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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 8484+ PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA THURSDAY 24 MARCH, 2022

National Pg 3
Tanzania receives Spanish fishing vessel



National Pg 6
Dar police hold 2 suspected armed robbers



National Pg 7
Sauti za Busara Festival closes down



Banking sector remained resilient in first year of President Samia

Kilombero assures Tanzanian of sugar availability during fasting

Telecommunications network firm expands ultra-fast internet to Z'bar



Airtel, Axieva partner to launch digital motor insurance with Alliance Insurance



Page 13

Samia demands urban housing joint ventures

Africa's water ministers fete former PM Lowassa

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER Prime Minister Edward Lowassa has been presented with a recognition award by the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) for his contributions to water sector modernization in the past two decades. AMCOW presented the award to mark the Africa Water Week (AWW) in the Senegalese capital of Dakar, where Lowassa was represented by his son, Fredrick Lowassa, who also sits on his old parliamentary seat of Monduli. The MP told the delegates that it was a moving gesture for AMCOW after 20 years to recognize its founders. "My

As a member of Parliament for Monduli constituency, we are now implementing a big water project with financial support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Implementation of these projects is part of efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan who has done wonders ...

dad, who is currently lying in a hospital bed, was a no-nonsense man when it

TURN TO Page2



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President Samia Suluhu Hassan inspects five apartment blocks to house 644 families at the old Magomeni Quarters area, built by the Tanzania Building Agency, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House.

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday directed state entities involved in property development to work with the private sector to plan and implement projects to end housing woes in towns and cities.

Handing over 644 new flats at Magomeni suburb near the city centre after the area was redeveloped and former occupants given priority in the 52bn/-scheme, the president said the National Housing Corporation (NHC), the Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) and Watumishi Housing Co. need to engage private sector stakeholders for greater effect.

"I'm informed that private sector players are ready to work with the government in property development. Engage them to speed up implementation," he said, noting that public agencies can't speed up the work on their own.

The president affirmed that financial institutions are ready to offer loans for real estate development in urban areas, she said, demanding that contracts with private developers ensure a win-win situation.

The demand for better housing and settlements stands at three million units while the demand increases by up to 200,000 units annually by current estimates, she said, urging the responsible agencies to speed up the work.

Building the Magomeni residential units was part of the implementation of the urban land use policy, reflected in the CCM election manifesto section 55(h) requiring the government to improve existing housing and settlement conditions.

At the newly built site, TBA needs to build a car parking lot accommodate a big number of vehicles, thus reducing parking congestion in town. It will be a good source of revenues and supermarket catchment facility, she stated.

The president accepted a proposal by the tenants to repossess the houses on tenant purchase basis to return the costs of construction and exclude the value of the land 'as otherwise they will not be able to purchase them."

The government has offered a three months free stay before starting to pay the money, she said, while Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa said the project started on September 6 back in 2016, resonating with the Dar es Salaam city master plan.

Situated on a 20 acres plot that was earlier known as Magomeni Quarters, the entire project is a commercial complex with five apartment blocks on three acres, and commercial infrastructure for shops, restaurants and a vast car park.

Around 128 families will be accommodated in one block comprising 16 apartments, with 644 families lined up for accommodation in all the five blocks, he added.

TURN TO Page2

EU elicits Africa's support on Ukraine

By Felister Peter

THE European Union (EU) delegation in the country wants Tanzania and other African countries to be more involved on the Ukrainian conflict, underlining the principle of sovereignty and humanitarian conduct in war situations.

Ambassador Manfredo Fanti, the resident EU head of delegation told a press conference yesterday that the Russian invasion of Ukraine has resulted in a wide range of economic dislocations including inflation touched off by the surge in prices of oil and gas.

Similarly, there are diminished prospects for wheat supplies to a number of

Looking at the humanitarian picture; we are seeing discouraging images from Ukraine. So far, 3.5m people have been forced to leave Ukraine seeking safety elsewhere in European countries,

needy countries and international organizations working with refugees around the world, apart from the huge wave of refugees in Europe which may affect the countries' capacity in development cooperation with poorer countries.

The only solution is for Russia to stop its invasion and with-

draw its claims on that country or enforcing the claims by a military expedition into its neighbor, to avoid further social and economic impacts in Europe and around the world, he said.

He said the EU call is in line with the view expressed a week ago by the International Court of Justice which ruled that Russia ought to suspend military operations that began on the last week of February, at a media event attended by diplomats from EU member states in the country.

Those present include France, Germany, Poland, Italy, Sweden, Finland, Spain and the

Turkey brings in 1m Sinovac doses

By Guardian Reporter

HEALTH minister, Umyy Mwalimu yesterday received another consignment of one million doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines donated by Turkey.

At a reception ceremony at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA), the

minister said it is the first time the Mainland health authorities received Sinovac vaccines since the vaccination rollout started late July last year.

The new consignment takes to 10.8m the vaccines received, starting with Janssen, Sinopharm, Moderna, Pfizer and now Sinovac, with the

consignments put together sufficient for administering to nearly 6.4m people.

The COVID-19 vaccination drive continues at various health facilities across the country, along with mobile vaccination units, she said, pointing out that at the end of the third week of this month around three million people

had been vaccinated. The total number of those eligible for vaccination stands at around 30.7m people who are aged 18 and above, thus so far vaccination has reached 9.81 percent, she elaborated, urging political leaders, civil servants and others to maintain advocacy on the importance of being vaccinated.

They should encourage people to go for the jabs, she said, appealing to the public to maintain precautions like washing hands with soap and running water or using sanitizers, and wearing face masks. Mass protection of people against COVID-19 requires that up to vac

TURN TO Page2

EU elicits Africa's support on Ukraine

FROM PAGE 1

Netherlands, where the head of delegation laid accent on the impacts of the war as they are being felt in Europe and in Africa as well.

The war impacts Africa at this moment when countries are making efforts to recover from the social and economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, he stated, reiterating that the EU condemns Russia's violation of international law and ignoring all its commitments.

The 27 EU member states adopted massive sanctions against Russia aiming to make the cost of the war unbearable to compel it to change the calculations of its authoritarian leader Vladimir Putin, whom the West says has undertaken 'a war of choice' in his invasion of Ukraine.

"Looking at the humanitarian picture, we are seeing discouraging images from Ukraine. So far, 3.5m people have been forced to leave Ukraine seeking safety elsewhere in European countries," the EU resident top diplomat explained.

The EU has decided to use its own budget to help Ukraine to defend itself against Russia, allocating around one billion euros for the campaign, he stated, whereas Nabil Hajlaoui, the French ambassador, said the country stands with the ruling of the ICJ on the matter.

"Our objective is not to go to war with Russia but to stop the war waged against Ukraine. All UN member states including Tanzania share the values of democracy and the role of law, which do not tolerate altering boundaries and sovereignty by armed force," he said.

He appealed for greater awareness of the demands of the situation in Tanzania and Africa generally as these countries have close ties with the EU, for instance being the top cohort of foreign investments in Tanzania, and within the city of Dar es Salaam in particular.

Krzysztof Buzalski, ambassador of Poland, expressed the hope that Tanzania will lend active support to the EU position as it has similar experiences of ravages of war and hosting waves of new refugees.

Poland has so far received close to two million Ukrainian refugees, with current data from EU headquarters showing that the ultimate number of refugees could reach eight million if the war continues, he added.



European Union ambassador to Tanzania Manfred Fanti (L) speaks at a meeting with diplomats who are members of the EU representing their countries in Tanzania about the ongoing war in Ukraine. The event was held at the French embassy in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Africa's water ministers fete former PM Lowassa

FROM PAGE 1

came to education and water, the two paramount issues facing most African families today," he declared.

The former premier, when serving as Minister for Water during the third phase government, broke in tears during an upcountry visit to inspect challenges facing women

around Lake Victoria. He took up the matter and with support from then President Benjamin Mkapa, he went to Egypt on a ministerial visit and explained the need to responsibly harvest water from the lake to ease the burden on women.

Through meetings and mutual understanding on water challenges in Africa, an agreement was reached and thus the minister championed the Lake Victoria wa-

ter project. More than 500 villages around the lake started to be connected to safe and clean water, he explained.

"As a member of Parliament for Monduli constituency, we are now implementing a big water project with financial support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Implementation of these projects is part of efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan who has done

wonders for Tanzanians in just one year," the youthful MP observed.

The Africa Water Week represents political commitment at the highest level where governments, regional institutions, international partners, the private sector and stakeholders collectively seek solutions to Africa's water and sanitation challenges.

The AWW is meant to build momentum on achieving the Millen-

ium Development Goals (MDGs) water and sanitation targets by 2015 and the 2025 Africa Water Vision, observers noted.

Ex-premier Lowassa joins former premier Dr Salim Ahmed Salim in receiving international honours for their contributions in different fields and in a number of instances their sons have stood in for them owing to ill health.



Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi listens to Switzerland ambassador in Tanzania Didier Chassot who paid a courtesy call at the State House in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

Turkey now lands 1m Sinovac doses

FROM PAGE 1

ciate 70 percent of eligible members of the public are vaccinated, the minister underlined. To achieve the set target, vaccination services would now be offered at bus stations, residential areas and at different types of gatherings, she specified, appealing to regional commissioners to enhance COVID vaccination sensitization.

This will help in increasing the number of those coming to designated centres to take the jabs," she said, urging health care providers to ensure they are all vaccinated against the respiratory disease.

Dr Florian Tinuga, the manager of the vaccination rollout linked the low turn-up of people to take the jabs with some traditional beliefs. There are people who believe that a person has to get Covid so as to get vaccinated, he said. There are those who expect vaccination officers to follow them at home or at places of work, he affirmed.

Turkish Ambassador Mehmet Gulluoglu said that supporting Tanzania's efforts in the fight against COVID-19 arises from existing bilateral ties between the two nations.

Turkey has succeeded in vaccinating 75 percent of its population, with efforts ongoing to ensure all the citizens receive the jabs, he told the gathering.

Somalia adopts revised transition plan on transfer of security roles

MOGADISHU

A revised Somalia Transitional Plan which seeks to replace the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) with a new mission has been adopted in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. The revised Somalia Transition Plan (STP) which paves way for the smooth transfer of security responsibilities to Somalia's security forces was adopted Monday at the strategic steering committee chaired by the Office of National Security.

"The plan paves the way for the end of AMISOM, with the name of the Mission being the Transitional African Union Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), and being

finalized by the end of the year 2024," the presidency said in a statement issued on Monday evening.

It said the revised STP is a key milestone for Somalia before the United Nations Security Council approves the new mandate for the new ATMIS. The meeting also agreed on the strategic standards and objectives that guide the operational mandate of the ATMIS operation, the termination plan and the withdrawal plan have been agreed upon, in line with the Somali government's guidelines and guidelines. Somalia and the African Union have adopted a roadmap to replace AMISOM with ATMIS sub-

ject to authorization by the AU Peace and Security Council as well as the UN Security Council. Participants at the meeting which brought together representatives from the government and the international community welcomed the implementation of the STP, underlining the full readiness of the government to transfer responsibility for national security to Somalia by 2024. AMISOM, whose mandate was due to expire in 2022, is a peace support operation with nearly 20,000 forces on the ground mainly from Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Burundi and Djibouti. Meanwhile, a new four-year

multi-million project named 'Saameynta' - 'impact' in Somali - was launched today to achieve durable solutions for more than 75,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable host communities in Somalia. Through this intervention, UN and its partners will work together with the Federal Government of Somalia to implement the National Durable Solutions Strategy. The project also seeks to decrease dependency on humanitarian aid, reduce poverty for thousands of impoverished individuals and promote IDPs integration in cities. Saameynta's unique approach aims to leverage the values generated by planned urbaniza-

tion and investment in order to provide affordable housing, employment opportunities and community assets such as infrastructure, irrigation facilities, markets and other locally identified priorities for communities affected by displacement. Saameynta will also increase the self-reliance and access to sustainable basic services, including water, shelter, and health services for IDPs residing in the cities of Baidoa, Bossaso and Beletweyne. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is leading the implementation of the project and will work together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

and UN-HABITAT supported by the Integrated Office of the UN Resident Coordinator.

"IDPs suffer from a lack of opportunities to grow and develop in their new communities, which make it difficult for these groups to get out the poverty cycle," said Ewa Naqvi, IOM Somalia Deputy Chief of Mission. There are an estimated 2.9 million IDPs in Somalia due to decades of conflict and extreme weather events such as drought and floods - one of the highest figures of IDPs globally. Of these, 2.2 million require urgent humanitarian assistance.

AGENCIES

By Guardian Reporter

Dr Mwinyi commends Chinese, Swiss govts

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has commended Chinese and Swiss governments for their continued support to Zanzibar development efforts.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks at different times yesterday at the State House when he had talks with Chinese ambassador to Tanzania Chen Mingjian and his Swiss counterpart Didier Chassot who visited the president for self-introduction.

Earlier, in his discussion with the

Chinese envoy, Dr Mwinyi said Zanzibar values its historical relationship with China and pledged to boost the ties for the benefit of both countries.

Dr Mwinyi also praised the Chinese government for continued supporting to Zanzibar to strengthen various social-economic developments including education and health sectors.

In the talks, President Mwinyi explained to the Chinese envoy about

various strategies by the Zanzibar government in strengthening its economy through blue economy.

For his part, Ambassador Chen Mingjian promised Dr Mwinyi that the Chinese government will continue supporting Zanzibar in its efforts to strengthen its development sectors as well as supporting the blue economy policy.

He also praised Dr Mwinyi for the good cooperation extended to Chi-

na's consul in Zanzibar.

In his discussion with the Swiss ambassador, Didier Chassot, President Mwinyi praised him for his country's support Zanzibar for various sectors including the health sector by establishing health insurance, good governance and empowering the Zanzibar Economic Crimes Authority (ZAECA), the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and providing assistance to non-gov-

ernmental organisations (NGOs) in the country.

Dr Mwinyi also used the occasion to congratulate the Swiss government for its assistance in the establishment of health insurance in Zanzibar. For his part, the Swiss envoy to Tanzania Didier Chassot told President Mwinyi that his government was committed in helping Zanzibar in its various development sectors including health and good governance.

He told President Mwinyi steps being taken by his country to make sure the targets are attained.

Meanwhile, Dr Mwinyi met with and held talks with Tanzania's ambassador to Austria, Celestine Mushy who went to the Zanzibar State House to bid him farewell as he was proceeding to his new station in Austria.

In their talks, Dr Mwinyi told ambassador Mushy on the need for him to engage in economic diplomacy by advertising Tanzania investment opportunities to Swiss investors.



Members of a community wildlife management association at Idodi and Pawaga (MBOMIPA) following the community's wildlife conservation training yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

TOSCI solves problem of fake seeds sold to farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TANZANIA Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) has solved the problem regarding weak and fake seeds that were being sold to farmers in the country making them incur losses.

This has been possible after the Institute had increased the pace in the use of its quality standard labels for seeds being produced.

TOSCI director general, Patrick Ngwendigi said that in the period 2014/15 300 the institute had seen 350 instances of fake and weak seeds were reported, the situation that caused big losses to farmers in the country.

He said following many complaints regarding farmers being sold fake seeds, TOSCI came up with various strategies including enhancing seeds certification pace and using its own modern quality standards labels.

He said in the period 2016/17 they increased the pace for the issuance of the labels after certification, from two million to 10 million labels in 2019/20.

Ngwendigi said due to quality standard labels, they have been able to assist the nation in ensuring seeds produced in the country and sold to farmers were of acceptable standards.

He said due to the achievements, TOSCI has been able to increase the country's seed production from 34

per cent in 2015 to 81 per cent for all crops produced in the country.

He said other TOSCI achievements included making the country join seeds scheme of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that recognises Tanzania seeds quality standards with TOSCI labels, which will even make easier for the country to export its locally produced seeds.

Thadei Hafigwa, a prominent cereals farmer from Morogoro region praised TOSCI for resolving the challenge regarding fake seeds as in the past many farmers used to incur losses due to lack of proper certification control on seeds producers in the country.

Tanzania to get 1billion/- each year from new fishing vessel operations

By Guardian Reporter

MASIMBA Ndaki, Livestock and Fisheries minister, has said Tanzania will benefit by the injection of 1bn/- to its coffers each year and 300 tonnes of fish once the big fishing vessel in the Indian Ocean starts operating.

Speaking when receiving the vessel - 'Pacific Star' owned by the Al Bacora Group at the port of Dar es Salaam, Ndaki (pictured) said the profit will be realised after opening doors to big investors in the fishing sector.

He said in the agreement, the vessel owned by a Spanish national will receive a fishing licence, fly the Tanzania flag, provide training on fishing to five Tanzanians and build a fish processing plant in the country. He said the modern vessel with a capacity to carry 2,000 tonnes of fish at a go will engage in fishing of tuna in the high seas around Mauritius, Comoro and Tanzania.

He said the company will be fishing 200 tonnes of tuna fish and 100 tonnes of other kinds of fish after every four months, thereby filling the country's fish demand gap.

Zanzibar minister for Blue economy and fishing, Suleiman Masoud Makame said both the union and Zanzibar governments have optimism with the ship's coming because it will spur a new fishing revolution in the sea. He called on the Spanish firm to concentrate in giving training to Tanzanians as it



will increase the number of indigenous captains and workers in fishing vessels.

Tanzania Water Day marked in Dar es Salaam

Tanzania Water Day marked in Dar es Salaam. Tanzania yesterday joined the World to commemorate the World Water Day which is held on 22 March every year and highlights the importance of freshwater.

The day was first formally adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution Na. A/RES/47/193 of which 22 March of each year was declared as World Water Day.

The Water Week Scientific Conference which is a flagship event for the Ministry of Water, graced by the Her Excellency, The President of The United Republic of Tanzania on 22nd March 2022 at Mlimani City, Conference Center, Dar Es Salaam was attended by all the stakeholders from Tanzania and other parts of the world.

On this occasion, Eng. Chandrasekhar K., Country Manager-WAPCOS Limited,

Public-Sector Enterprise under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India shared his insight on the water sector development programs implemented by WAPCOS in Tanzania.

WAPCOS Limited has been assisting the Ministry of Water, Tanzania in-line with the Memorandum of Understanding which was signed between WAPCOS and Ministry of Water, Tanzania in 2013, for Technical Co-operation in the field of Development of Water Resources, Water Supply & Sanitation Projects in Tanzania.

Eng. Chandrasekhar mentioned about the immense support provided by the Government of India in upgrading the water supply schemes in Tanzania to achieve the Goal of "Water and Sanitation for all by 2030" and he specially mentioned about the role of WAPCOS as an Engineering Consultant in successful completion of Extension of Lake Victoria Pipeline to Tabo-



President Samia Suluhu Hassan listens to Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) Chief Executive Officer Eng. Cyprian Luhemeja (R) as he explains on the implementation of various water projects in the Dar Es Salaam region during the climax of the water week commemoration at Mlimani City on Tuesday.

ra, Igunga and Nzega and Expansion of Upper Ruvu Water Treatment Plant for Dar es Salaam under the leadership of Mr. R K Agrawal, CMD-WAPCOS, Honorable Minister of Water, Tanzania and Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Water, Tanzania that has brought safe potable water to the doorsteps of more than 3.5 million residents of Tanzania.

He also informed that Government of India and High Commission of India to Tanzania are working with Government of Tanzania to expedite commencement of

new major water supply projects that are likely to start soon in various towns in Tanzania as part of development partnership of the Government of India. The project is forecasted to benefit nearly 4 million residents of Tanzania.

Eng. Chandrasekhar expressed that WAPCOS Limited has always been thankful and delighted in associating with the Tanzanian Government and has been a great admirer of The President Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan and her endeavors and initiatives.

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We Cordially invite you to the Opening Ceremony of Region's Prime International Trade Exhibition being inaugurated by **Hon. Ridhiwani J. Kikwete, Deputy Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Tanzania** on 24th March 2022, 11:00 am at Diamond Jubilee Halls, Dar-es-Salaam.

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PHOTO: AFP

Govt urges investment in irrigation schemes

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has called upon strategic investors to come and invest in developing irrigation schemes and infrastructures so as to increase the country's crop production and food security.

Minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe made the call over the weekend when speaking to journalists on government's plans to woo local and foreign investors in developing irrigation schemes in the country's arable land.

According to Bashe, the room is open for any investors willing to develop the schemes and later charge fees to water users for the sustainability of the agricultural infrastructure. The move, he said will unlock the country's agriculture sector by increasing productivity per hectare.

"Our target is to ensure that more farmland is put into irrigation schemes and our people shift from seasonal rainfall. We encourage more investors in these areas," he said, noting that the government's goal can only be achieved through close engagement of the private sector in developing irrigation schemes.

Currently, the National Irrigation Commission (NIRC) is looking for further partnerships with local and foreign investors to develop over 150 new irrigation schemes across the country.

Acting Director for Design and Research at NIRC Eng Gregory Chigwiye said the move aims to complement government efforts of reaching 1.2 hectares of irrigated land by 2025.

He said the targeted schemes are part of the 274 schemes identified by the government across the country saying that if developed would increase crop yields and food security.

So far, the government has identified all schemes across the country noting that the priority is regions with irrigation potentials such as Morogoro, Mbeya, Iringa, Rukwa, and Katavi.



NMB's head of personal banking, Aikansia Muro presses the button to get one of the winners of the NMB Mastabata Kivyakovyako at the grand finale held at NMB Sinza branch in Dar es Salaam. 30 NMB customers emerged winners for 3m/- each. Second left is NMB Bank's chief of retail banking, Filbert Mponzi. Right is the bank's senior manager for card business, Manfredy Kayalla and second right is the NMB Bank's social media influencer Masoud Kipanya. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Eco-friendly farming project for local growers launched in Arusha

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

A NEW sustainable food system to support family farming projects in line with preserving the environment has been launched in Arusha.

The sustainable food system, a five-year programme, is executed in the country by Iles de Paix, an organisation which acts to uphold

farmers' rights and the right to food.

"We help farmers understand consumer demands, identify the best times to sell and improve income from marketing their products," explained the project manager, Ayesiga Buberwa, during the event.

"We collaborate with local authorities for political actions in favour of sustainable agriculture and

food prompting farming activities that are favourable to agro-ecology, sustainable food and sustainable management of the environment," added Buberwa. Iles de Paix supports organic farming for local food growers to adopt environment friendly, chemical-free methods of food production, first to ensure that the farm produce is healthy and marketable and also to protect the environment from

harmful inputs.

Arumeru District Commissioner, Eng. Richard Luyango who represented the Arusha Regional Commissioner during the event, said the government always supports all initiatives aimed at ensuring food security in the country.

"But also growing food must not be done at the expense of the environment, therefore the eco-friendly methods of agriculture

being introduced by Iles de Paix are very much welcome and will be supported," stated DC Luyango.

To execute the programme, Iles De Paix works with various local partners, including the national networks of farmers groups in Tanzania (MVIWATA) and research, community and organisational development associates.

Dominick Ringo is the executive director for the Research, Community and organisational development associates (RECO-DA). He said the project will highly transform farming activities in the region.

Apart from Tanzania, Arusha in particular, Iles de Paix also works in support of family-based farming projects in Uganda, Peru, Benin and Burkina Faso, where

the organisation trains and helps farmers to improve their production, harvests and storage capacity.

In response to severe drought that the region has been experiencing in later years, the organisation has been addressing the water needs of the local population, including the Maasai pastoralists to improve access to water for livestock.



BARRICK
NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER

Conducting Aerial Photographic 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:

Conducting Aerial Photographic Survey within 20km Radius from Processing Plant

Pre-qualification Criteria

| No. | Reference no. | Description of work | Pre-Qualification Criteria |
|-----|---------------|---|--|
| 1 | NM31/2022 | Conduct Aerial LiDAR survey on 20km radius from the process plant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Applicants that had successfully executed Aerial LiDAR survey projects over the past two (2) years in the United Republic of Tanzania shall be considered. ii. Completion certificates of previous projects with reference list of Clients, the applicant agrees - without reservation-upon the submission of EOI, that the Company has the full right to contact any of the references provided iii. Local compliance with valid NCPS (National Council of Professional Surveyors) registration. iv. Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary with regard to its financial stability, Survey capabilities, organizational structure, CVs of experienced personnel, equipment, expertise in relevant types of surveys and familiarity with Tanzanian laws and Regulations |

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 nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective reference no.(s) 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

• Last date to submit EOI

March 29, 2022

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

216770501



BARRICK
NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER

RE: Hiring of (a) Tyre mounted Cranes with rated lifting capacity - 35 Tons to 100 Tons, (b) Telehandler rated load capacity - 4 Tons to 7.5 Tons, (c) Truck with Low Flat Bed Trailer - 20T to 40T capacity

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:

Pre-qualification Criteria

| No. | Reference no. | Description of work | Pre-Qualification Criteria |
|-----|---------------|--|--|
| 1 | NM35/2022/A | Hiring of Tyre mounted Cranes with rated lifting capacity - 35 Tons to 100 Tons for a period of 1 year at North Mara Mine site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Applicant to provide specifications - Make, manufacturing year ii. To submit Load chart and diesel consumption iii. To submit test certificates for all lifting gears iv. Companies HSE policy to be submitted v. Crane operator - CV, License to be submitted vi. Certified rigger - CV, certification of competency to be submitted vii. Local compliance with valid CRB registration and familiarity with Tanzanian laws and Regulations |
| 2 | NM35/2022/B | Hiring of Telehandler rated load capacity - 4 Tons to 7.5 Tons for a period of 1 year at North Mara Mine site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Applicant to provide specifications - Make, manufacturing year and diesel consumption ii. Companies HSE policy to be submitted iii. Operator - CV, License to be submitted iv. Local compliance with valid CRB registration and familiarity with Tanzanian laws and Regulations |
| 3 | NM35/2022/C | Hiring of Truck with Low Flat Bed Trailer - 20T to 40T capacity for a period of 1 year at North Mara Mine site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Applicant to provide specifications - Make, manufacturing year and diesel consumption ii. Companies HSE policy to be submitted iii. Operator - CV, License to be submitted iv. Local compliance with valid CRB registration and familiarity with Tanzanian laws and Regulations |

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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 nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective reference no.(s) 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

• Last date to submit EOI

March 29, 2022

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

216770501

Sernic arrests alleged kidnappers

MAPUTO

MOZAMBIQUE'S National Criminal Investigation Service (SERNIC) has arrested three individuals, accused of involvement in the wave of kidnappings of business people which have been rocking Maputo city.

Sernic spokesperson Hilario Lole yesterday in Maputo told reporters that besides the criminal gang, made up of two women and a man, aged between 29 and 40 years, the authorities has also seized a luxury house in the coastal neighbourhood of Triunfo, which was being used as a private prison to hold kidnap victims.

"When they were detained, these individuals were preparing to carry out another kidnapping", Lole said. "The investigations we have made so far indicate that they paid, early in January, about 10,000 US dollars for three months' rent and the house would serve as a jail".

Lole added that they only intended to occupy the house as from 15 February. They also purchased a vehicle from one of the Maputo car dealers which the police believed they wanted to use for future kidnappings.

The two women now under arrest claim that they had been hired for house cleaning, and knew nothing about the use of the house as a prison. "I have come here to do the cleaning. My friend said that there is someone looking for people to do house work and I agreed

to do it," said one of the women.

The man, on the other hand, also claimed that he knew nothing about the use of the house to hold victims captive. He said he had only followed the orders given by a South African citizen who called him and spoke about his need to rent a house in Maputo.

Meanwhile, Judge Efigenio Baptista, of the Maputo City Court, has postponed for the second time the session of the "hidden debts" trial that would deal with the Public Prosecutor's request for the seizure of property from several of the 19 accused.

The matter should have been dealt with on Monday, but lawyers for the accused complained they had not been properly notified, with all the relevant documents. That problem continues - by Thursday it seems that the prosecution had not yet been able to gather all the documents that tie the accused to each of the properties it wishes to confiscate.

For example, the prosecution hopes to seize 40 buildings owned by Antonio Carlos do Rosario, the former head of economic intelligence in the security service, SISE, or by companies that he controls. But to do this, it must show documents such as title deeds, which prove that Rosario is indeed the owner.

So Baptista announced that the prosecution's seizure orders will be discussed at a date to be announced later by the court - and possibly after the prosecution and the defence have summed up their cases.



East African Community (EAC) Secretary General Dr Peter Mathuki (R) listens to East African Business Council board director Amelie Nginganza (L) moments after the meeting which discussed private sector development held at EAC headquarters in Arusha yesterday. Centre is EABC Chief Executive Officer, John Bosco Kalisa. Photo: Courtesy of EAC

Chamwino District Council urged to upscale budget towards improving education

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

EDUCATION stakeholders have challenged the Chamwino District Council to use at least 20 percent of its domestic revenue towards improving the education sector.

Despite benefiting from the COVID-19 recovery fund to help schools, they raised concerns that the education sector within the famous district was still facing myriad setbacks.

Shortage of classrooms, desks, toilets, teacher's houses remain among key challenges in schools, mostly primary, while poor infrastructures and lack of training facilities towards students with special needs have become part and parcel.

The stakeholders sought that it was

prudent for the authority in the district to comply with the Dakar Framework for Action - Education for All.

In April 2000 more than 1,000 participants from 164 countries gathered in Dakar, Senegal, for the World Education Forum, ranging from teachers to prime ministers, academics to policymakers, non-governmental bodies to the heads of major international organisations, they adopted the Dakar Framework for Action, Education for All.

The framework, among others, directed governments to achieve quality basic education for all by 2015 or earlier, with particular emphasis on girls' education.

Speaking yesterday during a roundtable meeting which brought together key district officials and citizens, members of the youth forum expressed their views

over the need for collective interventions to help improve the sector.

Chairperson of the youth forum, Mariam James, presented that the district was facing a shortage of a total of 747 classrooms in primary schools, 1886 pit latrines, 4,700 desks as well as 1422 teacher's houses.

In secondary schools, she detailed that the deficit include 21 classrooms, 497 teacher's houses and six pit latrines.

"The situation is not encouraging, especially in primary schools whereby in some schools around 500 pupils are being compelled to share a single room, bad enough, without desks," she said, noting that most of the available infrastructures are however dilapidated.

She spoke over the dwindling trend

in the council's budgetary allocation towards the education sector, observing: "For instance, during 2019/2020 fiscal year the district allocated 13.5 percent of its domestic revenue to support education, but in 2020/21 the budget shrank to only 6.3 percent."

She also urged the authority to mull over using the province fund to help solve the challenges upsetting the schools within the district which harbours the country's State House.

And she added, the area has so far registered more than 61 students with special needs, but saying, they're facing untold challenges to access better education due to absence of relevant trainers as well as facilities and infrastructures.

Responding, Chairman of Chamwino District Council, Edson Sweti, expressed

concern over the challenges, saying they will work round the clock to improve the situation.

He however, hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her positive efforts to improve the performance of the vital sector from grassroots within the district. He said despite being crippled with the few challenges, during last year the district stood second for excellence in education at the regional level.

"Among others, our focus is currently to motivate the councillors in all wards to sensitize the public to stand at forefront in paying various contributions to help spur the education sector within their areas," he noted.

Together with that, he added that the district will continue setting aside at least 40 percent of its own source to sup-

port the implementation of varied development projects, including those in the education sector.

Held under the patriotic auspices from Action Aid, the key gathering attracted potential leaders within the district, including ten councillors from different wards, citizens, as well as education stakeholders from grassroots.

Joram Wimmo, Action Aid's Project Coordinator said the NGO will continue cooperating with the government and citizens to push for the improvement of key socioeconomic sectors within the district, as well as in other parts of the country.

"In Chamwino district we're implementing different programmes, among others, based on improvement of education and agriculture sectors," he briefed.



International School of Tanganyika
Challenge | Support | Inspire

PO Box 2651 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Central and Elementary Office Phone: +255 684 228882/3
+255 658 228883/5
Secondary Office Phone: +255 22 260 1126/7 or
+255 787 997778/98
Web: www.istafrica.com
Email: information@istafrica.com



INVITATION FOR BIDS

Bids are invited from interested registered, competent, reliable and licensed suppliers/dealers to provide the under listed goods and services for the year ending 31st July 2023.


| S/N | Category No. | Description |
|-----|--------------|---|
| 1. | Category 01 | Maintenance Materials |
| 2. | Category 02 | Consumables and Cleaning Materials |
| 3. | Category 03 | Office Stationery |
| 4. | Category 04 | Staff Welfare Supplies (Sugar, Tea, Coffee & Milk Powder) |
| 5. | Category 05 | Timber |
| 6. | Category 06 | Supply and Servicing of Fire Extinguishers |
| 7. | Category 07 | Fumigation |
| 8. | Category 08 | Cesspit Emptying |
| 9. | Category 09 | Appliances (Fridges, Cookers & Air-conditions) |
| 10. | Category 10 | Motor Vehicle Spare Parts |
| 11. | Category 11 | Service of Equipment |

Conditions:


- Bid document(s) will be emailed to the bidders on payment of TZS. 50,000/= payable per bid category. Payments should be made to the Billing Department located in the Administration Building (Gate #5), off United Nations Road, Upanga, between 10.00 am to 1.00 pm Monday to Friday. Bidders will need to provide the School with the email ID at the time of making payment. Once payment has been received, bid documents will be emailed by the following working day.
- Bids should be emailed to bids@istafrica.com latest by 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2022. No bids will be accepted after this time. In addition, bidders should attach scanned copies of certificates of registration, business license, TIN/VAT certificates and User Identification Number certificate (for VAT registered suppliers). On submission of the information, the bidders would receive a confirmation that their bids have been successfully received by IST.
- The School is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid and reserves the right to reject all or any of the bids received.







THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR VOTES FOR TANZANIA PROJECTS NOMINATED FOR WSIS PRIZES 2022

ITU in close collaboration with all World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Lines Facilitators/Co-Facilitators has organized the WSIS Forum 2022 with the theme "ICT for Wellbeing Inclusion and Resilience". The forum will provide structured opportunities to network, learn and participate in multi-stakeholder discussions and consultations on WSIS Action Lines implementation. ITU has announced the list of nominated projects some of which are from Tanzania. The public/ WSIS stakeholders are encouraged to cast their votes by 31 March 2022 so as to increase the chances for Tanzanian projects to win.

LIST OF NOMINATED PROJECTS FROM TANZANIA FOR WSIS PRIZES 2022

| S/N | Category No. | Category Name | Nominated Project | Institute or Organization |
|-----|--------------|--|--|---|
| 1. | Category 1 | AL C1. The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development | E-Kijiji: Connected Villages in the pandemic | Emerging Youth Initiative (Eyi) |
| 2. | Category 4 | AL C4. Capacity building | Advance IT & Entrepreneurship Training and Incubation for young women | Apps 5 Girls |
| | | AL C4. Capacity building | STEM 4 ALL | St. Joseph University |
| 3. | Category 16 | AL C9. Media | Mwajuma Simama | Our Voices Against Harassment (OVAH) |
| 4. | Category 18 | AL C11. International and regional cooperation | Solar treatment of biomass for power generation using carbon slurries in hybrid renewable energy systems | Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) |

PROCEDURES FOR VOTING

- To Vote use link below to Register into WSIS Platform under WSIS PRIZES 2022 below <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktaking/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2Fnet4%2Fwsis%2Fstocktaking%2FPrizes%2F2022%2FVote>
- Activate it using your email address, after which you will be able to log in.
- After logging in, go to voting section, then click the vote form, it will take you to the voting form with the list of nominated projects.
- Select the category name as indicated in Table of the nominated projects.
- Then select and vote for the project by clicking "Vote For This Project" on the right hand of the specific project.

NOTE

- » Deadline for voting is March 31, 2022, after which 90 WSIS Prizes 2022 Champions will be declared and recognized in the Selection Phase.
- » Each member may only vote for/appreciate one project in each category.
- » Entities are not allowed to vote for/appreciate their own project.

Issued by:
Director General, Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority,
20 Sam Nujoma Road, P.O. Box 474, 14414, DAR ES SALAAM



Mbeya district medical officer Dr. Yahaya Msuya (L) receives medical equipment from the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority deputy inspector, Seleman Mayala donated by TMDA southern highlands zone. The medicines worth 20.8m/- were confiscated from private pharmacies after being in the market illegally. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Police in Dar arrest two suspected armed robbers

By Guardian Reporter

POLICE in Dar es Salaam Special Zone Region are holding two suspects of armed robbery, allegedly connected to incidences of robbing money from bank customers in the city.

The remarks were made by the Dar es Salaam Special Zone Regional Police Commander, Jumanne Muliro when speaking about the five-day operation beginning March 16 in the region.

He said after interrogation the two confessed to have used a motorcycle as they trail people to banks and to other incidents of crimes they committed.

"The two - Mussa Abdulrashid (28) resident of Vikindu and Erick Mfuko (32) resident of Kibamba in Dar es Salaam who are alleged to commit armed robbery were arrested in possession of two firearms - a Browning with S/No. TZCAR113805 with three bullets in the magazine, but has the capacity to hold 8 bullets, and Glock 15 with S/No. TZCAR9611 that is capable to hold 15 bullets in the magazine.

RPC Muliro said the two suspects were also found with a motorcycle with Reg. MCI23DAL which they allegedly use in crime.

He said during interrogation, they confessed to have been involved in armed robberies from people coming out of banks including CRDB bank

branches at Kibada, Pugu Road and Temeke and NMB Bank branches at Banana as well as Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) all in Dar es Salaam.

He added that they also confessed to have robbed ASAS official of 30m/-.

He said in 2018, one of the suspects was arrested and sent to jail for armed robbery, but two years later he was released on legal grounds.



The two - Mussa Abdulrashid (28) resident of Vikindu and Erick Mfuko (32) resident of Kibamba in Dar es Salaam who are alleged to commit armed robbery were arrested in possession of two firearms - a Browning with S/No. TZ-CAR113805 with three bullets in the magazine

NIDA outlines milestone feats in Samia's one year

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE National Identification Authority (NIDA) has produced and distributed 3,070,860 national identity cards since President Samia Suluhu Hassan took office last year.

"To us this is a successful story," said Geoffrey Tengeneza, authority's head of communication unit.

Outlining authority's achievement Tengeneza said the authority aim is to see that all eligible persons have the national identity cards. Currently, NIDA is undertaking a major project of processing and distributing national identity cards which he said are under the 5 years for National Development Plan,

Sustainable Development Goals (SGD), NIDA strategic plan and East African Common Market Protocol.

NIDA official said the processing and distribution of national identity cards is going through four steps which are registration of eligible citizens in all districts of mainland Tanzania and island of Zanzibar, providing

National Identification Number (NIN) and distribution of national identity cards, and transfer of knowledge.

Other steps are building of data center, data recovery center, building 13 Information and Communications Technology (ICT) offices across the country and purchasing of new IDs processing machine.

He disclosed that within the year, NIDA has seen collection from data sharing improving from 17.5bn/- to 20.5bn/-, rank promotion of 485 staff, employing 22 new members of staff and sixty nine employers of the authority attended various courses.

Tengeneza mentioned other achievements such as connect-

ing national radar to all regional administration and local government offices countrywide.

"Within the one year President Samia has been in office, NIDA has seen tremendous improvement, now 133 Tamisemi offices across the country are connected to national radar, in the past only 52 stakeholders were connected to national data

sharing, but now we have 58 stakeholders who are connected of which 25 are government institutions while the remaining 32 are from the private sector," he said.

The NIDA communication head attributed the achievements to the government's tireless efforts in improving the lives of its citizens.

Educate public about online crime, police officials urged

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

INFORMATION, Communications and Information Technology Permanent Secretary Dr Jim Yonaz has called on members of the police force to learn and educate the public about online crime and how to protect themselves so as to take precautions against the crime.

Dr Yonaz (pictured) made the appeal when opening a five-day training seminar on the safe online use to regional crime officers, heads of police units and investigation desks from all regions of both mainland and Zanzibar held here beginning March 21 to March 25 this year.

He said the police force has the responsibility to learn every day as they are also participant in the global online activities through smart phones, but the police's slogan clearly says that they have the responsibility to protect citizens' rights in the new digital world.



"The world is changing fast, there is a lot of crime committed online by people of all groups intentionally or otherwise, hence when you are provided with the education, you have the duty to educate others," said Dr Yonaz.

He added that "If you beat a child, you must also tell him why you have beaten him, the same in regard to online crime, before you deal with it first educate the people regarding which are online crimes and which are not."

Addressing seminar participants, the Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI) Camillus Wambura thanked Information, Communications and Information Technology ministry for facilitating the training saying it will help police officials to enhance their knowledge in regard to the fight against online crime.

"Technology changes daily, hence frequent training to our officials is needed in order to go abreast with the fast changes," said DCI Wambura.

Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Joshua Mwangasa thanked the government, through the ministry for empowering police officials countrywide including ongoing efforts in building laboratories for scientific investigation in six regions of Mbeya, Arusha, Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Zanzibar.

The training on online crime is being provided to about 100 police officials as the continuation of a similar training in February this year to other police officials of lower ranks.



James Ndizu (L), a second-year University of Dodoma student, shows his works of art to people who visited the university at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

TAWA receives 2.9bn/- for development projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE government has provided Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) with 2.9bn/- for implementing various development projects.

TAWA Board Chairperson, Maj Gen (Rtd) Hamisi Semfuko said the money is equivalent to 14.3 per cent of all the funds set aside for institutions and departments under the Ministry for Natural Resources and Tourism.

Maj Gen Semfuko made the remarks as he was inaugurating development projects through the Covid-19 funds.

"From the funds, TAWA plans to implement 32 infrastructure projects costing 9.2bn/- and 3.7bn/- will be spent to purchase six vehicles, three plants, six boats and 559 tents," he said.

He said out of the 32 projects, Mkungunero Reserve Forest will have three projects including 47.5km road project for tourists and an en-

trance for visitors.

Other projects is the resting area, and all the three projects will cost more than 672m/-.

In regard to the Mkungunero Forest Reserve Project, Semfuko stressed: "I call upon contractors and the reserve authorities in general to make sure the projects are taken care of and implemented in time to speed up development in tourism in the reserve, as well as making sure you provide employment to the indigenous

people surrounding the area."

Earlier, TAWA Acting Commissioner for Conservation, Mabula Misungwi thanked the government for the funds, saying completion of the projects will help in strengthening road infrastructure and put in place friendly investment environment in the development of photography and hunting tourism.

He added that through the projects, people surrounding the area can benefit through so-

cial services including schools, digging of wells, libraries and dispensaries.

Meanwhile, the 42km long road supervisor in the Mkungunero reserve forest from SUMA JKT Central zone, Baraka Kiswaga said the project is now 60 per cent complete at gravel level.

He said the project that started July last year is expected to be completed in April this year and will cost 560m/-.



Bahi district commissioner Mwanahamisi Mukunda (R) talks with Qatar charity director Ahmed Elhamrawy (L) at Mundemu village in Dodoma yesterday. Looking on is Bahi MP Keneth Nollo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Sauti za Busara Festival closes down over lack of sponsorship

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE management of Zanzibar Busara Promotions has announced that the Sauti za Busara Festival will be suspended on March 31 due to financial constraints when Norwegian sponsorship comes to an end.

This was revealed by Busara Promotions Legal Director, Yussuf Mahmoud to reporters in his office here following its failure to meet operation costs without sponsors.

"Without money for paying salaries and other operational costs it is no longer possible to go on with its activities especially in regard to the festival that is well known globally in advertising Zanzibar's culture and tourism," Mahmoud said.

He said since the institution was registered in 2003 it has been making good job in advertising music and our heritage and culture held at Zanzibar Stone Town every year, the event that has been attracting visitors from many foreign countries.

He said the festival, different to other festivals in the world, concentrated in live music that gave opportunities women as well as new artistes and removed the concept of denying access to less known artistes in the country.

He said 400 groups from various countries in Africa have been entertaining audiences in the festi-

val contributing in enhancing the tourism sector. Zanzibar main economic pillar.

"For many years, the festival has been a pillar on the East African musical ecology that provided employment and enhancing talents, while giving opportunity for artistes to develop themselves by working together with various networks in the music sector," added Mahmoud.

He said all this could not have been possible without assistance from Norwegian sponsors and donors who have been doing so since 2009.

"Norway's sponsorship comes to an end this year, and unfortunately, without other sponsors from public and private sectors, Busara Promotions cannot continue to exist in Zanzibar," he added.

Busara Promotions Finance Manager, Safia Juma said when the festival was established it had 3,000 visitors from various countries, but after 19 years the number grew to 40,000 who were contributing to the Zanzibar income from tourism.

She added that the USD 150,000 provided by the Norwegian Embassy each year helped a lot in meeting operation costs of the festival, and added in case another sponsor comes forward before the March 31 deadline there is the possibility for the festival to continue for the national interest.

We want national fund for disabled persons to be fully operational - PWDs

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PEOPLE with disabilities (PWDs) have appealed to the government to enable the 'National Fund for Disabled Persons' to become fully operational.

Dr Victoria Luhire, Law Lecturer at Open University of Tanzania made the recommendation in Dar es Salaam to discuss the progress in Gender and Disability Inclusion in Tanzania under one year of President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The event involved members of Tanzania Federation of Disabled People's Organisations (SHIVYAWATA), officials from the government, and was organised by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) and Her Ability Foundation (HAF).

She said once it becomes functional, the government must now inject funds to support people with disabilities across the country.

"In a period of one year, the government has made progress in gender and disability inclu-

sion including separation of the ministry for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Group, from Health ministry," she said. The don further said that while doing that, the government must also consider providing subsidies to NGO dealing with people with disabilities.

In her presentation entitled 'One year of presidency of Samia Suluhu Hassan', Dr Luhire said significant achievements had been recorded so far. She mentioned some of the progress

achieved as more investment in building new schools, laboratories, universities, reverse the regressive laws against young mothers returning to school and more inclusive municipal loan requirements.

Others were review of gender and development of policy, new infrastructure in schools and health centres, embrace accessibility & inclusivity, inclusive education strategy and guidelines of early identification of children with disabilities. She said despite great achievement

reached so far, she appealed to the government to change some laws such as the Marriage Act, discriminating laws and the review of personal with disability Act of 2010.

Senior Welfare Officer from the Prime Minister office, Olivia Njogopa said the government has set aside 5bn/- to construct market stalls for people with disabilities in six cities.

She said up to July 2021, the government had issued loans amounting to 53bn/- to 767 groups of people with disabilities.

RC declares war on peoples sabotaging water projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Misungwi

MWANZA Regional Commissioner Robert Gabriel has declared war on people sabotaging water projects implemented in various areas of the region.

Instead, he called upon residents of Mwanza Region to continue taking care of the projects for sustainable development.

The remarks were made early this week at the event to mark Water Week held at Mwamagili Village, Misungwi District on regional level.

Speaking on behalf of the RC, Magu District Commissioner, Salum Kali said if water sources are not protected, there will not be any water provision to the people

DC Kali said water is a necessity to every human being as it means life and that as for now the availability of safe and clean water in Mwanza Region stands at 66 per cent.

"According to report from Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) national headquarters in Dodoma, the agency has signed 23 contracts for construction of water projects costing more than 70.2bn/-, which upon completion will serve 432,643, or 20 per cent of people living in rural areas of Mwanza Region, and added that the projects are set to be implemented between January this year and June 2024," he added.

He said once all projects are completed, the availability of clean and safe water will increase from the current 66 per cent to 86 per cent.

Earlier, in his report on the water situation in Mwanza Region on behalf of the region's RUWASA Manager, Godfrey Sanga, Emmanuel Mafuru said by February 2022, 544 villages were being provided with pipe water.

He said 449 villages enjoy clean and safe water services and those without were only 95, while work



on projects for the other 37 villages are still going on. He added that 178 villages have been placed in the budget plans for FY 2021/22.

He further said that all RUWASA projects at national level will be implemented within one year beginning January 2022 and will cost more than 60.7bn/-

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF A LIQUIDATOR OVER IPAY TANZANIA LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the Members of the above company i.e. **iPAY Tanzania Limited** with registration no 107450 have resolved to wind up the company voluntarily and that **Mr. Florian Mutagwaba (Advocate)** of **PKF Advisory Limited** located at **Girl Guides Building, Kibasila Road, Upanga P.O. Box 7323 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania** has been appointed as liquidator for the purpose of winding up process effective from **09th day of August 2021**.

The Public is hereby notified accordingly.

Any person who has claims against the company is required within **thirty days (30 days)** after the issuance of this notice to send to the liquidator, full particulars of any claim against the company supported by appropriate documentations thereof. Claims which are not supported and substantiated shall be excluded from the benefits of any distribution to be made.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

Florian Mutagwaba
PKF Advisory Limited,
1ST Floor, Tower B, Girl Guides Building, Kibasila Street
Upanga, P.O.BOX 7323,
Dar es Salaam.



Request for Proposals

RFP No. 5071

Provision of Medical Insurance Cover for Jhpiego Tanzania

Due Date and Time for Receipt of Offers: Thursday, 7 April 2022 at 5:00 PM EAT

Jhpiego (pronounced "ja-pie-go"), is an international non-profit health organization affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University.

For more than 45 years and in over 40 countries, Jhpiego has empowered front-line health workers by designing and implementing effective, low-cost, hands-on solutions to strengthen the delivery of health care services for women and their families. By putting evidence-based health innovations into everyday practice, Jhpiego works to break down barriers to high-quality health care for the world's most vulnerable populations. Jhpiego's focus is on training and support for health care providers-including doctors, nurses, midwives and health educators working in limited-resource settings throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Jhpiego's program management strategy recognizes the technical complexity and geographical, cultural, socio-economic and political diversity among our programs. We develop global program initiatives and technical interventions that can be adapted for country-specific applications. In support of this field-driven philosophy, Jhpiego uses a decentralized organizational structure that consists of a global "delivery system" designed to implement the entire portfolio of Jhpiego awards with assistance from key technical, programmatic and administrative staff.

Jhpiego Tanzania office hereby invites eligible registered insurance companies to submit proposals for Provision of Medical Insurance cover for Jhpiego employees and dependents.

Interested eligible bidders may request for a complete set of bidding documents from the following email address: TZ-Jhpiegobids@jhpiego.org

A prospective bidder having any question regarding this RFP shall send an email 3 days prior to the due date and time for submission of offers to the email address provided in this advert.

All proposals must be delivered to the email address provided in this advert by **Thursday, 7 April 2022 at 5:00 PM EAT**.

Jhpiego reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal, and to annul the bidding process and reject all proposals at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to bidders. Late proposals, electronic proposals, proposals not received shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Country Director,
Jhpiego Tanzania,
House No. 7, Serengeti Street, Mikocheni,
P.O. Box 9170, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 756 888 388

Tanzania can well do with Gulf Zone trade outlets, investments

RELATIONS between Tanzania and the Gulf Zone are improving and taking a new turn, especially with the inauguration of a blue economy focus in Zanzibar over the past year.

There are also initiatives to boost and diversify trade between the two parties, one sphere being meat exports which has been the subject of substantive accords in the past few months.

The recent Dubai Exhibition, where a special day was set aside for Tanzania and elicited the presence of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, was a milestone.

There are follow-up events taking place, a notably significant one being a visit by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to Qatar, where he held talks with his counterpart, Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani, in which trade opportunities and finalising the required protocols were high on the agenda.

There is a joint commission for cooperation that is working to expand areas of cooperation between the two parties, according to the premier's preliminary remarks.

Contacts were encouraged in the form of enhanced consultations between the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) and the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) on the one hand and Qatari trade organisations on the other.

A number of Qatari firms showed interest in exploring areas of investments in Tanzania, with the premier saying the government would coordinate their coming over for consultations with the relevant local stakeholders, via TPSF.

There was also an educational aspect meant to get students from Tanzania to study in Qatar and those from Qatar to study in Tanza-

nia, a cooperation format that helps to boost tourism and investments.

Some remarks were made regarding livestock processing interest.

It can be said that what else can be done is ordinarily left to individuals to map out what to do. In this regard, reference can be made with respect of the scores of Chinese engineers, supervisors and other staff of construction firms putting up their savings to seek to purchase property once their working period is over.

Such investments boost the amount of capital circulating in the country, enabling the beneficiaries from property transactions to initiate bigger activities than the ones they were doing earlier before vacating their premises, urban houses or farmlands.

The only issue is to get the regulatory atmosphere right, so that Gulf investors start thinking of actual industry so as to use the wider regional market, even the much larger Continental African Free Trade Area (CAFFTA).

Accordingly, Tanzania ought to use its gateway position to a vast hinterland by localised investments.

All too often those moving investment promotions highlight the country's vast resources and stability status, at best thinking of every investor as someone who wants a piece of land to set up an industry.

These might indeed be the most important investors, but their influence in formal economy could be limited. They just would not employ large numbers these days, owing to artificial intelligence, so purchasing urban property or entering into joint ownership with locals as land prices go up would likely prove the real game changer. This is too often ignored.

Democracy isn't just behaviour but workable problem-solving methods

DEMOCRACY stakeholders in our country are bristling with proposals for reforming the way in which the political arena is administered, after more than half a decade of restrictions on activities of political parties.

It is evident that much ground has been covered, though the path ahead is uncertain, as the government wants restrained expression tied to what is being done in policy action.

It would also be happy seeing that, if there is wrongdoing, concerns should be raised in a procedurally sound manner, not rallying the people to demonstrations. The point has been made.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has just received proposals and recommendations of a task force appointed by the political parties registrar, reacting to most of them and demanding precision on a few key demands, including that on an independent electoral commission.

The task force appeared to postpone expected follow-up on the key opposition demand for a new national Constitution until after the next General Election (come 2025), which the president similarly accepted.

Other proposals are being floated by well-placed stakeholders, among them the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC).

Two proposals that the centre raised have been on the agenda since the multiparty system was restored, in 1992. We have thus had 30 years of contesting the principle that presidential election results be challenged in court, or that we ought to have private candidates.

The trouble with the manner in which the proposals have consistently been made - and failed - is that they don't say what the likely scenario would be when they are put into application, and how it would thereafter be dealt with.

Those for the idea of presidential election results being contested in court are expected to show how that would not lead to instability.

This is a logical issue that hasn't been worked upon because the proposals are aired as if in pursuit of party loyalties rather than a well-considered view on managing the political platform.

Much the same is the case for private candidates - the belief that the idea of crossing to the opposition is daunting for most ruling party cadres.

LHRC, for instance, have not been very clear on how political rallies ought to be conducted, how far political parties would have to exercise restraint in what they say, or how this tendency can be checked by prior reforms to remove the crying need to "overthrow" the ruling party.

That is why a heavy dose of reforms to reduce the temptation to "take over" the state and all economic organisations it operates, by placing them under joint ventures with strategic investors, is essential for democratisation to move forward.

Holding back on democratisation isn't on the agenda at present, but walking into multiparty democracy without safeguards about political behaviour and its causes isn't much helpful either. And this explains the need to exercise care and caution.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

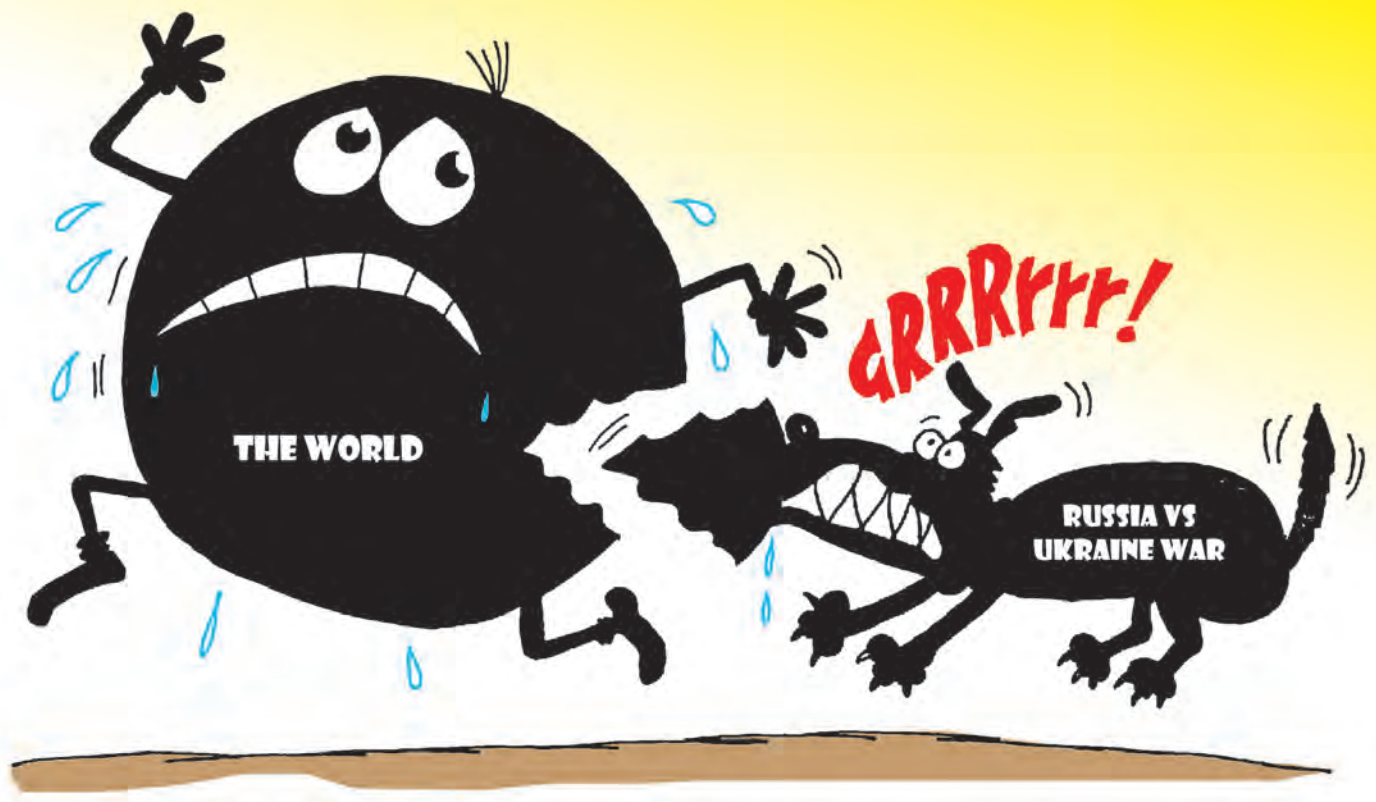
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0782 253676 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



Beating corruption needs attitude change

By Special Correspondent

FIGHTING corruption in Zimbabwe needs to not only tackle those who demand and take bribes, but the attitude, all too common regrettably, that a lot of people are on the take and all that is required is to find the right person, slip them a few US dollars and have what you want done.

We have seen this in its latest manifestation with a woman who was quite ready to accept that two ZACC commissioners, and there are only nine, were quite ready to go far beyond their functions and help her have goods held by Zimra for non-payment of duty released, without any Zimra payment for duty and storage.

This is more astounding in many ways than the fact that a police superintendent and some of his buddies were allegedly running a criminal scam with two of the buddies pretending to be the corrupt ZACC commissioners and other people seeking victims to con.

We can expect con artists, and if the senior police officer is found to be one well this might be unusual, but sometimes police forces find they have criminals on the payroll and in most forces there are internal mechanisms in place to ensure a police force arrests more criminals than it employs, to quote the British Commissioner who cleaned up the Metropolitan Police 40 years ago.

But for a con to work the person being conned has to believe the lies they are told, and obviously in this case the conned woman was working on the assumption that corruption was so prevalent that even those sworn to lead the battle against corruption were willing and able, for a modest fee, to be more corrupt than many they hunt down.

So among the many threads in an anti-corruption programme is the need to get general acceptance that there is no alternative, but to

go through the laid down processes and follow the laid down rules.

If no one was willing to pay a bribe then there would be no bribery.

Other forms of corruption exist of course, and we have seen this in the land scandals involving several municipalities where even the innocent who never paid a bribe were conned, along with others who knew something was not legal, but were prepared to pay a bribe for a false document.

Sometime people find the rules and regulations difficult to navigate. Here Government departments may need to be more user friendly.

A great deal has already been done in many departments to have staff who can at least explain what documents and fees someone must produce when requiring a service, and sometimes a person making a query needs a notebook and pen to write down the requirements and the steps they must follow.

Most civil servants, and for that matter police officers, are very familiar with the procedures in their office or station, but sometimes forget that the member of the public walking in is definitely not in this group.

Some, and Zimra is a good example, have built up websites that do explain what is needed to successfully navigate a procedure, but others need to do more.

Many of these rules and regu-

lations are not there to make life difficult. They are there to ensure that the process cannot be short circuited by the dishonest, either on the public side of the grill or the civil service side.

And there are some factors that have arisen in the past that require a couple of extra documents and checks, for deceit that the member of the public would have difficult imagining.

But what is critical is the necessary process to be clearly explained, and for notices and websites to be available that spell out what someone clearing a will, for example, needs to do, and what documents someone wanting to be compliant with tax laws must have and produce.

And then there must be a laid down complaints system. There is suspicion that some delays and the like are generated by those who seek a bribe. Perhaps, but a lack of competence is also possible and quite likely.

But if there is a proper complaints system in place then a lot of doubts can be resolved. Sometimes the complaint is not really justified; the process involved takes time although again the growing volume of information given to the public as a right should include time lines, so people know when something is not quite right.

And the complaints system must make it clear that if someone is angling for a bribe that this needs to

be reported promptly, not just accepted.

Less and less of the corruption is done directly, with the corrupt driving examiners for example working through the driving schools so that no one can make a connection. But others are more obvious.

With the near universal possession of modern mobile phones evidence is now much easier to produce since a phone switched on and with the record button pressed can still be sitting in a pocket or bag gathering required evidence that will make the complaint very forceful.

Once everyone is willing to work within the system, and is willing to complain if something is not going right, corruption will be slashed.

Many civil servants and police officers are not corrupt and try under very trying circumstances to do their job properly and efficiently.

Efforts under the Second Republic have concentrated on getting the minority who are criminal or incompetent to join the majority or leave the service where they are employed.

The public can help that process by refusing to be involved in criminal activity, and paying a bribe is as corrupt as taking one, and by insisting that they are treated correctly and efficiently by those employed to serve them.

Ending corruption is not just a job for nine commissioners with ZACC.

Time to address moral decay

By Special Correspondent

THE horrendous video of a 19-year-old beating her 70-year-old grandmother is a microcosm of so much that is wrong with our society.

Teresa Ndalila Mweshininga was arrested after a video of her assaulting her grandmother at their Oshungu home-stead trending on social media.

The accused, facing a charge of assault and contravening the Gender-Based Violence Act, has been granted bail of N\$500 by an Oshakati magistrate, who ordered her to relocate from Oshungu.

When did we become this video-recording, cackling crowd who stand

around while an old woman is being humiliated and physically hurt? Not so long ago, lifting your hand to your grandmother would have been unthinkable.

The fact that the son of the victim and the father of the accused is the one who was recording the vile video is not just nauseating, it is alarming. Fathers and sons traditionally protect, look after and provide security.

Even if you don't agree with traditional gender or family roles, you would agree that any decent human being would rush to the defence of the grandmother, and not concentrate on recording a video of your own mother being assaulted.

The view our society takes on the abuse and humiliation of those considered most vulnerable often reveals itself in seemingly innocuous, more benign incidences.

These more cut and dry horrendous incidences come about from repeated verbal, mental and emotional violence. Far too often, those

benign instances are written off as harmless jokes when what they mask and ultimately reveal is the horrific way we view women, children and the elderly and their right to dignity.

We may insist that laughing is far from physical or even emotional abuse, but it is the lack of consternation in those instances that ultimately enables and indeed empowers this level of violence.

This outrageous incident occurred because of a decline in morality and ethical behaviour. Moral decay is often blamed on mass media, peer pressure and poor family involvement.

This family, just like the entire Namibia, should have a sit-down and find a way to heal. Namibia is an ailing society with disturbing levels of indiscipline, violence, rape, assault and fraud.

Gender-based violence and the disintegration of families have for some time been front and centre in

the media. The church, for so long the beacon of morals and ethics, has instead relegated itself to selling magic tricks and conning its clients.

Recently, so-called churches have been closed during a police operation in the North because of irregular activities on their premises. It is time for moral regeneration. However, we need to look to ourselves to improve. We need to be kinder to ourselves and each other, and make an effort to not resort to violence.

To address the moral decay we currently face requires more introspection and self-critique than perhaps we are willing to do. Viral videos and content where basic human dignity is trampled upon are a dime a dozen.

When our first reaction is to laugh, to reshare and not to condemn in those lesser moments, we bear just as much responsibility. To truly rid our society of these ills, we must address the attitudes in ourselves that allow these ills to grow and fester, and become the social evils we now face.

Product quality, value addition key to success for women entrepreneurs

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

As more women continue making prominent appearances in business and entrepreneurship that were previously dominated by men, the main challenges they face include quality of products and value addition of the same to easily reach more customers in the country and export market.

Improving products in terms of quality as well as modern packaging with correct measurements is said to be the secret to success by entrepreneurs who have managed to capture local market and the export one.

This was highlighted in Dar es Salaam during recently during Women Industrial Exhibition Week which was coordinated by Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC) where women from across the country displayed their products.

The exhibition was officially opened by Minister of State in Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Selemu Jafo who visited different pavilions and saw various products before officiating.

The one week of exhibition which was funded by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) attracted thousands of people who were eager to see different products made by women.

After visiting pavilions, Jafo expressed his excitement on how women some have improved in quality and value to their products, saying that is the only way to compete locally and export abroad.

He said that he was amazed at how many products made by women managed to get certified by Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and other quality control bodies and hence managed to penetrate into the highly competitive international market.

"For sure I am very happy to see the improvement you (women entrepreneurs) have made within a very short period of time. I visited most of your pavilions and many of you have TBS certification which means you qualify to sell your product in foreign market," said Jafo.

The minister said women have shown their strength and managed to form different business groups and networks which have helped not only themselves but the nation as a whole in job creation for youth and

their fellow women.

Jafo said despite COVID-19 pandemic disruptions, Tanzania's economy has not been affected like other countries thanks to tremendous efforts and contribution made by women who continued producing goods that are exported.

"I commend you for this achievement. As a country we have reached this stage mainly because of your efforts since data show that you are good borrowers in the financial institutions who service loans timely," said Jafo.

"Don't feel inferior because you have all it takes to succeed. You are heroines of this country because you have done a tremendous job. I urge you to continue with this spirit."

The TWCC chairperson Mercy Sila said the organization has worked on creating enabling environment to boost women-owned businesses, adding that majority of successful businesswomen started with very small capital but grew the same as they improved on quality and value-addition.

Apart from growing financially and improving lives of their families, many women have made immense contribution to the country's economy by paying different taxes as most of them have established companies which are doing well, she said.

"We at TWCC and our board appreciate the government's efforts including creating enabling environment which has helped many women in the country to do their business smoothly. Business registration and formalization has been simplified in a way that a business person can register a company within hours," she said.

Sila said that in the past, many women entrepreneurs worried about certifying their products with TBS but the current trend indicates that things have changed for the better because majority have certified their products.

She added that many women entrepreneurs are beneficiaries of loans from different district councils all the country derived from 10 per cent of councils' total revenues, adding that evidence shows that women have been paying back without complications as is the case with



A mobile TB screening service at Apex Resources gold mine in Chunya District, Mbeya Region. The drive for early diagnosis and treatment took place from March 13th to 19th this year. Photo/ Guardian Correspondent

other groups.

Angela Sylvester, one of the entrepreneurs who participated in the exhibition said it was a great exposure to her to meet consumers and other exhibitors.

She asked the government, private sector stakeholders and consumers to value and buy locally-made products that have been certified by quality control bodies not only to support the entrepreneurs but the national economy through taxes paid to the government.

Sylvester said there is still negative notion amongst some Tanzanians that locally-made products are of inferior quality compared to the imported ones, adding that this false thinking retards not only the growth of women-owned businesses but the economy as whole.

Stela Kahwa, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Weight and Measures Agency (WMA) who participated in the exhibition advised women entrepreneurs to continue the spirit of improving quality and value addition for them to grow their businesses penetrate in international market

"I am happy to see a lot of improvement in this exhibition. I have seen a big difference between last exhibitions and this one because many of you have used the last training on packaging and measurements properly. I urge you to continue with this spirit," she said.

After the week of exhibition at Mnazi Mmoje grounds, ceremony to award best performers was held at Mlimani City Hall where the Chief Guest was Minister for Community Development and Special Groups, Dr Dorothy Gwajima.

Speaking during the ceremony, Dr Gwajima said women can do wonders if they are given a chance. She commended TWCC for organizing the event, urging the organization to increase the number of trophies from the current 35 to 150 next year to motivate other women to engage in business.

"These awards are very important for women development because they encourage and inspire other women that they can," she said.

TWCC Chief Executive Officer Mwachuma Hamza said there were five judges who scrutinized entries from 16 sectors and eventually they came up with

35 winners from across the country.

She said there among the criteria used to select winners included sustainability of the business, strategic plan of the business, TBS certification and ownership of the business.

Kabongo Mbuyi, Team leader at GIZ Regional Programme Employment and Skills for Development in Africa congratulated TWCC for organizing the event and the tremendous work they have done so far to empower women across the country.

She said GIZ believes that women are key drivers of change and do provide majority of employment opportunities as well as contributing to the national economy because in Tanzania, women-owned enterprises stand at 54 per cent.

"As we have seen in women industrial exhibitions last week, over 300 women from various sectors showcased their products so we believe enabling women economically and them taking up leadership positions in various avenues of life is not just nice but good for business," she said.

"Beyond this we are also working at the regional level with EAC secretariat to engage and enable women in cross border trades and women-led SMEs to sieve economic benefits of the EAC integration."

Kabongo said that GIZ also promotes young women and youth in general to seize digitalization opportunities by promoting and developing their skills and competences, adding that they target to impact 9,000 Tanzanian women and youth as well as enterprise development support by 2023.

"To gather with our partners, over 400 women entrepreneurs in Tanzania are benefiting from the impact-based services and on behalf of Germany government, GIZ is also preparing a long-term initiative worth 3 million euros to promote access to justice for women and girls starting next July in collaboration with the Ministry of Constitutions and legal affairs," she said

Apart from GIZ, other sponsors of this year's event were Trade Mark East Africa, CRDB Bank, NMB, NBC, Coca Cola and MEDA.




REQUEST FOR TENDER

Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) Operational Support

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:

Pre-qualification Criteria

| No. | Reference no. | Description of work | Pre-Qualification Criteria |
|-----|---------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | NM37/2022 | TSF OPERATIONAL SUPPORT | i. Applicants that had successfully executed TSF operations and management projects over the past two (2) years shall be considered. ii. Completion certificates of previous projects with reference list of Clients, the applicant agrees - without reservation-upon the submission of EOI, that the Company has the full right to contact any of the references provided iii. Local compliance with mine commission local content plans iv. Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary with regard to its financial stability, engineering capabilities, organizational structure, CVs of experienced personnel, equipment, expertise in relevant types of tailings operation management and familiarity with Tanzanian laws and Regulations |

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 nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective reference no.(s) 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
• Last date to submit EOI

March 29, 2022

North Mara Gold Mine Limited




REQUEST FOR TENDER

Raise Boring of Surface Ventilation Shaft

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:

Drilling project for the one Surface Ventilation Shafts.

Pre-qualification Criteria

| No. | Reference no. | Description of work/goods to be procured | Pre-Qualification Criteria |
|-----|---------------|--|--|
| 1 | NM-34/2022 | Raise Boring of Three (3 nos) Surface Ventilation Shaft | i. Available to commence drilling from May-2022 and complete within 7 months. ii. Able to provide a raised bore rig which can fit in 5.0mW x 5.5mH drives. iii. Able to provide a rig that can run on 415v. iv. Able to drill to target diameter and depth within hole deviation tolerances specified in the scope of works in a 150MPa rock strength. v. Able to comply with Barrick's Safety standards and management systems. vi. Able to supply a raised bore rig together with all necessary associated equipment for the performance of works. vii. Able to install, operate, test, and maintain all the equipment in good workable condition in accordance with good drilling practice. viii. Able to supply mechanized rod handling on the drill rig. ix. Able to submit an acceptable localization plan and obtain approval from relevant government authorities. |

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 nm.proposal@barrick.com

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Key Dates
• Last date to submit EOI

March 29, 2022

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

COVID diary at the forefront: A healthy dose of positivity

By Shadow Li

It was the third day in a row that the elderly man, a happy camper at the residential care home where I work, came out to the nurses' station to check on his neighbor, one of his close friends here.

He was there when his neighbor, a gastric cancer survivor, was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance after testing positive for COVID-19.

He got the hint when he saw no sight of his buddy days after the scene. The hospitalized neighbor didn't make it and became one of the casualties of the deadly pathogen.

The elderly man was gripped by panic, fearing that he might be next in line to come down with the coronavirus and be sent away.

Noticing his apparent despondency, I immediately contacted a social worker and arranged a video call for counseling. His family members were also duly notified and sent in their words of comfort via video link.

Many elderly residents in nursing homes have experienced anxiety, fear, solitude and the pain of losing of close friends. All of these were heightened by the pandemic.

One elderly woman had a hard time accepting the reality. Before the pandemic, her husband, who always prepared little surprises of her favorite snacks, had visited her every day. As the pandemic worsened, outside food was banned, and so were the visits. The elderly residents were asked to try to stay in their own rooms in a bid to reduce contact with others and stop

the virus.

Feeling depressed, she would come out of her room to argue with the nurses. Facing her wrath, all we could do was to try to calm her down and repeatedly explain to her what was going on. Of course, we also had a useful helping hand – her husband, who seemed to always be able to comfort her.

Sometimes, this back-and-forth conversation would happen five times a day. It went on for a while until things took a turn for the better. Now, we have her tantrums only once every few days. I guess she had come to terms with reality.

When the first infection broke out in our nursing home on Feb 23, we called the families of all the elderly in our care.

Like everyone else, my family

also tried to talk me out of sticking to my post when they learned of the first infection at my workplace.

But I knew that if I flinched, the elderly, mostly unable to take care of themselves, would be left alone and unattended. It is not an option for me not to go to work. I had to keep the big picture of the whole nursing home's operation in mind and quit being self-centered. My family eventually came around.

On March 4, I began to show symptoms of a painful sore throat. I tested negative before work the next day. After the pain came back that evening, I got tested the next day but the result was still negative.

On March 7, the virus finally revealed its true color – a faint line and a clear red line, which meant "weak positive".

In the following days, I stayed

in a hotel for quarantine to avoid passing the virus to my family and those at work. Even before I got infected, I had observed social distancing measures in our home, knowing fully well that I work in a high-risk environment. My food was served separately, and we always wore masks at home.

So even under quarantine, I would check with my colleagues to see whether they needed my help since I had been responsible for liaising with residents' family members.

I was cleared of the virus a week later and returned to work right away. In the morning, I would start my day by handing out medicines to about 60 senior residents, helping rubbing medical cream on some of them and cleaning their wounds. We have three nurses and two health workers who as-

sist us.

The division of work blurred during the pandemic, which strained our manpower. When the first staff member was confirmed infected, we were left short-handed. At the height of the outbreak, we were 10 percent down on our usual manpower. One caregiver had to take care of a dozen older adults.

The nurses sometimes helped out with work that was usually done by caregivers, such as changing diapers and helping them take showers. And now we usually pair up to take care of residents to be more efficient.

With the weather getting warmer, even cleaning the resident's wounds would make me, dressed in full protective gear, sweat from head to toe. I would try to do things, such as drinking water

or going to the bathroom, at one go during my lunch hour to save myself the hassle of changing the protective gown, taking off face shield and masks. And normally, I would be five hours into my daily nine-hour shift when I can take my lunch.

Social distancing rules are also in place in the care home. We canceled mass activities, and the residents are advised to stay in their own rooms. But the difficult part remains keeping an eye on the sometimes unmasked elderly, who like to wander around to the lobby to watch television, one of their favorite activities here. It's even harder with some of the older adults who have Alzheimer's disease. They tend to forget your repeated reminders to put on masks and stay in their room.



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT FIELD OFFICER (Crop Productionist) IITA-TZ2022-R4D-004-NRS- MWANZA

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is a not-for-profit institution that generates agricultural innovations to meet Africa's most pressing challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation. Working with various partners across sub-Saharan Africa, we improve livelihoods, enhance food and nutrition security, increase employment, and preserve natural resource integrity. IITA is a member of CGIAR, a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future. Please visit <https://www.iita.org/> for more information on IITA.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) has won a competitive two-year grant from IFAD- South-South Cooperation (SSSTC) Facility to implement a project titled 'Supporting the Recovery of Priority Food Crop Value Chains from the Effects of COVID 19 to Strengthen Community Resilience, Markets, and Trade Development in Tanzania'. The project will operate in the Central Corridor and part of the Lake Zone and will provide technical input and support to the IFAD-funded Agriculture and Fisheries Development Programme (AFDP). The two-year grant will be implemented in collaboration with the Alliance Bioversity International -CIAT (ABC) and other partners in target regions along the Central Corridor and part of the Lake Zone.

IITA-Tanzania office is seeking to recruit a qualified person to fill the vacancy of the **Field Officer (Crop Productionist)** for the IITA-led IFAD-SSSTC. The position requires a dedicated field officer to undertake field works that will ensure Quality seed producer network is strengthened and expanded to provide a delivery system for certified planting material. Good agronomic practices (GAP) promoted, and Efficiency of produce marketing maximized through facilitation of on-farm processing and marketing.

Duty Station: This is a Nationally Recruited Position, and the incumbent will be based in Mwanza, Tanzania.

Overall Objectives

The overall project goal is to restore and increase the productivity and profitability of key food and oilseed crops and enhance market access for rural women and young farmers in Tanzania to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 and enhance resilience. Specifically, the recruited Field Officer (Crop Productionist) will implement field activities ensuring Boosting resilience of smallholder farmers through enhancing the productivity of cassava, sunflower, and beans in semi-arid and drought-prone areas.

Scope of Work:

The **Field Officer (Crop Productionist)** will ensure the network of Quality seed producers is strengthened and expanded to provide a delivery system for certified planting material by identifying and promoting high yielding, disease-resistant, market suitable varieties. Train seed entrepreneurs, expand field certification to support new seed entrepreneurs, especially women and youth. Scale-out the application of the digital app to enhance seed certification and promote marketing of quality cassava seed. He will also Promote Good agronomic practices (GAP) including Digital technologies, train Farmers on-farm processing, and establishment of Marketing networks.

Responsibilities:

- Management and oversight of the production activities.
- Designing Implementing and monitoring of on-farm demonstration gardens
- Coordinating with the district staff to provide extensive knowledge to farmers
- Organize and conduct training for farmers and community extension staff
- Data collection, entry, analysis, and synthesis.
- Supervision and coordination of staff, students, and field labor
- Coordinate activities with project partners as may be necessary
- Coordinating with the nutrition and market teams to ensure cooperation
- Routine planning and reporting meetings
- Any other duties as may be assigned by supervisor
- Regular reporting

Qualification and Experience

- Bachelor's degree in agriculture or related field with 5 years working experience in Agricultural development.
- A strong ability to work within a team under minimum supervision and deliver results.
- Experience in data entry, data management, quality assurance, and timely reporting
- Proven knowledge of data collection tools including structured questionnaires.
- Ability to work in a multidisciplinary and multi-cultural environment
- Ability to liaise with other project implementing multi-disciplinary teams

Skills Required:

- Excellent communication skills in English and local language
- Computer proficiency including MS Office (Word/ PowerPoint, advanced excel skills, and SPSS)
- Ability to complete multiple tasks under pressure and meet deadlines

General information:

The initial contract for the position is for two years: renewable subject to performance and availability of funds. The duty station for the position will be IITA in Mwanza. This is a nationally recruited position and IITA offers a competitive remuneration package.

Applications: Applications including curriculum vitae, copies of certificates, telephone number, email address, and names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Country Representative, IITA-Tanzania, Plot No. 25, Mwenge – Coca-Cola Road, Mikochehi Industrial Area P.O. Box 34441, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania or by email to IITA-Tanzania@cgiar.org

Applicants are requested to please indicate the reference number for the position as indicated on the heading of the announcement in your application as well as on the subject of your email if sending by email. If sending by post or hand delivery, please indicate the reference number on your application as well as on the left-hand side of your envelope. **Please note that any applications without the reference indicated will be automatically disqualified.**

Closing date: Two weeks from the date of advertisement appearing in the newspaper. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING SPECIALIST – (Project Coordinator) IITA-TZ2022-R4D-003-NRS- MOROGORO

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is a not-for-profit institution that generates agricultural innovations to meet Africa's most pressing challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation. Working with various partners across sub-Saharan Africa, we improve livelihoods, enhance food and nutrition security, increase employment, and preserve natural resource integrity. IITA is a member of CGIAR, a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future. Please visit <https://www.iita.org/> for more information on IITA.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) has won a competitive two-year grant from IFAD- South-South Cooperation (SSSTC) Facility to implement a project titled 'Supporting the Recovery of Priority Food Crop Value Chains from the Effects of COVID 19 to Strengthen Community Resilience, Markets, and Trade Development in Tanzania'. The project will operate in the Central Corridor and part of the Lake Zone and will provide technical input and support to the IFAD-funded Agriculture and Fisheries Development Programme (AFDP). The two-year grant will be implemented in collaboration with the Alliance Bioversity International -CIAT (ABC) and other partners in target regions along the Central Corridor and part of the Lake Zone.

The second project titled BASICS II (Building An Economically Sustainable Integrated Cassava Seed Systems), is funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation with a vision of developing and commercializing the cassava seed supply chain—from the pre-basic seed of officially released varieties to the farmers through a network of government-certified commercial cassava seed entrepreneurs located throughout the primary cassava growing regions of Tanzania. It is a five-year project which has been operating in Nigeria since 2020 and now has been extended to Tanzania with effect from 2022.

IITA-Tanzania office is seeking to recruit a qualified person to fill the vacancy of the **Business Development and Marketing Specialist** (Project Coordinator) for the IITA-led IFAD-SSSTC and BASICS-II projects' areas respectively.

Duty Station: This is a Nationally Recruited Position, and the incumbent will be based in Morogoro, Tanzania.

Purpose and Overall Objectives

The overall objective of the IFAD-SSSTC funded project is to restore and increase the productivity and profitability of key food and oilseed crops and enhance market access for rural women and young farmers in Tanzania to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 and enhance resilience, and for BASICS II project is to provide farmers with access to affordable, quality-assured seeds of cassava varieties in demand by local food and processor markets through the establishment of a commercially viable seed value chain operating across breeder, foundation, and commercial seed levels. This value chain will enable more efficient dissemination and adoption of new varieties to improve productivity, raise incomes of cassava growers and seed entrepreneurs, enhance gender equity, and contribute to inclusive agricultural transformation in Nigeria and Tanzania.

Scope of Work:

Under IFAD -SSSTC Project the Business Development and Marketing Specialist (Project Coordinator) will ensure the structured components are well coordinated by ensuring the boosted resilience of smallholder farmers through enhancing the productivity of cassava in drought-prone areas. Increased linkages between smallholder farmers and domestic and export markets in the cassava, beans, and sunflower value chains and manage the project, coordination of IITA-CIAT project activities, facilitate South-South collaboration, align the project activities with AFDP, gender integration, and M&E.

Subsequently, under the BASICS-II project, s/he will ensure Integration of Breeding and Seed System Activities, Development of Early Generation Seed Enterprises, Development of Commercial Seed Entrepreneurs, Development of the Processor-Associated Seed System Model, Quality Control and Disease Management and Catalysing Scaling and Replication through Partners. The coordinator will ensure the team's approach to achieving these outcomes is a continuation and strengthening of the innovative approaches undertaken during the current phases of BASICS-I and BEST but enhanced with changes informed by lessons learned over the past 5 years.

Responsibilities:

- Provide overall leadership and coordination of projects teams to ensure that project targets are achieved within the set timelines and corresponding budgets.
- Develop elaborate work plans for all actions and activities of the projects including preparation of planning, implementation, reporting, monitoring, and evaluation studies.
- For the IFAD-SSSTC project, create efficient mechanisms for synergies and extensive sharing of knowledge between the project and the IFAD-funded Agriculture and Fisheries Development Programme (AFDP)
- Managing successful relationships with the government, donor agencies, the business community, related donor-funded projects, and other stakeholders as required
- Prepare the periodic financial and technical reports which include- quarterly, semi-annual, and annual reports.
- Establish and strengthen productive partnerships with the public (district) and private sector partners to facilitate learning and knowledge sharing.
- Organize coordination-planning and review meetings with the project implementing partners
- Work closely with the MEL officer to develop a performance management plan for the projects and monitor the implementation processes to track milestones.
- Ensuring daily management of the projects and assuming full accountability of projects results.
- Responsible for day-to-day operational coordination of partner activities,
- Contribute to the publication of action research results and success stories.
- Ensuring effective and efficient management of project's compliance with planning, monitoring, evaluation, performance, and reporting.
- Work closely with the projects Finance Administrator to ensure monitoring and strict budgetary adherence.
- Work closely with the projects Finance Administrator to review and ensure timely submission of regular financial reports
- Perform other activities as may be assigned by the supervisor.

Qualification and Experience

The candidate should have a master's degree relevant to general agriculture, agribusiness, and seed systems or its equivalent from a recognized university with experience in agricultural technology transfer, marketing, and management of partnerships.

A minimum of five years of senior level field experience in cassava productivity and seed business system

Core Competencies:

- Experience of at least 5 years as a project manager/ coordinator of large-scale agricultural development projects, in East Africa and Tanzania in particular.
- Having experience and a good understanding of production, markets, sustainable seed systems development, marketing challenges, and opportunities in Tanzania
- Demonstrated ability to integrate gender, youth, and private sector engagement issues into development projects
- Ability to work collegially and collaboratively in a multidisciplinary and multi-cultural environment.
- Demonstrated communication, networking, computer, and organizational skills and ability to prepare high-quality reports.
- Proven experience with engaging with public and private sector stakeholders
- Experience in marketing and business development skills is an added advantage
- Demonstrated ability in stakeholder and partner engagement and policy dialogue with an emphasis on district engagement.
- Excellent leadership, interpersonal and team-building skills.
- Excellent writing skills.
- Excellent resource mobilization skills

General information:

The initial contract for the position is for two years: renewable subject to performance and availability of funds. The duty station for the position will be IITA in Morogoro. This is a nationally recruited position and IITA offers a competitive remuneration package.

Applications: Applications including curriculum vitae, copies of certificates, telephone number, email address, and names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Country Representative, IITA-Tanzania, Plot No. 25, Mwenge – Coca-Cola Road, Mikochehi Industrial Area P.O. Box 34441, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania or by email to IITA-Tanzania@cgiar.org

Applicants are requested to please indicate the reference number for the position as indicated on the heading of the announcement in your application as well as on the subject of your email if sending by email. If sending by post or hand delivery, please indicate the reference number on your application as well as on the left-hand side of your envelope. Please note that any applications without the reference indicated will be automatically disqualified.

Closing date: Two weeks from the date of advertisement appearing in the newspaper. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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Journey towards net zero carbon emission by 2050 on track, says energy firm

By Guardian Reporter

TOTALENERGIES Marketing Tanzania Ltd has opened another milestone in Tanzania and shares with all Tanzanians its ambition towards climate conservation through net zero carbon emission by 2050.

It's through this ambition that Total Group transformed to TotalEnergies Company and Total Tanzania Limited to TotalEnergies Marketing Tanzania Ltd.

TotalEnergies is committed to produce and supply energies that are ever more affordable, clean, reliable and accessible to as many people as possible. The company that was once known to be the market leader in fuel supply and marketing is now aiming to be a market leader in the production, supply and marketing of multiple energies including oil, natural gas, electricity, hydrogen, biomass, wind and solar.

TotalEnergies ambition comes with the commitment to solarize 4500 service stations worldwide where in Tanzania we currently have 24 solarized stations and intend to have all our service stations solarized by the end of 2023.

This week, Tanzania witnessed the reveal of the first TotalEnergies solarized service station in Tanzania, TotalEnergies Samora service station which makes TotalEnergies the first oil marketing and supply

company with solarized service stations in the country.

"This is a testament to TotalEnergies energy journey and TotalEnergies ambition of becoming a world class player in the energy transition and to become one of the world's top 5 producers of renewable energies by 2030," said Jean-Francois Schoepp, firm's managing director.

According to him, TotalEnergies journey in Tanzania started over 50 years ago when it was incorporated in 1969. Over the years, TotalEnergies has invested in the growth of its network of service stations, acquisition of Gapco, the establishment of a state-of-the-art Blending plant to produce lubricants locally, and making Tanzania the regional hub to supply to 7 neighboring countries as well as being the leading partner in the East African Crude Oil Pipeline project.

Schoepp applauds the government's private sector initiatives and have firmly supported them by continuously investing in the country, upwards of \$200million in the past few years. Undoubtedly, Tanzania is an important country for the company and we are committed to our journey alongside Tanzanians.

"With the growth of population and development of smart cities, urbanization and industrialization comes with growing demand of energies.



"To achieve carbon neutrality, decarbonizing energy is not enough, as the producers and suppliers of energies; we need to responsibly meet the rising energy needs by being a responsible energy player and tackling the broader challenges associated with sustainable development," the official said.

"This is what TotalEnergies stands for and this is TotalEnergies new way of doing business. Hence, this TotalEnergies Samora Service Station and many to come solarized stations, TotalEnergies customers can fuel, wash or service their vehicles or enjoy tea, coffee and cold drinks from our Bonjour shops powered by solar energy."

Energy minister January Makamba, congratulated TotalEnergies journey in Tanzania since its incorporation in 1969 has made remarkable contribution in the development of the country in different sectors of the economy through its growing network of service stations, quality products and services, the establishment of the lubricant and oil blending plant, job creations to Tanza-

nians, the continuous support of local businesses, and as a leading partner in the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline project.

He said on behalf of the government, I want to thank you for continuing to support the development of Tanzania through innovation, investment and increasing employment opportunities in the country.

And with your new company identity, which reflects on your commitment towards the environment and less carbon emission, and even more development in the energy sector, we are excited to see the new developments in your products and services to reach your 2050 ambition of net zero carbon emission.

The government is committed to support investors to invest in the country and new your new ambition on clean energies the Ministry of Energy will support you so that you can be able to produce and supply more energy by utilizing the natural sources of energies that we have in the country such as wind, water, Biomass and natural gas.

"On behalf of the government I would like to thank you for the initiatives you have in giving back to the community through your CSR programs on Road Safety, education, Youth, and entrepreneurship which attests your commitment in contributing to the development of Tanzanians. We value and appreciate your support," Makamba said.

"I would like to congratulate you as a company for the milestones that you have accomplished to date, and uphold them for their continuous commitments, innovation and mostly for continuing to serve the market of Tanzania and the neighbouring countries with high quality products and services."

Emirates SkyCargo responds to growing global demand by reinstating dual hub operations in Dubai

DUBAI

EMIRATES SkyCargo has announced that it will be reactivating its cargo hub in Dubai South, Emirates SkyCentral DWC, for dedicated freighter aircraft operations from 26 March 2022.

The move will mark a return to dual hub cargo operations

in Dubai for the air cargo carrier after a period of nearly two years. In April 2020, Emirates SkyCargo consolidated its freighter (main deck) and passenger (bellyhold) cargo operations at Dubai International Airport (DXB) in light of the suspension of passenger flights during the early stages of the

COVID-19 pandemic. The consolidation was aimed at streamlining and expediting the transport of essential supplies and medical items across the world.

With the growth of Emirates' passenger network and operations, as well as the progressive increase in cargo volumes, Emirates SkyCargo will once

again structure its operations across two hubs in Dubai with Emirates SkyCentral DXB handling cargo arriving or departing on passenger aircraft and Emirates SkyCentral DWC handling cargo on freighter aircraft. Emirates SkyCentral DWC was inaugurated in 2015 and has a total cargo capacity of

more than 1 million tonnes per annum. The state of the art terminal features extensive cool chain handling facilities as well as a dedication pharma handling zone certified for EU GDP standards. Dedicated aircraft parking stands in close proximity to the terminal allow for rapid and efficient transporta-

tion of cargo.

A fleet of dedicated trucks operating on a 24*7 basis will provide seamless connectivity for cargo between the two airports. For high priority cargo and urgently required commodities, Emirates SkyCargo will be able to connection time of under five hours from wheels down at DXB

to wheels up at DWC and vice-versa.

Emirates SkyCargo is the air freight division of Emirates, offering cargo capacity to customers on its fleet of all widebody Boeing 777 and Airbus A380 aircraft over a global network of more than 140 destinations across six continents.

WHO calls govt to mobilise additional domestic financial support for TB

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has called upon governments to mobilize additional domestic financial support for Tuberculosis control including contributions to the Global Fund.

In Africa, governments contribute only 22 per cent of the resources required to deliver adequate TB services, with 44 per cent going unfunded, seriously impeding efforts to reduce the TB burden.

In her message to mark the World TB Day 2022, WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti said that funding for TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment services continues to fall far short of estimated global needs and the United Nations global target.

She said, in 2020, global spending on TB services fell to US\$5.3 billion, and funding for research was US\$901 million.

World TB Day is observed on 24 March each year to raise public awareness and understanding about one of the globe's deadliest infectious diseases, as well as its devastating health, social and economic impacts. This year's theme, "Invest to end TB. Save lives", emphasizes the urgent need to invest the resources necessary to ramp up the fight against TB, and realize the commitments to end TB made by global leaders.

Moeti said while national strategic

plans and accompanying budgets for tuberculosis have grown in ambition, mobilization of funding has not kept pace.

She said that South Africa and Zambia are the best examples of high TB burden countries that have steadily increased domestic funding specifically allocated for TB.

In 2020, South Africa provided 81 percent of domestic funding to support TB activities. Zambia has increased its domestic funding sevenfold since 2015.

She insisted that increased funding from domestic sources and international donors is urgently needed if we are to counteract a reversal of the significant gains made against TB in the past decades.

"At the current rate of progress, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target of ending the TB epidemic by 2030 will not be achievable", said the WHO boss.

She added that with 36 percent of all TB deaths occurring in Africa, failure to invest in the TB response is set to take a formidable toll on African countries. Increased investment can be a game-changer, and alleviate the preventable suffering and death of millions of our people.

I urge all stakeholders to advocate for increased investment, and to ensure that TB services are integrated into the primary health care response. We must all also work more closely with our communities, leveraging their expert local knowledge

to tailor response efforts for maximum impact.

At the UN High-Level Meeting on TB in 2018, world leaders agreed to mobilize US\$13 billion per year to finance TB prevention and treatment

by 2022 and promised another US\$2 billion per year for TB research in the face of growing concerns around drug-resistant TB.

To reach the target, TB incidence would have had to record an annual

decline of 4 to 5 percent in 2020, increasing to 10 percent per year by 2025, and then to an average 17 percent annually in the following decade.

The world saw an increase in the

number of global TB deaths for the first time in over a decade in 2021. Contributing factors included reduced access to TB diagnosis and treatment, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Growing fake medicine epidemic fueling a spiralling public health crisis in Africa's cities

By Oluwole Ojewale

TENS of thousands of people in Africa die every year from taking fake drugs. According to the World Health Organization, these are the world's most lucrative counterfeit goods, with a global market worth roughly \$200-billion. Africa accounts for around 42% of this demand because of the continent's badly monitored borders, weak legislation and poor healthcare services.

Gabon has recently emerged as a major destination for these drugs. In January 2020, over seven tonnes of counterfeit pharmaceuticals and cosmetics were destroyed in Libreville during a joint operation between the Gabonese Directorate of Medicines and Pharmacy and the Competition and Consumer Affairs Directorate against the illicit sale of counterfeit products.

On 23 December 2021, Gabonese customs officials seized a large shipment of prohibited pharmaceutical products from Cameroon and bound for Libreville. In January, Gabon's judicial authorities prosecuted traffickers from Congo-Brazzaville who had smuggled several boxes of counterfeit drugs, estimated at approximately \$34,000 (nearly 20 million francs), intended for sale in Gabon's main cities. Other products including dietary supplements and pharmaceutical stimulants were also listed in the cargo.

Gabon's government has tried to stem the tide of counterfeit medicine sold in urban markets, but criminals have managed to circumvent these measures.

The smuggling of fake drugs has a long history in the country. Unlicensed medicinal drugs first appeared on Libreville's streets decades ago and have increased in range and accessibility. They were smuggled in from Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and India, where genuine products are substituted with a substandard drug that excludes an active ingredient or contains a toxic substance. Tablets made in Nigeria appeared in corner shops before spreading to Libreville's main markets of Mont-Bouët and Nkembo.

Criminals selling counterfeit medicine include wholesale smugglers, cigarette vendors and street hawkers. They openly peddle fake painkillers, tranquillisers, cough syrups and rheumatism medication. Counterfeit drugs are frequently found at roadside stalls, which are common in cities but rarely regulated.

Most customers buy from roadside hawkers because fake drugs are cheaper and easier to obtain than authentic medicines. Consumers disregard professional medical warnings against taking them, not always realising the dangers these products pose to their health. In Gabon's major cities, medical experts have reported many deaths, severe



Criminals openly peddle fake painkillers, tranquillisers, cough syrups and rheumatism medication on the streets of Gabon.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 251 00--

In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

3 letters SEE, ASS, TRI, SUE, ROT
 4 letters RARE, ECTA, ALHA, NENE, SURE,
 5 letters SHARE, AMUSE,
 6 letters MEDDLE, UTOPIA, ZEALOT, YACKER
 7 letters CENTRAL, LAICIZE, DROUGHT
 8 letters TIGRINYA, INTRENCH, RESTRICT
 9 letters MOUNTAINS

CLUES: Across
 1 Evil spirits
 5 Togo's Capital
 6 a risky or daring journey
 9 the size of a dose of a medicine
 11 the person who leads
 12 a wooden frame for holding an artist's work in progress
 13 primeval
 14 A very longtime
 16 not previously known
 18 a cereal
 19 central
 20 the subject of a talk

Down:
 1 grow or cause to grow and become larger
 2 damage property
 3 insect infests human skin and hair
 4 the sale of goods to the public for consumption
 5 one of the limbs for walking
 7 on one's own
 8 not often
 10 perfume
 15 stiff hairs- like or bristle-like structure
 16 the state of being famous
 17 a position of an object

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS
 B U C K E T M B
 R A M E N U
 O S L O R R L
 W A M P E R E G
 S O M A L I A A
 E M I N E N C E R
 R A T N H A T E
 D Y N A M I T E
 H O R E S A
 A B Y E S
 B U L L D I N E R
 N E D

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS
 F R I D A Y P W
 O R D M A K E
 R W A N D A N E
 U T A A L A D
 M E E K L O M E
 V E B O L A
 S A N D A W E M
 C N F L O W
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 E N Y A W N

stomach and kidney ailments, and neurological disorders resulting from counterfeit medicines.

The government has introduced several measures to curb the sale and use of these drugs. At the regional level, Gabon and 15 other African countries adopted the Rabat Resolution in 2018 – a new framework to address the problem. On the domestic front, anyone convicted of facilitating the purchase, sale, use, marketing, transport, import, processing, supply and distribution of counterfeit medicines can be imprisoned for up to 10 years or fined up to \$1,719,940.

Awareness campaigns have been rolled out to alert authorities and the general public to the threats posed by fake drugs. The government has organised prevention campaigns in high schools in larger cities, and Libreville's mayor has banned their sale in the city's streets.

Despite these initiatives, counterfeit products are still being sold at markets across the Gabonese capital. Weak law enforcement fails to deter those manufacturing, selling and administering the medicines, so the trade in fake drugs continues.

Counterfeit medicines are a public health crisis for Gabon, and measures must consider the dangers of consuming these drugs. The capacity of police and prosecutors to detect, investigate, arrest and prosecute smugglers must be improved. This includes better border security and the use of improved surveillance and technology.

In partnership with pharmaceutical companies and digital service providers, Gabon should develop a technological solution that enables consumers to quickly and cheaply verify the authenticity of drugs purchased. The Mobile Authentication Service is a strategy in Nigeria that uses scratch codes and text messaging to empower consumers to check the quality and validity of medicines at the point of purchase.

The Association of Gabonese Pharmacists'

central office, together with city mayors, need to sustain these efforts. Public education and awareness campaigns on the dangers of counterfeit drugs must be ongoing and rolled out more widely. These initiatives should complement police action that detects and disrupts major manufacturers and distributors in Gabon.

These actions go hand in hand with a new holistic strategy developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to combat offences related to fake drugs in Central Africa. The strategy's five pillars are awareness, legislative assistance, innovation, capacity building and cooperation. All those involved in the manufacture, distribution, regulation, law enforcement and consumption of medicines must work together to solve Gabon's counterfeit drugs problem. **DM**



Awareness campaigns have been rolled out to alert authorities and the general public to the threats posed by fake drugs. The government has organised prevention campaigns in high schools in larger cities, and Libreville's mayor has banned their sale in the city's streets

RADIO One 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 |
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Banking sector remained resilient in first year of President Samia

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

TANZANIA'S banking sector remained resilient in first year of President Samia's administration thanks to accommodative monetary policies put in place by the sixth phase Government that has clinched one year.

Speaking during an event to celebrate President Samia's one year anniversary in Dodoma, the NMB Chief Finance Officer Juma Kimori said the banking sector grew by an average of 24 per cent with an asset base of 38.7trn/- which is the sector's all time record.

He noted that the banking sector continued to flourish with sufficient capital, increased profit due to strong revenue, as well as improved credit quality, all banks in the country as a whole making profit before the tax of 1.04trn/-

"This is a historic milestone in the banking sector in our country. This is all because of President Samia's visionary and patriotic leadership during her first year in office," said Kimori.

Kimori noted that during the post covid-19 pan-

dem, the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) undertook deliberate policy interventions that helped the economy to recover as part of its efforts to mitigate the effects of the covid-19 pandemic on the economy.

"The country's economy is on track and recently our borders have opened up and this can be proved by the increase in foreign investors. This cannot be possible without a conducive and friendly investment climate," he paused.

The Speaker of Parliament Dr.Tulia Ackson while speaking at the same event said the country has made strides in terms of economic development with increased liquidity during President Samia's one year of service in office as the funds for the 2021/2022 financial budget reached right at grassroots level

Dr. Tulia noted that there has been an improved business environment that has made it possible for people to engage in various income generating activities with the Government ensuring that people have

access to various social services like health, water, electricity and infrastructural services

"When we quantify on what has been done in her one year of service on the health sector perspective for instance, 62.3 per cent of the budget that was approved by the parliament was used as planned, new are just half of the financial year but half of the target has so far been reached," Dr. Tulia said.

She added that on the water sector, 76.5 per cent of the sector's approved budget has already been disbursed to respective areas adding that implementation of earmarked water projects is on track.

"For the natural resources sector, 58.0 per cent of the approved budget has been disbursed while 60.6 percent of the construction sector funding has been disbursed. On the same note, 23.3 percent of the transport sector and 23.3 per cent of funds for the education sector has been disbursed," she

added.

She noted that in totality with due respect to other sectors, implementation of the national budget has reached an average of 60.5 per cent between July 2021 to January 2022 adding that the president is still riding on her 'Kazi Indelee' philosophy.

"As you may recall, when President Samia took over power in 2021, the economy had been hard hit by the covid-19 pandemic but she fought tirelessly to ensure the economy gets back on its feet and even went an extra mile to secure the 1.3trn/- International Monetary Fund (IMF) relief funding," she said.

"These funds for the betterment of the health sector has been used to procure 20 ultra-modern ambulances, 365 ordinary vehicles, construction of emergency health centers country-wide, procurement and supply of oxygen cylinders country-wide, 25 X-Ray machines, procurement of MRI machines and construction of 72 Intensive Care Units (ICUs)," she added.

Kilombero assures Tanzanian of sugar availability during fasting

By Guardian Reporter

THE Kilombero Sugar Company Limited (KSCL) has assured the public of sugar availability during the holy month of Ramadhan which is expected to start early next month.

Finbo Butallah, the company's Commercial Head said this yesterday when speaking to journalists at the company's offices in Dar es Salaam. He said that KSCL has taken measures to addressing the issue of sugar shortages that often occur during the month of Ramadhan.

Finbo said: "We are aware that in a free market economy, we as producers are not in a position to set product prices for retailers. However we have a great responsibility to offer our advice to prevent arbitrary price increases, especially where we as sugar producers have not raised our product prices. We urge traders across the country not to raise sugar prices during the holy month of Ramadhan to avoid inconveniences to the public."

The statements comes from a history of rising prices of many food commodities each year during the holy month of Ramadhan, causing inconvenience to citizens, especially those who fast during the month of Ramadhan.

He urged all traders including wholesalers and retailers who sell 'Bwana Sukari' products to refrain from arbitrarily rising sugar prices, which has been a source of frustration for sugar consumers where the product is highly depended upon during the fasting period.

Finbo revealed that Kilombero Sugar Company has enough sugar in stock to take the country safely through the holy month of Ramadhan, adding the sugar manufacturer has already obtained permits to import sugar to close production gaps.

"We have already started the process of importing sugar which is expected to start arriving in the country any time from now. We would like to reassure the public on steady sugar prices, especially for the 'Bwana Sukari' brand as the company has set strategies to address the problem of rising sugar prices which often occurs during Ramadhan," said Finbo.

KSCL, in which Illovo Sugar Africa holds 75 percent of the shareholding and the government 25 percent is preparing for its expansion project that will double the company's sugar processing capacity and reduce sugar shortages in the country.

Telecommunications network firm expands ultra-fast internet to Z'bar

By Guarding Reporter, Zanzibar

TELECOMMUNICATIONS network company-Smile Communications Tanzania has announced its expansion

in Zanzibar, providing reliable, fast 4G LTE mobile broadband internet services across the Island.

The firm is an African telecommunications group

with operations in Tanzania, Nigeria, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"Following Smile Tanzania's recent investment in

network expansion, we are excited to bring the best 4G LTE broadband internet services to customers in Zanzibar," said Zuweina Farah, Smiles Country Man-

ager.

Smile Group's Chief Executive Officer Ahmad Farroukh said: "Dar es Salaam was the first city in Africa to experience true 4G LTE when Smile launched its internet services there in May 2013. Today, the people of Zanzibar can celebrate another first, enabled by the latest 4G LTE technology, when they connect to Smile internet with data speeds of up to 50Mbps"

The launch was complemented with guests across different industries and it was officiated by Minister of State President's Office Responsible for Economy and Investment, Mudrick Soraga.

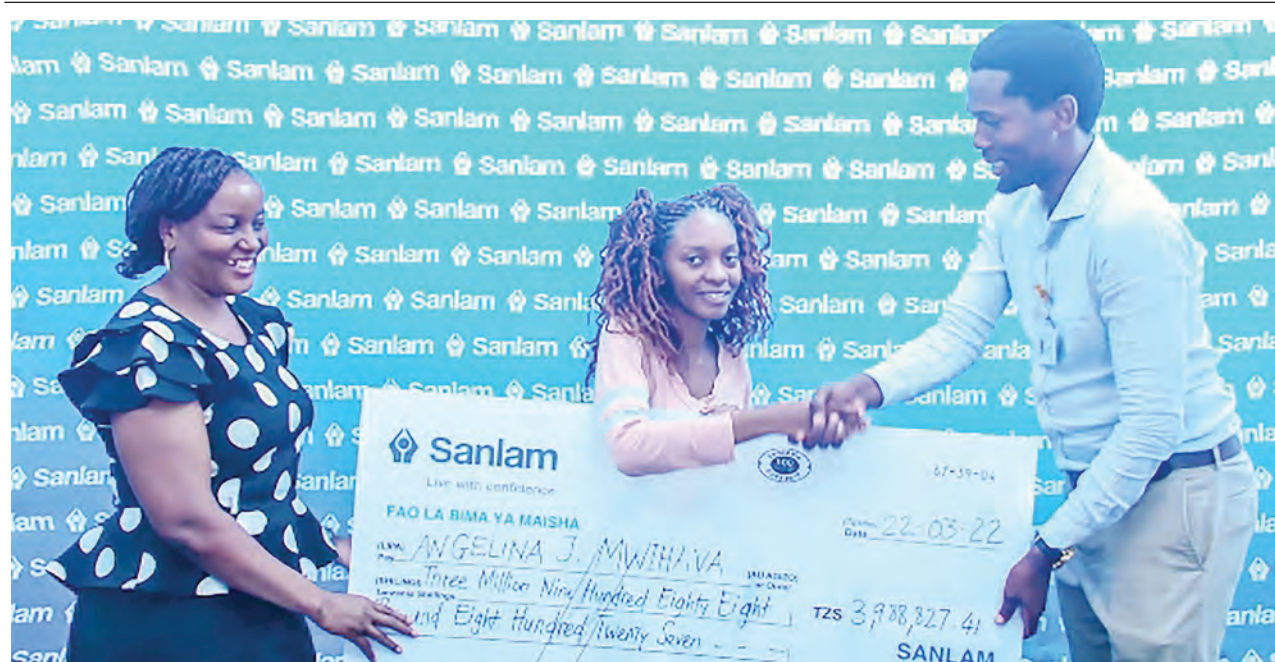
Over the past two years, with Zuweina Farah at the helm, Smile has invested in redesigning and expanding its network to offer customers improved internet services with even faster data speeds. Smile's customers' growth has been very positive, as it continues to deliver superior, reliable SuperFast internet to customers. "The investments have laid a foundation for a more digitally



Zanzibar Minister of State in the President's Office Labor Economy and Investment Mudrick Soraga addresses during the launching of the Smile 4G LTE in Zanzibar on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

enabled economy, in-line with the government's digital transformation strategy," said Farah.

"We're excited that people living in, and visiting Zanzibar will now experience the best and fastest mobile broadband internet from Smile. And we want to thank all our stakeholders for their continued support while strengthening our operations and expanding our network."



Sanlam Life Insurance Assistant Customer Service Manager, Jacqueline Makundi (L) and Kinyerezi 1 Power plant Human Resources Manager Majula Samuel (R) handing over a dummy cheque worth 3.9m/- to Angelina Mwiwaha (C), a daughter of the deceased who had taken an education life insurance cover underwritten by Sanlam Life Insurance Tanzania. The occasion was held on Tuesday at Kinyerezi 1 Power Plant where the deceased was an employee. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Airtel, Axieva partner to launch digital motor insurance with Alliance Insurance

By Guardian Reporter

AIRTEL customers can now buy motor insurance policy for private and commercial vehicles at their fingertips, thanks to a collaborative partnership between Airtel Money Limited, Alliance Insurance Corporation and the BIMA technology provider Axieva Africa Lab Limited.

Dubbed BIMA on Airtel Financial Services menu "150*60", it is one of the World's first and 100% automated Motor Insurance which can be purchased using any feature phone or smart phone in less than 60 seconds; including KYC, validation, payments, policy, sticker and TRA tax receipt.

Customers can now skip the hassle of travelling, managing cash, finding an insurer and carrying complex paperwork to buy their vehicle insurance. Instead they can simply dial the USSD code on any of their Airtel lines anytime, to access

the BIMA menu and avail policy purchase from Alliance Insurance almost instantly. Regulated by TIRA, Alliance Insurance is the number insurance provider in Tanzania under Motor vehicle category.

Addressing the needs of FS-DMP 2030 (Financial Sector Development Master Plan) laid by the Government of Tanzania, this three-way partnership also aims to drive several of the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals 2030 (UN SDG Goals) including innovation, climate action, sustainable cities and inclusiveness.

Launching the new partnership, the Commissioner of Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA), Dr Baghayo Saqware commended Airtel on launching this initiative, saying: "I applaud Airtel, Alliance and Axieva team for leading all their efforts to launch this revolutionary initiative of digitalizing insurance. Through this initiative, the



Deputy Commissioner of Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) Khadja Said (2nd R), Axieva Africa Managing Partner Gaurav Dhingra (2nd L) together with Director of Airtel Money services Isack Nchunda (R) and Anantha Krishnan, Group MD of Alliance Insurance Corporation (L) hold a placard after launching a collaborative partnership whereby Airtel customers can now buy Motor Insurance policy for private and Commercial vehicles at their fingertips. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

masses in Tanzania will now be able to have access to insurance services anytime, anywhere on their phones."

Saqware added: "Our focus is to drive an inclusive penetration of Insurance services by

boosting the agenda of awareness and use of Insurance products from current 15 percent to 50% by 2030. We do foresee an engaging role of digital and technology partnerships in driving those objectives."

"We're truly delighted to see today, the way Airtel Tanzania has availed its digital skills and infrastructure to drive this vision into execution. I'm sure, it is not only for the other Mobile Networks, but also the other

countries to witness this collaboration," he said, adding: "Alliance and Axieva you all have done a great job with Airtel in achieving a critical milestone for the industry."

Airtel Tanzania Director of Airtel Money, Isack Nchunda said: "We are excited to lead this digital evolution of Insurance Services in Tanzania & Africa through our innovative products, services and partnerships. This collaboration with Axieva and Alliance to digitize Insurance is a significant step in that direction."

According to him, insurance remained one of the most underutilized financial services, due to the tedious nature of its accessibility, affordability, payments and paperwork.

"Today, using the Airtel Money and Partnership infrastructure, we're removing all these barriers for our customers to buy insurance at the touch of the buttons. Motor Insurance, with third-party benefits and upcom-

ing comprehensive is one of our first offering to the market today, but over the next few months, we are ready to offer the full range of Insurance products."

"We want all of our 60 million citizens to be insured and live risk free," added Nchunda.

Group MD of Alliance Insurance Corporation Anantha Krishnan said: "Today's launch with Airtel and Axieva is an outcome of Alliance's shared vision for industry transformation and digital accessibility to every user."

Axieva Africa Managing Partner Gaurav Dhingra stated: "Our mission at AXIEVA is to create sustainable ecosystems; that can positively impact and empower the local communities through the use of technology. Axieva BIMA is just one example how the entire value chain of a complex industry can be digitally transformed to unlock ease, access, delivery, scale and financial efficiency to Millions.

MTN announces new management shakeup to support Ambition 2025

LAGOS

MTN Group has appointed Hassan Jaber, COO of MTN Irancell, as COO of MTN Nigeria, and announced new leadership at its Iran and Sudan operations.

According to a statement released by the company, Malik Melamu, with over 28 years of managerial and executive experience, will assume the position of MTN Irancell COO, joining from MTN Sudan. Stepping into the CEO role at MTN Sudan is Ziad Sabah, whose career within MTN spans more than a decade, most recently as MTN Syria CEO and before that as the Chief Marketing Officer of MTN Syria.

MTN said Jaber's track record of building and scaling-up telecom operations and developing digital businesses through the power of mobile technology "will be instrumental to MTN Nigeria as it plays its part in delivering on the Group's strategic intent of leading digital solutions for Africa's progress."

He has served MTN in numerous markets, including Ghana, Guinea-Conakry,



Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan and Yemen. MTN added that the appointments are effective 1 April 2022 and form part of the company's strategy to "drive growth, leverage faster and reveal value in our Fin-tech and fibre businesses."

MTN Group President and CEO Ralph Mupita, said, "A vital enabler of our strategy is having the best talent, culture and future-fit skills. Today's announcement demonstrates the depth of talent within

the Group, as well as the strength of our succession planning."

"These appointments demonstrate the depth of leadership bench-strength within the MTN Group, and we remain focused on delivering sustainable growth to our stakeholders. Nigeria, Iran and Sudan are markets with attractive demographics and tremendous potential growth opportunities for digital and financial inclusion."

Nigeria key to Group's health

In March the MTN Group hosted MTN Nigeria Chairman Ernest Ndukwe and MTN Nigeria CEO Karl Toriola at meeting in Johannesburg.

The operator reaffirmed its commitment to the Nigerian operation, one of its two biggest markets.

MTN Group Chairman Mcebisi Jonas said the trip from the Group's Nigerian colleagues was productive: "It has been a fruitful two days in which, together with our Nigeria team, we were able to unpack our plans in Nigeria and how these align to the Group's strategic intent of providing leading digital solutions for Africa's progress."

Ndukwe said MTN Nigeria was committed to that country's socio-economic development: "MTN Nigeria believes that we should not only provide a service to customers, but also deepen connectivity access as well as drive financial inclusion. To this end, for 2022 MTN Nigeria intends to ensure the connectivity of an additional 2 000 rural communities and has secured 100 MHz of 3500 spectrum to enable Nigeria's move to 5G."

Young greenpreneurs are turning waste into fertilisers and pavers

KIGALI

YOUNG greenpreneurs from different cities across the country are seeking easy access to finance to increase the production of organic fertilisers and pavers into waste.

Noel Nizeyimana, the Managing Director of Green Care Rwanda Ltd, told Doing Business that he processes 10 tonnes of waste every day, transforming them into fertilisers as well as pavers made from plastic waste in Huye district.

Waste entering into the Huye-based recycling plant is dominated by organic waste, which accounts for 75 per cent of the collected waste. Recyclable waste such as plastics is 8 per cent, papers and cupboards 6 per cent and others unrecyclable waste such as textiles 2 per cent, construction debris 1 per cent, grass 3 per cent and other hazard waste make up 3 per cent.

"We produce between 600 and 800 tonnes of packed organic compost per year by using the organic waste and 20 square metres of pavers from plastic waste per day. We sell one square metre at Rwf8,000," he said.

The firm's capital, he said, has increased from the initial Rwf1 million to Rwf35 million.

However, funding constraints are undermining their efforts to process waste into other products on a large scale, he added.

"We need a big machine that can help in mass production of pavers. For scaling up our organic fertilisers production business, we need the capital for replicating the waste management in other secondary cities and even in Kigali," he said.

Nizeyimana said that increased funding would help attract more youth in waste management.

"Banks do not consider solid waste management projects as bankable because it is social business. Even leaders and decision makers do not understand the concept. It should have a specific funding and financing model as well as technology transfer to be sustainable," he stated.

Nizeyimana added that Covid-19 pandemic has also derailed the progress to increase production and therefore access to recovery fund is needed.

"Our sales decreased during the pandemic and the organic fertiliser production reduced from two tonnes to one tonne per day," he said.

The recycling plant currently employs 25 people. "We work with maize, chia and rice farmers in Huye district and we have 15 cooperatives that buy our organic fertilisers and four suppliers who distribute to other farmers," he said.

Felicite Nayinganyiki, a graduate from university of Rwanda in agriculture, founded Ineza Sustainable Agriculture Ltd which produces organic fertilisers from landfill site in Gicumbi district town.

She told Doing Business that she produces 100 tonnes of organic fertilisers per agriculture season and sells one kilogramme at Rwf50.

She said she also produces more 50 tonnes that are not packed in sacks per season.

"About 80 percent of the population in Gicumbi district are farmers. Therefore, I tapped into opportunities availed by waste," she said, adding that she is currently employing 15 people.

The greenpreneur said that she is also facing financial constraints to expand the business.

"Most of the youth have no collateral that can help them access loans in banks. We need modern machines to increase production. I also need a building for my operations because we are still operating in open space and we do not work when it rains," she said.

She said there is a need for availing loans to young greenpreneurs at lower interest rates.

"Agriculture needs particular loans. We also need partners who can help improve our business ideas and leverage financing," Nayinganyiki said.

Dominique-Xavio Imbabazi, another graduate from agriculture in university Rwanda, who recently won Rwf1.5 million award for the innovative project is producing one tonne of organic fertilizers per week in Musanze district.

He said he mixes earthworms with waste to produce compost.

The founder of Golden Insects Ltd said he also sells one kilogramme of fertilisers at Rwf200.

The case for scaling up organic farming The organic fertilizer production, which promotes organic farming, is one of agro-ecology practices that need support to be scaled up across the country, agricultural experts have said.

Agro-ecology promotes farming practices that promotes environment protection through agricultural systems such as use of organic fertilizers and eco-friendly pesticides to ensure organic farming to produce healthy food without harming nature.

Tacien Munyamahame, the country programme manager at Youth in Agro-ecology and Business Learning Track (YALTA initiative told Doing Business that they are seeking to support those who aspire to agro-ecology in Rwanda.

"The youth in agro-ecology need access to market and access to finance so they scale up their businesses," he said.

He said that they are in discussions with the ministry of agriculture and animal resources to ensure agro-ecology is well integrated in agriculture planning and policy implementation.

Malawi government centralises handset registration to combat digital fraud

BLANTAYA

MALAWI will begin to register mobile handsets using the Central Equipment Identification Register in a bid to reduce digital fraud.

This is according to the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) which said that fraudsters are using multiple SIM cards on a single handset and also duplicating national identity cards and or cards belonging to people who have died to register SIM cards.

Registration using the Central Equipment Identification Register will be done in conjunction with the ongoing SIM card registration exercise.

MACRA Director General Daudi Suleman said the Authority is synchronising data at the National Registration Bureau (NRB) so that it is accessible to mobile phone service providers for the purpose of SIM card registration.

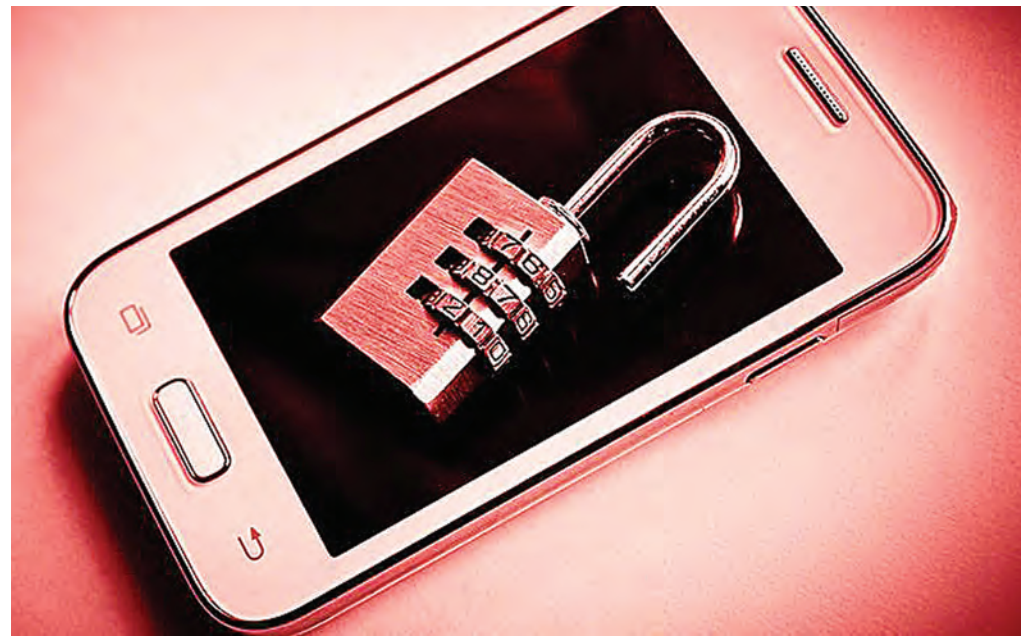
According to the regulator, fraudsters use multiple SIM cards

on a single handset and that they use national identity duplicate cards or cards belonging to people who have died to register SIM cards.

He said there should only be one reference point for national IDs and that is the NRB.

Suleman said MACRA is spearheading a special taskforce involving several stakeholders to address rampant mobile fraud in the country.

"Digital advancements have brought in new challenges as much as it has brought in opportunities. It is therefore, our duty as MACRA to highlight some of these challenges as well as offer solutions to the problems to protect the consumers. By opening the digital economy space, we have opened up the space for thieves and fraudsters to also digitally manipulate innocent Malawians. But MACRA stands to protect the consumers and growth of the digital economy in the country," Suleman said.



John Kapito, Executive Director at the Consumer Association of Malawi (CAMA) has appealed to the government to implement a strong regulatory system to ensure that only genuine and trace-

able business transactions are done online and with reputable institutions to develop new digital technologies that can increase financial inclusion in the country.

Kapito said, "We have noted

the increased fraud on both mobile money and other digital financial platforms and it requires consumers to be equipped with knowledge on how to avoid such negative transactions."

Uganda leans on ICT growth to progress with the Vision 2040

KAMPALA

UGANDA is fast-tracking digital technology and infrastructure, the likes of which are used in the development of smart cities, smart offices and cloud strategies, to achieve the country's Digital Vision 2040.

Speaking at the Huawei ICT Congress 2020 held recently in Kampala, the country's ICT Minister Chris Baryomunsi said the government wants to expedite its digital strategy and leverage technology that underpins smart homes, smart offices, cloud solutions, safe and smart cities, among others.

According to Baryomunsi, ICT is now Uganda's fastest growing sector and is also a major driver to Uganda's middle-income status as per the 2040 Digital Vision strategy.

He said the government is fast-tracking digital to harness new emerging technologies

such as those exhibited at Huawei congress. "We need to look to the future of digital and start implementing the necessary digital infrastructure so that we are not left behind."

Baryomunsi added, "In building robust ultra-high speed, pervasive, intelligent and trusted high speed ICT infrastructure all over the country, the government has diligently worked towards expanding the nation's digitalisation in a number of fields, in order to unleash the multiplier effect of ICT on associated secondary and tertiary industries for tremendous impact on the economy. Thanks to NITA-U, UCC and other players in this regard. These efforts have borne fruit. ICT is now Uganda's fastest growing sector and contributes significantly to its GDP."

he Huawei ICT Congress 2022 was hosted by Huawei Uganda under the theme

"Lighting up the Future".

Telecommunications boost According to a quarterly report by the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) released in January, mobile and fixed telephone subscription had reached 29 million in Q3 2021, boosting the country's telecommunications industry.

The report indicated that despite the slowdown in quarter-on-quarter additions, the 12 months period ending September 2021 recorded a decent 10% year-on-year growth, with 2.6 million new subscriptions.

Additionally, the 29.1 million subscriptions represents a telephone penetration of 69%, which equates to a national penetration of seven lines for every ten Ugandans.

The market research showed that 85% of the 200, 000 new mobile connections during the third quarter were data-enabled connections.

Paratus FAST Congo cements the company's DRC ambitions

KINSHASA

PARATUS Group has announced expansion into the DRC, with news that the company - together with DRC-based ISP Global Broadband Solution (GBS) - secured the government tender to activate a 620km fibre optic network link between Muanda, on the West Coast, to DRC capital city, Kinshasa.

Paratus and GBS have established FAST Congo to deliver, operate and maintain the network link in an exclusive 15-year license contract.

Earlier this week, the DRC fibre link deal with FAST Congo was officially signed and announced by SOCOF (Societe Congolaise de Fibre Optique), the government entity established to develop telecommunications infrastructure and equipment in the DRC.

Paratus formed a consortium with GBS to create a strategic public private partnership with SOCOF to activate, operate and maintain the fibre highway that was installed and funded by The World Bank.

The network spans the railway line between Muanda and Kinshasa which, en route, takes in six towns.

With the objective of increasing connectivity throughout the region, FAST Congo is working towards activating the fibre link in the third quarter of 2022.

Paratus group Chief Technical Officer, Rolf Mendelsohn said, "This is an extremely important strategic development for Paratus. We are not only uniquely qualified to open this fibre highway in DRC, but we're also uniquely placed to connect the country to Angola, Zambia and beyond via our own network in the SADC. This presents great potential for the region's economy and for quality connections and increased capacity to be offered as standard to businesses and consumers alike. We are very proud to be the lead company in making this happen."

Managing Director of FAST Congo, Francois-Xavier Kabemba added: "We have already started work on installing the necessary equipment to expedite the fibre optic network's activation. As our company name implies, we are committed to delivering fast, secure, quality network connections to the people and businesses of DRC so that they may benefit from the unlimited opportunities offered by fibre."

Low smartphone penetration hits CBK's digital shilling plan

NAIROBI

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has warned that lack of access to smartphones by more than half of mobile users in the country will hamper the rollout of its proposed digital currency that requires access to the Internet.

CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge said in an interview that the smartphone hitch might force the bank to delay the rollout of the central bank digital currency (CBDC) – a virtual version of the shilling which will exchange on a one-to-one basis with physical cash.

Official data show that 33 million or 56 percent of the 59 million cellphone devices are feature phones, making it difficult for half of subscribers to transact using CBDC.

Safaricom in partnership with Google made a sales offer of one million affordable digital sets, with customers paying as little as Sh20 a day over nine months, aiming to switch

about four million 2G and 3G phones to 4G.

Dr Njoroge said the use of the digital currency on 4G-enabled phones would hurt Kenya's financial inclusion and effectively lock out half of the population from transacting in the CBDC – which is meant to ease payments and cut transaction costs.

"The CBDC will have a minimum viable technology requirement, which may be a sort of fourth-generation (4G) environment. There is an argument to be made that such a development could lead to greater financial exclusion such that some people may fall out of the financial system just because we have adopted a CBDC... This is something we need to be careful about," said Dr Njoroge.

"We may decide therefore that we should wait a little more until everyone catches up because at this moment the lower-level technologies are quite prevalent with us." The CBK last month



CBK has warned that lack of access to smartphones by more than half of mobile users in the country will hamper the rollout of its proposed digital currency.

invited public views on the potential introduction of the digital currency, in a departure from its original opposition to crypto assets. Kenyans have until May 20 to submit comments to the banking regulator.

The virtual shilling would work in the same way as physical hard currency,

exchanging freely within wallets and in person-to-person payments.

Kenya pioneered mobile money payments with Safaricom's M-Pesa in 2007, but the central bank has not issued a digital currency due to concerns about the risks.

The risks include commercial banks being con-

strained by movement of deposits into the digital currency and financial exclusion of those without access to technological infrastructure or knowledge, the bank said on Thursday.

A digital currency could curb the effectiveness of monetary policy and increase risks of money

laundering, the CBK said.

The regulator, however, has highlighted a number of advantages in issuing a digital currency for the economy, including easing and lowering the cost of cross-border payments with other jurisdictions that design similar currencies.

It also views CBDC as a safer alternative to the existing, unregulated digital currencies such as Bitcoin, which it has in the past warned Kenyans against buying.

These cryptocurrencies are not tied to the value of an asset and are therefore highly volatile and speculative, with no recourse in case of loss through hacking or loss of wallet passwords.

Their value is also derived from processes like mining that are meant to maintain scarcity and anonymity – which opens them up to abuse in dirty cash deals.

"CBDC could potentially shield the public from the risk of new forms of private money by providing safer and more trustworthy payment services than new

forms of privately issued money-like instruments, such as stable coins," said the CBK.

In Africa, Ghana and Nigeria have already piloted their CBDCs, while Kenya, South Africa, Rwanda and Tanzania have been conducting research ahead of rolling out their own versions.

In Nigeria, which launched Africa's first CBDC in October 2021, users are required to download the eNaira Speed application to use the digital currency.

According to the Pew Research Center, only 32.0 percent of Nigeria's cellphone users are on smart devices.

The Central Bank of Nigeria has expressed concern that the eNaira risks widening financial exclusion, partly echoing the CBK's views.

"More so, maximising the value and use cases of the eNaira depends largely on devices with Internet capabilities. The eNaira thus risks further alienating sections of the population

who are uneducated, lack exposure and access to Internet services or digital devices," the Central Bank of Nigeria says in its design paper for the eNaira.

In Kenya, the CBK says deepening financial inclusion is not the core selling point for the CBDC.

"Some jurisdictions have pushed the idea that they would want to issue CBDC to improve the level of financial inclusion. Most of them would generally have low formal financial inclusion of 50.0 per cent or below," said Dr Njoroge.

"For us, our financial inclusion level is estimated at something around 85.0 percent up from 27.0 percent back in 2006/07. So, we have already made substantial inroads in financial inclusion."

The proportion of Kenya's population with access to formal financial services has been driven largely by mobile technology, especially M-Pesa – which captures people without access to the formal banking network.

Banks borrowed Shs330b from BoU to meet financing needs

KAMPALA

COMMERCIAL banks borrowed Shs330b from the Central Bank to meet financing needs during the quarter ended January, according to Bank of Uganda.

The borrowing, provided under the Standard Lending Facility, seeks to create a safe buffer for banks facing financing gaps, many of which are recovering from the effects of Covid-19.

The Standard Lending Facility is a vital window through which banks and non-bank financial institutions borrow to meet financing needs.

In the February Bank of Uganda Monetary Policy Report, the Central Bank said: "In the quarter ended January 2022, commercial banks accessed Shs330b through the Standard Lending Facility."

However, the Central Bank does not indicate which bank accessed the financing.

Bank of Uganda had last highlighted borrowing under the Standing Lending Facility in March 2021, during which three banks, which it did not name, had borrowed Shs155b to address short term liquidity needs.

In April 2020, the Central Bank created different financing windows through which constrained commercial banks could access financing to wade through Covid-19 disruptions.

The facilities had been created under the Covid-19 Liquidity Assistance Programme to mitigate challenges occasioned by Covid-19 such possible increase in non-performing loans and reduction in income.

Other facilities such as the Emergency Liquidity Assistance, which was approved by Bank of Uganda in April 2021, were created to support banking institutions that were threatened with liquidity stress.

The facilities had been given timelines but some of them continue to operate due to existing uncertainties.

During the period ended January, the Bank of Uganda also indicated interbank lending which stood at 6.9 percent remained well anchored around the Central Bank Rate, which has in the last few months been maintained at 6.5 percent.

During the period ended January, Bank of Uganda indicated interbank lending which stood at 6.9 percent remained well anchored around the CBR, which has in the last few months been maintained at 6.5 percent.



BANKING & FINANCE

Trade deal to lift SMEs on Ethiopia, Kenya border

NAIROBI

SMALL-scale trade along the Kenya-Ethiopia border has received a major boost after the two countries agreed on a common list of products to be traded under the Comesa Simplified Trade Regime (STR).

The negotiations that took place at the Moyale border post, addressed implementation of the STR between the two countries.

The STR was launched in 2010 to enable small-scale traders benefit from Comesa trade liberalisation programme by simplifying and formalising trade.

The meeting was part of the implementation of a 15 million euros Cross-Border Trade Initiative, financed by the European Union under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF). Its objective is to facilitate small-scale cross-border trade among the targeted countries.

According to experts, effective implementation of the STR spurs growth, and enhances agriculture through value addition and processing, thereby creating jobs and increasing household incomes.

Comesa director of trade and cus-



A sign showing the distance to Ethiopia border in Moyale town

tom, Christopher Onyango said simplification and formalisation of cross-border trade will help the region empower women and youths, who make up 70 percent of the traders.

"By having a working STR, the marginalised groups will find it easier to conduct business, earn incomes and improve their livelihoods. Thus, the STR will help our governments achieve balanced economic development to empower wom-

en and the youth," he said, noting that development of common lists of traded products, agreement of the STR threshold and application of other instruments such as the sanitary and phytosanitary measures are important for effective implementation of the trade regime.

The meeting marked a critical milestone in strengthening bilateral relations given that both countries have in the recent past built new infrastructure at

each side of the border.

Besides, they have signed and ratified the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), thus opening the way for preferential treatment to be accorded to one another.

The director encouraged the two countries to remove existing barriers to cross-border trade to expand opportunities to businesspeople.

Poverty bites as locals in oil fields wait for pay-out

KAMPALA

AS government continues to prospect and explore oil wells in parts of western, central and northern regions, scores of homesteads that have been displaced by the quest to have oil exports ready by 2025 have lost farmlands.

In Kakumiro District in western Uganda, more than 200 people affected by the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) have cited delayed compensation of their properties in the wake of signing of the tripartite pipeline between oil companies and Uganda and Tanzania governments.

Daily Monitor has established that the affected persons are mainly from Mpasana, Kisita, Katikara, and Ntoroko sub-counties in Kakumiro.

The communities claim that they were promised compensation in 2018 but are yet to receive it.

Mr Stephen Twijukye, the Kyajawe Village chairperson in Mpasana Sub-county, said those affected have lost hope of getting their compensation.

Mr Twijukye said the delays have made their lives miserable since they are no longer allowed to use the land.

Ms Alice Kemizano, another affected resident, said she has not received information on her compensation package because her husband, who used to pursue the process, died.

"My land was largely affected by the pipeline project, including my two houses. My husband died recently and

I have no information about when and how I will be compensated," Ms Kemizano said.

Other residents claim they were under-valued for their land because of lack of clear compensation rates.

Mr Jasper Nshekanabo, a member of the project affected persons (PAPs) grievance committee in Mpasana Sub-county, said delayed compensation has left them in poverty.

"To date, we don't know how much we are supposed to be paid. We want our leaders to intervene and ensure that we are paid. People wanted to grow crops but they were told not to use the land, hoping that pipeline activities were going to start immediately," Mr Nshekanabo said.

The Kakumiro chief administrative officer, Mr Joram Sekitoleko, recently told the affected persons that the government will compensate them before the end of this month.

Mr Tom Bajjana, a resident, said it was a wrong for government to start the project, saying oil is a non-renewable resource.

"Oil is not renewable, and we need to plan better as country but the mistake we have made is on making oil pipeline, if the oil wells dry up, what will be the use of pipeline? Instead, we should build many oil refineries for more employment," he said.

Mr David Kakumirizi, one of the affected residents at Kiyuni Village, Mulagi Sub-county, Kyankwanzi

District, said government officials last updated them about the project two years ago.

"It will be unfair to give us the money which was quoted after evaluating our property yet prices of property keep changing," Mr Kakumirizi said.

In the 296km-Uganda pipeline section, at least 4,121 persons will be affected by the oil pipeline, of whom 2,199 are bibanja holders, 1,056 land owners and 866 are licensees.

Mubende is the most affected with 33 villages crossed by the pipeline, followed by Kakumiro with 25, Kyotera and Kikuube districts have 20 villages, while and Lwengo and Sembabule have 19 villages each.

Mr Sam Walugembe, a resident of Kamusenene Village, said although they were asked to open bank accounts and get tax identification numbers, they have not received compensation.

"The more government delays to pay us, the more we make losses, let them give us our money so that we get alternative land where to resettle," he said.

Mr Reuben Mukiza Mutabaazi, the chairperson of Butoologo Sub-county in Mubende, said 150 residents accuse him of swindling their compensation money.

Information disclosure
Early this month, the African Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) together with the Community Transformation Foundation Network

decried failure by the EACOP project developers to officially share the resettlements action plan (RAP).

RAP is a document that spells out how compensation and physical relocation of PAPs will be done.

Ms Dinah Nabiluma, an officer from AFIEGO, said there are no budgets for environmental monitoring which makes the environment vulnerable to the project.

"Environmental officials in districts where the project will be done lack funds to supervise the project and come up with guiding reports which affects the environment," he said.

However, Ms Josephine Nnabbaale, the Mubende communications officer, said government has dispatched a team of valuers to listen to fresh concerns from PAPs.

"The team is already on the ground and I am sure they will capture new developments and report back to government before actual construction works kick-off," she said.

At least 200 youth from Nwoya District are undergoing a skill-enhancement training in preparation for the oil exploration and extraction activities in the Albertine Graben.

The district senior community development officer, Mr Joseph Komakech, last week told Daily Monitor that the district administration partnered with Total E&P to embark on a skill training sponsorship for youth in the district.

WORLD

Taliban orders girl high schools remain closed

KABUL

THE Taliban yesterday backtracked on their announcement that high schools would open for girls, saying they would remain closed until a plan was drawn up in accordance with Islamic law for them to reopen.

Teachers and students from three high schools around the capital Kabul said girls had returned in excitement to campuses on Wednesday morning, but were ordered to go home.

The international community has made the education of girls a key demand for any future recognition of the Taliban administration, which took over the country in August as foreign forces withdrew. The United Nations condemned the reported closures

yesterday. The Ministry of Education had announced last week that schools for all students, including girls, would open around the country on Wednesday after months of restrictions on education for high school-aged girls.

On Tuesday evening a Ministry of Education spokesman released a video congratulating all students on their returning to class.

However on Wednesday a Ministry of Education notice said schools for girls would be closed until a plan was drawn up in accordance with Islamic law and Afghan culture, according to Bakhtar News, a government news agency.

"We inform all girls high schools and those schools that are having female students above class six that they are off until the next order," said the notice.



A Yemeni child receives a polio vaccination during an immunization campaign at a health center on the outskirts of the Yemeni capital Sanaa, on Aug 6, 2018. File photo

The country's ministry of education spokesman did not respond to calls and messages seeking comment. A Taliban administration source confirmed to Reuters that schools for girls in Kabul would be closed for now, without elaborating.

The Taliban is seeking to run the country according to its interpretation

of Islamic law while at the same time accessing billions of dollars in aid that it desperately needs to stave off widespread poverty and hunger.

"The UN in Afghanistan deplores today's reported announcement by the Taliban that they are further extending their indefinite ban on female students above the 6th grade being permitted to return school," the United Nations' Mission to Afghanistan said in a statement.

Agencies

British royals' Jamaica visit stirs demands for slavery

KINGSTON

BRITAIN'S Prince William and his wife Kate arrived in Jamaica on Tuesday as part of a week-long Caribbean tour, hours after activists protested to demand reparations for slavery amid growing scrutiny of the British Empire's colonial legacy.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge arrived in Belize on Saturday to start the tour that coincides with Queen Elizabeth's 70th year on the throne, and will conclude it over the weekend with a visit to The Bahamas.

They were received by Jamaican foreign affairs minister Kamina Johnson-Smith and Defense Force Chief Antonette Wemyss Gorman at Kingston's Norman Manley airport. They then left to meet Governor General Patrick Allen, who represents the British crown in Jamaica.

Earlier, dozens of people gathered outside the British High Commission in Kingston, singing traditional Rastafarian songs and holding banners with the phrase "seh yuh sorry" - a local patois phrase that urged Britain to apologize.

"There are historical wrongs and they need to be addressed," said Dr. Rosalea Hamilton, an economist and activist who helped organize the rally where demonstrators read out 60 reasons for reparations. Jamaica celebrates 60 years of independence in August.

"Part of the conversation is how we begin a new dispensation and (discussion) of actions for the new generation," said Hamilton, dressed in a T-shirt printed with the phrase "seh yuh sorry."

The royal visits to Caribbean nations are seen as an effort to convince other former



Minister of Foreign Affairs in Jamaica Senator Kamina Johnson Smith (left) stands with Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and his wife Kate, Duchess of Cambridge as they are greeted by guests upon arrival at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston during a visit to Jamaica to mark the occasion of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee on March 22, 2022. AFP

British colonies - including Belize and The Bahamas - to stay on as "realms" of the British monarchy amid a rising regional movement towards republicanism.

'What are they doing for Jamaica'

Dance hall singer Beenie Man in an interview with Good Morning Britain questioned the royal visit and expressed skepticism about the queen, saying "What

are they doing for Jamaica? They're not doing anything for us."

One Jamaican judge, Hugh Small, this month burned his ceremonial British judicial wigs in a symbolic protest of the fact that a London-based tribunal called Privy Council continues to be Jamaica's highest court of appeals.

William and Kate are scheduled to participate in a "sports

activity" and a "cultural activity" on Tuesday as part of the tour that wraps up on Thursday, according to a preliminary agenda seen by Reuters.

The couple had to change their itinerary in Belize following a protest by a few dozen indigenous villagers upset that the couple's helicopter was given permission to land on a soccer field without prior consultation.

Marlene Malahoo Forte, who

was Jamaica's attorney general until January, in December told the local newspaper Jamaica Observer that she had received instructions from Prime Minister Andrew Holness to reform the constitution to become a republic.

That process would require a referendum, per Jamaica's constitution, making it more complicated than in smaller Barbados - which was able to make the change via an act of parliament.

The government last year announced plans to ask Britain for compensation for forcibly transporting an estimated 600,000 Africans to work on sugar cane and banana plantations that created fortunes for British slave holders.

Jamaica lawmaker Mike Henry has proposed reparations package of 7.6 billion pounds (\$10 billion).

He has said the figure is derived from a 20 million pound payment that Britain's government made in 1837 to compensate slave owners in British colonies for the emancipation of enslaved people following the 1833 abolition of slavery.

Agencies

WFP warns impending drought-induced humanitarian disaster in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA

THE United Nations World Food Program (WFP) on Tuesday called for swift and concerted efforts to prevent drought-induced humanitarian catastrophe in Ethiopia.

The WFP, in its latest situation update, said early action is needed to prevent a humanitarian disaster in Ethiopia. "Livestocks are dying, crops are failing, and an estimated 5.7 mil-

lion people wake up hungry every day in southern and south-eastern Ethiopia as the Horn of Africa grapples with the most severe drought since 1981," the WFP said.

According to the WFP, in total, some 6.8 million people have been affected by the drought in Ethiopia. "The shortages of water and pasture are devastating livelihoods, forcing families from their homes across

the regions in southern and south-eastern Ethiopia," the WFP said.

Three consecutive failed rainy seasons have decimated crops and caused "abnormally high" livestock deaths, it said. It stressed immediate and scaled-up assistance is critical to avoid a major humanitarian crisis in the drought-affected areas of Ethiopia and help communities become more resilient to extreme climate

shocks. It emphasized 130 million U.S. dollars is urgently needed to provide assistance over the next four months, responding to the needs of 3.5 million of the most drought-affected people.

The WFP, which is already on the ground providing families with cash and emergency assistance, stressed that affected communities need scaled-up support now, while the dry

season is at its peak.

The WFP has already launched its Drought Response Plan, targeting 3.5 million people with emergency food and nutrition assistance, school feeding programs as well as climate change adaptation and resilience building activities. In mid-January 2022, unusual migration of more than 17,000 households with over 1.4 million livestock was reported in Ethiopia's

Somali region alone, as they searched for water and green pasture.

Thousands of livestock reportedly died along the way, it was noted. According to the WFP, food assistance, including specialized nutritious foods, are being delivered in the Somali region, while malnourished children and mothers are treated by nutritionally fortified foods.

Xinhua

China home to 813 intelligent mining, tunneling sections

A total of 813 mining and tunneling sections across China have been equipped with intelligent production systems, up 65 percent from two years ago, said an official with the National Mine Safety Administration (NMSA) at a regular press conference recently held by the Ministry of Emergency Management.

In particular, 477 of them are mining sections and 336 tunneling sections, up 43 percent and 109 percent from two years ago, respectively, said Sun Qingguo, director of the Department of Safety Basic Management of the NMSA.

Besides, 29 types of robots have been employed at over 370 coal mines across the country, he added.

A batch of intelligent mining technologies have made new progress. China has developed its first intelligent full-section rectangular tunneling machine and a smart hydraulic support with a mining height of 10 meters. Besides, smart systems for water detection and release have been put into use, and there are currently 146 autonomous mining trucks in operation across the country.

The NMSA, in collaboration with

relevant departments, have rolled out a series of policies to make coal mines more intelligent. Fourteen provinces and autonomous regions, including Shanxi, Inner Mongolia, Shandong, Henan and Shaanxi, have also launched policies to support the construction of intelligent coal mines.

Recently, the NMSA has started making 92 relevant standards on intelligent control systems and auxiliary production systems. A working group for mining standardization under the National Information Technology Standardization Techni-

cal Committee was also established under the guidance of the NMSA, which has further improved the standardization system of intelligent mining.

Supervision in the mining sector is more efficient. "We have vigorously promoted informatization and included 2,611 operational mining sites across the country in a national early warning system for mining safety," said Wang Duanwu, an official with the NMSA.

The progress made in intelligent mining construction has effectively improved safe production and sup-

plying ability of coal mines.

"The number of mining accidents dropped 46.8 percent in the first two months this year," said Zhang Xin, deputy head of the NMSA. According to him, the number of mining accidents and the number of people killed in mining accidents over the last year were down by 16 percent and 12.7 percent, respectively. The death rate per million tonnes produced hit a record low, he added.

It's notable that China's coal production grew by 5.7 percent year-on-year, Zhang said.

People's Daily

Why is the EU wary of cutting off Russian energy?

BRUSSELS

THE European Union is under mounting pressure from Washington to ban Russian energy imports as European leaders and U.S. President Joe Biden are set to meet and discuss deterrence measures against Russia at a summit here today.

However, member states of the bloc have not reached an agreement yet on whether a ban would be slapped on Russian energy in the EU. "Europe's supply of energy for heating, mobility, electricity and industry currently cannot be secured in any other way," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said at an EU leaders' summit in France earlier this month.

Over 40 percent of the EU's natural gas and 25 percent of its oil consumption come from Russia. Germany has been holding on to its rejection of an abrupt ban.

The country's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock argued that the proposed oil embargo was a "question of how much we depend on oil" from Russia.

Other German leaders echoed Baerbock's concern. Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Robert Habeck warned on Saturday that his country would not have enough gas to heat homes and keep industry going next winter if it does not obtain more gas and if deliveries from Russia are cut off.

Other EU members, such as Austria and Finland, have also warned against hastily banning energy imports from Russia. The sanctions imposed by the United States and Britain on Russia's energy sector in response to Russia's military operation in Ukraine have already sent shockwaves across the world's energy markets.

"The implications of a potential loss of Russian oil exports to global markets cannot be understated," the International Energy Agency said in a report released last week.

According to the agency, Russia's oil production disruptions could lead to the biggest supply crisis in decades. The prospect of an EU ban on Russian oil imports has already stirred the global energy market. On Monday, the crude price jumped more than 7 percent to 115 U.S. dollars a barrel as European diplomats were debating a possible ban on Russian energy imports.

Surging oil prices have pushed transport companies to the brink of bankruptcy in Spain, where truck drivers started a national strike a week ago. As the strike enters its second week, the disruptions to transport are causing food shortages, and certain areas in northern Spain are even at the risk of running out of tap water.

The knock-on effect of energy price spikes has sent the prices of many other items skyrocketing in Germany. The German Farmers' Association said that the price of fertilizer is five times that of the same period last year.

Association President Joachim Rukwied said he was convinced that food prices would climb because farmers and food processors would have to pass the inflated costs on to customers.

The European Central Bank has already lowered its projection for economic growth in the eurozone to 3.7 percent this year. There has been a consensus among European countries that the EU's dependence on Russian fossil fuels should be reduced, if not ended altogether.

The EU unveiled a plan on March 8 to reduce energy imports from Russia. According to the plan called REPowerEU, the EU is striving for independence from Russian fossil fuels well before 2030.

By diversifying gas supplies, speeding up the rollout of renewable energy, and replacing gas in heating and power generation, the EU is attempting to reduce its demand for Russian gas by two-thirds before 2030. In a post on social media, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen proposed that the EU should phase out Russian fossil fuels by 2027.

Considering that the bloc is far from reaching energy self-sufficiency, it appears to be a daunting and almost unattainable goal to reduce its reliance on Russia, which supplies around 10 percent of the world's oil demand.

Even if the two members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries - Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates - with the largest spare capacity on standby are willing to beef up production, the shortfall in supplies in the event of the loss of Russia cannot be filled, according to analysts.

European officials have recently tried to convince some Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE, to increase their production to tame the soaring price of oil.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE have enjoyed a windfall from the oil price spikes since the Russia-Ukraine conflict erupted and categorically rejected calls to raise oil production.

Instead, they made it clear that they would stick to the "OPEC Plus" commitment, under which OPEC members and Russia would increase oil production at a controlled pace.



The EU unveiled a plan on March 8 to reduce energy imports from Russia. According to the plan called REPowerEU, the EU is striving for independence from Russian fossil fuels well before 2030



The EU unveiled a plan on March 8 to reduce energy imports from Russia. According to the plan called REPowerEU, the EU is striving for independence from Russian fossil fuels well before 2030

EU fails to go extra mile on Russia clamps

JAKARTA

FOREIGN and defense ministers from the European Union meeting in Brussels on Monday failed to agree on new sanctions against Russia, with a mooted embargo on oil imports exposing some of the sharpest divisions within the bloc.

Going into the talks, the EU had announced four rounds of economic sanctions against Russia in the past three weeks in measures aimed at punishing the country for its military actions in Ukraine.

Member states such as Poland and the Baltic nations have been pushing for even tougher sanctions against Russia, including a total trade ban.

Some other member states, including Germany, with the largest economy in the EU, are more cautious about further actions, especially in the energy sector. They fear a huge blowback to their own economies in the form of massive unemployment and poverty.

"The question on an oil embargo is not a question of whether we want or don't want it," German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock told reporters on Monday.

"It's a question of how much we depend on oil and it's different between different European member states, and that's why it's important that we talk together about resilience."

"For example, Germany is importing a lot but there are also other European countries that cannot stop importing oil from one day to the other. If we could, we would do it automatically but now we are preparing everything that we can go with these steps in the upcoming future, very soon," said Baerbock, who took up her position when a coalition headed by Chancellor Olaf Scholz took office in December.

Germany imports about 55 percent of its natural gas, 52 percent of its coal and 34 percent of its mineral oil from Russia; the EU, as a whole, imports about 27 percent of its oil from Russia.

"An agreement regarding possible EU sanctions against Russian energy supplies or their interruption will most likely not be reached," Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto said after the meeting. "We will not support sanctions that could pose a risk to energy supplies for Hungary."

Kremlin warning

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov warned that an oil embargo on Russia would have "a very serious negative impact on Europe's energy balance".

So far, only the United States and the United Kingdom have announced plans to ban or phase out oil imports from Russia.

Monday's meeting was held ahead of an EU summit on Thursday and Friday, US President Joe Biden, who will visit Europe later this week, will attend the EU summit as well as a NATO summit and visit Poland.

On Monday, Biden held a call with several European leaders, including Scholz, French President Emmanuel Macron, Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, to coordinate their efforts.

In the meeting, the EU foreign ministers agreed to provide Ukraine with a further 500 million euros (\$549 million) in arms and military equipment.

The EU's foreign policy and security chief, Josep Borrell, expressed the view that the bloc will continue to discuss further sanctions on Russia, especially in the energy sector. He pledged that the EU will keep providing all kinds of support for Ukraine.

The 27 member states approved the Strategic Compass, a plan aimed at boosting the bloc's security and defense by 2030, including in the Indo-Pacific region.

"The threats are rising and the cost of inaction is clear. The Strategic Compass is a guide for action," said Borrell.



France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian makes a point as he arrives for a meeting in Brussels on Monday. AFP

A third of US COVID-19 cases now caused by Omicron BA2

NEW YORK

ABOUT one-in-three COVID-19 cases in the United States are now caused by the BA2 Omicron sub-variant of the coronavirus, according to government data on Tuesday that also showed overall infections still declining from January's record highs.

Despite the rise of the extremely contagious sub-variant also seen in other countries, US health experts say a major wave of new infections here appears unlikely.

In the Northeast, including New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts, Omicron BA2 now makes up more than half the cases, according to data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It accounted for 35 percent of US infections for the week ending March 19, CDC said. That compares with 22.3 percent for the week ending March 12, which was revised down from 23.1 percent, according to a CDC model that estimates proportions of circulating variants.

Top US infectious disease official Dr Anthony Fauci said at a Washington Post event on Tuesday that he does not believe there will be a major surge soon, "unless something changes dramatically."

Still, Fauci noted that cases in the United States generally lag around three weeks behind the United Kingdom, "so if we are going to see an uptick, we should

Zelensky renews peace talks offer with Putin

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky renewed an offer of direct peace talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin late Monday, and Moscow has announced the first prisoner exchange between the two countries.

In an interview with Ukrainian media outlet Suspilne late on Monday, Zelensky said he was ready to meet with Putin "in any format" to discuss ending the almost monthlong "special military operation" that has shattered several Ukrainian cities.

Zelensky said even the status of Crimea and Russian-backed statelets in Donbas was up for discussion. It was the first time he said the status of disputed territories could be up for discussion and a possible referendum.

"At the first meeting with the president of Russia, I am ready to raise these issues," he said.

Although Zelensky signaled that he is willing to talk about the status of the three areas, he has repeatedly insisted all three are part of Ukraine and that his country would not surrender.

Satellite images taken on Monday showed Russian artillery positions west of Russian-held Antonov Air Base, northwest of Kyiv. Those positions resemble other Russian artillery positions, with earthen berms built around them.

Damage from Russian military strikes was also visible in images of Irpin, northwest of Kyiv. Two distinct fires could be seen in central Irpin near a city government complex and other buildings.

Russia has not responded to Zelensky's meeting offer, but an-



A Ukrainian evacuee hugs a child in the train station in Przemysl, near the Polish-Ukrainian border, on March 22, 2022. (ANGELOS TZORTZINIS / AFP)

nounced the first prisoner exchange between the two neighboring countries, Russian state media TASS reported on Tuesday.

"The first exchange happened. We returned nine of our boys," Human Rights Commissioner in Russia Tatyana Moskalkova said in an interview with RT, Russia's English-language TV news network. She confirmed that Russian servicemen were exchanged for the mayor of the Ukrai-

nian city Melitopol, Ivan Fedorov. The Office of the President of Ukraine also confirmed the exchange.

Russia announced that Moscow is ending peace treaty talks with Tokyo in light of new unilateral restrictions against Russia that Japan adopted in response to the Ukraine situation. Russia cited the "impossibility" of continuing discussions "with a country that has taken an openly hostile

position and is striving to cause harm to the interest of our country."

Japan and its Group of Seven allies have been united in imposing tough sanctions on Russian financial institutions and leaders.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said it was ending a visa-free policy for Japanese people to visit the disputed Kuril Islands which Tokyo calls the Northern Territories and was pulling

China-Myanmar 'Paukphaw' friendship flowers in Chinese village

AFTER she married a Chinese villager in north China's Shanxi province, San Hmwe, a Myanmar whose Chinese name is Ma Xiaoyue, settled in her husband's hometown and can now even speak fluent local dialect.

Ma and her husband Gao Baohong met and fell in love when they were both working in Myanmar. In fact, after hearing stories about China when she was little, Ma has always wanted to visit the big country.

Fourteen years ago, she came to Jingfeng village, Qinyuan county, Shanxi, with her husband. At first, Ma could barely understand Mandarin, not to mention local dialect. To fit in as soon as possible, she would learn Mandarin with TV shows every day and local dialect from residents in the village.

As she could speak Mandarin and local dialect better and better, Ma feels more at home here. Meanwhile, she finds her life getting happier.

In 2014, a resident working team was sent to Jingfeng village to help local people fight poverty. With a loan got with the help of the working team, Ma's family joined the village's cattle-raising cooperative.

"There are a dozen head of cattle in the cooperative, which are from various households in the village. Each household sends one person to pasture the cattle during the day in turn," Ma said, adding that raising cattle brings her family an annual income of more than 10,000 yuan (\$1,572).

Meanwhile, benefiting from government policy, her husband Gao became a forest ranger, and has earned an income of over 10,000 yuan a year by protecting and patrolling forests and mountains regularly.

As their income constantly increases, the living environment of Ma's family has also improved continuously.

Thanks to a project launched by Jingfeng village to renovate dilapidated houses, Ma's old house took on a new look. "The wooden window frames were replaced by aluminum alloy ones, and the earth walls were changed into brick walls," Ma recalled.

In front of Ma's house flows a river which is about seven or eight meters wide. In the past, people had to step carefully across the river on stone piers. In rainy season, the river would rise and submerge the stone piers, which made it difficult for children to go to school.

To help residents cross the river safely, the village built a new suspension bridge over the river last year. "I no longer worry about my kids being late for



Ma Xiaoyue promotes local agricultural products via livestreaming. File photo

school," Ma said.

Ma enjoys sharing the constant changes in her life in China with her mother and sister back in Myanmar when speaking with them over video calls.

"Our village has witnessed tremendous changes during the past few years," said Ma excitedly. By carrying out projects to improve the infrastructure, the picturesque village located in the hinterland of Taiyue Mountain has effectively promoted rural tourism in recent years.

Ma's family also took the opportunity to develop tourism-related business. "We have several spare rooms. So we decided to refurbish them to develop agritainment business on the advice of village cadres," she said.

While decorating the rooms, she also opened an account on a short video platform to share with Internet users her everyday life in Jingfeng village through livestreaming, winning thousands of followers.

Last year, the government of Qinyuan county promoted local agricultural products online, and Ma was invited to be a host to help promote the products via livestreaming platform.

"I was really nervous during my

first livestreaming show. At first, I had only dozens of viewers and only sold locally grown millet, mushrooms, wood ears and other products. Many people who placed orders were probably local residents who wanted to show their support," Ma recalled.

Ma took part in several other livestreaming shows for sales promotion afterwards. "The number of viewers has gradually risen. I once helped sell several thousand yuan worth of products during one show, and my earnings also grew," Ma said.

A Myanmar song called "For Ma" was popular on the social media platforms in Myanmar a few years ago. Ma often uses it as background music when making short videos. The Chinese version of the song is "the world is so big but I still meet you", according to Ma.

"I feel like it is talking about how destiny leads me to my husband, and also the close 'Paukphaw' (fraternal) friendships between the Myanmar and Chinese people," Ma said.

"Hand in hand we lived for so long. Though far apart, we do keep our story deep in mind," she quoted the lyrics.

People's Daily

UNICEF fears voiced for Ukrainian children

UKRAINIAN children today seem overwhelmed by fear, tears and sorrow, said a spokesman for the United Nations Children's Fund.

"I've seen so many thousands of these children go ... husbands and wives farewelling each other, the fathers explaining to the little 7-year-old daughters or 10-year-old sons why they have to leave or why they're being separated," UNICEF spokesman James Elder told China Daily in an interview on Tuesday.

About 1.7 million Ukrainian children have fled their country so far, Elder said.

"We can see a refugee crisis, with Ukraine refugees in the fastest outflow, in terms of speed and scale, unprecedented since World War II and showing no sign of slowing down," said Elder from inside Ukraine.

"This already comes after the trauma of those children being in bunkers and under bombardment, so it's an incredibly dangerous, difficult and sad time for children across the country and for those many, many who have had to flee."

In cities like Mariupol, there is no water supply, no power and heating. "So children's destiny (is being) decided as we speak," Elder said.

"It's a very dark time for those who are trapped, and those in bunkers."

Moreover, scores have been killed and many more injured.

He described the "absolutely harrowing" situation for children in Ukraine, and only an end to the conflict can serve them well.

Risk of separation

Like all children driven from their homes amid war and conflict, Ukrainian children arriving in neighboring countries are at real risk of family

separation, violence and trafficking.

"Now, the safest and fastest way out of this catastrophe indeed the only way out of this catastrophe is for this war to end, and end now. But until then, attacks in civilian areas and on civilian infrastructure must stop," Elder said.

"They must stop because they're claiming lives. They must stop because they're forcing people to miss out on essential health services, despite catastrophic needs. They must stop for millions of children remaining in areas of conflict in Ukraine."

A UNICEF team in Ukraine has been distributing truck after truck of medical supplies such as surgical, midwifery and obstetrics kits, oxygen generators and concentrators, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene essentials.

"Everything is needed right now," Elder said.

He also said UNICEF operates in neighboring countries where families can get information about support and protection services for those who had to flee.

Yet, "we must be clear, despite all those efforts in Ukraine from volunteers, Ukraine grandmothers to governments, from Ukrainian scouts and teenagers to United Nations agencies, so long as this war continues, the situation of Ukraine's children will only get worse."

"It's truly awful. I don't want to compare crises with everyone: there's Yemen, Syria and Ethiopia... heartbreaking," Elder said. "But this one is no less, and it's just happening so fast. I haven't met a single Ukrainian who wants to leave their country."



Ukrainian children wait with their mothers for the start of classes in Berlin on Monday. Forty young refugees started their first day of elementary school in the German capital on Monday only weeks after they fled the conflict. AP



Pablo Franco Martin. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Simba SC to assess Pablo's report on footballers nearing free agency

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC Registration Committee's Chairman Kassim Dewji says the club's management would reach an agreement with some of its players whose contracts will soon come to conclusion after receiving a report from the technical bench.

Some of Simba SC players' contracts are set to end at the end of this season.

The footballers include midfielders Bernard Morrison, Hassan Dilunga, Erasto Nyoni, Mzamiru Yassin, and Said Ndemla who is on loan to Mtibwa Sugar. Defenders Pascal Wawa, Joash Onyango, and Ame Ibrahim, who is also on loan at Mtibwa Sugar, are other footballers.

Goalkeeper Aishi Manula, Rwandan striker, Meddie Kagere, and DRC striker Chris Mugalu conclude the list.

It was previously reported that Onyango had held preliminary talks with Simba bosses but imposed conditions including a salary increase and other benefits.

The Kenyan defender's conditions made the bosses step back to focus on participation in this season's CAF Con-

ederation Cup Group Stage matches.

Kassim said coach Pablo was the person commenting on what kind of player he needs to work with, so it was still too early to mention players to get new contracts.

The official said: "The coach is the one who makes the decisions for his players. We are just doing the implementation."

"Right now our minds are very much on this important tournament which is all about us, and as the NBC Premier League defending champions and Federation Cup champions we have to fight harder."

"After we had finished this tournament I can be free to focus on registration," Dewji stated.

Recently, Simba SC Board of Directors' Chairman Salim Abdallah said they would rope in four international footballers.

It is understood that Simba SC has already signed a footballer from Zambia Moses Phiri who will join it in August, this year.

Simba's plans to rope in Niger's Union Sportive Gendarmerie Nationale's ace Victorien Adebayor are also well underway.

Gymkhana Club now hosts CPS Open tennis tourney

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Fumba Town by CPS Open tennis tournament gets underway at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) courts today with more than 50 players expected to compete in it.

The organizer of the tournament Salum Mwamvita said the tournament is set to end on Saturday.

"All is set for the Fumba Town by CPS Open tennis tournament which gets underway tomorrow (Today). We expect more than 50 players from Moshi, Arusha, Morogoro, and hosts Dar es Salaam to compete in it."

"Winners will be awarded cash prizes, we thank the sponsors for this open tournament," he said.

He said winners in singles and doubles categories will be awarded cash prizes.

Mwamvita said 500,000/- will be presented to the winner in the men's singles category, a runner-up will get 300,000/- and 150,000/- will be presented to players who will reach semi-finals while those who will reach quarterfinals will take home 100,000/- each.

In the women's singles category, the winner will get 350,000/-, runner-up rakes in 200,000/- while in the men's doubles the winner will get 300,000/-

, runner-up gets 200,000/- and 100,000/- will be presented to those who will reach the semi-finals.

This is the second time in a row for CPS to sponsor a tournament they had sponsored the tournament last year.

In the previous interview CPS Chief Executive Director, Sebastian Dietzold, said his company is aimed at giving children an opportunity to showcase their talent.

He said the country has many tennis players but they stay idle, pointing out they need private sector support so that they can play many games.

Dietzold said his company is committed to seeing that the country has a tennis league that will see local players being ranked on International Tennis Federation (ITF) and eventually competing at the Davis Cup.

"CPS is committed to seeing that tennis is played in many parts of the country, we want to have a strong tennis league which can help our players earn ITF ranking and soon play at the Davis Cup but that can be done if the private sector help," he said.

He revealed this year CPS plans to sponsor tennis tournaments in Zanzibar and Arusha, saying this is the first step towards taking tennis to greater heights.

Head coach Pablo Franco has transformed Simba - Gonzalez

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Gonzalez, has said that the club's head coach, Pablo Franco, has transformed it into a competitive side.

The official was adamant the Spanish coach could see Simba SC fulfil its dreams of defending the NBC Premier League and the Azam Sports Federation Cup top honours.

She disclosed Franco moreover has what it takes to help Simba SC hold sway in this season's CAF Confederation Cup.

Simba SC conceded a 3-0 loss to Ivory Coast's ASEC Mimosas in a continental showpiece's tie which took place in Cotonou, Benin last weekend.

Much as Simba experienced the outcome, it is still within reach of progression to the quarterfinals.

Simba players made their back to Dar es Salaam on Wednesday to wait for a tie against Niger side Union Sportive Gendarmerie Nationale to complete Group D of the CAF Confederation Cup.

Despite the blow, Barbara said earlier that Simba SC has undergone significant changes since Pablo joined it.

The Spanis tactician was hired in November last year when Simba sacked Didier Gomes.

Barbara said the changes were evident in the team's participation in Premier League and international matches.

The official said Simba has undergone major technical changes as apart from winning many games, it has been playing interesting football most of the time.

She stated the progress was not in view at the beginning of the season, annoying the team's fans in the process.



Simba SC Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Gonzalez. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Barbara also said Pablo has restored discipline and morale for Simba SC players that are now playing zealously.

The official added every Simba enthusiast aspires to see the team achieve success in every competition and that their opponents therefore must be alert.

"Leaders give players everything, but if they lack the morale to fight for the team it would be a futile task, for that matter Pablo has done a great job," Barbara noted.

"He has restored the competitive environment for every player and there have been times when he has been telling us what kind of players we should have."

Pablo, according to the leader, said clubs that used to take Simba SC for granted are now thinking twice

when they know they are facing it.

The official is adamant she believes the motivation will continue in remaining NBC Premier League matches including their fixture against Yanga to be played on April 30 and the Azam Sports Federation Cup quarterfinal.

"At various times Pablo has been following the players and living with them as his family when they are either in the camp or outside the camp."

"I have been doing regular meetings with him and he has been giving me a report of what he wanted to do in the past, when he succeeded and when there were challenges and how he will improve the program that he will implement next time," Barbara enthused.

"There are improvements and

technical issues that he has been demanding from us and leaders have promised to provide him with everything on time to ensure the team performs well in every competition."

At some point, Barbara said Simba leaders have invested more energy in its matches and see how it will do well regardless of what the opponent has done at the time.

"We are still in the middle of a war, we are keeping on fighting our rivals but at the end of the season leaders will know in what areas Simba has succeeded in all competitions," Barbara, who oversaw the process of bringing Pablo to the country, added.

Simba is sitting second in the NBC Premier League standings, trailing leader Yanga by 11 points.

Music federation members oppose Steve Mengele's appointment

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SOME members of the Tanzania Music Federation, known by its Kiswahili acronym SMT, allegedly involved in the nomination of comedian Steven Mengele as the spokesman for the federation have denied its involvement in the nomination.

The delegates, namely Whitney Sigbjorn and Hip Hop artist, Praygod Kwema, alias 'Bahgdadi', were announced to have taken part in the nomination session for Mengele, alias 'Steve Nyerere'.

Speaking recently, Whitney said the session they sat in was routine and not the one conducted by the SMT board that is issued by official letters set up for reference.

The artist revealed: "I would like to make it clear that the meeting was not a board meeting, I was called

by telephone that there was a regular meeting and one of the agendas was to discuss award issues."

"The other agenda centered on contacting the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports, the members did so by telephone, a conversation that is confidential."

"Even before we left the final agenda was leaked alleging members are seeking to recommend Steve Mengele as the federation spokesman."

"We were first told it was a secret until comments were collected from members on whether they agree with the nomination or not but then Mengele was called by the federation president to inform him that he had been appointed."

"I was shocked to see my fellow leaders call a press conference and announced Steve as the spokesman, I



Tanzanian comedian Steve Mengele alias 'Steve Nyerere'.

did not appear in the session and the emergency hearing of the members' opinions did not happen, as I see what happened is not what we agreed on," Whitney said.

Kwema said the meeting

they held last week was not hosted by the board.

According to the leader he was representing the federation secretary, Anselm Ngaiza, alias 'Soggy Doggy', seeking to convey what was discussed to him.

Kwema disclosed he will continue to uphold justice, insisting if many members of the federation see Mengele as a suitable spokesman he will have no objection to the decision.

World Cup draw seedings skewed by war, pandemic

GENEVA

NEXT week's World Cup draw will have some of its seedings skewed because of Russia's war with Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic.

FIFA outlined the procedure Tuesday for the draw in Qatar on April 1. Only 29 of the 32 teams in the draw will be known by then because of the war and global health crisis.

The three remaining places will be decided in June, one from Europe in matches involving Ukraine and the others from the intercontinental playoffs.

At the draw in Doha, the 29 qualified teams will be put into four pots according to their FIFA ranking, which is based on national team results and will be updated the day before the draw.

Host Qatar is in Pot 1 along with defending champion France, Belgium, Brazil, Argentina, England and Spain. The final top-seeded team will likely be either Italy or Portugal, who are in the same playoff bracket.

Germany, the 2014 World Cup champion, has been ranked outside the top 10 for more than three years and will be in Pot 2.

FIFA resolved the uncertainty around how to seed the three undecided entries by creating placeholder spots in Pot 4. The teams affected could land in a tougher World Cup group than their ranking merits simply because they could not complete their games as originally scheduled.

Besides Ukraine, Wales and Colombia are among the teams that could be affected. Each of the three, if they were to qualify, would likely have been in Pot 3.

Only 15 teams have so far qualified for the World Cup ahead of more games around the world over the next week.

Ukraine was scheduled to play at Scotland on Thursday with the winner advancing to play either Wales or Austria on March 29. Ukraine asked for a postponement because it was not possible for home-based players to train and travel during the Russian invasion.

The pandemic also created a backlog of games, wiping out nearly all national team soccer outside Europe in 2020 and causing the intercontinental playoffs to be delayed.

Those playoffs are scheduled to be played in Qatar on June 13-14. An Asian team will play a South American team, and the Oceania representative will play a team from the North American region.

World Cup draws are balanced to separate teams from the same continent. The 13 European nations will be allocated so that none of the eight groups has more than two teams from that continent.

The World Cup is scheduled to be played from Nov. 21-Dec. 18 in eight stadiums around the Qatari capital of Doha.

AP

Pogba's World Cup medal stolen during burglary

PARIS

FRANCE midfielder Paul Pogba said his World Cup winner's medal was among the items stolen during a burglary at his home last week.

Pogba's house was broken into on March 15 while his children were sleeping, with the incident taking place during Manchester United's Champions League match against Atletico Madrid at Old Trafford.

The 29-year-old won the 2018 World Cup when France beat Croatia in the final in Russia.

"There were jewels from my mother, my world champion medal," Pogba told French newspaper Le Figaro on Tuesday.

"What scared me the most was that my two children were at home with the nanny during this incident.

"She overheard everything, called my wife and security, then locked herself with the boys in a room. For several days, she was shocked. The main thing is that my children are well."

Pogba, who is in the France squad for friendlies against Ivory Coast and South Africa, also opened up about the mental health issues that he has faced during his career, particularly under former Man United boss Jose Mourinho.

"I've had depression in my career, but we don't talk about it," he said.

"Sometimes you don't know who you are, you just want to isolate yourself, be alone. These are unmistakable signs.

"Personally, it started when I was with Jose Mourinho at United. You ask yourself questions, you wonder if you are at fault because you have never experienced these moments in your life.

"All top athletes go through these moments but few talk about it. Inevitably, you will feel it [depression] in your body, in your head, and you may have a month, even a year, where you are not well. But you don't have to say it. In any case publicly.

"We earn a lot of money and we don't complain really, but that doesn't prevent us from going through moments that are more difficult than others, like everyone else in life."

(Agencies)

World Cup playoffs: No Ronaldo, Salah or Italy? What's at stake?

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

CAN you imagine a FIFA World Cup in Qatar without Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo or Egypt's Mohamed Salah? Or a tournament in which European champions Italy or African champions Senegal fail to qualify? Well the bad news for those mentioned, and fans across the globe, is that some of the game's headline acts will see their Qatar 2022 dreams extinguished in the coming days during the World Cup playoffs.

By the end of this international break, seven nations will have booked their place in this year's World Cup through the playoffs. Three more will be confirmed when the Intercontinental playoffs and the culmination of the European path involving Ukraine take place in June.

In Europe, some of the major nations, including Portugal and Italy, are walking a tightrope after failing to top their qualification groups. And in Africa, five head-to-head ties over two legs will see some of the continent's traditional powerhouse countries miss out.

It promises to be a tense and dramatic round of playoffs in Europe and Africa, so here's your guide as to how it will all play out.

*How it works

In Europe, the 10 runners-up from the group stage, plus the two highest-placed teams in the 2021 Nations League who failed to achieve a top-two group finish (Austria and Czech Republic), have been drawn into three separate playoff paths.

Each path has four teams, with two one-legged semifinals feeding into a one-off final. The seeded team is at home in the semifinal and a draw has already taken place to decide who has home advantage in the final.

So there is no margin for error. It's one game, in both the semis and the final, to decide who qualifies.

Path A involves Wales vs. Austria in Cardiff (Thursday, 2.45 p.m. ET, stream live on ESPN+) and Scotland vs. Ukraine in Glasgow, meeting to set up a final in Cardiff or Vienna. However, the conflict in Ukraine means this path will not be concluded during this international break.

Path B was due to be Russia vs. Poland in Moscow and Sweden vs. Czech Republic in Stockholm (Thursday, 2.45 p.m. ET, stream live on ESPN+), feeding into a final held in either Moscow or Chorzow, but Russia's invasion of Ukraine has led to FIFA kicking the 2018 World Cup hosts out of the competition. Poland get a bye.

Path C is the real show-stopper, with Portugal vs. Turkey in Porto (Thursday, 2.45 p.m. ET, stream live on ESPN2) and Italy vs. North Macedonia in Palermo (Thursday, 2.45 p.m. ET, stream live on ESPN+) potentially setting up a clash between Portugal and Italy in Porto for a place at the World Cup. Turkey will play Italy or North Macedonia in Konya if they beat Portugal on Thursday.

In Africa, there is slightly more breathing room for the teams involved, with five separate ties being played over two legs. But some of Africa's biggest teams and stars will miss out, with the winners of each tie qualifying for Qatar.

Here's the draw:
DR Congo vs. Morocco (Friday, 10 a.m. ET, stream



One of Sadio Mane or Mohamed Salah won't be at Qatar 2022. (Agencies)

live on ESPN+)

Cameroon vs. Algeria (Friday, 12 p.m. ET, stream live on ESPN+)

Mali vs. Tunisia (Friday, 12 p.m. ET, stream live on ESPN+)

Egypt vs. Senegal (Friday, 2.30 p.m. ET, stream live on ESPN+)

Ghana vs. Nigeria (Friday, 2.30 p.m. ET, stream live on ESPN+)

*How has the war in Ukraine impacted the World Cup playoffs?

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine last month, FIFA suspended Russia from all competitive football. The Russian Football Union (RFU) appealed against the decision at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), but that was rejected on March 15.

Prior to Russia being kicked out of the playoffs, the national associations of Poland, Sweden and the Czech Republic -- Russia's Path B rivals -- all issued statements insisting they would not play any game against the Russians.

Poland have now been given a bye to the Path B final and will face either Sweden or the Czechs at Slaski Stadium in Chorzow on March 29.

In Path A, the Ukrainian Association of Football (UAF) requested a postponement of their playoff against Scotland. More than half of the Ukraine squad play their football in the country, so the majority of their players are unable to leave or prepare for a World Cup playoff.

FIFA has sanctioned the postponement, and although no date has been confirmed for the Scotland-Ukraine game to be rescheduled, sources have told ESPN that it is hoped the fixture may be played in June. However, if the conflict continues, FIFA faces a tough decision in terms of a cut-off point for Path A to be concluded.

The other semifinal between Wales and Austria will take place in Cardiff on Thursday, with the winners then playing a home tie against Scotland or Ukraine in the final at a time and date to be decided.

*Who are the big names who could miss out in Europe?

One of the last two European champions won't make it. Thanks to Portugal and Italy being drawn in the same path, one of the biggest names in world football won't qualify for Qatar.

Failure to qualify would be disastrous for Italy. The four-time World Cup winners missed out in 2018

after losing a two-legged playoff against Sweden, but they now risk the same fate less than 12 months after beating England in the Euro 2020 final.

A 90th-minute penalty miss by Jorginho against Switzerland in Rome last November cost the Italians top spot in Group C and has now left the Azzurri needing to beat North Macedonia before a one-off final against Portugal or Turkey for a place in Qatar.

It's also possible there will be no World Cup swan song for Cristiano Ronaldo in Qatar. The 37-year-old, the all-time leading goal scorer in men's international football, has said he will retire from international duty after the World Cup, but he may not get that far. But for a 90th-minute goal for Serbia scored by Aleksandar Mitrovic in a 2-1 win in Lisbon last November, Portugal would have avoided the playoffs and qualified as group winners. Now the Euro 2016 winners face two tough games to qualify.

In Path B, 40-year-old Zlatan Ibrahimovic is back in the Sweden squad

and aiming to make it to Qatar after missing the 2018 competition. But if the AC Milan forward gets there, it will mean no World Cup for Bayern's Robert Lewandowski, whose Poland team await the winners of Sweden vs. the Czech Republic in the final after their bye against Russia. So we could be set for a Lewandowski vs. Ibrahimovic showdown in Chorzow on March 29.

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) performed the draw for the African playoff route on Jan. 22, which was the midway point of the 2022 Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon. As a result, the seeded draw was based on the FIFA World Ranking prior to the tournament, with the five highest-ranked teams in one pot and the remaining teams in the other.

The downside to that decision has been borne out in the playoff draw, which will see the two AFCON finalists -- Senegal and Egypt -- meeting for a place at the 2022 World Cup. If CAF had done the draw after the tournament, Egypt would have been among the top seeds and Africa would not

have been faced with two of its best teams battling it out for one place in Qatar.

But aside from one of Africa's best two teams missing out, we also face either Sadio Mane or Mohamed Salah failing to qualify for the World Cup. Mane and Salah are two of the biggest, if not THE biggest, stars in African football. They are also stellar names in the Premier League and Champions Leagues following their goal-scoring feats with Liverpool. But one of them will be spending November and December at home while the World Cup plays out.

Cameroon vs. Algeria will see one World Cup regular qualify at the expense of another, while two of the traditional giants of African football, Ghana and Nigeria, will also play for one spot.

*Are there any other playoffs?

Qatar is staging a four-team playoff between March 27-30 to decide the team which goes through to the Intercontinental playoffs from the Oceania (OFC) region.

However, an outbreak of COVID-19 infections forced Vanuatu to withdraw from the qualifiers over the weekend and the Cook Islands have also revealed a number of positive results, so the Solomon Islands and Tahiti are expected to progress by default and face New Zealand and Fiji in Qatar this week. The winner of the Oceania playoffs will then face the fourth-placed team in North America (CONCACAF) in Qatar on June 13-14 for a place at the World Cup.

The fourth-placed team in Asia (AFC) will face the fifth-placed team in South America (CONMEBOL) for one qualification spot in Doha on June 13-14. Ahead of the final round of qualifiers, the AFC team will be either Australia or the United Arab Emirates, to play against Peru from CONMEBOL.

***When is the World Cup draw?**
It's closer than you think. The draw for the group stage of Qatar 2022 will be on April 1 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center at 7 p.m. local time (4 p.m. GMT / 11 a.m. ET).

Thirty-two nations will be drawn into eight groups of four and the draw will be seeded based on the FIFA World Ranking. Those teams involved in playoffs in June will be assigned groups on a qualifier TBC basis.

Teams from the same continental confederation, other than UEFA, cannot be paired together in the same group. A maximum of two UEFA nations can be placed in the same group.

The 2022 World Cup starts on Nov. 21, with hosts Qatar playing the opening game at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor. The final will be staged at the Lusail Stadium, Doha, on Dec. 18.



Cristiano Ronaldo is one of the biggest names in soccer who could miss out on the tournament. (Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Prisons plan to survive relegation to Championship

SPORT

World Cup playoffs: No Ronaldo, Salah or Italy? What's at stake?

PAGE 19



Prisons' midfielder, Athanas Mdamu (L), dispossesses a Mtibwa Sugar forward as the clubs locked horns in a recent Premier League match that took place in Mbeya. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA Prisons remain stranded in the 2021/22 NBC Premier League relegation zone but head coach Patrick Odhiambo is adamant that they will not go down at the end of the season.

The Mbeya side has been in freefall since the start of the end of last year and is staring at a return to the Championship.

They have not won any of their last seven league matches,

with five losses and two draws since they beat Kagera Sugar 1-0 in December.

Last week they lost 2-1 away to Biashara United at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza to stay bottom of the league table.

They have collected just 13 points from 18 matches and

are now six points adrift of relegation playoff candidates Mtibwa Sugar and Biashara United.

With 12 matches to play, there is not much room for error as the season draws nearer to an end.

Pressure is increasing on Prisons, but coach Odhiambo

is backing his side and called for calm. He said he will make sure the club is not relegated.

Odhiambo, who began the season with Biashara United, replaced Salum Mayanga in January and has overseen five losses to Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, Azam FC, Simba SC, Ruvo Shooting, and Biashara

United, and draws with Mtibwa Sugar and Mbeya City FC.

"After a short break, we are back in training. Apart from two or three players who have minor injuries, we have a full house. We are working on our areas of mistakes, trying to correct the mistakes that we have identified. We are working hard as a team to improve on areas that have exposed us in the past few games."

"We are doing this as a unit, more so in areas that exposed us in our previous game against Biashara United. It has been a difficult season for Prisons but we will overcome our current situation. We hope and have a belief that we will work things around and change everything. We believe we will do something in the remaining matches."

Prisons will be back in action in April, when they host a fellow outfit, Dodoma Jiji FC, at Sokoine Stadium.

They must still play Simba, Azam FC, and Young Africans while remaining home fixtures against Coastal Union, Geita Gold FC, Polisi Tanzania, and Kagera Sugar could prove pivotal.

Aga Khan SC edges Aruti Aces in Sisi Cup Division A tourney thriller

By Guardian Reporter

AGA Khan SC has kept on seeking to hold on to its place in Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Sisi Cup 50 Overs Division A, cruising to hard-fought two-run victory over Aruti Aces Cricket Club in a pulsating duel which took place recently.

Experienced cricketer Abhik Patwa was impressive with the bat, seeing to it Aga Khan SC wades off Aruti Aces Cricket Club's challenge and garner the crucial win.

Aga Khan SC was missing promising cricketers, Arshaan Jasani and his younger brother Aahil Jasani that have moved abroad for studies.

The domestic cricket giant, therefore, had to bank on key players including Vipin Abraham, Harsheed Chohan, and Patwa, to contain Aruti Aces Cricket Club.

Aga Khan SC notched 159 runs all out in 37 overs of the 50-over match once the cricketers had the opportunity to bat first in the tie, which took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club oval.

They experienced an early scare which was brought about by the dismissal of opener Dhruvit Mehta, making his way back to the pavilion with one run.

The fellow opener Patwa made the most of his experience to pile runs for Aga Khan SC, ending with 74 runs and blasting seven fours and a six.

Patwa had pushed Aga Khan SC's total to 146 runs after 32.5 overs once the cricketer was dismissed by Aruti Aces Cricket Club's Hamza Ally.

The club's efforts to notch an imposing total faced setback given there were two more early dismissals, which left the club reeling at 31 runs after 10.5 overs with three wickets taken.

Key performer Riziki Kiseto sought to see to it Aga Khan SC gets hold of stability given he posted 25 runs which



Aga Khan SC's batsman, Abhik Patwa (C), executes a shot when the squad confronted Caravans Cricket Club in a recent Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament's clash which took place in October. Patwa guided his club to a win over Aruti Aces Cricket Club in this season's DC Sisi Cup Division A showdown tie which took place recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

included two fours.

Middle order batsman Harsheed Chohan made his way back with a two-digit figure given the cricketer posted 18 runs.

Failure by remaining batsmen to make their presence count proved costly, as Aga Khan SC had to settle for 159 runs.

Aruti Aces Cricket Club's performer Mohammad Ali led his club's bowling onslaught given the performer notched three wickets, giving away 23 runs in nine overs.

Youthful bowler, Jeremiah Makanya, and medium-pacer Salum Jumbe made matters worse for Aga Khan SC batsmen, ending with two wickets apiece.

Needing 160 runs to grab victory, Aruti Aces Cricket Club batted zealously but

ended up faltering with three runs needed from two deliveries to register the victory.

Aruti Aces Cricket Club's senior performer, Ayaz Mustafa, led the fightback as the player posted 75 runs, cracking five boundaries.

His batting virtuosity unfortunately could not catapult his club to a successful chase.

The squad's chase experienced a wobble early on given the openers Mohammad Ali and Ankit Baghel made their way back to the pavilion in quick succession.

There was yet more blow in the form of an early exit of key performer Ejaz Aziz that was five runs short two-digit figure.

It was down to Mustafa to steady the ship and his contribution came in handy,

pushing Aruti Aces Cricket Club's total to a three-digit figure.

Mustafa propelled Aruti Aces Cricket Club to 154 runs after 48.5 overs, with nine wickets taken, by the time he was dismissed by Aga Khan SC's Vishal Patel.

Makanya saw to it he too chips with a significant contribution at the crease, notching 17 runs.

Youthful cricketer, Acrey Pascal, Jumbe, and skipper Ally Mpeka were the others with two-digit figures, as the players scored 10 runs, 11 runs, and 20 runs respectively.

Aga Khan SC is now sitting fourth in the six-team showdown's standing, following the hard-fought victory.

Aruti Aces Cricket Club is still positioned third, much as it suffered the loss.

National athletics team head coach impressed by 2022 Commonwealth Games preps

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadonda

NATIONAL athletics team's head coach Suleiman Nyambui has said he is happy with the response he is getting from his charges who are preparing for the 2022 Commonwealth Games set for Birmingham, England.

In an interview that took place yesterday, Nyambui said the camp will help him prepare athletes for Commonwealth Games, Africa Championships, and other tournaments.

He said currently he is conducting training that is aimed at conditioning, then next month he will shift to other programs.

He said next month he will try to get the services of the athletes' psychologist to prepare the athletes psychologically.

"The camp is going on very well, the athletes are very keen and enthusiastic, we thank the government for the support it is rendering to the team," he said.

The athletes who are in camp are Andrew Rhobi, Alphonce Simbu, Gabriel Geay, Failuna Abdi, Jackeline Sakilu, Faraja Lazaro, Fabian Nelson, Josephat Gisemo, and Joseph Panga.

Others are Simon Merandya, Mohamed Charles, Ally Gulam, Winfrida Makenji, Marcelina Mbua, and Natalia Elisante and Nyambui is assisted by Kassim Saleh and Anthony Mwingereza.

Luiza John is the national athletics team manager, assisted by Oswald Reverian.

The 2022 Commonwealth Games, officially known as the XXII Commonwealth Games and commonly known as Birmingham 2022, will see 5 054 athletes from 72 Commonwealth nations participating in 283 events from 20 sports codes under the theme Games for All in Birmingham.

Meanwhile, the Confederation of African Athletics has announced that this year's African Championships will be held in Mauritius from June 8-12.

Forty-two out of Africa's 54 countries have confirmed their participation at the event to be held at the National Sports Complex of Côte d'Or, according to a statement from CAA and the organizing committee.

The statement read: "The organizing committee is still waiting to know if the remaining countries will show up in June. They have until May to confirm their participation."

Initially, the continental competition was supposed to be held in Algeria last year but it was postponed due to Covid-19.

However, Athletics Tanzania (AT) through its Information Officer Stephen Rogath could not be reached when The Guardian wanted to know from him if the country will send athletes to the championships.

Nyambui recently announced that he will encourage his athletes to look for international events, saying they will keep the athletes psychologically ready for the Commonwealth Games.

Commonwealth Games constitute 45 events, including men's hurdles, decathlon, high jump, pole vault, long jump, triple jump, shot put, hammer throw, and javelin.

Others are women's hurdles, heptathlon, high jump, pole vault, long jump, triple jump, shot put, discus.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

PEOPLE WHO FRAME OTHERS MALICIOUSLY SHOULD BE PROSECUTED....

