.

Qin urged the United States to take concrete actions to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state at the Group of 20 Bali summit, and honor the relevant commitments it has made.

It is hoped that the United States will work with China to effectively manage differences and promote exchanges and cooperation, so as to stop the decline of bilateral relations and bring them back to the track of sound and stable development, he said.

Xinhua



This combo photo shows Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang (left) and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. (PHOTOS / XINHUA AND AP)

Over 45,600 people enter Ethiopia from conflict-affected Sudan - IOM

ADDIS ABABA

THE number of people arriving in Ethiopia fleeing from armed conflict in Sudan has surpassed 45,600, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said on Tuesday.

The UN migration agency, in its latest situation update, said the armed conflict in Sudan has forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee from Sudan into its neighboring countries, including Ethiopia. It said over 45,600 people have arrived in

Ethiopia through multiple border crossing points in Ethiopia's Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambela regions as of Monday.

The IOM said it has scaled up its presence and response at border crossing points and Migration Response Center in Metema, the main entry point located in the Amhara region.

It said multi-sectoral assistance is being provided for arriving people, including immediate health support, onward transportation, tailored protection services as

well as water, sanitation and hygiene assistance. The UN migration agency, however, said a large number of new arrivals from Sudan into Ethiopia has created a major challenge for processing capacity and speed.

Noting that onward transportation is one of the key needs and gaps, the IOM said recent rains have made the conditions and terrains very difficult to provide timely support.

It said many people are arriving requiring urgent medical attention albeit inad-

equately access to life-saving services including health, food and non-food items, among other necessities.

"Protection services are a major concern, with child protection and gender-based violence case management requiring urgent attention. Additional shelter facilities are urgently required," it said.

Last week, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said the uninterrupted daily large number of arrivals, estimated between 700 to 1,000 per day, is a challenge to response capacities.

China sees prosperous development of Internet audio-and-video industry

THE online audio-and-video industry, represented by short videos, is seeing emerging new scenarios and business forms. It not only enriches people's everyday life, but also profoundly changes the way of cultural production, communication and consumption.

According to a report on the development of the industry recently released, the number of internet audio-and-video users in China reached 1.04 billion as of December 2022, and the general market size of the country's online audio-and-video indus-

try exceeded 700 billion yuan (about \$101.8 billion) last year.

In particular, the growth of the industry mainly came from the short video sector, which now has 1.012 billion users and becomes the largest internet audio-and-video application category.

Li Jun, general manager of the Chengdu branch of Migu, a digital content subsidiary of Chinese communication giant China Mobile, told People's Daily that the short video sector has a huge user base and strong capability to attract new users.

The innovative formats and diverse content of short videos not only strengthen users' interaction and participation but also stimulate their creativity and desire to express themselves, while the in-depth integration of short video platforms and other applications has built a cross-field content distribution and communication network that provides users with wider access to get to the sector, Li explained.

Zhang Chenliang, director of the media center of the Chinese National Geography magazine,

is a video blogger that owns 23 million online followers.

Compared with photos and articles, short videos come with various elements such as images, voice-over, music and film editing, which create richer content and help with the dissemination of popular science, Zhang said.

According to him, this year marks the 12th year since he joined science popularization and the 3rd year after he switched from graphics and contexts to short video communication.

Livestreaming makes another important part of the online audio-and-video industry.

The report said that with 751 million users, livestreaming services are the second largest internet audio-and-video application category after short video. Today, livestreaming is deeply integrated with entertainment, education, commerce and other fields.

Zhifang village in Hebi, central China's Henan province has become a renowned tourist attraction thanks to the exquisite wall paintings made

by young artist Shang Qinjie. Now, with the assistance of online audio and video platforms, the village has gone viral on the Internet, which has made rural tourism even more prosperous.

The online audio-and-video industry, apart from spreading information, can also create new business scenarios and forms in work and life.

"Take consumer services as an example. To meet users' demands, we support offline business scenarios through short videos and livestream-

ing. This enables merchants in different regions and of different sizes to expand online business on our platform," said Li Ran, a general manager of the consumer service department of Douyin, the Chinese version of TikTok.

Yu Bing has over 10 years of experience in the bookselling industry. She had run multiple offline bookstores in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang province.

According to Yu, many physical bookstores are in a difficult situation today. **People's Daily**

India's approach to G20 presidency is extension of its domestic focus on progress and development

"INCLUSIVE, ambitious, and action-oriented" were the words Prime Minister Narendra Modi used to define India's G20 presidency in Bali last year. Six months into our presidency, there is no doubt that India has delivered on its promise of inclusivity.

Indian democracy derives its strength from the spirit and ethos of the country's citizens and people-centric development is its defining feature. India's inclusive approach to the G20 presidency is, therefore, an extension of its domestic approach to development and progress, which focuses on engaging all sections of society.

Providing every citizen with the basic necessities of life is the highest priority for the government and it has consistently ensured that there is enough social security support for all citizens.

Take our digital public infrastructure, for instance. It has enabled the government to deliver the benefits of development directly to citizens in all parts of the country in a transparent, smooth and corruption-free manner.

Another example of India's commitment towards inclusive development is that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, about 110 million rural households have been provided access to drinking water at their homes. More than 110 million sanitation facilities have been created across the country.

Furthermore, the Pradhan Mantri

Jan Dhan Yojana benefits women immensely.

Fifty-six per cent of Jan Dhan account holders are women with 67 per cent of these accounts based in rural and semi-urban areas. It is not surprising, therefore, that "women-led development" is a major priority under India's G20 presidency.

Prime Minister Modi's call for a "pro-planet people's movement" to fight climate change is an exercise in inclusivity in its most fundamental sense and reflects this year's G20 theme – Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam or One Earth One Family One Future. This portrays India's holistic view of the world and emphasises that a collective effort is essential for global good. Drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text, the Maha Upanishad, the theme reaffirms the value of all life – human, animal, plant, and microorganisms – and their interconnectedness on planet Earth and the wider universe.

Working for the global public good has been an important objective of India's foreign policy as was evident during the Covid pandemic. India shared essential medical supplies with over 190 countries in the world. We also shared the Made in India vaccines with over 150 countries through the Vaccine Maitri programme.

Inclusivity has been at the heart of every major decision under India's presidency.

From the decision to hold G20 meetings in every state and Union Ter-



International Energy Agency Executive Director Fatih Birol speaks at the G20 dialogue on 'India's Role in the Future of Energy', at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, in New Delhi yesterday. ANI

ritory of India rather than confining them to the capital, to invitees to the summit and key priorities discussed, every aspect has been carefully crafted to ensure this.

So far, 131 G20 meetings have been held in 48 different locations in our country covering all but two states and all Union Territories.

Africa will be strongly represented under India's G20 presidency with the participation of South Africa, Comoros (African Union Chair), Nigeria, Egypt and Mauritius. In a bid

to enrich and broaden the base of discussions, non-G20 member countries as well as regional and international organisations have been invited to specific G20 meetings.

For example, Norway, which has expertise in the blue economy, has been invited to the G20 meeting on ocean health.

At its core, India's G20 presidency is a people-oriented event. The Jan Bhagidhari or people's participation approach has evoked a great deal of enthusiasm within the country. G20-related events including

seminars, conferences and festivals are designed to make people stakeholders in India's presidency.

As Prime Minister Modi underlined in his remarks in February to G20 Finance Ministers and G20 Central Bank Governors, the G20 must focus on "discussions on the most vulnerable citizens of the world".

It was with this human-centric development mindset that he convened the Voice of Global South Summit, attended by heads of state, governments and ministers from 125 countries, soon after India took over the G20 presidency.

India firmly believes in inclusivity and taking everyone on board the path to growth and prosperity.

At a time when multiple crises of global magnitude affect us all, the importance of keeping Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam's sentiment alive has never been more critical.

The Indian Express

Medvedev sees option of Russia destroying Western communications cables on Atlantic seabed

MOSCOW

GIVEN the West's involvement in the sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines, Russia should have a free hand to destroy Western seabed communications cables, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev (pictured) warned yesterday.

"Now that the Western countries' complicity in the sabotage of the Nord Streams has been proven, there should be no constraints, even moral ones, on us to prevent us from destroying our enemies' seabed communications cables," the senior politician wrote on his Telegram channel.

Nord Stream sabotage

On September 27, 2022, Nord Stream AG reported unprecedented damage that occurred the day before on three strings of the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 offshore gas pipelines. On September 26, 2022, Swedish seismologists registered two explosions on the pipeline routes. The Russian Prosecutor General's Office launched a criminal case in connection with the incident based on charges of international terrorism.

On February 8, US investigative journalist Seymour Hersh published an article claiming, citing anonymous sources, that US Navy divers had planted explosive devices under the Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines under the cover of the BALTOPS naval exercise in June 2022, and that the Norwegians then activated the bombs three months later. According to the journalist, the decision to conduct the operation was made by US President Joe Biden personally, following nine months of discussions with White House national security advisers.

The White House has categorically denied the claims. The New York Times reported earlier, citing American officials, that a certain "pro-Ukrainian group" had the intention of blowing up the gas pipeline running from Russia to Germany.

Nord Stream probe

Russia has repeatedly complained that no probe into the incident is actually taking place, with Moscow being kept away from any investigation. Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov earlier demanded "a transparent and urgent international probe," which he said was not currently happening.

Agencies

Zimbabwe VP arrives in New Delhi to attend CII-EXIM Bank Conclave

NEW DELHI

VICE President of Zimbabwe Constantino Chiwenga has arrived in New Delhi, informed the Ministry of External Affairs yesterday.

He came to India to attend the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave. His visit will boost the development partnership and trade and economic ties between the two countries.

"Warm welcome to Vice President Constantino Chiwenga of Zimbabwe as he arrives in New Delhi for CII-EXIM Bank Conclave. The visit will give boost to India-Zimbabwe development partnership and trade & economic ties," tweeted Arindam Bagchi, MEA official spokesperson.

India and Zimbabwe have a long history of close and cordial relations.

India and Zimbabwe are members of the G20 in WTO and have a common position on IPRs and agricultural subsidies. Zimbabwe generally supports India in most of the elections in the multilateral fora and our Resolutions in the UN.

The CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership was launched in the year 2005 with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Government of India, according to CII-EXIM Africa Conclave's official website.

In the last sixteen editions, the Conclave has played a pivotal role in encouraging Indian companies to establish and grow their footprints in Africa.

According to the website, the level of economic engagement between India and Africa has grown multi-dimensional and to reflect the changing contours of this dynamic relationship, the Conclave is being rechristened as "CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Growth Partnership" expanding the earlier focus on "Project Partnership".

The upcoming edition focussed on project exports, trade, investments, and exchange of knowledge and expertise creating shared value for business and industry at large between India and Africa.

ANI



Vice President Constantino Chiwenga of Zimbabwe (C) arrives in New Delhi yesterday, for CII-EXIM Bank Conclave. ANI

Uganda sends troops to Rwanda for joint regional military training exercise

KAMPALA

UGANDA has sent a contingent of 76 troops and civilians for a two-week long joint East African Community (EAC) Command Post training exercise on counterterrorism and peace operations in neighboring Rwanda, a military spokesperson said on Tuesday.

A total of 54 military, seven police officers and 15 government officials from different ministries will participate in the training exercise, dubbed "Ushirikiano Imara 2023," which will start on Thursday at Musanze in northern Rwanda, said Isaac Okware, spokesperson for the Ugandan contingent, in a statement.

"The exercise will bring together the military, police and civilian components from the seven EAC member states on counterterrorism, piracy, disaster management and peace operations," said Okware.

The troops are drawn from Uganda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Tanzania. The Ugandan team led by Colonel Stuart Agaba was flagged off by Brig. Gen. Matthew Gureme, the military's Chief of Training and Recruitment, Monday afternoon at the Non-Commissioned Officers Academy in the eastern city of Jinja.

The "Ushirikiano Imara," meaning a strong partnership in Swahili, is an annual multinational, multi-disciplinary, multi-dimensional and multi-cultural exercise event held to demonstrate the EAC member states commitment to the enhancement of regional peace and security.

Xinhua

KHARTOUM

SUDAN'S two warring parties have expressed objection to an initiative proposed by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for a political settlement to the ongoing conflict.

At the 14th ordinary session of the IGAD Heads of State and Government, which was held in the Red Sea nation of Djibouti on Monday, an initiative including a roadmap for the resolution of the Sudan conflict was adopted.

The roadmap included the establishment of a quartet committee, to be chaired by Kenya, to follow up on the Sudanese file, arrange face-to-face meetings between Sudan's two rival factions, and initiate an inclusive process toward a political settlement of the Sudan conflict within three weeks.

However, Sudan's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday objected in a statement to Kenya's chairmanship of the quartet committee, which also includes Ethiopia, Djibouti and South Sudan.

The statement demanded keeping South Sudan's President Salva Kiir Mayardit as the chairman.

"Sudan's delegation to the session expressed disagreement and objection to a number of paragraphs in the final communique as those paragraphs were not

Sudan's warring parties reject initiative for political solution

discussed or agreed on, and thus the delegation asked the IGAD secretariat to omit them," the ministry said in the statement.

The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), for its part, objected to the multi-forums for a political settlement, calling for uniting the initiative with the Saudi-US brokered one.

Youssef Izzat, the political adviser to the RSF commander, said on Tuesday in a statement that the RSF "is committed to the Saudi-US initiative as the forum to discuss cease-fire issues and permanent political solution."

"We stand with uniting the initiative with the Saudi-US initiative to which we adhere," Izzat added.

In remarks before the IGAD summit on Monday, African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat warned that if the conflict in Sudan does not stop immediately, a civil war would set in, chaos would prevail, and the country would totally collapse.

Mahamat added that the



Youths walk on a street as fighting continues in Khartoum on June 13, 2023. AFP

African Union encourages a comprehensive national dialogue led by the Sudanese themselves.

Sudan has been witnessing deadly armed clashes between the Sudanese Army and the RSF in the capital Khartoum and other areas since April 15, which has left 863 people dead and 3,531 others injured, according to the Sudanese Doctors Un-

ion's update.

At least 16 million people have been displaced, fleeing to safer locations inside and outside Sudan, according to UN figures.

US could abandon Taiwan at any time

BEIJING

THE United States is using Taiwan as a pawn to contain the Chinese mainland and could abandon the island at any time, a mainland spokeswoman said Wednesday after media reported that the US is planning to evacuate Americans from Taiwan.

According to reports, driven by concerns over escalation of cross-strait tensions, the US government is drafting plans to evacuate Americans from Taiwan. Considering that Taiwan is quite sensitive to this matter, the US hasn't publicized the plans, one source said.

Zhu Fenglian, spokeswoman for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, said the Democratic Progressive Party authorities in Taiwan keep boasting about its so-called relations with the US, but the US has long

been planning to abandon Taiwan at any time.

For some time, some US politicians have been saying they hope for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, but in reality they are trying to turn the island into a "ammunition depot" by making continuous weapons sales to Taiwan authorities, she said.

Mentioning the US approach in countries including Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan, Zhu said that the US always prioritizes its own interests and is known to stir up trouble, create divisions and conflicts, and misuse its military forces around the world.

"Now the US wants to replicate the same approach in Taiwan," she said. "Once war breaks out in the Taiwan Strait, Taiwan will become a battleground, and the people will become 'cannon fodder' while Americans in Taiwan will escape from it." Xinhua



Zhu Fenglian, spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, speaks at a press conference in Beijing, capital of China, March 29, 2023. File photo

SPORT



Lumumba Primary School's pupils participate in football at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park venue in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Kaizer Chiefs steps up bid for Nabi's signature

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SOUTH Africa's football giant, Kaizer Chiefs, is pushing for the signature of Tanzania's Yanga head coach Nasreddine Nabi for next season.

Nabi has won this season's NBC Premier League's Coach of the Year award, and the Azam Sports Federation Cup's Best Coach award after Yanga clinched the two showdowns' titles to seal a stellar season.

Yanga was, further, the runner-up in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup, and the Tunisia-born tactician is, as a result, in high demand in Kaizer Chiefs.

Kaizer Chiefs feels confident after holding several talks, including Nabi bringing his technical team should he agree to join the South African club as the successor to current head coach Arthur Zwane.

A section of Yanga officials is working hard to ensure it extends Nabi's contract. Reports from the Jangwani Street side disclosed the tactician broke the news before the NBC Premier League trophy parade, saying he will be leaving the Tanzanian football giants at the end of his contract.

Having rejected a proposal for new terms, the gaffer is reportedly seeking a

fresh challenge in his career after winning a domestic treble this season and reaching the CAF Confederation Cup final.

Kaizer Chiefs, alias 'Amakhosi' is confident of bringing in Nabi after two weeks of intensive discussions having impressed in early engagements.

Both parties agreed they would be happy to open personal talks after the end of the season, which culminated with Yanga's 1-0 win over Azam FC in the Azam Sports Federation Cup final.

Nabi previously received concrete offers from Raja Club Athletic, Wydad Athletic Club, and Esperance Tunis but rejected their advances, insisting on leading Yanga at the time the NBC Premier League campaign was not concluded.

However, Amakhosi's move has seemingly come at the right time but it comes with the coach seeking his assistant, a goalkeeping coach, and a strength and conditioning coach to be hired with him, should he be appointed as the man to lead the Soweto giants next season. Should Kaizer Chiefs either be open to accepting the terms or entering further negotiations, the former Al Merreikh SC boss could arrive as early as next week to conclude the move but as it stands, it is touch and go.

Simba SC handed huge boost as starlet leaves AS Vita Club

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S Simba SC has been handed a major transfer boost as its target Congolese forward Eric Kabwe has left DR Congo giants AS Vita on mutual consent.

The 21-year-old goal-getter opted not to renew his contract with AS Vita, nicknamed 'Black Dolphins', as his relationship with the club's management was said to be tense in recent weeks.

Kabwe has confirmed he has left AS Vita, having enjoyed fantastic form that earned him a call-up to the DR Congo national team.

"We separated amicably, the club gave me a release letter, and I am now ready to receive offers as life goes on," Kabwe pointed out.

Previously Simba SC reportedly contacted AS Vita about his availability in the next transfer window.

Kabwe has been heavily linked with a possible move to Simba SC also nicknamed 'Msimbazi Reds' for the past two months after the clubs entered into negotiations in April.

Simba SC is weighing up the option of considering there is a reported \$60,000 transfer fee (143,100,000/-), which appears to be on the low side considering the player's importance to the team.

The inquiry triggered AS Vita to table an improved three-year contract, but Kabwe rejected it, arguing he wanted to test himself at a higher level.

Kabwe joined AS Vita in August 2020 from another DR Congo side namely FC Lubumbashi Sports.

The forward, who is adept at making full use of his left foot, was nurtured by TP Mazembe Academy as a teenager before seeking greener pastures as it became more apparent he would not be promoted to the first team.

Kabwe joined AS Vita in August 2020 from another Congolese outfit FC Lubumbashi Sports, and his contract is set to expire on June 30 this year.

The footballer debuted for DR Congo national team in the goalless draw against Uganda in the 2023 Africa Nations Championship finals in Algeria in January.



Bulls boys' soccer team player Ben Mango (L) races past Al Madrasa's player in this season's Dar Youth Cup soccer tournament for U-15 youngsters at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's venue on Sunday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

SPORTS

Will Yanga repeat 2022/23 CAF inter-club tournament final run?

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IT was now or never in an event that had two sides of the coin. It was a time the supporters of Algerian outfit, USM Alger, noisily cheered after the final whistle was blown following the end of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final's rematch between the squad and Tanzania's Yanga held in Algiers on June 3.

Despite conceding a 1-0 loss, USM Alger turned out to be the new champion of the CAF Confederation Cup after winning through an away-goal rule and it was the first time for the club, as well as the country, to clinch a CAF Confederation Cup title.

A new champion and newcomer to the continental showdown was born, it would have been the same if Yanga had garnered victory over USM Alger.

It was moreover the end of Yanga's dream to become the showdown's first champion from Tanzania.

Unlike USM Alger, Yanga represented the entire East and Central Africa region and it had a chance to be the region's first to lift the top honour but could not succeed.

Is there a Tanzanian soccer follower believing that Yanga will once again go all the way and book a place in any of the CAF club showdowns' finals?

The 21 defeat Yanga conceded in the first leg of the continental competition's final against USM Alger proved costly.

Yanga had a grueling challenge in the rematch against USM Alger and it looked like the former was on its way to living up to expectations after fullback Djuma Shaban converted a penalty. USM Alger players later deployed lots of tricks to ensure the game ended in their favour.

The Algerian squad's followers intimidated the opponents and the tie's ball boys at times were delaying balls, they did all they could to ensure that Yanga fell for such intimidation.

After Yanga came closer to fulfilling the dream that a section of soccer enthusiasts in East and Central Africa have been dreaming of, the question remains, will Yanga return to this stage?

Since Yanga made it to the continental tournament semi-final, a section of soccer stakeholders connected to the team's age-old rival, Simba SC, worked hard to undermine the former so the club cannot enjoy the achievement earned by Simba SC 30 years ago namely making it to the then CAF Cup final.

That shows how difficult it is for Yanga to return to the showdown's final, since Simba SC made it to the stage 30 years ago, the club has never managed to gain such success again.

Successful programs tend to bring about consistent achievements, a good example is how Simba SC reached CAF inter-club showdowns' quarterfinals severally a few seasons back.

Simba SC fulfilled its plans because it had planned well. Yanga made it to the continental showdown's final for the first time, was it lucky? My view is that Yanga was better and the team was also lucky, it is



Tanzania's Yanga forward, Fiston Mayele (C), negotiates his way past Algeria's USM Alger defenders Saadi Radouani (R), and Adam Alliet when they faced each other in the first leg of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final which took place in Dar es Salaam on May 28. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

a strange idea to think that Yanga reached the final simply because the outfit was lucky, it might have been lucky in the quarterfinal stage draw.

Before the quarterfinals, the Tanzania team had to battle it out in Group D which included among others DR Congo's TP Mazembe and Tunisian side US Monastir.

Yanga once again was lucky to lock horns with seemingly weak opponents and ended at the top. If the Jangwani Street squad had finished second it would have taken on a tougher opponent in the quarterfinal.

In the semi-finals, Yanga defeated Marumo Gallants of South Africa which was, ultimately, relegated to South African First Division, having fared horribly in the country's DSTV Premiership.

An individual may think Marumo Gallants was a weak opponent but he/she must remember the outfit eliminated Egypt's Pyramids FC which many supporters view as a tough opponent.

Even if fanatics view the opponents Yanga took on as weak, they should hardly forget that Yanga would not have overcome such opponents if the club was not strong, a team ought to be strong to overcome its opponents.

What does this mean? To reach the final stage a club should have strong plans including having a strong squad, a club can hardly rely on luck to reach the final of a continental showpiece.

An outfit can hardly bank on luck to lift a continental showdown's title. For Yanga to either return to the continental showdown' final or seal a much better feat in

the future, the club needs to organize well and bring in top players to reinforce the team.

The Jangwani Street side needs to stop the best players who have helped the club enjoy this success from leaving.

What would it do if other wealthy outfits come for its key performers Fiston Mayele, Djigui Diarra, and head coach Nasreddine Nabi? Can Yanga stop such teams? These are the questions Yanga needs to answer if the squad is keen on making its way back to the stage.

Whether in the CAF Champions League or CAF Confederation Cup, Yanga should first get used to making it to the more advanced stages of the showdowns before wishing to clinch the trophies.

Muguna makes u-turn, leaves Azam FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KENYAN international Kenneth Muguna has parted ways with Azam FC after two years due to lack of game time, with one-year left on his contract with the club.

The 27-year-old joined Azam FC in July 2021 from Kenya's Gor Mahia but he has had a torrid time with the ice cream makers, the recently ended season being one the hardest due to limited playing time.

Since making the move to Azam FC back in July 2021, Muguna has been on the periphery and has been handed limited playing time by the 2014 Mainland Tanzania Premier League champions.

In a heartfelt statement, Muguna expressed his gratitude for his time at the club. Muguna, a talented midfielder, shared the news of his exit from Azam FC, stating that it had been a great experience during his two-year tenure with the club.

"It was a great experience,

I enjoyed those 2 years #AdiosAzamFC," he wrote. Muguna had one season left on his contract but opted to leave for game time.

He was not on the matchday squad on Monday as Azam fell to Yanga by a solitary goal in the final of the Azam Sports Federation Cup.

The Harambee Stars midfielder was among the seven players dropped from the national team squad for the four-nation friendly tournament in Mauritius despite having been included in the provisional squad.

Other performers are KAA Gent's Joseph Okumu, Masoud Juma of Saudi Arabia's Al-Faisaly FC, Simon Masaka, Mohamed Siraj, Alpha Onyango, and Alvin Mang'eni.

However, Muguna went on to clear the air saying that he explained his situation to coach Engin Firat and remained optimistic about featuring for the country soon.

"I couldn't make it to the

national team camp due to unavoidable circumstances, I had a conversation with the head coach and I am happy he understood the situation. I can't wait to represent the country again in our future assignments," Muguna outlined.

The former Gor Mahia skipper made headlines on July 21 2021 when he joined Azam FC on a two-year deal. Muguna's move to Azam FC came after an impressive stint with Gor Mahia.

Muguna's impact at Gor Mahia was undeniable having played a crucial role in 18 goals, scoring five and providing 13 assists that led to clear-cut chances resulting in goals. Such top-class performances did not go unnoticed, as Muguna was rightfully named the Best Player in the Betway Cup, further solidifying his reputation as a standout player.

Adding to his impressive list of accolades, Muguna was awarded the prestigious Most Valuable Player (MVP) title in 2016.

At the age of 20, the talented playmaker received recognition as the Midfielder of the Year, along with being a runner-up for the New Player of the Year award.

To commemorate his outstanding achievements at such a young age, Muguna got a remarkable Ksh 16 million (27,338,582.54/-), the highest prize ever won by a Kenyan footballer in the league.

Although Muguna had a brief spell in Albania, he ultimately returned to Gor Mahia in 2018, where he continued to thrive.

Together with his teammates, he celebrated three consecutive Kenya Premier League (KPL) titles, further cementing his legacy as a key contributor to the team's success.

Muguna's prowess extended beyond the club level, as he earned his first call-up to the national team in 2016.

His impact on Harambee Stars was evident in a friendly match against Uganda in 2019, where he scored a crucial equalizer, resulting in a 1-1 draw between the rival teams.

Nuggets built a championship team the right way, and built it to last

By TIM REYNOLDS

THIS may be just the start for the Denver Nuggets.

The newly crowned NBA champions – they got there Monday night, beating the Miami Heat 94-89 to end the NBA Finals in five games – have five starters that are all 30 and under. They have a superstar leading the way, an elite second option, and a slew of really good players who could have bigger roles elsewhere yet chose to be part of something more meaningful.

All of that could have been said about the Golden State Warriors when they won their first of their four most recent titles in 2015.

Now, it's the Nuggets who are following a similar – and proven – formula.

"You know, Pat Riley said something many years ago," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said after it was all over. "I used to have it up on my board when I was a head coach in Sacramento, and it talked about the evolution in this game and how you go from a nobody to an upstart, and you go from an upstart to a winner and a winner to a contender and a contender to a champion, and the last step is after a champion is to be a dynasty."

Even in a championship moment, Malone is already thinking about more. Riley, the Heat president and a nine-time champion as a coach, player and executive, is wired the same way.

It's not crazy to think the Nuggets can do more. For starters, they have Nikola Jokic.

There are other stars who stand out in their own ways – Philadelphia's Joel Embiid replaced Jokic as MVP this year, past MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo of Milwaukee may be the best two-way player in the league, Dallas' Luka Doncic is surely going to be an MVP before long – but there's no other Jokic, who has gone from second-round pick to triple-double machine.

It's time to end all debate about Jokic. He's slow, can't jump and will never wow anyone with athleticism. And none of that matters. He's smart, he's selfless and he's unstoppable. Period. End of story. The best player in the playoffs, the NBA Finals MVP, and now the big man from Sombor, Serbia is a champion. The days of any Jokic slander being allowed are officially over.

"I think there's more to come, actually, from Jok," Nuggets guard Jamal Murray said. "I think we haven't seen a side of Jok that we are going to see where he can be just pure dominance all the way, the whole game, even more than he has been."

Here's what the other 29 teams should say when they hear that: "Yikes."

Murray is to Jokic what Dwyane Wade was to LeBron James, what Kobe Bryant was to Shaquille O'Neal (before it became the other way

around), what Scottie Pippen was to Michael Jordan. He is Robin next to Batman, a guy who would be a No. 1 option on many other teams yet checked his ego at the door and made it work in Denver.

Murray has sacrificed some stats. Some spotlight, too. The championship ring that he'll be getting this fall, however, will have exactly the same amount of diamonds as the one Jokic will get. It all evens out.

"To be here just kind of rounds it out and shows that when we are given the right circumstances and everybody healthy, God willing, we can do it," Murray said. "I think when we're playing our best basketball, we are a very hard team to stop."

It's difficult to argue that point. To be fair, this wasn't the toughest path a team ever took to a title. Denver beat two No. 8 seeds – Minnesota and Miami – along with a No. 7 seed in the Los Angeles Lakers and a No. 4 seed in Phoenix to win this championship. But it was dominant. The Nuggets never trailed in a series. They went 16-4 in the postseason. They won 10 of their final 11 games. They left no doubt.

Malone was an assistant coach in Golden State just as the Warriors were starting down the path of becoming the NBA's immovable object. He left two years before Stephen Curry's first title to take over in Sacramento, getting fired early into Year 2 there. Then Denver hired him, and his first three seasons there resulted in zero playoff appearances. Usually, that gets a guy fired.

The Nuggets kept him. The debt was repaid in full on Monday night. Patience paid off, and so did institutional belief that Malone was the right guy, that Jokic – the greatest No. 41 pick in NBA draft history – would become a great, that Denver was building something the right way.

"You know, it's not for everybody," Malone said. "This was the best course for us, and it's allowed us to get here."

It very well may allow them to stay there.

Winning isn't easy and winning a championship is darn near impossible. There have been five different champions in the last five years now. Three of those titlists – Toronto (2019), the Lakers (2020) and Milwaukee (2021) – have since fired the coaches who won those championships. Getting to the top is hard. Staying on top is tougher. Malone knows this, and starting this fall, the Nuggets are going to learn it.

But he thinks they're also built for whatever comes next.

"We're not satisfied," Malone said. "We accomplished something this franchise has never done before, but we have a lot of young talented players in that locker room, and I think we just showed through 16 playoff wins what we're capable of on the biggest stage in the world."



Nikola Jokic

Kylian Mbappe triggers bitter contract row with PSG in effort to leave

By Jason Burt

PARIS Saint-Germain will hold crisis talks with Kylian Mbappé over his future after the bombshell revelation that he wants to leave the club for free next year.

The French giants have no intention of allowing this to happen and will sell the forward, and may even take the extraordinary step of placing him on the transfer list, unless he signs a new deal.

Mbappé's current contract has one more year to run and he has written to PSG to inform them he has no intention of taking up the option of extending it by a further 12 months.

PSG have been left reeling by the news, with the danger it will develop into an unedifying row between them and their star player, but are not ruling out the possibility of renegotiating his contract so he can stay for longer.

If Mbappé is sold this summer the most likely club to buy him remains Real Madrid although he reacted on social media to a report that he wanted to join them now by claiming it was "lies". The 24-year-old insisted he intended to see out his contract at PSG.

PSG are adamant that will not happen having run the risk of Mbappé leaving for free last year before he eventually signed a two-year contract with an option for a further year.

All sides are now expected to take stock, with sources saying there has not even been a discussion, as yet, as to how much PSG will want for Mbappé. Reports have suggested a fee of 180 million euros – which was precisely what PSG turned down from Madrid two years ago when Mbappé was in the same contractual situation.

Given he is arguably the most valuable player in world football and given clubs have demanded high fees for players with one year left on their deals in the past then it may take a record amount for Madrid to sign Mbappé.

Sources have pointed to comments from Real Madrid president Florentino Pérez in recent days, following the announcement to sign Jude Bellingham for up to 134 million euros (£115 million), that Mbappé is still a target.

However Pérez has suggested the attacker will be signed next year, leading to suspicion that this has prompted the letter suggesting Mbappé wants to run down his current contract.

Even so, Real have to replace Karim Benzema this summer after his surprise decision not to sign a 12-month contract extension and accept a highly-lucrative offer to join Saudi Arabian club, Al-Ittihad. It could be that Real offer cash plus the French midfielder Aurelien Tchouaméni, who PSG wanted last year, to try and secure Mbappé.

The situation has turned increasingly tense with Mbappé even releasing a statement to insist he never discussed staying at PSG beyond next season.

His claim was met by an immediate rebuttal with PSG club spokesperson saying: "It is emphatically untrue to say Mbappé's team have not been involved in renewal discussions."

There is an anticipation that there will be interest from Premier League clubs but sources at Manchester City, Chelsea, Newcastle United and Liverpool have cooled talk of a move.

The ownership situation at Manchester United means it is more difficult to rule them out depending on who buys the club. But, again, it appears unlikely at this stage.

Mbappé issued a statement to the news agency AFP insisting the club were told "on July 15 2022" – which was just weeks after he signed a new contract – that he would not be taking up the chance of a further 12-month deal.

When the contract was signed Mbappé stood on the pitch at the Parc des Princes stadium with PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi holding a shirt with "2025" on it. How-



Kylian Mbappé triggers bitter contract row with PSG in effort to leave.

ever the contract was always for two years plus the option for a further year – weighted in the player's favour.

Now Mbappé has declared he will definitely not be signing an extension under the current terms of the contract. He had to inform the club by July 31 if he was signing.

Mbappé insisted "the only aim of the letter was to confirm what had already been spoken about previously". The statement added: "Kylian Mbappé and his entourage confirm that this matter has not been discussed since over the course of the year, except a fortnight ago to announce the sending of the letter."

"No potential contract extension has been mentioned."

"After maintaining publicly in recent weeks that he would be a PSG player next season, Kylian Mbappé has not asked to leave this summer and has just confirmed to the club that he would not be activating the extra year."

The statement concluded by saying that the 2018 World Cup winner, and top scorer in the last tournament, "and his entourage regret that the letter was circulated in the media and that these exchanges were made public with the sole aim of damaging their image and the discussions with the club".

It raises the question, though, of who leaked it and why as it does not appear to have been in PSG's interests. There is even the suspicion it is a bargaining attempt from Mbappé's camp but he is adamant the leak has not come from him.

The club is shocked that it – including sporting director Luis Campos, who has been Mbappé's mentor from their time together at PSG – only found out his intentions through then French media although the player clearly disputes this.

PSG has also been building its team around Mbappé and not least with the decision not to renew Lionel Messi's contract. Neymar is also effectively for sale.

"Kylian Mbappe is the jewel in PSG's crown but its FC Hollywood approach is changing

When I stood by the pitch at the Parc des Princes in May last year and watched as Kylian Mbappé was photographed alongside Paris St-Germain president Nasser Al-Khelaifi having signed his new contract, no-one expected this summer's potentially huge transfer

saga.

It was disingenuous of PSG and Mbappé to have the two men holding a shirt with "Mbappé 2025" printed on the back given the deal he signed only guaranteed the forward would stay until 2024 with an option for another 12 months weighted in his favour.

Now even that guarantee has been shredded with Mbappé and PSG involved in an unedifying dispute as to who and how the news he is not extending his deal was leaked. PSG's reaction is to, understandably, suggest Mbappé will be sold this summer because they cannot surely allow arguably the world's most valuable player to leave for nothing.

Mbappé's response? He reacted on social media to a report in Le Parisien claiming he wants to join Real Madrid now and said it was "lies" and he would be seeing out the remainder of his deal.

It means we are facing the most extraordinary of stand-offs which has left PSG in a state of shock as to what happens next. Their carefully laid plans to build their team around the 24-year-old, the local boy from Bondy, the captain of France, is left in tatters.

They even face the prospect of starting next season not just without Lionel Messi but without Mbappé and given they would happily sell Neymar, possibly the Brazilian superstar also. From having the highest-profile, big-name front three they would be without any of them.

In the end PSG were relieved to see Messi go. Their intentions to get him to stay on changed and they reasoned they were better off without him and could use the money for his high wages elsewhere. Similarly, Neymar, although the problem there is he has a contract that runs for four more years, taking him up to 35. So good luck moving him on.

But Mbappé? Mbappé was different. He was the jewel. He was the present as well as the future for a club that has come in for so much criticism over its FC Hollywood approach as it chased success with big signings.

That is also changing. There is a new strategy that began at the start of last season; a "phase two" in PSG's development because phase one had only taken them so far and at a very high cost.

PSG have laid it out as such: they want to build a team and not a collection of individual players (an admission that they have been guilty of this in the past) although it was

always viewed through the prism of Mbappé being at its vanguard.

The club cite two things: the crop of exciting young players coming through their ranks and the opening next month of their huge, impressive new 74-hectare training ground on the outskirts of Paris which costs £250 million.

They already cite attacking midfielder Warren Zaïre-Emery who last season became the youngest goalscorer in PSG's history at 16 years and 331 days, and 17-year-old defender El Chadaille Bitshiabu. Both have played in the Champions League.

There is midfielder Ismaël Gharbi and striker Ilyes Housni plus Mbappé's brother Ethan, Noha Lemina, both midfielders and right-back Yoram Zague. All are teenagers and all were born or grew up in Paris.

The approach is partly also driven by necessity. PSG's finances are tight; they are on Uefa's radar and have to be careful – after being fined and warned – not to breach their financial sustainability rules.

It is why talk of them making really, really big money moves – such as a bid for the Real Madrid-bound Jude Bellingham – was always out of the question although should Mbappé and Neymar go then obviously the landscape changes.

PSG point to a change of transfer policy. Messi's contract was not renewed and neither was Sergio Ramos's while they are hoping to appoint a new coach soon to replace Christophe Galtier. Negotiations are ongoing to bring in Julian Nagelsmann who, interestingly, did his best work under the 'Red Bull' approach at RB Leipzig where only young players were bought and the biggest transfer fee was just over €20 million.

Most intriguing of all, new investment is on its way. PSG's Qatari owners, QSI, are planning to sell a minority stake, up to 15 per cent, which values the club at around four billion euros. A major driver for that is to help move to a new stadium with Stade de France a possibility.

But all of this, while suggesting the club is in a robust state and moving forward, was with Mbappé at its centre. Paris hosts the Olympics next year and the nation and the organisers want its poster boy to be part of the football team and part of the city; part of PSG.

Now no-one knows what will happen although surely there cannot be 12 months of accusation and counterclaim over Mbappé's future. He has been here before, of course, and only signed his present deal when he was weeks away from being out of contract and seemingly heading for Madrid. Or so they thought.

Madrid would appear to be his endgame again. Last year, after posing on the pitch, he arrived at the Salon Bastille inside the stadium for our interview and revealed how he had called Real president Florentino Pérez personally to break the news to him that he was staying and that French president Emmanuel Macron had helped persuade him.

As Mbappé spoke, the noise of hundreds of PSG fans congregated outside in the teeming rain singing his name could be heard. In a side full of superstars, with Messi and Neymar, he was indisputably the club's most important player. Now those fans will feel betrayed.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Mbappe triggers bitter contract row with PSG in effort to leave

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Allrounder Salum Jumbe of e-Parking-backed Aces squad (R) receives the Colourflex Man of the Match award from James Prevost, Director of Remax Tanzania, following the team's victory over Alliance Caravans in a 2023 Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament on Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

Aces outfit wallops Alliance Caravans in 2023 Petrofuel DC Caravans Cup

By Guardian Reporter

IN a surprising turn of events in the 2023 Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament, the e-Parking-backed Aces squad pulled off a stunning victory against the tournament favourites and hosts, Alliance Caravans.

With an exceptional batting display, the e-Parking-backed Aces outfit comfortably chased down the target set by Alliance Caravans, securing their place in the next stage of the tournament.

Alliance Caravans won the toss and elected to bat first, hoping to capitalize on the home-ground advantage.

However, their batting line-up failed to live up to expectations. The team struggled immensely, with eight batsmen scoring in single digits.

Skipper Jitin Pratap Singh and vice-captain Akhil Anil fought a lone battle, contributing 15 runs off 17 deliveries and 24 runs off 23 deliveries, respectively. Their efforts were commendable but not enough to salvage the innings.

The e-Parking-backed Aces outfit showcased their bowling prowess and unleashed an onslaught on the Alliance Caravans batsmen.

Ally Mpeka led the charge, claiming two crucial wickets and stifling the opposition's progress.

Notably, every bowler from the e-Parking Aces side managed to take a wicket, collectively dominating the Alliance Caravans line-up.

Alliance Caravans' dismal performance resulted in their meager total of 92 runs, with the team getting bowled out in just 19.3 overs.

The unexpected collapse left the home crowd in disbelief and raised questions about the team's overconfidence.

In response, e-Parking Aces made easy work of the chase, reaching the target in just 10.3 overs.

Opener Kelvin Mapunda anchored the innings brilliantly, remaining unbeaten with a well-constructed 39 runs off 31 deliveries.

His composed knock laid the foundation for the victory and earned him the Rickshaw Game Changer of the Match Award.

Salum Jumbe provided the finishing touches with a quick-fire 23 runs off just eight balls, adding to the team's successful chase. This, along with his disciplined bowling spell earned him the Colourflex Man of the Match Award.

With this win, the e-Parking-backed Aces squad not only secured their qualification for the next stage of the Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 show-down but also dealt a shocking blow to the tournament favourites, Alliance Caravans. The unexpected defeat resulted in the hosts' early exit from the competition, highlighting the perils of overconfidence in the game of cricket.

The Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 showdown continues to captivate fans with its unpredictability and thrilling encounters. e-Parking Aces outfit's remarkable victory serves as a reminder that in cricket, no team can be taken lightly, and every match holds the potential for surprises.

The Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup is an annual T20-formatted cricket competition organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of this tournament. Other sponsors include Alliance Insurance, Colourflex, TATA Africa Holdings, ASAS, Rickshaw Travels, RAS Logistics, Pepsi, e-Parking, Remax, Flashnet, and Aurobindo.

Others are Azania Bank, Jiuzhou, All Season Hotel, General Petroleum, Automark, Hisense, Oman Air, Ashton Media, Mo Assurance, Aucom & Harmonic, and Car & General.

Horizon Teleports, Aone Bottlers, Samsonite, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Euro Cables, VL Smart Solutions, Mobidoc, GI Logistics, Delta Africa, UMC International, The Works, and Tanzania Assurance wind up the sponsors' list.

Alliance Caravans lifted the 2022 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament's trophy following the outfit's four-wicket drubbing of Aurobindo Aga Khan SC in the final.

Mubiru blames Mbeya City FC's slim win over KMC FC on poor finishing

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MBEYA City FC head coach Abdallah Mubiru says the poor conversion rate of his strikers is to be faulted for the outfit's slim 2-1 home win over Kinondoni Municipal Council FC in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League first-leg playoff game at Sokoine Stadium on Tuesday afternoon.

A well-taken strike by speedy winger Gasper Mwaipasi in the third minute of play gave hosts Mbeya City FC an early lead.

The goal gave Mbeya City FC improved confidence and they played with more command, powered by the partisan home crowd.

Goal-getter Sixtus Sabilo converted from the spot kick to double the hosts' lead on the half-hour mark.

After the break, Mbeya City FC and the squad's head coach Mubiru made changes as they tried to go for a big victory, but they could not get their act together in the final third.

Instead, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC was the one which rallied back late in the game.

Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's defender Abdul Hillary managed to convert from the spot kick with four minutes of normal stoppage time to go.

Speaking after the game, Mubiru stated that he believes they gave their all but could have scored more goals if his players had taken their chances in the game.

"I can say that my players have done everything they can but everyone has his limits. They have worked hard but we have missed scoring just like we normally do," the Ugandan gaffer stated.

"In the game of football, there are certain things that we see, big teams are going to buy good goal-scoring players to aid their cause."

"We are missing too many goals. We play well, we create chances but scoring is the problem. It's not something you can make, you can practice but that player must have goal-scoring instincts."

Mubiru revealed: "We are missing a lot of goals but the players are working very hard and we are going to prepare to make sure we defend our victory to see if we can get a good result."

Kinondoni Municipal Council FC will host the second leg on Friday with the aggregate winner staying in the NBC Premier League while the loser gets another to fight for playoff status in a promotion and relegation playoffs with Championship League's side, Kigoma's Mashujaa FC.

While in many leagues the top three teams are automatically promoted and the bottom three are relegated, Tanzania's top two tiers only have two automatic movers between the divisions, while a two-legged play-off system is used to determine whether a third club stays up or goes down.

Singida Big Stars sold, renamed



Fountain Gate Academy's Executive Director, Japhet Makau (L), speaks to the press in Dar es Salaam yesterday when announcing his institution's purchase of an NBC Premier League club, Singida Big Stars. The outfit will be known as Singida Fountain Gate FC. Others are Singida Big Stars' officials, Board of Directors member John Kadutu (C), and Chief Executive Officer Olebile Sikwane. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SINGIDA Big Stars FC has officially been sold to Fountain Gate Academy.

The name will officially change Singida Big Stars Club to Singida Fountain Gate FC as of the beginning of the new season.

The club's sale, for an undisclosed price, is the second. The Singida-based club has, for that matter, twice changed hands since its inception.

Singida Big Stars started as DTB FC before it was sold and rebranded at the end of last season upon topflight promotion.

The ambitious club that finished fourth in the just-ended NBC Premier League season will now be under its president Japhet Makau, who owns a chain of schools known as Fountain Gate, and also owns Fountain Gate FC.

In an agreement by both parties, the team shall remain in Singida and honour its domestic games at Liti Stadium.

Makau confirmed the news during the official announcement ceremony at Serena Hotel in Dar es

Salaam yesterday.

Makau noted: "I want to assure the people of Singida that the team will continue to belong to them, we will continue to involve them and ensure that the team does well in Singida. Singida Big Stars have done great things."

"I take this opportunity to congratulate the CEO and his entire team as well as the board for the great work they have done during the period they have led the club," the official noted.

The official insisted: "As the outgoing speaker pointed out, finishing in the top four is one of the greatest achievements. It was the topflight debut, so it is a great achievement. This means that some people are doing well in Singida and we respect that."

Makau also addressed concerns about the future of Fountain Gate FC, which is in the Championship League, by assuring Gairo residents the club will neither cease operations or relocate away from Morogoro.

"Discussions continue to see how we can facilitate the team to keep existing. I assure the residents of Gairo that the team will continue to exist. Fountain Gate FC will continue to exist, we are talking to Tanzania Football Federation leaders to see how it can continue to exist legally,"

he pointed out.

The Singida Fountain Gate president revealed the side will be run by a board comprising eight members and also announced Olobile Sikwane from Botswana as the club's newly appointed Chief Executive Officer.

"In making sure that we are going to create a professional club, the first responsibility is to make sure that we have a board that is going to manage the operation of the Singida Fountain Gate team," Makau disclosed.

"I believe the people we have chosen will help us to ensure that we achieve the big goals that we have," the official noted.

The official concluded: "The club will be run by a board made up of nine members led by the president. I will be the president of the club, I will have a board of eight people that I will work with."



In making sure that we are going to create a professional club, the first responsibility is to make sure that we have a board that is going to manage the operation of the Singida Fountain Gate team

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV WEDNESDAY **TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 MJADALA (r)
13:30 Movie
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 Movie
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
16:00 Hot Spot
16:30 Zote Kuntu
17:00 SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid Week Movie
23:00 KURASA
23:05 Club Bangers

UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

east africa RADIO
06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM