

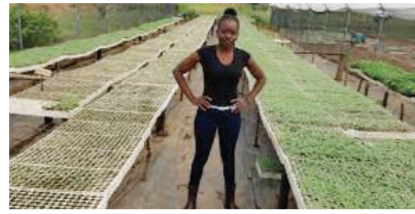


INFRASTRUCTURE



UAE, INDIAN PORTS SEAL PACT ON TANZANIA **PAGES**

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Goods prices double after transporters hike charges

By Guardian Reporter

PRICES of food products in various markets across the city of Dar es Salaam were on an upward trend following a sharp rise in fuel prices.

A survey by this paper in the big markets of Buguruni, Kisutu and Mabibo found that costs of transporting goods from farms to markets has also gone up, with retailers pushing up prices.

Even prices of products that usually drop during the harvest season remained high as traders explain the situation pointing at fuel prices.

Mbidu Mbidu, a green pepper trader at Kisutu market said a kilogramme of the product is now at 7000/-, from 4000/- earlier, noting that the product often sells as low as 2000/- but now it fetches 7000/-.

Another trader, Masoud Shabani said sardines were selling at 7000/- per kilo but now traders ask for 10,000/- "which has never been seen in recent years."

Another trader, Hassan Zungu selling bananas at Mabibo market said a bunch of the crop which was sold at 15,000/- is now being sold at 30,000/-.

"Prices of food items are rising rapidly. We do not know what the price will be tomorrow; one banana was sold at 250/- and has now risen to 500/-, prices in many chip selling centres have risen. Life is so hard," he said.

Daniel Kagute, a rice trader at Buguruni market, said he had to raise the price so as to

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National parks, hotels 'flooded' with tourists

● Zitto Kabwe says Tanzania could earn \$3bn this year

By Guardian Reporter

FOREIGN visitors streaming into the country's airports, hotels and wildlife parks are increasing by leaps and bounds, with tourism sector officials saying it is the result of 'The Royal Tour' documentary that is completing the first round of being unveiled around the world.

The film starring President Samia Suluhu Hassan translated into live images what was being shown on exhibitions by the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) and the various national parks, showing outsiders the scenes in the country.

With big numbers of foreign tourists in the northern parts of the country tour companies face transport challenges to take them on a roving tour of national parks, while an equally impressive influx of tourists was being reported in Zanzibar.

Tourism stakeholders say this is usually a modest period in tourist arrivals, but the number of tourists had vastly increased compared to last year.

Arafat Haji, director of the Zanzibar Insurance Corporation (ZIC), said the Isles are flooded with tourists, advising the government to invest in expansion of key infrastructures like airports and ports to manage the increase in tourist inflows.

"As we continue promoting our tourist attractions, we should also consider expanding landing infrastructure, to ensure a conducive environment to attract more visitors," he said.

ACT Wazalendo party leader Zitto Kabwe wrote in his twitter account that Arusha is

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A National Insurance Corporation official briefs National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (R) yesterday on NIC's agriculture and livestock insurance services. This was at the corporation's pavilion at the on-going Nane Nane exhibitions in Mbeya city. Third left is Agriculture deputy minister Anthony Mavunde. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Chinese, Omani firms drop out of Bagamoyo port talks

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is currently looking for potential investors to take up the Bagamoyo Port project in Coast Region after China Merchants Holdings (International) Co Ltd (CMHI) and Oman Investment Authority (OIA) both withdrew.

With an interim accord reached in 2013, the construction of the \$10bn (22.3trn/-) port facility has been hit by discord on the preliminary agreement, with government agencies failing to reach accords with the Chinese, the Omanis and failing to take notice of French investors' interest expressed during a visit by President Samia Suluhu Hassan back in February.

The sixth phase government has shown zeal to revive the project but negotiation guidelines appear to be inadequate, despite President Samia often blaming top officials for 'dilly

dallying' in negotiations until they tire out and withdraw.

Traditionally the legislature and senior government officials blame foreign companies when there is a dispute in relation to this or that contract or tender but a different tonality is taking hold during the sixth phase.

All the same the pattern seems to linger on as there was a possibility of an accord being reached with either the Chinese as original bidders or the Omanis as a late entrant, or even taking up the French offer into discussions.

The tone of the minister for Works and Transport, Prof Makame Mbarawa was that the government is opening the doors to interested bidders for the project, the previous discussions having totally failed.

This was the impression created in the press conference yesterday in Dar es Salaam when responding to questions from journalists as he sought to highlight priorities of the ministry and pursuit of various projects.

Reasons leading to both potential investors to withdraw were not disclosed, with the minister laying accent on the need for more committed investors. They will be found to run the essential project in the country, he stated.

"We are starting afresh to find other potential investors who will be interested in the project as the government's zeal to build the port has not



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi bids farewell at Zanzibar State House yesterday to Ambassador Dr Suleiman Haji Suleiman, Tanzania's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, with whom he had earlier held talks. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Z'bar police assured of logistical support

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

STATE authorities in Zanzibar will make sure the police force there has adequate means of transport and communications equipment to carry out their daily duties.

President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi made the pledge during discussions with the newly appointed head of the police force in Zanzibar, Commissioner of Police Hamad Khamis Hamad who went to the State House for introduction.

The president said that despite the Union Government having direct responsibility for the police force, including transport and communications issues, the Zanzibar authorities wish to address challenges regarding the shortages of vehicles and communications equipment the force faces in Zanzibar, to operate smoothly.

Lauding CP Hamad for being entrusted with leading the force in the Isles, he said the new police chief has immense experience and knows well Zanzibar, including the crime scene there.

Earlier, CP Hamad appealed to the president to look into the possibility of getting vehicles and communications equipment to improve ability of the force to carry out its duties, to set higher goals in eradicating crime.

Limitations of vehicle availability and communications equipment hamper efforts to

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Z'bar police assured of logistical support

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improve police presence in the wake of crime incidents, failing to arrive at the right time.

The commander said police in Zanzibar were building residential quarters for regional police commanders for north and south of

the city, Mkokotoni police station and refurbishing police quarters at Ziwani.

Paying gratitude to President Samia Suluhu Hassan and to the Isles leader, the commissioner stressed that he would work with various government institutions and SMZ special units to fight crime in the Isles.

Chinese, Omani firms drop out of Bagamoyo port talks

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changed," he said.

"It is true that we have been talking about the Bagamoyo port for a long time now, and discussions were going very well with some investors but things didn't go as we expected. They have decided to withdraw," he said, affirmatively.

The construction of Bagamoyo port is vital because in the coming years Dar es Salaam port will fail to accommodate increasing cargo and the new port will rescue the situation. It will improve port handling capacity "so we need to construct this port as fast as we can," he said.

Current port expansion focuses on constructing berths 8-11 at the Dar es Salaam port, along with berths number 1 and 2 at the port of Tanga, he said.

No stakeholders had as yet expressed themselves on the matter,

but some analysts saw it surprising that negotiators were unable to reach an accord with firms from China or Oman, countries with which Tanzania has a long history of bilateral, cultural and strategic relations.

Signs that negotiations were not proceeding appeared on the horizon before the budget session of the legislature, when deputy minister Atupele Mwakibete appealed for more investors to propose tenders for the project.

The Chinese firm reached preliminary accord with the fourth phase government in 2013 but some provisions appeared too stringent to obtain legislative approval, in like manner as debate has raged in Kenya on terms of construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), tying down port facilities in case debt repayment slackened a provision that has since been withdrawn.

Improve performance in project execution to gain government's trust, Kattanga urges engineers

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

CHIEF Secretary, Ambassador Hussein Katanga has called on local engineers to improve their performances in project implementations in effort to gain more trust.

He said the government appreciates the efforts of local consulting engineers as they are doing a good job in overseeing a number of construction projects thus insisting on high performance.

In a speech read on his behalf by the deputy permanent secretary in the ministry of works and transport, Ludovick Nduhiye during the 36th annual Association of Consulting Engineers of Tanzania (ACET), the CS maintained that by doing so, local engineers will be able to win international tenders too.

He expressed the government's commitment to support and empower consulting engineers so that they would be part and parcel of the strategic projects and contribute to the national economic development.

"We will engage the local consulting engineers in the strategic projects to support them grow and bring positive impact to the national economy," he insisted.

However, he called for performance and standards in the projects undertaking saying by doing so they will showcase their prowess in the industry. He used the platform to remind ACET of their noble role of registering

and mobilise implementation of the members task that will bring about more productivity, competence and observe code of conduct.

Ambassador Katanga wanted the ACET members to shy away from corrupt practices as they are a reason behind substandard and shoddy works thus having projects that do not bear value for money.

Moreover, he assured them of opportunities as the government is undertaking a number of projects in all sectors thus being ready to tap such chances when in place.

The meeting chairman, Eng Ngwisa Mpenbe commended the government for availing them of the opportunity as the local consulting engineers are enjoying the national cake now more than ever when such chances were awarded to foreign firms.

By such engagement, he said, they gain more expertise and confidence so that when the experts leave the country, the local consulting firms can do the job.

He urged the government for more capacity building to the local engineers and consultants as they are cost effective so that in future they can run the strategic projects in collaboration with the foreign partners and value for money will be attained.

Further, Eng Farida Mawanya, who also doubles as ACET Treasurer said they will undertake a special programme on leadership to women engineers and consultants as there are few in the industry.

WHO: Healthy life expectancy in Africa rises by almost ten years

BRAZZAVILLE

HEALTHY life expectancy in the African region has increased on average by 10 years per person between 2000 and 2019, a World Health Organization (WHO) assessment reports.

This rise is greater than in any other region of the world during the same period. The report also notes that the disruptive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic could threaten these huge gains.

The Tracking Universal Health Coverage in the WHO African Region 2022 report shows that healthy life expectancy—or the number of years an individual is in a good state of health—increased to 56 years in 2019, compared with 46 in 2000. While still well below the global average of 64, over the same period, global healthy

life expectancy increased by only five years.

Improvements in the provision of essential health services, gains in reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, as well as progress in the fight against infectious diseases—thanks to the rapid scale-up of HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria control measures from 2005—helped to extend healthy life expectancy. On average, essential health service coverage improved to 46% in 2019, compared with 24% in 2000. The most significant achievements were in preventing and treating infectious diseases, but this was offset by the dramatic rise in hypertension, diabetes and other noncommunicable diseases and the lack of health services targeting these diseases.



Wentworth Resources Plc CEO Katherine Roe (L) addresses journalists at yesterday's launch in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of the firm's Sustainability Development Report for last year. Others (from 2nd-L) are Wentworth Gas Ltd resident director Richard Tainton, board member Juliet Kairuki and Wentworth Tanzania president Bob McBean. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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full of tourists, suggesting that "Tanzania will probably set a record by earning \$3bn, equivalent to 7trn/- from tourism alone."

"We may get \$3bn this year. With high oil prices, this is a big boost to our economy. However we need to improve infrastructure to achieve the \$8bn target," he stated.

"We may cross \$3bn this year," the suave political leader exclaimed, pitching the post with INFLOWS! INFLOWS!.. to underline the surprising turnout of foreign visitors.

Reports indicate that Ngorongoro, Serengeti, Kilimanjaro, Arusha and

National parks, hotels 'flooded' with tourists

Zanzibar entry points are flooded with tourists, such that rooms in hotels appear insufficient to cope with the demand.

Paul Molle, a tour vehicle driver in Arusha said he had never previously experienced a situation like this. "I have never seen huge numbers of tourists in Arusha like this since I was born," he said, praising the documentary initiative on the part of President Samia.

Mwanza airport manager Pascal Kalumbete said the documentary has effectively marketed the country's

tourist attractions, and thus the airport is receiving far more passengers than was the case earlier.

Extending the runway from 3,300 meters length to 3,800 meters facilitated small and big planes to land at the facility and complement government efforts to raise the number of visitors to five million by 2025.

Tourism analyst Johnson Masanja suggested the need to improve airport facilities to ease the way for airlines using large commercial planes to plan trips to any of our entry points.

Last year, Tanzania earned \$1.4bn

from tourism and now some industry analysts are saying the earnings could be doubled.

Gerson Msigwa, the chief government spokesman, said this on August 1 when a Dutch KLM plane brought in upwards of 250 tourists at the Kilimanjaro International airport (KIA).

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) says that the number of tourists increased to 458,048 in first five months of the year compared to 317,270 visitors from January to May 2021, a 44.4 per cent increase.



James Mlowe (L), public relations manager with the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF), Public Relations Manager, pictured yesterday outlining the quality of the ginger powder processed by small-scale ginger growers at Mamba Miamba village in Same District, Kilimanjaro Region. He was briefing a visitor to the PSSSF pavilion at the Nane Nane agricultural Fair in progress in Mbeya city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Goods prices double after transporters hike charges

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at least get a little profit.

"The rice earlier sold at 1900/- now fetches 2,700/-, making expenses of life just too high. Transport is also up, so if you sell at a low price you will not be able to cater for daily needs," he said.

Some retailers for routine needs like tomatoes, carrots, onions and vegetables said they are also compelled

to raise the price as they buy at high prices from wholesalers.

Neema Mrisho said they were previously buying a big bucket of tomatoes at 25,000/- to 35,000/- and reselling at 1,500/- to 2,500/- per kilo but the bucket now fetches 45,000/- so one kg has climbed to 5,000/- or 6,000/-

A consumer, Mwajuma Shabani said prices of essential goods have tripled,

urging that the government look into ways of controlling this price spiral.

Babu Ali, a fried potatoes vendor, said he was ditching bananas due to the high prices, so the menu for customers will be altered. "We were purchasing one banana at 250/- and selling at 500/- but the price has now increased to 500/- at the market and I will have to sell the banana at 1000/-," he said, figuring out that this will not be

swallowed by his customers.

Watabili Kigula, a truck driver plying the Dar es Salaam - Mbeya route, said lorry operators have hiked transportation dues for one tonne from 1.9m/- to 2.2m/-.

Rems Chonzi, another cargo hauling driver on the Iringa - Dar es Salaam route said his asking charge for a tonne of cargo shot up from 900,000/- to 1.1m/-.



Mkuranga district commissioner Khadija Nasri Ali (2nd-L) and NMB Bank Plc's Mkuranga branch manager, Peter Msaki (4th-R), officiate at the 'Mwalimu spesho' conference held in Mkuranga District earlier this week. With them are NMB senior manager (personal banking) Ally Ngingite, NMB Dar es Salaam zone manager Donatus Richard and Mkuranga district executive director Mwantum Mgonja. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AD, Adani Ports, SEZ Limited enter into strategic investments in industrial and port activities

ABU DHABI, UAE

AD Ports Group yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian-based Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd for strategic joint investments in end-to-end logistics infrastructure and solutions, which include rail, maritime services, port operations, digital services, an industrial zone and the establishment of maritime academies in Tanzania.

The two companies signed the key agreement setting in motion a series of potential country-level investments to grow, improve, and promote an end-to-end maritime and logistics ecosystem which will make Tanzania a hub for the African region.

Capt. Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, Managing Director and Group CEO, AD Ports Group, said: "This MoU with Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd is significant in its impact on both Tanzania's ability to transform itself into an African trading hub, as well as our ability to further develop our global capabilities and connections that will bring goods to market faster and more efficiently."

"Our strategic investment in Tanzania in infrastructure and solutions will enable international

companies to enter African markets. In line with the direction of the UAE's leadership, we are positioning Abu Dhabi as a global leader in logistics and industry."

Karan Adani, CEO of Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd, said: "We are pleased to be partnering with AD Ports Group in the development of key quality infrastructure in Tanzania especially in the ports and maritime sector, which will improve and bring about positive change in the communities, standing by our commitment to growth with goodness. We continue to support local employment, as well as general economic growth in Tanzania and East African countries that will benefit from our investments through the collaboration with AD Ports Group."

AD Ports Group, the leading facilitator of global trade, logistics, and industry, that was established in 2006, serving as the region's premier facilitator of logistics, industry, and trade, as well as a bridge linking Abu Dhabi to the world.

AD Ports Group's vertically integrated business approach has proven instrumental in driving the emirate's economic development over the past decade.

Tanzania, China vow to cement bilateral ties

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and China yesterday vowed to cement bilateral relations between them to form the core values of friendly cooperation and solidarity for the interests and development of both countries.

Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation said this in Dar

es Salaam during her discussion with Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian.

Amb Mulamula said their discussion also aimed at recognising strong relations and emphasised there was a need for other countries to respect each other.

"Tanzania is committed to making Tanzania-China relations a benchmark for Africa-China ties. We

will continue to adhere to the one-China principle, firmly support China's legitimate position, support China in safeguarding its core interests," said Amb Mulamula

Amb Mingjian said China has always enjoyed the existing historical friendship with Tanzania and that the exemplary friendship is out of mutual respect for one another.

"We really cherish the cooperation

between Tanzania and China. It is built on strong and unshakeable foundations. China would continue reiterating its commitment to strengthening the excellent bilateral relations with Tanzania," said Amb Mingjian.

Tanzania and China bilateral relations began early in 1960s when the two countries initiated diplomatic relations on December 9, 1961.



We will continue to adhere to the one-China principle, firmly support China's legitimate position, support China in safeguarding its core interests

KUPOTEA KWA PASIPOTI YA KUSAFIRIA



IBRAHIM SAPI MKWAWA anatangaza kupotelewa na pasipoti ya kusafiria yenye namba za usajili TAE 27444 iliyotolewa na wizara ya mambo ya ndani ya nchi-UHAMIAJI DAR ES SALAAM mwaka 2018. yeyote atakayeikota atoe taarifa kituo chochote cha polisi. Polisi taarifa WMB/RB/431/2022



KCB Group Plc to Acquire DRC-Based Lender Trust Merchant Bank (TMB)

The transaction will see KCB acquire 85% of the DRC-based lender.

2nd August 2022. KCB Group Plc has entered into a definitive agreement with shareholders of TMB to acquire a majority stake in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)-based lender. The transaction is expected to close by the end of the third quarter of 2022, subject to regulatory, shareholders and other approvals. This will see KCB acquire 85% of the shares in TMB while the existing shareholders will continue to hold the balance for a period of not less than 2 years after which, KCB will acquire their shares. KCB will pay a cash consideration for the shares determined based on the net asset value of TMB at completion of the proposed transaction, and using a price to book multiple of 1.49.

TMB, a public company limited by shares, is one of DRC's largest banks with US\$1.5 billion in total assets. TMB has a strong offering in Retail, SME, Corporate and Digital banking channels. It has over 110 branches and numerous agency banking outlets spread across DRC. This acquisition is aligned with the Group's strategic focus of scaling its regional presence. Once completed, this acquisition will complement KCB Group's regional footprint with an asset base of KShs. 1.5 Trillion (USD 12.6 billion) and is expected to strengthen the Group's Retail and Corporate banking franchises.

"This is part of our ongoing strategy to tap into opportunities for new growth while investing in and maximizing returns from the Group's existing businesses. It gives us strong headroom to accelerate our growth ambitions to deliver better value for our shareholders and to bolster the push for deeper financial inclusion and social and economic transformation in Africa and beyond. We are excited that we can now play a role in catalyzing DRC's and indeed East Africa's economic expansion agenda," said Andrew Wambari Kairu, KCB Group Chairman.

"We are very excited about the opportunities KCB offers in this transaction and we are proud to bring our unique DRC insights and experience to the KCB Group. We believe that by combining our local knowledge and standing with the size and expertise of KCB Group, we should be able to increase market share and shareholder value through unlocking our synergies and business opportunities," said Robert Levy, TMB Chairman.

With the acquisition, TMB customers will benefit from best-in-class digital capabilities, transactional banking solutions, trade finance expertise and access to regional business opportunities offered by KCB Group. TMB will give KCB Group access to Africa's second-largest country with a population of over 93 million people.

In the three months ending March 2022, KCB Group PLC profit after tax surged 54.6% to KShs. 9.9 billion. This rise from KShs. 6.4 billion in a similar period last year was boosted by growth in total income and reduction in loan loss provision. Revenues increased by 26.0% to KShs. 29.0 billion on account of an increase in interest income, increase in non-funded income from lending activities and service fees and a 21.1% rise in earning assets.

About KCB Group PLC

KCB Group Plc is East Africa's largest financial services organization that was established in 1896 in Kenya. Over the years, the Group has grown and spread its wings into Tanzania, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Ethiopia. KCB Group also owns the National Bank of Kenya, a Kenyan lender.

Today KCB has the largest branch network in the region with 492 branches, 1,178 ATMs and over 25,496 merchants and agents offering banking services on a 24/7 basis in East Africa. Additionally, KCB Group owns KCB Bancassurance Intermediary Limited, KCB Capital Limited, KCB Foundation and Kencom House Limited as non-banking businesses. This is complemented by mobile banking and internet banking services with 24-hour contact center services for our customers to get in touch with the Bank. KCB has a vast network of correspondent relationships totaling over 200 banks across the globe, and our customers are assured of a seamless facilitation of their international trade requirements wherever they are.

About Trust Merchant Bank SA

Established in 2004, TMB is today one of the leading financial services providers in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). A pioneer in financial inclusion, TMB is home to the largest client base of any bank operating in the DRC as well as the country's largest branch network. Widely recognized as an innovator in the Congolese banking sector, TMB was the first bank in the market to introduce mobile banking services, and more recently the first to launch lease financing. Additionally, TMB owns the life insurance company Afrissur SA, one of only three life insurance companies in the country.

KCB Group Plc

Directors: A. W. Kairu (Chairman); P. R. Russo; L. K. Kiambi; C. S. – National Treasury; L. M. Njiru; Mrs. A. O. Eriksson; A. R. M. Mohamed; Dr. J. O Bagaka; Mrs. A. M. Kirenge.



KCB Group PLC Chairman Andrew Wambari Kairu and Oliver Meisenberg, the Chief Executive Officer Trust Merchant Bank (TMB) sign documents earlier today during a ceremony where KCB signed a definitive agreement to acquire a majority stake at TMB. TMB is a commercial bank based in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). They are flanked by from left TMB Deputy CEO, Alexandre Mandeiro, KCB Group CEO Paul Russo, KCB Group CFO, Lawrence Kimathi and TMB Shareholder Christian Kabila. The acquisition is aligned to the Group's bid to scale its regional presence and access to the new Member of the East African Community.



KCB Group PLC Chairman Andrew Wambari Kairu and Oliver Meisenberg, the Chief Executive Officer Trust Merchant Bank (TMB) exchanging documents earlier today during a ceremony where KCB signed a definitive agreement to acquire a majority stake at TMB. TMB is a commercial bank based in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The acquisition is aligned to the Group's bid to scale its regional presence and access to the new Member of the East African Community.



KCB Group PLC CEO Paul Russo, KCB Group Chairman Andrew Wambari Kairu and Oliver Meisenberg, the Chief Executive Officer Trust Merchant Bank (TMB) pose for a photo earlier today during a ceremony where KCB signed a definitive agreement to acquire a majority stake at TMB. TMB is a commercial bank based in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The acquisition is aligned to the Group's bid to scale its regional presence and access to the new Member of the East African Community.

Mwinyi wants number of passes in national examinations to increase

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has said his government's intention is to see the number of students who passes in national examinations for Zanzibar schools to increase.

President Mwinyi made the remarks here on Wednesday this week at the luncheon he hosted to students who did well in National Form IV Examinations in 2021 and those in national Form VI Examinations in 2022.

Dr Mwinyi said his government will continue investing in the education sector in regard to the construction of infrastructures for the education sector as well as provision of both teaching and learning tools and teachers training.

He pledged to provide laptops to all Form IV and VI students who scored Division One in both Unguja and Pemba.

President Mwinyi told the students who passed their Form VI examinations that they will be provided with loans for their Higher Education and stressed that the government will make sure it puts in place better environment for the loans board and that they can also apply for loans from both loans boards - the Zanzibar and mainland loan boards.

He stressed the need for the ministry of education to organise inter schools, inter districts, and inter regions competitions saying competition brings better results.

In recognising students' efforts, President Mwinyi provided scholarship sponsorship to 30 better performing students in their examinations to continue with studies in various universities.

He also showered praise to private schools that have performed well and eased the government burden in public schools.

Meanwhile, the Minister for Education and Vocational Training Leila Mohamed Mussa explained that her ministry's strategies in boosting the education sector and called on Form IV and VI students who scored Division One to value all that President Mwinyi has promised them.

The ministry's Permanent Secretary Ali Abdulghulam said that all these achievements were made possible through cooperation by ministry officials, teachers and parents.

He said in the national Form IV Examinations held in November 2021 and whose results were announced in January 2022 a total of 15,569 students sat and 4,403 were successful to enter Form V in July 2022.

He further said in the National Form VI Examinations held in May this year and results announced in July a total of 3,683 sat for the examination and 3,644 qualified to continue with higher learning institutions within and outside the Isles.

He said out of these students, 693 scored Division One out of who 542 students attended the luncheon hosted by President Mwinyi.



Peter Mwamala (2nd-R), Eximbank Tanzania's Mbeya Branch manager, shares ideas yesterday with agricultural stakeholders who visited the bank's pavilion at the on-going Nanenane agricultural exhibitions in Mbeya city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Majaliwa launches BBT-YIA programme

By Gerald Kitabu, Mbeya

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has launched a youth programme known as Building a Better Tomorrow-Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA) costing 10bn/-.

Its main goal is to enhance the engagement of youth in the agricultural sector for sustainable and improved livelihoods.

The programme's strategic objectives are to inspire the youth through implementing behavior/attitude changing communication strategies, empower the youth through training mentoring and coaching, engage the youth in profitable and sustainable management of agribusinesses, enable youth led-enterprises by improving business environment and coordinate effectively youth agribusiness support initiatives for synergy and efficiency.

Launching the programme, the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa urged the youth in Tanzania to use this opportunity to engage into agribusiness to employ themselves and improve their livelihoods.

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

THE government has promised to continue collaborating with stakeholders in finding solutions to challenges that make the agriculture sector unattractive to youth.

Kilimanjaro Regional Administrative Secretary Willy Machumu made the statement yesterday during an event to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA).

NCA has for the years been working to seek justice and saving lives globally while 15 years presence in Tanzania went together with the peaceful march for mobilising youth to engage themselves in agri-business for sustainable development.

Machumu said that one of strategies will be the establishment of specific platforms at all levels to enable youth to discuss issues and plans for developing agriculture in the country. The platforms will give youth chances to present their views.

"We need agriculture to be considered as a business, it has to be respected like any other businesses," he said, noting the government has an agenda to ensure full participation of youth in economic activities including

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Media Women's Association (TAMWA-Zanzibar) has asked the registrar of political parties Judge Francis Mutungi to initiate a constitutional change in political parties to facilitate gender equality in leadership and representation.

The project manager for TAMWA-Zanzibar Ali Mohamed said despite various initiatives, women have failed to make it into political leadership.

Speaking when opening a consultative meeting held at Tunguu in the Central District of Unguja, stakeholders from various gender empowerment organisations said political parties' constitutions have been the main contributing factors to the matter.

He said the participation of women in political leadership is among issues that have been spoken for a long time without changes saying

"Youth should not hesitate to venture into agriculture because it has a lot of opportunities. Don't worry about where to get capital because the government has issued directives to financial institutions and banks to provide soft loans for entrepreneurs including the youth venturing in agriculture," he said.

He said the youth should make sure they also look for soft loan provided by district councils from own source.

"You can write work plan and if you can't find experts to help you. If you can't get access to experts financial institutions have these experts just go they will help you," he said.

The prime minister said the government want every youth to work hard, not only in white color jobs but also in agriculture.

"I commend the ministry of agriculture for the good work of coming with this unique initiative which involves the youth in agriculture. This programme has its essence in the CCM manifesto under President Samia Suluhu.

Minister for agriculture Husein

Bashe said the BB-YIA is a tool for contributing to the attainment of the agenda 10/30 that envisage increasing the youth employment by one million and obtaining the growth rate of the agricultural sector by 10 percent by 2030.

He said the youth will be allocated land in a block farming prepared and being worked out in different districts and regions in Tanzania. Citing an example he said in this financial year the ministry has set aside 20,000 acres in Dodoma and 46,000 acres in Mbeya making a total of 66,000 acres leave alone in other places in the country.

He said already a total of 600 acres of land have already being cleared and the other 11,000 have started being cleared. "Every year the programme will employ 200,000 in agricultural sector including its value chain.

The development of Building a Better Tomorrow-Youth initiative for agribusiness (BBT-YIA) is a collaborative effort between the government of Tanzania through the ministry of agriculture, private sector and development partners.

Govt vows to work with stakeholders in making agriculture attractive to youths

agriculture as a priority sector.

He said to achieve the goal; the government has set different policies, strategies and programmes.

"Agriculture should not be considered as an activity of people who have failed in life, the Ministry of Agriculture aims to ensure the sector grows by 10 percent by 2030. To achieve this, agriculture has to be considered as a business," he remarked.

NCA County Director, Berte Marie Uliveseter said they have planned a number of events to celebrate the 75th year's anniversary which include taking part in the Haydom Lutheran Hospital's Marathon where 1,400 reusable sanitary pads were distributed to young girls in Mbulu District.

They have also organised a youth agribusiness caravan as part of youth mobilisation in agriculture, Mount Kilimanjaro climbing and a peaceful march to celebrate NCA achievements with interfaith members and other stakeholders.

Berte said that NCA Tanzania has contributed to establishment and

strengthening of 5000 interreligious Community Microfinance Groups (CMGs).

Strengthened 22 paralegal groups to provide legal and referral services to GBV survivors, established more than 100 Public Expenditure Tracking (PETs) committees, strengthened 40 district and regional interfaith committees, empowered more than 500 producer's groups, reached a total of 126,000 people to access to clean and safe water which contributed to decrease of water borne diseases from 89 percent to 35 percent in Haydom and Mbulu districts.

"NCA appreciates the good collaboration with the government, faith leaders and citizens. We look forward to continuing cooperating and collaborating in the future," he said.

Assistant Bishop of Evangelical Lutheran church of Tanzania Northern Diocese (ELCT-ND) Bishop Deogratius Msanya challenged youth to use the intelligence and abilities given by God to solve the unemployment challenges they face.

Initiate parties' constitutional change for gender equality, TAMWA calls on Mutungi

the only remaining thing was to spearhead changes for political party constitutions which will facilitate women participation.

"I believe if political parties constitution will change, it will facilitate women participation and the long time cry will be an old song and women will take charge in political leadership," he said.

Commenting further, participants said there are various challenges even without the constitutional changes women have been subjected to discrimination as well as obscene language.


One of the participants Mohammed Jabir said due to the situation most women decide to further their education which at times increases their confidence.

"Most women fear being discriminated because the sector is dominated by males hence most of them fail where to begin from for fear of discrimination," he said.

According to him, most of them are afraid because of the situation hence make the gender balance unbalanced in the sector.

Together with the challenges, the official said women have a chance to become leaders and they are not supposed to be discouraged by the setbacks which he said can be overcome by creating legal mechanisms which support women.

Another participant Hawa Shamte said for more women to participate there was need for participation from the whole society and not a section of the society as it is the case currently.



REQUEST FOR TENDER

AIRBORNE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

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 service:

Airborne Geophysical Data: Acquisition, processing, and delivery

Pre-qualification Criteria

Reference No.	Description	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	NM/2022/E/01 Fixed-wing airborne time-domain electromagnetic, magnetic and radiometric survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Experience in acquiring, processing, and delivery of large Airborne time domain electromagnetic (TDEM) of 16,000-line km ii. Should have conducted a time domain airborne geophysical survey within the last 1 year from the closing date of EOI and should be in successful operation for a period not less than one year as on the date of closing of EOI iii. Supply of the aircraft and geophysical equipment, with spares sufficient to fly the survey in an expeditious manner iv. Preferred Aircraft – Cessna Supervan 900, Garret TPE – 331-12JR turbine engine with survey equipment and ground support systems. v. Preferred geophysical system specifications – TDEM system with > 85000Am2 peak moment, full waveform data recording. vi. Able to pre-survey, design, planning of flight path and safety criteria. vii. Provision of all materials and support services necessary to carry out the survey, including transportation to the base of operations, aircraft fuel and supplies, airport and navigation fees, crew accommodation, communications, shipping, local vehicle rental, and other field support costs viii. Implementation of a stringent program of in-field and post-survey QA/QC.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ix. Implementation of a stringent safety management system. Must be a member of IAGSA (International Airborne Geophysics Safety Association) x. Acquisition of airborne geophysical data over a specified survey area using appropriate instrumentation, survey methodology, and data correction and processing procedures xi. Compilation and processing of the geophysical data xii. Lead time of delivery – 76 Days
	Field Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A qualified geophysical operator ii. Experienced survey pilot with both abilities to safely fly the aircraft and geophysical instrumentation within survey specifications. iii. An aircraft maintenance engineer

Expression of interest
If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to gmkumbo@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender reference "Airborne Geophysical Survey" along with reference no. in the subject line of the email.

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

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

Key Dates

- The Last date to submit EOI **11th August 2022**

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

TAZARA management approves eight key resolutions

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) Board of Directors has approved eight key resolutions pertaining to the operations including a proposal from management to utilise \$200,000 on immediate operations requirements.

The fund proposed was out of US\$2.4 million granted earlier in the financial year for short-term recapitalization by the Zambian government.

A communiqué statement released yesterday on the occasion of the meeting of the board of directors held from July 29th to August 3rd this year in Dar es Salaam

deliberated on various matters pertaining to the operations.

These were board of directors performance results for the financial year 2021/2022 and the budget for the financial year 2022/2023, business opportunities, open access, digitization, Mununga Quarry, adjustment of passenger train fares, revamping of TAZARA operations and the immediate funding for operations.

The board consisted of permanent secretaries responsible for transport in Tanzania and Zambia, Gabriel Migire and Fredrick Mwalusaka, chairperson and co-chairperson, respectively.

Others were Prof Razack Lokina and Rukia Shamte, board members

from Tanzania and Stephen Mbewe and Nkumbu Siame, representing board members from Zambia.

"As part of the directives of head of states of the two countries met has resolved to form a Joint Technical Committee to harmonize the interests of the two shareholders and develop a position paper for the two governments to find a suitable approach to revamping the operations through the participation of other investors, including the Chinese government," the statement revealed.

A statement further revealed that the board reviewed the performance of the authority for the financial year ended June, 2022 and observed that the accident

at Chambeshi Bridge in Zambia and line wash-always in Tanzania had affected the annual freight performance, which dropped by 3.5 percent compared to the previous financial year.

As a result of the constraints on the line, during the period under review, revenue performance from all sources declined from US\$31.044 million earned in the previous financial year to US\$24.280 million in the year under review.

It further revealed that the board also approved the budget for the financial year 2022/2023 amounting to 450,000 tonnes of freight and 3.4 million passengers.

The total projected revenues for the budget year was expected to be

US\$51,312,500 out of which US\$34,332,010 would come from both freight and passenger services, US\$10,480,490 from other non-traffic revenues, including current open access operations.

According to the statement, the total operating expenditure projected in this year's budget period was US\$ 51,312,500.

Board observed the abundance of freight on the TAZARA corridor market and urged management to expedite the repair of rolling stock and hire locomotives to move

the readily available volumes of cargo.

The board also encouraged TAZARA to devise a short-term plan for purchasing at least two locomotives each year by engaging banks and customers.

Citing open access, the board noted the positive contribution of the private operators plying on the TAZARA line through open access agreements but urged management to ensure that a portion of the revenue from open access fees was channeled towards the repair of the railway infrastructure."



Home Affairs deputy minister Jumanne Sagini (C) has an audience with officers at the Dar es Salaam Police Academy yesterday. He was on an inspection tour of projects at the facility during which he called on police colleges across the country to review their curriculum, with a view to better addressing occupational challenges and serving the national more productively. Photo courtesy of Home Affairs ministry



VACANCY STOREKEEPER

Haven of Peace Academy (HOPAC) is a faith based educational institution founded in 1994 for children of missionaries but has evolved into a Christian international school which has a diverse student's population, children of missionaries and full-time Christian service workers; children of expats working in the non-profit and for-profit sector and children of Tanzanians working in the for-profit and public sectors. The institution is located in Kunduchi at the junction of Salasala Road and Bagamoyo Road in Kinondoni Municipal in Dar es Salaam and is currently inviting applications for a vacancy of a competent experienced and qualified Storekeeper.

JOB SUMMARY
Self-motivated, team player, adaptable and willing to learn with experience working in multicultural settings, committed evangelical Christian, fluent in both English and Swahili.

ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES
The Storekeeper position in one of the key positions in organisation looking on all general and department-specific, routine and daily store activities including activities such as ordering; receiving, binning and issuing; keeping safe office stock of materials and office consumables; managing of school inventory; doing periodic stock taking and related duties as required.

JOB DESCRIPTION

- Ensure on receiving stock/materials, a Good Receiving Note (GRN) should be raised;
- Ensure that, on receiving stocks/materials all are checked for damages and discrepancies before being recorded in respective bin cards;
- Ensure all damages and discrepancies are recorded and reported immediately to the Supervisor;
- Ensure that stocks/materials are issued only with a proper authorized requisition approved by the head of the department;
- Maintain bin cards for all stocks/materials and use of GRN and Requisition Note are properly recorded on receiving and issuing respectively;
- Ensure that proper stock levels are maintained such as maximum, minimum and re-order level;
- Prepare weekly and monthly consumption report for all stocks/materials and submit the report to Supervisor;
- Prepare physical stock-taking report every month end and submit report on any discrepancy/damage found during physical verification;
- Maintain a Fixed Assets Registration for all inventories/assets in school and register immediately the newly purchased ones;
- Any other duties as may be assigned by Finance Manager

REQUIRED QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Should be registered with National Board of Material Management and/or Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply;
- Minimum of Diploma in Stores Management or Material Management;
- Minimum of 4 (Four) years of experience in Stores Management;
- Knowledge of Stock and Assets Inventory procedures.

SPECIFIC SKILLS

- Computer literacy, including MS Office; e mail and material management software;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Swahili languages;
- Good interpersonal skills; numerical skills and attention to details.

If you are confident that you match the above criteria, please send your "Application letter and CV only" by e-mail to personnel@hopac.sc.tz to arrive on/for before Monday 15th August 2022, addressed to The Director, Haven of Peace Academy, P. O. Box 70027, Dar es Salaam, TANZANIA.



USAID | TANZANIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)

No. 72062122RFA00005

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Tanzania is seeking applications from qualified Tanzanian organizations to implement a Comprehensive Child Centered Care and Services (C4S) activity.

USAID is seeking to partner with one (1) local organization that provides Pediatric HIV services and Prevention of mother-to-child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and pediatric services and values a family approach to address the immediate HIV and TB technical assistance needs preventing Tanzania from achieving equitable epidemic control, amidst evolving pediatric COVID-19 needs.

The goal of the Comprehensive Child Centered Care and Services activity is to improve health status of pregnant and breastfeeding women, HIV exposed infants, children and adolescents living with HIV in Tanzania through increased access to quality comprehensive child centered health care and support.

If interested, you can follow this link to access the Notice of funding

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?opId=342925>

Please note that eligibility of this award is restricted to local Tanzanian entities.

216976302



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

Skills and Science Laboratory Coordinator

Reporting to the Associate Dean-SONAM, the incumbent will be managing daily activities of the science & skills lab facility and the storage rooms within the two facilities. This position will be based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Areas of responsibilities:

1. Day to Day Activities:

- Appropriate management of labs and its equipment's
- Monitor and report any damages and facilitate basic maintenance of the equipment's
- Prepare labs for the variety of incoming classes and keeping log
- Disposing of chemicals and waste products according to the applicable procedures in the material safety data sheets (MSDS) manual
- Monitor water PH levels

2. Maintenance of Safe Environment:

- Facilitate in the preparation, maintenance, and updating of Safety policies within the two facilities.
- Ensuring that safety protocol and procedures are implemented and adhered
- Maintaining MSDS databases, and Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) labelling
- Explaining and enforcing safety procedures to individuals and carrying out risk assessments for lab activities

3. Storeroom Management:

- Managing and maintaining the storeroom inventory and ensure all labs are well-stocked, organized, and proper records management is executed
- Overseeing orders of consumable stock and controlling the flow of materials and resources in and out of the storeroom.
- Organizing materials, specimen labeling, sorting, logging, chemical labeling, storage, and disposal.
- Keeping accurate records and logs of invoices, work in progress, and delivery reports.
- Maintaining laboratory equipment's e.g centrifuges, titrates, pipetting machines and pH meters

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification (health related field)
- First Aid/CPR and WHMIS certification and added advantage
- Experience in a clinical nursing skills lab, microbiology, biochemistry and biomedical
- Experience in inventory and stock handling.
- Previous experience with MSDS, WHMIS, and lab safety/protocol.
- Work experience or educational knowledge of microbial culture maintenance and storage
- An awareness of health and safety issues with a good practical and technical skills

How to Apply

If you meet the requirements of this position, please send your application package which should include an application letter, an updated CV to hr.recruitment@aku.edu not later than 21st August 2022.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. For further information, please visit: <http://www.aku.edu>

216977171

216976401

By Correspondent George Sembony.

Lushoto

RENOVATION of the Mponde Tea Factory in Lushoto District, Tanga region has reached 90 percent, an official has said.

The factory stopped production due to the crisis between the investor who was running it and tea farmers in 2013.

Factory manager, Sane Kwilabya said that production is expected to start by the end of this year, appealing to tea farmers from the five schemes of the Bumbuli Council to direct their energy in the fields to ensure that the factory has enough leaves for processing when it opens.

The news of the progress of the factory's renovation has been received with joy by the farmers and the leaders of the council, including Mponde Ward Councillor, Richard Mbuguni who said that the factory is the economy of Bumbuli.

"Tea farmers are now full of hope about the rise of their economic status due to the speed of factory renovation

Mponde tea factory renovation reaches 90 percent, official says

they are seeing. Our job as public servants is to encourage farmers to direct their energy to the farm to feed the factory," Mbuguni said, thanking President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Bumbuli MP, who is also the minister for Energy, January Makamba for their efforts that have led to the re-opening of the factory.

Bumbuli Council Vice Chairman Hoza Mandia said that Bumbuli residents took a positive stance on the crisis, noting that challenges that arose have enabled the factory to undergo such complete renovation that probably could not have been done if it had continued with the management of the investor.

Usambara Tea Growers Association (UTEGA) chairman, Edwin Mahunda said that farmers are currently directing their energy to the farms to enable the factory to have enough tea leaves when it opens.

Mahunda explained that the

cooperative society has requested a loan of 120m/- from the bank to support the purchase of inputs and enable farmers to clean and maintain their farms.

He said that 61m/- will be for inputs and the remaining 55m/- will go to farmers' accounts to support the service of their farms.

"We are making a request to the government to open the factory earlier than the planned date because there is a lot of tea produced during September and the existing factory of Mohammed Enterprise cannot afford all the tea leaves produced at that time.

Makamba also thanked President Samia for her efforts to facilitate the opening of the factory.

"People of Bumbuli continue to believe that the government will amicably solve the problem once and for all despite experiencing economic pressures resulting from the closure of the factory for nine years," he said.



Tanzania Education Authority director general Bahati Geuzye briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on projects to be implemented using the agency's budget for financial year 2022/23. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TEA to spend 8.9bn/- in 2022/23 FY on school facility renovations

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) plans to spend 8.9bn/- in the 2022/2023 financial year to facilitate improvement of education infrastructure.

This was said yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the Director General of the authority, Bahati Geuzye, when briefing journalists on TEA plans as well as implementation of the current budget.

She said the amount will be used to implement 96 projects in 96 primary and secondary schools in Tanzania mainland and two higher learning institutions in Zanzibar.

Geuzye said the projects to be implemented include construction of 99 classrooms, 792 pit latrines, 10 laboratory rooms for science subjects in five secondary schools, 52 teachers' houses and 10 dormitories.

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) has called upon the civil society and non-governmental organisations in the country to comply with the government's tax requirements.

Failure to do so, the foundation believes results to conflicts with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) as the government arm and the donors funding the organisations.

Experience shows that most CSOs/NGOs are not well conversant with the tax requirements, especially after recent changes in the Income Tax Act 2004, thus the dire need for education on tax compliance.

The statement was made here by FCS's Senior Programme Officer, Nichalaus Mhozya, at the opening of a one day training, themed "NGOs on Financial & Tax Compliance, Reporting and Charitable Status" convened by the foundation in collaboration with Non-governmental Organisation Network in Dodoma (NGONEDO).

He said the NGOs have the moral and legal obligation to pay the right taxes, which help the government provide services to Tanzanians and as patriotic organisations they must show the goodwill of participating in national development.

The training held at FCS's cub-office in Dodoma brought together

representatives of 50 NGOs in the region, majority of whom admitted having little knowledge on tax compliance.

"We call for CSOs to try and know what the law, regulations and policies say and abide by that since compliance shows good will of supporting the government," he said, adding that non-compliance to tax requirements is too costly.

He said the training was part of the foundation's monthly dialogues, chosen by stakeholders who identify needful area for capacity building and FCS look for experts on to train NGOs leaders or representatives.

Edward Mbogo, NGONEDO Coordinator, noted that the capacity building training on tax compliance to NGOs was long overdue, adding that most of them do not understand what they are supposed to do.

He said the aim of the meeting was to ensure such organisations in Dodoma get to be compliant with tax requirements. He said, "As NGOs we are bound to comply with tax requirements since if we defy, the government fines are inevitable and on the other hand it leads to lack of trust

at a cost of 50m/- she said, adding the project is supervised by Dodoma city council.

The DG said the Tanzania Education Fund has sponsored the construction of aircraft maintenance for engineering students at the Karume Institute of Technology in Zanzibar.

She said they have also implemented a project to improve infrastructures and facilitated availability of teaching materials at the Zanzibar Institute of Administration.

She said since its inception, TEA has implemented 3,314 projects worth 212.6bn/- with beneficiaries including nursery schools, primary and secondary schools, teachers and technical colleges.

Geuzye said through the education fund they have renovated 17 old schools of Ngaza, Ilboru, Same, Msalato, Mzumbe, Mwenge, Tabora Girls, Tabora Boys, Kilakala and Pugu.

FCS directs CSOs to comply with govt tax requirements

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by our donors."

According to Mbogo, there are NGOs who do not comply with the tax requirements despite having Tax Index Numbers (TIN) and some do so with the assumption that are exempted from tax.

Firmin Miku, a consultant with Arusha-based Timeless Business Solution who provided the training noted that most NGOs do not have the rightful knowledge on tax compliance.

He is said this is mainly due to lack of awareness that after registration they have to seek knowledge on tax and other matters affecting them.

Mengo Chikoma, director of ANUE, one of the organisations in the region, the training was real eye-opener to him, thanking FCS for convening it.

"Just like me, many NGOs do not have knowledge on tax compliance and there is need for TRA to work closely with us, providing such important information," he said.

Pili Msengi, the coordinator of Invest in Women Organisation, while speaking about the training noted, "From the look of things, we are moving forward without the rightful knowledge on finance and tax compliance."

be their feeling, it can be what they are going through or their dream to contribute to make Tanzania a better place. All can be expressed in writing," she added.

Paxton Phares said: "Debate is an important activity that everyone needs to get the chance to do. It is the perfect opportunity to help develop their leadership skills and communication skills. It's what makes the youths learn more about their potential."

According to him, there were many controversial topics in the society and you people have unique perspective regarding those issues such as youth development, employment, academic, excellence, sports, politics and many more.

The meeting is a series of events that bring together teenagers aged 12 -29 years old from different backgrounds to come together to discuss and become motivated to uncover and start putting their talents and potential into use.



TETRA TECH

Job Opportunities

TANZANIA MAJI NA USAFI WA MAZINGIRA (MUM) ACTIVITY

The Tanzania Maji na Usafi wa Mazingira (MUM) Activity funded by USAID/Tanzania and implemented by Tetra Tech International Development (<http://www.tetrattech.com/intdev>) is currently accepting expressions of interest for qualified candidates to fill the following position. The purpose of Maji na Usafi wa Mazingira (MUM) Activity is to expand and sustain the provision and governance of WASH services by 1) increasing access to sustainable water services; 2) Increasing access to finance for water, sanitation, and hygiene; 3) Strengthening the market for sanitation products and services; and 4) Strengthening basin water boards and water user associations for stewardship of water resources.

Tetra Tech seeks experienced candidates for the following position:

Chief of Party - Tanzania Maji na Usafi wa Mazingira Activity (MUM)

The USAID-funded Tanzania Maji na Usafi wa Mazingira Activity (MUM) activity in Tanzania, implemented by Tetra Tech International Development (www.tetrattech.com/intdev) is currently accepting expressions of interest for a Chief of Party. This position will be in the main office in Iringa, Tanzania.

MUM is a five year (August 2021 - August 2026) \$25 million activity implemented by Tetra Tech that will expand and sustain WASH services through improved drinking water service, increased access to WASH finance, improved market-based sanitation, and strengthened water resources management. The COP is responsible for the overall implementation of USAID/MUM, supervises multiple senior positions, and coordinates directly with USAID and Tanzanian government institutions.

Responsibilities:

- Provide vision and overall leadership to a multi-disciplinary team of technical experts including international subcontractors in the fields of WASH and sustainable water services, access to finance, market-based sanitation, water resources stewardship, gender and youth inclusion.
- Serve as primary point of contact with USAID/Tanzania to facilitate technical, financial, and administrative implementation of project activities.
- Liaise with Tanzania government officials, local community stakeholders, basin water boards, water user associations, civil society, academia, private sector, and other USAID-funded activities.
- Oversee preparation and submission of technical and financial reports and other deliverables required by USAID/Tanzania.
- Collaborate closely with home office staff to ensure compliance of contracts, finance, and operations related issues.
- Manage the overall project budget including forecast expenditure reports and update the project budget to mitigate cost overruns.
- Representation, Outreach Promotion and Coordination of the project and Tetra Tech

Minimum Qualifications:

Education: Master's degree in a relevant engineering discipline with 10 years' experience OR Bachelor's Degree in a relevant engineering discipline with 15 years' experience. A relevant discipline includes civil, water resources, infrastructure, construction, etc.

Experience: At least 10 years (with Master's degree) or 15 years (with Bachelor's degree) of work

experience providing technical assistance to water/sanitation service delivery, water resources/environmental management, institutional strengthening, or related activities. At least 8 years progressively responsible leadership/senior management experience on donor-funded or related projects. Experience in Tanzania and on international donor funded projects preferred. Demonstrated experience in project management, strategic planning using science-based information, budgeting, adaptive management, and supervision of teams greater than 25+ persons. Familiarity with the political, social, and cultural context/challenges of working in East/Southern Africa.

Skills: Strong communications and interpersonal skills with evidence of ability to productively interact with the client and a wide range and levels of organizations and stakeholders, including high-level government officials. Strong ability managing disagreements with client, project subcontractors, and other key stakeholders in a professional manner. Subject matter expertise in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), WASH governance, livelihoods, Public-Private Partnerships, and private sector development to provide WASH services in urban and rural settings. Proven team building and leadership skills commensurable for a large (25+) team of employees. Outstanding management and reporting skills. Strong Microsoft Office skills, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook.

General Qualifications:

- Fluency in written and oral English required. Functional capacity or higher in Swahili highly desired.
- Possess and maintain active Tanzanian professional and consulting engineering license registrations for the life of the activity.
- Tanzanian citizen.
- Financial and personal integrity.
- Willingness to work/live in Iringa, Tanzania.
- Knowledge of USAID rules and regulations highly desired.

Apply on-line at: https://bit.ly/COP_MUM with a cover letter and current curriculum vitae (CV) in reverse chronological order format.

Please list the title of the position in the email subject line.

Only Short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview. No phone calls will be accepted about this position.

Deadline for submission of applications is **August 12, 2022.**

XXXXXX

Boy of 16 develops app to help students have quick access to learning materials

By Francis Kajubi

ON a mission to make education accessible to every Tanzanian through technology, a mobile application has been developed to help students have quick access to learning materials and past papers.

Dubbed 'Test Yourself App' the application is being developed by a young form four student Moses Mbagi (16) who also serves as the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of ExamNet.

Mbagi, a form four student at Al Muntazir Secondary School in Dar es Salaam, is an uncompromising in digging deep into Information Technology (IT) studies through his further education as he luckily acquires a scholarship that gives him a room to undergo courses on information and technology starting with the degree level up to the PhD levels if wishes so in Finland.

The scholarship is being sponsored by the Finnish government in collaboration with an IT oriented organization- Finest Future Ltd.

Speaking during a special event to celebrate the awarding of the scholarship held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week, Mbagi, who is the young innovator, software programmer, and coder, said the app assists primary school students to learn remotely by accessing different tests and other learning materials anywhere, anytime.

According to him, by making the need to buy textbooks optional, he developed the app purposely to solve the problem of minimal access to the National Examinations Council of Tanzania's past examination questions.

With this app, he said, every student can take tests, see their scores, and review corrections to prepare for their exams.

"Technology has impacted almost every aspect of our existence, and education is no exception. With educational resources such as this at our fingertips, learning is now limitless.

Therefore, we can only expect that the Test Yourself App will bring about commendable improvements for students," he said.

Mbagi, while encouraging the youth to work hard in studies says Finland has over 20,000 opportunities every year for grab, calling it a chance that Tanzanian youth ought to go for.

"Despite a population size of just over 5.5 million, the country that gave the world the first heart rate monitor, the web browser, wind turbines, reflectors for walkers, SMS messaging, saunas, Nokia phones, Angry Birds and 5G technology, Finland is proving itself as a leading light in the start-up tech scene," he asserted.

On offering full scholarship to foreign students, Peter Vesterbacka, who is Finest Future Ltd Chief Executive Officer, a Finnish entrepreneur and

mobile game developer said students going to his country will enjoy full happiness and get opportunities to work so long as one is 15 years and above.

"Our government offers opportunities for a foreign student to study Finnish language that would enable one to have access to public facilities.

After that, resumes classes and one can study to acquire his/her PHD with full scholarship...it's an opportunity for Tanzanians to exploit," he said.

According to him, Tanzanians just like any foreigner going to Finland will realise the importance of being gender sensitive and once back in their home countries will campaign for gender equality.

Presiding over, Tanzania Data Lab Director Agapiti Manday, another invited guest at the occasion, said his company in efforts to revolutionise IT in the country embraces a systems approach in suffusing data driven decision making.

He asserted that Tanzanians youth should not be afraid of venturing into IT studies and compete globally with others.

"What Moses has done should motivate others as we in dLab execute data and innovation projects locally, regionally, and globally especially on data capacity building, data driven innovations, and data science products and services," he said.



Michael Ndunguru (R), acting manager with the Rural Water and Sanitation Authority in Ikungi District, Singida Region, pictured yesterday briefing Ikungi district commissioner Jerry Muro (2nd-R) on the Rafiki-Ikungi water project. The project is meant to serve Unyahi and Ikungi wards, its implementation having cost over 548.7/- million. Photo: Correspondent Tobias Mwanakatwe

Procurement agency wants special groups to utilise 30 percent budget

By Guardian Reporter

THE Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has called upon women, young people, the elderly, and people with disabilities to take advantage of the 30 percent of the government's procurement budget allocated for them as special groups.

Zawadi Msalla, PPRA public relations and communication officer made the call early this week when speaking to journalists at the ongoing farmers' exhibitions at John Mwakangale grounds in Mbeya region.

Zawadi said according to the Public Procurement Act Chapter 410, all procurement institutions should allocate 30 percent of the annual procurement budget for special groups.

She said the amount allocated by the government is a great opportunity that can raise them economically as it is the mission of the government led by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

"This is a great opportunity provided by the government and if used properly, we'll increase the scope of employment. If you take the example of the last financial year, the total

government procurement budget was about 22trn/-, of which 30 percent is about 6.6trn/-.

She said, "bids of this value were all reserved for special groups, but for this year we believe it will increase".

Inaugurating this year's exhibition, Vice President Dr Philip Mpango said there has been a satisfactory awakening of commercial banks to provide loans to the agricultural sector.

Zawadi said that the move will facilitate access to more capital, and special groups can use the capital in the

“Fortunately, the government through the local government authorities (LGAs) and the Prime Minister's Office provide low-interest loans to these groups

opportunity of public tenders.

She said: "Fortunately, the government through the local government authorities (LGAs) and the Prime Minister's Office provide low-interest loans to these groups."

"As Vice President Dr Phillip Mpango said that the banks add more muscles in issuing loans to the agricultural sector, whereby government tenders are floated. In turn they do business with government and make the 30 percent utilized," she said.

Explaining how to be recognized as a special group for public tenders, Zawadi said that after creating a group they should be registered with facilitating institutions such as councils, Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO), Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) among others.

"Before being registered, they will be given special training on public procurement and financial management," she said, noting that after the registration, the name of the relevant group will be submitted to PPRA and placed on a specific list of special groups, and then they can participate in the process of obtaining 30 percent of the bid.



PETROLEUM BULK PROCUREMENT AGENCY



PRE-QUALIFICATION NO: PBPA/CPP/PQ/2023
FOR
SUPPLY OF BULK PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR THE SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM PRODUCT IN THE YEAR 2023

- Petroleum Bulk procurement Agency (PBPA) has been established by GN. No 423 of 2015 and mandated to coordinate importation of petroleum product through the Bulk Procurement System by, G.N. 198 of 2017, under The Petroleum Act, No 21 of 2015;
- The Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency (PBPA) intends to Pre-qualify suppliers for Supply of Petroleum Products i.e. MOGAS, GASOIL, JET A1 & KEROSENE in Tanzania under Bulk Procurement System (BPS). It is mandatory for petroleum products in Tanzania to be procured under the Bulk Procurement System (BPS);
- Average monthly total volume of MOGAS, GASOIL, JET A1 & KEROSENE procured under BPS is 550,000 Metric Tons. Tenders shall be floated on cargo by cargo basis whereas the estimated number of cargoes per month is 10 to 12 with estimated cargo sizes as provided below: -
 - AGO- 60,000-100,000 MT
 - PMS 35,000- 38,000 MT
 - IK AND JET 20,000-25,000 MT
 - Comb cargo for Tanga AGO and PMS 25,000 -38,000 MT
 - Comb cargo for Dar es salaam KOJ1 and Mtwara AGO and PMS 25,000 -38,000 MT
- Pre-qualification will be conducted under International Competitive Bidding (ICB), through the procedures specified in the Petroleum Act Cap 392, the Petroleum (Bulk Procurement) Regulation 2017 GN. NO. 198 and Petroleum Bulk Procurement Manual of 2017.
- Applicants shall pay a non-refundable prequalification processing fee and shall receive a complete set of pre-qualification documents in English language, the amount payable shall be USD 5000 for international/foreign companies and 5,000,000 Tanzanian shillings for local companies. The amount shall be paid by direct deposit, direct transfer or banker's cheque in favor of Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency from Monday to Friday (Working Days) between 1000 hrs. and 1600 hrs.
- 2021 prequalified bidders shall be eligible to participate in tenders for supply of MOGAS, GASOIL, and JET A1 & KEROSENE for the year 2023 upon payment of validation fees of USD 1000.00 (For Local and international companies) and submitting the required information/documents. The amount shall be paid by direct deposit, direct transfer or banker's cheque in favor of Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency from Monday to Friday (Working Days) between 1000 hrs. and 1600 hrs.
- Application for pre-qualification should be submitted in sealed envelope, delivered to the address below, and be clearly marked **"Application to be Pre-qualified for the Supply of Bulk Petroleum Products for tender no. PBPA/CPP/PQ/2023"**;
- Applications will be evaluated and results provided within one month from the date of receipt of the application. The prequalified suppliers will be eligible to participate in tenders from for the supply of petroleum products in the year, 2023.

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Fuel price hikes sternest of economic policy tests

THESE are, understandably, pervasive worries as to ability of various economic groups to cope with the impact of the just-announced fuel price rises.

This is notwithstanding the fact that, objectively speaking, the situation in Tanzania is far from desperate and may not likely be in the near future.

Yet the policy challenges it poses are very real, in the main because people look upon the government for solutions.

Merely saying that this is an international oil sector fact, factor, phenomenon or environment can hardly ever do even as, only months ago, there may have developed an impression that the challenge could be contained.

The price hikes have been added upon a subsidized fuel procurement context and it thus naturally follows that, without the subsidy the price would be even higher.

This also implies that the government can't just absorb all price increases in the world market so that, by some logical extension, people don't face any problems.

Certain quarters of opinion, and not least in the legislature, even imagined at some junctures that the government could effortlessly borrow from global multilateral lending institutions to keep fuel price rises at bay. But that would be overly optimistic.

It takes a lot of familiarity with case studies of how global industrial giants changed over time to see how they arrived there - as well as the way in which crises of this sort shaped the path of economic transformation.

Those are big issues involving the wholesale questioning of our major policy prerogatives, the idea being to loosen the hold or gridlock in that area and create new sources of financial flows.

When several sectors now tying down the circulation of capital are freed, many people are employed and start buying plots of land - with prices and incomes increasing.

Experience in Africa and elsewhere

shows that no easy path to learning exists, as some countries opted to reform their economies appreciably 15 years or so after independence. Far East countries sought to catch up with the likes of their next-door neighbours Japan - and to what end?

Transformation in the Gulf Region isn't a major example as it is excessively tied to a unique resource - oil - and spectacular low levels of population, just like the diamonds industry in Botswana.

We still have quite some way to go to move like China in its eastern coastal zone free economic area, involving whole regions rather than patches of land under a public agency.

In part, it amounts to inviting the Diaspora to come back with their money and be treated as citizens are treated; the cash flow uplifts purchasing power and fosters industry. It's much like the telecom sector shift; it now employs hundreds of thousands of people.

Strictly speaking, that is ultimately the premise of solving the oil price crisis, as this crisis reflects poor purchasing power with not-so-developed economic structures being ruined.

Hoe-based farming and allied trades like migratory livestock herding or fishing in tiny canoes take up nearly 80 per cent of the labour force and, despite seasonal variations, earnings aren't as regular as in the case of salaried individuals.

When money flows into the economy to buy assets that are now communally held or state owned, there is a shift to a fully monetised economy, with those without jobs get living allowances.

With an economy of that sort, oil price rises don't affect people so much. However, for the moment let us hope that many enough people will convert to the use of gas that is both locally available and locally supplied.

But there is also the possibility of hugely subsidised fuel being resold for a big profit on the borders, nurturing corruption. Easy - but appropriate intervention would surely minimise harm.

weather, and moves to apply them!

Commercial farmers will make use of such forecasts as they know how to adapt their plans to generalised forecasting as we have at present or more precise predictions as appears to be the intention with the new project.

It is all part of efforts towards the realisation of what experts call climate-smart agriculture, but it will not be realized just by upping the capacities of public agencies in a particular sector.

Even with banks issuing agro-sector loans with relative ease, communal ownership of land impedes credit flows.

So while we are justifiably happy hearing that weather forecasting will soon lots more precise and reliable, using that information could prove a different matter. Many smallholder farmers are tied down to their plots of land with no access to irrigation equipment or reliable water sources for the purpose.

Their customary law occupancy titles enable them to take SACCOS loans - at most - rather than from banks, and all this limits the degree to which predictions can be used.

Communal land cripples the flow of credit and consequently hinders application of forecasts if a farmer can't borrow to uplift the state of readiness on the farm, pump necessary water, hedge out floods, etc. There is something experts call 'overdeveloped' infrastructure, like having ten million doses of Covid-19 jabs when fewer than five million people are expected to take the jab.

Similarly, having excellent weather prediction facilities against a background of credit-unworthy farming systems would be overdevelopment of facilities.

So What? It is clearly crucial that we adapt to the technical needs of climate change by altering ownership systems to ease credit flows and make recovery a realistic target.

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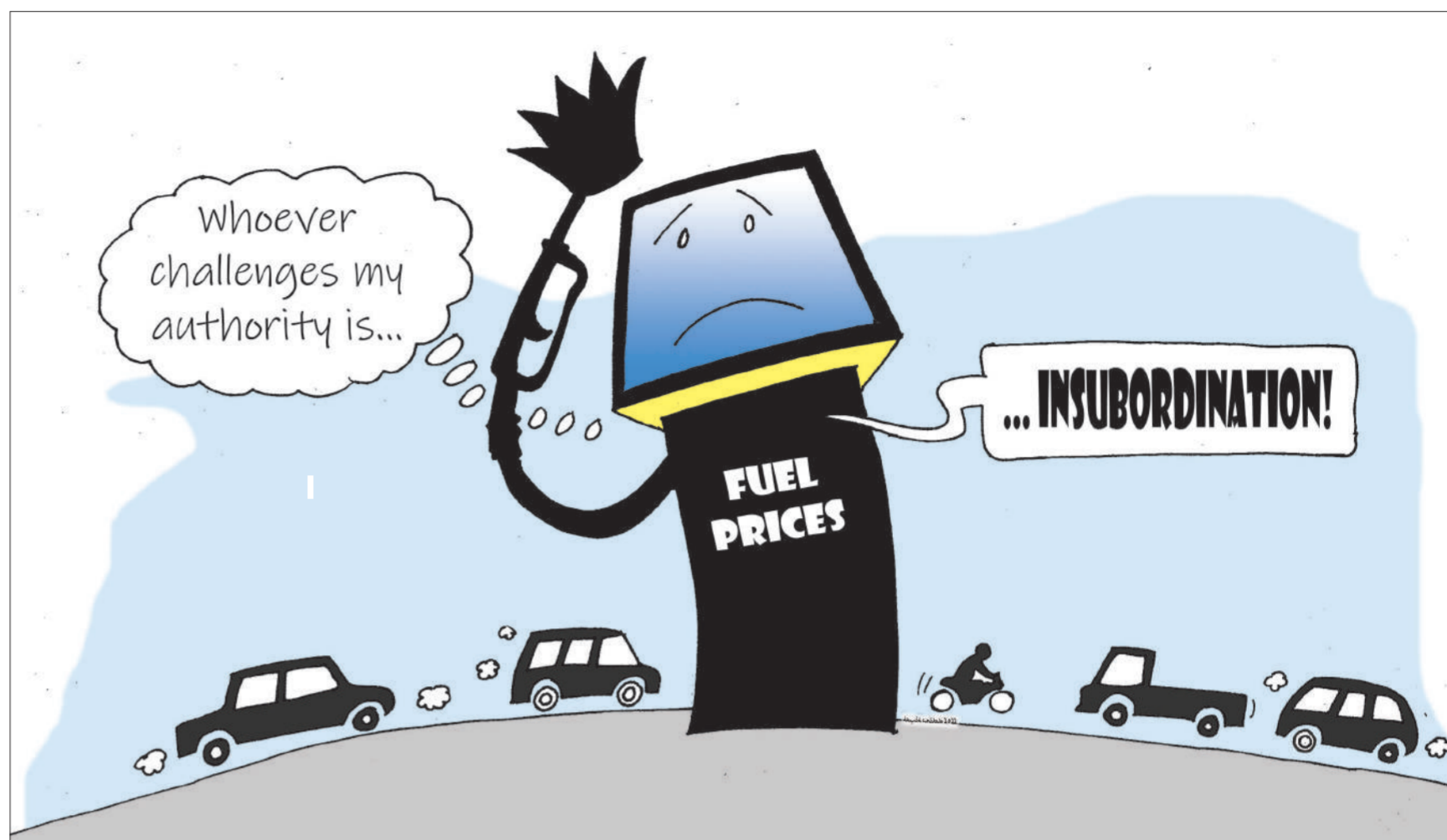
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Norwegian newspaper looks to build retention through features and habits

By Brian Veseling

DURING the past eight to ten years, Aftenposten has undergone a massive digital transformation of its editorial and business operations to the extent that the portion of revenue coming from subscribers is now around 80 per cent - a solid foundation for sustainable growth.

Most publishers still heavily dependent on the uncertain nature that comes with digital advertising dream of being in the Norwegian newspaper's situation. However, ensuring that they retain as many paying subscribers as possible is no small feat and brings its own set of challenges.

Known as Norway's quality national daily, Schibsted-owned Aftenposten has around 150,000 paying digital-only subscribers - a sizeable figure in a country that has just over 5.4 million people.

Priced at around the equivalent of 27 euros a month (or about 325 euros a year), Aftenposten is fairly pricey.

"So it's really, really important for us to find ways to engage people on other platforms and get them back to us and use the product," the publishing firm's Sidney Glastad told participants at WAN-IFRA's recent Digital Media Europe conference, which took place at Schibsted's headquarters in Oslo.

Sharing is caring, helpful for retaining

The publisher continually experiments with various features to retain users and Glastad, who is in charge of growth and target groups, discussed some of the things they have found to be most successful.

For example, Aftenposten gives subscribers the ability to share their digital subscription with someone else and, in fact, they strongly encourage this practice.

Why? For one thing, it helps users to see extra value in their subscription. For another, it's a powerful force in retention. If a reader goes to cancel his or her subscription, the first screen in the cancellation process shows the name of the person they share their subscription with and asks the user if he or she is sure he or she really wants to take that gift away.

"Sharing your 'extra user' with someone really has a strong effect on retention for us. Every time we do a push to get a lot of people to do

that, we see the number of people who share really explode, and we see immediately that their retention rates go up," Glastad said.

Other features they have found to be helpful in retention are their replica edition and app. Subscribers who make use of either of these features are far more likely to remain subscribers, he noted.

Then there are the numerous ways in which Aftenposten encourages readers to keep coming back, such as trying to get people to associate a certain day with certain features or products.

One example relates to encouraging readers to visit them on Mondays to find out the focus of their news podcasts - or on Tuesdays, as subscribers might want to read a recommendation for what to watch on TV. These are aimed at creating habits that will have readers coming back regularly.

Phases of the on-boarding process

All of these features and habit builders are part of Aftenposten's on-boarding process through which to welcome new subscribers while at the same time beginning the publisher's efforts to keep them.

Because they have different subscription types, print and digital, as well as subscribers in a variety of different age groups, they also differ in how they communicate with their subscribers, Glastad said.

"What we're doing with our on-boarding is the tiny things that are actually having an impact on our retention and how we try to incorporate that into our on-boarding and our communication with our subscribers," he said.

Aftenposten's primary on-boarding phase runs from the subscriber's first day to their 52nd.

A secondary phase focuses on getting those users who have yet to share their subscription with someone else to do so. "That is trigger-based, so you only get it if you don't share," Glastad said.

He elaborated: "In addition to that, all subscribers get offers from our loyalty programme every week. This is also divided into age groups, so we give different kinds of offers to different age groups."

Subscribers also get a weekly letter from Aftenposten's editor, which has a high open rate.

"We try to make our communication as relevant as possible. It sounds a bit

old-fashioned to trigger based on age, but it really works, especially given the kind of offers we show with the loyalty programme because there are not a lot of 30-year-olds dying to go on a river boat cruise that costs 5,000 euros in Spain," Glastad said.

Some of the features they have found to contribute to retention are subscribers who sign up for newsletters, listening to their podcasts and using their brain-teasers and games, he added, also mentioning opinion and commentary.

Communication challenges

There are, however, some challenges in having an on-boarding that's primarily email these days. "Fewer and fewer of our subscribers open their emails," Glastad said.

He explained that while more than 60 per cent of new subscribers open the first email they receive after signing up, the order confirmation email, the open rate falls off steadily after that.

"On the fifth email, you get pretty low conversion or open rates and read rates. So that's a big challenge. If we really want to get a lot of people to understand something that we're doing, we put it in the order confirmation," Glastad said.

Likewise, SMS might seem like a great way of communicating with subscribers quickly and directly on their most personal device, but it also carries risks.

"That's a really tricky one because we have to be very mindful of how we use it," he said, adding: "If somebody just texts back 'Stop', he or she withdraws his or her consent to Schibsted as a whole, so we are not able to speak to such people at all. So we are really, really mindful of how we use that."

Yet another major challenge is with respect to people who subscribe and then basically just disappear, never coming back to the site.

"We really would like to have people who are engaged in the product," Glastad said, elaborating: "That's a very huge challenge - the proportion of subscribers who are sort of dead subscribers. People who don't see again. People who don't know that they have a subscription. They might have forgotten about it."

"Then you have a lot of people who might suddenly unsubscribe. For instance, recently in Norway, one of our largest banks allowed

subscriptions through the banking app. That obviously resulted in a lot of people remembering that they had subscriptions they weren't interested in having."

Let subscribers get involved

Those issues aside, Aftenposten has also discovered a number of positive correlations during their on-boarding experiments.

One is personified on-boarding where they gave subscribers the option of choosing among three types of Aftenposten staff who would tell them about the product. They could choose a journalist, a commentator or an editor to follow during those first 30 days.

"That was pretty fun. It increased renewals, but it only increased renewals among those who chose actively," Glastad said.

He noted that they had also tried a version where Aftenposten itself decided whether to have a journalist, a commentator or an editor as the person the new subscriber followed, but that didn't work as well.

"So our take-away from that is that we need to have a new subscriber take an active choice or make some sort of personalisation to his or her own product that is really effective," he added.

In a related experiment, they offered subscribers a daily article, where they could receive a specific kind of article emailed to them daily. They could choose between a daily "opinion and commentary" article and one from the "features and culture" category.

This experiment was also well received, Glastad said, adding that those who chose "opinion and commentary" had the highest renewal rate - which they found quite interesting.

He explained that among Aftenposten's next planned experiments is finding out if there is a connection between their video content and retaining subscribers, and they are determined to expand some of their social media efforts.

"We're going to do more testing on Facebook because that's one of the biggest media channels in Norway. So that's really a great way for us to reach people," he said.

• A dispatch by the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA).

UN chief calls upon governments to tax 'immoral and excessive' oil, gas profits

UNITED NATIONS

The war in Ukraine continues to have a devastating impact on the people of that country. Civilians are dying in the most tragic circumstances every day. Millions of lives have been destroyed or put on hold.

This war is senseless, and we must all do everything in our power to bring it to an end through a negotiated solution in line with the UN Charter and international law.

We are doing all we can to reduce suffering and save lives in Ukraine and the region, through our humanitarian operations. And Martin Griffiths will be able to soon brief you on those developments.

But the war is also having a huge and multi-dimensional impact far beyond Ukraine, through a threefold crisis of access to food, energy and finance.

Household budgets everywhere are feeling the pinch from high food, transport and energy prices, fueled by climate breakdown and war.

This threatens a starvation crisis for the poorest households, and severe cutbacks for those on average incomes.

Many developing countries are drowning in debt, without access to



Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his address to the UN press corps while launching the third brief by the Global Crisis Response Group on Energy.

finance, and struggling to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and could go over the brink.

We are already seeing the warning signs of a wave of economic, social and political upheaval that would leave no country untouched.

That is the reason why I set up the Global Crisis Response Group: to find coordinated global solutions to this triple crisis, recognizing its three elements - food, energy and finance - that are deeply interconnected.

The GCRG has presented detailed

recommendations on food and finance. I believe we are making some progress, namely on food.

Today's report looks at the energy crisis, with a wide array of recommendations.

Simply put, it aims to achieve the energy equivalent of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, by managing this energy crisis while safeguarding the Paris Agreement and our climate goals.

I would like to highlight four of the recommendations of the report.

First, it is immoral for oil and gas companies to be making record profits from this energy crisis on the backs of the poorest people and communities and at a massive cost to the climate.

The combined profits of the largest energy companies in the first quarter of this year are close to \$100 billion.

I urge all governments to tax these excessive profits and use the funds to support the most vulnerable people through these difficult times.

And I urge people everywhere to send a clear message to the fossil fuel industry and their financiers that this grotesque greed is punishing the poorest and most vulnerable people, while destroying our only common home, the planet.

Second, all countries - and especially developed countries - must manage energy demand. Conserving energy, promoting public transport and nature-based solutions are essential components of that.

Third, we need to accelerate the transition to renewables, which in most cases are cheaper than fossil fuels.

Earlier this year, I outlined a 5-point plan to spark the renewables revolution.

Storage technologies including batteries should become public goods.

Governments must scale up and diversify supply chains for raw materials and renewable energy technologies.

They should eliminate red tape around the energy transition, and shift fossil fuel subsidies to support vulnerable households and boost renewable energy investments.

Governments must support the people, communities and sectors most affected, with social protection schemes and alternative jobs and

livelihoods.

Fourth, private and multilateral finance for the green energy transition must be scaled up.

Renewable energy investments need to increase by factor of seven to meet the net zero goal, according to the International Energy Agency.

Multilateral development banks need to take more risks, help countries set up the right regulatory frameworks and modernize their power grids, and mobilize private finance at scale.

I urge shareholders in those banks to exercise their rights and make sure they are fit for purpose.

Today's report expands on these ideas, and Rebeca Grynspan will elaborate on them in a moment.

Every country is part of this energy crisis, and all countries are paying attention to what others are doing. There is no place for hypocrisy.

Developing countries don't lack reasons to invest in renewables. Many of them are living with the severe impacts of the climate crisis, including storms, wildfires, floods and droughts.

What they lack are concrete, workable options. Meanwhile, developed countries are urging them to invest in renewables, without providing enough social, technical or financial support.

And some of those same developed countries are introducing universal subsidies at gas stations, while others are reopening coal plants. It is difficult to justify such steps even on a temporary basis.

If they are pursued, such policies must be strictly time-bound and targeted, to ease the burden on the energy-poor and the most vulnerable, during the fastest possible transition to renewables.

IPS

Longevity: What does heart rate have to do with it?

By Michael Hunter

DO you have an unusually low heart rate? You probably can't approach British physical trainer Daniel Green with the lowest ever recorded pulse: his heart beats as infrequently as 26 times per minute.

The average adult male heart fires at 72 beats per minute - ranging from around 60 to 100 beats per minute, depending on activity levels. Now, if you are Usain Bolt, the fastest man in world history, you might have a rate of 33 each minute.

Here are some other remarkable folks: Spanish cyclist and five-time Tour de France winner Miguel Indurain recorded a rate of 28 per minute in 1995.

American cyclist Lance Armstrong had a self-reported resting heart rate of 32 to 34, with a maximum heart rate of 201 beats per minute.

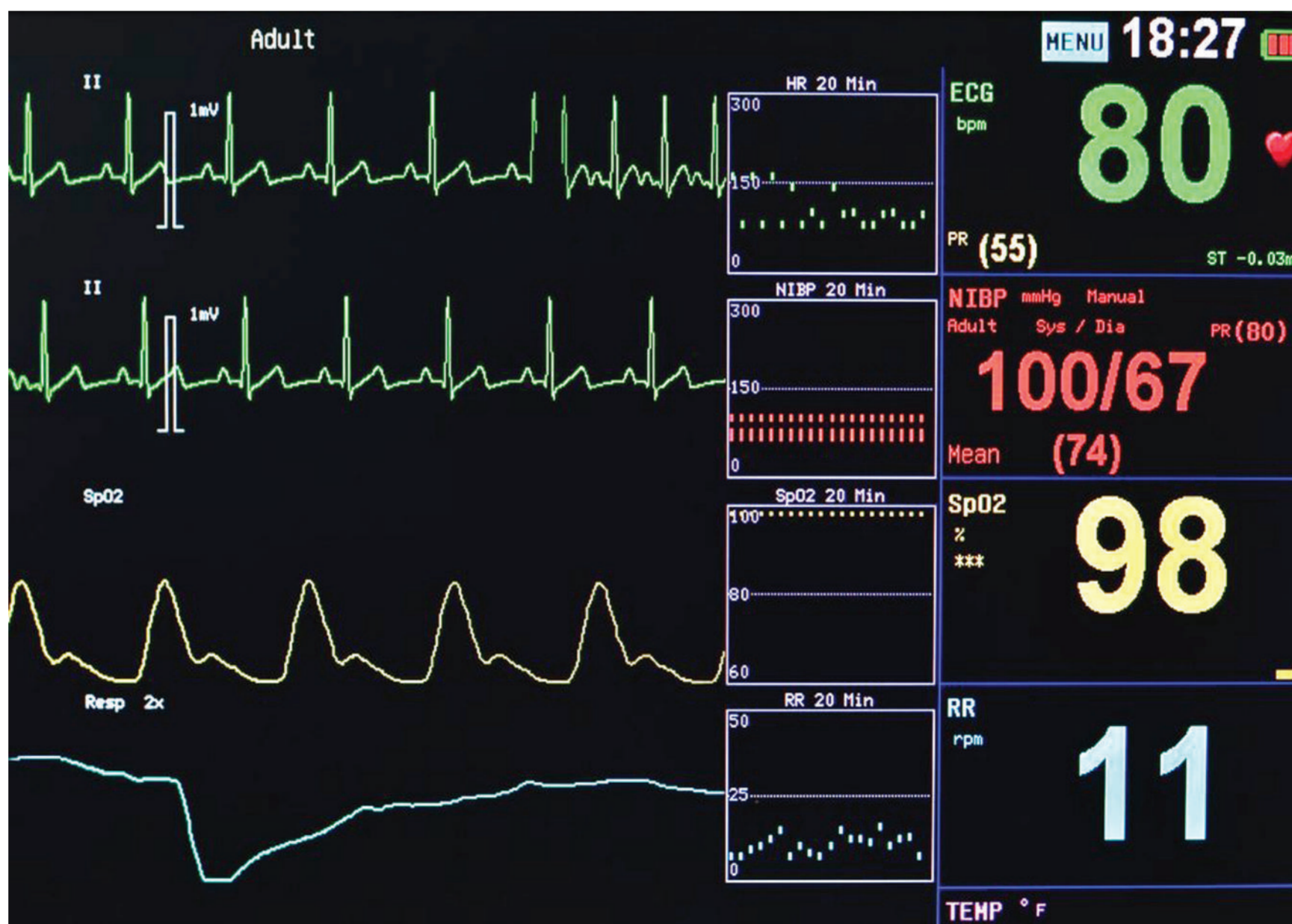
The most excellent swimmer of all time, Michael Phelps, clocked a resting heart rate of approximately 40 per minute.

Five-time Olympic gold medallist biathlete Martin Fourcade (a five-time Olympic champion) shared a screenshot of his heart rate - his resting pulse dropped as low as 25 beats per minute.

We declare that someone has a low heart rate - a condition known as bradycardia - when his or her pulse is under 60 beats per minute. The most common reason for a slow heart rate? Yes, you guessed it - if you read the previous paragraphs: Miguel Indurain, Lance Armstrong, Michael Phelps. High-performance athletes.

As long as your body receives sufficient blood, there is no particular low limit to heart rate. However, a low rate can translate into lightheadedness or fainting for some. These symptoms suggest that the brain is not getting enough oxygen.

Other medical problems can be related to a slow heart rate. For example, if your heart's electrical system is damaged, your heart may beat too fast or too slowly.



Pacemakers implanted into the heart are sometimes the solution.

Want to check your resting heart rate? Sit or lie down. Then, find your radial pulse: Place your index finger on the thumb side of the inside of your wrist. Either hand works. Count the beats you feel for ten seconds and multiply that number by six.

Historically, we have thought a normal resting pulse was 60 to 100. For you and me, as amateur athletes, the number is more likely 50 to 80. Drop a note if you are a super athlete

with a number in the 40 to 50 range.

Cardio workouts are essentially resistance exercises for your heart muscles. You can train your heart and coronary arteries to pump blood more efficiently. Endurance training is optimal for optimising your heart rate.

Listen to Dr Todd Buckingham, an exercise physiologist and world champion triathlete: "The most effective way to decrease your resting heart rate is through aerobic exercise. Running, swimming,

cycling. Weightlifting will help increase how muscular your heart is, but it will not increase the volume of your heart. Cardiovascular exercise is going to provide both."

He adds: "Until you start moving consistently, your resting heart rate will not change regularly. Then, you will be more likely to develop certain forms of cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, anxiety, and Alzheimer's dementia."

Let's get to the main point I want to

emphasize today. I was surprised to learn, from Insidehook.com, that we are wrong when we think that our heart rates are optimally low. Ideally, we have high variability in heart rate - a low rate at rest and a high rate during exercise. High variability of your heart rate is a marker of good health.

Health permitting, you can use high-intensity interval training (HIIT) and low-intensity workouts to get that heart variability. For the latter, I do 45-minute walks daily.

Even though we can track heart rate, it may not be the best measure of your health. Don't forget to focus on your pillars of health, including diet, mindfulness, physical activity, adequate sleep, and relationships.

Is your heart rate a marker of longevity? A recent study suggests that the answer is YES. Researchers tracked 798 men born in 1943 in Göteborg, Sweden. The team divided the study participants by resting heart rate: 55 or fewer; 56 bpm to 65; 66 bpm to 75; and more than 75 beats per minute.

Here's what the scientists discovered: Men in their 50s with a resting pulse of 75/minute or higher have double the risk of dying from heart disease within 11 years (compared with those with a resting rate of 55 or lower).

Moreover, every beat per minute increase between ages 50 and 60 boosts the risk of death by 3 percent over the next 11 years. Of course, our genetics influence our heart rates, but staying active and healthy may pay big dividends for you down the road.

We may want to re-think a resting heart rate of 50 to 100 beats per minute as normal, even as we recognize that those with rates above 75 are more likely to be smokers, more stressed, and less physically active.

Even as we recognize that association is not causation, your good habits may lower your heart rate - which in turn may improve your health outcomes. I hope the researchers move beyond men to look at women and different age groups.

Please, note that the information provided here is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent disease, nor is it a substitute for medical advice. Ensure to check with a valued healthcare professional regarding physical activity.

• **A medium dispatch.** Michael Hunter is a radiation oncologist based in Seattle, the US.

Covid-19 can make the brain age by 20 years; here is one way to reverse aging

By Dr Yuhong Dong and Health 1+1

A new British study has found that the original SARS-CoV-2 virus (that is, Wuhan strain) can impair cognitive ability in a way equivalent to making the brain age by two decades. Currently, 67 per cent of the world's population has been vaccinated against the Covid-19 pandemic. Is it possible that the vaccines themselves can also cause aging damage?

Nevertheless, there's no need to worry, as aging is proven to be a process - and there is a way to help reverse the aging process.

The study was published in the journal *EClinicalMedicine*. Experts from the University of Cambridge and Imperial College London Medical School evaluated the cognitive effects of the Covid-19 infection in humans.

The research subjects consisted of Covid-19 patients who were hospitalised for severe illness between March and July 2020.

After these patients' recovery from acute infection, the researchers conducted follow-up visits for an average of six months to analyse and evaluate their anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress.

The researchers discovered a significant decline in the patients' attention, complex problem-solving skills and memory, alongside reduced accuracy and prolonged reaction time.

These cognitive deficits are similar to the cognitive decline that a person would experience between the ages of between 50 and 70, which is equivalent to aging by two decades and losing ten IQ points.

In addition, the recovery of cognitive ability is very slow in patients with Covid-19 infections.

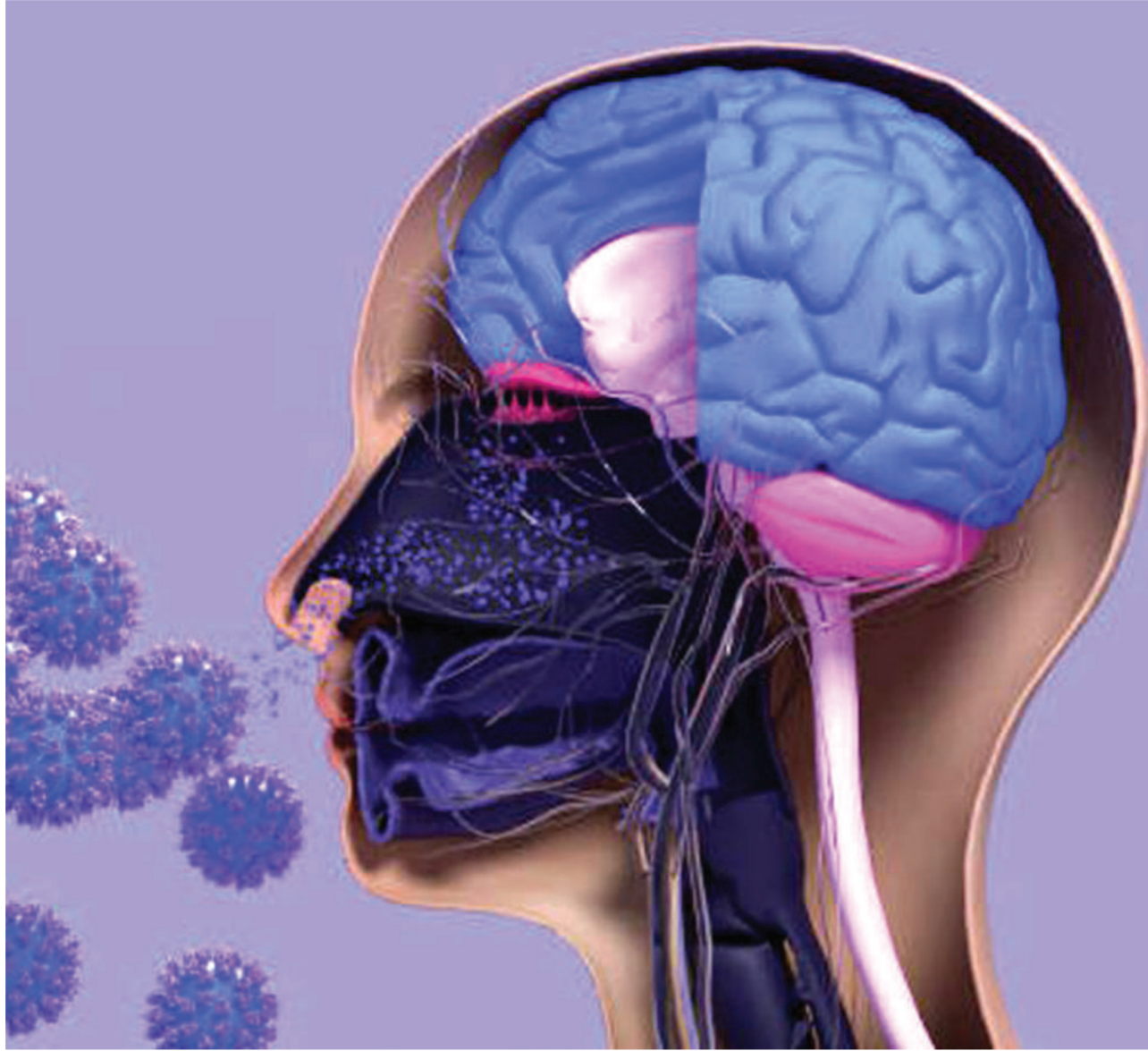
Why does Covid-19 infection cause abnormal aging? Let's first take a look at one concept. The relationship between genes and epigenetics is much like that between seeds and soil.

Genes are like seeds, while epigenetics is like soil. Genes in the human body do not usually change after birth. They are like "seeds" that lie dormant in the soil, and some will grow, and some will not. What determines whether these seeds will grow or not are the genetic "switches", or "epigenetics".

"Epigenetics" is the study of these factors that affect genes being turned on or off. Specifically, one common type of gene switch - DNA methylation - can change the expression of genes, shutting them down and making them non-functional.

Methylation is a somewhat complex biochemical process in the body, the important thing to remember being that it is one of the ways epigenetic takes place and a process by which genes get turned on and off.

As a result of DNA methylation, there are variations in whether the same genes can be expressed in different organs and at different



ages - as well as the amount of expression.

Cells become senescent as we age. That means they stop dividing and enter a kind of stasis. Instead of dying off as they normally would, they persist, but they change shape and size and secrete inflammatory molecules that cause other nearby cells to become senescent too.

In an article published in *Nature Reviews Genetics*, Steve Horvath, a professor of human genetics and biostatistician at the University of California Los Angeles, concluded that as people age and have more senescent cells, there are characteristic changes in the methylation status of human DNA.

Human beings experience birth, aging, illness and death, which scientists have since discovered to be controlled by our internal epigenetic clock. This is similar to the observations that everything in our universe has its cycle of formation, stasis, degeneration and destruction.

Professor Horvath summarised the DNA methylation profiles associated with aging in an "epigenetic clock of aging". While our years on Earth are chronological age, how we live and inherent factors affect how long we will actually live - which is our biological age, or the age of our body.

Biological ages can be estimated by using the methylation profiles of aging-related genes. In other words, scientists can focus in on genes linked to aging and then look at how those genes are methylating

and from this gauge how far along the person is in that process of degeneration and death.

These genetic focal points were carefully selected by scientists, independent of gender, body part, comorbidities, and other factors. And the results have been highly accurate, with a precision of over 95 per cent in gauging a person's biological age.

Humans have a normal aging methylation curve. If a person's DNA methylation is above the curve, he or she will age faster than his or her peers; if it is below the curve, he or she will appear younger than his or her peers.

So, what factors can accelerate aging, that is, epigenetic clock of aging?

A study conducted in Belgium was published in 2018 in the journal *Aging*. It found that several factors accelerate epigenetic aging in humans, one being diseases: viral infections such as HIV and CMV (Cytomegalovirus, a common virus), neurodegenerative diseases, and cancers.

Two: Metabolic syndrome: overly high body mass index (BMI), hyperglycemia, that is, high blood glucose (blood sugar), inflammatory factors, and hypertension.

Three: Stress - post-traumatic syndrome, mental stress, and violence experienced in childhood.

This makes us wonder if Covid-19 infection can accelerate the "epigenetic aging clock". A study published in the journal *Nature*

Communications answers this question.

The study collected blood samples from 232 healthy individuals, 194 non-severe Covid-19 patients and 213 severe Covid-19 patients for DNA methylation analysis and found that the epigenetic age of Covid-19 patients was significantly accelerated.

In addition, the epigenetic age acceleration in Covid-19 patients is related to the stage of the disease. The age acceleration is fastest during the acute inflammatory phase, when the body and the virus are in intense combat; and it is slightly reversed during the recovery phase.

Even after the infection is over, many people still have symptoms of "long Covid". Is this related to the aging caused by Covid-19?

Epigenetic aging is seen in the graying of hair and loosening of teeth. However, on a cellular level, cells in the human body also gradually age.

"Cellular senescence" refers to a state of cell cycle arrest when cells are stressed, as well as the secretion of various inflammatory cytokines at the same time.

[Now, cytokines are a type of protein that is made by certain immune and non-immune cells and has an effect on the immune system. Some cytokines stimulate the immune system and others slow it down. They can also be made in the laboratory and used to help the body fight cancer, infections, and other diseases.]

In a paper published in *Nature Aging*, a Japanese research team stated that senescent cells do not die immediately but, instead, they spread inflammatory cytokines to nearby uninfected cells, causing more cells to senesce as well.

So, what are the effects of cellular senescence on our health? Cellular senescence plays an important role in many age-related diseases, such as degenerative diseases of the nerves, eyes, lungs and heart.

Do the Covid-19 vaccines also cause cellular senescence? The aforementioned study was conducted prior to the Omicron variant outbreak, and the Omicron variant is clearly less pathogenic than the old strain.

In fact, some of the mutation sites of the Omicron variant counteracted the factors that caused cellular senescence. It is estimated that Omicron causes significantly less accelerated senescence or sequelae than the old strain.

However, the vaccines we are currently administering are still developed using the spike proteins of the old strain of early 2020, so is there a risk of accelerated aging?

The Covid-19 vaccines mainly express spike proteins in the human body. In a study published in the *Journal of Virology* in 2021, researchers from Saint Louis University in Missouri transfected spike proteins of the old strain into cells in vitro.

It was later discovered that a large number of cellular senescence markers (including specific cytokines, interleukins, and specific enzymes) were found in the spike-transfected cells, compared to the control group.

In addition, the spike proteins increase inflammatory factors, cause mitochondrial damage, produce misfolded proteins and cause genomic instability, all of which accelerate cellular aging.

There is a way to reverse aging, though. Reversing aging sounds like a dream come true for everyone. We have already understood so many mechanisms related to aging, so is it possible to find a way to slow down or even reverse aging?

In fact, our daily diet, work habits and lifestyle all affect the epigenetic aging clock. For instance, during high-temperature cooking, red meat produces glycosylated end-products, which are associated with cellular aging; poultry and fish are relatively healthy; and the vitamins in fruits and vegetables help keep cells young, which can help slow down or reverse the aging clock.

In addition, in an article published in 2017 in the journal *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, American and French scholars investigated whether or not sitting in meditation affects the epigenetic aging clock.

The study's subjects were 18 individuals who had been meditating for at least ten years and meditated for at least 30 minutes a day, and 20 non-meditators. They were divided into two groups: under and over

52 years of age, respectively. The researchers measured the DNA methylation in their blood cells for estimation of their epigenetic aging acceleration.

The results showed that the epigenetic aging acceleration increased in elderly non-meditators, while the acceleration in elderly meditators was more similar to that of younger people and was not affected by the epigenetic aging effect.

Gene expression is also associated with changes in our appearance, so meditators appear younger than their actual age. Furthermore, meditators also have younger brains.

The University of California Los Angeles and the Australian National University jointly published a study in 2016 in the journal *NeuroImage*. The study's subjects were 250 meditators and 50 non-meditators, both groups with an average age of 51.4 years.

The researchers analysed and compared the brain ages of the two groups and found that the brain age of the meditators was younger than their actual age.

For instance, 50-year-old meditators had the same brain age as a 42.5-year-old non-meditator, while 60-year-old meditators had the same brain age as the 51-year-old non-meditators in the control group.

Interestingly, for the meditators over 50, each additional year of their actual age would make their brain age one month and 22 days younger than their actual age.

In summary, damage caused by SARS-CoV-2 to the human body speeds up the human epigenetic clock of aging and dumbs down the brain. Vaccines based on the old strains in 2020 may also harm the human body in this regard.

At least 67 per cent of the world's people have now been vaccinated; will people in the future get older more quickly? No. It is too early to conclude anything based on cellular data alone rather than human studies. However, the cellular data are a clear reminder for us to take precautions to prevent this.

Meanwhile, it is quite worrisome that when this topic was discussed during a Health 1+1 live broadcast on July 12, 2022, quite a few audience members commented that they themselves or their friends or relatives had become obviously older after receiving the jabs.

The good news is that aging is a long process. During this process, for example, we can develop the habits of healthy living, including eating well, exercising and daily meditation, which can help slow down or even reverse the aging process, and furthermore bring us various positive health benefits.

A TIME/The Epoch Times dispatch. Yuhong Dong, MD, PhD, is a clinical researcher at Novartis, a Swiss-American multinational pharmaceutical corporation. However, the views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author.

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 ZAIIDI 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

TBL embarks on 'smart drinking' behavioural change campaign

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Breweries Limited (TBL) is once again running its 'smart drinking' behavioural change campaign this month with the aim of imparting knowledge and reminding consumers about smart drinking behaviours.

TBL and its parent company, AB InBev have assumed the responsibility to help reduce and prevent the harm-

ful use of alcohol around the world.

In 2015, AB InBev launched the Global Smart Drinking Goals which are to be implemented globally by the end of 2025.

This year's 'smart drinking' week will again champion the many specific behaviours and social norms that encompass smart drinking and aim to make every experience with beer a positive one.

TBL's Country Director, Jose Moran said: "The art of drinking smart is what the brewer company would like to share with all customers as smart drinking has become part of TBL and AB InBev's company culture and we would like to continue to strive to bring that culture to communities."

He said TBL is sharing with consumers that 'the art of drinking' is an opportunity to promote healthy behav-

iors such as eating before or during drinking, drinking water or non-alcoholic beer between drinks, and planning transportation before drinking.

Moran added: "Smart drinking is how we ensure that each experience with our products is a positive one. Smart drinking extends beyond drinking responsibly because it is not a compromise. Instead, it allows consumers to enjoy their alcoholic drinks

to the fullest."

To drive awareness of this campaign and its goals, TBL has partnered with its premium beer brands which will engage consumers on ground to further drive the message of smart drinking across.

In Tanzania, TBL, the oldest and largest brewing company and home to some of the most valuable alcoholic brands, will specifically focus on

young adults of legal-drinking-age in driving smart drinking behaviours.

One component of the focus has been partnering with TBL's brands of beers that many enjoy. The partnership is geared to get the smart drinking message across in the most impactful manner to reduce harmful alcohol consumption and substance abuse.



Joseph Mhaiki (L), Stanbic Bank Tanzania's marketing manager, briefs National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (R) yesterday on the agribusiness services the bank provides. This was at the weeklong annual Nane Nane (agricultural) exhibitions this year being held at national level in Mbeya city, with the bank one of the sponsors. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UNECA chief seeks more funds to mitigate the impacts of climate change across Africa

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

VERA Songwe, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has called for urgent and increased funding to mitigate impacts of climate change in Africa.

"Urgent development funds need to flow to Africa for climate change adaptation and resilience-building across the continent," Songwe told a climate-themed event held under the theme "Toward COP 27: African Regional Forum on Climate Initiatives to Finance Climate Action and the SDGs" on Tuesday in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital.

Noting that Africa emits the lowest amount of greenhouse gases, Songwe called for a transparent and fair carbon pricing mechanism so that Africa would be able to receive about \$180 billion a year to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The UNECA chief urged African countries to build food self-sufficiency by making use of their fertile lands and boosting their capacity for production of fertilizers in the continent.

She said at least 23 African countries have seen their currencies depreciate by over 15 percent owing to the recent disruption of food supply to the continent.

"The Ukraine crisis highly affects Africa's capacity to be able to afford the already escalating food, fuel and fertilizer prices," Songwe said, noting that the continent is highly dependent on food imports from Russia and Ukraine.

Songwe urged countries in the continent, especially South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia, to enhance their agricultural



United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) executive secretary Vera Songwe speaks during the African Regional Forum on Climate Initiatives to Finance Climate Action and the SDGs in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

productivity by making use of their fertile lands and fertilizers produced in other parts of the continent.

"Africa exports more volume of fertilizer than it consumes," she said, urging

countries such as Morocco, Egypt, Nigeria, Tanzania to produce high quality and cleaner fertilizer to meet demands in the continent.

"On average, in Africa, we use about

15 kilograms of fertilizer per hectare, compared to about 171 kilograms in Ukraine and Russia. That is why we are importing food from them," Songwe said.

17 pct of power across Zanzibar gets lost through theft, says Zeco

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

APPROXIMATELY 17 per cent of electricity gets lost in Zanzibar due to some unfaithful people connecting power supply illegally thereby denying the country of its rightful income.

This was revealed here Wednesday by the Zanzibar Minister for energy and Minerals, Shaibu Kaduara when he participated in the special crackdown dubbed "Kaduara Operation" that aim to nab people who illegally connect power to their premises.

He said it is a criminal offence to connect power illegally and whoever is caught will be charged under with an offence under the country's law on economic sabotage.

He said the exercise has identified many people who use power illegally, the practice that occasion huge losses to Zanzibar Electricity Corporation (ZECO).

He added that his ministry has started the operation whose aim is to install meters to power consumers as well as cracking down on people who connect power to their premises illegally.

He said the operation has also nabbed several people who have been stealing power for a long time by 'stopping' the meters and added that the ministry will not be lenient on them.

He said the aim of the government is to provide its people clean and safe water supply and electricity to enable them conduct their economic activities for their development and that of the country in general.

For his part, ZECO technician, Juma Mussaa said they have identified people who connect themselves with power direct from the main lines while others have tampered with the existing electric meters.

He said these people will be penalized by being called to pay for the power they had been using illegally.

"Kaduara Operation" began on June 16 this year and will go on until the time power theft is eradicated," he said.

USAID urged to incorporate blue economy sector

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has been called upon to expand its scope by incorporating projects involving the blue economy sector.

The advice was given here yesterday by the Zanzibar second Vice president, Hemed Suleiman Abdullah when launching the "Breed the Future for Tanzania Advancing Youth (Inua Vijana) project sponsored by USAID.

The Vice President called the Agency to provide priority to women in accessing to subsidies through value chain in the hotel sector and to make sure food is produced and sold within and outside the country.

He said it is shameful that even cassava is imported during the Holy Month of Ramadhan during which many Muslims use the food.

Abdullah said the government will continue collaborating with development partners to make sure it attains its 2050 development vision as explained in the Isles economic direction by adhering to its priorities.

He said both governments - mainland and Zanzibar - and the US government through USAID have been able to empower Tanzania youth to become the country's robust labour force for positive development goals.

"Through this project the youth have received market opportunities with which to develop their businesses.

"It is my belief that the youth will continue using your knowledge and skills you have received in self-employment and reduce poverty levels amongst yourselves," the Zanzibar Second VP said.

USAID has provided 9.6bn/- in subsidies through the youth project by reaching 44,000 youth in the period of five years.

US Ambassador to Tanzania, Donald Wright said the project has reached more than 43,000 youth and provided 5.3bn/- in subsidies to farming and business projects manage by the youth.

And Wright further said the project has created credit and saving societies with more than 6,000 members valued at 2.7bn/-.

For his part, Zanzibar Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, Shamata Shaame Khamis said the ministry will continue working together so that the youth labour force is used for economic growth.

Red Cross urges intervention as drought ravages 11 villages

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) has asked for government and civil organisations' intervention to help save lives in 11 villages of Manyara and Arusha regions as stuck with a prolonged drought.

RobiWambura, the TRCS director of disaster management, said over the weekend that the situation is worrying with as most villagers face worrying food shortages and animals are dying.

Those facing food insecurity in the drought affected areas continue to rise, enhancing malnutrition and poverty, she stated, alluding to a drought response operation in those villages scattered in Simanjiro, Monduli, Longido and Mbulu districts in the two regions from February to July. A total of 24,564 households are listed as encountering drought distress conditions.

TRCS has provided various supports worth 635m/- to 1273 families and cash hand-outs amounting to 210,000/- in three months,



The TRCS director of disaster management, RobiWambura helps a beneficiary to stash away her cash at Ranch village in Longido district recently.

she said.

The relief organization has also distributed 2400 jerry cans, 500 water buckets and 108,000 chlorine tablets for water treatment. The chlorine tablets eliminate most viruses and bacteria that can touch off ailments.

Parents of children with malnutri-

tion and poor nutrition status were also trained how to prepare food for their kids, given tips on proper baby hygiene, health seeking behaviour and raising awareness on male involvement in care.

They also distributed food supplements for 154 malnourished children

and supplementary food items for children with poor nutrition. The beneficiaries are from Ildonyo, Lesingita, Ranch, Donyonado, Mfereji, Losokoni, Lorbene, Kitwai A and Kitwai B, Masieda, and YaedaChini villages.

Before handing over the items, the NGO conducted an assessment in five

districts of Kiteto, Simanjiro, Monduli, Longido and Mbulu, conducted by TRCS in collaboration with the disaster management department of the Prime Minister's Office, regional secretariats and district councils, the director noted.

Along with psychological support for affected communities and training on social and gender-based violence, the villagers were put to a presentation on the importance of child protection.

Other aspects touched upon were child safeguarding, risk perception and taking children to clinics for health checks.

"At TRCS we are proud of what has been achieved. Through the knowledge and skills they gained from us, things have changed as women are now attending clinics and receiving education from skilled health personnel, unlike in past years," she said.

Nutrition status of children has improved and more women are now knowledgeable on how to prepare food for their kids, she said, noting that nine villages among 11 have received nutritional foods for children. This has in turn helped them attain better health, reducing malnutrition, she observed.

Arusha regional disaster coordinator, Julius Achiula said he was aware of the villages and districts affected by drought in Monduli and Longido District in Manyara Region.

He said that so far the government in collaboration with TRCS has been taking serious measures to support communities affected by Drought - in terms of food, cash, and jerry cans to keep water in their localities.

According to him, the cash distribution was issued to each family for three consecutive months and each family receive 70,000/-

The donation was officially beginning in April this year to July this year for three phases.

"Before we donate such assistance to the communities affected by Drought, we conduct Food assessments in both regions in collaboration with the Arusha Regional Commissioner's office, Longido, and Monduli district councils.

Manyara Regional Disaster Coordinator, Samuel Dahaye added that he is aware of the drought that occurred in Simanjiro and Mbulu District between November and December 2021 after receiving information from villagers and village leaders.

"The effects of drought

were very high; there was a shortage of pasture and water for livestock and human in these districts," he said, noting that sixty-two animals including sheep and goats were dead, some of the carcasses were found in the boma and communities walk long distances from 10km to 15km to search water for their domestic use, and animals and crops were also affected.

"After receiving information from villages, as the district, we send the information to the ministry of livestock and fisheries, ministry of agriculture, and Prime Minister's Office- Disaster Management Department to see how we will help these communities," he said.

The humanitarian snapshot on Africa's hunger crisis published last month said that levels of hunger remain alarmingly high across the African region. It is forecasted that the dire food insecurity situation is likely to worsen in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

Secondary impacts of the COVID -19 pandemic like loss of employment and income, higher transportation costs and inflation helped trigger the situation, it said, noting that climate change, frequent droughts, flooding, cyclones and unrelenting regional conflicts intensified the crisis.

The full impact of the Russian-Ukraine conflict is on course to being realized with rising food and energy prices, it stated, pointing out that wheat prices were up 32 per cent and fuel by 50 per cent in the region.

Supply chain disruption, including fertilizer supply, adds to the price push, affecting 330m small farmers in Africa who produce up to 80 percent of food crops in the region.

Currently, a staggering 282m people or one-fifth of the entire population on the continent is under-nourished, the report noted.

Almost 60m children in Africa do not have enough food, while across the continent; hunger contributes to 45 percent of childhood deaths, on the basis of a survey conducted by the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF).

With 51m internally displaced people in the world, nearly 70 percent were in worst foodcrisis countries, five of which are in sub-Saharan Africa, namely Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Sudan and South Sudan.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 337 00--

Word fit puzzle grid with the word 'PET' visible in the center.

- 3 LETTERS: PET, APE, CUM
4 LETTERS: FLOW, OVER, EVEN, REAL, OVER ROME, MOOS, POUR
5 LETTERS: LARGE, NOVEL, OMBRE, SPORT METER
6 LETTERS: EAGLES, LEAN TO, MTWARA MODERN, REJECT
7 LETTERS: MOROCCO
8 LETTERS: ACCOUNTS
10 LETTERS: FREE MARKET

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered starting points for clues.

- CLUES: Across
1 fail to impress
5 a memorandum
7 accumulate over time
8 a corner
10 heaven
11 known about by many people
13 the refuse of grapes that have been pressed for winemaking
15 out of the way
17 Kuala Lumpur is her capital city
19 one as a quantity
20 a small stone made smooth and round by the action of water
Down:
1 Muslims bound together
2 a legislative body in the ruling assembly of Russia
3 a house
4 Zambia's capital
6 on to
7 Largest state in U.S.A
9 vehicle equipped for living in
12 the holding of an office
14 a slatted wooden case used for transporting goods
16 an accomplice of a hawker
17 Mother
18 labium

SOLUTIONS section showing the completed word fit and crossword grids.

RADIO One advertisement for 'RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI' featuring a weekly program schedule for Monday through Sunday.

Footer with the slogan 'Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One' and social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

WENTWORTH GAS: WE ATTAINED OUR ESG COMMITMENTS IN 2021 AT MNAZI BAY FIELDS

By Guardian Reporter

WENTWORTH Gas Limited, the leading natural gas producer at Mnazi Bay, southern Tanzania said yesterday that has managed to achieve its Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) commitments in 2021 through sustainability strategy.

Wentworth Resources Plc Chief Executive Officer Katherine Roe said yesterday during the report launch in Dar es Salaam that with the vibrant history, resilient business model and strong financial performance, the company is producing gas to transition Tanzania into the economy of tomorrow.

The detailed report has shown the company has contributed to reduce carbon emission by 10 percent since 2020, contributed to improvement of standards of living among Tanzanians through corporate social responsibility and empowerment programmes among local communities as well as conducting business with high integrity.

"Wentworth has made continued progress with its emission reduction, having achieved one of the lowest carbon intensities per Barrel of Oil Equivalent (BOE) in the London-listed oil and gas sector," said a statement issued by the company yesterday.

In the line with COP26 conference in 2021 Tanzania announced its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emission by 30 percent by 2030.

The country's commitment recognized the need for few critical energy infrastructures, including the need for natural gas for power, production, transportation and thermal services through improvement of national natural gas supply system.

The statement said the company has announced an offsetting partnership with longstanding shareholders, Vitol, to develop community-focused offsetting projects that deliver Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)-aligned benefits for communities in Tanzania.

"I am pleased to confirm Wentworth Resources PLC supports the ten principles of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. We are committed to making the UN global compact and its principles part of the strategy, culture and day to day operations of our company and to engage collaborative projects which advance the broader development goals of the UN, particularly SDGs," she said.

"We are also working with the government of Tanzania to support its national development agenda in energy and environment; and by doing so, improving the livelihood of people."

Speaking on the outlook for 2022, Roe said the company will continue to minimizing the environmental footprint, including environmental disclosure practices by preparing for taskforce for Climate Related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) reporting, in anticipation of mandatory requirement for 2025.

"I am excited by Wentworth's ability to continue developing sustainable growth, positive impact and lasting value of all of our stakeholders, both inside and outside Tanzania," she added.

By supplying stable, low carbon natural gas to Tanzania for electricity generation and industrial use, Wentworth say is contributing to Tanzania's energy transformation by enabling affordable electricity to people and communities in Tanzania.

The company, through its CSR



Wentworth Resources Plc CEO Katherine Roe

programme, is investing in education, health and cultural development projects, which are providing transformational social impacts to neighbouring communities.

Julieth Kairuki, the chairperson of sustainability committee said they will ensure that there is greater impact in term of ESG footprint for the benefit of the company and for Tanzania.

"We are looking to build our information sharing system for the purpose of increasing education around ESG," she said in the report.

The company launched its second sustainability report for 2021 in complementing the annual report 2021 by providing detailed performance in relation to environmental, social and governance issues throughout the

year, verified by the US-based GHD Services Incorporated, an independent consultancy.

The launched sustainability report described the company approach to sustainability through a Sustainable Development Goals- aligned sustainability focus on five strategic pillar including supporting a responsible energy transition, building inclusive workforce, enabling Tanzania's energy transformation, pursuing growth through collaboration & partnership and robust governance of ESG and governance.

Wentworth operates Mnazi Bay onshore natural gas concession in Tanzania with Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) as joint venture partner, offering Tanzanian

government the ownership of the asset.

According to the report, an average annual production at Mnazi Bay is 81.6 Million Standard Cubic Feet (MMscf) per day and contributes to 50 percent of annual natural gas supply for energy.

Wentworth share of production for 2021 was 9.5 Billion cubic feet, or 31 percent of the 2022 total gas production.

The use of natural gas to Tanzania has saved the use of 4.6 billion litres of diesel and heavy fuels oils, which translates the reduction of 3.4 million tonnes of carbon emission in Tanzania.

Eurozone mortgage rate rises threaten house price growth

LONDON

Eurozone mortgage rates are rising sharply, raising the prospect of a slowdown in the housing market after government support provided during the coronavirus pandemic and a desire for more space triggered a surge in house prices.

The cost of new loans to households for house purchases increased by 16 basis points between May and June to 1.94 per cent, according to European Central Bank data published on Tuesday. Average rates are now 64 basis points above the low of 1.3 per cent registered last September — the largest increase in borrowing costs over a nine-month period since 2006.

Mortgage rates are rising across advanced economies as central banks supersize rate rises in a bid to control inflation, raising the risk of prices crashing. In the UK, the average rate on newly drawn mortgages has risen by 65 basis points to 2.15 per cent since the autumn of last year. In the US, the 30-year benchmark Freddie Mac mortgage rate is above 5 per cent, up from less than 3 per cent in the summer of last year.

Andrew Kenningham, chief Europe economist at Capital Economics, described the increase in the eurozone as "striking". He added that higher borrowing costs would be an additional headwind for households, which have seen their disposable income crushed by surges in the cost of energy and food over the past year. "It is one of the factors which we think is likely to push the eurozone into recession in the coming six to nine months."

The ECB data showed mortgage rates rose more rapidly in Germany and Italy, with smaller rises recorded for France and Spain. In Germany, the average mortgage rate rose by more than a full percentage point from the recent low of 1.16 per cent to 2.25 per cent in June. In Italy, there was a 72 basis point increase to 1.97 per cent from the recent low of 1.25 per cent.

Rates have increased across most types of products. The largest monthly rise was for mortgage rates with a maturity of between five and 10 years, which increased by 21 basis points between May and June to 2.23 per cent.

Mortgages look set to become more expensive over the coming months following the ECB's decision to raise its benchmark deposit rate by 50 basis points to zero at the end of July — a bigger move than expected. Another 50 basis point rise is forecast for September after inflation hit a fresh high of 8.9 per cent in the year to July — a fresh all-time high for the currency area and more than four times the central bank's 2 per cent target.

Markets expect more monetary policy tightening in the UK and US too. They have priced in an 88 per cent probability of a 50 basis point rate increase when the Bank of England meets on Thursday, with additional increases expected at the next meetings of the US Federal Reserve.

Rising rates are expected to cool down the boom in the housing market — the result of record-low interest rates, fiscal measures to boost activity and strong demand for bigger properties with outside space because of more people working from home.

"We expect the housing market to slow meaningfully in response to the sharp rise in mortgage rates," said Oliver Rakau, economist at Oxford Economics. "Looking ahead, higher rates and tighter bank lending conditions signal that loan flows are set to slow sharply."

Eurozone house price annual growth reached an all-time high of 9.8 per cent in the first quarter of 2022. While price growth is expected to slow in the coming quarters, economists view a crash as unlikely.

Stamico acquires 14 modern heavy-duty mineral drillers

By Francis Kajubi

THE State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) has secured 14 modern mineral drilling facilities, making it as one of the top five mining companies with heavy working machines.

STAMICO Acting Managing Director Dr Venance Mwashe told Property Watch earlier this week in Dar es Salaam that the new mining heavy machines were purchased in June this year, and has placed the state company in a well fledged competitive position with both local and foreign private companies.

For decades, giant companies in the mining sector such as Boart Longyear, Capital Limited, and SuperCore Drilling Company Limited had led the drilling sub-sector, but now STAMICO is well equipped to rein the deep holes underground drilling activities with modern equipment.

"As Stamico celebrates its 50th anniversary as it becomes a complete mining services provider through different angles of the sector such as exploration and production drilling, load and haul services and fleet maintenance," said Dr Mwashe.

According to him, the 14 drilling rigs are currently facilitating mining activities at Geita Gold Mine Limited, Buckereef, and Buhemba Gold Mine. He said STAMICO had spent 1bn/- and 4.5bn/- in purchasing each drilling rig that differs in operation capacities.

"For a single drilling rig to fully operate at least 50 youths are needed to be recruited on different



Stamico Acting managing director Dr Venance Mwashe

segments of the drilling process. With the existence of 14 rigs in mining sites almost 700 young people have been employed," he asserted.

Explaining about the rigs, STAMICO Head of Site Drilling Activities Alex Rutagwelela, said one of the drilling rigs that the company owns is the reverse circulation (RC) Explorac235 manufactured by Epiroc, a Swedish company.

"The rig has a capacity of drilling deeper holes of up to 400 meters. The E235 uses high air pres-

sure. It is one of the rarest rigs owned by Stamico in Tanzania until mid this year when another mining company purchased one," said Rutagwelela.

He said the Explorac 235 meets all the challenges of exploration with reverse circulation.

While designed specifically for reverse circulation drilling to depths of 300 to 400 meters, the rig can be easily adapted for water well drilling. The Explorac 235 is available for assembly on a truck or crawler chassis.

STAMICO is a wholly owned government enterprise, is a under the Ministry of Energy and Minerals established by the Public Corporation Act cap 257 through State Mining Corporation Establishment Order No. 163 of 1972 as amended in 2014.

Its mission is to invest in the mining industry and provide quality services in the management of mines, drilling, consultancies and other related businesses particularly to the artisanal and small-scale miners.



Sydney's property market is well into a downturn, but other markets are ticking along at a slower rate

AUSTRALIA PROPERTY MARKET PRICE SLOW OVER RISING INTEREST RATES

SYDNEY

Rising interest rates are set to push property prices lower even in areas that have so far been immune from the downturn, according to a new report.

Inner suburbs in the nation's largest cities are in the grips of a property market downturn, but prices in some markets are just hitting their peak while others still look poised for more growth.

Sydney's property market is well into a downturn, but other markets are ticking along at a slower rate.

Sydney is well into its market downturn, and the inner suburbs of Melbourne are not far behind, a new report tracking property cycles across the country shows.

Brisbane and Darwin have more recently shifted into a downswing, Adelaide and Hobart have likely reached the peak, while Perth is closing in on a market high, PRD's Australian Economic and Property Report 2022, released on Thursday, found.

Most other regional markets were at or past their peak, except for regional Victoria which was not far off, on an assessment of "property clocks" that looks at whether markets are at a peak, trough, upswing or downswing.

PRD Real Estate chief economist Diaswati Mardiasmo said rising interest rates were affecting all buyers, but that the pullback in borrowing power tended to hit more expensive markets first. Differing supply and demand dynamics also affected how quickly cities and regions moved into a downturn.

"We really are seeing a very fragmented market ... it's really dependent on the supply and demand forces in each of those markets," she said.

Within cities there were separate markets ticking along at different speeds, Mardiasmo noted. The level of price growth during the boom, the main property type in a market, and the buyers it appealed to were also factors.

"NSW definitely hit its affordability ceiling earlier," she said. "It had always been leading in terms of growth ... they've galloped towards the finishing line faster, and have now gone past it."

"Each market has a ceiling ... Melbourne is very close to that ceiling, inner Melbourne has gone past it, but regional Victoria is still building up to it."

Prices in some markets are just hitting their peak, while others still look poised for more growth.

She added that while areas of Greater Melbourne had recorded price drops, some pockets were still growing.

The stage of the property cycle in each market was determined by assessing annual growth for the year to June, compared to the previous year, and anecdotal evidence from real estate agents about supply and demand in their local market. Housing data from other sources like property analytics company CoreLogic, were also factored in.

But given how quickly the cash rate was rising, more resilient markets were likely to move into a downturn in the months to come as changes to interest rates typically affected slower markets within three to six months.

Starr Partners chief executive Douglas Driscoll said Sydney buyers and sellers were holding back amid speculation of further rate rises and continued price falls, and those pushing ahead were increasingly looking for a bargain.

"They'll come to us and try to play hardball on price ... and cite various sources that we're not at the bottom of the market yet, and that the home that they're looking at will be less in three months' time," he said.

"Undeniably the pendulum has swung and it's now become a "buyers' market" or that's certainly the way buyers perceive it, the truth is we're somewhere in between."

Driscoll said price declines across his western Sydney markets were approaching 10 per cent on average, but he did not think there was "a huge amount" left for the downturn. Uncertainty was making buyers wary, and once the dust settled on rate hikes, he expected the market would bounce back quite firmly.

For now, necessity sales, driven by deaths, debt, divorce and downsizing, were driving the market, he said. And while competition for homes had dropped off, genuine buyers were still there.

Ray White Victoria and Tasmania chief executive Stephen Dullens said Melbourne had seen a later shift, as residual demand after multiple lockdowns had propped

SHELTER AFRIQUE RECOVERS SH687M IN TROUBLED KENYAN HOUSING PROJECTS

NAIROBI

Pan-African housing financier Shelter Afrique recovered Sh687.19 million in various troubled real estate projects in Kenya in the year ended December 2021.

The financier revealed in its latest annual report that it repossessed collaterals comprising 11 apartments in Eden Beach Resort & Spa in Mombasa, 15 houses in unnamed local projects as well as vacant land in Athi River all worth Sh533.7 million.

The financier said it also recovered Sh153.49 million from the Kenyan developer of the Spring Green project in Kenya where it invested Sh487.8 million.

Shelter Afrique has in recent years put in place an aggressive strategy for recovery of the mounting non-performing loans.

"The profit was mainly attributed to impairment recoveries of \$2.53 million, mostly made up of \$1.29 million recovery from a \$4.1 million receipt from the Spring Green project in Kenya," said Shelter Afrique acting chief financial officer Beatrice Mburu in the report.

"In 2021, the management sustained the recoveries efforts anchored in the board-approved non-performing loans management strategy 2020-2023," said the manager in charge of special operations unit Macharia Kihuro.

"Management through the special operations unit has continuously and regularly reviewed the success and effectiveness of the NPLs' management



Shelter Afrique halted a Sh550 million loan to a Nairobi-based developer for a 240-apartment residential development in Ruaka, Kiambu County, leaving home buyers fretting over the future of the project. FILE PHOTO

strategies."

Shelter Afrique halted a Sh550 million loan to a Nairobi-based developer for a 240-apartment residential development in Ruaka, Kiambu County, leaving home buyers fretting over the future of the project.

"In 2018, Glenwood Garden Project was fully impaired," said Shelter Afrique with its books indicating it impaired Sh105.2 million last year related to the project.

Shelter Afrique's Everest Park Project was built on an expansive estate in Athi River,

and also faced woes.

The project comprised 120 one-bedroomed units that were priced at Sh2.6 million each, 60 two-bedroom units at Sh4.5 million each, and 60 three-bedroom units sold at Sh5.5 million each.

"As of 31 December 2021, the

directors have assessed the investment to be recoverable despite the impact of Covid-19 on the real estate market. The directors continue to assess the evolving impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the industry," said Shelter Afrique.

What next for the US housing market?

By Anna Bahney

So far this year, the real estate market has not been going the way many prospective homebuyers had hoped. Home prices - already at all-time highs - have continued to climb and mortgage rates have risen much faster than expected.

While some buyers have forged ahead, others have put their home search on hold or have given up entirely because the rising costs have put ownership out of reach.

But as recession fears for the larger economy loom, the housing market is showing signs of slowing. Sales of new construction homes are down and construction is stalling. Sales of existing homes have dropped and are trending below 2019 levels. As mortgage rates remain above 5%, applications have fallen to their lowest level in 22 years.

Still, neither home prices nor mortgage rates are expected to plummet and affording a home is likely to remain a challenge for the rest of the year, economists say. Home price gains are slowing, but year-over-year prices are still seeing double-digit increases. And the Federal Reserve announced another rate hike this week, which will keep mortgage rates volatile.

"Affordability is the biggest issue in the housing market today, and higher rates will make that worse on a monthly basis" said Skylar Olsen, chief economist at Zillow.

Mortgage rates will stabilize

The big surprise for those looking to buy a home during the first half of the year was how mortgage rates shot up so much, so fast. Interest rates for a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage rose from 3.22% at the beginning of January to a high, so far this year, of 5.81% in June, according to Freddie Mac. In recent weeks, average rates have settled in around 5.5%.

What will my monthly mortgage payment be?

"Someone buying the same house today that they wanted to buy last year will see a 50% increase in their monthly payment," said Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors. "People's incomes do not rise by 50% in a year. Homebuyers are frustrated. This year, they are in total disbelief that they don't have the money to buy at a 6% mortgage rate."

The cost of financing a home is so great that nearly 15% of people who signed a contract to buy a home in June backed out, according to Redfin. That's the highest share of canceled home sales since April 2020,

when the market all but stopped due to the pandemic.

But Yun said that while mortgage rates may tick up or down in the months to come, the biggest jumps have already happened.

"We may be topping out on mortgage rates," he said.

Yun noted that mortgage rates may have largely already "priced-in" the Fed's current and anticipated future interest rate hikes. He expects mortgage rates will settle in near 6% by year's end and that home sales will normalize once mortgage rates become more stable.

Inventory will rise from last year

As the market slows, potential buyers who continue to search for a home will have less competition and more homes to choose from, offering more breathing room than the frenzied market of the past two years.

Economists were largely on target with their home price projections for the first half of the year - with annual price growth peaking in the spring and moderating as the year has gone on. But the number of sales at this point in the year is way below expectations, said Jeff Tucker, an economist at Zillow.

"Sales volume has taken a much bigger hit than prices," he said. "Buyers soldiered through those mortgage rate increases longer than we thought - that kept prices high. But some buyers began to drop out."

Yun said he anticipates 2022 sales will be down by about 13% from last year.

The upshot, said Tucker, is that as sales volumes continue to fall, inventory will tick up.

Soaring demand to buy a home during the past two years led to record low inventory of homes to buy and that pushed prices up. In June, inventory saw its first year-over-year turnaround in three years. The number of homes available for sale at the end of June was up 9.6% from May and 2.4% from a year ago, according to NAR.

Home prices will rise more slowly

The median price of a home reached a record high of \$416,000 in June.

But the pace of price growth has been slowing lately. Median home prices for existing homes were up 13.4% in June from the year before, compared with the

23% spike in home prices in June 2021, according to NAR.

How much house can I afford?

In addition, prices on new construction homes are actually falling. The median sales price of a new construction home dropped to \$402,400 in June, down from \$444,500 in May, according to the US Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"This is the biggest crack yet in home-price inflation," said Robert Frick, corporate economist at Navy Federal Credit Union. "If existing home prices follow suit, we may finally see a break in annual increases that have priced millions of Americans out of the housing market."

New construction homes make up roughly 10% of transactions and existing homes the other 90%. And prices for the vast majority of the market aren't falling.

Yun said he expects home prices for this year will be up 11%. That's less than the 16.9% year-over-year increase from 2020 to 2021, but more than he had predicted at the beginning of this year.

As higher mortgage rates tamp down buyer demand, inventory will rise and sales will fall, which should help prices to moderate the rest of this year.

"Homes may be sitting on the market longer, there will be more properties with price reductions," Yun said. "Buyers who do deeper homework may be able to find a home with a price reduction or get a better price negotiation."

Affordability will remain a challenge for homebuyers.



CONSTRUCTION

AL KHOORY HOTELS LAUNCHES SEVENTH DUBAI PROPERTY

DUBAI Al Khoory Hotels, part of the Al Khoory Group's hospitality division, has announced the official opening of its latest 4-star property, Al Khoory Courtyard Hotel located on Al Waha Street, off Sheikh Zayed Road in Dubai, UAE.

The new hotel provides easy access to Dubai International Airport. For families, the location is close to a myriad of attractions in Downtown, Dubai Marina, and Palm Jumeirah, while business travellers will enjoy the short distances to hubs such as Business Bay and the forthcoming District 2020.

The hotel comprises 158 rooms categorised into eight configurations, ranging from the superior and deluxe rooms to the premium and Courtyard suites. Guests can choose from four distinctive dining experiences, including the authentic Al Baha Levantine Restaurant. Guests can relax in the spa and rooftop infinity pool or explore the many attractions and shopping destinations on the hotel's doorstep.

Jeff Isaacs, Hotel Manager, Al Khoory Courtyard Hotel, said: "Al Khoory Hotels has seen incredible growth in recent years thanks to our strategic position in business and leisure hubs throughout Dubai. Each of our properties offers unrivalled connectivity, and the Courtyard Hotel is no exception.



Al Khoory Courtyard Hotel

"Guests to the new property will have access to world-class amenities and excellent F&B outlets, emphasising quality at unbeatable value. Our popularity and growth as a company are in recognition of our superior service, with business travellers, leisure visitors and families returning year after year."

The hotel is Shariah-compliant, and all rooms are non-smoking with connecting room facilities

available, making the Courtyard the ideal choice for families. The management team has also focused on adopting local traditions of hospitality to capitalise on the family-centric offering.

Rooms feature complimentary Wi-Fi, a 43-inch interactive HD TV and a state-of-the-art guest room management system, enabling guests to set the lighting and A/C of the room and create a relaxed atmosphere as per their mood,

adding to the overall experience.

When it comes to leisure facilities, in addition to the rooftop infinity pool, the hotel has a fully equipped gym, @Calories, while separate male and female sauna, steam, massage and therapy rooms, part of Yasmine Spa, allow guests to relax and rejuvenate. The Little Bees Kids Club and children's fountain for younger guests ensures the whole family remains entertained.

Thanks to the property's central location, guests enjoy unparalleled views of the Dubai skyline, including the world-famous Burj Khalifa from the rooftop infinity pool and view-facing rooms and suites.

Al Khoory Courtyard has a range of restaurant options. Al Baha Restaurant, inspired by the warm and rich culture of Arabia, serves a range of hot and cold mezze, grills, manakeesh and Levantine food. In addition, Spices international all-day dining serves a multitude of international and Indian cuisines, focusing on the family. The lobby café and Shalal Café & Lounge are available for lighter bites and drinks throughout the day.

"We have taken the conscious decision to guarantee families feel at home at the Courtyard Hotel by ensuring all rooms are smoke-free, adding extensive kids' menus to our restaurants, and providing babysitting facilities, allowing families to stay with us and enjoy everything Dubai has to offer, worry-free," said Hamed Mohamed Tayeb Mohamed Khoory - Director of Al Khoory Group.

The hotel also provides a complimentary business centre, and the property's location acts as a hub to access DIFC, the Dubai World Trade Centre, and District 2020, allowing for a mixture of business and leisure.

To celebrate the opening of the Al Khoory Courtyard Hotel, when guests book one night, they can enjoy a special 50% discount off the second night. If booking two rooms, guests can enjoy a 50% discount on the second room rate, according to a hotel statement.

China's infrastructure construction perks up amid policy incentives

BEIJING

From road construction sites to water conservancy projects across China, excavator operators have been pretty busy this year amid the country's endeavors to rev up infrastructure construction.

According to the "excavator index" tracked by leading construction gear maker Sany Heavy Industry Co., Ltd, the cumulative working hours of excavators in China during the first six months of the year increased by 6.86 percent from a year ago.

During the second quarter, the monthly average operating rate of the engineering equipment reached 66.77 percent, climbing from 53.98 percent in the first quarter, the data showed.

The increased workload of the engineering machinery reflected in the index points to the effectiveness of the pro-growth policies, the accelerated pace of infrastructure construction, and the improvement of investment confidence, said Zhu Minghao, a researcher with Beijing Jiaotong University.

The industry data was in line with the growth of fixed-asset investment, which jumped 6.1 percent during the first half of the year from a year earlier to 27.14 trillion yuan (about 4.02 trillion U.S. dollars), data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed.

Meanwhile, the investment in the infrastructure sector gained 7.1 percent year on year.

Behind the upbeat reading, China has undertaken a flurry of pro-investment initiatives. The country has promised a moderately proactive approach to advance infrastructure investment in this year's government work report.

In the first half of the year, local governments in China have issued 3.41 trillion yuan worth of new special bonds, which offered support to over 23,800 projects, 13,000 of them being newly launched, according to the Ministry of Finance.

“**Meanwhile, the investment in the infrastructure sector gained 7.1 percent year on year.**

During the period, the country initiated the construction of nearly 170 new highways and national and provincial road projects, with the total investment reaching 291 billion yuan.

With the rural revitalization high on the government's agenda, the country has also stepped up investment in rural infrastructure. Some 60,000 km of rural roads and 3,283 unsafe bridges were reconstructed in the first half of the year, up 17.7 percent and 9.2 percent year on year, respectively.

Besides traditional infrastructure projects such as roads and railways, the country is also betting on the new infrastructure as a part of its long-term goal to optimize the overall economic layout and foster new growth drivers.

From cloud computing and artificial intelligence platforms to data centers and the industrial internet, China has channeled more investment into the development of new infrastructure.

In terms of digital information infrastructure, the country has added nearly 300,000 5G base stations in the second quarter of the year, bringing the total number of the stations in use to over 1.85 million, official data showed.

Looking ahead, the country will accelerate the construction of the 102 key projects listed in the country's 14th Five-Year Plan, actively advance the projects under construction, and further leverage the special bonds and financial services to support major projects, said Zhai Shanqing, an NBS official.

OPINION

SA's housing crisis is neither sustainable nor palatable

Chamani Neza Tshazi

The number of people needing housing interventions in the country is estimated to be at least 12 million, a number that is neither sustainable nor palatable in a country of 60 million people, writes Chamani Neza Tshazi.

The apartheid government's lack of investment in housing, coupled with the absence of a coherent and practical housing model in post-apartheid South Africa, has created an unprecedented housing shortage that the country has so far struggled to deal with. This is despite the state's efforts to deal with this problem, providing a staggering 3.7 million housing opportunities in the 20-year period between 1994 and 2014 alone. In the same period, however, we have seen the housing backlog in the country grow from 2.1 million to 2.3 million housing opportunities.

South Africa's housing programmes have, in the years since democracy been aimed at reducing the number of informal settlements in the country as opposed to contending with the magnitude of the country's housing challenges in their entirety. That informal settlements are a pressing challenge cannot be debated, but they cannot continue to be treated in isolation from other housing challenges. In 2011 the Department of Energy stated that on average it takes at least a minimum of nine years for an informal settlement upgrading project to be completed from date of inception, and that excludes all the necessary pre-feasibility studies.

Reality, however, has shown that even this nine-year average is anything but a conservative estimate. The experiences of communities on the ground tell a different story. Over the past few years, we have seen informal settlements continue to grow in communities without a plan from government to incrementally develop them. And in the instances where these settlements



have been upgraded, communities have watched the social networks, that are their very fabric, get destroyed at the expense of a few people getting a house.

Where do the problems originate? In trying to deal with South Africa's housing challenges, some of the critical questions to answer become, where do these problems originate, and how do we deal with them? The simple answer is that a wide range of factors contributes to South Africa's housing problems. Our history of dispossession has played a key role in the creation of these problems, but that they have been maintained 28 years into democracy cannot be solely blamed on history. At some stage, the current government must take some if not most of the blame for the maintenance of the housing status quo in the years post-democracy.

As a start, the model the government, adopted to contend with many of our housing challenges is one of the main reasons why we have not been able to effectively deal with our historical housing issues and instead further exacerbated them through new means.

Examples of this model in South Africa have been the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) and its many iterations over

the years, such as Breaking New Ground (BNG), People's Housing Process (PHP), and Enhanced People's Housing Process (ePHP) etc. These are all subsidy instruments that differ in nomenclature, but harbour similar principles and outcomes. People get money for a house, with the difference being either government builds with RDP and BNG or the people build these houses themselves with PHP and ePHP.

Adding further insult to injury, the state has adopted a clear position as the main provider of housing, in conflict with its own plans for housing development as articulated in the National Development Plan 2030 explicitly states that the state should gradually shift its role from a direct housing provider of last resort to a housing facilitator, ensuring adequate shelter and greater access to a wider choice of housing options. Yet there are RDP/BNG/ PHP/ePHP houses smelling of fresh paint in many a township across South Africa, a model that has proven to not be sustainable.

Outsourced to the private sector Furthermore, the South African government has outsourced the responsibility of housing development to the private sector. This

has meant that adequate access to well-located land for all has been negated in favour of maximum profits for a few. Access to well-located land for housing has been a privilege enjoyed by those with the financial means and capital, while the rest of society has been continuously placed on the periphery of cities.

Now, what needs to happen? South Africa needs a new housing model that is not based on subsidies as an instrument, but one that takes into account the needs of citizens holistically outside of four walls and a roof above their head.

A number of poor South Africans need a physical structure as a home to own, and in many instances, only the government can provide this.

The reality, however, is that this isn't possible for all those in need within the available financial resources of the state. And increasing the budget won't help, instead, it will result in the formation of more informal settlements further growing South Africa's housing challenges.

Driven by these comprehensive issues, the Nelson Mandela University, the Nelson Mandela Foundation and Habitat for Humanity South Africa recently signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding. This memorandum is in part aimed at seeking alternative affordable housing solutions that contend with the challenges faced by many poor people in present-day South Africa.

This MoU was launched officially on the 19th of July 2022 at Rolihlahla informal settlement in Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan municipality, perhaps an emblematic moment to showcase the communities it ought to serve.

Co-create lasting solutions

In speaking to the memorandum, Professors Verne Harris and Sjekula Mbanga, from the Nelson Mandela Foundation and Nelson Mandela University respectively,

emphasised how this MoU served as a moment to sit down, listen and co-create lasting solutions with the communities that the solutions were meant to service as opposed to top-down approaches we had been introduced to in the past. It is noteworthy that Mayor Eugene Johnson was in attendance.

Want to respond to the columnist?

Send your letter or article to opinions@news24.com with your name and town or province. You are welcome to also send a profile picture. We encourage a diversity of voices and views in our readers' submissions and reserve the right not to publish any and all submissions received.

This MoU signifies the importance of what could happen in partnerships between the academy and civil society, driven by a common goal to see an improvement in the lives of communities that they serve.

The MoU comes at a critical time where South Africa's current recorded housing backlog sits at a conservative estimated 2.6 million households. This puts the number of people needing housing interventions in the country at a minimum of 12 million, a number that is neither sustainable nor palatable in a country of 60 million people.

The MoU aims to respond to these challenges and more, and whether or not it will achieve its aims remains to be seen. But what is clear from it, is that the intention is there, and the hope is that government and society at large will be able to respond to some of the issues that it seeks to address in a manner that services the majority of poor South Africans.

Chamani Neza Tshazi is a Dialogue and Advocacy Analyst at the Nelson Mandela Foundation and a PhD in Urban and Regional Planning Candidate at the University of Stellenbosch. He writes in his personal capacity.

WORLD

Guterres: UN Secretariat doesn't take money from oil, gas industry

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN secretary-general said on Wednesday that the secretariat of the global body does not take money from the oil and gas industry.

"I can guarantee that the UN Secretariat does not (take money from the oil and gas industry)," Antonio Guterres told reporters. "Our orientation has been for the Pension Fund to entirely divest from the fossil fuel system, which started by divesting from coal. And I believe they already reached full divesting from the fossil fuel industry in general."

He strongly recommended the UN agencies not to receive any contribution from those "that we consider have played the most important role in the climate change".

He also called for taxation on windfall profits of oil and gas companies to ease the impact of the energy crisis on the most vulnerable people.

"It is immoral for oil and gas companies to be making record profits from this energy crisis on the backs of the poorest people and communities and at a massive cost to the climate," he said at the launch of the third report of his Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance over the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"I urge all governments to tax these excessive profits and use the funds to support the most vulnerable people through these difficult times," he said, noting that the combined profits of the largest energy companies in the first quarter of this year are close to \$100 billion.

All countries, and especially developed countries, must manage energy demand. Conserving energy, promoting public transport and nature-based solutions are essential components of that, said the UN chief.

There is also a need to accelerate the transition to renewables, which in most cases are cheaper than fossil fuels. At the same time, private and multilateral finance for the green energy transition must be scaled up, he said.

Every country is part of this energy crisis, and all countries are paying attention to what others are doing. There is no place for hypocrisy, said the UN chief.

Developing countries don't lack reasons to invest in renewables. Many of them are living with the severe impacts of the climate crisis. What they lack are concrete, workable options.

Meanwhile, developed countries are urging them to invest in renewables, without providing enough social, technical or financial sup-



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

port, he said.

Some of those same developed countries are introducing universal subsidies at gas stations, while others are reopening coal plants. It is difficult to justify such steps even on a temporary basis, he said.

"If they are pursued, such policies must be strictly time-bound and targeted, to ease the burden on the energy-poor and the most vulnerable, during the fastest possible transition to renewables."

The Ukraine conflict, apart from the damage within the country, is having a huge and multi-dimensional impact far beyond the borders, through a three-fold crisis of access

to food, energy and finance, he said.

Household budgets everywhere are feeling the pinch from high food, transport and energy prices, fueled by climate breakdown and war. This threatens a starvation crisis for the poorest households, and severe cutbacks for those on average incomes, he said.

Many developing countries are drowning in debt, without access to finance, and struggling to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and could go over the brink. There are already the warning signs of a wave of economic, social and political upheaval that would leave no country untouched, Guterres warned.

China stands firm amid Pelosi aftermath

STATE Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said yesterday that China would resolutely respond to the United States' flagrant provocation and political gamble.

Wang (pictured) also called for countries to support China's legitimate position and measures on the Taiwan question.

He made the remarks on the sidelines of ASEAN-plus foreign ministers' meetings in Phnom Penh, Cambodia while further expressing China's position on the US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan.

Noting the visit was plotted and instigated by Washington, Wang said the US has trampled on international law, violated its commitment to China, damaged peace across the Taiwan Straits, supported separatism and clamored for bloc confrontation.

"Pelosi's visit to Taiwan is an-

other bankruptcy of US politics, diplomacy and credibility as a country and a testament that the US is 'the biggest peace destroyer' across the Taiwan Straits and 'the biggest troublemaker' for regional stability," Wang said.

"It also suggests that the US' Indo-Pacific Strategy is extremely confrontational and harmful, and demonstrates US hypocrisy and double standards on international rules," Wang added.

Wang stressed that the US' acts amount to an open provocation against Chinese people and peace-loving people of countries in the region, which is a political gamble that is bound to bring about appalling effects.

"If China does not resolutely counter the US' manic, irresponsible and extremely irrational deeds, the international principles of respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity would



simply become a piece of blank paper," Wang said.

"Separatist elements and extreme forces would intensify their actions and the hard-won peace and stability in the region would be severely damaged," he added.

Wang said that China has made

the utmost diplomatic efforts to try to avoid the crisis and, in the meantime, Beijing would never allow its core interests and the process of national reunification to be jeopardized.

"China would not sit idle by and let the US play the 'Taiwan card' to serve its domestic politics and

politicians' self-interests, neither will China tolerate acts of creating tension, provoking confrontation and instigating division," Wang added.

Wang said the comprehensive measures China has taken now and will take later, through prudent consideration and careful review, "are a necessary and timely defense and are countermeasures to safeguard its national sovereignty and security".

"They are also in line with the international law and China's domestic law, serving as a warning to provocateurs and helping safeguard regional stability and peace across the Taiwan Straits," he added.

Wang called on parties to see clearly the causes and nature of the crisis to jointly oppose US provocations and to safeguard peace in the region and across the Taiwan Straits.

UN renews warnings over possible food shortage in Sudan

KHARTOUM

THE United Nations on Wednesday renewed its warnings over possible food shortage in Sudan amid continued lack of international funding.

"The humanitarian situation in Sudan continued to be a major concern, with a steady increase in food insecurity levels, more civilian displacement and the arrival of more refugees from neighbouring countries, mainly South Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea," the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a report.

"Almost a quarter of the country's population (11.7 million people) are estimated to be facing acute hunger from June to September, an increase by nearly 2 million people compared with the same period last year," OCHA said, citing latest analysis by the Integrated

Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) on food security in Sudan.

Meanwhile, the World Food Programme (WFP) in Sudan has announced that it has been forced to cut rations for refugees across the country since June because of severe funding shortfalls, OCHA said in its report.

The WFP regularly assists over 550,000 refugees in Sudan, including among those forcibly displaced, the report said, adding these cuts could exacerbate protection risks as refugees may resort to negative coping mechanisms, including school drop-out, child labour, early marriage, and sexual and gender-based violence.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) attributed the increase in the number of people facing hunger to Sudan's fragile economy, prolonged dry spells, re-

duced cultivated area, and erratic rainfall, said the report.

FAO has launched a new project which aims to restore the food security and nutrition of resource-poor farming and pastoral communities through the provision of emergency agriculture and livestock supplies, the report said.

Sudan has been witnessing continued rise in prices of bread made of wheat flour, with one loaf now reaching 50 Sudanese pounds (0.11 US dollars).

The gap between wheat production and consumption in Sudan ranges between 60 to 70 percent. The annual consumption is about 2.4 million tons, while the local production stands at about 700,000 tons, according to official statistics.

Sudan has been plagued by an economic

crisis since the secession of South Sudan in 2011, which costs Sudan 75 percent of its oil revenues.

The crisis was exacerbated when the United States and international agencies suspended aid after Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, general commander of the Sudanese armed forces, declared a state of emergency on Oct. 25, 2021 and dissolved the Sovereign Council.

The United States has suspended 700 million dollars in economic aid to Sudan, while the World Bank failed to offer Sudan the 500 million dollars due in November 2021.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) also halted 150 million dollars in special drawing rights for Sudan. Sudan's debt relief process under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative of the IMF has also been suspended.

Xinhua

China's foreign trade bucks trend, sets new records

yuan per kilogram. It has greatly relieved the cost pressure for foreign trade companies.

According to customs statistics, China's foreign trade of goods jumped 9.4 percent year on year in the first half of this year. The total imports and exports in May and June grew 9.5 percent and 14.3 percent, respectively, reversing the decline in growth in April led by the COVID-19 resurgence.

The month-by-month growth signified a V-shaped rebound in China's foreign trade and has laid a solid foundation for the whole-year performance.

Apart from the upturn, China's foreign trade also set two new records. In the January-June period, the country's total imports and exports of goods hit a record

of over 19.8 trillion yuan. The number in June stood at over 3.7 trillion yuan, with total exports exceeding 2.2 trillion yuan, the highest monthly figures ever.

While the growth picks up, the quality of foreign trade is also improving. The proportion of general trade continues expanding, and the trade with major trading partners is on a rise. Besides, foreign trade entities have become more active and there's a steady growth in the imports and exports of major products. As of June this year, China's foreign trade had recorded positive growth for eight consecutive quarters.

The month-by-month growth in the total foreign trade volume came from the stable macro economy, including the robust domestic demand for production

and the rapid recovery of foreign trade in certain regions of the country.

The V-shaped rebound couldn't have been achieved without the country's supportive policies. For instance, to ensure smooth logistics of COVID-19 vaccines, the General Administration of Customs (GAC) has launched whole-process monitoring during customs clearance and carried out advanced verification of declaration documents, so that vaccine products don't need to be unpacked during the process and fast clearance is ensured.

"The rebound of China's exports in May was indeed recovery growth following the pandemic," said Huo Jianguo, vice chairman of the China Society for World Trade Organization Studies.

"It was inseparable from China's efforts to eliminate negative factors troubling the foreign trade sector, such as opening green channels and prioritizing the shipments of foreign trade enterprises. In general, the policies to promote work resumption and straighten logistics are effective," he explained.

Liang Ming, director of the institute of international trade at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, a think tank of the Ministry of Commerce, told People's Daily that promoting the stability and quality of foreign trade is a focus of China in the next phase.

While maintaining a stable size of its trade and steady share in the international market, China will improve the

quality and economic benefits of foreign trade, so as to achieve high-level opening up, Liang said.

So far, the GAC has launched special campaigns and rolled out facilitation measures in 10 cities across China. It has also worked to shorten the time of customs clearance and guided more than 90,000 enterprises to apply for customs declaration registration with the streamlined method that integrates multiple procedures into one consolidated business license. It has promoted integrated reform in all services and further improved trade facilitation.

"The fundamentals sustaining China's economic resilience, potential and long-term growth remains unchanged, and the country's foreign trade is expected to embrace further growth," said Li Kuiwen, spokesperson of the GAC.

People's Daily

Sri Lanka president to resume IMF bailout talks, seeks unity

COLOMBO

SRI LANKA will restart bailout talks with the International Monetary Fund in August, its new president said on Wednesday, while calling on lawmakers to form an all-party government to resolve a crippling economic crisis.

In a speech in parliament, President Ranil Wickremesinghe said that constitutional amendments were required to curtail presidential powers - indicating he would meet a key demand of protesters who forced out his predecessor, Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

"The president of a country does not have to be a king or a god who is exalted above the people. He or she is one of the citizens," Wickremesinghe said.

The island nation of 22 million people is facing its worst financial crisis since independence from Britain in 1948 with its foreign exchange reserves at record lows, and the economy battered by the COVID-19 pandemic and a steep fall in government revenue.

Angered by persistent shortages of essentials, including fuel and medicines, and sky-rocketing inflation of over 60 percent year-on-year, hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets in early July, forcing Rajapaksa to first flee the country and then quit office.

Wickremesinghe, who was then prime minister, took over as acting president and was later confirmed in the job by parliament.

Discussions with the IMF for a four-year programme that could provide up to \$3 billion would resume in August, Wickremesinghe told lawmakers in his first major address to parliament since taking over.

Discussions with the International Monetary Fund for a four-year programme that could provide up to \$3 billion would resume in August, Wickremesinghe told lawmakers in his first major address to parliament since taking over.

The government is working with its financial and legal advisers Lazard and Clifford Chance to finalize a plan to restructure overseas debt, including about \$12 billion owed to bondholders.

"We would submit this plan to the International Monetary Fund in the near future, and negotiate with the countries who provided loan assistance," Wickremesinghe said.

"Subsequently negotiations with private creditors would also begin to arrive at a consensus."

A veteran lawmaker whose party only held one seat in parliament, Wickremesinghe won a leadership vote in the 225-member house last month with the support of the country's ruling party that is dominated by the Rajapaksa family.

But the new president reiterated his call for a unity government, adding that he had already initiated discussions with some groups.

Agencies

'Upcoming meeting between Erdogan and Putin proof of special bilateral relations'

ANKARA

THE negotiations to be held between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Sochi on Friday, their second in-person meeting over the past month, indicate the special nature of bilateral relations, a leading Turkish expert told TASS yesterday.

"Turkey and Russia have been enjoying a special relationship, this is why the two countries' leaders meet so often," said Huseyin Bagci, the president of Turkey's Foreign Policy Institute. The sides have a lot to say to each other, he added.

Bagci said unlike in Tehran, where the two leaders met on July 19 on the sidelines of an Astana troika summit, Erdogan and Putin could "discuss a bilateral agenda as well as regional and global issues" in Sochi in a more relaxed atmosphere.

"There will be dialogue as part of bilateral relations, without any linkage to international meetings, and such contacts are more efficient," the Turkish expert said.

Ankara expects Erdogan and Putin to discuss bilateral relations, primarily economic ties, the implementation of the Ukrainian grain deal, potential exports of Russian agricultural products and fertilizers by sea and the new military operation Turkey is planning to conduct in northern Syria. Agencies



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin

India nixes privacy bill that alarmed big tech companies

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S government on Wednesday withdrew a data protection and privacy bill which was first proposed in 2019 and had alarmed big technology companies such as Facebook and Google, announcing it was working on a new comprehensive law.

The 2019 law had proposed stringent regulations on cross-border data flows and proposed giving the Indian government powers to seek user data from companies, seen as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's stricter regulation of tech giants.

A government notice said the decision came as a parliamentary panel's review of the 2019 bill suggested many amendments, leading to the need for a new "comprehensive legal framework". The government will now "present a new bill", the notice added.

IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told Reuters the government has started drafting the new bill, "which is in good advanced stages", with a public release "very close".

The government aims to get the new bill approved and made into law by early 2023 in the parliament's budget session which typically runs January-February, he said.

The 2019 privacy bill was designed to protect Indian citizens and establish a so-called data protection authority, but it had raised concerns among Big Tech giants that it could increase their compliance burden and data storage requirements.

"It is good that there will be a re-draft from scratch," said Prasanto Roy, a New Delhi-based consultant

who closely tracks India's technology policy.

"However, India still has no privacy law in sight. That's leaving data regulation open to a wide variety of sectoral regulations, something a common privacy law could have harmonised."

Asked about consultation with stakeholders on the new bill, Vaishnaw said the process "won't be that long" because the parliamentary panel that reviewed the old bill had already gathered industry feedback.

Concern over data misuse

India says such regulations are needed to safeguard the data and privacy of citizens. Lawmakers have said that concerns about misuse of sensitive personal data have risen exponentially in India.

Companies including Facebook, Twitter and Google have for years been concerned with many other separate regulations India has proposed for the technology sector, often straining relations between New Delhi and Washington.

After India's privacy law plan of 2019, it also floated new proposals to regulate "non-personal data", a term for data viewed as a critical resource by companies that analyse it to build their businesses. The parliamentary panel had said such non-personal data should be included in the purview of the privacy bill.

The bill also exempted government agencies from the law "in the interest of sovereignty" of India, a provision privacy advocates at the time said would allow agencies to abuse access.

Agencies

Tight-lipped Taliban leaders 'gather after US says Zawahiri killed'

KABUL

LEADERS of Afghanistan's Taliban were holding discussions on Wednesday about how to respond to a US drone strike in Kabul that the United States said killed al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, three sources in the group said.

The United States killed Zawahiri with a missile fired from a drone while he stood on a balcony at his Kabul hideout on Sunday, US officials said, in the biggest blow to the militants since Osama bin Laden was shot dead more than a decade ago.

The Taliban have not confirmed Zawahiri's death.

A senior US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, indicated that Washington would continue targeting al Qaeda in Afghanistan to ensure the country would not again become a refuge for "terrorists plotting against the United States."

"We will remain vigilant and take action as needed, just like we did this week," warned the official, who said that US President Joe Biden's administration still would engage with the Taliban "when it can help advance American interests."

Officials of the group, long-time allies of al Qaeda, initially confirmed the Sunday drone strike but said the house that was hit was empty.

"There are meetings at a very high level on whether they should react to the drone strike, and in case they decide to, then what is the proper way," a Taliban leader who holds an important position in Kabul told Reuters.

The official, who said there had been lengthy leadership discussions for two days, declined to be identified. He did not confirm that Zawahiri was in the house that the missile struck.

How the Taliban react could have significant repercussions as the group seeks international legitimacy and access to billions of dollars in frozen funds, following their defeat of a US-backed government a

US did not suggest Russia return to talks on treaty to replace New START – Lavrov

NAYPYITAW

THE United States has not approached Russia in order to resume talks on a document to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Wednesday at a news conference following talks with his Myanmar counterpart Wunna Maung Lwin.

"They [the US] have not even suggested resuming these talks. There have been no appeals to us about resuming the negotiation process," Lavrov said. According to the minister, the Americans have made a habit of "announcing some things over the microphone and then forgetting about them."

When asked whether Russia was also ready to invite China to the talks if the process was resumed, Lavrov said that Beijing would then make its own decision. "When and if that happens, it will be up to China itself to decide whether to join these talks, the Americans know our position perfectly well," the minister pointed out.



Biden signs second executive order to protect abortion access

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden said on Wednesday the Supreme Court and Republicans are clueless about the power of American women as he signed a second executive order aimed at protecting abortion rights.

The order asks the federal health department to consider allowing Medicaid funds to be used to help facilitate out of state travel for abortions. Like Biden's first order signed in July, it is meant to address the recent Supreme Court decision to end the nationwide constitutional right to abortion.

It is expected to have limited impact, as Republicans in US states push a wave of laws restricting abortion, access to medication and funding for such services.

The president's actions come a day after Kansas voters rejected one such effort, to remove abortion protections from the state's constitution. The vote was a resounding win for the abortion rights movement in the first statewide electoral test since the Supreme Court ruling.

"I don't think the court has any notion for that matter...how women are going to respond. They don't have a clue about the power of American women," Biden said. "Last night in Kansas they found out."

He called the Kansas result a "decisive victory" and said voters in the state sent a "powerful signal" that makes clear politicians should not interfere with the fundamental rights of women.

"This fight is not over and we saw that last night in Kansas," Biden said. The Supreme Court "practically



US President Joe Biden

dared women in this country go to the ballot box and restore the right to choose," that it had just stripped away, Biden said.

Last month, Biden said the Supreme Court, which is weighted 6-3 with conservative judges, was "out of control" after ruling in June to overturn Roe v Wade, ending a half-century of protections for women's reproductive rights. His first order in early July directed the federal government's health department to expand access to medication abortion and ensure that women who travel for abortions are protected.

The latest action builds on those measures. But like the first one it remains vague about how those goals can be achieved. It asks the Health and Human Services Department to consider using funds including Medicaid, the federal and state funded insurance program it oversees, to support low-income women traveling out-of-state for abortion services, a senior administration official said.

It calls on Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra to consider inviting states to apply for Medicaid

waivers when treating patients who cross state lines for reproductive health services, the official said, without giving additional details.

The Hyde Amendment, a Congressional measure, states that Medicaid will not pay for an abortion unless the woman's life is in danger or the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest, making the effectiveness of the order uncertain.

It also directs the department to ensure health-care providers comply with federal non-discrimination laws when offering such services and orders it to collect data to measure the impact of the ruling on maternal health, the official added.

The president signed the order at the first meeting of the interagency task force on reproductive healthcare access, which was formed in July. Vice-President Kamala Harris, who has traveled to six different states to convene state legislators about protecting reproductive health care in recent weeks, joined Biden for the meeting and called the abortion issue a "healthcare crisis in America."

Senate Democrats rejected Biden's call to lift the chamber's "filibuster" rule requiring 60 of the 100 senators to agree on most legislation to allow them to pass a law establishing a national right to abortion.

In the evenly divided Senate, US Vice-President Kamala Harris can cast a tie-breaking vote.

Since then Biden has pivoted to urging voters to elect more Democrats to Congress in the Nov 8 midterm elections, when Republicans are favored to win back a majority in the House of Representatives and perhaps also the Senate. He reiterated his appeal to voters on Wednesday.

Democrats hope the issue may help drive voters to the polls in November.

Protecting abortion rights is a top issue for women Democrats, Reuters polling shows. More than 70 percent of Americans think the issue should be left to a woman and her doctor.

On Tuesday, Biden's Justice Department sued Idaho to block a state law that it said imposes a "near-absolute ban" on abortion, marking its first legal challenge to state abortion laws since the Supreme Court ruling, read more

Attorney General Merrick Garland on Wednesday said the Justice Department will file a motion to dismiss a Texas lawsuit against the Biden administration's requirement that doctors nationwide provide lifesaving abortions in emergency situations or risk the loss of their Medicare funding.

Agencies

China, Africa work to build security community

CHINA has always worked to develop relations with Africa, with a commitment to upholding the greater good in the pursuit of shared interests and following the principles of sincerity, pragmatism, affinity and good faith, said Chinese President Xi Jinping in a congratulatory letter to the second China-Africa Peace and Security Forum on July 25.

Xi noted that the country is ready to work with its African friends to adhere to the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security.

China will work with Africa to safeguard the international system with the United Nations at its core, uphold international fairness and justice, promote the implementation of the Global Security Initiative, and build a China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era, Xi said.

Xi's congratulatory letter fully indicated the high attention attached by China on China-Africa peace and security cooperation. It has charted the course for the two sides to enhance cooperation and solidarity and achieve common security.

Africa has been facing a number of uncertainties in its security situation, as well as untraditional security threats such as terrorism, COVID-19, climate change and food security. Against such a background, to enhance China-Africa peace and security cooperation is of more practical significance.

The second China-Africa Peace and Security Forum was attended by 50 ministerial-level officials and high-level representatives from the African Union (AU) and African countries.

They said China is a reliable friend, partner and brother of Africa and expressed their thanks to China for assisting and supporting Africa's peace and security.

They are ready to enhance solidarity and cooperation with China, and make positive contributions to build a China-Africa community with a shared future.

Realizing enduring peace and universal security is a common aspiration of the Chinese and African peoples. Peace and security cooperation is an important



The second China-Africa Peace and Security Forum is held via video link, July 25. Chinese State Councilor and Defense Minister Wei Fenghe attended the meeting. File photo

part of China-Africa cooperation.

At the 2015 Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the 2018 Beijing Summit of the FOCAC, and the eighth FOCAC ministerial conference held last year, President Xi personally planned and promoted China-Africa peace and security cooperation.

He raised a series of important initiatives on peace and security and proposed to set up the China-Africa Peace and Security Forum to build a platform for the two sides to enhance communication in the specific field.

The peace and security cooperation carried out by China and Africa under the framework of the FOCAC is an important measure of them to build a China-Africa community with a shared future.

Different from other major countries outside Africa, China, when participating in Africa's peace and security affairs, fully respects the wills of regional countries, never interferes in their domestic affairs and follows the basic norms governing international relations.

China supports African countries and the African Union to play a leading role in Africa's peace and security affairs, supports Africa to enhance its independent capability to maintain peace and stability and fight terrorism, supports African countries and regional organizations including the African Union to implement the "Silencing the Guns" initiative, and supports the UN to provide capital

assistance for the African Union's independent peacekeeping actions.

China is actively joining Africa's efforts to advance peace and security capacity building. The recently-concluded First China-Horn of Africa Peace, Good Governance and Development Conference marked an important step of China and Africa to implement the Outlook on Peace and Development in the Horn of Africa, and provided important assistance for regional countries to independently solve regional peace and security issues.

To implement the China-Africa peace and security program proposed at the eighth FOCAC ministerial conference, China will launch 10 peace and security projects for Africa and keep providing military aid for the African Union. China supports African countries to independently safeguard regional peace and fight terrorism, and will launch China-Africa joint drills, training and light weapon management for peace-keeping.

China is committed to helping Africa improve its independent development capability. The country insists that Africa should put equal emphasis on development and security so as to achieve sustained security and eliminate hotbeds of all types of insecure factors.

China's active role in development, peace-keeping and mediating hotspot African issues is widely commended. "China doesn't interfere in African countries' domestic af-

fairs, and our cooperation is based on equality and mutual benefit," said John Mulimba, Uganda's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in charge of Regional Cooperation.

China and Africa have always been sharing a same future. They should offer each other mutual assistance in security to build a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

As the world is going through profound changes and a pandemic both unseen in a century and entering a period of new turbulence and transformation, the two sides should uphold the spirit of China-Africa friendship, put in practice the Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative, and march toward the aspiration of building a security community, so as to make bigger contributions to tackling global security deficits and promoting world peace and development. **People's Daily**

Filbert Bayi's book set for launch

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

TANZANIA'S athletics legend Filbert Bayi's book, titled 'Catch Me If You Can', will be launched at Alexander Stadium in Birmingham City in England today.

Speaking from England, Bayi said the book which has more than 250 pages is expected to be launched today in the presence of Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) president Dame Martin.

The CGF Chief Executive (CEO) Kaie Sadlier, Ian Reid, and other prominent former athletes will moreover be present at the event.

The book will be launched a day before the 1500m final of the 2022 Commonwealth Games, with Bayi's record in the category of the global showpiece still standing.

He made the record at the 1974 Commonwealth Games which were held in Christchurch, New Zealand.

The athletics legend said: "All is set for the book launch, the book has been titled Catch

Me If You Can and it explains more about my growing up, my athletics life, and my involvement in sports."

"The people I have worked with while as an athlete and after the career area as well highlighted in the book, the aim is to motivate other athletes," Bayi that is also an Olympic silver medallist noted.

Bayi also revealed he had in the book explained that he did not see his father, he hardly grew up with his father as the father passed away while his mother was pregnant.

He further said the book also explains the lives of current World Athletics president Sebastian Coe, compatriot Suleiman Nyambui that is the current Tanzania national athletics head coach, and the late Ron Davis, Bayi's coach during the latter's life.

The book has been authored by Myles Schag and published by Soulstic Publishing LLC Books With Soul while Arizona is the flagstaff.

It will be found on Amazon and will thereafter be on sale in other stores.



Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Social Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups, Amon Mpanju, speaks at an occasion that had Simba SC handing over several items to Nunge Kigamboni Home for the Elderly in Dar es Salaam recently. Sitting (L) is Simba SC's Chief Executive Officer Barbara Gonzalez. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Government asks Simba SC to back community activities

BY CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

DEPUTY Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Social Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups, Amon Mpanju, has asked Simba SC to join the government in providing education on upbringing, early development of children, gender violence, protecting, and nurturing the elderly.

Mpanju said so in Dar es Salaam recently when he presided over an occasion that had Simba SC visiting a home for the elderly at Nunge, Kigamboni District, and presented various items including soaps and food.

"The fight against sexual violence is everyone's responsibility, so Simba SC and a horde of its fanatics will ensure the society is reached and women and children are saved if the outfit joins the government to provide education to combat such acts," Mpanju disclosed.

He said that many acts of sexual violence, especially against children, are committed by close relatives and take place at home, adding that there is a need for people to join efforts to fight and eradicate such vices.

"Your decision to reach out to the people must be emulated by other stakeholders, as it supports President Samia Suluhu Hassan in serving the people, especially the needy groups," Mpanju said.

The government official moreover asked the society to take care of the elders and provide the latter with the necessary services because they had fulfilled their responsibilities to raise and take care of the former during their youth.

The official disclosed: "Let's focus on the best education for our children and families because we see that children abandon their elders in the villages and end up in the cities, this is not good."

"We should raise our children well so that they can come to support us when we are old," Mpanju stated.

Welfare Officer Jackline Kanyamwenge said that Nunge home serves a total of 21 elderly people, adding that currently, the government in collaboration with various stakeholders has been providing important services including food and medical treatment for them.

The Chief Executive Officer of Simba SC Barbara Gonzalez said the club will cooperate with the government through the Ministry of Social Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups to ensure that education reaches the community.

One of the elders at the settlement, Mohamed Ally, thanked the club for visiting them and providing them with various needs that will help them get essential services including food.

Football administrator Senzo Mbatha's historic U-turns with city rivals

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

A top news item on sports news outlets in Tanzania was the departure of Senzo Mazingiza, better known as Senzo Mbatha, whose single line description is that he is a former Orlando Pirates administrator, now leaving Tanzanian soccer giants, Young Africans SC, alias Yanga.

There was only some staccato information that he had vacated his position as Chief Executive Officer of the Jangwani Street side, but not much else on the 'whys and where-unto,' the rich field of considerations leading to his departure.

At the same time, local pundits were not rushing to furnish the reasons or Yanga leaders.

Senzo Hamilton Mazingiza (born on 11 May 1979), nicknamed 'Senzo Mbatha' is firstly a South African sports executive and administrator.

While there is neither the local administrator nor sponsor who has worked with the two city rivals save within wider sponsorship of the Premier League, he ranks with a few experts whose services have at different times been solicited by the two rivals in succession.

It is not easy for anyone to be sought for by the two sides in succession as that would be special.

One was former 'super coach' the late Syllersaid Mziray, while another is current controversial mobilizer Haji Manara, whose father is a Yanga legend but Haji is himself a Simba SC fan.

He has held either club fan base in a trance, and often tussles with Tanzania Football Federation, as doubtlessly it is also part of the archrivals' fan base.

The Manara controversy is in a sense a duplication of star player Bernard Morrison, whose difference with the South African administrator is that he started with Yanga and then shifted to Simba SC, and now switches back again.

One can hazard a comparison between Senzo's departure and Morrison's return that as a player at the top of his art or thereabouts, he has wider legroom to switch sides, while the hired administrator - and the mobilizer could at most switch sides once.

Their commercial value is a more indefinite quantity while the value of a player is easier to demonstrate, so the club would keep up its pride in a former administrator colleague or mobilizer who



Former Yanga's Chief Executive Officer, Senzo Mbatha.

is available.

That isn't easy concerning a good player, so Morrison changes clubs twice as nothing is the matter.

For someone who hasn't cut his career teeth in the local environment like the other two management acolytes, either Mziray or Manara, Senzo is a strange number.

He cuts the figure of a unique finding in soccer administration, at a time when the clubs are switching from amateur leadership to company formats. He thus fit in quite well.

One lingering question is how it came to pass that both city rivals found the former Orlando Pirates and national organizer in South Africa such a remarkable resource to have stuck with him for several years.

At the same time, there is a need to explore possible links between this affinity and the way he fell out with both clubs, how far this has to go with the nature of the job, or a hidden militant character on his part.

After all, he isn't just an out-of-school administrator but a club resource back home.

What the two clubs may have liked most is his experi-

ence not just in top-level clubs in South Africa but organizing international sporting events, where chroniclers see the FIFA Confederations Cup in 2009 and the FIFA World Cup finals in 2010 as the key strategic pieces of experience.

He was in the latter event a deputy tournament director, using his experience in continental club competitions, and after the 2010 tourney, becoming a project manager for the Premier League in South Africa.

He supervised ticketing and security, and later managed Platinum Stars FC, an aspect of the experience that could have attracted Simba SC executives.

While the chroniclers say 'Mbatha' guided Simba SC to the local Premier League title in 2019/20 and reached the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League, the buck wouldn't stop there.

He was a unique administrative resource for the closest aides of Mohamed Dewji, perhaps the current top administrator in the first place, who wished for a person not tainted with club loyalties and in-fighting at Msimbazi Street outfit, as even by 2016/17 the 'Taliban'

group was still very much a menace.

The change came with the fifth phase of cleanup which undermined the traditional power bases in the club to give investor Dewji a free hand to guide it.

What similarly aided the new investor-cum-sponsor was the way the cleanup upended their next street rivals, Yanga, as their principal benefactor was caught up in speculative businesses and tax rows.

After he made a sort of exit for his calm and peace of mind, the club descended a steep ladder in its financing abilities until three years later or so when a company emerged, linked with the club's highest ranked ardent supporters.

At first, they were interested only in stamping jerseys with their logo, slowly began inching into recruiting players, and finally took over the club in an informal manner, ostensibly waiting for other investors.

Not surprisingly, when 'Mbatha' started using his judgment instead of listening, they picked him up from their rivals, and he finally did the same thing.



SportPesa Tanzania's Board of Directors Chairman, Tarimba Abbas (L), and Yanga's president Hersi Said (R) pose for a photo during the blood donation exercise involving the club that took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The event is part of a week of social activities done by the Premier League outfit's members and supporters dubbed 'Wiki Ya Mwananchi', which is set to climax on August 6. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Simba SC's new midfielder opens up on his versatility

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

TANZANIA'S Simba SC registered a 2-0 victory in a recent friendly match pitting the side against Egypt's Al Kholood held in Ismailia.

Simba SC's head coach, Zoran Maki, resorted to having newly signed midfielder Victor Akpan play a different position in the friendly.

It is common for Akpan to play as a holding midfielder and he played the position in the first half of the match but, in the second half, he played as a central defender after Henock Inonga

was substituted.

Akpan played well in the position and handled it without any problem, he seemed to have great defensive discipline and good coordination with central defensive partner Joash Onyango.

Maki's decision to have Akpan playing as a central defender is hardly surprising as it may happen one day if the technical bench opts for such a move in some competitive matches.

When Akpan was asked about the change in position, he said that he is striving to prove his worth in the

training ground to be given a chance to play in the first team.

He said that the coach is the one who largely sees the potential of each player and the right position to use the footballers, adding he has no problem given he can play any position on the pitch.

"When I was young, I used to play all positions including goalkeeper's in the sense that if I'm assigned as a central defender, midfielder or any other area, I will do my job efficiently," Akpan revealed.

"That's why you see after I was

brought back to central defender's role, I played without having any problem as it is a position I have been playing for a long time."

"When I was at Coastal Union there was a day coach Juma Mgunda used me in the central defensive position for 90 minutes, I finished the match and he told me I did well," the footballer noted.

"I continue to fight to get to play and the technical bench will make a decision about the position that I should play, it is not a problem."

The outfit's other midfielder, Zam-

bian Clatous Chama, disclosed the side will next season be at its best thanks to the preparations it has gone for in Egypt.

Simba SC will lock horns with an age-old rival, Yanga in the Community Shield, a 2022/23 Premier League curtain raiser, in Dar es Salaam on August 13.

Chama noted he did not finish last season well due to injuries but after good treatment, he has improved and fully recovered.

He said that Simba SC fans were not happy due to their team's poor per-

formance last season, while they had the memory of winning many titles four seasons ago.

"We are going to work hard this season, that is what we have agreed, we need to do well," he said.

"I know people believe that I can do something due to my abilities, let's pray that when the time comes everything will be fine so I can do what they expect of me in games."

"It will not be good to see us fail to do well for two seasons in a row. The current team has improved individually," the midfielder revealed.

Haaland's debut headlines opening weekend of Premier League season

LONDON

ARSENAL's trip to Crystal Palace lifts the curtain on the new Premier League season today, with Erling Haaland's debut in the English top flight the highlight of the weekend as champions Manchester City travel to West Ham.

Haaland has been the marquee arrival to the Premier League from over £1 billion (\$1.2 billion) spent on transfer fees ahead of the new campaign.

The Norwegian is expected to further strengthen Pep Guardiola's side, who have won the title in four of the last five seasons.

However, Haaland and City's season did not get off to a good start as perennial title rivals Liverpool won the Community Shield 3-1 last weekend.

A trip to the London Stadium is a good early season test of City's revamped squad with Julian Alvarez and Kalvin Phillips also coming in to replace the departed Oleksandr Zinchenko, Fernandinho, Raheem Sterling and Gabriel Jesus.

West Ham nearly denied City the title last season as they led 2-0 at half-time in the penultimate game of the campaign before the visitors rallied to salvage the point which won them the league.

The Hammers have also strengthened with the signing of Italian international striker Gianluca Scamacca as David Moyes' men look to close the gap on the top four after qualifying for Europe in the past two seasons.

"We know what the standard is and we will reach the standards as quickly as possible and maintain what we have done always," said Guardiola.

"I don't feel, because we know each other well, that we are far, far away.

"But the games against West Ham and after Bournemouth will dictate our level and what we have to do."

- Chelsea 'not ready' -
Chelsea's visit to Everton on

Saturday pits together two sides who have reason to fear the season ahead at different ends of the table.

The start to Chelsea's new era under the ownership of Todd Boehly's consortium has not gone smoothly with manager Thomas Tuchel blaming an exhausting schedule on a pre-season tour to the US and a lack of signings for feeling "not ready" for the new season.

Tuchel is also unhappy with a number of key players, including captain Cesar Azpilicueta, still looking to leave the club before the end of the transfer window.

Chelsea were thrashed 4-0 in pre-season by Arsenal in Orlando, but Everton suffered an even more embarrassing 4-0 defeat to Minnesota United on their tour to the States.

After narrowly surviving last season, the Toffees have since sold Richarlison to Tottenham.

But Everton have beaten Chelsea on each of the Londoners' last four trips to Goodison Park.

- Ten Hag's first impression -
Should Chelsea fail to hit the heights they previously have under Tuchel, Manchester United will be one of the sides hoping to take their place in the top four.

A 4-0 thrashing at the hands of Brighton in May summed up a miserable season for the Red Devils as they finished sixth.

Erik ten Hag has the chance to make a good first impression as United boss when the Seagulls visit Old Trafford.

But hopes of a new dawn for United have been dashed by another difficult summer off the field.

Cristiano Ronaldo has made his desire to leave clear, but a buyer cannot be found for the five-time Ballon d'Or winner, while United's prolonged chase of Barcelona midfielder Frenkie de Jong appears set to fail.

AFP

Europe starts unique soccer season split by Qatar World Cup

GENEVA

IN the 134 years since league soccer started in England, the European game has never scheduled such a disrupted season.

FIFA's decision to move the World Cup in Qatar from the normal offseason months to November and December in order to avoid the desert heat will slice into the European domestic season in a way not seen outside of international traumas like war or pandemic.

As a result, the unusual 2022-23 European season has had to start early, will cram in more midweek games and end with the Champions League final on June 10 – the latest planned date since the inaugural European Cup final was on June 13, 1956.

It will also force the domestic leagues to have lengthy midseason breaks, from six weeks in the English Premier League to a 10-week shutdown in Germany's Bundesliga and three months in Austria, where the World Cup extends the country's usual winter break.

Closing for peak commercial weeks is the compromise reluctantly accepted by European leagues and clubs in 2015. Then, FIFA inevitably shifted its marquee event out of the usual June-July slot that is part of soccer's global rhythm.

Here is a look at the unprecedented 2022-23 season:

A UNIQUE WORLD CUP

In June, daily temperatures in Doha routinely rose above 105 F (41 C) and rarely fell below 85 F (30 C) at night.

It would have been a blistering World Cup for 32 teams, nearly three million fans in stadiums and the tens of thousands of staff, volunteers and media that a major tournament needs.

So the need to alter the schedule was obvious even in 2010 when the FIFA executive committee (now widely discredited by corruption scandals) voted for Qatar to host the first World Cup in the Middle East.

Now, tournament temperatures should settle around 80-90 F (26-32 C) at game times, with no kickoffs before 6 p.m. when the third round of group games start Nov. 29.

Still, it is a shorter World Cup that has to cram in 64 games in just 28 days, four



FILE - Branding is displayed near the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center where soccer World Cup draw will be held, in Doha, Qatar, on March 31, 2022. The final draw will be held on April 1. This season will be unique in the 135-year history of domestic leagues in Europe. They will stop for a month or more while players leave for Qatar and the first World Cup ever in the European winter. (AP Photo)

days fewer than in 2018.

That was forced on FIFA by European leagues refusing to give up a valuable extra weekend in November.

Most European clubs will play on the Nov. 12-13 weekend just eight days before the World Cup starts.

To make that work, World Cup organizers had to schedule four games per day instead of three for the first two group-stage rounds. That gives viewers a television marathon and players the bare minimum of three days' rest between games.

PLAYER WORKLOAD

A team drawn in Group G or H at the World Cup – such as Brazil and Portugal – must play seven games in just 25 days to win it all. Although they at least get extra days to prepare in training camp.

The Netherlands opens the tournament – against Senegal on Nov. 21 – setting up a tight schedule for its players based in England, like Liverpool defender Virgil Van Dijk.

And it comes after a compacted Champions League schedule, with all six group

rounds in the competition to be played between Sept. 6 and Nov. 2 to finish the group stage five weeks earlier than usual.

The global players' union FIFPRO sees risks in these extra demands.

"The increased fixture congestion caused as a result of the various competition organizers' failure to adequately collaborate is not helpful for safeguarding player health and performance," FIFPRO said in a statement to the Associated Press.

The season-long congestion comes after the COVID-19 pandemic almost stopped the 2019-20 campaign. It was salvaged by a two-games-per-week workload that is now routine.

"The long sequences of consecutive back-to-back matches that have been prevalent among players at the top level of the game must be minimized and ultimately prevented," FIFPRO said.

REVENUE HITS

European soccer, still recovering from the pandemic, has lost high-value commercial weeks in November and December as a result of the rescheduling, with

more games instead played during the less lucrative summer months.

"Selling rates for subscriptions for pay-TV are lower in the summer," Jacco Swart, managing director of the 30-nation European Leagues group, told the AP. He also noted that August is vacation time in much of southern Europe so stadium attendance could be lower.

Serie A president Lorenzo Casini cautioned last month that an Aug. 13 start is difficult in the hot temperatures.

In Italy and Spain, top-tier games will not start before 5 p.m. until September. That rules out lunchtime kickoffs suited to broadcasters in Asia.

Italy has an extra problem, like Austria and Turkey, with no top-tier domestic games to compensate for failing to qualify for the World Cup.

Among the challenges, there are opportunities for leagues like England's second-tier Championship. It restarts on Dec. 10 with back-to-back weekends facing no competition from Premier League fixtures.

AP

10 young players to watch in Europe's five leading leagues

PARIS

A LOOK at 10 young players who could stand out this season in Europe's five major leagues:

*ENGLAND HARVEY ELLIOT, Liverpool

Harvey Elliot started in the Liverpool team last season until a serious ankle injury against Leeds in September sidelined him for several months.

The 19-year-old Elliot plays on the right side of a midfield three and could make a push for England's World Cup squad if he gets enough games under manager Jürgen Klopp. That could well be the case with James Milner and Jordan Henderson advancing in years.

"Last season came with a lot of ups and downs, and a lot of challenges," Elliot said. "But I think if anything it's helped towards this season. It's been there for me to go and show for myself and show to the fans, to the world, that I can get into the team."

*CARNEY CHUKWUEMEKA, Chelsea

Eighteen-year-old midfielder Carney Chukwuemeka emerged from Aston Villa's strong youth team and made enough of an impression last season to earn a move to Chelsea.

The London club announced it has agreed a deal to sign Chukwuemeka after Villa manager Steven Gerrard, who knows about playing in the middle, brought him in for the final games of last season.

Chukwuemeka helped England win the Under-19 European Championship last month, with a goal in the final against Israel, and made it into the team of the tournament. Last year, Chukwuemeka played in Villa's FA Youth Cup victory and finished the competition as the leading scorer with six goals.

*SPAIN MOHAMED-ALI CHO, Real Sociedad



Like France star Kylian Mbappe, 18-year-old Mohamed-Ali Cho started out as a winger. Real Sociedad signed him from French club Angers on a five-year deal for about 12 million euros (\$12.3 million).

Cho is strong with both feet and can play wide – cutting inside to shoot – or in a central role.

He was the youngest player in France to be given a professional contract and made his league debut at 16 years, 7 months – four months younger than Mbappe when he made his Monaco debut.

After a few years spent in PSG's ju-

nior teams, Cho joined the youth ranks of Premier League club Everton for five years before once more returning to France to join Angers. He scored four league goals for Angers last season.

*EDUARDO CAMAVINGA, Real Madrid

This is a big season for 19-year-old Eduardo Camavinga, who needs to impress at Real Madrid to stand a chance of getting back into the France squad for the World Cup.

Camavinga did well in spells last season as Madrid won the Spanish league and the Champions League. But he was mostly a substitute and found it hard to break the midfield stranglehold of Toni Kroos and Luka Modric.

Camavinga has quick feet, strong technique, reads the game well and is also a strong tackler. A superb athlete, Camavinga is equally adept at breaking quickly and turning from midfield into attack.

A good passer, Camavinga needs to add a few more goals to his game, having only scored eight in 141 games for Madrid and his previous club, Rennes.

*ITALY NICOLO ROVELLA, Juventus

Nicolo Rovella spent last season on loan to Genoa but returns following the club's relegation to the second division and with an opportunity to claim a place in coach Massimiliano Allegri's midfield following Paul Pogba's knee injury.

Juve have high hopes for the 20-year-old Rovella, who is an established member of Italy's under-21 team and hopes to push for a first call-up to the senior squad.

The right-footer is a versatile player, too, who can operate as a holding midfielder or lend himself to the attack thanks to his first touch and passing.

*LORENZO PIROLA, Salernitana

Lorenzo Pirola is a technically strong and versatile central defender with

good passing ability. The 20-year-old Italian came through Inter Milan's youth academy and has been loaned out to Salernitana this season.

The move could be timely because he will get the chance to make a name for himself in what could be another difficult season for the unheralded southern club, which only just avoided relegation last season.

Pirola's tackling, aerial ability and positional sense should all serve Salernitana well against bigger clubs, although his one weakness is that he struggles against skillful players who attack him at speed.

*GERMANY KARIM ADEYEMI, Borussia Dortmund

Borussia Dortmund has sold one young star and might just have found another one in 20-year-old Karim Adeyemi, who joined from Austrian club Salzburg on a five-year deal after Erling Haaland left for Premier League champion Manchester City.

Adeyemi distinguished himself with Salzburg last season, when he earned a remarkable four penalties in two Champions League games. His combi-

nation of trickery, quick feet, great balance, reading of the game and direct running make him a handful.

*ADAM HLOZEK, Bayer Leverkusen

Bayer Leverkusen's return to the Champions League will have a Czech feel up front as Adam Hlozek teams up with striker Patrik Schick – whose 24 league goals helped Leverkusen finish third last season. The 19-year-old Hlozek joins from Sparta Prague, where he scored 40 goals in 132 games after making his debut at 16.

He follows in the footsteps of Schick, who also broke through with Sparta. Hlozek is an imposing forward who can also play on the wing and could prove a good provider for his international teammate.

*FRANCE HUGO EKITIKE, Paris Saint-Germain

Paris Saint-Germain beat another cash-rich club in Premier League team Newcastle to sign 20-year-old forward Hugo Ekitike. He joined from Reims on a season-long loan with an option to buy for 35 million euros (\$36 million).

Although Ekitike scored a modest 10 league goals last season, he was one of the most efficient finishers, scoring with 32.3% of his shots. His ratio of one goal for every 3.1 shots was better than new teammates Neymar and Kylian Mbappe, and second only to Monaco forward Wissam Ben Yedder's ratio of 2.88.

*RAYAN CHERKI, Lyon

Eighteen-year-old Rayan Cherki is another product of the prolific youth academy at Lyon that produced Real Madrid great Karim Benzema, Hatem Ben Arfa, Corentin Tolisso and Alexandre Lacazette.

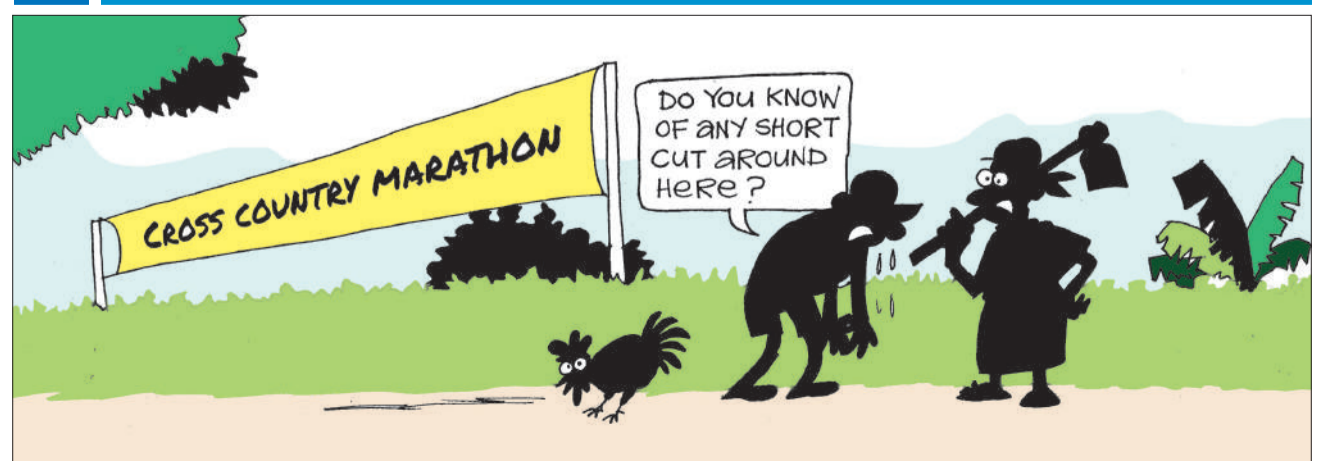
Two years ago, Cherki produced a remarkable performance in a French Cup game when he was only 16, scoring two goals and providing two assists.

Opportunities have been somewhat limited since then but this could be a breakthrough season for the attacking midfielder under coach Peter Bosz.

Like so many of Lyon's technically gifted academy players, Cherki has it all: quick feet, close control, astute passing, great skill and an eye for goal.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Europe starts unique soccer season split by Qatar World Cup

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Hockey players set to take part in Nane Nane 5-a-side tournament

By Guardian Correspondent

HOCKEY performers in Dar es Salaam have secured an opportunity to keep on honing their skills, with this season's Nane Nane 5-a-side field hockey tournament having been slated to take place at the Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park in the city from August 6-8.

The showdown is hosted by a hockey club Black Mambaz under the auspices of the Tanzania Hockey Association (THA), seeking to support the promotion of the game in the country.

The THA Secretary-General Kaushik Doshi revealed the tournament will involve 15 sides, with most of the having been made up of promising hockey players.

The official pointed out the showdown is sponsored by Augusta Energy, Coverall Insurance, and Jadens.

Doshi disclosed that teams that confirmed to battle it out in the competition include Black Mamba Wazee, Tanzanian People's Defence Force (TPDF) B, Juhudi Secondary School A, JMK Youth Park A, Buza Secondary School, Black Mamba Vi-

jana, TPDF A, and Juhudi Secondary School B.

Majani ya Chai, Benjamin Mkapa Secondary School, Black Mamba Fish/Rice, Black Mamba Mandonga, Magereza, JMK Youth Park B, and Juhudi Secondary School C also participate in the tournament.

The clubs, according to Doshi, have been placed in three groups in which Black Mamba Wazee, Tanzanian People's Defence Force (TPDF) B, Juhudi Secondary School A, JMK Youth Park A, and Buza Secondary School, constitute Group A.

Group B squads include Black Mamba Vijana, TPDF A, Juhudi Secondary School B, Majani ya Chai, and Benjamin Mkapa Secondary School.

Black Mamba Fish/Rice, Black Mamba Mandonga, Magereza, JMK Youth Park B, and Juhudi Secondary School C are the Group C competitors.

In the opening day's matches, a total of 15 ties will be played at the ground, with Juhudi Secondary School A locking horns with JMK Youth Park B in the opening clash.



Female hockey players take part in a past tournament which took place at Ukonga ground in Dar es Salaam.

Simba SC sweats over 2022/23 season's replica kits delay

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE 2022/23 NBC Premier League is almost back and it is the time fans traditionally sport their new replica kits with pride, but many Simba SC fans are facing disappointment.

Supply chain problems have left club fans without new replica kits. The delay has been blamed on disruption and factory shutdowns in Asia due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

It means the club's fans have not been able to buy new kits for 'Simba Day' slated for Monday in Dar es Salaam.

Ahmed Ali, Simba SC Information Officer, has apologized for the late arrival of the new kits, blaming 'circumstances beyond the control of the club and kit suppliers.'

Ally noted: "It is true, there are many questions on the issue of the kits, fans' queries have now turned into fear and concern of going into 'Simba Day' with old kits. 'Simba Day' is a big outing where fans would love to go out with new season kits."

Ally disclosed: "I should start by apologizing to all Simba SC fans, plans have gone contrary to their expectations."

The leader revealed: "There are unprecedented challenges that are



Simba SC's Media and Communications Manager, Ahmed Ally.

beyond the control of our kits supplier Vunja Bei firm and the club and human control."

"We have been forced to find a

solution before we unveil the kits. I urge Simba SC fans to be patient, we will announce the new jerseys before August 8 and reveal where

they can be bought," the leader stated.

"There is no carelessness on our part, there are challenges beyond our control though we have gone a long way to try and resolve everything, we are almost done."

While Simba SC fans are sweating over the new kits' delay, their city rivals Yanga unveiled their kits for the new campaign last week.

Yanga has used the kits' launch to celebrate several inspirational figures in the club and iconic places in Tanzania.

The jerseys are already available for purchase countrywide.

The Yanga 2022/23 home jersey is of course green - in terms of colour design, the main features being the incorporation of Tanzania's historical places such as Mount Kilimanjaro, Nyerere Square Dodoma, and Ngome Kongwe Zanzibar.

The away jersey is largely yellow with connected dots and inter-linked patterns about the club's ongoing transformation process.

They also released a third football shirt that is mainly black with signatures of various legends who have played for the club.

Yanga players will wear the 2022/23 season jersey for the first time tomorrow in an international friendly against visiting Uganda Premier League champions Vipers SC to mark the climax of the 'Wiki Ya Mwananchi' at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.



Magereza Boxing Club's Issa Athuman (L) trades blows with JKT Club's Boniface Mlingwa in one of the previous National Boxing Championship fights, which took place at Tanganyika Packers venue in Dar es Salaam. Mlingwa won by points. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

TBF lauds boxers' showing in 2022 Commonwealth Games

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

BOXING Federation of Tanzania (BFT) has stated it is delighted with the performance of the

country's boxers in the ongoing Commonwealth Games that are taking place in England.

Lukelo Willilo, the BFT secretary-general, issued the com-

ments in an interview held in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Willilo said so after boxer Yusuf Chagalawe had made it to the semi-finals of the Commonwealth Games discipline.

The Lightweight boxer progressed to the semi-finals after beating St. Lucia's boxer Arthur Langelier through Referee Stops the Contest (RSC) in the first round of bout number 119, spending 2.18 minute minutes.

Chagalawe becomes the second Tanzanian to qualify for the semi-finals of the Commonwealth Games.

The late Michael Yombayomba was the country's boxer to have earlier achieved the feat in the 1998 Commonwealth Games which were held in Malaysia.

In the 2022 Commonwealth Games' semi-finals for the discipline scheduled for Saturday, Chagalawe will trade blows with S La-

zzerini of Scotland.

Chagalawe's compatriot, Light Middleweight boxer Kassim Mbutwike qualified for the quarterfinals and was in action yesterday night against Faustino Marion AH Tong from Samoa Island in bout number 162.

"As BFT, we are delighted with the performance of our boxers, they are doing the country proud," he said.

Alex Isendi is the only boxer who was knocked out of the first bout of the Commonwealth Games.

The government had sponsored camping for all athletes who are representing the country in this year's Commonwealth Games.

The performers are taking part in disciplines namely athletics, boxing, judo, swimming, and Para sports.

Last Saturday, athlete Alponce Simbu clocked 2:12.29 to take second place in the men's marathon while com-

patriot, Hamis Msai, ended eighth by clocking 2:15.59. The Commonwealth Games will conclude on August 8.

While handing over the national flag to Tanzania's representatives in the showpiece, Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Mohamed Mchengerwa challenged the athletes to perform well in the Games, saying the country wants medals.

He promised to hand over cash prizes to contenders who will bring home gold, silver, and bronze medals.

"The government has spent a lot of money to see our athletes prepare well for the Commonwealth Games," the minister disclosed.

"There are also cash prizes which will be handed over to those who will bring home gold, silver, and bronze medals, go there and do your country proud," he noted.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

