



National Pg 3 Samia for better Lake Tanganyika ports



National Pg 4 Kafulila urges LGAs on PPP projects



National Pg 6 Govt pledges better health services



Govt earns 6bn/- NBC share dividend payout

By Guardian Reporter

NBC Bank yesterday handed the government a total of 6bn/- as dividend for the year 2022 arising from its 30 per cent shares in the bank.

Nehemiah Mchechu (pictured), the Treasury registrar, said at the handover event in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the dividend reflects the bank's strong performance for 2022.

"The government is gratified with the enhanced performance of NBC Bank. As shareholders, we are pleased to see our investments paying off," he said, noting that the 6bn/- dividend will boost the collections basket, for strategic projects and other needs. "This is highly recommendable," he stated.

Dr Elirehema Doriye, the board chairman, commented that the trajectory and performance of the bank reflects the trust customers have in the bank.

"We are happy to stay on course in our mission to attain our key targets in expanding our footprints and investing in technology to enhance our customers' experience," he stated, elaborating that pre-tax profit grew by 36 per cent to 81.9bn/- from 60bn/- in December 2021.



Ten more branches countrywide are expected in the near future

The profit growth allowed the bank to offer 20bn/- as dividends to shareholders, with the government earning 6bn/- as dividend, he stated, projecting a promising future delivering the best experience to customers and unmatched values for shareholders.

Theobald Sabi, the managing director, praised the government for efforts to create a conducive environment for financial institutions to thrive.

"The bank's performance reflects an ideal business environment that allowed us to reach our customers conveniently. We will continue to invest in technology, expand our footprints and improve our processes to meet and exceed our customers' expectations," he said.

The bank donated 1.1bn/- for community initiatives last year, raising 200m/- at the NBC Dodoma Marathon 2022 to support cervical cancer treatment services.

Five new branches were added last year with the agency network expanding by 82 percent from 5,121 to 9,525 outlets.

Ten more branches countrywide are expected in the near future, he stated, reminding the audience that the bank is the main sponsor of the Tanzania Premier League soccer tournament.

The NBC Premier League creates employment and supports empowerment and financial inclusion of the youth countrywide, he added.

Kariakoo stoppage: PM forms 14-member team



Hundreds upon hundreds of traders with businesses in Dar es Salaam's Kariakoo International Market zone follow proceedings as Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addressed them at the city's Mnazi Mmoja grounds yesterday afternoon seeking to end an "indefinite" strike they had staged on Monday in protest against hikes in various taxes and levies as well as allegedly untoward treatment by some tax collectors. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government has formed a 14-member team to work on the grievances underlying a three-day shutdown of shops at the Kariakoo International Market complex in Dar es Salaam.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa presided over the formation of the team, naming key officials from the ministries and agencies involved, and the traders picked own representatives whom the premier listed and they were all presented before the public.

This followed the airing of extensive grievances on tax collection methods and procedures for clearing freight and storage tax claims at Mnazi Mmoja grounds, at the meeting which took up most of the afternoon, to end a business paralysis lasting for three days.

The premier directed the Treasury to work on regulations that impede the smooth conduct of business, emphasising on the status of the market as an international trading hub that must be enabled to thrive.

He directed a stop to newly introduced taxation regulations which the traders were objecting, until a review is carried out by the team.

"All consignments of goods seized as a result of the new regulations should be released to owners in a transparent manner to ensure that there is orderly conduct," he directed.

The 14-member team fields seven traders and seven state officials, given 14 days where the traders' team will visit various cities and



The new rules are a problem to traders...

border points to collect data and views on what needs to be put right.

The PMO permanent secretary and the Treasury deputy permanent secretary are key members of the team, the premier specified, identifying also the Trade and Industries permanent secretary, along with the domestic revenue commissioner at the revenue authority (TRA). The city regional administrative secretary was similarly assigned to the team.

The premier met the traders on Monday at the shutdown zone and promised to meet the traders yesterday, while appealing for an end to the trade shutdown.

The government wishes to facilitate business and ensure that the Kariakoo market maintains and widens its regional position as a trading hub.

Among those who spoke at the meeting, many talked of being disturbed by recent regulations that the TRA introduced on delivery, storage and removal of consignments from the port to storage facilities within the precincts of Kariakoo market.

The service levy which TRA introduced should be removed and only goods and services be taxed, not people who sell products, a contri butor demanded, as the premier gave the floor to a selected number of traders to air grievances on what they want to see rectified.

Omary Mkombe, a trader, said the new tax rules were denying the traders the right to be heard including being consulted on the kind of taxes being introduced and others to be erased.

"The new rules are a problem to traders," he said, intimating that the rules amount

MPs for inclusive plans on teachers

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

ACUTE shortage of teachers in primary and secondary schools countrywide took centre stage in the National Assembly yesterday, legislators demanding that the government come up with an urgent action plan to sort out the crisis.

The matter needs to be resolved as part of education reform, the reviewing of the country's education and training policy, along with the relevant laws and curricula to align with current national and global needs.

Debating estimates for Education, Science and Technology portfolio, the MPs said major achievements had been registered in reforming education but the shortage of teachers must end for quality education to



We cannot hire enough teachers at one time but hiring part time teachers will help address the challenge

be assured.

Husna Sekiboko (Special Seats) praised the government for having taken drastic measures to tame worrying trends in the provision of education. The reforms will make those completing compulsory education be old enough to undertake some form of income generating work effectively.

She raised concern over an acute shortage of teachers in public schools as the situation impedes effectiveness of teaching and learning. This occasions mass failures in primary and secondary schools, widening the crisis of employment, she stated.

Hawa Chakoma (Special Seats) urged the government to start hiring teachers on a volunteer basis, to cover the gap of 160,000 teachers needed in schools.

Guidelines are needed for volunteer teachers, she stated, describing the shortage of teachers as a disaster. "We cannot hire enough teachers at one time but hiring part time teachers will help address the challenge," she said.

Mwita Waitara, (Tarime Urban), said

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Tegeta-Bagamoyo BRT works start next month

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

CONSTRUCTION works for Phase IV of the Dar Rapid Transit (DART) is slated to start next month, eventually easing traffic flow along the Tegeta-Bagamoyo Road.

The works start in the city centre, from Mnazi Mmoja bus station at the Bibi Titi Mohamed Street, Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road and Bagamoyo Road to Tegeta and Boko, extending to Sam Nujoma Road, at a total length of 30.1 kilometers.

Dr Eliphas Mollé (pictured), DART acting chief executive officer, made this projection



at a capacity building workshop for journalists from various media, expressing the hope that congestion challenges in the city will have been resolved by 2030.

The project connects with infrastructure built during earlier phases, chiefly phase I, for the Gerezani, Kivukoni and Morocco terminals, as well as Kimara and Mbezi along Morogoro Road.

Earlier, the government secured a 570.6bn/- (\$248.1m) loan from the World Bank for the execution of BRT Phase III and IV, where phase III involves the works on a 23.6km road from Gongolamboto to city centre, along Nyerere Road, and a section of Uhuru Road from Tazara to Kariakoo-Gerezani, he said.

The government received \$148.1m for Phase III works and \$99.9m for Phase

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Kariakoo stoppage: PM forms 14-member team

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to double taxation and a threat to business, especially the storage tax lately introduced.

Another trader said TRA officials follow traders to their houses in collecting taxes, thus creating room for corruption.

The traders' association secretary general referred to long term complaints on the withholding tax. He also demanded clarification on the tax audit of past arrears which the president directed that it be stopped, but TRA officials dismiss

the directive as politics, not backed by written instructions.

Mussa Hassan Zungu, the deputy speaker at the National Assembly called upon the traders to open their shops as the government was taking their concerns and working on them directly.

Hundreds of merchants operating in Kariakoo, the wholesale shopping zone, on Monday closed their businesses and staged a peaceful protest against high taxes and suffocating regulations imposed by TRA.

Tegeta-Bagamoyo BRT works start next month

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IV, he said, noting that DART infrastructure is slated to reach 154.4km of special trunk lanes set out in six phases to be completed.

DART operations took off in May 2016 with phase one completion, with Phase II works still in progress. The DART executive said Phase II works currently stand at over 80 percent, scheduled for completion later this year, he said.

A total of 755 buses will be needed to carry a daily ridership of 650,000 estimated passengers daily, he said, underlining that the numbers indicate the overnight impact the project is billed to have in city life.

Expanding DART operations the potential to reduce illnesses related to air pollution, with Mohamed

Kuganda, a DART executive, saying the government expects to upwards of 154.4 km in trunk lane network by 2030.

A Chinese contractor is next month expected to commence works on Phase IV of the project, from Kivukoni to Tegeta, a 30km stretch, in view of completion set for late 2025.

Deogratius Ndejemi, the Regional Administration and Local Governments deputy state minister at the President's Office (PO-RALG), lauded the training to session as it enables media practitioners to keep abreast with the vital project.

There are misconceptions on the project, so training journalists is helpful to improve reporting about the project, he added.

Dodoma farmers urged to embark on commercial crop market research

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

FARMERS in the country have been challenged to conduct market research for commercial crops before planting in order to get rid of the accumulation of one product in the market, the situation which has been causing many crops to be damaged in the field due to lack of buyers.

The helpful call was made by Dodoma regional assistant administrative secretary for Investment, Industry and Trade Aziza Mumba, in her remarks to open a ten-day training towards the agricultural officers at villages, wards and councils across Dodoma region.

The timely training has been facilitated by the Development and Aid Organisation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (ADRA) through its agriculture and marketing project (AGILE).

In her remarks, Mumba observed that the reliable market for agricultural produce was still a major problem among most of the farmers in the country, the poor situation she expressed should timely be addressed through educating the farmers over crop market survey as well as prices.

"Many farmers grow their crops without doing enough research on what the market needs and at what time, hence causing many of them to suffer losses due to the accumulation of the same type of crops in the market, exacerbating to a large amount of crops to rot in the field due to lack of enough purchasers" she observed.

She insisted that it was a proper time for the farmers to change their production attitudes and systems by starting first to conduct crop market surveys and then return to the farm to grow crops that will automatically attract huge buyers in the market and thus, heighten their livelihoods, and the national economy as a whole.

"Crops production should always begin with market survey, the farmers must study and realise what types of economic cash crops are highly needed in the local and international markets before going on to produce," she urged.

She challenged the participants of the training to make sober use of

the platform to hatch and acquire profitable inputs to assist the farmers in their areas of jurisdiction to start inculcating the much-needed tendency of studying market trends for the diverse crops that thriving in abundant in their areas.

"We are grateful for this training to our agricultural experts at the village, ward and council levels and we hope this training will help to eliminate the problem of farmers cultivating crops that fetches poor purchasers in the market," she noted.

Likewise, she asked the farmers to change their attitudes in order to grow crops based on market needs and to increase the value of their crops in order to overcome the problem of spoilage in the fields.

Sabato Airo, the Agriculture and Marketing Project Officer from ADRA Corporation, said the project was expected to reach out to more than 500 small farmers in Chamwino districts and Dodoma city council.

He unveiled that the robust project was being implemented in the two districts of Chamwino and Dodoma city council whereby at least 20 groups of farmers are expected to be imparted with the useful agriculture and marketing knowledge.

Among the vital economic cash crops that flourishes well in the region include sorghum, groundnuts, grapes, sunflower and cashew, to mention but a few.



Crops production should always begin with market survey, the farmers must study and realise what types of economic cash crops are highly needed in the local and international markets before going on to produce



Treasury Registrar Nehemiah Mchechu (C) receives a dummy cheque worth 6bn/- from the NBC Bank managing director, Theobald Sabi (L) as dividend for the year 2022. The government owns 30 per cent of the bank's shares. Looking on is the bank's chairman of the Board of Directors, Dr Elirehema Doriye (2nd L) and other senior officers from the Treasury Registrar's Office. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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the ongoing reforms in education must include creating syllabuses reflecting opportunities in specific areas like agriculture, mining, crop processing or any others.

He aired the view that mass failures in national examinations arise from acute shortage of competent teachers. This should be addressed immediately to push education sector development, he emphasised.

Neema Lugangira (Special Seats) appreciated government efforts in improving the provision of education, pointing at the lack of meal provision of food at school as an impediment.

Spending the whole day without food affects children's learning ability, which requires urgent

MPs for inclusive plans on teachers

measures to ensure that the matter is resolved, she said.

Perennial complaints each year on mass failures fail to take note that it is MPs who contribute to the problem for not instituting legislation on school feeding, she told the House.

She aired the need for investing in the provision of food and nutrition for school children, for learning to realise its goals.

Strongly supervised guidelines are needed to ensure that children get meals at school. This needs to be reflected in the ministry's estimates, she stated.

Jumanne Kishimba (Kahama Urban) asked the government to formulate guidelines where rural

schools can facilitate children to engage in economic activities.

"During the farming season, children should be given permission to join parents in the field as this will increase production as well as equip the children with farming techniques," he stated.

He similarly asked for regulations permitting school girls who get pregnant to be allowed to get married and continue with schooling.

"We should not punish a man to 30 years in jail for making a school girl pregnant but such couples should be enabled to wed where the girl can then continue with studies," he intimated.

Prof Palamagamba Kabudi

(Kilosa) commended the government's plans to reform the education sector, reviewing the Tanzania Education and Training Policy of 2014, highlighting Standard Six upper limit for primary education and the focus on vocational training.

Community development colleges must be increased to produce many skilled school leavers to help stimulate development in rural and urban areas, he said.

Establishing outreach programmes to reach the wider public needing innovative short-courses to address various challenges facing individuals and entrepreneurs would pay dividends, he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi presses a button to launch youth capacity building programme for self-employment and in the blue economy sector in Unguja yesterday. Looking on are AfDB resident representative Patricia N. Laverley (2nd R), Zanzibar Education and Vocational Training minister Lela Mohamed Mussa and CCM deputy secretary general (Zanzibar) Dr Mohammed Said Dimwa. Photo: State House

Bee keepers set to convene in Singida to observe this year's World Bee Day

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE government has challenged all stakeholders in the beekeeping sector to turn out in multitude to observe this year's World Bee Day, the vital event for the metamorphosis of the apiculture sector in the country.

Drafted from May 18 to 21 in Singida region, the envisaged event will serve as a crucial podium for the government to team up with the potential stakeholders in the beekeeping sector to hatch and set viable measures for the development of the key economic sector in the country.

Acting Assistant Director of

Beekeeping Development from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Daniel Pancras, yesterday told this publication that among others, the four-day event will be used to raise awareness over the importance of adopting pollinator-friendly agricultural production practices to protect bees and other pollinators, while contributing to the resilience, sustainability and efficiency of agrifood systems.

"We are cooperating with the office of the Regional Commissioner of Singida to organise the World Bee Day celebration, whereby in Tanzania, its peak has been slated for May 20 of every year, but as a country, this celebration will start

from May 18 to May 21," he said.

To be held under the theme of 'Let's protect the bees for the safety of the environment and food' he noted that the event is projected to bear fruitful results for the stakeholders of the forestry and beekeeping sectors in the country.

Giving more details, director Pancras added that there will be various topics that will be discussed, including looking at the best way to care for and process bee products, saying various stakeholders have already confirmed their participation.

On his part, the Assistant Administrative Secretary for the Economy of the Singida Region,

Stanslaus Choaji said that the preparations for the celebration continue to take good shape while asking the people of the region to come out in large numbers.

World Bee Day is observed across the world on May 20. On this day, beekeeping events are held to educate the general public about the importance of bees and beekeeping.

There is a special emphasis on the role of bees as pollinators and how they help to revive forest cover. Because the bee population is under threat, World Bee Day informs us how to protect bees and others.

Statistics shows that Tanzania stands 14th country for beekeeping in the world and 2nd in Africa with an estimated to capacity of producing at least 138,000 tons of honey and 9,200 tons of beeswax per year.



Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute nursing officer Ansila Makoi examines blood pressure to Manyara resident Tatu Isango who attended a five - day special camp held at Manyara Region referral hospital. The event was organised by JKCI specialists in collaboration with Mongar Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH) recently. Photo: JKCI

Samia's directives bear fruit in Lake Tanganyika ports

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan's directives of improving Lake Tanganyika port have started bearing fruit by reducing bureaucracy as well as bolstering infrastructure in the region's ports.

In her state visits last October, President Samia wanted responsible authorities to work hard and resolve challenges facing the ports in the lake that borders Zambia, DR Congo and Burundi.

Traders and cargo transporters to DR Congo and Burundi unveiled this yesterday when speaking here with journalists on the improvements of the ports in the Africa's deepest lake since the directives made by President Samia.

They admitted that cargoes are unloaded on time and transported without any challenges, which stimulates economic development.

One of the traders and transporters of salt and juices to DR Congo said that the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has been repairing infrastructure that was thwarting goods' transportation.

Julienne Mutabihirima, director of Shengena company based in Kibirizi port said that the improvements in the port have reduced the time to unload cargoes where they are currently unloading 400 tonnes in just three hours.

Shipping agent, Mbaraka Said asked the government to improve railway transport in order to reduce costs incurred when transporting goods using the road from Kigoma region to DR Congo, Burundi and Zambia.

Lake Tanganyika Ports Manager

Edward Mabula admitted that the removal of some workers is one of the reasons that improved port services and that the workers have increased from 54 to 67 while half of the former workers have been replaced.

Mabula said that the government expects to start repairing the area of the passenger building and the entrance ways to the port under the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) funding.

He said that among the improved infrastructure and equipment purchased to improve performance in the port, there is the construction of two large warehouses, cargo unloading equipment and new electrical machines.

Mabula has admitted that the step to improve the infrastructure has enabled the port to bring in 500m/- per month and make the port a leader in terms of income compared to other ports and have the ability to serve 500,000 tonnes of cargo per year to meet the needs of large customers.

"In order to reduce transportation challenges, the port needs the presence of 50 wagons, but now there are 8-10 wagons that arrive in Kigoma region, this situation creates a challenge for the transporters because the cargo is late in arriving, it takes between 30 to 45 days to deliver the cargo to Kigoma and it arrives little by little which brings difficulty for traders to hire ships," said Mabula.

Head of the Kigoma railway station, Ally Shante, said the government is on a plan to repair 600 wagons in order to remove the existing challenge and boost the businessmen's economy.

JKCI to extend services to neighbouring countries

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) has said that it will continue to provide heart treatment services to neighbouring countries so that the service can reach more people and save their lives.

The promise was made yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the Executive Director of the Institute, Dr. Peter Kisenge, during a short ceremony to congratulate the cardiologists who went to provide testing and treatment services at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Malawi.

Dr Kisenge said the Institute has been receiving patients from East and Central African countries including Malawi but due to the need for specialist of cardiac treatment services in this country they thought it would be better to organize a camp for cardiac testing and treatment and decided to send

JKCI experts to provide services for the people of Malawi.

"I am grateful to the former Ambassador of Malawi, Humphrey Polepole who came and asked us to provide specialist medical services in the country as there is a great need for such services and he chose our Institute because it provides excellent cardiac treatment services in this country and in other countries East and Central Africa," he said.

"After the experts of our Institute went to provide services in Malawi, it was seen that there are many patients who need to get specialist heart treatment services because these services are not available in Malawi, so it is an opportunity for Tanzania to provide services in Malawi and in neighboring countries that do not have such services," he said.

He said that the patients after being examined were referred to come and be treated at JKCI which

is closer to Malawi compared to other countries and that their coming here will increase income and we will also be an opportunity to advertise medical tourism which is the direction and vision of Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The Executive Director, who is also a cardiologist, said despite going to Malawi to provide cardiac treatment services, they are currently coordinating and preparing cardiac treatment camps so that they can go to provide services in Rwanda, Burundi, Congo DRC and the Comoro Islands because by doing so they will be able to reach more people who need such services.

The Director of Surgery at JKCI who was the head of the delegation of professionals who went to provide services in Malawi Dr. Angela Muhozya, said the patients they attended were in need of specialist heart treatment services.

Dr Angela said that while in

Malawi, they provided medical services to children and adults where most of the patients had problems with high blood pressure, heart valves and heart blood vessels failing to pass in blood properly.

A Cardiology Specialist for children, Stella Mongela said that many of the children they attended had congenital heart problems which are holes and blood vessels and some had infectious heart diseases which are Valves heart failure to function properly.

"Many children had congenital heart problems that even the children here at home have, the difference is that here we have specialist medical services but there are no such services in Malawi and therefore the patients cannot get services on time", said Dr. Stella.

Dr. Stella commended government for having a heart institute with modern medical equipment and enough professionals.

Kafulila directs local councils to implement projects through PPP

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

ALL districts nationwide have been advised to begin implementing projects that are economically viable through the Public-Private Partnership initiative in order to speed up their implementation.

The PPP Commissioner, David Kafulila gave the advice here on Tuesday when opening a training seminar on partnership to district officials of Mbeya Region.

The training involved District Council directors, economists, procurement officers, engineers and other officials from various financial institutions.

Kafulila said many district council projects experience delays due to budget constraints from the Treasury, even necessitating some of the projects to be cancelled.

In the circumstances, he said the only way is to involve the private sector in joint venture initiatives. "The PPP system is used worldwide and is good because it speeds up projects implementation, and the projects that can be implemented through this system include the construction of markets, bus stands and other profitable projects," he said.

He called upon the country's financial institutions to participate in providing education to stakeholders on the benefits from PPP as

well as urging them to participate in the projects.

A cross section of seminar participants said the PPP system was good as it speeds up projects' implementation.

Acting Mbeya City economist, Cosmas Kyovecho said if they implement projects via the system it will be easy to access to funds in time.

He said projects implemented by funds from the Treasury alone often experience delays. "We in Mbeya City have already started implementing projects using the PPP system, we have already obtained a partner for the construction of an investment projects at the City Park that is expected to cost more than 5bn/-," he said.

Meanwhile, Mbeya District Executive Director, Stephen Katemba said after the training seminar, he discovered that there are huge opportunities in his district to implement such projects.

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'Government has removed expiry date on national IDs'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has appealed to various stakeholders and service providers that require for submission of national identity cards for various dealings to acknowledge those with expiry date, saying it has suspended the expiry.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Jumanne Sagini told the Parliament yesterday that the government had revoked the expiry dates indicated in the national identity cards issued up to 2022.

He said the government reviewed the Tanzania Registration and Identification

of Persons Regulations 2014, which among others outline various features in the ID, including expiry date and changed it to non-expiry.

The deputy minister explained that the changes were gazetted in the government notice number 96 of 17th February, 2023.

He was responding to a question raised by the Temeke MP, Dorothy Kilawe (CCM) who had wanted the government statement on the expiry date of the document.

In his explanations, the deputy minister maintained that the decision is aimed at ensuring that the IDs with ten

years of lifetime are acknowledged and used beyond the indicated expiry date.

"The national identification numbers (NIN) shown on the documents do not have expiry dates and the new changes include also the national IDs for legal residents and immigrants"bsaid the deputy minister.

In February, this year, Minister for Home Affairs Hamad Masauni said that the country's national identification cards (IDs) will now last indefinitely after the government suspended their expiration dates.

Masauni said the aim of this directive was to do away with the unnecessary

inconveniences arising from the renewal of the national IDs.

But he did not state what would happen to the current Tanzanian national IDs that have expiration dates.

Former president Jakaya Kikwete first launched the national ID renewal initiative in 2013, stating that they must be used for 10 years and renewed upon expiry.

The first batch of the IDs was to expire this year, with the exercise yet to cover all eligible citizens across Tanzania. Tanzanians were expected to pay 20,000/- each when renewing their national IDs.

FACE MASKS REQUIRED

ALL EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS MUST WEAR A FACE MASK OR A PROTECTIVE FACE COVERING

PUBLIC AUCTION OF UN VEHICLES

3rd of JUNE 2023 at 11:00AM in AIRD Mubondo Logistics base

HOW TO BUY AND IMPORTANT TERMS & CONDITIONS:

VIEWING of the items (motor vehicles) can be done at the Auction location and on our website www.yonoauctionmart.com, to verify the condition of the items for sale, as these are not warranted by the Auctioneer.

SALE WILL BE ON "AS-IS-WHERE-IS-BASIS"
in physical condition and location of the vehicles on the day of the sale

BUYER REGISTRATION, ISSUANCE OF BIDDING NUMBERS & CATALOGUE:
in MUBONDO, Kigoma, at AIRD Mubondo Logistics base, Kibondo Road -12 kms away from Kasulu Town from 29th May 2023 to 2nd of June 2023 from 08:00 AM - 04:00 PM and will continue during the auction day of the 3rd of June 2023 from 08:00 to 10:00 AM.

TWO VEHICLES ARE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING IN DAR ES SALAAM from 29th of May 2023 to 2nd of June 2023 from 8 AM - 4 PM:

- in PERSON VIEWING ONLY at YONO AUCTION MART YARD, behind LAKE OIL Petrol station, Moringe Street, Bahari Beach
- ONLINE VIEWING and REGISTRATION at WWW.YONOAUCTIONMART.COM

Due to large interest the buyers should preferably ensure they register, get the bidding numbers, and pay the deposits latest by Friday, 2nd of June 2023 before the auction day.

THE AUCTION SHALL START AT 11:00AM on 3rd of JUNE 2023 at AIRD LOGISTICS BASE KIGOMA BIDDING AND DEPOSITS:

- ALL BUYERS MUST REGISTER & PAY A REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT IN ADVANCE TO PARTICIPATE.
- You must have bidding number to participate in the auction. Interested buyers are required to pay a refundable deposit of TZS 2,500,000 per each vehicle. The registration should be paid directly to the YONO AUCTION MART & CO LTD and is refundable within two working days after the auction (by 6th of June 2023) if the bidder is not awarded for any goods and/or does not buy any goods from the auction.
- PAYMENTS for all purchases must be in form of DIRECT DEPOSIT to the given auctioneer's bank account details.
- The declared buyer will have to pay 25% of the purchase price by the end of the AUCTION DAY (3rd of JUNE 2023 Kibondo) the remaining 75% will be paid within working 3 days after auction (7th of JUNE 2023 closing of Business time). Failure to pay the 75% will make the initial deposit be forfeited and the property will be re-auctioned.
- The declared buyers deposit (TZS 2.5 M) will be applied to the purchase price and become a part of the 25% deposit and will NOT BE REFUNDED. NO second bidder will be taken into consideration.
- Sale is subject to confirmation based on reasonable reserved prices.


Please note that all motor vehicles were originally duty and tax exempted, hence it is the obligation and responsibility of the buyer to make sure he/she pays all TAXES and DUTIES within seven days after paying 100% of the price. All expenses and cost in respect of TAXES and CUSTOMS DUTIES shall be borne by the buyer.

In case the buyer does not clear the taxes in the period defined (max. 14 days after the auction date) the buyer will be charged for extra storage fee. Neither the AUCTIONEER YONO AUCTION MART & CO LTD nor our PRINCIPAL will be liable for any repairs, transport of the vehicles or refund of collected sales price.

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Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
Mobile: +255 754497124
Email: scholastikakevela@gmail.com



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF INDUSTRIAL GASES TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

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

The Company is in the process of procuring Industrial gases and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the supply of this equipment as detailed below.

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

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01652	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF INDUSTRIAL GASES TO GGML

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2020-2021)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	5%
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01652)	60%
Proof of ability to supply product that meet required OEM specifications, eg: should have a certificate from the relevant gases OEM Certify him or her as gases distributor.	20%
Proof of supply similar products - with reference eg: should give any evidence of POs to show that has supplied type of the gases we need.	20%
Proof of evidence of physical expertise and after sale support eg: Any permission or certificate to show, if has any expertise about gases handling especially on the safety side.	20%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01652)** of the service they intend to express interest on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline why GGML is of interest to work with, what you have to offer and how your skills and experience are valuable to the company. All LOIs and support documentation (in PDF Format) must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than **8.30AM 01ST JUNE 2023**. (the "LOI" Submission Deadline") Without copying any individual from GGML. EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

TARURA implements Uhuru torch race leader's directive

By Guardian Correspondent, Gairo

THE Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) has implemented the directive by leader of the national torch race 2023, Abdalah Shaibu Kham by drawing zebra crossings at the newly constructed Manyara Road in Magoweko ward, Gairo District within seven days.

On May 11 this year, Kham gave TARURA a seven days ultimatum to draw crosswalks along the road saying the road marks are important to ensure safety crossing for pedestrians especially pupils.

TARURA Manager in Gairo

District, Eng Simon Massala said they have already completed drawing of three zebra crossings along the 430 meters long road. He said they have also put special markings to indicate pedestrian walkways.

Chairperson of Unguu Division in Magoweko ward, Ramadhani Mahimbo commended the agency for construction ring roads, stressing transportation services have been made easy.

"We are thankful to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the good job she has been doing in making sure Tanzanians enjoy better social services including road infrastructures. These zebra

crossings will reduce accidents and ensure safety of our children," he said.

Mahimbo said the President has done a great job in Gairo District, especially improvement of road infrastructures, thus making transport activities convenient. He said the zebra crossing will also help people with disabilities and elders.

Some interviewed residents, Mwanahamis Makungu and Mohamed Abdalah said the newly constructed Manyara road was previously impassable during rains, commending government efforts in improving road infrastructures within the District.



Standard Chartered Bank managing director Herman Kasekende speaks at the launch of new version banking system in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) yesterday named Safari Fungo, CEO of the National Quality Association of Tanzania (NQAT) as the winner of the SADC Quality Awards 2023 under the category of 'Individual of the Year'.

Fungo was announced at the virtual awarding event, being the only Tanzanian candidate who represented Tanzania in its quality achievements.

The SADC annual quality awards are prestigious awards, which have been running since 2011, recognising and appreciating organizations and individuals who are contributing to quality advancement in all sectors of the economy.

The government endorsed him for SADC quality awards to compete with other nominees from SADC member states after he was recognized as Best Individual for his contribution in championing quality agenda in the country during the awards which were held locally in December 2022 under the stewardship of the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade.

"This award is a testament to the collaborative efforts of industry leaders, policymakers, the National Bureau of Standards, and all stakeholders who have embraced the principles of quality to drive sustainable growth and development," said Fungo shortly after receiving the award.

He said the award is a testament to hard work, perseverance, and the relentless pursuit of excellence, as demonstrated by the entire quality community in Tanzania.

Fungo began his quality journey more than 10 years ago and this award adds salt to his quality interventions efforts. His collaboration and work with both public and private organisations has contributed to the current achievement.

Director General of the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Dr Yusuph Ngenya said that Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) in quality undertakings are important to the growth of the national

Tanzanian named as SADC quality award winner 2023

economy and they have a solid contribution in creating a good ground for SMEs in both local and international trade.

He said PPP helps to build up and strengthen quality culture to SMEs and help SMEs to penetrate easily in regional and international markets because it increases the adoption of quality control measures to the products and services.

"Fungo's win means a lot to Tanzania. It is a symbol of Tanzania's contribution to improving quality infrastructure within SADC. Also, this implies that Tanzania has good quality infrastructures that can be trusted by other member states hence we are confident that our products and services are able to compete within the region of SADC," said Dr Ngenya.

Manager of Policy, Standards, SPS and NTBs at the East African Business Community (EABC), Frank Dafa said to achieve an inclusive and market driven standards development process there is need for proactive individuals to disseminate information and consolidate responses from key stakeholders on particular standards.

Dafa added: "Fungo has been a key player in disseminating information, building capacity of stakeholders and engaging them to access European markets for agricultural goods through standard based interventions and engagements. He is charismatic and driven towards achieving quality and compliance among stakeholders."

The SADC Committee of Ministers of Trade and Industry (CMT), at their meeting held on June 19, 2009 in Cape Town, South Africa, approved the procedures for the implementation of a quality award competition within SADC.

The purpose of the competition is to encourage SADC businesses, private and public sector institutions to implement standards

and quality procedures in their operations.

The SADC annual quality awards procedure provides descriptions of the essential features, characteristics, and approaches of organisational systems that promote sustainable and excellent performance.

The award recognizes organisations that excel in continuous quality improvement, motivate organisations to adhere to proper quality business norms, encourage organisations to comply with local, regional and international quality standards and enhance understanding of quality principles, business methods and all national and SADC harmonized standards that promote competitiveness.

Fungo is a skilled International Trade and Quality Infrastructure expert with more than 12 years of wealth of experience at the national, regional, and international levels.

He has extensive experience in project management, working with a diverse range of stakeholders both in the public and private sectors. He is currently working as the Chief Executive Officer of the National Quality Association of Tanzania where he provides strategic leadership of the entity.

He has also served as EAC Regional Coordinator on MARKUP under the International Trade Centre (ITC), a joint agency of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the United Nations (UN).

He was responsible for the effective delivery of enhancing export competitiveness for sector SMEs, strengthening advocacy capacity for the removal of trade barriers and improving business development capacities for SMEs in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania under the Market Access Upgrade Programme (MARKUP).

Fungo also worked with TBS in the Directorate of Standards Development among others.



Chadema members and supporters at the High Court in Dar es Salaam after the party's Special Seat MPs case was adjourned yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne

Govt, EU planning to boost plants health

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Government, in collaboration with the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the European Union (EU) have established a plan to boost plant health services in the country to ensure safe farm crops trade that can enable Tanzania to trade in global markets.

The projects valued at 26bn/- also aims to ensure plants' health and food security by fighting against plant pests and infertile soils that have contributed to the crops failing to access both regional and world markets.

FAO Plants Expert, Mushobozi Baitani made the remarks here early this week on behalf of FAO Country representative, Nyabenyi Tipu at its first meeting to discuss the project's implementation.

The four-day meeting involved

agriculture stakeholders from both the Mainland and Zanzibar and was officiated by the Deputy Permanent secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Dr Hussein Mohamed Omar.

Baitani said the project has been under implementation for one year and half already and that it has prioritized empowerment in regard to inspection.

He said the inspection is for traders who want to export food crops to ensure they get a clean certificate so as to be acceptable in foreign countries.

Acting Director of Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA), Prof Joseph Ndunguru said the project has started recording big achievements.

Prof Ndunguru cited some of the achievements as including the establishment of 14 small laboratories at land border posts, international airports and seaports and the purchase of seven vehicles,

10 motorcycles and 20 drones fitted with cameras.

In regard to the laboratories, Prof Ndunguru said they will be equipped with tools capable of inspecting plant pesticides that cause plant diseases in various crops, especially those earmarked for export.

He further said the aim is to enable Tanzania to feed the world, hence it has started to mobilise itself by profitable production of crops of high standard quality to be accepted worldwide.

Earlier, Deputy PS in the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr Hussein Mohamed Omar said the project aims to solve the shortfalls in issues concerning plant health in the country.

He said the shortfalls have been impacting the farming sector and endangering the country's food security, adding that the project will strengthen the safe trade in farm crops.

Govt, stakeholders urged to come up with special strategic plan for financing tuition fee

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE National Assembly has urged the government and stakeholders to come up with a special strategic plan for financing tuition fee, food and accommodation for higher learning students so as to direct more budget in the areas of research, science and technology sectors.

The parliamentary body also underscores the need for the government to establish an independent body that will be responsible for supervising quality and management of education in general from early, primary and secondary levels.

Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Education, Culture and Sports, Prof Kitila Mkumbo made the statement in the House yesterday when presenting views on the budget estimates for the ministry of education, science and technology for the year 2023/24.

The committee says a large part of the higher education budget (67 percent) is directed to providing loans to students, a situation that has resulted in a very limited budget for the implementation of the research, science and technology sectors, which are an important part of the responsibilities of the ministry.

"Analysis of the ministry's reports shows that more than 90 percent of

research funds in universities in the country come from abroad. This is very bad, we need as a country to invest in our colleges especially in areas of research and innovation," he said.

He also said that the committee wants the government to prepare a special strategy that will facilitate provision of loans for students in colleges and vocational training.

"There is an acute shortage of science and vocational education teachers in the country, this need to be addressed considering that the government is currently improving policies and laws to facilitate provision of vocational skills in primary schools," Prof Mkumbo said.

Mlalo MP Rashid Shangazi, hailed the government for investing heavily in improvement of education infrastructure but more is still needed to facilitate allocation of enough teachers, equipment and in job training.

Contributing to the ministry's budget estimates debate, Shangazi wanted the government to come up with a special body which will be supervising education in primary and secondary education as it is for higher education which is supervised by Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) so as to supervise provision of quality education.

"The government should also reduce levies for private schools so as to reduce expenses as the sector is operating the schools as a service and not business," he said.

Esther Maleko (Special Seats) said the country is facing acute shortage of a total of 102,485 classrooms in the country and this situation leads to congestion in classrooms.

The lawmaker also said that the country is facing a shortage of 100,958 teachers in primary schools as well as 74,743 teachers in secondary schools but the enrollment of the workforce is still very low.

"The pace of enrolling new pupils in schools does not align with the hiring of teachers as well as putting up needed equipment, this greatly affects all our efforts to provide quality education," she said.

Stanslaus Nyongo, (Maswa East) urged the government to start setting aside a budget for the construction of training factories in various areas that ranges from agriculture, mining education, processing and many others so as to allow students from vocational training colleges to get practical skills and develop their talent.

"The factories at the end of the day will be able to produce products as per raw materials available in the respective region as well as produce competent experts," he added.

Land ownership impedes indigenous women's efforts in preserving resources

By Jenifer Gilla, recently from Brazzaville

LAND ownership has been listed as one of the challenges that hold back the efforts of indigenous women in preserving their resources in areas they live.

Other challenges were mentioned as lack of access to development funds provided by stakeholders, absence of strong strategies on how to deal with climate change, being registered and certified as traditional medicine provider.

The Africa Program Director of Right Resources Initiative (RRI), Patrick Kipalu, said this week on the last day of the First Conference of Indigenous Women of Central Africa and the Congo Basin being held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo organised by a non-profit organisation known as REPALAC in partnership with the Right Resources Initiative (RRI).

He said legal ownership of land is one of the most important needs of the indigenous people, it is a pillar to strengthen the life of the community, giving them the freedom to decide on their resources including how they want to use them economically and achieve the development goals they have set for themselves,

it also contributes to protecting the culture and style of life of any community.

"Research confirms that when land security is guaranteed to the community, the conservation of resources increases and deforestation decreases," said Patrik.

REPALAC's Central African Regional Coordinator, Joseph Itongwa, said despite land ownership being the basis of women's culture and stability in their areas, it is still a big challenge that requires government intervention to solve it.

He said that the issue is setting back the efforts of development stakeholders, including organizations that support indigenous and local people to preserve their resources due to widespread fear of being removed from their areas.

He has also asked the stakeholders to continue to support them in their efforts to fight for their rights to legally own land as well as to provide them funds so that they can continue to preserve and benefit from the resources around them.

Bantwa community Leader from Rwanda, Marthe Muhawenimana, said that lack of legally land ownership creates fear in them

that any day they may be removed from those areas, a situation that weakens their participation in preserving natural resources.

He said that fear has increased in recent years after there have been cases of natives being removed by the government from their areas and sent to foreign areas under the pretext of passing conservation activities, which he sees as not being a strong reason.

"We have witnessed our colleagues in neighboring countries, including Ngorongoro in Tanzania, being removed from their natural habitat something we worry that might happen to us because we do not have legal ownership," said Marthe.

Indigenous Education expert, Marie Dorothee Bafalikike from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), said another challenge they face is discrimination and the lack of access to funds provided by development stakeholders for their communities.

He asked development stakeholders who provide funds to support the development of indigenous communities to have a strategic plan that will help them to know if the money they provide reaches the intended communities, because they have often benefited unexpected people.



the bank for your development

AKIBA COMMERCIAL BANK PLC

INVITATION TO TENDER

TENDER NO: ACB/ADMN/OP/001-2/2023 FOR SUPPLY OF GOODS AND PROVISION OF SERVICES

- Akiba Commercial Bank PLC is currently inviting sealed bids from all eligible, competent and experienced suppliers to apply for supply of goods and services for year 2023 - 2025 through tendering and pre-qualification of suppliers as listed in the table of this advertisement.
- Interested suppliers shall obtain Tender and Pre-qualification documents online from Akiba Commercial Bank website: www.acbbank.co.tz
- The list of tendered items and pre-qualification services is here under; you may apply for single applications or more. All existing suppliers and service providers currently operating with Akiba Commercial Bank Plc are also required to apply.

LOT NO.	A: TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF GOODS AND PROVISION OF SERVICES	QUANTITY
1	SUPPLY OF OFFICE STATIONERIES AND COMPUTER CONSUMABLES	Various
2	PRINTING AND SUPPLY OF PRINTED BANK FORMS	Various
3	PROVISION OF OFFICE CLEANING SERVICES	Various
4	SERVICING OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND OTHER FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENTS	Various
5	SERVICING OF THE STRONGROOM DOORS, EMERGENCE & SECURITY SAFES	Various
6	PROVISION OF HYGIENE AND SANITARY SERVICES	Various
7	PROVISION OF FUMIGATION SERVICES	Various
8	HIRING EMPTY BOTTLES AND SUPPLY OF PURE DRINKING WATER	Various
9	PROVISION OF SECURITY GUARDS INCLUDING INTRUDER ALARM SYSTEM	Various
10	SERVICING AND MAINTENANCE OF STANDBY GENERATORS	Various
11	SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLES	Various
12	SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE OF AIRCONDITIONS	Various
LOT NO.	B: PRE - QUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS OF GOODS AND SERVICES	QUANTITY
13	SUPPLY, SERVICING AND SUPPORT CCTV CAMERA SYSTEM	Various
14	SUPPLY OF DESKTOP COMPUTERS, LAPTOPS AND OTHER ICT EQUIPMENT	Various
15	SUPPLY OF OFFICE GROCERIES / SUNDRIES FOR HEAD OFFICE	Various
16	SERVICING AND MAINTENANCE OF HP SERVERS	Various
17	SERVICING, MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT OF INVERTER SYSTEMS	Various
18	SERVICING AND REPAIR OF PRINTERS AND PHOTOCOPIERS	Various
19	PROVISION OF BUILDING MAINTANANCE AND REPAIR WORKS	Various
20	PROVISION OF FURNITURE REPAIRS AND CARPENTRY WORKS	Various
21	PROVISION OF MARKETING AND ADVERTISING AGENCY SERVICES	Various
22	PROVISION OF SIGNAGE AND BRANDING ACTIVITIES	Various
23	PRODUCTION OF BANK PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS	Various
24	PROVISION OF WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT AND HOSTING SERVICES	Various
25	PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY	Various
26	PROVISION OF ELECTRICAL WORK SERVICES	Various
27	PROVISION OF PROPERTY VALUATION SERVICES	Various
28	PROVISION OF AUCTIONING AND DEBT COLLECTION SERVICES	Various
29	PROVISION OF ASSET TRACING/ INVESTIGATION SERVICES	Various
30	PROVISION OF EXTERNAL AUDITING SERVICES	Annually
31	PROVISION OF TAX ADVISORY SERVICES	Annually

- A complete set of the Tender documents shall be submitted in hardcopy to the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee of TZS 50,000/= (Tanzania Shillings Fifty Thousand only) for each Lot applied. Payment should be made at Akiba Commercial Bank Plc, Main Branch, Amani Place Building, Ohio Street, Dar es Salaam, Head office control A/C No. TZS 1485800010100.
- Original Tender plus a copy, properly filled in and enclosed in a plain wax sealed envelope should be addressed to the Secretary, Tender Committee, Akiba Commercial Bank Plc, P. O. Box 669 Dar Es Salaam. All tenders may either be delivered by hand to the Tender Committee Secretary, 3rd Floor, Amani Place Building, Ohio Street or by registered post so as to reach the ACB Tender Box before the submission deadline of the tenders.
- The deadline for submission of bids is Friday, 2nd June 2023 at 10.00 am. Tenders will be opened soon thereafter at Akiba Commercial Bank Boardroom located at 3rd Floor, Amani Place Building, Ohio Street Dar es Salaam in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who may wish to attend.

THE SECRETARY
AKIBA COMMERCIAL BANK PLC., TENDER COMMITTEE,
P.O.BOX 669,
DAR ES SALAAM

Government works to improve plant health to boost food safety

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government has said various interventions are being taken to improve plant health for purposes of transforming the agriculture sector and make it grow by 6 percent from the current 4.4 percent.

Dr Hussein Omar, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture made the statement in Morogoro yesterday when opening a workshop that is geared at strengthening plant health services to enhance food safety in the country.

The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and partners with support from the European Union (EU).

He said the government has been implementing a project 'Strengthening Plant Health Services in Tanzania for Enhanced Food Safety' for 1 year and 6 months. The Plant Health project is funded by EU, FAO, and the government to a tune of Euro 10 million.

Dr Omar said that through the project the government has been able to procure 19 motorbikes, seven cars, and 20 drones fitted with multispectral cameras to strengthen surveillance as well as training of 20 plant Health Inspectors in drone piloting.

"We have improved diagnostic capacity and procured equipment for minilabs. A bill of quantities and architectural drawings for the rehabilitation of minilabs at border posts and central labs has also been completed," he said.

He added that they have completed development of the laboratory information management system, the integration of ATMIS to the ePhyto HUB and the EU's Trade Control and Export System (TRACES) which will cater for the smooth electronic exchange of Phytosanitary Certificates between Tanzania and trading partners.

Cedric Merel, Head of EU Cooperation in Tanzania said the EU is committed to support food

safety and security, especially at a time when access to safe and quality food and agricultural products has become critical.

"This workshop is an important step in strengthening quality food systems in the country, accessible for local consumption and for exports," he said.

Tipo Nyabenyi, FAO Country Representative in Tanzania said: "FAO remains keen and committed to its spirit in building partnerships and promoting inclusivity as it strives for better production, better nutrition, better environment, and a better life while leaving no one behind."

Dr Omar Amir, Deputy Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources, and Livestock in Zanzibar, said the workshop which ends on May 19th 2023 aims to improve efficacy in operational and management processes and procedures required for the successful implementation of plant health and food safety control in the country.

He said participants will assess the progress of a project launched in 2021 to promote plant health in Tanzania, identify challenges and opportunities for improvement as the government recognizes that healthy plants are vital to human and animal health.

Workshop participants included officials from strategic ministries, the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources, and Livestock in Zanzibar, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Health, Prime Minister's Office, academic institutions, national parastatals, departments and agencies, and development partners.

The Plant Health project seeks to build the institutional and human capacity of the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) to increase access to safe and quality agricultural produce for national and international markets.

It also aims to strengthen the national system of official controls for the import and export of agricultural products and to ensure that the National Plant Health Services make use of a reliable surveillance and plant protection system.

More health centres to be built across the country, National Assembly heard

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MORE health centres to be constructed in strategic areas that lack health facilities in the country, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Deogratius Ndejemi told the lawmakers that the government will continue allocating funds for the purpose every financial year.

He was responding to a question raised by the Tabora Urban MP, Emmanuel Mwakasaka, who wanted to know when the government would solve the challenge of lack of health facilities in Tabora Urban.

In response, the deputy minister said in the 2021/22, the government allocated 500mn/- for the construction of a health centre at Misha area in the constituency. He said construction of our patients department (OPD) and laboratory have been completed.

Ndejemi added that the facility has been registered and has started offering out-patients services, adding that construction of the maternal ward and surgery rooms are ongoing.

"The government is committed to building more health centres in the marginalized areas in the country, including Tabora Urban", said the

deputy minister.

Ministry of Health recently unveiled a 1.2 trn/- budget for the 2023/24 fiscal year, with priorities aimed at further improving health services in the country.

The budget has increased from the 1.1 trn/- that was allocated to the docket in the financial year 2022/23.

Presenting the estimates of her ministry yesterday in Parliament, the Minister for Health, Umyy Mwalimu, asked MPs to approve the amount for the year 2023/24.

She said the first priority for the budget will be to strengthen the services of prevention against diseases, including vaccination services, nutritional services, sanitation, and environmental health services, as well as strengthening health services at the community level.



The government is committed to building more health centres in the marginalized areas in the country, including Tabora Urban



Abdallah Maulid Mrisho (R) and James Masawe (2nd R) of Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy show bird control for agriculture in Arusha yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Chemchem Association allocates 15bn/- towards conservation in Burunge WMA

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

THE Chemchem Association has allocated 1.5bn towards conservation and fight against wildlife poaching for FY 2023/24 in the Burunge Wildlife Management Area, (Burunge WMA) Babati District, Manyara Region.

The conservation strategy also involves TAWA, Burunge WMA, Babati District Council and the Chemchem Association.

Chemchem Association Manager, Clever Zulu said the association decided to increase

its budget in order to conserve the environment in the vital area inside the Tarangire and Manyara ecosystems.

"We originally had a 500m/- budget but now we have increased it to USD 700,000 which is more than 1.5bn/- and the aim is to conserve this area visited by many tourists," he said.

He said they have been engaging themselves in photography tourism and tourist hotels and tourists have been increasing owing to conservation efforts.

Burunge WMA is located

between Tarangire and Manyara National Parks covering 283 sq kms and made up of 10 villages - Mwada, Vilima Vitatu, Sangaiwe, Ngolei, Minjingu, Kakoi, Olasiti, Magara, Maweni and Manyara.

Northern Zone TAWA Conservation Officer, Emmanuel Plus said the plan to conserve the area is expected to be inclusive and will involve all stakeholders including the residents.

"We want the area to be an example in conservation efforts, we have provided training to wildlife personnel, and there

are panels that meet to explain to the public the importance of conservation that will also involve traditional leaders and prominent elders," he said.

Burunge WMA Secretary, Benson Mwaise said owing to the conservation efforts going well in the area, tourists have been increasing, as well as revenues thereon.

Julius Maliaki, a Vilima Vitatu villager commended the Chemchem association for providing funds towards conservation efforts in the area.



One of the youth at Mlingano Agriculture Training Institute (MATI - Mlingano shows seedling nurseries to Tanga Region CCM's youth wing chairman Ramadhani Omari (in yellow T-shirt and black trouser) during the training of agriculture production through Building Better Tomorrow (BBT) initiative on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

Dr Mpango: Govt to bring better health services closer to people

By Guardian Reporter

THE Vice President, Dr Philip Mpango has said the government will continue to make sure better health services are brought closer to the people as well as to boost the availability of medicines and medical devices at every health centre.

The Vice President made the remarks on Tuesday in Arusha at the official opening of Karatu District Hospital that cost 3.37bn/-.

He instructed Karatu District and health officials to closely

administer all the drugs supplied to the hospital by the government for the use of the people, adding that the government will not hesitate to take steps against any officials who will violate the laid down laws and procedures governing the running of hospital pharmacies.

Dr Mpango explained that the hospital also aims to serve tourists from its reliability in first aid services and other emergency cases when needed, and called on members of the public to take care of the hospital to enable it to serve them for many years.

He also appealed to doctors and other health workers at the hospital to serve the people lovingly and ethically.

He called on members of the public to work together with district officials to speed up development in the district and appealed to officials at village level to strengthen village and ward health committees for the benefit of the people.

Meanwhile, Dr Mpango opened a modern Five Star hotel, the Ngorongoro Oldeani Mountain Lodge costing 12bn/- at Karatu

Town, Arusha region owned by Wellworth Hotel and Lodges, a Tanzanian firm.

He commended the investors for their support to the government in boosting tourism by building the hotel's infrastructures in Karatu area with large numbers of tourists at any given time.

He also praised them for providing employment to Tanzanians by recognizing their contribution towards the hotel's development and called on those employed to work hard, diligently and faithfully to act as an example to the community.

The vice president continues with his visit to Arusha Region aimed at inspecting development projects and listening to challenges facing the residents in the region.



Britam Insurance Tanzania Ltd IT manager, Jamal Ngomoi donates blood while his co-worker Evelyne Kyaruzi waits for her turn, after the handing over of hospital equipment to Mnazi Mmoja hospital to mark the end of Absa's Dar City Marathon event aiming at preventing non-communicable diseases. The event was held at the hospital in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Britam was among key sponsors. Looking on is Britam Insurance marketing manager Leoncia Makubo.

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

Govt pledges to connect electricity to all remaining villages by end of 2023

THE government has promised to connect electricity to the remaining villages across the country by the end of 2023, through the Rural Energy Agency (REA).

Deputy Minister for Energy, Stephen Byabato told the National Assembly here that the government through the REA project has connected electricity to all districts in the country but aims to connect all villages in its third phase.

He added that the remaining villages which are yet to be

connected to power were within the districts noting that the projects are underway to ensure that the entire country is connected to electricity.

Byabato noted that the government in collaboration with the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) and REA is implementing the project of connecting electricity to the

remaining villages.

Byabato was responding to a basic question by the Kilwa South MP, Ally Kassinge, who wanted to know when the government will connect electricity to the remaining villages to the utility.

He said that all villages including streets and divisions will be connected to electricity in the said period adding that upon

World's newest strange plant discovered in Tanzania

By Marc Nkwame - Arusha

Tanzania has just filed a new botanical discovery; what is being described as the world's newest plant has been found in the country's Northern Zone. It smells like chocolate and blooms at night.

Local and international botanists have discovered the newest type of vegetation in the form of a lone, spear-shaped and nocturnal plant growing in Northern Tanzania.

The new plant is currently being studied at the National Herbarium which operates inside the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) premises in Ngaramtoni, Arusha.

Dr Nduvoto Mollel, the Head of National Herbarium at the TPHPA described the new plant as spear shaped and seems to come alive at night when the leaves bloom under moonlight but as soon as the sun comes out, the plant goes with its leaves looking slightly weathered.

"It is a very strange plant because its leaves expand and flourish during the night and contract at sunrise," Dr Mollel explained.

And during the night the plant releases a sweet scent which smells like chocolate and this also

disappears in the morning.

The plant was discovered by American Botanist Barry Yinger and his associate Robert Sikawa, a Tanzanian.

The National Herbarium in which the new plant is being kept and observed is located at Ngaramtoni in the outskirts of Arusha City, holds a collection of preserved plant specimens and associated data used for scientific study and identification.

"We have all reasons to believe that this new plant is endemic to Tanzania, never seen anywhere else in the world because the tourists who discovered it are expert botanists who have travelled around the globe sampling and studying vegetation," the National Herbarium officer pointed out.

Until now the strange plant has neither local nor scientific names.

However scientists in Tanzania have already sent the plant profile, descriptions and properties to the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN) with the proposed name from the country.

Tanzania is tentatively naming the plant 'Embere' which means 'Spear,' in Maasai language.

This is because it was discovered

in remote parts of Arusha, which happens to be a Maasai land and again where people traditionally use spears.

As it happens, the new shrub is also shaped like a spear.

The ICBN is the world's authority behind the set of rules and recommendations dealing with the formal botanical names that are given to plants.

But is the earth still sprouting new plants? Scientists at the National Herbarium are affirmative, saying it is normal, only that this latest discovery is baffling researchers due to its strange nocturnal behavior.

Yustina Andrew Kiyango is a renowned Tanzanian Ecologist who is currently a PhD Candidate studying Ecosystem Resilience at the University of Groningen in Netherlands says the earth may sometimes yield new types of plants and vegetation cover as some form of natural self-defence mechanism, among other reasons.

She said new plants may sprout in some areas either to protect the soil or shield other forms of vegetation being threatened by the changing environment, hostile weather conditions or invasion of human activities.

a contractor M/S Sengerema Engineering has been contracted to connect 15 villages and more than 30 streets in Handeni District. Byabato said the project is expected to cost 3.36bn/- upon completion.

According to the deputy minister the project has started to be implemented since February last year and will be completed in December next year.

He also said that TANESCO was also connecting electricity to customers who are yet to be connected to the service in the mainland including Handeni District.

completion the entire country will be connected to power.

Byabato said that currently the government is implementing major power projects which will ensure reliable power supply in the country.

He named the projects as Julius Nyerere Hydropower Station with an installed capacity of 2,115 megawatts, Rusumo (80M), Ruhuji

(358M) Rumakani (222M). Upon completion these projects will guarantee reliable power in the country.

He said the government has also continued to set aside a budget that will enable Tanzania Electric Supply (TANESCO) to improve infrastructure as an effort to ensure reliable power supply.

He, however, said that currently

Our business news Journalist recently sat down with the CEO of Diamond Trust Bank Tanzania PLC, Mr. Ravneet Chowdhury – to discuss the Tanzanian banking landscape.

Ravneet took over the leadership of the lender more than 2 years ago and has so far seen the positive yields on his strategies of digitization and processes re-engineering.

How do you assess the performance of the broad financial sector in Tanzania against the current global trends?

The performance of the broad financial sector in Tanzania has been very encouraging and if I may add better than the trends we are seeing globally. Most of the larger banks are showing much improved profitability and the key parameters such as NPL ratios, Cost Income Ratios and Return on Equity are showing improving trends.

Tanzanian banks released interesting results in the past quarter and 2022 in general, with most of the institutions returning profitability. What is happening in the banking industry that is influencing this performance despite a lower rate of economic growth?

The Banking industry is benefitting from two major shifts in the economy. The first being the relegation of COVID as a dampener for business and the second being the opening up of the economy and the push the government is making to attract foreign investment. With these two factors at play business is coming back to normal and people have a more positive sentiment. This leads to more banking activity which will eventually feed into a growth in the GDP as well.

Do you think the current performance will be sustained this year? What will it take to achieve even better results for banks such as yours?

We believe 2023 should be an equally good year and growth in the financial sector should continue. There is good demand for credit and investors are keen to put up new projects which is good for the economy. There are however global risks such as a flare up in the Russia-Ukraine war and a shortage of liquidity that need to be considered in 2023.

Where do you see the Tanzania banking industry in the next five years?

The Tanzania banking industry is growing rapidly and becoming stronger and more profitable. We could well see more mergers and acquisitions happening in the industry over the next 5 years. You would probably see fewer and stronger Banks. Technology is also evolving rapidly and the bank you see over the next 5 years will be very different from the one you see today.

How do you assess the Tanzania banking regulatory environment in respect to attraction of investment opportunities and deepening financial inclusion services?

The Tanzania banking regulatory environment has been conducive in attracting investment opportunities and deepening financial inclusion. This is evident in the over 50 Banks that operate in the market and the good mobile money penetration. The regulatory policies have been prudent and led to the development of a strong financial services ecosystem. More clarity on rules, a level playing field and speed of decision making would be some areas that could add more depth to the financial services sector.



Mr. Ravneet Chowdhury
Chief Executive Officer – Diamond Trust Bank [T] PLC

What is DTB Tanzania performance in terms of assets and profitability?

DTB Tanzania has done better in terms of total assets where we rank 6th in the Market. In terms of profitability we are slightly further behind due to higher impairment charges in 2022. We see good growth going forward and are investing in our systems and people along with a strong strategic direction to remain as one of the top players in the market.

What is your operational forecast for 2023?

2023 should be a good year for us and the entire financial services industry. There is good momentum in the Tanzanian economy and we see it feeding through to increased demand for banking services and better levels of economic growth.

What is your market approach to ensure financial inclusion in Tanzania?

We are keen to ensure financial inclusion in Tanzania and have an active SME portfolio where we promote the small businesses. We have also embarked on digital lending where we support the individual borrower and enable provision of credit for small traders/individuals on a digital platform. We are keen to evolve along the digital ecosystems and engage in more partnerships with fintech's to further promote financial inclusion.

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The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

Vocational skills relevant after a job is within reach

ALL sorts of efforts are being rolled out to uplift graduates' skills to solve unemployment that is rampant among this cadre, with experts coming to a consensus that there is a mismatch between school or college education and the job market. One institutional reaction is to ensure that vocational training is included either as an addition to college training or part of it to prepare many graduates to fit into the job market. It is both a conviction and an experiment.

An imposing symposium of the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET) has lately dwelt on the matter, predictably angling on strengthening TVET to uplift skills among graduates for a more skilled workforce. This reflects the need for action in the wake of extensive impressions that graduates being rolled out by institutions of higher learning perform poorly at workplaces. Yet there is choice is what is being addressed.

One way of addressing youth and especially graduate unemployment is this newly conceived method of beefing technical and vocational skills institutions with ability to provide auxiliary training in any field of specialisation before or after graduation. The trouble here is at what point such skills come into place as they are hugely varied, each institutional position (say a school, factory, office) having its particular set of tasks. The graduates or any youths need to be sent for a particular kind of vocational training, rather than embedded in some syllabus.

So there is evidently a case for having an institutional channel for a kind of retraining for graduates and

other youth, but only on condition that there is a useful channel of activity they are pursuing. Skills need to be added to a good education so that one already has what it takes to know the world in which the job is inserted, not to be taught in class as one would not know where to focus. And there are skills that aren't with vocational colleges like administration, etc.

Those finishing diploma or degree courses can't be trained to be fully prepared to undertake practical tasks in an office. The reason is that the tasks are far too many, where the diploma or degree course enables one to understand what is being done there, its environment, values, etc. He or she can be put to a few months orientation for practical skills were relevant, or just learn on the job. The project actually brushes aside diplomas or degrees for lower occupations.

In that case this idea about exposing graduates to technical or vocational training need not be seen as a solution to unemployment as the real problem is that the job placing openings are too few. That means pursuing clear macro-economic policies that open up an economy, chiefly by removing large state monopolies in various sectors where people queue up for services, at times for weeks on end. Instead there would come up numerous private sector firms where, as in shop frames or saloons, they sit there waiting for customers.

The mobile telephony network is an illustration of what happens when a service entity shifts from the public sector. A few thousand workers of a state firm go, for hundreds of thousands of the self-employed. It can be done in other sectors.

Invasive pest species a threat to plant health

PLANTS provide 80 per cent of the food we consume and 98 per cent of our oxygen. However, the rise in global e-commerce, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, has unwittingly increased the risk of spreading pests and diseases harmful to a country's flora.

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), hosted by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation, is crucial in mitigating such risks. It establishes international standards and aids countries in implementing them. Pests can cross borders through various channels and may inhabit a range of products, including plants, soil, and untreated wood packaging materials.

Invasive pests, driven by international travel, trade, and climate change, threaten biodiversity and our planet's delicate web of life. In response, the use of pesticides could increase, impacting pollinators, natural pest predators, and other crucial organisms. Protecting plant health is essential, promoting environmentally friendly practices, such as integrated pest management.

But international travel and trade has been associated with the introduction and spread of plant pests. Invasive pest species are one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss and threaten the delicate web of life that sustains our planet.

Pests and diseases have also been associated with rising temperatures which create new niches for pests to populate and spread. In response, the use of pesticides could increase, which harms pollinators, natural pest enemies and organisms crucial for a healthy environment.

Protecting plant health is essential by promoting environmentally friendly practices such as integrated pest management. The International Day of Plant Health 2023 calls on everyone to raise awareness and take action to keep our plants healthy and help protect the environment and biodiversity.

The Ministry of Agriculture in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the European Union (EU) in September last year, launched a three-year project to increase access to safe and quality agricultural produce for national and international markets.

Speaking at the launch of the project in Dodoma, the Deputy minister for Agriculture, Anthony Mavunde said that the project also would improve the quality of crops to meet the standards of international markets.

Indeed, it is vital project because it seeks to address administrative and technical constraints relevant to plant health that deteriorate agricultural trade, endanger food security and food safety.

Direct beneficiaries will be plant health services, local producers and traders including women and youth.

According to the initiative 19 border inspection posts will be established with diagnostic and surveillance equipment, So far seven cars and 19 motorcycles for surveillance uses had been procured, as well as 20 drones' surveillance units.

We are informed that in 2017 the ministry of agriculture conducted special research which established poor awareness of health plants among local experts and farmers, as well as the absence of laboratories for plant health diagnosis and surveillance facilities.



Are countries ready for AI? How they can ensure ethical, responsible adoption

By Yasmine Hamdar, Keyzom Ngodun

Massally and Gayan Peiris

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) has recently been making headlines. But beyond the buzz, there are real benefits it holds for advancing development priorities.

Assessing countries' Artificial Intelligence (AI) readiness as one of the first steps towards adoption can help mitigate potential risks.

Artificial intelligence has the potential to benefit society in manifold ways. From using predictive analytics for disaster risk reduction to leveraging translation software to break down language barriers, AI is already impacting our daily lives.

Yet, there are also negative implications, especially if proactive steps are not taken to ensure its responsible and ethical development and use.

Through an AI Readiness Assessment, UNDP is making sure countries are equipped with valuable insights on design and implementation as they progress on their AI journey.

The intersection between AI, data and people

AI-powered tools on the market are often touted based on their benefits - not their shortcomings. However, as seen with the latest example of ChatGPT, questions around responsible and ethical use become important.

As highlighted in UNDP's Digital Strategy, by design, technology must be centred on people. Digital transformation, including AI innovations, must be intentionally inclusive and rights-based to yield meaningful societal impact.

For instance, whilst governments can leverage AI to improve public service delivery, consideration must be given to various layers of inclusion to ensure everyone can benefit equally.

AI models rely on data to function. The quality of data that gets fed into a model determines the quality of its outputs - a classic representation of the 'garbage in, garbage out' axiom.

In fact, the lack of quality data may even exacerbate bias and discrimination, particularly against vulnerable groups - pushing them further behind.

Therefore, the degree of accuracy, relevance, and representativeness of a data set will impact the reliability and trustworthiness of results and insights the data is informing.

Digital public infrastructure, as an interoperable network of



digital systems working together, is important for enabling timely and reliable data flows. This is pertinent, for instance, in responding to crises, when access to accurate and up-to-date information is needed to inform responsive programming and decision-making.

Without such digital infrastructure, data flows may be disrupted, or the data available may be inaccurate or incomplete.

Supporting countries on their AI journey

There is strong interest amongst UN Member States in adopting AI-powered technologies to improve people's lives by providing better services.

But as the benefits and risks of these technologies are uncovered, the need for an ethical data and AI governance framework, improved capacities and knowledge has become equally relevant.

The 'Joint Facility' is an initiative launched by UNDP and ITU to enhance governments' digital capacity development, including in harnessing AI responsibly.

UNDP is assisting countries such as Kenya, Mauritania, Moldova and Senegal in developing data governance frameworks to promote the use of data for evidence-based decision making.

Also under development is a 'Data to Policy Navigator' that is being created by UNDP and the BMZ's Data4Policy Initiative. The Navigator is designed to provide decision-makers with the knowledge they need to integrate new data sources into policy-development processes. No advanced or prior knowledge of data science is needed.

UNDP, along with UNESCO and ITU, is also part of a United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on AI, where the goal is to share collective learnings and best practices for other countries' benefit.

The group has developed recommendations on AI Ethical

Standards, which include key aspects of international and human rights regulations around the right to privacy, fairness and non-discrimination, and data responsibility.

Countries are at different stages of their AI journey, and careful assessment is needed to determine the appropriate digital infrastructure, governance and enabling community that may be required based on their unique needs and capabilities.

To this end, UNDP, along with Oxford Insights, designed an AI Readiness Assessment as a first step that can help countries better understand their current level of preparedness and what they may need moving forward as they seek to adopt responsible, ethical and sustainable AI systems.

The AI Readiness Assessment

The AI Readiness Assessment comprises a comprehensive set of tools that allow governments to get an overview of the AI landscape and assess their level of AI readiness across various sectors.

The framework is focused on the dual roles of governments as 1) facilitators of technological advancement and 2) users of AI in the public sector. Critically, this assessment also prioritizes ethical considerations surrounding AI use.

The assessment highlights key elements necessary for the development and implementation of ethical AI, including policies, infrastructure and skills.

These aspects are important for countries to consider as AI-powered technologies are implemented at population scale to help meet national priorities and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The assessment employs a qualitative approach, utilizing surveys, key informant interviews, and workshops with civil servants to gain a more in-depth understanding of the AI ecosystem in a country.

In doing so, it offers governments valuable insights and recommendations on how to go about effective and ethical implementation of AI regulatory approaches, including how AI ethics and values may be integrated into existing frameworks.

Importantly, the assessment is a UN tool that is globally applicable and available for use, particularly for governments at any stage of their AI journey.

Staying ahead

UNDP is committed to the ethical and responsible use of AI. To avoid shortcomings, an AI system should be built with transparency, fairness, responsibility and privacy by default.

More AI-powered innovations are expected to emerge in years to come, and it is critical that we take proactive measures to ensure that their potential benefits and risks are evaluated through a people-centred approach.

Like ChatGPT, efficiency of a digital tool does not necessarily mean its design and functions are ethical and responsible. Having a framework to thoroughly assess the benefits and risks is key.

As these innovations evolve, so must governments' mindset on AI. The AI Readiness Assessment is part of an effort to promote a proactive governance approach to digital development to ensure countries are informed, prepared and staying ahead when it comes to AI.

Yasmine Hamdar is AI Policy Specialist, UNDP Chief Digital Office; Keyzom Ngodun Massally is Head of Digital Programming, UNDP Chief Digital Office; Gayan Peiris, Head of Data and Technology, UNDP Chief Digital Office

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Source: UN Development Programme (UNDP)

Times have changed, so should the 1970s' 'I am a graduate' mindset

IN the 1960s throughout 70s, 80s and 90s, graduating from a university was a big deal. Regardless of the course, employment was guaranteed. In fact, it was not the graduates who went around looking for job; it was the employers who liaised with universities weeks before graduation, offering vacancies.

That was then and now we are in a new era where graduates, including master's holders, walk in the streets of our towns and cities for years looking for jobs that never come. These fellows are a traumatized lot because they have nothing to show for the three, four or even five years they spent on campus.

In my observation, one of the challenges is that they are afraid of unpaid internships as they have to pay different bills. To make ends meet, some venture into fields that they did not study hence earn less than they need and expected.

Recent statistics are scary because they show that despite some 800,000 to 1,000,000 graduates entering the labour market every year, on average the economy creates only about 250,000 jobs a year, with most graduates taking about 5.5 years to secure a wage job.

Yet, the society continues to exert pressure on graduates as it expects them to have a different kind of life. The pressure would have been justifiable in the bygone days when graduates were a rare sought-after commodity.

We as a society should change how look at graduates because things have changed tremendously. But a big change has to come from graduates themselves. The biggest enemy of graduates in my opinion is the 1970s' 'I am a graduate' mindset. Currently, the answer, if you don't have a job and broke, is so what?

Players in the pitch are the ones to change results. The graduates need to take into account the societal views and their own stands and figure out how they can come up with a new way of thinking and doing.

I have seen graduates who have taken matters into their hands and things worked out pretty well. For instance, I know graduates who walked out of college and started operating a taxi. Some gradu-

ates I know are among the best restaurateurs in town. These folks didn't wait for salaried employment but created the same.

As leaders in the sense that they should show the way for the rest of the society, graduates need first to stabilize themselves before they can stabilize the society. They need to think differently so that they can act differently as well in order for them to be successful. They should make sure that before they step out of the university corridors, they are knowledgeable enough because knowledge is what stimulates enterprises in life.

And when they enter into streets with knowledge, they still need aggressiveness and innovation as fortune does not come to a lazy person. To be among the few who secure jobs, graduates need to be more aggressive and ready. They have to show that they have what it takes and they are ready to work for the betterment of the entire society.

One of the benefits of being knowledgeable, aggressive and ready



is securing employment. The desire of the majority of graduates is securing a job after completing their studies. This is not a bad thing because even if a person is eager of self-employment, the first job can give the starting point.

Also, the government needs competent individuals to work for it and speed up development process. Therefore, the thirst of graduates to secure jobs is justifiable. As human beings are social beings, when someone gets an employment, it brings relief as most people

believe that education should mean securing a job. We cannot ignore the social influence on someone's life.


Another benefit is being capable of self-employment. One needs to be creative and industrious to capture opportunities available in the society. Success is through competition and hence someone needs to think and do differently so as to win opportunities. Life pursuits resemble a war hence someone needs to have skills and readiness to fight. Unless someone is knowledgeable, aggressive and

ready, they can hardly establish anything.

Also, individuals who are knowledgeable, aggressive and ready can easily benefit from regional economic integrations. These regional economic integrations are established for the purpose of enhancing socio-economic development. Therefore, our graduates should position themselves in a way that can enable them grab opportunities that these integrations offer. Development should be seen in the lives of

the people. Graduates should be the first to demonstrate the same.

Among the roles of education is changing the society to conform to new ways of socio-economic life. It is rightly argued that if someone cannot change, then change will change them. Our graduates should change their mindset for them to be able to change our society.



CLASSROOM MATTERS

By
Thomas Lyimo
lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com

Bilharzia: The neglected tropical disease that haunts communities

By Stephen Mbwambo and Pankras Luoga

BILHARZIA or schistosomiasis is one of the neglected tropical diseases caused by parasitic worms of the genus schistosoma. Infection with schistosoma mansoni and schistosoma haematobium is the main cause of illness to humans. Bilharzia can occur mainly in two forms namely intestinal and urogenital that occurs in the urinal system.

How bilharzia is transmitted

Bilharzia is transmitted to a person following this sequence; the infected person discharges schistosoma eggs while urinating or defecating in the water, the eggs hatch, (if it's fresh water and snails of genus biomphalaria, bulinus or onchomelania are present), the parasites develop and multiply inside the snails, then the parasites leave the snail and enter the water where they can survive for about 48 hours.

These parasites can penetrate the skin of a human who come into contact with infected water through normal activities like taking bath or swimming in stagnant water, washing clothes and home utensils, farming in the rice and sugarcane fields.

Within several days, the parasites mature into adult worms and live in the blood vessels of the human body where the females produce eggs. Some of the eggs travel to the bladder or intestinal then later into stool or urine to continue



ous cycle of infection.

Symptoms bilharzia

The symptoms of schistosomiasis include fever, urine with blood, pain during urinating, itchy skin, chills, cough, headache, stomach pain, general joint pain and muscle pains. If not properly treated, schistosomiasis can continue existing in human body for years, resulting in many negative effects, including swelling of the abdomen, liver enlargement or damage, large intestine and kidney infections.

The situation globally and in Tanzania

Globally, schistosomiasis is among the 21 health conditions that are regarded to be Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Worldwide, it is estimated that 750 million people live in areas that are prone to infection and 25 million people are infected. More than 90 per cent of the people infected by the burden live in the Sub-Saharan Africa.

Baseline schistosomiasis study in 2004 showed that in Tanzania, at least 50 per cent of the people are ever infected. In the country, schistosomiasis is spread throughout the areas. However, there is variation regarding endemicity and intensity of infection within and across regions and districts.

However, starting from 2000, the World Health organization (WHO) in collaboration with governments and other partners increased their efforts in fighting NTDs in Tanzania and other parts of the world. The efforts include elimination of schistosomiasis infection as public health problem (control morbidity) through conducting mass drug administration to communities.

For example, the government through the Ministry of Health in collaboration with other partners continues to conduct the MDA campaigns of distributing Praziquantel medicines to school children aged between five and 14 years and high risk adults living in the prone

areas.

The mainstay intervention (MDA) has been complemented with multi-sectoral interventions including Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), behaviour change communication strategies, climatic change and One Health.

Effects of schistosomiasis

The most infected segments of the population in the communities include school aged children, non-school aged children, adolescents, women of reproductive age and high-risk adults. The infected children are more in danger of losing iron minerals, poor growth, stunting and low capacity of learning.

Other effects to all groups are bladder problems, ureters and kidney diseases. Schistosomiasis also causes several silent negative effects. For instance, a person who gets a kidney disease may not think that the cause may be schistosomiasis infection which was unattended.

Also, it is important to note that not getting

the infections treated on time leads to delays in diagnosis of infected person hence using more resources in treating the condition and sometimes this may cause death. The effects are also evident in the weakened productivity economically, socially, and politically.

What should be done?

It is clear that the burden is avoidable if the society takes the recommended measures particularly that of changing some of the behaviours and embarking on those which are preventive of the burden.

This is because the disease mostly affects people according to how the society behaves. For example, defecating and urinating in water bodies, not adhering to environmental and personal health precautions, washing and swimming in stagnant water and presence of many snails along rivers and lakes waters.

Therefore, it is important that communities change these behaviours and increase care against the disease. Some of the recommended measures to be taken include participation in MDA by taking Praziquantel medicine when the campaigns are conducted in our places of living including in the community and schools.

Also, people should construct and utilize improved toilets, wearing of protective gears like boots when undertaking some economic activities that bring them into contact with water and increasing sensitization of communities on the diseases and where the treatment may be sought.

Benefits of preventive measures

If everyone in our society takes the recommended measures to prevent themselves and their communities, then we hope the following two major benefits will be realized at individual and community levels. First, every citizen and whole communities will have good health hence enough energy and time for undertaking economic activities.

Second is that our communities will no longer use resources like money and time for treating the burden. Instead, they will use resources for other important things like paying school fees and buying food for families.

Our call to Tanzanians, especially those living in prone areas, is to take precautions against schistosomiasis as stated above to protect individuals and communities. We should remember that children and adolescents are likely to enjoy playing in areas infested with parasitic worms that cause the disease.

Stephen G. Mbwambo is Research Coordinator in Neglected Tropical Diseases Control Programme in the Ministry of Health and Pankras Luoga is Assistant Lecturer in Health Systems Management, Monitoring and Evaluation in Health at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS).

Will COP28 catch the next green wave or will it wipe out?

By Prof Felix Dodds and Chris Spence

PERHAPS one of the least well known among Dubai's many attractions is surfing. Locals and visitors enjoy the sport at Sunset Beach and elsewhere, especially in winter. There is even an artificial wave pool where surfers can hone their skills. To some, the pool is just another example of the host country's entrepreneurial outlook.

With COP28 on the horizon, the host government of the United Arab Emirates is once again promoting the virtues of business. In a recent interview with the Guardian media outlet, COP28 president-designate Sultan Al Jaber said the world needs a "business mindset" to tackle the climate crisis. What's more, he laid out plans to use the COP to promote private sector goals as well as those for governments.

Will this focus on business signal a genuine new green wave, or will it wipe out? This article assesses the state of play and the host's approach as we head into the official preparatory meetings taking place in Bonn, Germany, in June.

What was achieved at COP27?

To understand the situation, we need first to look at what happened at COP27. This is important not just in terms of the current landscape, but because the COP27 hosts, Egypt, technically continue to hold the presidency until COP28 officially starts on November 30th.

While all incoming presidencies are incredibly active in the months leading up to the event they will host, the outgoing presidency has a role to play, too, and the quality of the relationship between the two governments is important.

For many UN insiders, COP27 exceeded expectations. Admittedly, expectations were not high, particularly since COP27 was viewed by many as an "in-between" COP rather than one with critical milestones of the sort that occur every few years. While all COPs matter, most insiders will tell you not all are equal in importance.

The COP in Sharm El-Sheikh had a menu of issues it was dealing with, but it was not one where, say, a new global agreement was expected (such as COP21 in Paris), or a global stock take was due (as will happen at COP28

later this year). There had been calls for governments to strengthen their Nationally Determined Contributions (pledges and commitments) at COP27, but few did.

The major achievement at COP27—and the reason the meeting exceeded expectations—was an agreement to establish a loss and damage fund to support vulnerable countries. Few anticipated such a positive outcome even a few weeks prior to the meeting.

Although the agreement on loss and damage did not include acceptance of historical responsibility, it was viewed as a big win for the Egyptian Presidency, small islands and other vulnerable states, as well as the Group of 77 developing countries, which in 2022 was under the presidency of Pakistan.

Under the terms of the agreement at COP27, the loss and damage fund will need to be operationalized at COP28 and a transitional committee is already working on this. In the world of multilateral diplomacy, this is an ambitious timeframe.

There was another positive development on a modest scale at COP27 on the Global Goal on Adaptation. Delegates agreed to "initiate the development of a framework" to be available for adoption in 2024. Meanwhile, on agriculture a new four-year process was agreed to carry on the work started under the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture. There is a sense now that agriculture and food security are gaining the attention they deserve in climate negotiations.

Outside the formal negotiations, many projects and alliances were advanced, including plans to accelerate the decarbonization of five major sectors: power, road transport, steel, hydrogen, and agriculture. Noteworthy initiatives included the launch of the Global Renewables Alliance, which brings together leaders from the wind, solar, hydropower, green hydrogen, long duration energy storage, and geothermal sectors.

What was not achieved at COP27?

The main source of disappointment at COP27 was the absence of ambition on mitigation. There was a noteworthy lack of new and ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) from governments.

What this means is that the critical needle has not shifted when it comes to keeping global warming to less than 1.5 Celsius, or even under 2C. According to the Climate Ac-



UAE's role as COP28 host will be judged on results. Will COP deliver an operational and meaningful loss and damage fund? Will it produce a global stocktake that invigorates international action? Credit: Isaiah Espisu/IPS

tion Tracker, our long-term scenarios are still well above 2C under most scenarios, and as high as 3.4C under their most pessimistic estimate. This means things have not really improved since COP26.

What's more, research released just before COP27 showed that the Global North is still not delivering on its commitment to provide \$100 billion a year to the Global South. One silver lining to this dark cloud is that this goal may finally be reached in time for COP28. Still, that is three years too late.

Meanwhile, COP27 did less to clarify new rules for the global carbon market than many were hoping to see. While COP26 in Glasgow had provided more details about Paris Agreement Article 6 (which sets out a framework for international cooperation and carbon markets), more granular guidance is still needed.

Some fear that without more details on accountability and measurement, for instance in terms of carbon offsets, we could end up with a "wild west" when it comes to the markets.

There was also little progress in negotiations aimed at encouraging the phasedown of unabated coal power and phase out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. On the private sector side, while many companies have made net-zero targets, research suggests many do not have robust plans to deliver this, and there is uncertainty over how the private sector will use carbon offsets. Without

greater clarity, this hyped-up "wave" of pledges from businesses around COP26 and before may end up a damp squib.

Looking to the Bonn climate conference

The political backdrop to the UN Bonn climate conference in June is complex. On the downside, governments are still emerging from the COVID pandemic and many are still focused on, and feeling the impact of, the war in Ukraine.

On the positive side, the cost of solar and wind continues to fall and European countries are moving more quickly because they want to be independent of Russian fossil fuels. Although others are taking advantage of Europe's reduced demand to increase purchases of Russia's fossil fuels at reduced prices, the growing focus on renewable energy in many countries should be seen as a positive overall in terms of climate mitigation.

With some major milestones coming up at COP28 later this year, the Bonn conference in June will give us some signals of how close we will be to delivering success in December.

Global Stocktake: UN climate negotiators are expected to take stock of progress on the Paris Agreement every five years. COP28 marks the culmination of the first "stocktake" and will be expected to shape and catalyze future action.

The stocktake has three

phases. In the first phase, which started at COP26, information is collected and prepared from various sources to help assess progress. Phase 2, which started last year, includes in-person "technical dialogues" focused on mitigation, adaptation, and implementation. These will conclude in Bonn this June.

Finally, the stocktake will end at COP28 with a presentation of findings and discussions on how to respond. The Bonn meeting will therefore present an opportunity to take the pulse of these discussions. How robust have the technical dialogues been? Is there a surge of support from governments to make COP28 a major milestone for climate action? Bonn should provide clues about this.

Loss and Damage Fund: The transitional committee has been established and had its first meeting in Luxor, Egypt, in April. It will meet again in Bonn. Its role is to make recommendations on how to operationalize both the new funding arrangements and the fund at COP28. How are these discussions proceeding? Bonn should give some indications on progress, as well as potential areas of discord and disagreement.

Global Goal on Adaptation: With significant change already "baked in" to our climate system, effective adaptation will be critical. The Global Goal on Adaptation was agreed under the Paris Agreement and recognizes the need to build adaptive ca-

capacity, strengthen resilience and limit vulnerability.

Adaptation will be addressed in Bonn under both the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). It also links to the work of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, a related UN initiative which is having its "mid-term review" at UN Headquarters in New York from 18-19 May.

New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance: The goal of providing \$100 billion in support annually for the Global South by 2020 was originally set in 2009. Now it is up for review. Since that earlier goal was viewed as a "floor" rather than a ceiling, many are expecting more ambitious targets in future.

A new goal is supposed to be set before 2025, meaning COP29 in 2024 should mark the moment when a new number (or set of numbers) is agreed. Again, Bonn will mark a moment to assess how those conversations are going, especially given the wide differences in the type of dollar figures being bandied about by the Global North and Global South (many of whom are calling for trillions). Those following this topic can look to the 6th Technical Expert Dialogue, which is taking place in Bonn, to get a sense of progress.

Carbon Markets: As mentioned above, in spite of progress many are still hoping for more granular details on

the carbon markets. This will be vital to curtail green washing with offsets.

Coalitions of the Willing: Sultan Al Jaber, the COP28 president-designate, recently highlighted the private sector's role in combating climate change. In fact, all stakeholders will need to be fully engaged if we are to have any chance of staying within 1.5C of warming. Voluntary coalitions of governments, the private sector and many others will be vital, especially when it comes to advancing issues where all 190+ governments that are party to the UN climate treaty and Paris Agreement are not yet ready or willing to agree.

Such voluntary initiatives offer considerable scope for those who want to move ahead. In turn, this has the potential to set precedents and entrench ideas that might be taken up by all governments' in future formal UN negotiations. An example of this is the methane pledge, which involved some 50 countries reporting on progress at COP27. More should be looked for at COP28. Likewise, the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero, which has reportedly had some teething problems since its launch in 2021, will hopefully use COP28 as a moment to showcase progress and put its early difficulties behind it.

Will COP28 launch a new green wave?

Eyebrows were raised when the United Arab Emirates was first named as host of COP28. Why, people asked, would a climate COP be held in an OPEC state? Furthermore, many wondered publicly whether Sultan Al Jaber, who is likely to preside over the meeting, should do so given his role as chief executive of UAE's national oil company? Does this represent a conflict of interest?

These are fair questions that will only be fully answered by the COP and what it achieves. However, it is worth noting that the prospects of a fossil fuel-producing country hosting COP28 were always quite high.

As UN insiders know, the climate COPs are typically hosted on a rotating basis in each of the UN's five "regional groups." This time around, it was Asia-Pacific's turn.

Many countries in this region, including more than a dozen small island nations, probably do not have the internal capacity to host an event of this magnitude. Of those that do, many—from Saudi Arabia to India, Indonesia to China, Iran to Australia—are fossil-fuel producers.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Mbeya Region residents urged to adopt modern beekeeping

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

RESIDENTS of Mbeya Region have been urged to grab opportunities in beekeeping to increase their incomes by selling various bees products whose market has been growing globally.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera made the call early this week when launching World Bees Day which was held at Itewe Ward at regional level.

Homera said apart from being a source of income beekeeping is also among ways to conserve the environment hence the residents should participate in the fight against the effects of climate change.

He said the government, through the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) has been making efforts towards environment conservation hence the people are required to grab pro-

jects designed for their own benefits.

He added that honey from bees is both a nutrient and medicine against various diseases, hence they should adopt beekeeping to strengthen their health.

Homera added that in Mbeya Region there are various areas where the project for the sustainable restoration of the environment and biodiversity that aim to restore fertility in areas that have been destroyed.

For his part, Mbeya Regional Beekeeping Officer, Marietha Kereti said the Region has a total of 527 private beekeepers and 159 beekeeping groups in various areas.

She said according to the census conducted in the Region, Mbeya Region has 63,608 beehives including 16,153 modern ones, many of them located in Chunya, Mbeya, Mbarali and Rungwe Rungwe districts.

Marietha added that in FY 2021/22 honey production totaled 682.43 tonnes valued at more than 5bn/- and 1.6 tonnes of beeswax valued at 9.8bn/-.

Some beekeepers who participated the event appealed to the government to help them strengthen road infrastructures to simplify the transportation of their products.

Julius Zacharia, a resident of Tembela Village said beekeeping does not need high expenditure as compared to farming hence he decided to grab the opportunity to enhance his income.



Some beekeepers who participated the event appealed to the government to help them



Mbeya Regional Commissioner Juma Homera speaks with beekeepers

EAC partner states' commitments key to implementation of common market protocol - says Dr Peter Mathuki

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) partner states' commitments to the free movement of capital, services and goods is the bedrock of trade integration in East Africa, EAC Secretary General, Dr Peter Mathuki has said.

Dr. Mathuki made the remarks on Tuesday in Arusha when launching the ALP East Africa Annual 2022/2023 EAC Common Market Capital, Services and Goods (CSG) Scan. ALP is a Ugandan law firm that conducts annual scans on the status of implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol.

He said that the commitment of Partner States was especially critical in the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers and the harmonisation of standards.

He said trade integration was crucial particularly now that the Community is on a trajectory of expansion with the admission last year of the Democratic Republic of Congo even as the Federal Republic of Somalia awaits her turn to join the bloc.

The Secretary General said that the Community was looking towards not just a borderless East Africa but a borderless continent to spur intra-regional and intra-continental trade as is happening in Europe and other parts of the world.

"The CSG speaks to three of the at least five to six freedoms under the EAC Common Market Protocol signed in 2009, that is, the free movement of capital, free movement of services and free movement of goods," said Dr. Mathuki.

"The 2022/2023 CSG scan provides a quick review of regulatory measures adopted by five (5) Partner States during a 15 months period of January - December 2022 and January - March 2023 that impact on the listed Partner States' commitments in respect of free movement of capital, services and goods under the EAC Common Market Protocol," added Dr. Mathuki.

The ALP study found, among other things, that under the free movement of capital, Partner States had made an effort to leverage regulatory measures in the capital and financial markets as a means of encouraging foreign (and importantly, regional) direct investment.

Partner States also sought to introduce new and innovative capital and money market products, for instance, Kenya - digital credit products and financial derivatives that greatly offer transactional flexibility, and Uganda - prescribed securities instruments in commercial paper (as short-term debt instruments), depository receipts (to facilitate trading in shares in foreign companies, and Electronic Financial transactions (stocks, currencies, futures and commodities, mainly gold).

Further, a significant part of the regulatory measures underscore deliberate efforts to create an enabling and conducive legal and policy environment for digital economy and innovation systems. The digital and innovation measures create regulatory environments that should foster and spur news investment, new services and new ideas for economic growth.

However, in spite of the positive steps in the regulatory measures under the free movement of capital, there remain restrictions in the form of, among other things: residence and establishment requirements; onerous bureaucracy in procedures on licensing and documentation requirements, often tied to stringent prudential oversight by central banks, and; Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing and beneficial ownership requirements that investors must meet in investing in securities and financial markets.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED



Specific Procurement Notice

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Procurement of EPC Contractor for Extension of 400/220kV Nyakanazi Substation and Construction of New 400/132/33kV Kigoma (Kidahwe) Substation

CB No.: PA/001/2021-2022/HQ/W/04
Project: Construction of Substations for Kigoma - Nyakanazi Transmission Line Project
Employer: Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO)

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Employer: Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO)
Project: Construction of Substations for Kigoma - Nyakanazi Transmission Line Project
Contract Title: Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of New 400/132/33kV Kigoma (Kidahwe) Substation and Extension of 400/220kV Nyakanazi Substation
Country: Tanzania
Loan Agreement No. and Title: TZA -13 - Construction of Substations for Kigoma-Nyakanazi Transmission Line Project
IFB No.: PA/001/2021-2022/HQ/W/04
Issued on: 18th May 2023

- The Government of Tanzania (hereinafter referred to as the "Borrower") has received a loan through the Export-Import Bank of Korea (hereinafter referred to as the "Bank") from the resources of the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (hereinafter referred to as the "EDCF") of the Republic of Korea in an amount of Korean loan equivalent to USD 45 million towards the cost of Construction of Substations for Kigoma - Nyakanazi Transmission Line Project (hereinafter referred to as the "Project"), and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation to bid is issued.
- The Project Executing Agency now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Tender No. PA/001/2021-2022/HQ/W/04 on Procurement of Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of New 400/132/33kV Kigoma (Kidahwe) Substation and Extension of 400/220kV Nyakanazi Substation.
- Bidding will be conducted through Competitive Bidding (CB) procedures specified in the Guideline for Procurement under EDCF Loan, and is open to all eligible bidders that meet the following minimum qualification criteria. The bidder shall be limited to those firms who are entitled eligible by the Article 4.2 through 4.5 of the Instruction to Bidders in Section of the SBD subject to the restrictions specified in Section V (Eligible Countries) which states that "a Bidder, and all parties constituting the Bidder, shall have the nationality of republic of Korea or juridical person incorporated and registered therein", and the Section of the SBD provides the qualification criteria of the Bidders.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) and inspect the bidding documents at the address below from 09:00 to 17:00 o'clock.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested Bidders on the submission of a written application and proof of payment of the application fee to the address given below under paragraph 10 and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of USD 200 (Two hundred US dollars). The method of payment will be direct deposit to the following account.

	Currency	Bank	Account	SWIFT Code
1	EURO	CRDB Bank	19J1043011100	CORUTZ
2	USD	CRDB Bank	02J1043011100	CORUTZ
3	USD	CITI Bank	0100235021	CITITZTZ

- Eligible interested Bidders present in Tanzania may buy Bidding Documents at TANESCO premises and pay locally through National Microfinance Bank (NMB) upon receipt of reference number from TANESCO.
 - The document will be provided to the Bidders who paid for the tender in a soft copy.
 - This Invitation shall take effect until 21st July 2023, after publication in the official website or in a newspaper of International and general nationwide circulation.
 - Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 21st July 2023. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of USD 1,500,000 (One Million Five Hundred Thousand US Dollars) fixed mount. Late bids shall be rejected.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below on 21st July 2023 at 10:00 AM local time.
- The Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

The Secretary, Tender Board,
Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited,
Street Address: Morogoro Road, Ubungo Area,
Building/Plot No: Umeme Park Building,
3rd Floor/Room No. A 305,
P.O. Box 9024
City/Town: Dar es Salaam.
Country: Tanzania
Telephone: +255 222 210264; 210267,
Emails: sec.tenderboard@tanesco.co.tz
CC: pmuprojects@tanesco.co.tz
Web site: www.tanesco.co.tz

MANAGING DIRECTOR
TANZANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED



Maktech leads the way in rural digitalization

Over the past decade, the connectivity challenge has become more complex and demanding. Bringing everyone online is no longer enough. Meaningful connectivity the possibility to enjoy a safe, satisfying, enriching, productive and affordable online experience is the new imperative.

For least-developed countries (LDCs), this remains a major challenge. The digital divide between LDCs and the rest of the world shows little sign of narrowing.

The risk is all too evident. As the world becomes increasingly adept at leveraging the Internet for value creation, LDCs risk falling further behind.

This year, World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) focuses on "Empowering the least developed countries through information and communication technologies."

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) calls on the public and private sectors to make pledges for universal connectivity and digital transformation in these countries through its Partner to Connect Digital Coalition.

If you are to mention one of the Tanzanian telecoms that take bold steps to bridge the widening digital divide there's no way Maktech & Tel Co. Limited is skipped.

The telecom powerhouse, which was founded by Godwin Makyao in 2001, has most of its objectives connected with the ITU's theme of this year.

Maktech improvement

However, Maktech has made a unique effort to ensure that they go along with the government plan, as the founder of Maktech Eng. Makyao says "We provide secure, reliable, affordable and high-quality telecommunication solutions by creating exceptional value and opportunity to our customers, employees and investors."

He says Maktech offers a wide-range of quality telecommunication engineering services that includes installation of devices in the towers of which it was once performed by only foreign firms. He further revealed that there were only South African firms that provided those services by then.

Maktech began with only four staff and for that reason Eng. Makyao had to take control of most of the roles from management, driving, to clientele documentation. He said that the company continued growing and extended its workforce to 50 staff by the year 2007 and furthers his growth to more than 190 staff by the year 2023.



Maktech staff on group photo during managerial site visit this year.

With the government focus towards rural digitization by 2025, Maktech saw the opportunity of putting the affordable infrastructure in the rural area, and this push Maktech to acquire the license from Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) for ration of the towers and it's become the first local company to own that kind of license.

Eng. Makyao says as part of their services and strategy to digitize the village, Maktech has already managed to construct four towers located in Arusha (3) and Dodoma (1) in order to improve connectivity, and offer affordable service.

"Currently, we have 4 towers that are fully operational, located in Arusha (3) and Dodoma (1). These tower sites are equipped with modern infrastructure and technology, including backup power and security systems, to ensure uninterrupted service and protection of equipment.

"We offer flexible leasing terms and competitive rates to meet our client's specific needs," says Eng. Makyao.

As a local company their rates are very competitive compared to others, and they already have a number of clients who are in demand of infrastructure in the place, and Maktech is looking forward to constructing more towers this year and coming years.

Also, Maktech's efforts to build towers in various areas of the country has supported the government's five-year policy that aims by 2025 for every village to be reached by communication services, as the Minister of Information, Communication and Information Technology Nape Nnauye says.

"Through the Digital Tanzania project, the Government will deliver communication services in various areas of the country, especially rural areas."

Through its modern IT infrastructure in place, Maktech reduces cost in an exchange of high-profile and wide-range of services including towers, NOC, antenna, other telecommunication facilities and technical staff.

Also, due to the advantage of being a Local Company, Maktech has taken advantage to find out which areas are in great demand, including in the local markets, so that they are focusing on building the low cost towers which will make affordable services to the rural areas.



He says Maktech runs subsidiaries in Congo DRC, Congo Brazzaville and Ethiopia, they both represent the largest brand of Maktech, however, and they might differ in terms of operations in relation to each country's regulations.

He adds that, "I set a clear goal to expand the horizon of my business region-wide and resolve to span the business across seven African countries by 2024 with currently just two countries to go. Secondly, to showcase local flairs and capabilities in undertaking mega projects that were previously handled by large foreign firms."

MAKTECH GOALS

He says 2025 goals attainment to be a threshold of the next move which is to build a stable foundation that would see them transitioning to 5G and 6G technology where the world is currently heading.

Speaking about the Maktech's goals milestone achieved within it's 22 years since inception Makyao feels bold but that doesn't shrug-off his far-reaching aspirations yet.

"I have an inclination to leave a lifelong legacy in this industry looking at how Maktech has been a good example, referral and orchestrated by many other firms. We have proudly achieved our goals to some extent by setting bars for other local firms and we are transforming the technological aspect in the country by bringing in innovative solutions to the arena."

He further admits that as a company, they are yet to fill the underlying void to the full tilt but have made significant strides in service provision.

Also Eng. Makyao says Maktech vision is to construct up to 200 towers by 2025 in the rural areas where there is no covering or poor covering by now.

He also sees the sector runs short of technological innovations despite the fact that he has his confidence in locally available gifted tech-savvy Tanzanians whose innovations might be used by the present and future generations.



Maktech vehicles during their daily operations in Dar es Salaam

ACHIEVEMENTS

With the growing necessity to deliver high quality yet cost-effective solutions to the market, Maktech is proud to be a local telecoms Infrastructure Company in Tanzania, which manages to operate and deliver high services that are in line with international standards for organization.

Within 22 years of its operation in the country, Maktech has won different awards that include the best Health and Safety Recognition Awards 2023, company in Africa that was awarded in Finland; it's won the best contractor in Mobile network operators like Vodacom and other stakeholder like Nokia.

Also the company has been satisfied to maintain the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certificate for more than seven years now, one among best Vodacom partners in Tanzania by building the network since 2017, and has done great endeavors which give them extra stimulus and energy to continue to excel.

However, Maktech is the inspiration to the young entrepreneurs in Tanzania where a number of startup companies and middle telecom constructors have measure out of Maktech.

Also, Maktech is not only in Tanzania, but they're looking to transform Africa by putting a full print in DRC, Mozambique, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Zambia and Madagascar already have highmark.



Maktech Health and Safety Recognition Awards 2023.



Thursday 18 May 2023

TIRA licences CRDB Bank to establish new insurance subsidiary company

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) has issued a license for CRDB Bank Plc to establish its own insurance subsidiary, as part of enhancing insurance services provision.

It becomes the first bank in Tanzania to establish an insurance company to be named CRDB Insurance Company (CIC) Ltd.

The license was issued yesterday by TIRA Commissioner General Dr Baghayo Saqware in a ceremony held at the Gran Melia Hotel.

Speaking during the license issuance, Dr Saqware congratulated CRDB Bank for growing from an insurance agent to an insurance company.

"CRDB Insurance Company is the newborn to the insurance industry, a new born for CRDB Bank and the financial market in the country. It is so impressive to see you growing from one stage to the other. I believe in the next five years, you will grow to an advanced stage. There are many opportunities for you to grow in our market," Dr Saqware said.

He said for the CRDB Bank experience has in insurance industry, TIRA believes that the CRDB Insurance Company Limited is going to stimulate the inclusive insurance target of reaching 50 percent of Tanzanians by 2030 from currently 18 percent.

"In stimulating inclusive insurance, the government has passed a law to make some of the insurance cover to be compulsory including property insurance, contractors insurance, health insurance and transport vehicles insurance. If you will come up with proper strategy to exploit these areas and serve at least 30 percent of the market potential, I assure you that, within a short period, you will exit from small company to one of the largest companies in the country," he said.

CRDB Bank managing director and Group CEO Abdulmajid Nsekela said he was happy to receive the license to offer general insurance services, just a few period, after obtaining another license to operate in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

"CRDB Bank has an experience of offering insurance services for the last 15 years and has been doing in different ways, starting from an insurance agent and now the fully-fledged insurance company. These achievements are testimony of conducive business environment in the country," Nsekela said.

Nsekela said CRDB Insurance Company will ensure innovative products in general insurance by considering standards and ensuring that services are reaching many Tanzanians to stimulate the country's economic development.

"Our target is to become the leaders in insurance industry as what we have done in



Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) Commissioner General Dr Baghayo Saqware (2nd R) hands over the CRDB Bank managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela a license to establish a subsidiary, the CRDB Insurance Company Ltd at a ceremony held at Gran Melia Hotel. Others are the board chairman of CRDB Insurance Company, Gerald Kasato (R), CRDB Insurance Company managing director Wilson Mnzava (L). Photo by Guardian Correspondent

banking and other subsidiaries. But, in order to become a leading company, quality services is the major foundation, so will invest heavily in services delivery infrastructure through agent, brokers, banc assurance, and digital channels. I want to assure you the commissioner that we have positioned to implement what we are planning to do," he said.

On his part, the CRDB Insurance Company managing director Wilson Mnzava said they have positioned to start offering insurance services and the company is planning to come up with innovative insurance products among strategic sectors, including agriculture.

"I want to assure Tanzanians, institutions and companies that CRDB Insurance is your choice and we promise to satisfy the needs of insurance services," he said.

Tanzania has 32nd insurance companies and CRDB Insurance Limited become 33rd, with 1,500 agents and 32 banks are offering bancassurance service while five companies are offering digital insurance services.

Insurance industry contributes 1.68 percent of the GDP and the target is to reach at least 3 percent by 2030.

StanChart Bank launches digital transaction App

By Francis Kajubi

STANDARD Chartered Bank Tanzania has introduced a new digital banking innovative platform with features that can suit corporate and business banking clients for over a decade.

Christened 'Straight2Bank NextGen' the mobile application platform targets at catering digitized financial services with profound features for the present and future generations.

Addressing a number of its esteemed customers at the platform's launch held yesterday in Dar es Salaam, the bank's chief executive officer Herman Kasekende said the platform is the latest version of StanChart's Tanzania digital banking designed to meet the evolving needs for the clients.

"The bank has been on the forefront of digital innovations. The clients' needs are changing by the time and for that matter we can't stay static," said Kasekende.

According to him, the App's features include convenient cash payments and collections, streamlined best capabilities for payroll transactions, request for foreign exchange rates and real time status updates on cash transactions.

The other features are invoice financing that involves cross-border transactions and invoicing, control of access by clients and biometric verification for cyber security.

The focus does not leave behind cash, financial markets; application programming interfaces (APIs), data solutions and client insights.

"We are confident that this platform will be a game changer for the banking industry," he said.

Dr. Nkundwe Moses, director general ICT Commission of Tanzania who graced the launch as the guest of honor said that the commission has a role to accelerate digital transformation in the country.



StanChart chief executive officer Herman Kasekende addresses the bank's customers at the launch of the Straight2Bank NextGen application held yesterday in Dar es Salaam. Photo by Jumanne Juma

The Commission focuses on ensuring the transfer of digital skills among Tanzanians, ensuring trust, availability of digital telecommunication, robust digital financial inclusion and digital entrepreneurship and innovation.

"This innovation really pushes for digital financial inclusion in Tanzania. It reaffirms the government's commitment in creating solutions for end users," said Dr. Moses.

He commended the bank for bringing

flexibility in digital services. He asserted that the Straight2Bank platform aligns with ICT Tanzania's vision of creating an inclusive knowledge and informative society.

"It does not only simplify banking processes but overall efficiency of financial services. We have around 3million small enterprises that need to be digitized with the biggest component of it being access to digital banking services," said Dr. Moses.

According to him, the platform will also serve as a catalyst for economic development through technology advancements.

Makabelo Malumane, the bank's head of transaction banking Kenya and East Africa said alternative banking is the only best way forward.

"Digital solutions attract diversity of service delivery. The platform supports government payment systems," she said.

I&M Bank launches agency banking services

By Guardian Correspondent

I&M Bank announced the launch of its latest banking solution, Agency Banking dubbed 'I&M Bank Wakala', which is aimed at providing customers with greater accessibility to financial services across Tanzania.

The product was launched yesterday at the Bank's Headquarters in Dar es Salaam and is set to revolutionize the way Tanzanians access banking services.

I&M Bank Wakala enable customers to access banking services through

an extensive network of agents spread across the country.

Customers will be able to carry out a range of transactions, including cash deposits and withdrawals, balance enquiries, fund transfers, and mini-statement generation.

Speaking during the launch event, I&M Bank Tanzania CEO, Zahid Mustafa stated, "I&M Bank Wakala is a crucial step in our efforts to increase access to financial services for all our customers as customers will no longer have to travel long distances to access banking services. We are committed to providing

Tanzanians with the best banking solutions, and our Agency Banking solution is a testament to this commitment."

The aim of this service is to provide access to banking services to Tanzanians, particularly in areas where our branches are limited. By doing so, customers will have convenient and affordable access to banking services in their locality, aligning with the bank's dedication to providing top-notch banking solutions.

I&M Bank Tanzania, Head of Customer, Zainab Maalim, stated, "To-date, the Bank has managed to recruit over 200 agents and the number is growing.

Through the agents, we will be able to reach more customers with our services."

Concluding the session, the Acting Head of Consumer Banking, Deepali Ramaiya added this new solution is set to complement the government's efforts and will contribute to universal access to financial services.

The launch of I&M Bank Wakala comes at a time when the Tanzanian Government is placing more emphasis on financial inclusion and digital payments.

Absa Group sets office in Beijing

JOHANNESBURG

ABSA, the South African banking group which has branches in 10 African countries plans to offer advisory services to Chinese companies interested in investing in the continent, among other things.

South African bank Absa Group will set up a representative office in Beijing to serve Chinese companies looking to expand their business to African markets, the South China Morning Post reported on Monday, May 15, citing an executive source.

"We believe China is a good place to commit more financial resources, and that China will bring us strong returns in the next five to 10 years," said Zhu Kai, head of Absa Group's corporate and investment banking operations in China, noting that the group is seeing double-

digit revenue growth from the Middle Kingdom.

According to Kai, the proposed office is awaiting approval from the South African regulatory authorities. In the first stage, the office is expected to be a consulting unit with less than 10 staff.

Expanding on the reasons that prompted the choice of Beijing as host to the representative office, Mr. Kai said the city is home to the headquarters of most Chinese state-owned enterprises and African diplomatic missions.

"Beijing is the hub of African embassies and consular offices. Besides trade agreements, there will also be agreements between governments. That's why we chose it as our first destination," he explained.

Currently, in addition to its domestic market, Absa Group has subsidiaries in ten African countries, including Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, and Botswana.

Global central banks use record amount of yuan

BEIJING

The use of Chinese yuan in foreign-exchange swaps underwent the second-largest quarterly surge at the end of March, as more countries transacted in the currency, Bloomberg reports

In the first quarter, swap line balances accounted for 109 billion yuan, or 20 billion more than the previous quarter, according to cited data from the People's Bank of China. That's equivalent to \$15.6 billion.

These are arrangements that allow central banks to exchange one another's currencies, guaranteeing to return the money for the same exchange rate at a future date, with interest.

Countries may do this when needing to inject liquidity into their domestic banking system. Bloomberg notes that Argentina turned to swaps in April to counteract a major sell-off in its peso.

The yuan's increased use may also indicate a global de-dollarization swing, as many central banks are moving away from reliance on the greenback. That's after the US weaponized

the dollar against Russian aggression, incidentally deterring other countries from relying on it too heavily.

For that reason, foreign banks have also led a surge in gold purchases in the previous few months, fueling a historic high in the last three quarters.

In a de-dollarized future, yuan has regularly been referred to as the potential alternative, but most analysts agree that it's seriously handicapped by how tightly controlled the currency is by the Chinese government.

Nonetheless, China has been ramping up efforts to disrupt dollar trade, entering into non-dollar agreements with countries, such as Brazil and Kazakhstan. And amid Chinese cross-border transactions, the yuan recently topped the dollar as the most used currency.

The PBOC did not make public which central banks relied on the swap lines in the first quarter. Meanwhile, the US has standing currency swap agreements with five national banks in Canada, England, Japan, Switzerland and Europe.



Digital currency ecosystem brimming with confidence

By Lewis McLellan

AN air of quiet confidence suffused the Digital Monetary Institute symposium, held on 10-11 May in London.

Despite the battering that cryptocurrency markets have taken over the past year, the atmosphere was positive, suggesting that the worst is over and that the crypto winter will leave us with a stronger and healthier marketplace. Although market caps are down, the sense is that they now give a more realistic reflection of value.

With the dust settling in the wake of the FTX debacle, the job that market participants and regulators have to do in cleaning up the market and ensuring a healthy digital assets ecosystem has come into sharper focus.

Around the world, regulators are beginning to follow the example set by the European Union's Markets in Crypto-Assets bill and develop their own regulatory frameworks, giving the industry some much needed clarity.

During the panel on crypto regulation, however, Hester Peirce, commissioner at the US Securities and Exchange Commission, stressed the need for regulators to take a more proactive approach.

There is a similarly confident feeling towards the progress countries are making on central banks and digital currencies and cross-border payments. The value of a CBDC as a tool for ensuring uniformity of digital payments and preventing possible abuses of market power is becoming clear.

The symposium brought together hundreds of experts from across the digital currency sector to exchange ideas and update on progress.

It featured presentations from experts including Mu Changchun, director-general of the People's Bank of China, Thammarak Moenjajak, senior adviser for CBDC projects at the Bank of Thailand, and Andrew Abir, deputy governor of the Bank of Israel, all of whom are working on tools to ensure seamless interoperability between new networks.

The digital currency space is constantly changing and regulators are forced to react to new developments quickly, balancing the need to preserve stability with the desire to allow innovation to flourish and deliver benefits. Timothy Massad, former chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, said of decentralised finance that he is all for innovation that makes finance and governance



more accessible, inclusive and effective.

But as yet, it is unclear what the appropriate regulatory approach should be. "There needs to be some kind of regulatory attachment, but we're not yet sure what that should look like," he said.

Perhaps the most rapid progress seems to be coming in the digitalisation of traditional financial instruments. The technological challenges involved in creating tokenised representations of assets are rapidly being solved and attention is turning to questions of market structure and ownership.

One of the key questions

that remain unsolved is what the appropriate method of settling the cash leg of securities transactions is. A poll conducted of the OMFIF audience revealed a fairly strong preference for CBDC.

This question was discussed at length during the symposium. Monica Sah, partner at Clifford Chance, Benjamin Muller, head of banking operations at Swiss National Bank, Claudine Hurman, director of infrastructures innovation and payments from Banque de France, and Amar Amlani, executive director and head of EMEA digital assets from Goldman Sachs, discussed the importance of an efficient

payments instrument, how to identify the appropriate provider and what legal structures will be required to ensure it is legal tender.

Tokenising assets offers benefits of speed and transparency, but widespread adoption will be challenging. "We won't see a big bang migration to distributed ledger technology - that wouldn't be good practice," said Muller. "But a gradual evolution is costly because we will need to run today's systems and new DLT systems in parallel."

Lewis McLellan is an editor of Digital Monetary Institute-OMFI

BoA (T) rewards winner of its digital campaign

By Guardian Reporter

VICTOR Sowani, Bank of Africa (BoA)'s customer has emerged as the lucky winner of the iPhone 14 Pro prize, for the bank's exciting digital campaign dubbed "Transact & Win".

This follows the first raffle draw for the "Transact & Win" campaign conducted at Bank of Africa (BoA)'s head office on May 11th, 2023, in the presence of the Senior Gaming Inspector from Gaming Board of Tanzania (GBT), Elibariki Sengasenga.

The Transact and Win campaign kicked off on April 1st, 2023 and will run for 3 months and more-iphone 14 Pro to be won by the lucky customers.

Bank of Africa customers are required through their Bank's mobile app (B-Mobile) or ussd make as many transactions as possible to qualify to enter into a draw that is conducted monthly.

Speaking during the draw session, Jesse Jackson, BoA's Chief Digital Officer said that the campaign represents

a means for its customers to interact with the bank's newly improved mobile banking platform, which has been updated with robust features to meet customer's needs.

The campaign is a reflection of the bank's strategic objective to digitize its products and services in turn promoting financial inclusion as well as ease for customers to access the bank's services.

Nandi Mwiombella, Bank's head of marketing & communications explained: "Through the campaign, existing and new mobile banking users will enter directly to the grand raffle draw when one performs at least 10 transactions worth 500,000/- . As a bank we are committed to provide excellent products and services that meet customer needs."

The bank will continue to develop and bring forth innovative ideas to suit the growing pace of digitization of the banking industry (banking on the Go!!) for further promotion of the financial inclusion agenda," remarked Jesse.



Bank of Africa- Tanzania Mbeya branch manager Agatha Lyimo (R) hands over a smartphone to the first winner of the "Transact and Win" campaign Victor Thomas Sowani at the branch's premise. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

Kenyan banks in poor financial health rise to 13 in a year

NAIROBI

THE number of commercial banks in poor financial health in Kenya grew to 13 last year after more lenders failed to maintain the required capital levels that act as guardrails against a bank run, underlining the task ahead for the new Central Bank boss.

The increase translates to a 44 percent rise compared to the nine lenders found to be in breach of critical supervisory and regulatory requirements in 2021, a new report by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) shows.

The CBK, which did not name the affected banks, said the financial breaches it found included over-lending to a single borrower, excessive insider lending, over-lending to the real estate sector, too much foreign exchange exposure and the failure to keep aside adequate capital for high-risk loans.

"During the year ended December 31, 2022, thirteen commercial banks were in violation of the Banking Act and CBK Prudential Guidelines compared to nine commercial banks in the previous year 2021," said CBK in the Banking Supervision Report 2022.

The data also gives perspective on how the liquidity crunch, aggravated by a dysfunctional forex interbank market, pushed core capital levels for some of the banks to drop, leading to several breaches in capital and liquidity ratios.

Most of the breaches were on capital adequacy requirements, which are ratios that the CBK, the financial sector regulator, uses to evaluate the financial health of a commercial bank.

For example, 10 banks breached the requirement that they should not lend more than 25 percent of their core capital to a single borrower.

Known as the single obligor limit, this lending limit is aimed at minimising the bank's exposure to one borrower in case the borrower defaults on the debt.

"Most of the violations were in respect to a breach of single obligor limit mainly due to decline in core capital in some banks that have continued to report losses," said the CBK.

In 2021, the CBK report shows that only eight banks were in breach of this limit.

The CBK data also shows that eight banks made a loss before tax last year, an increase from five in 2021.

In the review period, eight banks were found to be in breach of the legal requirement to maintain the core capital of at least eight percent of the total deposits. This was an increase from three in 2021.

Five banks, up from three in 2021, were



Central Bank of Kenya

found guilty of lending more than 20 percent of their core capital to one of their employees.

"What is happening globally is trickling into our market. And this has to do with, for instance, the mark-to-market losses. Right now if you can get internal loans at five percent and externally they are giving at 24 percent, it is more lucrative to get these loans. So you will find insider loans are growing beyond limits," said an analyst who refused to go on record.

During the review period, lending to employees by three banks exceeded the statutory limit of 100 percent of the core capital. This was an increase from two in 2021.

The core capital for the two banks fell below the minimum requirement of Sh1 billion. This was a drop from three in 2021.

The continued worsening of the capital and liquidity ratios, some analysts have argued, signals that the CBK is sleeping on the job.

"For instance, the CBK is giving banks the ability to do risk-based lending but then they are not giving them caps. So, it means banks are free to do whatever they want," said an analyst who declined to be named. The CBK has been going hard on banking sector analysts who comment on the happenings of the industry.

The Banking Supervision Report 2022 did not mention any of the banks that were in breach of the capital adequacy ratios.

And in a period when traders decried dollar shortage, three were found to have failed to maintain foreign exchange exposure at less than 10 percent of their core capital.

However, last year, First Community Bank, which has since been acquired by the Somalia-based Premier Bank, disclosed a shortfall of more than Sh1 billion in core capital, or shareholder funds.

Teachers-owned Spire Bank, which has since been acquired by Equity Bank, was also in breach

of most of the capital and liquidity ratios with the lender sliding into a loss of Sh10 billion.

A few banks were also in violation of the requirement to have adequate loans and other assets weighted according to risk to determine the minimum capital they can hold, or what is known as risk-weighted assets.

With an unsecured loan, for example, a bank needs to have more of risk-weighted assets compared to a secured asset.

Five banks did not meet the total capital to total risk-weighted assets ratio of 14.5 percent.

Another bank failed to meet the minimum capital adequacy ratio of 10.5 percent for core capital to total risk-weighted assets in the review period.

Three banks failed to meet the minimum liquidity ratio of 20 percent.

Lenders were also in breach of investing more in real estate and land and buildings, beyond the statutory limits.

Absa Bank supports Mnazi Mmoja hospital

By Guardian Reporter

IN a bid to support the government in improving the quality of health services delivery, Absa Tanzania, through its funds raised during the Dar City marathon has donated facilities to Mnazi Mmoja hospital, Dar es Salaam.

This follows after successfulness of the event, which took place on 7th May in Dar es Salaam. The occasion was running in parallel with a blood donation campaign organized by the Club with the support of the marathon sponsors, partners, vendors, services providers and the general public.

The handing over was attended by In-charge of Mnazi Mmoja Hospital Dr. Delila Moshi, The Ilala Municipal NCDs Coordinator, Dr. Milka Mathania, leaders and members of The Runners Club and representatives of the sponsors of the marathon including Absa Bank Tanzania Limited, Britam Insurance Tanzania Limited, Alliance Life Assurance

Limited and Gardaworld Security Services Limited.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Delila expressed her gratitude to Absa Dar City Marathon for choosing Mnazi Mmoja Hospital as their preferred institution for their charitable donation and urged them to continue supporting the hospital in the coming marathons.

She also praised The Runners Club blood donation campaign, informing that lack of adequate blood is one of the major challenges of the hospital which admits more than 200 expecting mothers in the maternity ward and attends to more than 400 children daily in their reproductive health clinic.

On her side, the Ilala Municipal NCDs Coordinator, Dr. Milka advised that NCDs is one of the major challenges of public health in Dar es Salaam and urged The Runners Club to continue with this initiative for the greater benefit of the community.

The spokesperson of the Runners Club, Godfrey Mwangun-



Chief Internal Auditor, George Binde (second left), hands over medical equipment to Mnazi Mmoja Hospital Medical Incharge, Delila Moshi (R) donated by Absa to support the government efforts to provide quality health services in the country. Looking on is Absa Bank Citizenship Manager, Hellen Siria (L). Photo by Guardian Correspondent

gulu informed the audience that Absa Dar City Marathon that was held on Sunday, 7 May 2023 at Mnazi Mmoja Grounds, Dar es Salaam was the 3rd edition and attracted

more than 2,500 runners in the 21.1km, 10km and 5km race categories.

Theme of the marathon was aligned with the Club's vision of healthy lifestyles

and and play a major role in the society.

The representative of Britam Insurance Tanzania Limited, the sponsors of the 10km corporate run, Leoncia Makubo, said that the prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is aligned with the company objectives particularly in the provision of health insurances services.

"Healthy lifestyles reduce the usage of hospital services for preventable diseases, reserving this scarce service to those are critically in need. The company will continue to support deserving charitable activities through its CSR initiatives," she said.

The representative of Alliance Life Assurance Limited, the sponsors of the 5km family fun run, Josephine Mfikwa said that the company supports the Runners Club vision of healthy lifestyles and this donation is a demonstration of their commitment to support the health needs of the society. As a life assurance provider, healthy lifestyles are likely to prevent untimely deaths leading to long and happy lives.

Absa Dar City Marathon is an iconic city centre race organized annually in May by The Runners Club through the Runners Sports Agency.

AfDB to help Zimbabwe to compensate white farmers

HARARE

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has announced that it would help Zimbabwe compensate white farmers who were evicted from their land under former President Robert Mugabe's regime without adding to the debt burden.

"We are currently working with the minister of finance and the government of Zimbabwe to develop a financial instrument that [...] will help leverage the capital markets to fund the compensation, without adding debt to Zimbabwe," AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina told the press at the end of a round of negotiations between the Zimbabwean government and its creditors on the clearance of debt arrears. He did not, however, provide further details on these financial instruments.

Adesina's announcement comes after white farmers recently rejected a new proposal to compensate them through treasury bills over ten years.

In July 2020, the Zimbabwean government signed an agreement with the expropriated white landowners to compensate them



the tune of \$3.5 billion.

The owners to be compensated are the about 4,500 large white landowners evicted from their lands, in the 2000s, as part of the land reform initiated by former President Robert Mugabe.

The reform was aimed at correcting inequalities inherited from British colonization, but the redistribution of land mostly benefited those close to the regime and went to farmers with no equipment or training. This caused a sudden collapse in agricultural production and a severe economic crisis that prompted Harare to stop repaying its debt to international backers.

Zimbabwe, a country of nearly 16 million people, still has

foreign debts estimated at more than \$14 billion.

Still without the support of international backers, the southern African country is struggling to secure new credit lines and attract foreign investment to revive its economy.

Compensation for expropriated white farmers is one of the conditions set by the country's main creditors for accepting a debt arrears clearance program.

BANKING & FINANCE

Wall Street's biggest banks face a harsh check in China

NEW YORK

MORE than three years after China's grand financial opening, it's becoming clear to Wall Street giants that their dreams of windfall profits from the \$60 trillion market are more elusive than ever.

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Morgan Stanley are among banks scaling back ambitious expansion plans and profit goals as a deteriorating geopolitical climate and the increasingly authoritarian direction of President Xi Jinping rock the private sector and throttle dealmaking. More drastic jobs cuts are being eyed at the biggest banks, according to senior executives who asked not to be identified discussing private matters.

Goldman Sachs, which was ahead of targets in 2021 after revenue surged, has revised projections on its five-year plan after the country's business environment drastically changed. Morgan Stanley is opting not to build an onshore brokerage for now, making a smaller bet of about \$150 million on derivatives and futures businesses. The firm is planning another round of job cuts affecting 7% of its Asia-Pacific investment bankers as soon as this week, people familiar said, joining JPMorgan Chase & Co. and rivals in reducing China-dedicated headcount earlier this year.

The moves mark an about face for many of the Wall Street giants, which as recently as 18 months ago were sticking to plans to take on China's massive banks on their home turf and were more concerned about finding enough local talent to drive the expansion. For many firms, there's now a realization that they need a fundamental rethink on the world's No. 2 economy because the business climate has weakened significantly and the best opportunities for making outsized profits in the country are over, according to the senior executives.

"This changing calculus makes the cost of doing business in China higher and the rewards much lower," said finance professor Mark Williams at Boston University. "These global banks are vulnerable to political actions that could inflict material financial harm to their franchisees and to shareholders."

While many banks are eliminating jobs globally, the cuts in China are the biggest in years and in many cases are relatively deeper than the rest of the world, the people said. China's economy is struggling to get back on its feet after years of Covid restrictions and crackdowns on everything from financial technology to private education and real estate. In all, at least 100 China-focused jobs were lost since September.

Goldman alone let go of more than a 10th of its workforce on the mainland after doubling headcount to over 600 to build up its business,

the people said. Representatives at Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan and Morgan Stanley declined to comment.

China has enacted the most sweeping changes in decades for its financial services, allowing foreign firms full ownership of insurers, banks, brokers and asset managers as President Xi seeks to cushion the economy from the steepest slowdown since the early 1990s amid a trade dispute with the US. Yet the country's state-owned players are well-entrenched across all these segments after learning from their joint venture partners for years, making it hard for global firms to compete.

"The Chinese banks totally dominate the market," said Dick Bove, a long-time bank analyst and chief financial strategist at Odeon Capital Group in New York, adding the domestic firms now have "little need for American expertise."

The stakes are high for the international banks in a market long viewed as the final frontier for big fees on everything from mergers to stocks sales and trading. JPMorgan, Citigroup Inc., Bank of America Corp. and Morgan Stanley had combined China exposure of \$48 billion in 2022, though that's down 16% from the previous year. The banks have spent more than \$4 billion in recent years upping or acquiring controlling stakes in their securities and asset management joint ventures, banking on future growth, according to Bloomberg calculations.

The backdrop of a more fractured geopolitical landscape means Wall Street firms have to strike an increasingly delicate balance.

Publicly, everyone's saying the same thing: China is still a massive opportunity and they have no plans to pull out, especially since so much money has already been spent. Privately, Wall Street executives are saying it's difficult to maintain good standing with both sides as tensions repeatedly flare. That could get tougher as the US election cycle approaches - China policy is poised to be a major topic on both sides of the political aisle, all but guaranteeing more drama.

As a result, bank executives are increasing scrutiny of credit and market risks, peppering senior managers in Asia with questions on their liquidity and the potential for clients to be ensnared by US sanctions, the people said. The further away bankers sit from China, the more pessimistic they are, they added.

"Wall Street banks should have factored in geopolitical risks a long time ago," said Chen Zhiwu, a professor of finance at the University of Hong Kong Business School. "Over the next five years, the best case scenario for them is that China reverses direction and goes back to real open-door policy and market reforms, revitalizing the business environment."



The Arusha Regional Assistant Administrative Secretary, David Francis Lyamongi (2nd L) handing a toolkit box to Japhet Mollie one of the 146 2jiajiri beneficiaries who completed the six months VETA training in the region. On the left is KCB Bank's Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs, Christine Manyenye. The partnership worth 2.2bn/- between KCB Foundation and Germany Development Corporation (GIZ) has benefited 960 youth in Tanzania in the construction sector. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

WORLD

France's Sarkozy loses graft appeal, to reach highest court

PARIS

FORMER president Nicolas Sarkozy lost his appeal against a 2021 conviction for corruption and influence peddling at the Paris Court of Appeals yesterday, prompting his legal team to promise a challenge at France's highest court.

The appeals court upheld a three-year jail sentence. In line with the initial ruling, it said two of those years were suspended and that Sarkozy would wear an electronic bracelet instead of going to jail for the remaining year.

Sarkozy's lawyer said he had committed no wrongdoing and described the ruling as "stupefying."

"Nicolas Sarkozy is innocent of the charges (he has been convicted of)," defense lawyer Jacqueline Laffont said. "We will not give up this fight".

Sarkozy left the court without speak-

ing to reporters.

Sarkozy, 68, a conservative who served one term as French president from 2007 to 2012, will take his legal battle to France's highest court, the Cour de Cassation, Laffont said.

The Cour de Cassation reviews lower court rulings on the grounds of legal or procedural errors, but not factual aspects.

A lower court in 2021 found Sarkozy guilty of trying to bribe a judge after leaving office, and of peddling influence in exchange for confidential information about an investigation into his 2007 campaign finances.

Wiretaps

The conviction marked a stunning fall from grace for a former president who once brooded the world, and is one of several legal battles Sarkozy has been



Former president Nicolas Sarkozy

fighting over the past decade.

Sarkozy has always denied wrongdoing.

Known in France as the "wiretapping affair", the case at the center of Wednesday's ruling is indirectly linked to a suspicion of illegal campaign financing ahead of the 2007 election.

In 2013, investigators looking into money flows from Libya - over which Sarkozy may face another trial soon - wiretapped two of Sarkozy's phone lines and discov-

ered a secret line used by the ex-president and his lawyer, Thierry Herzog.

The courts found that Sarkozy conspired to secure a plum job in Monaco for a judge, Gilbert Azibert, in return for inside information about an inquiry into allegations that he had accepted illegal payments from L'Oréal heiress Liliane Bettencourt - another episode stemming from his 2007 presidential campaign finances.

Also upholding the corruption and influence peddling convictions against Herzog and Azibert, the presiding judge Sophie Clement said Herzog's judgment as a lawyer failed him because of his friendship with Sarkozy. Herzog had breached professional codes of conduct by not warning the former president that what he was doing was illegal, she added.

Clement dismissed Sarkozy's claim that he was not aware of what Herzog and Azibert had discussed, based on the wiretapped exchanges, and rejected his argument that wiretapped conversations could not be presented as evidence in court.

The only other president during the course of France's 64-year-old Fifth Republic to be convicted by a court was Sarkozy's conservative predecessor, the late Jacques Chirac, who was found guilty of corruption in 2011.

Ex-Soviet states in crossfire as West seeks to compromise their ties with Russia - Lavrov

MOSCOW



The West has been steadily seeking to place Russia's closest allies in the post-Soviet space in a very uncomfortable position over their ties with Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

In an interview with Tsargrad television published on the Foreign Ministry's website on Wednesday, Russia's top diplomat said. "There are a lot of facts based on actions, statements from our closest allies, our strategic partners who say that they have been put (to put it mildly) in a very uncomfortable position."

"They are trying not to do anything that would cause economic damage," the Russian foreign minister said. "The West methodically and cynically demands that they refrain from taking steps contrary to its interests, promising them everything under the sun. Although in reality it only means interference in internal affairs," he lamented.

According to Lavrov, Moscow's allies "find themselves caught in the crossfire," with Russia, the EAEU, and the CIS accounting for what he said was "the lion's share" of their economic ties. Meanwhile, the West's role in the economy of Central Asia and the South Caucasus is growing, he added.

"At the same time, the network of budget-funded NGOs, primarily of the United States, Britain and the European Union, is expanding. In a number of post-Soviet countries, they feel more at ease and even try to call the shots. I will not list them; they are well known," Lavrov maintained. "But despite all this, I believe that these countries stand together with the Russian Federation. They are truly our allies. Victory Day, May 9, 2023, reaffirmed this," he emphasized.

Agencies

China, Central Asia gear up for greater success after decade of Belt and Road cooperation

XI'AN

TEN years into Belt and Road cooperation, China and Central Asian countries have made historic achievements. With an upcoming milestone summit, they will strive for greater success and inject more impetus into global development.

China proposed the idea of building an "economic belt along the Silk Road" in Kazakhstan in 2013, which, combined with the proposal of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, eventually became the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Over the past decade, Central Asian countries have become pioneers in promoting the BRI and have built the region into an example of high-quality BRI development. From fully loaded trains to humming production lines and natural gas pipelines, vigorous cooperation has resulted in common development.

As the China-Central Asia Summit is scheduled for May 18 and 19 in northwest China's Xi'an, the ancient Silk Road's starting point, experts believe the win-win cooperation between the two sides will open a new chapter.

Marking the BRI's 10th anniversary, a freight train left Xi'an on April 26 to carry more than 260 new energy vehicles to Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, in 12 days. Currently, 17 railway routes connect Xi'an with Central Asian countries and many other Asian and European destinations, with more than 1,100 train trips made in the first quarter of this year.

Roaring trains are the epitome of closer economic ties between China and Central Asian countries. In 2022, trade volume hit a historic high of 70.2 billion U.S. dollars, an over 100-fold increase since diplomatic ties were established about three decades ago.

Central Asian quality agricultural products, such as wheat, soybeans, fruits, dried fruits, beef and mutton, have been exported to China, bringing tangible benefits to ordinary people.

Getting enough water for four hectares of farmland used to be a big problem for Kyrgyz farmer Evgeny Yakovlev living in a village called Kara-Ol. Thanks to China's support in reconstructing Kyrgyzstan's irrigation system, a new reservoir was built in the village by a Chinese company and the water supply was increased on an area of over 1,000 hectares.

A Chinese-built wind farm in Zhanatas, Kazakhstan, not only offered Maksat Abilgaziev, a 33-year-old local resident, a new job with more than doubled income but brought the run-down town back to life with green investment and technology.

A number of major projects have facilitated industrial upgrades and livelihood improvements in Central Asia, including the China-Central Asia natural gas pipeline, the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan highway, the Pengsheng Industrial Park and the Qamchiq railway tunnel.

The success of such projects serves as a vivid demonstration of China's genuine support for the development of neighboring countries, said

Xinhua

Terror to tourism: G20 meeting set to herald all-round development in J&K

SRINAGAR, India

SRINAGAR, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, is all set to host a working group meeting of tourism delegates from the G20 nations in ten-day time. The Summit is set to usher in a new positive phase in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory (UT).

The citizens of Jammu and Kashmir are upbeat and are extending full support to the Jammu and Kashmir Administration to make the program a grand success, believing that the event is going to be historical in showcasing Jammu and Kashmir's potential as a tourism destination, not just for India, but also for the entire world.

It's for the first time in the past 70 years that J & K would be hosting an international event like G-20, and the occasion offers UT a chance to rise to the occasion of exhibiting its market prospects, and ecotourism ventures.

"G20 Summit in Kashmir is set to boost tourism, providing a platform for the region to showcase its beauty to the world. It is a proud moment for every Kashmiri and a significant milestone for the tourism sector," said Mukhtar Ahmad, a hotelier in Srinagar.

"Entire Valley is excited for the grand G-20. This is the first time such a grand venue is happening in the valley. Earlier no such event has taken place in this paradise. Our handicrafts and tourism destinations will be highlighted on the global platform," he said.

Kashmir, popularly known as the paradise on earth, is surrounded by ranges of the Himalayas. The valley is also famous for its hospitality.

The general public of Jammu and Kashmir, including students, are widely participating in various events in the run-up to the main meet.

An official said that the people have understood that Kashmir is gearing up to host an important

summit that would transform UT into a tourist centre of global importance.

"People of Kashmir want development at a fast pace. It is due to the people's will that peace is prevailing in the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir UT. It is an exciting prospect that our youth is eagerly anticipating the speech of Prime Minister Modi. People here in Kashmir believe this event will be a milestone in the history of the region and will pave the way for lasting peace and prosperity," he said.

He said that there are no shutdowns being witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir against the visits of foreign dignitaries or any important persons.

"Srinagar has always held a special place in my heart, I've been closely following developments across the UT. You won't believe, I, as a citizen was delighted to hear the news last year that our Srinagar City will be hosting a G20 Conference," said, Zubair Ahmad, a local resident of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Adding that G20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar will be a significant occasion that will highlight the region's potential as a tourism destination.

"The authorities have been successful in giving a makeover to the valley. Kashmir is transforming into a Brand new UT. And it's heartening to see the international community recognizing the potential of our Jammu and Kashmir UT and the efforts of the government to develop our UT," he said.

Official sources said the Union Territory (UT) administration is expecting to host over a 100 non-ministerial members representing the G-20 nations. "It's a tourism stakeholders' meeting and will give a boost to J-K's tourism prospects too," a senior official said.

Dignitaries from 20 different countries will attend the meeting and discuss tourism, unemploy-

ment, and socioeconomic development in different regions. The three-day second Tourism Working Group Global (TWG) meeting, under India's G20 presidency, is scheduled to begin in Srinagar from May 22 to 24.

Elegant arrangements have been made beforehand to make this event special and memorable. In many places, walls are being painted brilliantly with colorful designs and colors to showcase our culture during the G-20 journey. Streets, roads, and parks are revamped and designed to openly welcome special guests.

In Srinagar, preparations are in their final stages. A security plan has been worked out for the event, with multi-tier security arrangements and traffic diversions, officials said. The main venue, Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), situated on the banks of the Dal Lake, is getting a Rs 7.5-crore makeover, which includes upgrading the digital infrastructure and refurbishing the exteriors and interiors.

In addition to glossy G20 logos installed at multiple places, the visitors will be greeted by rows of lampposts illuminated in the green, white and orange of the national flag.

The UT administration is planning to take delegates, scheduled to stay in Kashmir for four days, on sightseeing trips to Gulmarg, Baramulla, and the Dachigam National Park, known for the Kashmir stag.

Official sources also said that elaborate security arrangements have been put in place to ensure the smooth passage of the event. "Administration is of the belief that G-20 is a great opportunity to showcase the tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir at the global platform, so elaborate security arrangements have been put in place to ensure smooth passage of the event," the official said. Adding that everything is

on the right track and there will be no curbs anywhere while educational institutions and the markets will remain open.

Tourism is the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir's economy and the maximum share of the Union territory's GDP comes from tourism, with this tourism players are hopeful that the summit would provide further opportunities for growth to the sector.

Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashmir (CCIK) president Tariq Ghani Bedaba said that they are hopeful that it would provide opportunities for growth to the tourism sector here.

"G-20 tourism meeting in Srinagar is the best thing happening in Kashmir. It will send a strong message that Kashmir is a safe tourist destination and people should visit the picturesque place to enjoy its natural beauty and hospitality of locals," he said.

Like CCIK chief, Ali Mohammad too is hopeful that the G-20 meeting would prove helpful in showcasing Jammu and Kashmir's potential as a tourism destination. He said Kashmir will witness an increase in footfall of foreign tourists. "This meeting will ensure foreign tourists visit Kashmir in large numbers as used to be the case before 1990s," Ali said.

The upcoming G20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar will be important for showcasing Jammu and Kashmir's potential as a tourism destination, not just for India, but also for the entire world.

The diplomats and other officials are said to have prepared a comprehensive plan to use this conclave for boosting tourism in Jammu and Kashmir UT.

An official aware of the preparations for the conclave said, "While Kashmir is already popular as a tourist hotspot for the whole country, the government is working on a robust and effective plan under 'tourism diplomacy'

UNITED NATIONS.

THE world economy faces the risk of a prolonged period of low growth as a result of legacy effects of COVID-19, the Ukraine crisis, climate change, and shifting macroeconomic conditions, even as the immediate global picture shows slight improvement, according to a UN report released on Tuesday.

Stubbornly high inflation in both developed and developing countries in the aftermath of the pandemic prompted the most aggressive interest rate hikes in decades.

Despite rising rates, household spending and employment, especially in the developed economies, have remained resilient, making it harder for central banks to tame inflation, according to a mid-year update of the January

UN report sees risk of prolonged period of low global growth

2023 World Economic Situation and Prospects report.

Against this backdrop, the deceleration in global growth for 2023 is likely to be less severe than previously anticipated, mainly due to persistently robust household spending in the largest economies, especially in the United States and the European Union, as well as the recovery in China, says the report. Global growth is now projected at 2.3 percent for 2023, an uptick from the 1.9 percent forecast in the January report. The mid-year update revises down global growth for 2024 to 2.5 percent from 2.7 percent.

In the United States, resilient house-

hold spending has prompted an upward revision of growth forecast to 1.1 percent for 2023 from 0.4 percent in the January prediction.

The European Union's economy is now projected to grow 0.9 percent instead of 0.2 percent. China's growth this year is revised up to 5.3 percent from 4.8 percent.

For other major economies of the world, Japan's growth is now forecast at 1.2 percent, lower than the previous forecast of 1.5 percent.

Britain's economy, however, is expected to be less horrible with a contraction of 0.1 percent instead of a contraction of 0.8 percent. Russia, which

is under heavy sanctions by Western countries over the Ukraine crisis, will see its economy shrink by 0.6 percent, a scenario much better than the January forecast of a contraction of 2.9 percent.

The forecast for India remains a growth of 5.8 percent. Brazil will perform slightly better with a growth rate of 1.0 percent instead of 0.9 percent.

In Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, per capita gross domestic product is projected to increase only marginally this year.

The least developed countries are forecast to grow by 4.1 percent in 2023 and 5.2 percent in 2024, far below the 7 percent growth target set in the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development, it says. For developed economies as a whole, this year's growth is projected at 1.0 percent, up from the January forecast of 0.4 percent.

Developing economies will grow 4.1 percent in 2023, instead of 3.9 percent. For the least developed countries, however, growth is now forecast at 4.1 percent, lower than the 4.4 percent predicted in January.

The report says that the global growth rate is still well below the average growth rate of 3.1 percent in the two decades before the pandemic. For many developing countries, growth prospects have deteriorated amid tight-

ening credit conditions and rising costs of external financing.

Global trade is expected to remain under pressure. The baseline scenario projects that the volume of global trade in goods and services will grow by 2.3 percent in 2023, higher than the previous forecast of near-zero growth.

This reflects the upward revision to GDP growth projections. Furthermore, China's reopening is expected to increase domestic demand and potentially boost global trade with increased imports of goods and services, says the report.

However, the lingering effects of COVID-19, rising geopolitical tensions, and monetary tightening will continue to hold back global trade, although supply chain constraints and high shipping costs have eased, it warns.

Turkish opposition contests thousands of ballots after election

ANKARA

TÜRKIYE'S main opposition party said yesterday it had filed complaints over suspected irregularities at thousands of ballot boxes in Sunday's landmark election, in which President Tayyip Erdogan performed better than expected.

However, opposition party officials said the objections were unlikely to alter the result of the presidential vote, which is headed to a runoff on May 28 between Erdogan and challenger Kemal Kilicdaroglu.

Muharrem Erkek, a deputy chairman of the secularist Republican People's Party (CHP), said the irregularities at each ballot box ranged from one single wrongly counted vote to hundreds of such votes.

He said the CHP had formally raised objections over 2,269 ballot boxes nationwide for the presidential election and 4,825 for the parliamentary vote that also took place on Sunday, though they represent a tiny proportion of the total number.

"We are following every single vote, even if it does not change the overall results," Erkek told reporters in Ankara.

Erdogan's ruling Islamist-rooted AK Party and its nationalist allies won a strong parliamentary majority, while in the presidential vote, Erdogan fell just shy of the 50% threshold needed to win outright.

Kilicdaroglu, the CHP chair, received 44.9 percent in what was seen as the biggest electoral challenge to Erdogan's 20-year rule. A third candidate, Sinan Ogan obtained 5.17 percent.

Erdogan, now in pole position, says only he can ensure stability in Türkiye, a NATO member state, as it grapples with a cost-of-living crisis, soaring inflation and the impact of devastating earthquakes in February.

The opposition alliance that includes the CHP has urged young voters to turn out to support Kilicdaroglu in the runoff.

Mehmet Emin Ekmen, a deputy chairman of DEVA, one of six parties in the opposition alliance, told Reuters: "We do not



This combo picture shows Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan (left) and presidential candidate Kemal Kilicdaroglu. (PHOTOS / AFP)

have strong evidence to say irregularities can change the presidential race results or get another opposition candidate elected to the parliament".

"Since Erdogan officially started his election campaign yesterday, I believe the opposition alliance should also channel its energy into the runoff," he said. **Agencies**



Gujarat BJP president C.R. Patil arrives to attend a Prades Executive meeting, in Ahmedabad yesterday. (ANI Photo)

Fremantle India becomes Country's first sustainability warrior in the television industry through partnership with BAFTA's environmental body Albert

MUMBAI

OVER the years, production sets are one of the major causes of carbon emissions harming the environment. While many have tried to change their ways, Fremantle India has gone one step forward and collaborated with Albert a BAFTA-sponsored non-profit initiative - ensuring that all its film and television production units become eco-friendly and they reach their end goal sooner and more efficiently.

Founded in 2011, Albert helps global film and television industries produce media with fewer negative environmental effects that promote a sustainable future.

Through this tie-up, Fremantle India becomes the first production house in the country to deploy the Albert carbon calculator that tracks emissions caused on a production set and actively helps the screen industry reduce its carbon footprint.

Lack of awareness or concern, improper disposal of waste, use of diesel-powered generators, single use plastic items, overuse of plastic and paper items - have been some of the major causes of pollution in television and film sets.

Operations head Rajkumar Patra shares his experience, "In my 25 years in this industry, I have worked with different companies and been a part of multiple shoot sets. People were not very aware then, including me, as they are now."

Having worked at Fremantle for over a year I am highly impressed, inspired and now proud of the practices we have implemented and the impact we are creating. I urge other companies to follow suit."

In order to drastically reduce carbon emissions on its sets, Fremantle India has put in place a number of new practices, these include replacing plastic water bottles with personal steel bottles; donating leftover food to underprivileged people; replacing heavy volt lights with LEDs; printing scripts on both sides of paper; rechargeable batteries, recycling and reusing set/production material such as cloth, metal, wood and paper; using eco-friendly makeup products, and proper disposal of dry and wet waste and using reusable or bio-degradable cutlery.

Rajkumar Patra adds, "Our conventional ways of conducting shoots used to be carbon heavy. But we have implemented small steps in our everyday; be it using digital scripts instead of printing or reducing and segregating waste."

Also, by undertaking certain initiatives, like implanting the Albert protocols, we have successfully managed to reduce our carbon footprint substantially. Every step goes a long way, and we are constantly learning, evolving and will be improving our ways with the times, to achieve our sustainability goals for the greater good."

Most recently, during the on-going production schedule of the singing reality show Indian Idol Season 13, Fremantle India had zero food wastage, 80% reduction of paper napkins and 90% reduction in paper cups.

Additionally, the post production facility was fully on renewable energy and also the electricity at contestant hotel was partly powered by solar panels, thereby reducing our carbon footprint.

Likewise, for the rap show Hustle 2.0, we drastically reduced waste sent to the landfills; out of almost 2000 kg of waste, less than 1% was sent to landfill. This was after deducting the material sent for recycling, reusing and donations. In addition, on the sets of The Inventor Challenge, instead of using artificial decorative items, real plants were used to create awareness amongst crew.

Furthermore, to offset the carbon emissions, Fremantle India shall contribute towards funding the climate crisis solution projects and planting trees around the world.

Fremantle is one of the largest and most successful creators, producers and distributors of scripted and unscripted content in the world.

A global entertainment powerhouse, Fremantle has an outstanding international network of production teams, companies and labels in over 30 countries. Fremantle produces in excess of 12,000 hours of original programming, rolls out more than 70 formats and airs 400 programmes a year worldwide.

The group distributes over 20,000 hours of content in more than 200 territories. Fremantle is also a world leader in digital and branded entertainment, with more than 370 million subscribers across 1,500 social channels and over 100 billion views across all platforms.

Fremantle is a part of RTL Group, a global leader across broadcast, content and digital, itself a division of the international media giant Bertelsmann.

ANI

UN report: Climate change greatest threat to Pacific region

BANGKOK

URGENT actions are in real need to combat climate change and its dire impacts, according to the 79th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held in Thailand this week.

The environmental impacts of climate change in Asia and the Pacific are alarming, while most countries are still ill-prepared for multiple overlapping crises, according to a report by ESCAP released recently.

It showed that climate change poses major challenges to all strands of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. The region includes 13 of the 30 countries most vulnerable to climate impacts and without concerted action, it could see an additional 7.5 million people fall into poverty by 2030.

"Asia and the Pacific can set the pace of climate action in the decades to come. Most countries in the region have already pledged carbon neutrality goals towards mid-century. But we need to accelerate action, with steep reductions in emissions within the next few years," said Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General at the meeting on May 15.

The costs of climate change are high. ESCAP estimates of annual average losses resulting from natural and biological hazards in Asia and the Pacific are approximately \$780 billion.

As Asia-Pacific countries rebuild after COVID-19, the sub-regions are faced with climate-related extreme weather events threatening resilient and sustainable development, according to the ESCAP.

For the Pacific, which is home to many small island developing states, the report said climate change remains the single greatest threat to livelihoods, sovereignty and existence.

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP said the integrated nature of climate change calls for holistic, multisectoral solutions as well as targeted support.



The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) opens its 79th session in Bangkok, Thailand, with global and regional leaders calling for urgent action to combat climate change and its dire impacts, on May 15, 2023. (PHOTO / ESCAP)

"Each one of us and every aspect of our world is being affected. Those who are most exposed and have the fewest resources to respond to climate change, however, are the most vulnerable," she added.

So far, China, Japan, South Korea and Russia have set national goals to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 or 2060 and have been developing specific policies and roadmaps.

"Considering the various situation of the nations, although we shared some issues in common, but are having different responsibilities for the implementation of the Paris Treaty and archiving the aim of net-zero," said Zhang Ming, Secretary-General, Shanghai Cooperation Organization in his keynote address on May 16.

"The melting ice and other challenges we've encountered now are resulted from climate change. Countries need to tackle those negative impacts from climate with joint hands, for pursuing sustainable development, protecting biodiversity and reserve the water resources," Zhang said.

He said a very solid legislative framework and a mechanism, which are working properly so far, have been built under the support of SCO members. Zhang also emphasized that each state should be respected to have their own agenda of implementing their commitment to Paris Treaty.

At the opening ceremony of the session in Bangkok, Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said Thailand supports cooperation in combating climate change at the regional level which is key to solving this problem.

He emphasized that climate action and regional cooperation need to be scaled up to strengthen capacities in responding and adapting to climate change.

"ESCAP's work should be in synergy with and complement other regional and sub-regional cooperation frameworks. In addition, technology and innovation should be leveraged in the climate actions," he said and noted that health risk management and public health preparedness will also help minimize and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Under the theme "Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development", the session serves a platform for leaders to share solutions to both reduce the risks and impacts of climate change and foster ambitious climate action in Asia and the Pacific towards net-zero pathways and limit global temperature rise to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Zhang of SCO also noted that China in the past decade has listed ecological development as a major task in the country's overall plan and proposed building a "Beautiful China" as a grand goal for ecological progress. Eco-civilization was included in the Communist Party of China's Constitution as a principle for development.

More than 880 participants from 61 member states, associate members and permanent observers as well as representatives from academia, international organizations, youth, business and civil society are attending the session. **Agencies**

Israeli hospitals hit with 13 significant cyberattacks, state comptroller reports

TELAVIV

ISRAELI hospitals were hit with 13 major cyberattacks in 2021, making the healthcare sector one of the most targeted by hackers, according to a report released on Tuesday by State Comptroller Matanyahu Englman.

The comptroller, also known as the state ombudsman, periodically releases reports auditing Israeli preparedness and the effectiveness of government policies. Englman's report said ten cyberattacks were "of the most severe level."

To test the preparedness of the hospitals, a team of hackers overseen by the Comptroller's Office staged a controlled penetration of one major hospital identified as Medical Center A. The attack revealed deficiencies in the medical centre's security precautions and responses to the "hack." According to Englman, the shortcomings can also be applied to other medical centres.

"Ten of the findings were of high severity and three of moderate severity," the report said.

"Following the penetration test, the management of Medical Center A corrected several deficiencies, and in particular updated the security level of certain systems. According to the management of the medical centre, the total cost of correcting the defects can amount to more than 10 million shekels [or \$2.7 million] per year on an ongoing basis," the report added.

The ombudsman also cited the vulnerability of hospital equipment, such as ultrasound and MRI scanning devices, which are also integrated into hospital information networks.

The report recommended that hospital managers formulate a work plan to eradicate or minimize the risks and that regular penetration tests be carried out.

Engelman also called on the Health Ministry to examine the findings of the penetration test on Medical Center A to develop and implement recommendations for other medical institutions.

Since 2021, Israeli hospitals have encountered a series of cyber attacks with severe consequences. These incidents have included ransomware attacks, distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks, and data breaches, all aimed at crippling the hospitals' operations and compromising patient information.

In October of that year, Israel's National Cyber Directorate thwarted attacks on several medical institutions. But a ransomware attack on the Hillel Yaffe Medical Center in Hadera paralyzed the computer systems, patient registry and even electric doors. **ANI**

World Bank expects UAE's non-oil economy to grow by 4.8 pc in 2023

DUBAI

THE World Bank has projected that the real GDP of the UAE will grow by 2.8 per cent in 2023, as the non-oil sector is expected to achieve strong growth of 4.8 per cent, driven by robust domestic demand, particularly in tourism, real estate, construction, transportation, and manufacturing sectors.

In a press conference held today in Dubai to announce the new World Bank Gulf Economic Update (GEU) titled, "The Health and Economic Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases in the GCC", the bank officials said that the current account balance in the UAE is expected to rise to 11.7 per cent in 2023, as well.

The report expected the UAE to achieve a surplus in public finances of 6.2 per cent in 2023. The economies of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are projected to grow by 2.5 per cent in 2023 and 3.2 per cent in 2024.

The region had a remarkable GDP growth of 7.3 per cent in 2022, which was fuelled by a strong increase in oil production for most of that year.

This issue of the GEU focuses on how non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have become the leading cause of mortality and morbidity, accounting for close to 75 per cent

of all deaths and disability in the region.

Of these deaths and disability, more than 80 per cent are attributed to just four main NCD categories: cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, and respiratory diseases.

The report also highlights the substantial cost of NCDs to the economies of the GCC countries. A recent study published in the Journal of Medical Economics, a collaborative effort between experts at the World Bank and key stakeholders from across the GCC, estimated the direct medical costs of seven major NCDs to be around USD 16.7 billion in 2019 alone.

The report added that many of the GCC countries have already taken impressive steps to address such risk factors, including taxing tobacco products and sugary drinks, and restricting or banning the advertisement, promoting or sponsoring tobacco.



ANI

The report expected the UAE to achieve a surplus in public finances of 6.2 per cent in 2023

China, New Zealand ready to promote military relations'

BEIJING

THE militaries of China and New Zealand expressed their willingness to further promote relations under new circumstances during a recent strategic dialogue, a Chinese defense spokesperson said on Tuesday.

Tan Kefei, spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defense, made the remarks in response to an inquiry about the 11th strategic dialogue between the Chinese

and New Zealand militaries held in China's northwestern city of Xi'an on May 10.

He said the two sides held "candid, in-depth and friendly discussions on the regional security situation and issues of common concern."

They also exchanged views on nuclear submarine cooperation between the United States, Britain and Australia, as well as views on maritime and airspace security, Tan said. **Xinhua**

SPORT



Azam FC defensive midfielder Sospeter Bajana (R) battles for the ball against his Simba SC counterpart Mzamiru Yassin when the outfits took on each other in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup semi-final at Nangwanda Sijaona Stadium in Mtwara on May 7. Azam FC defeated Simba SC 2-1.

Azam Sports Federation Cup enjoys progress but preparations stagnate

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE eighth season of the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) has reached the semi-final stage and Mtwara hosted one semi-final tie last weekend.

The clash, which took place at the Nangwanda Sijaona Stadium, culminated in Azam FC commanding a 2-1 victory over Simba SC to sail through to the final.

Apart from the composure showcased by Azam FC midfielders James Akaminko, and Isah Ndala, and the way the outfit's central defender, Daniel Amoah, kept Simba SC forward Jean Baleke in check, soccer followers ought to keenly look at the game.

The duel had poor quality and there were too many misplaced passes in the middle of the pitch.

The passes that dominated the clash were long and lateral. This was so because of the poor pitch, Nangwanda Sijaona Stadium was not ready for that game.

With Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) knowing it is the one taking charge of the showdown, the federation would at least have postponed the semi-final, as was the case with the semi-final between Yanga and Singida Big Stars, until the field of play is in good condition.

This competition which started in 2015/16 has gained a lot of fans and is increasing in popularity but its preparation has been ad-hoc almost every season.

Why does TFF fail to announce the ASFC final venues a year in advance? For example, in this year's final, the federation should also fully announce the venues that will be used for the semi-finals and final of 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26 seasons.

The regions that will host the matches, knowing in advance they have been entrusted with hosting them, will make good preparations for the venues and, once the fixtures are about to take place, the pitches will have the quality for hosting the ties.

The game between Azam FC and Simba SC was badly damaged by the poor condition of the pitch, causing the coaches to avoid allowing their players to be free with the ball.

If a goalkeeper plays a long ball for outfield players to contest on air, a football follower can feel that such kind of play can cause problems because the pitch hardly allows it.

A footballer might want to dribble, the ball bounces on one of the mounds of the pitch, goes out of his realm, and moves to the opponents. Now if that happens near the particular player's goal, is it not dangerous for his outfit?

When TFF organizes this competition, it is doing so poorly, I hardly know if either the federation's officials are found wanting on creativity or the body does not want to invest.

It would be quite correct if TFF had decided all semi-final matches and the final were held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam so that fans would witness quality and fairness.

In 2017 when Jamal Malinzi was serving as TFF president, the season's ASFC final was held at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma, pitting Simba SC against Mwanza's Mbao FC.

The TFF has resorted to hosting the ASFC final in Dodoma given, at the time, the government's headquarters were reallocated to the region.

The ASFC final had in the following year been played at Sheikh Amri Abeid Memorial Stadium in Arusha with an announcement on the clash's hosting having been made late.

When he came to power, TFF president Wallace Karia added that the semi-final matches will be held at neutral stadiums to be designated by the authorities.

It is not a bad idea at all but TFF has refused to invest in the showdown. The regions that get the chance to organize these matches have failed to make preparations worthy of the matches' status.

Nangwanda Sijaona Stadium's pitch had, until a day before the ASFC semi-final between Azam FC and Simba SC, still been under maintenance.

Normally, the teams practice at the venue which will host the match the day before the duel but, for Nangwanda Sijaona Stadium, that was not the case.

The teams were only allowed to step on the pitch and thereafter move to other venues to practice.

Giving regions, which are not prepared to host such kinds of matches, the opportunity to do so is a problem.

Apart from the stadiums, several regions do not have training grounds where the teams will practice before the game.

The grounds where Azam FC and Simba SC practiced before the ASFC semi-final were poor. TFF should include a provision in the rules of the competition stipulating that the regions set to get the chance to organize these matches should also make sure that they prepare two good training grounds for the participating outfits.

Playing the ASFC semi-finals on venues that are not fully ready to host such ties reduces the quality of the ties because players cannot play freely.

The original goal was to take these matches to regions that have either not had the chance to host competitive ties for many years or not hosted matches at all.

Suddenly that aspect has been ignored and this season's ASFC final is set to take place in Tanga. It is not bad either but the preparation should be improved.

The last season's ASFC final, which took place in Arusha, was somewhat great because the Sheikh Amri Abeid Memorial Stadium pitch had been renovated.

Tanzania is lucky that there is a soccer stakeholder that has invested billions of money in the country's football.

To appeal to such a stakeholder to attract other stakeholders, TFF's marketing strategy must relate directly to infrastructure issues.

SPORTS

Simba SC must get transfers right in 2023/24 main registration window

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC fans and management are going through a humbling period right now.

The 2022/23 CAF Champions League campaign came to an end for Simba SC two weeks ago as the NBC Premier League side made their quarterfinal exit after a penalty shootout loss to Morocco's Wydad Athletic Club.

There was more heartbreak for Simba SC in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) which seemed to offer fans a lifeline in what has been a wretched season for the Msimbazi Street club.

They crashed out of the showdown's semi-final stage at the hands of rivals Azam FC, going down 2-1 in the tie held in Mtwara.

Out of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League, out of the ASFC, and beaten to the Premier League title by age-old rivals, Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, means it is another trophyless season for Simba SC.

The club has had four different coaches in charge this season without any silverware to show for it.

The hardest part is watching their arch-rivals, Yanga, do well at the continental stage where they are in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup semi-finals with a big chance of making it to their first-ever final appearance.

Simba SC Media Officer, Ahmed Ally has candidly admitted the outfit needs to go back to the drawing board to ensure there will not be a repeat of this season next term.

The Media Officer said: "We have a big self-introspection task, we have to look at where we are going wrong, for the second season in a row we end up at the same stage, last season in the CAF Confederation Cup competition we ended up in the quarterfinals," the official said.

"This season we exited at the same quarterfinals level, in the NBC Premier League we finished second place last season and this season we are still second."

"If you come to the Azam Sports Federation Cup last season we came stuck at the semi-final, this season it is another semi-final exit, what it means is that our club has not taken a step forward, we are stuck, and if we are not making steps forward, it means there are weaknesses."

"We must go back to the drawing board, take a look at where we are going wrong, and identify where there are problems. We have to determine if the type of players we have can help us in not only fighting for the championship but winning it."

"We have to look at each player and make a detailed assessment. If we keep him, can he help us in the future, or if he stays, we will continue to end up in the quarterfinals. So we have to do that assessment."



Azam FC central defender, Daniel Amoah (R), challenges Simba SC's attacker, Jean Baleke, in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) last-four clash held in Mtwara on May 7. Azam FC garnered a 2-1 victory over Simba SC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Planning is now well underway for the 2023-24 campaign and with the imminent arrival and exit of several players.

Out of the many things that need immediate solutions and answers, Simba must make sure they get the incoming transfer business right.

First and foremost, Simba SC needs to make that big squad clear out, which seems to be the plan anyway.

They have to! This is part of the challenge of building a squad capable of competing at the highest level.

It will be interesting to see how Simba SC replaces the six or seven aging first-team players.

Behind the scenes, head coach Roberto Oliveira 'Robertinho' admits it is challenging to press throughout the game with players nearing pension eligibility.

Key players such as Clatous Chama, Shomari Kapombe, Joash Onyango, Said Ntibazonkiza, and John Bocco are on the wrong side of 30. Henock Inonga, Moses Phiri and Augustine Okrah are all aged 29.

The coach is hardly the only one with such views, even some fans are suggesting that Simba SC, also nicknamed 'Msimbazi Reds', needs a squad refreshed to help their rebuild, which is what former head coach Pablo Franco had warned last year.

It is not just about clearing and making some marquee signings, but they need to balance that with smart signings to get the right balance needed for the transition period while also competing and winning silverware. That is a delicate balance to get right.

If they decide to be loyal to many old guards then they could be at risk of not having solved their aging squad issue.

It has to be done in different phases. They still need experienced legs to complement the youngsters.

The management has to bring in a mix of experience, Premier League-proven, and smart gems into this squad going forward. In all fairness, the club tried a rebuild two years ago but it has not worked.

The likes of Habib Kyombo, Peter Banda, Jimyson Mwanuke, and Israel Mwenda have all been brought to

blend the squad but they have not pushed the old guards out of the starting eleven.

So this is like a second attempt at rebuilding the squad. Lessons have been learned from mistakes that were made though the truth is that recruitment can never be a perfect exercise, no matter the level of analytics or character background checks.

Football is a tough business to be successful in, super unpredictable and therefore there will be a lot of failures all around at many clubs but for Simba SC this time they just cannot afford to go wrong once again.

It is not that Yanga is too far ahead but the club is doing better because of squad depth, while for Simba SC, head coach Robertinho has been forced to work with a small group of players for every game.

The transfer window is all about addressing the squad issue. It is about ensuring they have greater energy and greater depth of quality next season.

Makata opens up on Ruvu Shooting's relegation

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

RUVU Shooting head coach Mbwana Makata has disclosed signings and the quality of players are reasons that have made the team unable to survive in this season's NBC Premier League.

On May 12, Ruvu Shooting lost 3-0 in a top-flight clash against Simba SC, making the Coast Region-based side the first team to be relegated from NBC Premier League and will participate in next season's Championship League.

Makata said they were trying to garner good results since his appointment in December last year but, in the matches they have played, the results though were different from what they expected.

"We needed to win, but we failed and there are many reasons including the signing of players because this league is very competitive, it needs strong players who will be able to compete for a long time and that comes with quality," the gaffer noted.

"For example, we did not lose our game against Simba SC because of the tactics, Simba SC players were better, and this has been the problem when individual brilliance was needed, we lacked it, but we have work to do for the remaining matches," the gaffer added.

"What is left for now is to look at the remaining matches and the best way to solve challenges is not running from them, we will be together as a group to learn from all the transitions."

With Ruvu Shooting languishing at the bottom of the NBC Premier League with 20 points from 28 games, the side experienced all sorts of problems conceding 39 goals whilst notching 18 goals, the top flight's fewest goals

recorded.

Last season Ruvu Shooting finished 12th in the league log allowing goals akin to the ones the club has conceded this season with two games to go.

This season has seen the squad garner a victory in eight ties, drawing 10 games, and suffering a loss in 18 clashes.

Most of Ruvu Shooting's players are members of the National Service,

so their occasional participation in the army courses leads to a lack of coordination in the squad due to their absence.

The departure of the previous head coach Charles Boniface Mkwasa and the failure to bring players who would have added quality to coach Makata's team during the January transfer window has led to the outfit's downfall.



Ruvu Shooting's head coach, Mbwana Makata.

Leverkusen's attacking starlets face Roma block chasing 'great goal' in Europe

BERLIN

BAYER Leverkusen host Roma today knowing their way to the Europa League final goes through Jose Mourinho's expertly parked bus.

Mourinho's Roma hold a narrow 1-0 lead heading into the second leg of their semi-final tie, having blunted Leverkusen manager Xabi Alonso's attacking riches in Rome.

Roma held Leverkusen scoreless for the first time in this Europa League campaign.

Coming into that match, Leverkusen had scored 14 times in six games in the competition this season, with the goals coming from nine different players.

Leverkusen's revival from the relegation spots to European trophy candidates under Alonso has been driven by the side's youthful array of attacking talent.

Pulling the strings in the middle is 20-year-old Florian Wirtz, one of the future stars of German football, who has three goals and two assists in seven Europa League matches this season.

Alongside Wirtz are full back Jeremie Frimpong, 22, forward Moussa Diaby, 23, winger Amine Adli, 23, striker Adam Hlozek, 20 and World Cup-winning midfielder Exequiel Palacios, 24.

With several of Europe's top clubs circling, both for the players and for Alonso himself, Leverkusen – with only two major trophies in club history – know how rare and important this opportunity will be.

– A 'great goal' –
Leverkusen have a history of producing excellent players but know better than most how quickly the best and brightest can be tempted to Europe's biggest destinations.

After losing the 2002 Champions League final 2-1 to Real Madrid, along with defeat in the German Cup final and being runners up in the league in the same season, Leverkusen lost several stars including Dimitar Berbatov, Michael Ballack and Lucio.

More recently, Kai Havertz, Julian Brandt and Leroy Sane have all been tempted away from Leverkusen.

In early May, Alonso shot down speculation he could soon be headed to Real Madrid or Tottenham, saying "for these next months and for next season, my head is 100 per cent here."

AFP

Thai football chiefs apologise after four red cards mar final

PHNOM PENH

THAILAND'S football association apologised and vowed to investigate yesterday after the Southeast Asian Games men's final against Indonesia was marred by two mass brawls and four red cards.

Thailand lost 5-2 after extra time on Tuesday, ending the game in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh with eight players on the field.

One of those sent off was Thai goalkeeper Soponwit Rakyart after he ran half the length of the pitch to join in the second skirmish between the sides, delivering a diving punch to an opponent.

"The FA of Thailand must apologise for the clash on the touchline," it said in a statement, adding it would "set up a committee to investigate those involved as soon as possible and will take decisive measures".

Men's football at the biennial regional event is played between under-23 sides. The final had been billed as a chance for Indonesia to restore some pride to its football following a deadly stadium disaster and the loss of hosting the Under-20 World Cup.

But the game will be remembered for the scenes which began in the 97th minute when Thailand – who had been 2-0 down – scored to make it 2-2 and force extra time.

Thai officials celebrated their late leveller by running over to the Indonesia bench, prompting the first melee. When Indonesia took the lead back early in extra time, their officials returned the favour, with even more incendiary results.

Sumardji, a member of the team staff who like many Indonesians goes by one name, told TVOne that

"We have great goals we want to achieve."

Alonso echoed the sentiments after Leverkusen were held 1-1 at relegation threatened Stuttgart on Sunday in the league, saying "he was 'very satisfied' with his team's 'desire and will to fight to the end'".

"On Thursday, we can still achieve a great goal".

With Leverkusen seventh in the Bundesliga, out of Champions League contention and in danger of missing European football entirely next season, the importance of Thursday's tie has grown.

Leverkusen do boast a strong record at home, having claimed the scalps of Atletico Madrid, Bayern Munich, RB Leipzig and Union Berlin this season.

– A top manager –

Winless in five league fixtures, sixth-placed Roma also have fallen out of Champions League contention.

Mourinho, who famously introduced himself at Chelsea as "a top manager, a European champion, a special one" boasts one of the best records of any manager in Europe.

The Portuguese has won the Champions League with Porto and Inter Milan, the Europa League with Manchester United, the UEFA Cup with Porto and last year the Europa Conference League with Roma.

While Mourinho has managed some incredible attacking talents during his career, including at Roma, the side's run through the Europa League has had a heavy defensive focus.

Roma have conceded just twice in their past six games in the competition.

In the 2021-22 Europa Conference League, Roma conceded 15 goals in 13 games on the way to the title – six of which came in one match at Norway's Bodo Glimt.

Alonso is not the only manager turning heads, with Paris Saint-Germain reportedly interested in bringing Mourinho to the Parc des Princes.

The 60-year-old said last week "if they called me, they didn't find me" of the speculation.

But like those of his Leverkusen counterpart, Roma's proud fans would likely find it in their hearts to forgive a departure with a Europa League trophy at season's end.

Nikola Jokic leads Nuggets past Lakers 132-126 in West opener

DENVER

DENVER Nuggets guard Kentavious Caldwell-Pope was playing for the Los Angeles Lakers the last time these teams met in the Western Conference finals in the 2020 NBA bubble.

So, what similarities does he see between LeBron James and Nikola Jokic?

"I feel like the only difference is Bron can jump higher than Jokic," Caldwell-Pope declared after Jokic's monster performance fueled the Nuggets' 132-126 win in Game 1 Tuesday night.

"That's really offensive," Jokic replied in faux indignation about his athletic abilities. "I'm joking. I mean, to be compared to one of the best ever – or THE best ever – I think is really cool."

Jokic doesn't really see many similarities in their play: "We affect the game in different ways," Jokic said. "But he's a really good player."

Nobody was better than Jokic on Tuesday night.

Jokic recorded his sixth triple-double of these playoffs with 34 points, 21 rebounds and 14 assists, powering the Nuggets to a 1-0 lead in the series.

Behind Jokic's sizzling start and strong finish, and Jamal Murray's 31 points while battling an ear infection, Denver beat the Lakers in the opener of the West finals for the first time ever.

After a slow start, Anthony Davis had 40 points and 10 rebounds, and James finished with 26 points, 12 boards and nine assists. Austin Reaves chipped in 23 points and fueled L.A.'s desperate fourth-quarter run that nearly erased Denver's 14-point cushion after three.

Caldwell-Pope scored 21 points against his former team. Michael Porter Jr. had 15 points and 10 boards and Bruce Brown added 16 points.

The Nuggets led by as many as 21 but the Lakers pulled within three points twice in the fourth quarter, once on Reaves' 3-pointer at 124-121 and again on James' pair of free throws that made it 129-126 with 1:12 remaining.



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) pulls down a rebound as Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis (3) looks on during the first half of Game 1 of the NBA basketball Western Conference Finals series, Tuesday, May 16, 2023, in Denver. (AP Photo)

"Yeah, it took us a half to get into the game," James said, "and that was pretty much the ballgame right there. They punched us in the mouth to start... I know the game is won in 48 minutes, but they set the tone in 24 minutes and we were playing catch-up for the next 24."

In the fourth quarter, Rui Hachimura guarded Jokic, allowing Davis to crowd the paint and make things harder for the Nuggets big man to dominate the paint. But it wasn't enough.

After Jokic sank two free throws with 26 seconds left to give Denver a 131-126 lead, Murray poked the ball from James as he was about to take it to the hoop and Jokic gathered the loose ball before being fouled with 10.9 seconds left. He sank one of two and James misfired from 3 as the seconds ticked off.

"I'd rather clean things up after a win in the Western Conference finals than after a loss, so I will take it," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "But much work to do."

Game 2 is Thursday night at Ball Arena, where the top-seeded Nuggets are 7-0 in the playoffs and 41-7 overall, the best home record in the league this season.

Jokic said a day earlier that the Nuggets desperately needed to avoid following in the sneaker-steps of the Memphis Grizzlies and Golden State Warriors, both of whom dropped their home opener to the Lakers and wound up losing in six games. Moreover, James has won his last 20 playoff series in which his team has won the opener.

The Nuggets hadn't taken Game 1 against the Lakers since 1979, when they won the opener of the best-of-three series only to lose the next two. That's the closest the Nuggets have ever come to eliminating the Lakers, who have beaten Denver three times in the West finals, including in the Florida bubble in 2020.

Flashing his MVP credentials in a stunning display of power in the first quarter, Jokic pulled down a dozen boards and dished out five assists to go with eight points. That made him the first player since at least 1997 to have a dozen or more boards and at least five assists in any quarter of an NBA playoff

game.

The Lakers used an 11-2 run to cut the deficit to 11 points before Jokic responded with a jaw-dropping 3-pointer over the outstretched arm of Davis that barely fluttered the net at the buzzer, leaving Davis to trudge back to the bench in disbelief.

"Sometimes luck is on our side," Jokic said. "It's a crazy shot, of course."

The "Joker," who missed out on his third consecutive NBA MVP award this year when he was edged by Philadelphia's Joel Embiid, had 19 points, 16 rebounds, seven assists and two blocks by halftime as the Nuggets took a 72-54 lead into the locker room.

"Thank God it's the best-of-seven and it's not the NCAA Tournament," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said. "It's the first to four. We'll be OK, trust me."

PLENTY OF POINTS

With 258 combined points, it was the highest-scoring conference finals game that didn't go to overtime since 1987, when Detroit beat Boston 145-119.

AP

Qataris tell Manchester United bankers take it or leave it with dramatic new bid

By Tom Morgan

QATARI banker Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani has tabled an improved 11th hour offer to buy Manchester United under take it or leave it terms to the Glazers' bankers.

In a dramatic late development in the Old Trafford takeover saga, the improved bid was made to New York-based Raine on Tuesday morning, outside the formalised bidding timeline.

It comes after leaks that his previous offer fell short of Sir Jim Ratcliffe's rival valuation of the club in the wake of a third deadline for bids that were submitted two and a half weeks ago.

A source close to talks told Telegraph Sport that Sheikh Jassim's increased bid remains for a 100 per cent purchase of the club. Included in the new terms is a fresh pledge to clear all of United's existing debts and also set up a separate fund directed solely at the club and community, the insider added.

It is thought those additional funds will be earmarked in part for redevelopment of Old Trafford, which has been badly neglected by the Glazers, and the club's Carrington training ground.

Having seemingly lost ground to Ratcliffe, it is thought the Qataris are hoping their late play will allow them to claw back some initiative in what has been a turbulent, drawn out process. However, the late bid may lessen the likelihood of United being in a position to announce a preferred bidder this week.

Given Ratcliffe's rival offer remains limited to a maximum purchase of 69 per cent shareholding, other sources close to talks said his overall valuation of the club is likely to remain slightly higher than that of the Qatari group.

After the third round deadline passed on April 28, Ratcliffe was said to have come closest to reaching the Glazers' £6 billion valuation.

In addition to Ratcliffe's offer to buy the Glazers' 69 per cent share-



Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani, the chairman of the Qatar Islamic Bank and son of the former Qatar Prime Minister.

takeover saga, which was originally due to be concluded by the end of March, are not helping Ten Hag.

Leading contenders have expressed some surprise that offers were suddenly being ranked given they had been sworn to secrecy.

Sheikh Jassim, the chairman of the Qatar Islamic Bank and son of the former Qatar Prime Minister, had been seen as a favourite to land the club before it emerged a fortnight ago that Ineos were the only bidder to have valued the club above £5 billion.

However, sources close to the Sheikh Jassim camp are adamant that their offer of additional capital investment to fund redevelopment of Old Trafford and the club's training ground is on top of their bid to the Glazers and have been bemused by any suggestions to the contrary.

The process, which began in November when the Glazers announced a "strategic review" of the club, has not been without its tensions.

Confusion surrounded the deadline for the second round of bids almost eight weeks ago. Three American investment firms – Elliott Management, the Carlyle Group and Ares Management – are also offering to buy a minority stake, the proceeds from which could be earmarked to help redevelop Old Trafford, unless Joel and Avram used them to buy out their four siblings. They would then need financing to refurbish the stadium and training ground.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko




SPORT

Nikola Jokic leads Nuggets past Lakers 132-126 in West opener

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Simba SC targets major squad revamp next season

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi



SIMBA SC leadership has admitted to falling flat this season after the club finished trophy-less for the second year running, with major squad revamps set to be done during the off-season.

Salim Abdallah, alias 'Try Again', Simba SC Board of Directors Chairman, admitted the 2022/23 season has witnessed the club failing to perform well.

According to the official, the situation has been brought about by transfer mistakes the side made and led to its downfall which started two years back.

Abdallah (pictured) pointed out: "Many are looking at our downfall this current season but our downfall started two years ago after we let Clatous Chama and Luis Miquissone leave, there was no replacement for them."

"If you look at us we brought Banda (Peter) but he could not fill the boots, we plan to see how we will make improvements in each of the club's departments to be better," Abdallah noted.

He added that they will make important signings that will match other prominent outfits, adding the experience of leaders and players will help to provide great competition ahead of the outfit's participation in the Africa Super League.

He clarified that Simba SC has parted ways with South African fitness coach, Kelvin Mandla, while there are rumours of the return of Moroccan fitness coach Adel Zrane, who once did his job successfully at the outfit.

The Simba SC boss pointed out: "We will make major signings to match our ambitions and that is something we are focused on at the moment, players that are out of contract but still fit in our club's ambitions deserve another shot and we will do everything in our power to make it possible." He moreover apologized to Simba SC fans and members for the outfit's lack of titles in another season while mentioning that the injuries that key players suffered contributed to the outfit's downfall.

"There is no one to either blame for or point fingers at the people or leaders that were given the responsibility of taking charge of players' registration."

"For example, Sawadogo (Ismael) was good in the Moroccan Premier League, and he came to Simba SC, showed good displays but later got injured and failed to prove his worth," the official added. Simba SC was knocked out of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League quarterfinals by Morocco's Wydad Casablanca, losing 5-3 to the latter in a penalty shootout after having been locked to a 1-1 aggregate score.

In this season's NBC Premier League, one draw in seven games and one loss in 28 games, which have seen Simba SC record 67 points from 20 wins, were not enough to ensure the outfit lift the top flight's top honour.

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

EATV WEDNESDAY

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 MJADALA (r)
13:30 Movie
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 Movie
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
16:00 Hot Spot
16:30 Zote Kuntu
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid Week Movie
23:00 KURASA
23:05 Club Bangers

UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
14:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM



Aurobindo Aga Khan SC cricketer, Abhik Patwa (R), receives the Colourflex Man of the Match award from Petrofuel Ltd's Chairman and Managing Director, Satish Kumar, upon the culmination of this season's Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament match between the outfit and Flashnet Pak Stars which took place last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

Aurobindo Aga Khan SC hammers Flashnet Pak Stars in 2023 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup

By Guardian Reporter

AUROBINDO Aga Khan SC, one of this season's Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 showpiece favourites, commanded a six-wicket drubbing of Flashnet Pak Stars in the duel that took place last weekend.

The eagerly anticipated match of the opening weekend of the competition bringing together the two squads was a treat for the neutrals.

In the face-off, which took place at Leaders Club in Kinondoni, Flashnet Pak Stars won the toss and elected to bat first.

Fireworks set off from the first over with explosive batsman, Ivan Ismail, having to depart early on with just one run (three balls) to his name.

Flashnet Pak Stars' batsmen were unable to stay at the crease for long, with the top order falling prey to the Aurobindo Aga Khan SC bowlers.

Aurobindo Aga Khan SC's Vipin Abraham's 3-20 in four overs and Sivraj Selvaraj's 3-23 in four overs restricted Flashnet Pak Stars to 114/9 in 20 overs.

A spirited performance showcased by Zamoyoni Ramadhani that scored 20 runs (13), whilst being slotted in at middle-order, and Sheraz Khan's 19 runs (31) had witnessed Flashnet Pak Stars setting a below-par target.

In return, all-rounder Abhik Patwa came out with guns blazing scoring 59 runs (38) and was supported by Ajith Augustin's 47 runs not out (27) which helped Aurobindo Aga Khan SC chase down the target with relative ease.

Pacer Paford Anacet, Zeeshan Ul-Haq, Zafar Khan, and Basit Raza earned a wicket each for Flashnet Pak Stars.

However, the bowlers' exploits were not sufficient to stop Aurobindo Aga Khan SC from chasing down the target in 14.4 overs with six wickets in hand.

For his exceptional batting performance, Patwa, also the senior national cricket squad's captain, was adjudged the Colourflex Man of the Match for Aurobindo Aga Khan SC.

Aurobindo Aga Khan SC's Abraham's game-changing dismissals of Flashnet Pak Stars' key performers, Ismail and Zafar Khan, earned the pacer the Ricksshaw Game Changer of the Match prize.

With the victory, Aurobindo Aga Khan SC is currently sitting atop Group B with two points and a net run rate of 2.41.

Second-placed Remax Strikers, which has as well notched one victory, has amassed two points and a 1.8333 net run rate, recording 143 runs and giving away 110 runs.

ATEME Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Centre (SKLPSC), Flashnet Pak Stars, and RAS Logistics Caravans B are sitting third, fourth, and fifth respectively.

The tournament's other favourites, Alliance Caravans, are leading the rest of the pack in Group A, having scored 143 runs and leaked 87 runs to record a 2.8000 net run rate.

Azania Bank Upanga SC, Jizhou Gymkhana, All Season Lions, and Aces Club sponsored by E-Parking have been placed second, third, fourth, and fifth respectively.

Hersi Said reveals how he turned around Yanga's fortunes



Yanga's president, Hersi Said. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC president Hersi Said has helped to turn the club around since he stepped into it three years ago.

Under his watch, Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, have won back-to-back NBC Premier League titles, and one Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) top honour.

The Jangwani Street-based club has, further, clinched back-to-back Community Shields and qualified for the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup semi-finals.

In an interview with prominent South African media personnel Robert Marawa, Said explained how he has done it, detailing how he was on the front seat of the squad rebuilding.

The Yanga boss revealed: "I have been with the team for three years as a leader but it is just one of being the president. Those two years that I am talking about, Yanga was very down."

"Look at the squad now, I can tell you now that from the time I came in as the Chairman of the transformation path, we don't have a player that was part of the previous regime," Said added.

He said: "I have wiped out everything. This is a new squad that I have built from scratch. Talking about goalkeepers that we have, I signed all of them, the central defenders, the entire backline is under my registration, the midfielders, the strikers, I built this team from scratch."

"So the first two years I was building this team, then in the third year, we are talking of last season, we became champions because of the signing of good players. This season again as the president we are champions because of that."

Said noted: "It is not something that came from nowhere, in my first season we became number two in the league. We signed like seven players and we became number two, in my second season we added 10 more players and then we became champions, that was last season."

"This season again, I have signed five foreign players and two locals, so a total of seven to come up with a total of 28 players."

"You are talking about the entire squad that was signed under my leadership. It was easy for me to convince these players because I was doing it myself," Said noted.

He added that the club is still supported by GSM Group Tanzania, owned by Ghalib Said Mohamed, but it is well on its way to increasing brand value to increase its equity when it comes to the final process of its valuation in the transformation process.

Said pointed out: "Ghalib still supports Yanga financially but supporters and fans are paying membership fees. We are now sitting at 70,000 registered members who paid their membership fees. This is the highest in Sub-Saharan Africa."

"I have wiped out everything. This is a new squad that I have built from scratch. Talking about goalkeepers that we have, I signed all of them, the central defenders, the entire backline is under my registration, the midfielders, the strikers, I built this team from scratch"

Flexibles by David Chikoko

