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EAC partner states adopt 35pct common external tariff for July

Orange growers appeal for board establishment

Forex traders seek seized cash

Five church members die after currents hit tiny canoe

By Guardian Correspondent, Rorya

FIVE people believed to be followers of the Seventh Day Adventists Church, residents of Mori at Kowak village in Rorya District in Mara Region have drowned after a canoe taking them to Matara side of the village for prayers capsized.

The boat capsized when a rope tugging the canoe snapped causing the vessel to lose balance, its passengers thrown off board and drowning.

Kowak village executive Charles Mvita and Nyathorogo ward councillor Godfrey Dalmas said the incident happened on Saturday at around 10:00 in the morning at Mori River.

The canoe was tied with a rope, being tugged by people on the other bank of the river, but then the rope snapped with the tiny vessel in mid-stream, they explained, noting that it was overpowered by strong river currents arising from ongoing rains.

The ward official stated that the bodies of two among the five in the canoe including a girl child were retrieved through efforts of some people rushing to the rescue, with efforts to find the remaining bodies being pursued at the moment

Ferrying people across the river was a routine activity but lacking reliable safety measures, such people often lose their lives crossing the river in crude vessels, the village official noted, appealing to the government to build a bridge at the area.



The canoe was tied with a rope, being tugged by people on the other bank of the river, but then the rope snapped with the tiny vessel in ...



George Sai, parish priest for St Thomas the Apostle - Muungano, plants a commemorative tree in Dar es Salaam yesterday in marking the 50th anniversary of the Union of Catholic Women of Tanzania. Second left is assistant parish priest Gabriel Kpohihin. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Z'bar wages rise by 15pct to 19pct

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has announced salary increases to public servants for fiscal 2022/2023, in an address for the local apex of World Labour Day yesterday at Maisara grounds in Unguja.

The salary increase will be pegged to qualifications and work experience, he said, noting that the wage increase will contribute to strengthening their ability to cope with price shifts that affect the standard of living.

The government has set aside

12.7bn/- per month, totaling 153bn/- for the financial year to implement the salary increase exercise, where the minimum wage rises from 300,000/- to 347,000/-, a 15.6 per cent uplift.

Recruits with certificate level in social studies will now be paid 382,000/- instead of 321,000/-, amounting to a 19 per cent increase, he stated, asserting that the government had departed from the habit of blanket increases of wages for all regardless of the years one has worked.

Salary increases will reflect educational qualifications and the

period one has worked, he said, emphasizing that the government will ensure that public servants get their dues on time, along with improving work facilities.

"These changes seek to express more explicitly the responsibilities of public servants, strengthen their rights and benefits during their period of serving the public," he stated, pledging that public servants' benefits will continue being improved in accordance with the country's economic ability

TURN TO Page2

By Guardian Reporters

BUREAUX de Change operators in Arusha city have appealed to President Samia Suluhu Hassan to intervene in their appeal to secure the return their seized properties, enabling them to return to business without difficulties.

Melance Kisoka, a leader of the traders, said that their appeal to the president relates to restoration of cash, licences and other property seized during a crackdown on foreign exchange shops in November 2018.

They expressed appreciation to the government for returning their mobile phones and passports seized during the campaign, raising the concern after Home Affairs deputy minister Hamad Masauni told the legislature that the relevant authorities had already returned their properties.

What the government returned was only mobile phones and passports, he affirmed, insisting that licences, cash and other property like houses and vehicles were still confiscated.

Even if the government returns their cash, many of them will fail

to continue with the business due to the increase in capital for starting money changing business, having been raised from 300m/- to 1bn/-, he stated.

In 2015 the capital for anyone planning to start forex business was pegged at 40m/- and then rose to 100m/- in 2017. "Then suddenly in the same year it shot up to 300m/- and when we began paying this, the government struck, and seized our cash and other property. These items have not been returned to us up to this date," he said.

An accord for safety in restarting foreign exchange bureau business will be essential to ensure the safety of their businesses to avoid repeating what happened in 2018, he stated.

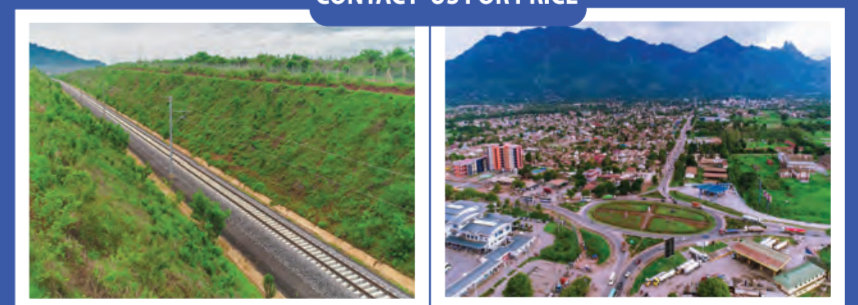
Richard Kayombo, the TRA director for taxpayer education, avoided comment on the issue on Thursday, directing that inquiry to the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), where assistant public relations manager Vick Msina said it isn't the central bank but the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

When contacted, DPP Sylvester Mwakitalu said he does not know anything about the issue until he makes a follow up from the files concerned.

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31 villages stay, 27 axed in Ruaha park

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE government has endorsed 31 out of 58 villages inside the Ruaha National Park to remain in place, with villagers being mindful of the environment in conducting economic activities. Angeline Mabula, the Minister for Lands, Housing

and Human Settlements Developments, heading a five-member ministerial committee on settlements within conservation areas, said the committee was continuing to evaluate 27 other villages which are set to be removed. The cabinet committee continued to assess their

environmental impact and if they should be paid compensation to avoid any further conflicts with the government, the minister noted, underlining that in some areas, environmental destruction has been extensive.

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31 villages stay in national park, 27 others to go, declares minister

FROM PAGE 1

She made these affirmations at the weekend when meeting Ruaha National Park officials and the Mbeya regional defence and security committee, largely affirming that the remaining 27 villages will be removed following laid down procedures.

The committee is examining if the villagers are entitled to compensation, as large numbers of livestock were had caused extensive damage, while the situation similarly caused frequent conflicts between herders and the conservation management in the zone, she declared.

"I'm told there is one area that was required to hold not more than 65,000 livestock, but now it has 260,000 head of cattle," she stated, noting that the extent of the problem was still being mapped out.

"But with regard to the 31 villages, President Samia has said they should not be touched," she specified.

To reduce environmental challenges, herders should be educated to abandon traditional herding and adopt modern livestock keeping practices, and farmers should also adopt modern farming practices, she said.

Angelina Masanja, the deputy minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, said conservators have at times fallen to attacks by herders but they were being defended by politicians. Conservators are doing a good job for the nation's benefit, she emphasised.

Water Minister Jumaa Aweso appealed to the regional leadership to help in the protection of Ruaha River water sources. The Julius Nyerere Hydropower Plant (JNHPP) on the upper reaches of the Rufiji River delta depends on water from Ruaha River, similar to the entire Ruaha ecosystem, she added.



Vice President Dr Phillip Mpango exchanges greetings yesterday with some of his fellow passengers aboard an Air Tanzania flight bound for Dar es Salaam from Kigoma. He was on his way to attend a relaunch of the recently released historic documentary on Tanzania's tourist attractions - The Royal Tour. Photo: VPO

Agricom Africa hands over crop harvesting machines to support farmers in Mvomero

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

AGRICOM Africa, the supplier of farm tools has handed over 10 crop harvesting machines to

support farmers in Mvomero district, Morogoro region and Igulusi in Mbeya.

The use of the machines in crops such as rice, maize and others will greatly help reduce harvest losses encountered

every year thus affecting farmers' progress.

Speaking during the handover event, Agricom Africa operation manager said the efforts are also meant to support achievement of the goals of the Second

Phase of the Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP II).

"With the use of the machines, farmers will now be able to harvest on time, store well and thus fight harvest losses

which was among the major challenges they were facing.

He noted that rice farmers, the second commercial crop, were not reaping well from the sector while ending up losing a lot during harvesting due to lack of modern machines to support their operations.

"Our aim here is to see farmers benefiting well from agriculture through the use of quality farming tools, something that will improve productivity and help fight poverty," he said.

He added: "The machines will help reduce harvest loss by 95 percent, so farmers and traders who want to increase productivity in their farming should use them."

Henry Maguhaga, one of the farmers said lack of modern farming tools was among the major challenges facing them and commended Agricom for bringing the machines.

"I have been getting losses every year as I had no modern tools, most farmers here use labourers during harvesting, this affects us as we use hands, but the machines will now help us get profit," he said.

Manager of Melela crops selling point in Morogoro German Aminie said the machines will help rice farmers to start seeing productivity of the farming, increase income and improve their lives.



Workers take part in a May Day march at Zanzibar's Maisara Suleiman grounds, one of the placards they are brandishing bearing an appeal to the government to consider them for salary rises. Zanzibar President Dr Hassan Ali Mwinyi graced the ceremony as chief guest. Photo: State House

Zanzibar wages rise by 15pct to 19pct

FROM PAGE 1

The government expects to employ 5,936 new workers in the next financial year in various sectors, for which 24.6bn/- is earmarked in fiscal 2022/23 budget estimates for the exercise, he said.

There was still a big problem

in having experienced staff in the public service, leading to dismal performance in development projects and in the work of public institutions, the president intoned.

Khamis Mwinyi, secretary for the Zanzibar Trade Union Association, said a number of government workers who were shifted to local

governments are yet to be paid their benefits. Those serving the government for less than 10 years face challenges to receive their pensions after retirement, he said.

He said that presidential appointees do not task themselves with these challenges, some being rude when workers refer their prob-

lems to them, he observed.

Wellington Chibebe, the ILO representative in East Africa, praised the Zanzibar government for its work to end child labour, ensuring that the children are sent back to school.

He praised government efforts to create a better working environ-

ment to ensure decent work and enhanced productivity at work.

Zanzibar postponed marking International Labour Day to make room for Zanzibaris to finish the fasting and prepare for Eid el Fitri at the end of the month of Ramadan.

Uhuru Kenyatta scorecard at EAC helm is 'divided'

By Special Correspondent

WITH the clock ticking towards President Uhuru Kenyatta's exit as the East African Community Summit chairperson this May, opinion is divided on his legacy.

The region views him as the president who expanded the EAC membership by overseeing the admission of the Democratic Republic of Congo, oversaw the region's recovery from effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and fixed the Kenya-Tanzania trade disputes.

But critics also point to ever-emerging non-trade barriers; trade disputes between Uganda and Kenya; elusive peace in Eastern DR Congo and poor Uganda-Rwanda relations.

President Kenyatta took over the chairmanship of the EAC in February 2021 from Rwanda's Paul Kagame at a time the world was facing a global health pandemic.

His term comes to an end this May, three months to Kenya's General Election.

He is expected to hand over the chairmanship to Burundi's Evariste Ndayishimiye.

"President Kenyatta came at a very difficult time, during the Covid-19 pandemic. As the umbrella body of the private sector in the region, we appreciate his role in ensuring cross-border trade continued despite the Covid-19 travel protocols that inhibited trade," said John Kalisa, chief executive of the East African Business Council.

"He co-ordinated the Covid-19 response, the region was able to safeguard against the shortage of essential goods and services."

Under President Kenyatta's leadership, five EAC states - excluding South Sudan - have ratified the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). "EAC has attained a 90 percent tariff offer that is required to trade under the AfCFTA. That is a great achievement under his leadership," said Mr Kalisa.

'Govt ready to serve more Tanzanian and foreign investors in the energy industry'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has invited both local and foreign investors to invest in the numerous opportunities in the energy sector that is essential for the operation of industrial plants and machinery.

The call was made by the Deputy Permanent Secretary the Ministry of Industry and Trade (Industry Division) Ally Gugu at a final meeting with the visiting trade delegation from the United Kingdom and Norway who had been in the country since May 3 this year whose aim was to discuss on how to identify new investment opportunities available in the country.

Gugu said the government continues to open doors to investors, especially in the energy sector that is the main driving force for economic growth.

He said Tanzania has been endowed with numerous natural energy sources including solar, gas, hydro and wind that are environmental friendly and if investors grab the opportunities they can produce enough energy for the country's industrial development.

He also thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan who has been at the frontline in mobilising investors as well as advertising opportunities obtained in the country, especially through the 'Royal Tour' documentary film and through her appeal, the country has received many foreigners who have shown interest in investing in the country and that so far agreements in regard to 37 projects have already been signed with Dubai investors.

For her part, Norway's Ambassador to Tanzania, Elizabeth Jacobsen expressed her satisfaction with the good trade relations between the two countries that began in 1970 and whose investment concentrated in feasibility studies in the country's energy resources.

"Tanzania and Norway have had robust historical relations that started 50 years ago, we have worked together and have succeeded in the construction of human power plants in various areas of the country," said Ms Jacobsen.

She said Tanzania-Norway friendly cooperation in the energy sector has been conducted in a just, transparent, equality and respect and has contributed to in the energy development in various areas of the country as part of the seven UN Sustainable Development Goals in poverty eradication by 2030.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa makes an inspection tour of the on-going construction of the Sengerema District Council administration block yesterday. Photo: PMO

District, regional officials urged to educate people on better land use

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

HAMZA Chilo, Deputy Minister of state in the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment) has called on regional and district officials countrywide to educate people in their areas on the better way of land use.

The deputy minister made the remarks recently in Moshi Municipality, Kilimanjaro Region at a minister's sectoral meeting involving officials from the region who discussed feedback of the cabinet's decision regarding solution on land use in 975 villages.

He called on the regional and district officials to educate the people on how to undertake human activities without environmental or land destruction.

"You cannot have clean and safe environment without protection, which is prerequisite for better land," said Chilo.

For his part, the Chairperson of the Ministerial Sectoral Committee who is also Minister for Lands, housing and Human Settlements Development, Dr Angeline Mabula said it is the responsibility of officials, right from the village, ward, district and regional level to make sure they continue to protect all reserve areas that aims to avoid any environmental destruction.

Speaking on the conflicts regarding land use in the 975 villages, Mabula said Kilimanjaro Region had conflicts in 12 villages.

She said in eight of the villages, president samia Suluhu Hassan has endorsed for their remaining in the areas while assessment should be done on the other four.

In the meeting, Moshi District Commissioner, Abbas Kayanda said directives given by the ministerial sectoral committee chairperson will be implemented by involving the residents involved.

For his part, Kilimanjaro Region's CCM Chairman, Patrick Boisafi appealed to the Lands Ministry to think on the better to start constructing storeyed buildings for the Moshi Municipality as it anticipates acquiring city status.

The ministerial sectoral committee continues with its tour of various regions in the country to submit feedback on the Cabinet decision in regard to solution to land conflicts regarding land use in 975 villages.

The team has already visited Coast, Tanga, Morogoro Kilimanjaro, Mara and Arusha regions.

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If you're interested in this role, please send a letter of application, full CV with referees and copies of all certificates to the Academic Deputy Head teacher at Braeburn International school Arusha, PO Box 14268, Arusha or email: recruitment@braeburn.sc.tz

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95,955 candidates to start Form Six, teachers exams today

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 95,955 candidates will today start their Form Six and Teachers' national examinations countrywide, the National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) said yesterday.

Addressing a press conference in Dar es Salaam, NECTA Executive Secretary, Dr. Charles Msonde, stated that the exams will be held from today until May 27, this year.

According to him, out of the 95,955, 85,531 are school candidates, whereby 47,859 are boys (55.96 percent) and 37,672 are women (44.04 percent).

He also stated that about 10,424 are private candidates—6,546 are males (62.80 percent) and 3,878 (37.20 percent) are females.

"These examinations will be conducted in a total of 841 secondary schools, 250 independent and teacher training centers will be 70 in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar," Msonde said.

He said there are 151 candidates with special needs and 136 are visually impaired and 15 are blind are independent candidates.

In terms of the teaching exam, Dr. Msonde said a total of 9,670 candidates are registered to do the exams whereby 4,560 are Diploma level and 5,110 are certificate level.

He said out of the 4,560 Diploma level registered candidates, 2,960 (64.91 percent) are men and 1,600 (35.09 percent) are women.

"Of the 5,110 certificate level registered candidates, 2,336 (45.71 percent) are men and 2,774 (54.29 percent) are women. There are two visually impaired candidates and two visually impaired," he said.

He said given the importance of the exams, the council urges the regional and municipal committees, municipalities, cities to ensure that all procedures for conducting national examinations are adhered to, including the existence of a safe, stable environment and the prevention of fraud loopholes.

The council also urged all supervisors to perform their duties with due diligence and integrity and for special needs candidates to be given an additional 20 minutes per hour for Mathematics and 10 minutes per hour for other subjects.

Dr. Msonde said the council urges examination administrators, school owners, teachers and the general public not to engage in any form of fraudulent examination as it will not hesitate to take action.

He also asked all stakeholders to report to the relevant agencies whenever they find a person or group of people involved in any fraud.



Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (C) pictured at a meeting in Dar es Salaam at the weekend speaking on the importance of the national Population and Housing Census scheduled for August 23. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

Dr Mwinyi commends IMF for supporting Tanzania's social, economic development

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has commended the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for continuing to support his government in strengthening its socio-economic development.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks at the State House in Zanzibar yesterday when he held talks with the Bretton Woods Institution's delegation led by its advisor on African Development,

Charalambos Tsangarides.

He said that IMF has been a great help to Zanzibar due to its ongoing efforts to support Isles especially in the period of global economic downturn, noting that the Covid-19 loan provided by IMF to Zanzibar was of great importance and was able to contribute significantly to the development of Zanzibar during the period when its economy was shaken by the epidemic.

Dr Mwinyi added that the move

should be commended as it helped significantly due to the time when the tourism industry which has made a significant contribution to the Zanzibar economy was affected by the Covid-19 catastrophe.

He noted that the impact on the tourism sector had significantly affected the budget of the Zanzibar government of due to the sector being the mainstay of the economy which contributes significantly to the budget as well as GDP.

President Mwinyi told the delegation that the Covid-19 loan provided by the IMF was able to boost Zanzibar's economy as well as strengthen the construction of various development projects.

He thanked the fund as well as the team that arrived in Zanzibar for its commitment to continue supporting Zanzibar in the second phase where the money raised from the loan will focus on developing all that was started in the original loan including construction of development projects.

He stated that the funds would also help in reviving the economy by focusing on government priorities as well as building staff capacity, especially in the areas of budgeting and statistics.

Tsangarides also lauded Dr Mwinyi and his government for the wise-use of the loan, noting that the fund was satisfied with the efforts taken by Zanzibar in ensuring the loan provided by the fund effectively implements the intended activities.

Tsangarides informed Mwinyi how the fund gained the desire to continue to support the Isles' government by increasing the second phase of loan that will help develop development projects in parallel with the growth of the Zanzibar economy.

The IMF advisor described the various steps that the fund will take in ensuring that Zanzibar benefits directly from the funds in order to facilitate its economic and developmental activities.

East Africa steps up health emergency readiness, response

By Guardian Reporter

FIVE East African countries have held their first simulation exercise since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to improve preparedness and bolster response to health emergencies.

The East Africa region faces recurrent outbreaks and disasters. In the past three years alone the region faced outbreaks of diseases including cholera, Ebola, Marburg, measles and Rift Valley Fever.

The seven-day simulation exercise organized by the East African Community (EAC) with support from World Health Organization (WHO) and German Cooperation (GIZ) focused on reinforcing disease surveillance at points of entry and gathered more than 60 emergency management experts from Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and South Sudan.

"We are living in an interlinked world as exemplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. This reality rings so true in East Africa where our people and countries have close socio-economic ties. An infectious disease outbreak in one country can no longer be seen as a remote possibility at home," said Dr David Balikowa, East African Community Senior Livestock Officer.

During the simulation, participants held a practical session at the Kilimanjaro International Airport in Tanzania's northern Arusha city involving a realistic disaster scenario which will help attendees build decision-making skills and coordination between national and district level authorities. The participants

also learned designing of operational plans and protocols to contain an outbreak.

Although most of the East African countries have built capacities through responding to various emergencies annually, the frequency and scale of the emergencies continue to stretch available resources necessitating constant capacity development. Additionally, the increased trade and travel among the countries presents a risk of rapid cross border spread of diseases.

"Emergency preparedness is crucial not just to save lives and preserve health, entire economies can be devastated and livelihoods wiped out without effective response," said Dr Mary Stephen, Focal Point for International Health regulations at WHO Regional Office for Africa. "At WHO, we stand firmly behind national efforts to better respond and cope with the impacts of emergencies."

The simulation exercise, which builds upon previous drills, also aims to empower participants to operate the various forms of simulations as well as making their skills available for the regional pool of rapidly deployable experts.

"Fighting for more resilient health systems can also help withstanding the shock of disaster and potential damage from emergencies," said GIZ Project Manager Dr Irene Lukassowitz. "This is why the EAC hosted the simulation exercise for operations at points of entry to ensure all protocols and international health regulations are followed accordingly."



Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority information officer Ally Changwila (2nd-L, facing camera) pictured in Arusha city at the weekend briefing visitors to the agency's pavilion at the on-going Public Procurement Week exhibition. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

More than 12.7bn/- collected for making of The Royal Tour film

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has said that more than 12.7bn/- was collected for the making of the Royal Tour film while the person who did the work was given 7bn/-.

Wrapping up the launch of the Royal Tour Film in Dar es Salaam yesterday, she said they aimed to raise 20bn/- but received a pledge of 19.39bn/- which was contributed by different sectors including investment, production, trade, financial and tourism.

"There were several arguments about spending money, I want to acknowledge to you that all the

money we collected was spent wisely and not otherwise."

"There is also money we spent in the US trip and I want to assure you that the first step of the Royal Tour is what we saw, but the 'shooters' took many pictures so the money we have we are going to develop the second and third phases of the Royal Tour. All the international coming here we will give these films so that they can show them," the President said.

She also commended Tanzanians and the private sector for participating fully in the preparation and completion of the film which has been

launched in the United States, Arusha and Zanzibar.

On May 3, 2021, President Samia said met with private sector stakeholders and announced the responsibility to promote Tanzania, and thereafter she with different stakeholders on the matter.

According to the president, her preparation was a challenge for her as it was new to her and she was ostracized by her officials for sharing some of the features of the film.

She explained that the film will be something that will remain a legacy for present and future generations, adding that it will not only be watched

but also benefit from the opportunity as it has opened the way and inspired Tanzanians to declare the country and bring visitors.

According to President Samia, the film will also help the tourism industry, noting that it employed 4.5 percent of Tanzanians, and pointed out that tourism dropped by 27 percent and 412,000 people lost their jobs due to Covid-19 pandemic.

"In order to get back to where we came from there must be a strong and bold strategy to advertise Tanzania and what pushed us all to know tourist destinations like Arusha you see cities lean on, so apart from national revenue but this sector goes

to per capita income directly," explained President Samia.

Royal Tour Organizing Committee chairman Dr. Hassan Abbas, said all television stations in the country have been given permission to show the film after the conclusion of the launch held in Dar es Salaam.

He also commended the committee members who were involved in the process of preparing the film as well as the producer, Peter Greenberg, for creating a Hollywood-style work that has helped to showcase the country's various tourist landscapes and resources.



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Proof of registration/application to local supplier service provider (LSSP) database at the time of EOI submission is strongly recommended.

Interested companies with the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest in English language by sending the above documents to baijinghui@docgi.cn (not exceeding 20mbs) on or before **17:00 hours** East African Time (EAT), on **27th May, 2022**. Subject of the email should be EOI for **MST-TZ-20220502-001/002/003 - COMPANY NAME**.

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will receive, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), a detailed pre-qualification questionnaire for further evaluation by Company.

DOCG reserves the right not to consider companies that submit an incomplete dossier.

Note: Only prequalified companies will receive invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.

- a. Proof of registration as required under Tanzanian Law.
- b. Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- c. Good Financial capacity to deliver the services as required.
- d. Compliance with petroleum (local content) regulations, 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania

Package-3: Supply of vehicles & services (Ref: MST-TZ-20220502-003)

The services include but not limit to, the following:

- a. 4X4 diesel NEW Toyota Land Cruiser or Nissan Patrol or equivalent - 5 seats minimum. Quantity Required: Two (2)
4X4 diesel NEW Ford RANGER kind Double Cab Pickup or Toyota Hilux or Nissan Navara or equivalent - 5 seats minimum. Quantity Required: Four (4). NEW Toyota Land Cruiser & NEW Ford RANGER shall be in the first priority option. Or:
If it is produced and registered for the first time within 3 years (after 1st May, 2020), and all above vehicles in good condition with a driving mileage of less than 50,000 kilometers is also acceptable.
- b. 4X4 Toyota Hilux Type Double Cab Pickup - Minimum 5 seats. Quantity Required: Two (2)
4X4 Toyota Prado Type - Minimum 5 seats. Quantity Required: Two (2)
Bus - Minimum 20 seats. Quantity Required: One (1)
It is required that all above vehicles' first registration and production time is within 4 years (after 1st May, 2018), and the number of kilometers are within 60,000 kilometers.
- c. Business Vehicle (MPV) - 7 or 9 seats. Quantity Required: One (1)
- d. Vehicles shall be provided with fully comprehensive insurance for all above vehicles and any qualified driver to use as may be required by DOCG. All vehicles shall be insured according to Tanzania regulations and laws. Supplier shall maintain all vehicles in a good condition and arrange regular cleaning, servicing, maintenance, related safety item and repairs as required by DOCG.

Minimum Requirements:

- a. Proof of registration as required under Tanzanian Law.
- b. Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- c. Good Financial capacity to deliver the services as required.
- d. Compliance with petroleum (local content) regulations, 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania.
- e. Compliant to Tanzania OSHA Act 2003, including a Certificate of compliance from OSHA.
- f. Compliant to environmental protection.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR REFERENCE NO. MST-TZ-20220501

Daqing Oilfield Construction Group Co., Ltd. (hereinafter as DOCG), as a CONTRACTOR for Storage & Terminal of EACOP Project, invites experienced and reputable contractors that have demonstrable capability, willingness, ability and availability to perform related works to express their interest in providing various services in the description to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania and an onshore Marine Terminal in Chongoleani, near Tanga Port in Tanzania.

There are three (3) packages planned for Storage and Terminal as follows:

1. Package-1: Supply food (Ref: MST-TZ-20220501-001)
2. Package-2: Supply drinking water (Ref: MST-TZ-20220501-002)
3. Package-3: Supply logistics materials (Ref: MST-TZ-20220501-003)

Should you be interested in participating any or all of the packages, please provide below minimum requirements clearly specifying the package(s) of interest, including the reference number(s).

Package-1: Supply food (Ref: MST-TZ-20220501-001)

The services include but not limit to, the following:

- a. Supply staple grains: rice, flour, etc.
- b. Supply agricultural and sideline products: vegetables, fruits, meat, seafood etc.
- c. Supply of edible oil and seasoning products.
- d. Supply of Beverages: coffee, soda, fruit juice, tea, etc.

Minimum Requirements:

- a. Proof of registration as required under Tanzanian Law.
- b. Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.

Proof of registration/application to local supplier service provider (LSSP) database at the time of EOI submission is strongly recommended.

Interested companies with the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest in English language by sending the above documents to zoushulai@docgi.cn (not exceeding 20mbs) on or before **17:00 hours** East African Time (EAT), on **27th May, 2022**. Subject of the email should be EOI for **MST-TZ-20220501-001/002/003 - COMPANY NAME**.

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will receive, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), a detailed pre-qualification questionnaire for further evaluation by Company.

DOCG reserves the right not to consider companies that submit an incomplete dossier.

Note: Only prequalified companies will receive invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.

- a. Proof of registration as required under Tanzanian Law.
- b. Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- c. Good Financial capacity to deliver the services as required.
- d. Compliance with petroleum (local content) regulations, 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania.

Package-2: Supply drinking water (Ref: MST-TZ-20220501-002)

The services include but not limit to, the following:

- a. Supply of small bottle water.
- b. Supply of big bottle water.
- c. Other forms of packaged drinking water supply.

Minimum Requirements:

- a. Proof of registration as required under Tanzanian Law.
- b. Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- c. Good Financial capacity to deliver the services as required.
- d. Compliance with petroleum (local content) regulations, 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania.

Package-3: Supply logistics materials (Ref: MST-TZ-20220501-003)

The services include but not limit to, the following:

- a. Supply cleaning products: Dish-washing detergent, Washing powder, Laundry detergent, disinfectant, etc.
- b. Supply Kitchenware: bowls, cups, tableware, etc.
- c. Supply Bedding: bed sheets, quilts, blankets, mattresses, towels, etc.
- d. Other logistical materials.

Minimum Requirements:

- a. Proof of registration as required under Tanzanian Law.
- b. Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- c. Good Financial capacity to deliver the services as required.
- d. Compliance with petroleum (local content) regulations, 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania.

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Vegetable vendors based at Mbezi Luis market in Dar es Salaam in business as usual during a rare visit by Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima at the weekend. Sources linked the tour to the upcoming commemoration of International Day of Families (May 15). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Health experts caution against menstruation-preventing drugs

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

HEALTH experts have cautioned women who use drugs to prevent menstruation without medical advice, saying they endanger themselves to diseases including heart ailments.

In a special interview with this paper at the weekend, Dr Shomari Masenga, a gynecologist at Njombe regional referral hospital named the drugs that are in three categories - primolut tables, ergometrine injection combined oral contraceptive pills.

He further explained that primolut tablets are given to women with excessive bleeding and who have lost frequency to their menstrual cycles.

"The drug is made as a progestin component that reduces weight on the walls of the womb, that if the weight loss causes excessive bleeding."

"The hazards of these drugs are to change the menstrual cycle, lack of sleep, increase of body weight, dizziness, insensitive to sexual activity and high temper," he explained.

Dr Masenga said Ergometrine In-

jection is used by pregnant women after losing much blood and is an ergometrine maleate component.

However, he cautioned that this drug is no longer prescribed at hospitals due to its negative effects.

"They cause heart attacks to the user, the heart can cease functioning due to lack of bloods, if heart cells fail to function, the chest is filled up with water and death becomes all but certain. Other effects include breathing difficulties," he added.

In regard to the combined oral contraceptive pill, Dr Masenga said the drug is used in family planning saying: "This is used to delay menstruation and whether a woman is bleeding excessively. The drug prevents blood menstruation and in most cases it is given those whose menstruation cycles go beyond the normal periods and to those who want to delay menstruation."

"The drug is made from two kinds of components, - oestrogen and Progestin. It prevents pregnancy in the womb. It causes little blood during menstruation, but heart problems, and blood clot for those of 35 years of age upwards.

TIC invites Czech investors to agriculture and tourism sectors

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) has invited investors from the Czech Republic to invest in the country's agriculture, fisheries and tourism sectors.

This is part of the efforts to support President Samia Suluhu Hassan's endeavours to promote Tanzania through various sectors including the investment sector.

TIC executive officer, Dr Mad-

huhu Kazi made the call over the weekend when speaking shortly soon after holding talks with the ambassador of the Czech Republic to Tanzania and Kenya Martin Klepetko, who was accompanied by the ambassador from the Department of Economic Diplomacy from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs Miloslav Machalek.

Dr Kazi said that apart from providing them with various

investment information in the country, Tanzania has now grown in many areas due to the presence of many resources that are pearls for the nation.

"First of all I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your arrival and it gives us a picture of us as the number one investment partners in the country that there is a lot of work being done not only for us but also for our President who has been

at the forefront of promoting the country," he said.

Dr Kazi added that, from January to March this year a total of 189 investors came to the country to highlight the opportunities available while a large number of people from the Czech Republic are more interested in investing in the tourism sector.

"According to the Ambassador here he tells me there has been a lot of influence on them to come

and invest in the tourism industry and the best evidence is where at the moment some of these investors have built resorts especially in Zanzibar," TIC boss said.

Ambassador Martin Klepetko said Tanzania is a country with many opportunities that if developed and used properly will benefit greatly and stressed that the investment sector is a sensitive sector that creates many jobs in the world.

"It is a great comfort to us to be here, we have learned a lot through our conversations, this investment sector is broad but I can assure you that it is an industry that significantly reduces the challenge of employment if well managed," said Klepetko.

He added: "Through these talks we will also be ambassadors to announce the great opportunities available here

so that the Czech people can come and invest in Tanzania."

Miloslav Machalek said the economic development of any nation in the world depended on investment, noting that the tourism industry was one of the leading Czechs in Tanzania.

"When you talk about investment it directly affects the economy as these sectors have a very strong relationship to national development."



Tanzania Investment Centre executive director Dr Maduhu Kazi (L) has a word in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Martin Klepetko (C), the Ambassador of the Czech Republic accredited to Kenya and Tanzania, and Czech Republic special envoy Miloslav Machalek shortly after talks on investment opportunities in Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Stanbic Bank cuts interest rates on salary-based loans

By Guardian Reporter

STANBIC Bank Tanzania continues to make dreams for its clients a reality through tailored and innovative solutions. The bank has announced that it has reduced its interest rate on unsecured salaried loans for the public sector to 12.5 per cent from 4 percent in a campaign that will run for three months.

The bank's new interest rate comes at a time when the government is looking at measures to maintain economic growth despite the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the world facing rising fuel and commodity prices.

While expounding on the campaign Stanbic Bank's head of consumer and high net worth clients Omari Mtiga said, "For three months public sector workers can access unsecured salaried loans for a 12.5 per cent interest rate that will be issued within 48 working hours. Our aim is to ensure that there is quick and seamless access to loan services to ensure that our customers can fully benefit from the campaign period and beyond."

He added that the bank has decided to cut interest rates to provide credit to its public sector customers, which would help boost their income and the nation's economy as a whole.

"We understand the role played by public servants in the dispensation of public services throughout the year and their unwavering dedication to ensuring that they offer quality service. With this review, we seek to assist them to achieve their personal development goals which we believe, will help to boost morale and enhance effectiveness in their official undertakings," he said.

Recently named Tanzania's Bank of The Year by The Banker Magazine and Best Investment Bank by EMEA Finance, Stanbic bank's focus on the public sector seeks to support the government achieve its socio-economic growth ambitions.

100,000 youths set to benefit from project in Tarime District

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Tarime

OVER 100,000 young people in Tarime District, Mara Region are set to benefit from a special project aimed to empower and ensure their active involvement and participation in addressing development challenges facing them.

Dubbed: 'You (th) CARE', the project is implemented collaboratively by Children Dignity Forum (CDF) and Network of Young People Living with HIV/AIDS in Tanzania (NYP+). It is supported by Aidsfonds, a Netherlands' foundation.

Speaking during the launch over the weekend, project coordinator from NYP+ George Anthony said project will help create conducive environment for young people to access quality health services including the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

The project is implemented in Tanzania, Kenya and Zambia, whereas in Tanzania it is implemented in four wards of Komasa, Sirari, Mbogi and Binagi in Tarime District.

Anthony said the main goal of the project is to enable adolescents and other youth in hazard-

ous environments, especially girls living with HIV in remote areas to be capacitated, be active and thus benefit from various development opportunities.

"The participants in this project are youth who are free from or living with HIV from the age of 10 to 25, community decision makers, religious and cultural leaders, peer educators, teachers and parents," he said.

He further stated that to achieve the goal a total of 40 young adults knowledgeable on reproductive health, 30 health care providers, 30

community services providers, 100 peer educators and 100 community decision makers, will be empowered with skills to ensure that they reach all the 100,000 young adults in Tarime.

Anord Massawe, CDF project coordinator said the organization has been working towards teenagers' welfare including unplanned and early pregnancies awareness, and FGM

"I am happy that the You(th) CARE has come to cement what we have been doing, and we are committed to see this project succeed. With

this I am optimistic that risks of HIV will be reduced," he said.

Anna Odeki, Tarime District HIV care and treatment assistant coordinator said 76 percent of 3,676 people with HIV in the district attend community outreach for Pre-exposure (PREP) to prevent more infection and that the infection has dropped from 2.4 percent to 2 percent.

Vice chairperson of the network of people living with HIV in Tarime district, Leonard Mwita, suggested the project should also reach adolescents in remote areas, borders and mines.

Govt commends Bahi for implementing environmental management campaign

By Guardian Reporter

Dr. Selemani Jafo, minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) has commended Bahi District for implementing the government's tree planting campaign for students.

He made the remarks on Saturday when he witnessed the signing of a tree planting Momenandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Bahi District Commissioner and the primary school head teachers that coincided with the district teachers' bonanza.

Dr. Jafo said the move to sign the agreement would increase the motivation for teachers to supervise students in their schools to participate fully in the tree planting exercise.

He said we have every reason to make our country green and that is why on January 22, 2022 an environmental protection campaign was launched for primary, secondary and tertiary students 'Read and Tree' with the aim of getting more trees in line with the guidelines. Government for each council to plant 1.5 million trees.

"Congratulations to Bahi today you are signing agreements between the District Commissioner and teachers for the development of Bahi, Dodoma and Tanzania in general, despite the presence of a total of 139 districts and 184 councils you have gone along with the Read and Tree Campaign, you have certainly set an example role

models," said Dr. Jafo.

In addition, Minister Jafo urged other governors in the country to lower this agenda to their district commissioners to direct school principals to actively participate in environmental stewardship by following that example.

For his part, Bahi District Commissioner Mwanahamisi Munkunda said teachers are an important tool in pushing forward the environmental protection agenda so it is important to use them.

He said if teachers are used effectively in building students to love the environment and planting trees will help our schools get enough trees and so our country will get rain.

"Honorable Minister today you will witness the signing of an agreement between the District Commissioner and the head teachers of all primary schools to ensure the Soma Mt campaign is carried out in practice," said Munkunda.

The Member of Parliament for Bahi Member of Parliament Kenneth Nollo said every student's culture of having a tree is a good thing as it will help even when he reaches adulthood as an adult he will see the importance of trees and it will also help increase the number of trees in the country.

In the bonanza, Minister Jafo also took part in a tree planting exercise at the Bahi Sokoni Primary School grounds, awarding prizes to sports winners and opening a football game for teachers.



Jamhuri David, district commissioner for Nyang'hwale in Geita Region, pictured yesterday test-driving a 78m/- tractor Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold Mine had just donated to the local district council for use in garbage collection and disposal. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Digital platform launched to expedite distance learning for secondary school students

By Getrude Mbago

A new digital platform has been launched to facilitate distance learning to secondary school students in the country and thus help address some challenges facing the education sector.

Dubbed "TESEA App", the application which has been developed by a Digital Academia (T) Ltd (DATL), will help majority of Tanzanian students to access studies, materials and books anytime and wherever they are something will help boost their performance in classes and examinations.

Speaking during the launching event in Dar es Salaam over the weekend DATL director Abdul Mombokale, said the app allows students to access educational materials and other valuable skills anywhere, anytime, whether they are traveling, at school or home.

Mombokale said in a World where disasters and outbreaks were on the rise, investing in a sustainable digital learning system is a matter of paramount importance.

"Covid-19 outbreak, for example, has sent a great alert to the government and education stakeholders

to think on how to come up with systems which will enable our children to learn without considering whether they are inside or outside the classrooms. The learning circle should be prepared to be effective even in situations where students may be unable to attend classrooms," he said.

He said: "Students by themselves or with support from parents and guardians can open the app and access videos and material that have been produced as per schools' curriculum," he said.

"Both O-level and A-level students

from form one to six can use the TESEA mobile app to search for course contents or buy subscriptions for their grade which is as low as 100/- per day, learn through video and audio content published by well-known publishers, download assignments, take tests for completed courses and get credits," he explained.

Chairman of the Tanzania Association of Managers and Owners of Non-Government Schools and Colleges (TAMONGSCO) Dr Alfred Luvanda urged school owners to use the app so as to reduce the burden of shortage of teachers.

"We experienced how Covid-19 pandemic affected the education sector as during school closures, a number of children remained home without learning, so innovations like these need to be extended all over the country," he said.

During the event, DATL organized a quiz competition among students where some of them emerged winners going out with learning tablets and cash prizes.

Constantine Swai, a form one student at Barabara ya Mwinini Secondary School in Temeke District emerged the first winner and went

out with a new tablet and 200,000/-.

"I have learnt that studying hard and being confident is everything. I came here in the conferment hall without knowing that I may become a winner, but when the moderator called some students to go forward, some people fear but I went for the quiz and this is what I have got," Constantine said.

He said: "This tablet which I got today will help me learn online anytime and thus improve my performance, I like school so much."

Three other students went out with tablets and cash prizes.

NEMC urges businesspersons not having EIA certification to surrender immediately

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) has urged business people who are operating without having the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certification to immediately surrender themselves before further measures are taken.

NEMC's western zone manager Benjamin Dotto made the call yesterday in an interview with this paper on the ongoing international exhibitions in Kigoma that involves countries surrounding Lake Tanganyika.

The exhibitions which started on May 5 are ongoing at the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) grounds bringing together exhibitors from Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), will run until May 11.

He said as per the Environment Act of 2004, those who start business without doing the EIA should be punished but if they surrender themselves earlier for initial environment audit and for those who will be found not polluting the environment will get clean certificates and proceed with their business.

"To avoid punishment we urge business people to visit our offices and for those who are working in Western zone should take time to attend these exhibitions and get information on what to do to avoid penalties, we are here to save them because EIA is compulsory," he said.

He said NEMC has participated in the exhibitions in order to continue providing environmental education to the visitors, adding that during the exhibitions NEMC officials will be registering projects, receiving fees for EIA and other things.

"These exhibitions are very important because it is the forum where NEMC will meet many Tanzanians who are not aware about environmental matters and educate them on the importance of preserving the environment," he added.

NEMC's eastern zone environment officer, Edith Makungu, urged Tanzanians to attend the exhibitions so as to get useful information on environment conservation and business operation.

"We also remind those who are yet to pay their annual fees to do that before the deadline June 30 this year, they should consider this because the fees and other payment are crucial for the development of our nation," she said.

Chinese investor accused of harassing employees

By Guardian Reporter

LOCAL employees at Bomet Corporation Limited owned by a Chinese investor have complained about harassment which includes working overtime hours without payment and being forced to reapply for employment after years of working.

The employees told The Guardian that despite working for the company for over 14 years, the Chinese management decided that every one of them should reapply for their jobs after Bomet and its sister company UR Home Company Limited changed names from Shikina and Borda Limited recently.

The frustrated employees who preferred not to be identified for fear of reprisals said the company's Chinese management has also forced them to sign blank salary payment vouchers contrary to regulations.

"As employees we are entitled to get salary slips which do not apply here but instead we sign blank vouchers," said one of the employees who also questioned the rationale of being paid salaries directly instead of doing so through their bank accounts.


"The whole of this arrangement makes us suspicious of the employer's motive behind such actions," another employee added saying in addition to them losing money; it is likely that Treasury is also being cheated.

Bomet and UR Home Company are importers of an assortment of products including apparel, diapers, furniture, construction materials and marine products with headquarters in Dar es Salaam and warehouse at Chang'ombe in Temeke.

Responding to the allegations made by the employees, one of Bomet's local Managers, Samuel Mbogo said management will look into the allegations and take appropriate actions. "We have heard the complaints of the employees and are investigating to establish the truth before action is taken," Mbogo said.

He pointed out that in the meantime, Bomet and UR Home management is working hard to improve working conditions which have been affected by hiked global materials prices and supply chain constraints.

"Some of the complaints emanate from market challenges that we are facing as a company and will take some time to address," he pointed out while urging the employees to remain calm as management addresses their concerns.



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info@wwftz.org
www.wwftz.org

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – RFP

ANNUAL PREQUALIFICATION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR FY 2023 & 2024

1. WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO) is a Non- Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Fresh Water, Energy, and Wildlife. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:
 - Conserving the world's biological diversity;
 - Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and
 - Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption
2. WWF Tanzania is in the process of preparation of getting its service providers for the daily & commonly needed goods and services in order to support its day-to-day activities whereby, suppliers short listed in various categories will be awarded tenders on competitive basis.
3. WWF therefore, invites proposals/applications preferably from Manufacturers, Importers, Distributors established dealers to submit their applications for short listing for the next 2 Financial Years 2023 & 2024 on various categories as indicated (see the details on the website link provided) based on the areas of specialization in business.
4. Qualities needed included but not limited to be Registered and established dealers in business category of their application, Strong financial base and ability to provide services on credit basis, Capable of providing After – Sale support including warranties
5. The Application prepared by the Applicant, as well as all correspondence and documents relating to the Application exchanged by the Applicant and WWF shall be written in English and currency used shall be in Tanzanian Shilling – TZS and not any other. Supporting documents and printed literature provided by the Applicant may be in another language provided they are accompanied by an accurate translation of the relevant passages in English, in which case, for purposes of Interpretation of the Application, the translation shall govern.
6. Tender document can be collected upon payment by cash or through bank transfer a "non-refundable fee" of TZS 100,000.00 from WWF Tanzania Country Offices located at address highlighted on # 6 below (a copy of payment proof also will be attached to the proposal to be part of the evaluation)
7. Interested applicants may further get detailed tender document uploaded on WWF website through this link link https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/
8. Submission of Applications: Interested applicants are requested to submit their hard copy tender application documents to the Secretary, Procurement Committee, WWF Tanzania Country Offices located at the address below:

Secretary, Procurement Committee
WWF Tanzania
Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, Mikocheni
P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077 Email: procurement@wwftz.org
website. www.wwf.or.tz
9. All applications should reach us by or before 10:00am Tanzania Local Time, 27th May, 2022, all applications will be opened thereafter in presence of all applicants or their representatives who choose to attend as it has been indicated in the bid document. Only successful applicant will be contacted.
10. WWF has a principle of zero-tolerance to fraud and corruption, if you encounter such incident, report by sending an email to fcci@wwftz.org



We also remind those who are yet to pay their annual fees to do that before the deadline June 30 this year, they should consider this because the fees and other payment are crucial for the development of our nation

Why Tanzania isn't on the list of palm oil producing countries

THERE is an expression that life is stranger than fiction, and this came up lately when a datum emerged in parliamentary discussion for the Ministry of Industries and Trade budget estimates, that Tanzania is not listed worldwide or by international trade bodies as producing palm oil. Locally we know we produce quite a lot and are self-sufficient by close to one half of our annual needs, but that means we never have a surplus for export markets, unlike say in relation to maize. In that case our output in that regard can be omitted for trade purposes, while definitely an academic researcher on the subject would do a better job.

This exchange or line of discussion came up as Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa was winding up debate on the PMO budget estimates earlier in the budget session opener, setting out measures being taken to enhance local industrial output especially in the food subsector. The country needs more wheat, edible oil and sugar to diminish import needs, a situation that becomes more urgent due to imported inflation arising out of conflict in the heart of Europe. The usual method is to improve investment and business regulatory provisions to provide incentives to investors; we never seem to arrive there, despite 30 years of doing so.

In psychological terms, constant improvement of the business and investment environment hides stark reality, from which bits and pieces of compromise are extracted from time to time, but that reality remains in place, for all intents and purposes. The clincher in that dimension is the rate of agro-sector growth, which takes up at least 70 per cent of the workforce countrywide, standing at four per cent per annum. That is more or less the same as the rate of population growth, improving upon it by 0.5 per cent at most, in which case

the rate of agro-sector output is just in tandem with the population, and is stagnant in value terms. That also means the level of poverty may be deepening in rural areas, but stable overall due to urban migration where productivity levels are an improvement on the 70 per cent rural workforce level.

For one thing, the rate of agro-sector value increase stood at 135 per cent a year in the years after independence up to the sweeping nationalization measures and extensive disruption of value chains in finance, credit and property transfers (mortgage, etc) which permitted finance to flow into rural areas. As it is the case in Zimbabwe following their agro-sector reforms of the early 2000s, there is no accumulating class in the rural sector, with an anchor in global markets and value chains. We are beginning to see such elements at present, but there is only a sporadic take up, individual companies leading by example.

A helpful illustration is the berthing of the first consignment of a specific type of lush avocados shipped to the Indian port of Mumbai, received with fanfare by the Tanzanian diplomatic mission there.

What is instructive isn't that local producers found a market in India but an Indian agro-sector entrepreneur sought land in Tanzania to produce mangoes in the method and prescription up to marketing, for the specific market in which the fruits landed. A move by the Indian government to remove duty on mangoes from Tanzania was the clincher but it is clear they knew who would benefit, their own company investing here. That is why opposition to liberalization inflicts losses on ourselves; we want demerency instead of opening doors, as foreign countries extend 'most favored nation' conditions when their firms also stand to benefit.

Controversial WHO report helpful with a more realistic COVID-19 global view

INTENSE debate was being conducted among state-based health sector officials on international television channels, after the World Health Organisation (WHO) released a new report which they said extrapolates government data on the death levels or rates arising from the Covid-19 pandemic worldwide. Many countries tended to take up the report in studied silence but some like India could not contain their sentiments, as the WHO totally falsified the sort of data it has emitted around the world on the impact of the pandemic. Despite using unfamiliar mathematical descriptions like 'croire' or 'lakh' that have some approximations with more familiar large numbers or round figures, the summary findings were shocking.

The WHO went about exploring the extent of Covid-19 deaths misreporting around the world, a tendency that had already been uncovered in countries where media organs are freer to conduct independent investigations. Mid last year US cable television channels extensively reported on findings that care homes (where many older people were being sheltered) cramped the proper figures for Covid-19 infections and deaths, and at one time it was said that deaths in particular suburbs of major cities were equally under-reported. WHO said the real figures of deaths worldwide could be more than ten times what has been reported, with a top WHO official saying the total deaths can be placed at around 15m.

Chroniclers on the past century pandemic known as the Spanish Influenza, which swept most of Europe and the western hemisphere for a few years, say it brought about 50m deaths with Africa more marginally touched, losing 2.5m lives to the pandemic. With the pandemic more or less retreating in its devastating impact upon large swathes

of the population, such numbers will not be attained but it is still helpful to know the specific level of damage that has occurred around the world. Yet it is unlikely that the WHO report will receive significant mention outside research work and specialized updates, or largely left aside.

With the strength of the pandemic at a low ebb and the threat of immediate danger more or less eclipsed, even putting on a face mask in public is seen as somewhat smug, or something to be left to older people who have plenty of reason to be scared. Yet not so long ago a new mutation of the virus crept into the country and caused wide ranging illnesses more or less at the same time which were without explanation - at a time that the omicron variant had just been identified and was spreading in southern Africa. A new assembly plant in the South African city of Durban meant to package the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is being closed, as since last November when it was put up it has received no orders. The fear is eclipsed.

Listening to religious leaders and political administrators lately, one hears appeals to come out for the Population and Housing Census set for August 23, meanwhile as the issue of inoculation against the coronavirus, still in the air, is reserved for those wishing to travel outside. Saudi Arabia has allowed one million foreign pilgrims to this year's Umra rituals, with Tanzania allocated upwards of 10,000 slots for the Hajj, and those who wish to take it up will first be inoculated. Hopefully this reassurance is lasting, as otherwise another wave like the timid omicron scare late last year could be frightening, with the laxity. That is why the WHO report is salutary for it highlights some undeniably misguided comforting beliefs.

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Transformative leadership is solution to global health and climate crises

By Norah Obudho

As the world tentatively moves toward recovery from what we hope is the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are reminded that an even larger threat remains: climate change.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that climate change will cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress between 2030 and 2050.

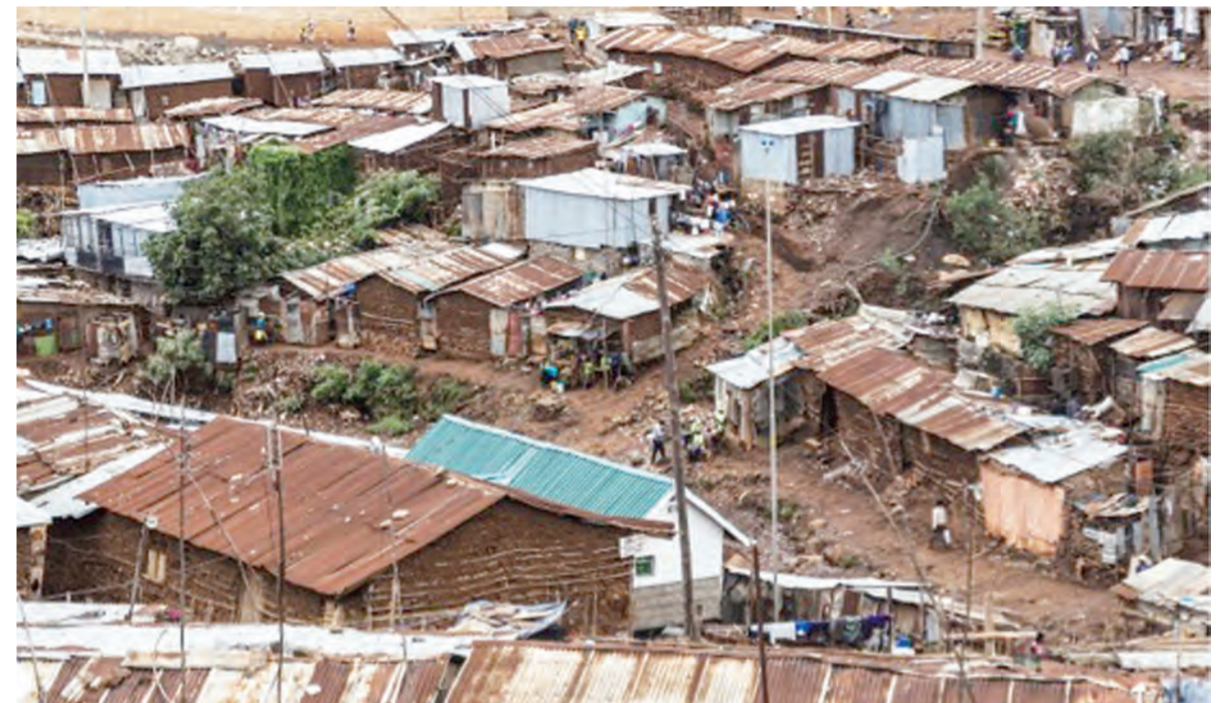
Changes in temperature and rainfall patterns are already drying crucial water resources both above and below ground, diminishing agricultural production and worsening malnutrition on the continent.

Extreme weather, conflict and economic upheaval saw close to 100 million people in eastern, western and southern Africa suffer from acute food insecurity in 2020 (a near 40% increase from 2019). This trifactor has also contributed greatly to a rise in human displacement in the wider Horn of Africa region.

Climate change and its impacts do not discriminate. However, considering the wealth inequalities existing between the richest and poorest nations and hierarchical make-up of African society, girls, women and children will be the biggest victims if global warming goes unchecked.

During periods of drought and major flooding for example, they are left more vulnerable to disruptions in provision of essential health services such as immunization and sexual and reproductive health care, child, forced and early marriage (CEFM), loss of education opportunities and income, and exposure to sexual and gender-based violence as they travel longer distances to fetch water and firewood.

As the primary sources of unpaid labor in traditional settings, women (and girls) walk an average of 6 kilometres in a single roundtrip to fetch 20 liters of water for use in the home, often making the trip several times a day to collect enough water for household use. In countries like Kenya, where firewood is the main source of fuel for cooking and heating for 9 out of 10 rural households, women spend about 3 hours each week collecting the pre-



vious resource; and as caregivers, women spend more time caring for children and the elderly who fall ill as climate-related and other infectious diseases spread.

We cannot, and should not, normalize the agony of those less privileged. We cannot maintain the status quo that allows an 8-year-old girl in a wealthy country spend her days studying and playing while her agetates in low- and middle-income countries spend theirs walking long distances to fetch drinking water and laboring increasingly harder on family farms for diminishing harvests.

For a healthier and more prosperous tomorrow for all, we must take action today. Protecting people and the planet is not optional; it must be done.

To do this we must address the shortcomings in political and commercial decisions we make today,

beginning with a reimagining of global leadership that is equitable.

The leadership that will help us prevent and navigate future health and climate crises values humanity and dignity over profit, community over individualism, and inclusivity over exclusion.

This is especially critical at a time when the top 10 percent of emitters are responsible for close to half of all global carbon emissions, while the bottom 50 percent (many of them in Africa) produce just 12% of total emissions.

Throughout history - and most recently during the COVID-19 pandemic - we have seen how leadership rooted in social and economic bias can prolong crises that affect all of humanity and extend avoidable suffering. Ignoring the realities of climate change will only intensify inequalities and magnify human suffering.

We have an opportunity to make things right before it's too late. A simple yet significant first step toward safeguarding present and future generations is transforming leadership to elevate the participation of women, minorities and marginalized populations in designing and implementing locally relevant solutions to our most pressing health and climate challenges.

It is time for us to tap into our shared humanity to protect Africa's girls and women from the gendered impacts of climate change. By embracing diverse, inclusive, and equitable leadership we can navigate today's hardships and, in Napoleon Bonaparte's words, display the energy of character that becomes an object of admiration to posterity.

Dr. Norah Obudho, East Africa Program Director, WomenLift Health

Time for Nigerian government to throw in the towel

By Special Correspondent

THE administration is battered and punch-drunk.

Any fellow with even the minutest knowledge of boxing knows that when a boxer takes too much punishment in the ring his manager throws in the towel.

This ends the fight, thus saving the boxer from further needless punishment that may even lead to death.

I think this boxing parlance has to be deployed in the larger interest of saving the Nigerian government

from taking more unnecessary punishment.

It is very obvious that the government did not prepare adequately for its fight with the bandits or terrorists or whatever they deem fit to call their tormentors.

A key figure in the government is even talking of needing to higher mercenaries to help the regime in the deadly fight.

It will be akin to pitching mercenaries against mercenaries because, as Abubakar Kawu Baraje revealed, it was the foreign mercenaries hired to win the 2015 elections that turned into bandits and ill-assorted terrorists now.

In the circumstances there is no getting away from the fact that the gov-

ernment is wobbling and fumbling, to borrow the phrase of football coach Fanny Amun, while being knocked from pillar to post.

From Boko Haram to train-and-airport-bombers in the north, it has been punches galore for our hapless government.

The fixers and godfathers of the ruling regime should fetch a towel and throw it instantly into the ring to save the government from being knocked out cold.

This is not a laughing matter, and I am not laughing in this clear and present issue of urgent national concern.

I happen to be a boxing historian and I should know when a fighter is in serious trouble in the roped square.

The government happens to be in the middle of one hell of a slugfest and has been caught napping in defending what is left of the battered administration.

Forget all the bluster from the toadies and bootlickers of the regime, the government is unguarded, and the punches are coming relentlessly.

This government's case reminds me of what I heard through radio-without-battery that happened to a certain boxer from Umuahia-Ibeku known as Abraham Tonic who decided to take on the then world boxing champion Dick Tiger.

The fight was barely a couple of minutes old when Dick Tiger unleashed a series of wicked uppercuts and haymakers on the jaw and face of the bewildered Tonic.

War in Ukraine: All the news, opinions and analysis in one place

By: Greg Mills

THIS war is personal. The walk up the hill to the presidency in Kyiv from Maidan square is lined with black-and-white pictures of soldiers who have lost their lives in defence of Ukraine since the Russian invasion on 24 February. In the west, the landings on the grand marble staircase in the governor's offices in Lviv are dotted with pictures of the families of servicemen and women who have lost their lives defending their territory.

If you missed these and the similar photographic collages, you could not miss the thousands of "Czech hedgehog" anti-tank barricades, military and police checkpoints, and sandbagged bunkers, shopfronts and metro stations, along with the burnt-out tanks and other detritus of war now lining the intended Russian route into Kyiv in the early days of this war.

It's a sombre reminder of the human cost of war, and of the pain and suffering of those dealing with the aftermath.

But it is also personal in other respects.

On the Ukrainian side, Volodymyr Oleksandrovych Zelensky has epitomised Ukrainian resistance to Russian aggression. He represents a deep well of patriotism, however, derived from thousands of years of history and today swelled by Russia's actions. There is not a Ukrainian you will meet, no matter their political persuasion, who is unaffected, whether refugees from Mariupol, Kharkiv and elsewhere which have been devastated under Russian bombardment over the past 70 days, or citizens of Kyiv or Lviv. Tears and anger are close to the surface.

Tanya (23) is a guide at the Holodomor memorial in the capital, originally from a town close to Odesa where her mother and brother still live. "I am sad," she says in response to the lack of sympathy expressed internationally to Ukraine's plight, before correcting herself, choking back the tears.

"I am angry," said the French and English university graduate since "again", she said, referring to the famine engineered by Stalin which killed as many as five million Ukrainians in 1932/3, "they don't remember Ukraine".

Olexandr Feldman is, he emphasises, a "Jewish-Ukrainian" businessman-turned-MP who started an Ecopark for breeding endangered species in his native Kharkiv. Tears rolled down his cheeks as he described how hundreds of animals had been indiscriminately killed in the Russian advance.

For President Vladimir Putin, too, the war is geo-personal more than it is geo-political. It is a way to return to the Soviet Union. On the launch of the invasion, he stated that his goal was to "demilitarise and de-Nazify Ukraine", the more immediate pretext given as "the forces that staged the coup in Ukraine in 2014", referring to the toppling of the pro-Moscow president Viktor Yanukovich. At a rally in Moscow this March to celebrate the 8th anniversary of the seizure of Crimea from Ukraine, Putin said the operation in Ukraine was necessary because the United States was using the country to threaten Russia and they had to defend against the "genocide" of Russian-speaking people by Ukraine.

Ukrainians see this, however, as just the latest in a centuries-old attempt to subjugate their culture, language and independence.

"There is no doubt", says Dr Hryhorii Nemryria of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Ukrainian Rada (Parliament) that "Putin's ambition is to get Ukraine under a Russian flag, based on his conviction that there is no such thing as Ukrainian and no such people as Ukrainians".

Ukraine's army has fought very well in the first two months of the war. It is quite a different force from the one that lost territory in the east and Crimea to Russia in 2014. Since then it has re-trained, expanded and rearmed, extracting huge costs on the invading force. Perhaps as many as 15,000 Russian soldiers have died with possibly three times the number of wounded, the Ukrainians claiming they have knocked out and captured more than 1,000 tanks and as many as 350 Russian helicopters and aircraft.

Western sources can photographically account for as many as 1,500 Russian tanks and transports destroyed or captured along with nearly 120 aircraft.

These figures also do not account for the damage that the Ukrainians have done to Russian supply dumps and command and control centres, the latter indicated by the high number of senior Russian commanders who have died so far.

Ukraine is a nation at war, with a mindset to suit. Outside the town hall in the centre of Lviv is the tailplane of a Sukhoi Su-35, complete with a QR code to donate to www.buymeafighterjet.com.

And yet, Ukraine has paid an enormous price, as the photographs in the governor's office hint, with perhaps as many as 4,000 military deaths and 50,000 civilians. No one will likely know the exact grim tally, not until scenes such as Mariupol are open to international observation, which is possibly never, given likely Russian control.

Another measure is in the number of displaced people: more than a quarter of Ukrainians – 13 million people – have been turned into international and external refugees, five million of whom have left the country and half of this number, in turn, to Poland. In the first weeks of the war, more than 600,000 refugees passed through Lviv, a region which now accommodates half a million more than at the start of the war.

The damage to Ukraine's infrastructure is estimated at \$100-billion while the government –



An offering to dead Ukrainian soldiers in Hostomel, the site of the attack by Russian airborne troops on the first day of the war. (Photo: Richard Harper)

where the GDP was \$165 billion before the war – is running a monthly deficit of \$6-billion, reflecting lower incomes, falling taxes and increased defence costs.

Russia, claims Kyiv, has launched about 2,000 missiles into Ukraine since 24 February.

International aid helps, but Ukraine will have to recover its pre-war productivity, and that demands opening up its export links with the rest of the world, particularly of agricultural commodities. It's very difficult to envisage this with the Russians having effectively seized the coastline east of Crimea and blockading Odesa. Ukraine has to export as much as six million tonnes of grain monthly to keep ahead of its enormous productive capacity. Already as much as 30 million tonnes are backed up within Ukraine awaiting export.

The threat to the east and south is not just about transport, however, but also energy. Ukraine has Europe's second-largest natural gas fields after Russia, from which it draws three-quarters of its own energy needs. These are now at risk, as potentially are Ukraine's nuclear power facilities as a possible target for Russian missiles.

Ukrainians see little option other than stopping and then expelling the Russian forces. "It's not about peace," says Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze of the Parliamentary Committee for Ukraine's Integration into the EU, "but about victory".

They have every motivation for doing so, not least in that they are fighting on their own territory and have the encouragement of recent military success. Evidence of Russian atrocities at Bucha and the devastation of Mariupol, Kharkiv and elsewhere means, too, "that Ukraine won't allow Putin to get away", says Roman Shepelyak, international relations director in the oblast of Lviv. "Appeasement won't work by giving him another two regions to try and make peace. He will just regroup, and relaunch this in a few years."

But Ukrainians are aware that they are fighting a ruthless and cunning enemy, and that they don't have the resources of Russia, one that currently earns more than a billion dollars a day from oil and gas exports alone. What would happen if Putin won the war, if Kyiv crumbled, ground into a pulp by the

sheer weight of numbers and Russia's lack of restraint?

"It is the difference," says Pavlo Sheremeta, the former Minister of the Economy and Trade, "between Ukraine's future and Russia's past".

It's a future defined by closer ties with Europe with all its economic opportunities and governance norms, and Russia's rearward view of security through might. While some, including President Joe Biden, have said that this is a fight between democracy and autocracy, it is more than that. It's a world in which sovereign norms would not ensure security, where multilateralism would offer few guarantees against foreign interference.

There is also no evidence that Putin would stop there, the way he was encouraged in this by the limp Western response to Russian intervention in Georgia in 2008 or Crimea six years later.

This is a struggle for the type of world we want to have.

Yet if the UN vote against Russia is any gauge, 60% of the world's population (or at least their leaders) wants to remain out of this fight. That they represent just 30% of the world's economic wealth hints at one reason for doing so: that the world is an unfair place, seemingly less concerned with the plight of the world's poorer people than those in Europe or North America.

"We are not just fighting for our freedom," reminds Lviv's Mayor, Andriy Sadovy, "but we are fighting for your freedom as well." Or as the Rwanda-Ukrainian (and Olympic gold medalist and now MP) Zhan Beneliuk has put it, "I am thinking about [the next Olympics in] Paris. But we must fight now for the most important medal, for our country. When I think of Rwanda, I think of Ukraine, and of the first problem in both cases, that people don't do anything to intervene."

At the very least, peace is in the majority of people's best interest. Outsiders can help pressure for peace in several ways, which would contribute to ending the Russian invasion and occupation, and in ways which would also serve their self-interest.

First, to double down on multilateral engagement, in part to

ensure that this system is strengthened and reset as a consequence of this failure. This can start at the African Union, by sending African fact-finding missions to Ukraine (and to Moscow if need be, though Ukraine has not invaded Russia), and by having the two presidents speak to the AU.

Second, to open up the port of Odesa for trade, under international supervision, reducing the commodity squeeze on vulnerable African communities, among others.

Third, to support a call for an investigation into war crimes, ensuring that human rights are both indivisible and common across people.

And fourth, to raise the volume in a call for the withdrawal of Russian forces at least to pre-24 February borders, without which there is no alternative for Kyiv but to fight on.

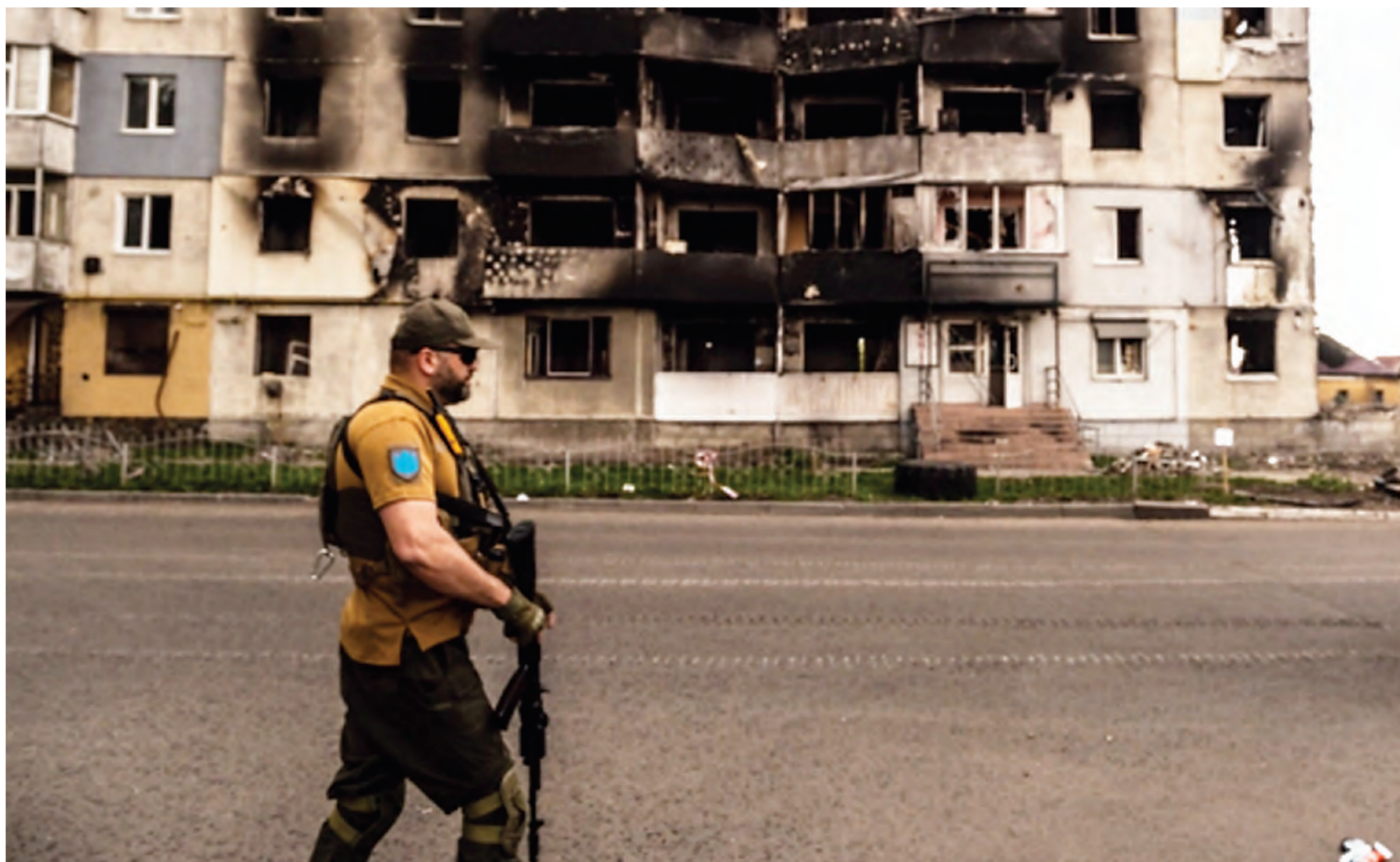
The moral imperative is clear.

Vitali Klitschko, the former world heavyweight boxing champion and now Mayor of Kyiv is forthright, as perhaps is expected.

"I was [in Bucha] the second day after the Russians moved. You see the bodies. You smell the bodies. You see how many people died... Russians have to understand [that] they have made a mistake... My message to everyone, if you send money to the Russians, you support the war, this bloody money, and this money has Ukrainian blood... We are fighting right now to defend not just our houses and our families and our children, but we defend our values and our principles."

Absent overwhelming pressure for peace in upholding this moral imperative, further war seems inevitable.

In his March Moscow address, Putin cited Russia's 18th-century naval commander, Fyodor Ushakov. "He once said that these thunderstorms will bring Russia glory," said the Russian president. "That is the way it was then, that is the way it is now and it will always be that way." This suggests that more bitter fighting lies ahead as he tries to impress his view of the world and Russia's place in it. **DM**



The challenge for Ukraine is less in stemming the Russian advance in the east and south, as turning it around. For that, it requires offensive weapons. (Photo: Richard Harper)

Newly inaugurated China National Botanical Garden to better protect plant diversity

By Chang Qin.

THE newly inaugurated China National Botanical Garden in Beijing is bursting with vibrancy and vigor. The garden houses many important plant resources, including the seeds of sea coconut, which can weigh up to 25 kilograms; seeds of rattlesnake plantain that are as light as floating dust; as well as more than 200 Chinese and foreign varieties of peony.

National botanical garden serves as plant diversity conservation base in China. Acting by the principle of striking a balance between on-site and translocation conservation, China has started building a system of national botanical gardens in places like Beijing and Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong province, said Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Leaders' Summit of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The newly inaugurated China National Botanical Garden, a vital component of the system of national botanical gardens, has been built on two sites and is the result of improvement in and integration of resources of the Institute of Botany under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (the southern site) and the Beijing Botanical Garden (the northern site).

With a projected size of nearly 600 hectares, the botanical garden will collect over 30,000 kinds of plants and house five million representative plant specimens from five continents, leading the country in scientific research and ex-situ conservation of plants.

The China National Botanical Garden will continue to complete projects including plant science research center, ex-situ conservation research center, germplasm resources preservation center, the second phase of a specimen room project, and greenhouses for plant specimens from five continents, and build 28 special parks with distinctive characteristics.

Rich collections of plant species are a highlight of national botanical gardens in China. There are two basic approaches to the conservation of plant re-



Tourists visit the science museum of China National Botanical Garden in Beijing, April 19, 2022. File photo

sources: in-situ and ex-situ conservation. Unlike regular botanical gardens and parks, China's national botanical gardens are set up mainly for scientific research and ex-situ conservation of plant resources.

Rich collections of plant species are the foundation of many endeavors, be it ex-situ conservation of plant resources, plant science research, science popularization or garden and horticulture display.

More than 15,000 species of plants are under ex-situ conserva-

tion in the China National Botanical Garden, among which nearly 1,000 are rare and endangered, including more than 300 species on the List of China's State-Protected Key Wild Plants.

Since 2004, Beijing Botanical Garden has carried out survey on the resources of *Cypripedium* and research into the conservation and breeding of *Cypripedium* in Beijing, restoring the population of *Cypripedium tibeticum* King ex Rolfe, an endangered species.

The national botanical garden will continue making efforts to establish and improve a dynamic plant protection system that en-

compasses the whole plant life cycle in order to successfully safeguard threatened plant species, endemic species, and species of significant economic significance.

In addition to the integration of advantageous resources, the expansion of social service function is also a critical part in upgrading a botanical garden to a national botanical garden.

National botanical gardens in China not only carry out scientific research and ex-situ conservation of plant resources, but function as integrated facilities for science popularization, garden and horticulture display, and ecological leisure activities.

Visitors may get so much knowledge in the southern section of the China National Botanical Garden, which is home to magnolias, roses, crustaceous plants, and other plant groupings, that they feel as if they have opened a book on the history of plant evolution. The northern part of the national botanical garden has a science museum, which enables visitors to closely observe and learn knowledge about living plants, plant specimens, scientific botanical illustrations, etc.

While carrying out scientific research and ex-situ conservation of plant resources, China's national botanical gardens also provide visitors with plant science education, technical training, and services related to health, tourism, and relaxation to help more people appreciate and enjoy the beauty of nature. These functions are the charms of the national botanical gardens.

China is among the countries with the richest biodiversity in the world. It is home to more than 37,000 species of known higher plants, which account for roughly 10 percent of the global total. Plant science research in China has enjoyed rapid development in recent years, yet the field still needs to improve weak links in certain aspects.

By selecting and building a number of national botanical gardens and achieving organic connection and mutual complementarity between these botanical gardens and China's in-situ conservation system with national parks as the mainstay, the country will be able to realize full coverage of the conservation of plant diversity and the sustainable use of plants, and finally achieve the goal of putting more than 85 percent of its native wild plant species and all key protected plant types under ex-situ conservation.

People's Daily

How US could tighten sanctions on Russia

THE United States has imposed several rafts of sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine in February, targeting its central bank, major lenders, oligarchs and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Here are some ways in which the United States could further increase sanctions on Russia.

Energy

The European Union's executive on Wednesday proposed the toughest package of sanctions yet against Moscow for its war in Ukraine, including a planned embargo on Russian oil.

Diplomats said talks were complex but many expressed confidence all 27 EU governments could agree before next week.

Edward Fishman, who worked on Russia sanctions at the State Department during President Barack Obama's administration, said now that the EU is moving toward an oil embargo, it opens up possibilities on what Washington and its allies can do next.

"I think the next step is going to be the United States working with the EU and the rest of the

G7 to globalize that campaign against Russia's oil sales," Fishman said.

Some measures the West could impose to restrict Russia from receiving payment for oil could include requiring all payments for Russian oil to go into escrow accounts outside of Russia and setting a price cap on what can be paid for Russian oil, backed up by the threat of secondary sanctions, Fishman said.

Another option would be for the EU to impose import taxes on Russian oil, Fishman said.

Brian O'Toole, a former Treasury Department official now with the Atlantic Council think tank, said the United States could also ban the provision of insurance for Russian oil cargoes and threaten secondary sanctions on any foreign person who conducts a significant transaction with a Russian cargo vessel.

He said such a move would "greatly complicate Russia's ability to ship oil elsewhere."

The United States could also further tighten energy-related sanctions by adding major companies such as oil giant Rosneft



or gas producer Gazprom to the Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) list.

Tightened sanctions on banks, state-owned enterprises

Experts have said the United

States can also expand its punitive measures on Russian banks and state-owned enterprises.

The United States has imposed sanctions on major Russian banks, including Sberbank, the country's largest lender.

Washington could further target Gazprombank and others,

O'Toole said, wielding Washington's most powerful sanctioning tool and adding them to the SDN list.

Such a move would effectively kick them out of the U.S. banking system, ban their trade with Americans and freeze their American assets.

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"Apart from Gazprombank, there's nothing left of strategic significance in the banking world in Russia. So, frankly, if they did Gazprombank separately, I think the step after that would just be a complete financial embargo," O'Toole said.

Financial Embargo

A total financial embargo on Russia would likely be implemented through the issuance of a new executive order that would bar Americans from exporting to or importing from Russia goods, services or technologies, said O'Toole.

"Then Russia becomes Iran," he said.

Secondary Sanctions

The United States could also enforce secondary sanctions against designated Russian entities and individuals, which would threaten anyone in the world performing transactions with Russia, Fishman said.

Further Swift Rescriptions

In early March, the EU named seven banks it would bar from SWIFT, the world's main international payments network, including Russia's second-largest bank VTB. However, lenders handling energy payments were spared.

The United States and its allies could further tighten those restrictions and block access of more or all Russian banks to SWIFT.

The EU's latest round of sanctions proposes cutting Sberbank off from SWIFT.

Oligarchs

The United States could impose sanctions on Russian oligarchs who have not yet been targeted, perhaps by bringing its measures in line with the EU and United Kingdom, which have targeted several Russian oligarchs not so far designated by Washington.

They include billionaire Roman Abramovich and tycoon Mikhail Fridman.

In his State of the Union address in March, Biden said the United States would work to seize the yachts, luxury apartments and private jets of wealthy Russians with ties to Putin.

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RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

New deputy registrar of East African Court of Justice is sworn in

By Guardian Reporter

THE new Deputy Registrar at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), Christine Mutimura-Wekesa, has formally assumed office.

Wekesa took the judicial oath during a special session of the Court held at the EACJ Appellate Division Courtroom at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha with the Judge President of the EACJ, Justice Nestor Kayobera, presiding assisted by other judges.

Before her new appointment, Mutimura previously served in the EAC Secretariat as Senior Legal Officer of the Counsel to the Community, the principal legal adviser to the Community.

Article 45(1) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC creates the position of the Registrar of the Court to be appointed by the Council of Ministers "from among citizens of the Partner States qualified to hold such high judicial office in their respective Partner States."

Rule 8(2) of the EACJ Rules of Procedure allows the Registrar to delegate his functions to a Deputy Registrar.

The primary role of the Registrar is to perform judicial functions in addition to administrative functions.

The position of the Registrar of the Court is currently vacant after the previous occupant, His Worship Yufnalis Okubo, retired from the position on 31st March, 2022 after attaining the mandatory retirement age of 60 years. The recruitment process for the Registrar is currently underway.

Speaking after the Deputy Registrar had been sworn in, the EACJ Judge President, Justice Kayobera, welcomed Mutimura to the Court, which he said had grown from humble beginnings since its establishment in 2001.

Justice Kayobera informed the Deputy Registrar that the



The Principal Legal Officer at the EAC Secretariat, Michel Ndayikengurukiye (right), administers the judicial oath to the newly appointed Deputy Registrar of the East African Court of Justice, Ms. Christine Mutimura-Wekesa on May 6th, earlier this year at EAC Headquarters in Arusha.

Court shall be guided by three principles, namely: teamwork, good faith and judicial diplomacy, and urged her to execute her duties with integrity and fairness.

The Judge President said that the Court would uphold its independence while serving East Africans by ensuring adherence to law in the interpretation and application of and compliance with the EAC Treaty.

The East African Legislative Assembly Speaker, Martin Ngoga, hailed Mutimura on her new appointment saying that she would perform well due to her vast experience in both the public and private sectors in the region. In remarks read on his behalf by the Director of Human Resources and Administration at the EAC Secretariat, Ruth Simba, EAC Secretary General Dr Peter Mathuki, said that there would not have been a better candidate for EACJ Deputy Registrar than Mutimura, who he said was familiar with the Treaty as well as EAC systems and procedures including those of the Court.

"She also has the institutional memory of the EAC Legal and Judicial Affairs, having represented the Community before the Court," said Dr. Mathuki.

Also present at the session were the EACJ Vice President, Justice Geoffrey Kiryabwire, Principal Judge Justice Yohana Masara, and Judges Justice Kathurima M'Inoti, Justice Sauda Mjasiri and Justice Anita Mugeni.

Others present were retired EACJ Judge, Justice Edward Rutakangwa, regional bar association members led by East African Law Society (EALS) CEO David Sigano and Pan-African Lawyers Union (PALU) CEO Donald Deya, and staff from EAC Organs based in Arusha, Tanzania.

Alison's CEO to visit EA to gather experiences on its free online courses

By Mnkabu Mbani

FREE online learning platform Alison.com Chief Executive Officer Mike Freerick is expected to tour East African countries this month to meet and hear experiences from various graduates, on how courses have helped them to transform their personal development.

Alison.com is also sponsoring this year's eLearning Africa conference to be held in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, on May 11-13.

The statement issued by Alison.com says the timing of the conference coincides with the East African Community's work towards a regional strategy for Recognition of Prior Learning.

The Inter-University Coun-

cil of East Africa is leading this process which aims to recognise the skills and experience people have acquired outside of traditional academia, a statement says.

This includes providers like Alison, which has facilitated over 23 million learners worldwide, with more than 4,000 courses currently available for education or skills development.

Feericktrip, including in Tanzania from May 15 to May 21 will have the opportunity to meet and hear the experiences of those who have been empowered by the platform's radical offering. In 2021 alone, over 7 million learners in Africa studied free courses on everything from Basic English and languages to management



skills, nursing and marketing, advancing their education or equipping themselves to pursue their career dreams. "With e-learning being remote

by nature, Harvard graduate Mike is relishing the prospect of getting to know learners in person and is taking a month-long road trip for that purpose," it says.

"Over four weeks, I will be traveling by road across Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania. My goal is to hear as many stories as possible from Alison graduates about how they came to us, what they studied, and how free study helped empower them in the workplace or through personal development," he explains.

"I want to listen to their advice on how we might develop Alison services further, to assist them further in their careers, and also assist those in their community to upskill and develop themselves through our free online services." According to a statement, Freerick is also interested in meeting with local educators, trainers, and policy makers relating to workplace skills training

and empowerment.

The Alison team, including members from Africa, Ireland and Pakistan, will also be running workshops during the eLearning Africa conference in Kigali Conference Centre on May 11-13, where Freerick is a keynote speaker.

They are excited about meeting learners, instructors, schools and businesses and discussing the Diploma and Certificate courses, career development tools, how you can earn and learn with Alison or how you can empower your business.

Apart from courses, Alison is packed with features to help learners, like its popular Workplace Personality Assessment

and the Welliba Workplace Wellbeing Survey, while the app makes learning on the move easier than ever.

Along with career guidance, new features include a resume builder, and the company has recently launched an Affiliate program where learners can earn as they learn by referring their friends and family to the site.

Alison's YouTube channel is peppered with comments testifying to the difference the platform is making to the lives of people like musician Godfrey Ssentongo who wrote: "You've really helped us who lost our parents at 3yrs and couldn't have any qualifications if it wasn't for your initiative."

Employers should take advantage of WCF interest amnesty - govt

By Correspondent Saidi Ahmed

THE government's move to announce an interest amnesty for all employers who delayed in submitting contributions to the Workers' Compensation Fund (WCF) on a monthly basis is recommendable.

This becomes one of the good news to the employers who were grappling to put things well to clear their outstanding arrears.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam last week, Prof Joyce Ndalichako, Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability) said that the move is meant at accelerating implementation of the Workers' Compensation Act, but also to promote investment.

Normally all employers who are late in submitting WCF contributions are charged a 10 percent performance interest rate per month in accordance with the Workers' Compensation Act. The move was aimed at reducing the burden from employers but also create a conducive environment for trade and investment in the country, so employers who will delay to pay contributions after the mentioned period will be charged with interest.

According to Prof Ndalichako, beneficiaries of the amnesty are employers who have paid their contributions and are remaining with interest debts only.

She said by August 2021 there were 13,468 employers from the private sector and 191 from the public sector who were on the fund's list of interest debtors.

She made it clear that all employers, who have not yet registered with the WCF, as soon as they register and pay their dues due before 30 June 2022 will also benefit from the interest payment of arrears.

"Under the powers vested in me under section 75 (5) of Workers' Compensation Act, I am granting an interest amnesty from a period of October 1, 2017 to 31 August 2021 to all employers who delayed in paying contributions," Prof. Ndalichako said. The minister said even employers who will pay their contribution debts by 30 June will benefit from the amnesty.

She said that from July 2015 to August 2021, delayed contributions were charged at 10 percent interest per month. However, the Government decided to lower the interest rate from 10 percent to 2.0 percent per month from September 2021, in order to provide relief for employers and create a conducive



Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability) Prof Joyce Ndalichako addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

business and investment environment in the country.

Prof Ndalichako stressed that contributions paid after the expiry of the legal period will be charged interest.

Given the importance of this opportunity for employers, Minister Ndalichako urged employers to make good use of this waiver granted by the sixth phase government which aims to increase the voluntary implementation of the Workers' Compensation Act Cap.263 in ensuring all employers register with the Fund and pay arrears. "It should be noted that contributions made by employers are used to compensate employees in the event of an accident

or illness due to work and in the unlikely event of an employee's death, the compensation will be paid to his or her dependents," she explained.

WCF Director General Dr John Mduma hailed the government for reducing the amount of interest which he said will facilitate smooth implementation of the WCF Act. He explained that it is only the employer who is supposed to register with the fund in which public sector employers contribute 0.5 and 0.6 for the private sector respectively.

"We thank the government and believe that this waiver will help fulfil our responsibilities as well as encourage employers to respond

voluntarily," Dr Mduma added.

He explained that it is only the employer who is supposed to register with the fund in which public sector employers contribute 0.5 and 0.6 for the private sector respectively.

This amnesty has come at an opportune time in compliance with the Workers' Compensation Act, which aims to help employees who are experiencing work-related complications or work-related illness. Therefore, it is very important for employers to take advantage of this opportunity.

The move will ensure WCF meets its main purpose for the establishment of the fund, which is to provide for adequate and

equitable compensation for employees who suffer occupational injuries or contract occupational diseases arising out of and in the course of their employment and in case of death, for their dependents.

According to the Workers' Compensation Act (Chapter 263 references 2015) it is very important for employers to enforce this law as failure to do so may result in imprisonment or a fine which will result in significant losses. Employees should also encourage employers to contribute to the fund in accordance with the law.

The employer has a duty to provide information regarding the activities and activities of his or her

employees. The employer must keep records of employees' salaries and if they are required to provide such documents for inspection he must do so. If the employer fails to comply with the terms of his duty, then he may pay a fine not exceeding 50 Million or imprisonment not exceeding 5 years.

It should be noted that it is illegal for an employer to fail to deliver contributions on time as it restricts the opportunity for compensation to the employee when the need arises.

Therefore, employers must take advantage in supporting WCF to implement the provision of Section 5 of the Workers Compensation Act (Cap 263 Revised Edition of 2015); ultimately to mitigate social and economic impact of occupational injuries to employees, their families and employers through the provision of adequate, equitable and reliable compensation benefits.

If this is met, WCF will be in good position in providing of adequate and equitable compensation to employees who will sustain occupational injuries, diseases out of or in the course of their employment, in case of death for their dependents; as well as provision of a framework for effective, prompt and empathetic consideration, settlement and payment of compensation benefits to employees and their dependents.

WCF is a social security scheme established in accordance with Section 5 of the Workers Compensation Act Cap.263 Revised Edition of 2015 and applies to all employers and employees in Mainland Tanzania.

The main purpose for the establishment of the fund is to provide for adequate and equitable compensation for employees who suffer occupational injuries or contract occupational diseases arising out of and in the course of their employment and in case of death, for their dependents.

Revealed: The shocking extent of exploitative baby formula milk marketing

MADRID

THE world's leading health and children specialised organisations have once again sounded the alarm bell about what they classify as "shocking, insidious, exploitative, aggressive, misleading and pervasive" marketing tricks used by the baby formula milk business with the sole aim of increasing, even more, their already high profits.

On this, the World Health Organization (WHO) at the end of April this year explained that formula milk companies are paying social media platforms and influencers to gain direct access to pregnant women and mothers at some of the most vulnerable moments in their lives.

The global formula milk industry, valued at some 55 billion US dollars, is targeting new mothers with personalised social media content that is often not recognisable as advertising.

The new WHO report titled Scope and impact of digital marketing strategies for promoting breast-milk substitutes has outlined the digital marketing techniques designed to influence the decisions new families make on how to feed their babies.

Business buys, collects personal information

"Through tools like apps, virtual support groups or 'baby-clubs', paid social media influencers, promotions and competitions and advice forums or services, formula milk companies can buy or collect personal information and send personalised promotions to new pregnant women and mothers."

The report summarises findings of new research that sampled and analysed 4 million social media posts about infant feeding published between Janu-

ary and June 2021 using a commercial social listening platform.

These posts reached 2.47 billion people and generated more than 12 million likes, shares or comments.

Three times as much

Formula milk companies post content on their social media accounts around 90 times per day, reaching 229 million users; representing three times as many people as are reached by informational posts about breastfeeding from non-commercial accounts.

This pervasive marketing is increasing purchases of breast-milk substitutes and therefore dissuading mothers from breastfeeding exclusively as recommended by WHO.

"The promotion of commercial milk formulas should have been terminated decades ago," said Dr Francesco Branca, Director of the WHO Nutrition and Food Safety department.

More and more powerful marketing techniques

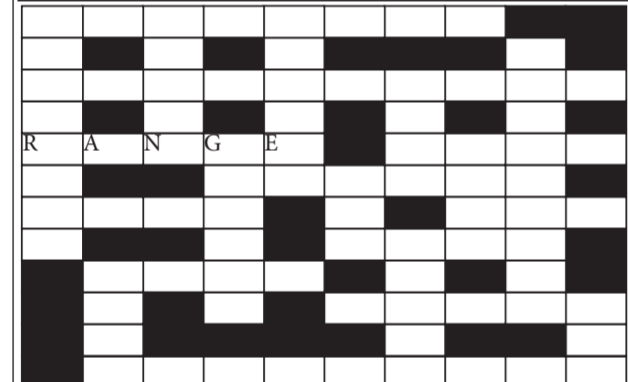
"The fact that formula milk companies are now employing even more powerful and insidious marketing techniques to drive up their sales is inexcusable and must be stopped."

The report compiled evidence from social listening research on public online communications and individual country reports of research that monitors breast-milk substitute promotions, as well as drawing on a recent multi-country study of mothers' and health professionals' experiences of formula milk marketing.

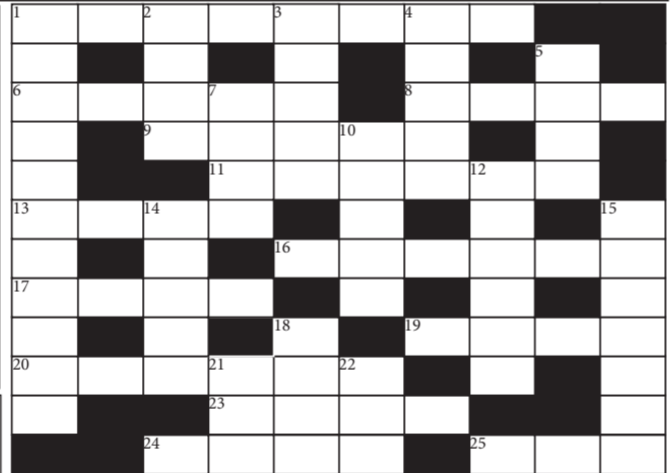
The studies show how misleading marketing reinforces myths about breastfeeding and breast milk and undermines women's confidence in their ability to breastfeed successfully.



THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 279 00--



3 letters: AM, IMP, SIN.
4 letters: LAST, STEW, TOIL, HOME, MALI, CRAB, CANA
5 letters: GOWAN, RANGE, AGAIN, PAGES,
6 letters: FUELED, GEE GAW, EDITOR,
8 letters: MAGUFULL, MONARCHY,
9 letters: UNDERMINE, AFTERNOON, NEW ZEALAND
10 letters: UNDERMINE



CLUES: Across
1. first President of Kenya
6. Tripoli is her mother city
8. amuck
9. a fertile spot in a desert
11. evaluate
13. state or assert to be the case
16. life work
17. the sixth month of the year
19. preposition indicating source
20. attacker
23. a derogatory term for a white person
24. immediately in a medical prescription
25. matt in US

WORD-FIT

DROUGHT, C, M, A, N, D, E, L, A, O, C, A, M
R, H, A, A, O, Y, A, I, A, O, C, A
T, M, M, U, N, I, T, Y, S, H, A, R, I, A, B, O, C, A
V, M, A, L, O, E, C, S, U, N, I, L, A, S, T
E, J, E, C, T, O, M, E, N, O, R, A, N, G, E, M, L
R, T, I, S, L, E, T, W, L, A, C, A, F, E
L, E, A, V, E, N, O, W, P, A, S, T, O, R, I
F, R, E, A, N, D, P, E, N, H, Y, A, N, K
A, E, B, R, A, I, D, L, E, D, G, E, P, E
C, A, N, A, D, A, A, O, R, A, T, O, R, S
T, A, D, S, W, I, N, E, T, O, U, R, I, Y, O
S, O, W, S, Z, E, V, I, C, T, I, T

CROSSWORD

Down:
1. the highest mountain in Africa
2. place where Moses died
3. accumulate overtime
4. temp sexually
5. a defeat in sport
7. a friendly form of address
10. the religion of the Muslims
12. control movements of vehicles
14. listlessness and dissatisfaction arising from boredom
15. bugle, cration, horn
18. Union of European Football Associations
21. a small round mark
22. mouse

Blatant breaches of law

The proliferation of global digital marketing of formula milk blatantly breaches the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (the Code), which was adopted by the 1981 World Health Assembly.

The Code is a landmark public health agreement designed to protect the general public and mothers from aggressive marketing practices by the baby food industry that negatively impact breastfeeding practices.

"Despite clear evidence that exclusive and continued breastfeeding are key determinants of improved lifelong health for children, women and communities, far too few children are breastfed as recommended. If current formula milk marketing strategies continue, that proportion could fall still further, boosting companies' profits."

Industry to stop, governments to act

WHO has called on the baby food industry to end exploitative formula milk marketing, and on governments to protect new children and families by enacting, monitoring and enforcing laws to end all advertising or other promotion of formula milk products. This is the first time WHO has used a social media intelligence platform to generate insight into the marketing practices of multi-national formula milk manufacturers and distributors. Social media intelligence platforms monitor social media for mentions of defined key words or phrases, which they gather, organise and analyse.

This industry standard approach "listens" to the billions of daily exchanges and conversations that take place amongst social media users around the world and on other digital platforms, such as websites and forums.

This investigation captured digital interactions that occurred between 1 January and 30 June 2021, referenced infant feeding across 11 languages and 17 countries, which together

account for 61% of the global population and span all six WHO regions.

Pregnant women, exposed to aggressive marketing

Parents and pregnant women globally are exposed to aggressive marketing for baby formula milk, according to a report launched jointly by two UN agencies last February.

How marketing of formula milk influences our decisions on infant feeding, the first report in a series by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), draws on interviews with parents, pregnant women, and health workers in eight countries.

More than half of those surveyed acknowledged that they had been targeted by formula milk companies.

Unethical

UNICEF and WHO maintain that the formula milk industry uses systematic and unethical marketing strategies to influence parents' infant feeding decisions and exploitative practices that compromise child nutrition and violate international commitments.

"This report shows very clearly that formula milk marketing remains unacceptably pervasive, misleading and aggressive," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, calling for regulations on exploitative marketing to be "urgently adopted and enforced to protect children's health."

The report found not only that industry marketing techniques include unregulated and invasive online targeting, but also sponsored advice networks and helplines; offered promotions and free gifts; and influenced health workers' training and recommendations. Surprised? Well, nobody should really be, now that the voracious push for making more profits and accumulating more money has already supplanted Nature and whatever is natural. **IPS**



RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM HIZI NAZO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11.00 AM MIA WA MAGOMA 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MIDJUNDO 18.00 HRS BONGO TEN 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.15 HRS CHEMISHA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MIDJUNDO 18.00 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18.00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MBAVU ZANGU 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS RAFIKI I 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS RAFIKI II 01.00 - 05.00 MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	

BUSINESS

Accolades go to brewer's gro-industry scholarship programme in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) through its Kilimo Viwanda Agroscholarship program has received an award, a recognition to the company's support in developing vocational training in the country.

Through Kilimo Viwanda program, SBL was recognized for its dedication and commitment to skills development in Tanzania at a colorful gala dinner held at the Hyatt hotel in Dar es Salaam.

The recognition and the award follow a survey conducted by The National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET) in collaboration with the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) and the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) to identify employers who support the development of vocational skills in the country. Kilimo Viwanda program emerged the top under Students Bursary Category.

Kilimo Viwanda Scholarship Program, is an initiative introduced by SBL to provide scholarships to students from farming communities annually to study agricultural related courses. The objective of the program is to strengthen the existing pool of agricultural experts in the country which is necessary in helping farmers increase productivity and ultimately their incomes.

Since its inception in 2020, the scholarship program has benefited over 200 students. The program is tailored to benefit students from underprivileged backgrounds who cannot afford to pay for their studies.

The program is part and parcel of company's support to agriculture sector which represents almost 28 percent of the country's GDP according to Five-Year Development



Plan 2021/2022, with three quarter of the country's workforce involved in this sector.

Agriculture is undoubtedly the largest and most important sector of the Tanzanian economy, with the country benefiting from a diverse production base that includes livestock, staple food crops and a variety of cash crops.

There are plenty of business

opportunities across domestic, regional and international markets. However, productivity is still low due to number of factors. The country's agriculture is dominated by smallholder farmers dependent on rainfall. Farmers and other sector stakeholders face considerable challenges in modernizing the industry to increase yields. One of the problems facing the sector, is lack of

enough extension officers.

Upon completing their studies, Kilimo Viwanda scholarship beneficiaries become experts, go back to provide fresh impetus to the development of the agricultural sector in their communities, including communities from which SBL sources its cereals for beer production.

Agricultural Extension Officers are very important in modern agricultural farming. They communicate with farmers supporting decision-making by providing information on sustainable farming practices. Agricultural Extension Officers propagate new, more effective farming methods based on the latest research thus help farmers to increase productivity.

Commenting on the award, SBL's government relations manager Neema Temba who received the award on behalf of the company said, "We are happy to see our contribution is recognized through Kilimo Viwanda which is one of our social support programs."

The government relations manager said SBL believes that by supporting training of agricultural experts, the company is also supporting to implement the Agriculture Sector Development Program Phase 2 which among others, envisages to increase productivity and the farmer's income.

SBL is a manufacturing company that's dependent on agricultural produce as raw materials for beer production. It uses barley, maize and sorghum which we source from local farmers.

Last year, the company sourced 18,000 metric tons of these grains locally, which is equivalent to 70% of our total annual raw materials requirement.

The company currently source barley, maize and sorghum from around 400 farmers located in 8 regions Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Manyara, Singida, Dodoma, Shinyanga, Mwanza and Mara with plans for to expand the program even further.



Appeal made to investors in oil, mining and gas sectors to show enhanced CSR

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Mtwara

MINERAL deputy minister Dr Steven Kisurwa has called on investors in the mineral, oil and natural gas sectors to make sure are set aside budget which will be directed into corporate social responsibility purposely for the communities be able to participate into those resources.

Dr Kisurwa made the advise on one day workshop organized by Tanzania



Every investor should make sure have specific plan according to his/her annual fiscal year budget and make sure you set aside funds that will be directed into the community as part of community social responsibility into surrounded communities and report and data should be submitted into district council leadership where the investment carried out."

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (TEITI) here in Mtwara.

The workshop was organized aimed at educating councilors, civil societies, leaders of Mtwara districts and municipal councils.

He said, the event indicate the importance and showing the successful of transparency and accountability into natural resources sectors.

"Every investor should make sure have specific plan according to his/her annual fiscal year budget and make sure you set aside funds that will be directed into the community as part of community social responsibility into surrounded communities and report and data should be submitted into district council leadership where the investment carried out," he said.

For her part, TEITI Acting Chief Executive Secretary Mariam Ggaya into her report said up to yesterday (Saturday) the institute has prepared and submit publicly about 11 reports with statistics of mineral, oil and natural gas companies.

Tanzania Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (TEITI) is a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to increase transparency and accountability in the extractive industries in Tanzania.

The Government of Tanzania is committed to the Principles and Criteria of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), a global standard for revenue transparency and a global coalition of governments, companies and civil society organisations.

EAC partner states adopt 35pct common external tariff for July

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

EAST African Community (EAC) Ministers / Cabinet Secretary in charge of Trade and Finance have adopted 35 per cent as the 4th Band of the EAC Common External Tariff (CET) with its implementation slated to commence on July 1, 2022.

The Ministers, during a retreat on the comprehensive review of the CET, held last Thursday in Mombasa, Kenya, further agreed that there should be flexibility in implementation of the revised CET, particularly on products currently affected by the current global economic realities.

According to a statement issued by the EAC Secretariat yesterday the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers, Betty Maina, who is also the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Trade,

Industrialization and Enterprise Development, Kenya hailed the move, dubbing it beneficial to the promotion of industrialization and in safeguarding consumer welfare on products where the region is net importing.

"The reviewed CET will address the requests for stays of application, which distort the EAC CET," she said.

The meeting further directed EAC Partner States to identify products which are affected by the current global trade disruptions for consideration during the Pre-Budget Consultations meeting scheduled for 9th to 13th May, 2022.

In his remarks, EAC Secretary General Hon. Peter Mathuki, termed this as a positive step towards the promotion of industrial sectors and realization of the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

"The move is set to spur intra-regional trade by encouraging local manufacturing, value addition and industrialization," said Dr. Mathuki.

He said the CET is one of the key instruments under the Customs Union pillar which justifies regional integration through uniform treatment of goods imported from third parties.

Among the tariff lines in this 4th band include: dairy and meat products, cereals, cotton and textiles, iron and steel, edible oils, and beverages and spirits.

In addition; furniture, leather products, fresh-cut flowers, fruits and nuts, sugar and confectionery, coffee, tea and spices, textiles and garments, headgears, ceramic products, and paints, among others.

The meeting was informed that the maximum tariff band at 35% was the

most appropriate rate, as in the long run, it has the most positive impact on regional growth. They noted that in its application, a welfare loss is expected, but would be cured from generated added employment opportunities from the switch of local production.

The meeting held in a hybrid format was attended by the respective Ministers and Principal / Permanent Secretaries from the Partner States.

The Republic of Burundi was represented by Hon. Marie Chantal Nijimbere, Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry & Tourism, Tanzania was represented by Hon. (Dr). Mwigulu Lameck Nchemba, Minister of Finance and Planning, Uganda was represented by Hon. Francis Mwebesa and Rwanda was represented by Hon. Beata Habyarimana.

Orange growers appeal for board establishment

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Muheza

UNION of orange growers in Muheza district, Tanga region has asked the government to form orange board like other crops boards in order to rescue the crop from low prices and losses that facing them every harvesting season.

They said the board will have law, regulations and guidelines that will protect that product.

Apart from that advice, also has once again remained the government its frequently promise of building orange processing factory at Seger ward in Handeni district junction of Tanga - Seger, Arusha

- Seger and Seger - Chalinze highway.

In separately times, from 2005 to 2020 the government promised orange growers of Muheza, Handeni, Korogwe as is eagerly to establish the orange processing factory and building marketplace at Seger ward in Handeni which is the centre and easily accessible for farmers for three chief orange growers districts of Muheza, Handeni and Korogwe.

Speaking exclusively with Guardian, Union of Orange Growers Chairman, Nassoro Juma said from that time since the government promised to do so, things have remained silence under the carpet and no any feedback that was given to them.

He further elaborated that from that time to date, orange growers continues suffering loss for two reasons, one during orange high seasons harvesting there is high competition of lower prices among farmers themselves and second many oranges ended fell down and rotten.

"Only few farmers with marketing skills and large capital benefits with this citrus crop because are hiring lorries and taking their crops to inside and outside countries marketplaces, but small growers who possessing between 1-5 acres of orange trees ended loss and earning little incomes because there is no stable price," he said.

He added: "if the government

through Ministry of Agriculture will form orange board like other crops and through Ministry of Industry and Trade will fulfill its promise of build orange processing factory many farmers will have all reasons to smile".

In 2008 former Muheza Member of Parliament, Adadi Rajabu brought Ugandan investors eagerly to be allocated place to invest in orange processing but no any feedback brought to them, the same year Korogwe Diasporans promised past Korogwe District Commissioner who is now Mwanza Regional Commissioner, Robert Gabriel to build orange processing factory at Korogwe but also things remained silence.



Farmers ask for affordable internet data

KAMPALA

A section of farmers in Uganda have tasked government to revise the cost of internet data and ease access to markets, farm inputs and boost production.

Mr Onesmus Turyahwerwa, a farmer from Kyankwanzi District said whereas several farmers now own smartphones and use them to transact businesses, the cost of internet data remains a big setback to far.

"They have the phones but maintaining them is very costly. If government can lower the cost of data or even make it free for people using it to run businesses, we shall be able to embrace and benefit from technology," Mr Turyahwerwa said.

Ms Sarah Namubiru, a maize and soybean farmer from Nsaasi village in Luwero District who uses online Apps like AgriShare to recruit farm workers, market her produce and source for equipment like tractors said technology has simplified access to service but the high cost of online transactions calls for immediate government intervention.

"I used to move from village to village in search for a tractor. It



Uganda's ICT and National Guidance minister, Dr Chris Baryomunsi (R), launches the AgriShare.

was a tedious process, but with Apps like AgriShare, a mere click avails you with a list of options and services which you get in a shortest time possible. The only problem is

buying data. I spend about 5,000 on data a week," she said.

The farmers made the appeal during the launch of AgriShare mobile App held in Kampala on

May 6.

Mr Wilberforce Semigga, a farmer and a Senior Agricultural Officer at Luwero District Local Government said the issue of cost should

be taken seriously if Ugandans are to benefit from Information Communication Technology.

Several studies have showed that Uganda has the most expensive

mobile data in East Africa.

AgriShare Uganda managing director, Mr Paul Zaake said that about 4,000 farmers have so far subscribed to the App which links them to resources like labour, irrigation, processing, tractors and land that they can hire or rent.

The Commissioner for Agricultural Extension Services at the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr Patience Rwigigisa, said government has put agriculture at the centre of economic transformation through programmes such as the Parish Development Model (PDM).

Officiating at the launch of the AgriShare mobile App, the Minister of Information Communication and Technology and National Guidance, Dr Chris Baryomunsi, attributed the high cost of internet to the low number of subscribers and the cost of accessing internet through the undersea cable at Mombasa since Uganda is a landlocked country.

He however, said that the government plans to reduce

the cost of internet by half and make it affordable.

Mr Baryomunsi urged innovators to develop technologies that will help solve problems right from the grass roots.

He revealed that his ministry would continue supporting innovators including those in the agriculture sector.

Mr Baryomunsi who said he was born and raised in a rural setting tilling land with a hand hoe to derive livelihood was disappointed that most farmers today still use rudimentary methods of farming.

"Many people still live that kind of life.

I feel challenged as a minister of ICT. We need to transform this so that they can be part of the industrial revolution because they are the people who vote for us and get us into big offices. We must improve their livelihoods," he said.

About 39 percent of household in Uganda thrive on subsistence farming.

Entrepreneurs' platform needed for businesses to grow, sector players say

KAMPALA

HONEST, inspirational and properly tailored messages can turn around the fortunes of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for the better, according to some experienced sector entrepreneurs.

Key sector players further argue that "sharing past experiences among peers - in this case the MSMEs - is one of the most fitting prescription needed right now to inspire entrepreneurs whose enterprises are struggling to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic - induced shocks."

In agreement with the above view, global entrepreneur Dr Kalpana Abe observed that veteran entrepreneurs have a responsibility to inspire the upcoming generation.

Nanette Blick, manager, Blick Mulberry is one of the Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) dealing in pure organic wine made from mulberry to make both sweet and dry wine.

She says as an entrepreneur, it takes a lot of effort to thrive in business due to the lessons learnt and unlearned from the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have for long suffered from the high taxes imposed on them. This discourages many from starting because we have to pay for each product Shs500,000 hence discouraging many from starting up hence affecting the economy," Nanette says.

"If we could have a waiver not to be taxed probably for one year. I have had friends who have been discouraged by the taxing system of Uganda which they say is unfriendly and therefore end up moving into other countries such as Sudan to start up their businesses because of their friendlier taxation system and policy which highly impacts on sales and profitability," she notes.

Citing an example where Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) tells SMEs to change a name. It is usually a challenge asking us not to use the word wine but rather call it alcoholic fermented beverage.

Rise of e-trade

In this modern day and era, technology is easing trading through e-trade.

The effect of Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown as a measure to curb the spread of the pandemic opened people's eyes on the benefit of trading online.

Digital platforms such as the "Virtual Factory Network (VFN)" created by MOTIV is meant to link cottage industries to resources needed to scale up SMEs.



International businesswoman Dr Kalpana Abe

MOTIV uses its digital marketing space as a platform created to support these SMEs and provide them with the platform to enjoy vast trade opportunities, grow their businesses and acquire new skills.

It provides a platform for SMEs to enjoy vast trade opportunities, grow their businesses and acquire new skills that enable them to increase their income and profitability.

Virtual Factory Network

Nicholas Spencer, the marketplace lead at MoTIV, says while Uganda cottage industry continues to make incredible socio-economic transformation as far as generating income for business, revenue for the government and creating employment opportunities to the youth, the sector continues to struggle with high operational costs, access to affordable credit facilities, cheap raw materials, and market to sell their products and services.

He notes that it is through Virtual Factory Network (VFN) that link entrepreneurs and cottage industries to resources needed to scale their businesses and diverse trade opportunities.

These linkages range from suppliers of raw materials, financial institutions, market access and skills training in product development, branding and packaging.

"The VFN creates a circular system among various cottage industries to establish connectivity

among them for easy access of trade opportunities, ventures building services, market platforms and business portfolios," Spencer says.

In partnership with the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), the Virtual Factory Network (VFN) enables entrepreneurs to network with key sector players, acquire new skills to grow their

businesses, and expand their markets beyond their locality.

Creatives and entrepreneurs are trained within the Cottage Industries of textile, metal and woodwork, food and nutrition to support them. We believe that with the right support these creatives can build a vibrant cottage sector with the potential to absorb a large proportion of

unemployed youth surplus labor, become catalysts for industrialisation and drastically transform the country's economy," he adds.

Furthermore, it will help creative entrepreneurs refine and scale their business to meet the demand for local and international markets through fostering collaboration by providing machinery, training, a marketplace, and a tribe of like-minded creatives to work towards socio-economic sustainability.

Expanding your business

While sharing business growth and scaling tips, Denis Dokoria, head of marketing and communication, Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI) said entrepreneurs need to connect with people to grow their businesses and expand networks.

"When you come out to showcase your products, you are helped. Most of the ideas have been kept in silos. Building networks helps bridge the gaps. This helps SMEs come out from where they have been and tap into the international market that will drive the enterprise to a different level," Dokoria added.

In addition, the government is working with various institutions to support SMEs through incubation to enable them access markets and validate the quality of products to meet international standards.

He also cautioned SMEs about having a poor business mindset of copy & paste that makes most businesses collapse before celebrating their first birthdays.

Rwanda suspends importation of indomie instant noodles

KIGALI

RWANDA Food and Drug Authority has started an inspection into the 'indomie chicken flavour' product over health concerns.

The product, which is imported from Kenya, is said to have high levels of aflatoxin. Rwanda FDA hence asks traders to stop importing it for now.

A few days ago, Comesa Competition Commission (CCC) stated that the above-mentioned products contain high levels of aflatoxins and pesticide residues in large quantities.

The commission through its market observation established that some of the recalled Indomie products are imported and marketed in the other member states of the COMESA.

The Commission would like therefore, to alert the general public of the risks in consuming above Indomie instant noodles.

The New Times gathered that Food and Safety Authority (FSA) of Egypt, also discovered potential harmful residues of aflatoxin and pesticides in some samples of the product.

Following the directive, 733,340 cartons of different Indomie flavours have been withdrawn from the Egyptian market by the supplier.

While the inspection continues all distributors and retailers in possession of the above-mentioned products are requested to stop distribution and quarantine all quantities in their stores until the investigation is concluded.

FDA also asks the importers of this product to stop importing for now.

FDA added that a communication will be made on the findings of the investigation.





US\$91m licence fee bites into Rwanda's MTN after-tax profits

KIGALI

MOBILE operator MTN's decision to pay off its US\$91-million licence renewal fees under a ten-year amortisation agreement in Rwanda has had a 39.6% "negative" impact on its profits after tax for the quarter period to the end of March.

Following a renewal of its licence last year, the company will make the second instalment payment in July this year. Payment for the fees for the licence, valid for a period of 10 years, follows renewal of the permit by the Rwandan government last year.

"Following the renewal of our operating license in 2021, we are well on track to complete the second instalment of the License Fee payment by July 2022," said MTN Rwanda CEO Mitwa Ng'ambi on Friday.

According to the company, amortisation of the license has "resulted in a negative impact on profit after tax which closed at \$3.9 million". In the previous contrasting period, MTN Rwanda posted an after-tax profit of about US\$6.6-million.

Data traffic for the company rose by 33.3 percent on a year-on-year basis and data income now accounts for 17.1% of MTN Rwanda's service revenue generation. The number of homes connected to the telco's fixed wireless and fibre-to-the-home has now surpassed 4300, boosting its active data user acquisition for the quarter by 453 000.

Mobile money users were also 12 percent stronger, contributing to a 24.5 percent uplift in overall service revenues to US\$48.8-million.

Rwanda fully opened up its economy during the quarter to March after lifting of restrictions put in place to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

This helped to strengthen "positive month-on-month commercial and financial momentum which has translated into encouraging results" for MTN Rwanda, the company said.

Revenue growth was "supported by growth in our voice, data, and mobile financial services" while its customer market share increased by 2.4 percentage points to 64.6 percent.

KQ signs deal with Ghana-based airline to grow West Africa reach

NAIROBI

NATIONAL carrier Kenya Airways (KQ) has inked a codeshare agreement with Africa World Airlines, a West Africa regional airline operating out of Ghana, to expand joint reach in the domestic, African and international routes.

The agreement will make it easy for the KQ customers to access Accra directly from Nairobi as well as ply West Africa and international routes jointly, the two airlines said.

A codeshare is a business deal between two or more airlines, which allows them to sell seats on each other's flights and expand their network.

Each airline publishes and markets a flight under its designator and number as part of its schedule.

"Our combined networks will allow our customers the convenience of seamless onward connectivity to and from the Kenya Airways network onto Africa World Airlines' network. It is imperative that we continue to interlink Africa and allow access within Africa for our passengers," said Adedayo Olawuyi, head of commercial for Africa World Airlines in a statement.

Kenya Airways chief commercial and customer officer, Julius Thairu said that the growth of air travel in Africa is hinged on partnerships and collaboration that open up the continent.

"The agreement between Kenya Airways and Africa World Airlines underpins our

commitment to provide greater connectivity and market access in the West African region and across Africa," said Mr Thairu.

"The future of travel will be drawn from a sustainable, interconnected, and affordable Air Transport industry in Africa through partnerships and collaboration that drive the growth of Africa's travel industry."

The partnership comes just two weeks after KQ reached another deal to enable Kenyans living in Minnesota to fly with ease to Nairobi.

This is after the national carrier signed a code-sharing agreement with the US-based JetBlue Airline to have passengers traveling to JKIA connect through New York.

KQ sees consolidation and such partnerships as key to growing its revenues.

"The future of African aviation relies on consolidation to reduce unit costs and connect the continent more," KQ chief executive Allan Kilavuka said earlier.

"I believe that the African aviation space is very fragmented. We have over 300 airlines in African and some of them are very small and we continue to launch new ones every day which is the opposite of what is happening in other continents," Mr Kilavuka said during an African business forum.

Kenya Airways and South African Airways (SAA) are also eyeing to establish an African airline in 2023.

The two carriers have signed a Strategic Partnership Framework, in a move which will see the two carriers eventually form a Pan-African carrier.



A Kenya Airways aircraft at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

Stanbic Bank ordered to refund Sh10m in dispute over loan rate

NAIROBI

THE Court of Appeal has directed Stanbic Bank to refund over Sh10 million to a former customer who sued the lender for overcharging interest rates to loans advanced decades ago.

A bench of three judges faulted the lender, saying the amount charged to Santowels Ltd, a manufacturer of sanitary towels, was above what had been set by the Central Bank of Kenya in 1997, hence illegal.

Justices Hannah Okwengu, Asike-Makhandia and Jamila Mohammed further said the lender charged the interest rates at 19.5 percent, without the approval of the Minister of Finance.

The court noted that the bank was aware that the rate of interest was capped and it required the approval of the Minister for any variation or interest adjustments from time to time.

"The respondent was similarly governed by Section 44 of the Banking Act, which provided that no institution was allowed to increase its rate of banking or other charges except with the prior approval of the Minister," the judges said.

The manufacturer told the court that Stanbic was its banker between 1993 and 1997 and it sought several overdrafts, which were granted at a variable interest rate of three percent above its base lending rate. The bank reserved the right to vary the base rate and the spread.



A Stanbic Bank branch on Kimathi Street, Nairobi.

The company argued that the maximum rate that banks were entitled to charge its customers by law and as gazetted by CBK was 16.5 percent per annum on a reducing balance.

The court heard that banks were then supposed to obtain approval from the Minister of Finance before it could enhance the inter-

est chargeable beyond what was stipulated by law.

The lender defended itself saying it executed its contractual duties with all due diligence and in accordance with the usual banking practices and customs and it honestly accounted for all the transactions in the manufacturer's accounts.

UZALO

MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV	MONDAY 9 May	TUESDAY 10 May	WEDNESDAY 11 May	THURSDAY 12 May	FRIDAY 13 May	SATURDAY 14 May	SUNDAY 15 May						
	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 ITV Top Ten 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum - WCF rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:55 Habari za saa 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt 14:15 Soap: Love to Death 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Aibu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 DWTV: Kesho leo 19:00 Alya ya Jamii 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW 22:15 Soap: Love to Death 23:00 The Base 00:00 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Uchumi wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base 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CAPITAL

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WORLD

Moscow criticises West for prolonging Ukraine conflict

KYIV / BUDAPEST / MOSCOW

WHILE Western countries are calling for an early cessation of hostilities in Ukraine, "they are doing everything to prevent this" with their actions, a Russian diplomat said Friday.

Arms deliveries to Ukraine are increasing and the United States alone has sent \$3.8 billion worth of military products, Alexei Zaitsev, deputy director of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing.

Military supplies from Western countries will prolong hostilities, cause new destruction of civilian infrastructure, and cost more civilian lives, he said.

Against this backdrop, the Russia-Ukraine peace talks are "in a state of stagnation," Zaitsev said.

Meanwhile, the diplomat denied the allegation that Russia could use nuclear weapons during its special military operation in Ukraine, calling such speculation "a deliberate lie."

Russia firmly adheres to the principle that "there can be no winners in a nuclear war, and it should not be unleashed," Zaitsev noted.

Ukraine urges Russia's troop pull-back to resume talks

On Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said his country stands ready to resume talks on settling the

conflict with Russia after Russian forces return to the positions they held before Feb 24, the Ukrinform news agency reported.

"They need to withdraw to those temporary contact lines or dividing lines - they must withdraw troops there. Then we can start the full-scale talks," Zelensky was quoted as saying.

He emphasized that "not all the bridges" for peace talks with Russia have been destroyed.

The Ukrainian and Russian delegations held their latest round of in-person peace negotiations in Istanbul, Turkey in late March.

Ukraine evacuates 500 civilians from Mariupol

Ukraine has evacuated about 500 civilians from the city of Mariupol, head of the President's Office, Andriy Yermak said on Friday.

"We carried out the next stage of a complex operation to evacuate people from Mariupol and Azovstal. I can say that we managed to take out almost 500 civilians," Yermak said on Telegram.

He thanked the United Nations for its assistance in the evacuation efforts.

The evacuation from Mariupol was the centerpiece of talks between Zelensky and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres last month.

EU's oil embargo against Russia 'nuclear bomb'



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban gives his first international press conference after his FIDESZ party won the parliamentary election, in the Karmelita monastery housing the prime minister's office in Budapest on April 6, 2022. AFP

The European Commission's planned oil embargo against Russia can be considered as a "nuclear bomb" on Hungary's economy, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said Friday.

If adopted, the embargo will mean the end of utility price caps, while fuel prices could reach 700 to 800 forints (\$1.94-2.22) per liter, Orban told local public radio MRI.

Household utility prices were fixed in Hungary to their 2014 level, while last year the Orban government put a limit on prices of petrol and diesel per liter at 480 forints.

European Union leaders have previously agreed that only such steps should be taken that take into account the member states' differing energy structures and their sovereign right to determine their energy mix, but the president of the EC has challenged the great difficulty of creating European unity, accord-

ing to Orban.

The transformation of the Hungarian energy system would take years and thousands of billions of forints in order to replace Russian oil, Orban recalled.

"The introduction of sanctions is not a good solution, but Hungary's veto on the most important issues from our point of view must be maintained," he stressed.

Orban said he had been willing to approve the first five packages of sanctions but made it clear that the energy embargo would be a red line.

The EU will phase out Russian crude oil within six months and refined products by the end of the year, according to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who announced the sixth package of sanctions against Russia.

Xinhua

New chapter begins for Hong Kong's development

CONGRATULATIONS to John Lee Ka-chiu on his election as the sixth-term chief executive designate of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland. As the first chief executive to be elected under Hong Kong's new electoral system, his election is of great significance.

With the Hong Kong Election Committee Subsector elections successfully held in September and the Hong Kong Legislative Council General Election in December last year, the reform of the electoral system of the SAR, provides a solid guarantee for ensuring it is "patriots administering Hong Kong".

The Hong Kong Chief Executive Election held on Sunday successfully upheld the principles of fairness, impartiality and openness and was legitimate, fair and clean, representing a good start for the future implementation of "patriots administering Hong Kong" in the electoral system.

The facts prove that the reform of Hong Kong's electoral system has been successful, and the electoral system is a good institutional arrangement that is in line with the principle of "one country, two systems" as well as the actual conditions of the SAR.

If the electoral system, with all

necessary improvements when necessary, can continue to function well in the future, the election of Lee will mark a historical transformation of Hong Kong's development stage from chaos to order, and from good governance to prosperity.

As former chief secretary for administration of the SAR, Lee has served as a civil servant in Hong Kong for 45 years.

His rich grassroots work experience makes him more focused on solving grassroots problems, and he demonstrated his command and coordination skills.

Given Hong Kong's complicated development environment, Lee is undoubtedly the type of chief executive the SAR needs most, and his election reflects Hong Kong society's common hope that he can open a new chapter for the city's development at this critical juncture of connecting the past and the future.

Lee stressed in his election campaign that he will uphold a result-oriented principle in solving different problems confronting the SAR, comprehensively improve the city's competitiveness, and lay a solid foundation for Hong Kong's development.

This gives a glimpse to his focuses over the next five years, which all hit the nail on the head in addressing the challenges Hong



John Lee Ka-chiu and his campaign team pose for a group photo after Lee won the 2022 Chief Executive Election at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai, yesterday.

Kong faces and will help improve the efficiency and predictability of the SAR's governance.

The next five years will be crucial stage for Hong Kong to improve its governance. Under the leadership of the new chief executive, all members of the SAR government should demonstrate their loyalty to the country, their love for Hong Kong and their responsibility to the people, and demonstrate their confidence, as well as their ability to overcome the challenges of various kinds.

In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the full support of the central authorities, the SAR gov-

ernment must strengthen coordination of different departments and make the best of what it has to overcome the pressure from the West, particularly the United States, to further enhance Hong Kong's profile as an international financial center and trade center, and make the Hong Kong residents the beneficiaries of the city's development and prosperity.

Of course, all this should be based on the prerequisite of a stable and rule-of-law environment. Therefore, in the face of the West's interference, sanctions and pressure, the SAR government must take a firm political stance

on major issues of principles, and bear in mind they are duty-bound to fight determinedly against these foreign forces.

The current SAR government, under the leadership of Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, has made arduous efforts to maintain Hong Kong's prosperity and stability. It is to be hoped that the new chief executive can take on the new historical mission and work with all sectors of the SAR society to promote the development of the city ushering a dynamic, united and peaceful Hong Kong to a new development stage.

Xinhua

MANY ports in China have recently entered the peak season of fishery production.

In Rongcheng, east China's Shandong province, fishermen are putting out to sea and inshore aquatic farms getting busy. In Yuhuan of east China's Zhejiang province, fishermen are loading ice onto their boats for refrigeration and patching fishing nets. In Hainan province, fish harvests are always seen at terminals.

The ocean, breeding lives and containing huge resources, plays a vital role. As a major maritime country, China boasts a long coastline, vast sea areas under national jurisdiction and abundant marine resources.

Since the ancient times, the Chinese people living in coastal areas have taken the sea as a source of fishing and salt

China turns sea waters into 'barns' with marine ranching complexes

making, as well as a means of transport. However, uncontrolled exploitation of resources would lead to overfishing, marine pollution and other problems.

To make a change, China has been constantly promoting the transformation and upgrading of traditional fishing businesses in recent years.

As the Chinese people gain deeper and deeper understanding of the sea, they have gradually reached a consensus that marine resources must be exploited in a reasonable manner. Therefore, they built a batch of marine ranching complexes that aim at restoring resources and developing eco-friendly mariculture with high quality and efficiency.

Aspiring to achieve harmony between

humanity and the sea, these complexes not only conserve typical marine ecosystems, but also promote a transition of the fishery industry from a quantity-oriented model to a quality-oriented one. They have become a new area of growth for marine economy with their ability to drive the development of the fishery, leisure, tourism and culture sectors.

To develop marine ranching complexes is an important measure promoting the transformation and upgrading of the fishery industry.

The complexes have embraced sustainable development thanks to sci-tech progress which enables fishermen to employ deep-sea net cages, aquaculture platforms and other techniques.

Huangwo village in Lianyungang, east China's Jiangsu province once fell into poverty due to shrinking fishery resources. By establishing a mariculture cooperative and building a nori processing plant that turned fishermen into farmers, the village has embarked on a new path to prosperity.

Be it launching well-planned free-range farming of fish and crustaceans, or conducting deep-sea aquaculture, or developing leisure and tourism sub-industries, modern fishery not only brings more types of seafood to consumers, but also fosters more areas of growth for the marine economy.

The gradually maturing model of marine ranching complexes has not only

broadened the space for fishery production, but also optimized the marine ecology in a subtle manner.

For instance, the reduced frequency of inshore fishing nurtures fishery resources, and the decreasing stocking density in aquaculture is also helping the restoration of environment.

Practices prove that building a fish farming environment that benefits the breeding and growth of aquatic organisms will help promote the natural propagation and increase of aquatic biological resources and facilitate the improvement and restoration of the marine ecosystem. It is like building an "ecological bank" for the sea.

Advancing ecological conservation

Sinn Fein calls for united Ireland debate after historic election win

BELFAST

SINN Fein, the former political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), hailed its first victory in a Northern Ireland Assembly election as a "defining moment" for the British-controlled region and called for a debate on a united Ireland.

Sinn Fein was ahead of the pro-British Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) by 27 to 24 seats with two left to declare, making it the first Irish nationalist party to become the largest in the devolved assembly.

"Today represents a very significant moment of change. It's a defining moment in our politics and for our people," said the head of Sinn Fein in Northern Ireland, Michelle O'Neill, whose party secured 29 percent of first-preference votes to the DUP's 21.3 percent.

She said there should now be an "honest debate" around the party's goal of unifying the territory with the Republic of Ireland.

The victory will not change the region's status, as the referendum required to leave the United Kingdom is at the discretion of the British government and likely years away.

But the symbolic importance is huge, ending a century of domination by pro-British parties, supported predominantly by the region's Protestant population.

The DUP, a leading proponent of Britain's exit from the European Union, saw support undermined in part due to its role in post-Brexit talks between London and Brussels that resulted in trade barriers between Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, who is also leading a campaign to secede from the United Kingdom, was among the first to congratulate Sinn Fein in a Twitter post that hailed a "truly historic result."

While the largest party has the right to put forward a candidate for First Minister of Northern Ireland's compulsory power-sharing government, disagreements with the DUP mean such an appointment could be months away.

Asked by a journalist if she expected to become the region's first Irish nationalist First Minister, O'Neill said: "The people have spoken."

DUP leader Jeffrey Donaldson said his party would not join the government unless the protocol governing Northern Ireland's trade with the rest of the UK following its exit from the European Union was totally overhauled.

The DUP's campaign focused on a promise to scrap what it calls a border in the Irish Sea.

Donaldson said he would see what British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says on the topic in a speech next week before deciding his next move.

The British government's minister for Northern Ireland Brandon Lewis in a statement called on the parties to form an executive as soon as possible.

Sinn Fein was long shunned by the political establishment on both sides of the Irish border for its links to Irish Republican Army violence during three decades of fighting over Northern Ireland's place within the United Kingdom that ended with a 1998 peace deal.

Since then it has reinvented itself to become the most popular party in the Republic of Ireland, where it has carved out a successful base by campaigning on everyday issues such as the cost of living and healthcare.

It followed a similar path in the Northern Irish elections, where it focused on economic concerns rather than Irish unity to appeal to middle-ground voters.

The election follows demographic trends that have long indicated that pro-British Protestant parties would eventually be eclipsed by predominantly Catholic Irish nationalist parties who favor uniting the north with the Republic of Ireland.

All unionist candidates combined secured slightly more votes than all nationalists in Thursday's election.

The cross-community Alliance Party scored its strongest ever result with 17 seats as it bids to establish itself as a third pillar of the political system.

Attack on Sinai checkpoint kills 11 Egyptian troops, army says

CAIRO

ONE officer and 10 Egyptian soldiers were killed on Saturday in Egypt's Sinai peninsula when militants attacked a checkpoint at a water pumping station, an army spokesman and security sources said.

It was one of the deadliest attacks in recent years in northern Sinai, where Egypt's security forces have been battling Islamist militants with links to Islamic State.

The attack occurred on Saturday morning on the road leading east from the Suez Canal to Hasana in the center of Northern Sinai, two security sources said.

Militants attacked with an explosive-rigged vehicle and fired heavy weapons installed on pick-up trucks, before military reinforcements fought them off and gave chase, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The terrorist elements are being pursued and besieged in an isolated area in Sinai," Egyptian army spokesman Gharib Abdel Hafez said in a statement, adding that five others had been injured in the attack.

Xinhua

while developing the fishery industry, these marine ranching complexes will help the fishery sector achieve both economic and ecological benefits.

As the only major fishery country in the world where aquaculture production exceeds the marine wild catch, China enjoys huge development potential in the fishery industry. It has an aquaculture sea area of over 1.2 million square kilometers.

The marine ranching complexes are taken as an important part of the construction of a modern marine industry system in China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through Year 2035. In the future, the marine economy will embrace more important periods of development.

People's Daily



Burqa-clad women walk along a street in Kandahar yesterday. AFP

Taliban order Afghan women to cover faces again

KABUL

AFGHANISTAN'S Taliban government ordered women on Saturday to cover their faces in public, a return to a signature policy of their past rule and an escalation of restrictions that are causing anger at home and abroad.

A decree from the group's supreme leader, Haibatullah Akhundzada, said that if a woman did not cover her face outside home, her father or closest male relative would be visited and face potential prison or firing from state jobs.

"We call on the world to co-operate with the Islamic Emirate and people of Afghanistan ... Don't bother us. Don't bring more pressure, because history is witness, Afghans won't be affected by pressure," Mohammad Khalid Hanafi, the minister for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, told a news conference.

The ideal face covering was the all-encompassing blue burqa, the group said, referring to the garment that was obligatory for women in public during the Taliban's previous 1996-2001 rule.

Most women in Afghanistan wear a headscarf for religious reasons but many in urban areas such as Kabul do not cover their faces.

The United Nations' mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) said in a statement on Saturday that it would immediately seek meetings with the Taliban over the issue, adding it would consult with others in the international community on the implications of the ruling.

"UNAMA is deeply concerned with today's announcement by the Taliban de facto authorities ... this decision contradicts numerous assurances regarding respect for and protection of all Afghans' human rights," the statement said.

The United States and others have already cut development aid and sanctioned the banking system since the group took over in August, pushing Afghanistan towards economic ruin.

The Taliban says it has changed since its last rule, but in recent months has added regulations limiting women's movement without a male chaperone and banning men and women from visiting parks together.

"It is interfering with women's private lives," Kabul-based women's rights advocate Mahbouba Seraj said of Saturday's decree. "Today we have lots of other problems, like suicide attacks, poverty ... People are dying every day, our girls can't go to school, women can't work ... But they just think and speak and make laws about hijab (women's Islamic dress)."

Survey finds 19 per cent of Indian households have no sanitation facility

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S 5th National Family Health Survey has found 19 per cent of the households in the country are devoid of any sanitation facility with their members practicing open defecation.

The latest family health survey report was released by the federal health ministry on Thursday in the western state Gujarat. "Sixty-nine percent of households use an improved sanitation facility that is not shared with other households and eight percent use a facility that would be considered improved if it were not shared," the report said.

"Nineteen percent of households have no facility, which means that the household members practice open defecation." The findings of the report are based on gathered information from 636,699 households across India between 2019 and 2021.

The Indian government launched the Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission in 2014 with the goal of eliminating open defecation from the South Asian country.

The survey has also found only 59 percent of households in India use clean fuel for cooking.

"Ninety-six percent of households use an improved source of drinking water and 97 percent of households have electricity," said the report.

The report compiled by India's International Institute of Population Sciences based in Mumbai revealed that 90 percent of the surveyed households have an Aadhaar card (biometric identification card), while 96 percent either have a bank or a post office account.

According to the survey, 27 percent of the participants are aged below 15 years while 12 percent are aged 60 and above.



Nineteen percent of households have no facility, which means that the household members practice open defecation

US identifies 109 cases of severe hepatitis in children

GENEVA / TUNIS

US health officials on Friday said they are investigating 109 cases of severe hepatitis of unknown origin in children, including five reported deaths, updating a nationwide alert issued in April for doctors to be on the lookout for such cases of the liver disease.

The cases have been identified over the past seven months in 25 states and territories, Doctor Jay Butler, deputy director for infectious diseases at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said during a conference call.

Fourteen of the children required liver transplants. Butler said around half of the 109 children diagnosed with hepatitis were also infected with a type of adenovirus, a virus that causes the common cold, but the agency is still investigating the exact cause of the illness.

Hepatitis linked to this type of adenovirus has almost exclusively been associated with immunocompromised children, but many of the cases first reported to the CDC did not have immunocompromising conditions, Butler said.

He said the "vast majority" of the identified children were not eligible for COVID vaccination, which "appears to be unrelated to these cases."

The CDC is investigating whether COVID infection may be playing a role, as well as exposure to other pathogens, medications and animals.

Compared to pre-pandemic rates, the agency said it has not



In this April 23, 2020 file photo, a sign is seen by the entrance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. File photo

seen an overall increase in the incidence of severe hepatitis in children, which remains rare. The World Health Organization earlier this week said it had received reports of at least 228 probable cases from 20 countries with over 50 additional cases under investigation.

Tunisia

Tunisia will stop using the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine (Janssen), the official Tunis Afrique Presse reported on Friday, citing a member of the country's scientific committee for fighting COVID-19.

Riad Daghfous, the expert, was quoted as saying that Tunisian health authorities will avoid using Janssen after the US Food and Drug Administration decided to limit its use due to worrisome complications, including blood clotting.

The FDA's recommendation to restrict the use of Janssen, he said, was based on the results of a recent study that demonstrated this vaccine had caused blood clots in some people in several countries around the world.

So far, no such cases resulting from the use of Janssen were recorded in Tunisia, Daghfous

added.

According to the expert, 1.3 million doses of Janssen have already been used in this country since the onset of COVID-19.

The Janssen vaccine was authorized for emergency use in the United States on Feb 27, 2021.

WTO

The first World Trade Organization meeting to discuss a draft agreement to temporarily waive intellectual property rights for COVID-19 vaccines went "very well", its chair said on Friday, although some members voiced reservations.

The WTO's 164 members on Friday discussed the "outcome document" that stems from months of negotiations between the main parties - the United States, the European Union, India and South Africa - in an effort to break an 18-month deadlock over the issue.

"It went very well and here's why I say that. No member rejected the outcome as completely unacceptable," Ambassador Lansana Gberie from Sierra Leone, who chairs the council tasked with finding an agreement on the waiver, told Reuters after the closed-door meeting.

"Most said this could be developed into a negotiating text and that's the trajectory we have to follow."

However, two Geneva trade sources said after the meeting that some delegations had said the proposal fell short since it was too narrowly focused on vaccines, echoing criticism from some civil society groups.

The waiver idea, proposed by India and South Africa in October 2020, is supported by the majority of members of the global trade body.

But some wealthy countries including Britain and Switzerland have in the past raised objections on grounds that it could harm pharmaceutical research.

WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, who has been involved in brokering the talks and wants a deal by the June ministerial conference, says an agreement would be "hugely important".

The new draft deal, which has unresolved areas, must pass by consensus and any member of the organization has the right to a veto.

One delegate described Friday's meeting as the moment the deal would "float or sink".

Privately, some delegates have said a lack of public support for the deal by the main negotiating parties has sapped confidence among other members.

Agencies

China's development an epic story: chairman of Kuhn Foundation

"THE epic story of China's astonishing development is that of the largest population on earth undergoing the greatest transformation in history," said Robert Lawrence Kuhn (pictured), chairman of the Kuhn Foundation, in a recent interview with People's Daily.

The man, who has long been devoted to telling the world the real China he sees, told People's Daily that he has been encouraged by Chinese President Xi Jinping in terms of telling China's stories to the world.

It was the new ideas and philosophies, as well as the governance practices of the Chinese President that made him see the inside sense of China, he said.

During a grand gathering held in December 2018 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up, Kuhn was awarded a China reform friendship medal by Xi.

"When I was walking past the center of the stage, President Xi reached over and down to shake my hand. During the photo session, he shook hands with me again and encouraged me to tell China's stories to the rest of the world," Kuhn recalled.

"Although I deeply appreciated the personal honor, I recognized immediately that the symbolism of the medal was more significant than my receiving it," Kuhn said.

Stressing that China is playing an increasingly essential role in every matter of global importance in today's multifaceted world, he considers it crucial to tell true stories about China and show the country's dynamism, richness and complexity in these stories.

According to Kuhn, he met Xi for the first time in 2005, when the latter was still serving as the secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Zhejiang Provincial Committee, and their second meeting was in New York a year later.

"Back then, we were helping the preparation of an exchange activity between Zhejiang and New Jersey. I witnessed Xi's focus on economic development and entrepreneurship and his engaging with international business," Kuhn recalled.

Kuhn is the author of *The Inside Story of China's 30-Year Reform* [Chinese] and *How China's Leaders Think* [English]. In his observation and writing about China, Kuhn came to fully understand the consistency of Xi's governance philosophy. "The topics and policies President Xi underlines, such as poverty alleviation, common prosperity, innovation and environmental protection, are consistent with those he stressed as the Party chief of Zhejiang," Kuhn noted.

In October 2014, Kuhn participated in the launch of the multilingual versions of the book *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China* at the Frankfurt Book Fair, the



world's largest trade fair for books. He said this book is a milestone, which demonstrates Xi's political philosophy and presents Xi's way of thinking to the world.

Kuhn was deeply impressed by two of Xi's speeches. According to him, the first one is Xi's address to U.S. business leaders in Seattle in September 2015. "CNN invited me to comment on the speech live. From his speech, I realized just how much he values economic development and innovation," Kuhn said.

The second one is Xi's speech at a grand rally in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China at the Tian'anmen Square in Beijing in 2019. "At that time, I was a commentator for the Chinese and international media at the square. I was struck by the powerful parallel structure with which Xi began his speech: three resonating paragraphs each beginning 'Over the past 70 years...' stressing strong CPC leadership, economic achievements, and peaceful development. It was electrifying to the Chinese crowds to hear Xi expressing his historic appreciation of China's past and presenting his confident anticipation of China's future," Kuhn said.

"His resonant remarks struck a chord with the audience, inspiring them," he added.

Over the years, Kuhn has been studying Xi's thoughts and the policies implemented by the Chinese government. He has written a large number of articles on such subjects as the five development concepts of innovation, coordination, green, openness and sharing; targeted poverty alleviation, common prosperity, and whole-process people's democracy.

"All of these are new ways China rises up to challenges, and compose theoretically founded, policy-based Chinese stories," Kuhn noted.

China's targeted poverty alleviation is a remarkable story, said Kuhn, explaining that the country has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty over the past 40 years or so.

"I was particularly impressed by Xi's words: 'I have always put poverty alleviation at the top of my work agenda and devoted much of my energy to it.' I know of no other national leader who has made, or who could make, such an assertion, a fact that I've repeated over and over again," Kuhn said.

In late 2019 and early 2020, the COVID-19 epidemic broke out in China. Kuhn expressed full confidence in China's victory over the virus. "I saw a striking resemblance between China's battle against the pandemic and its fight against poverty. With the firm commitment and leadership of President Xi and the strong mobilization, organization and coordination capabilities of the CPC from the central to the local levels, China will definitely defeat the novel coronavirus," Kuhn predicted at the time.

To promote regional and global development, President Xi proposed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, which Kuhn believes are vital both for transforming less-developed countries and for contributing to global governance.

Countries around the world should work together to turn visions into reality, Kuhn said, adding that he himself will continue to observe China and tell stories about Chinese policies and people. *People's Daily*

Le: It's absurd to blame China for Russia-Ukraine conflict

BEIJING

THE accusations on China of taking responsibilities for the Ukraine crisis is absurd, Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Le Yucheng said on Friday.

Le made the remarks when delivering a speech at an online dialogue of global think tanks of 20 countries. He said on the Ukraine crisis, some people made groundless allegations, distorted China's position and tried to make China take the blame for their own actions.

He said some people have twisted the words of the recent China-Russia joint statement and misinterpreted "friendship has no limits and cooperation has no forbidden areas" to mean that China had "prior knowledge" of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine and even "endorsed" it. They have therefore concluded that China must be held accountable for the conflict.

"This is absurd," Le said, adding that China is not involved in the conflict, still less the one who created it. So how could China be responsible?

Le noted that the relationship between China and Russia is based on the principles of non-alliance, non-confrontation and non-targeting of third parties, and it is not subject to the influence of any third party. The description of "no limits" and "no forbidden areas" captures the current state and future prospects of China-Russia ties.

"The truth is, China desires

friendly relations with all countries and we never set any limit on cooperation, nor do we see a need to do so," he said.

In response to the accusation that China stood on the wrong side of history for not joining the United States and other Western countries in condemning and sanctioning Russia, Le said since the Russia-Ukraine conflict broke out, China has been committed to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the principle of indivisible security.

"We have stood for fairness and justice, and made active efforts to encourage peace talks and provide humanitarian aid. China has no axe to grind or any geopolitical agenda on this issue," he said.

Le said for quite some time, the United States has kept flexing its muscle on China's doorstep, creating exclusive groups against China and inflaming the Taiwan question to test China's red line.

"If this is not an Asia-Pacific version of NATO's eastward expansion, then what is? Such a strategy, if left unchecked, would bring horrible consequences and push the Asia-Pacific over the edge of an abyss," he said.

Le stressed that China is committed to peaceful development and seeks harmony, solidarity and cooperation in the region. China has never been a provocateur or troublemaker. It makes no sense to take aim at China. The attempt to "copy and paste" the Ukraine crisis in the Asia-Pacific is doomed to fail.

Xinhua



Chinese Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Le Yucheng speaks during an interview with the Associated Press at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing, April 16, 2021. File photo



Yanga's footballers, midfielder Zawadi Mauya (L), and center-back, Abdallah Shaibu, feature in training in Dar es Salaam last week ahead of the NBC Premier League duel against Prisons that will be played today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Yanga keen on getting back to winning ways

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA spokesman Haji Sunday Manara says the club's squad had begun preparations for the NBC Premier League 23rd round match against Tanzania Prisons.

Yanga who returned to Dar es Salaam on Thursday will host the game at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam today.

NBC Premier League leader came up against Ruvo Shooting in the league tie that took place in Kigoma last Wednesday and ended in a 0-0 draw.

Manara said their squad started preparations, and the technical bench was ready to work on the shortcomings that were in view in the last two games that saw them draw 0-0 with Simba SC and then notch the same results in the clash against Ruvo Shooting.

He said the main plan is to make sure their squad does not repeat the mistakes and they will ensure Tanzania Prisons becomes the first team to put the former back to winning ways.

"We will respect Tanzania Prisons, we have accepted the results of previous games... we have come from a goalless draw, but in our game on Monday, the coaches will in partnership with the players see to it that we grab three points," the official pointed out.

Yanga keeps on clinging on to the top place in the Premier League standings with 56 points whilst being the only team with an unbeaten spell this season.

In another development, Mbeya

Kwanza FC head coach Mbwana Makata has congratulated his players for their hard work in a league tie against Tanzania Prisons that took place at Majimaji Stadium in Songea, Ruvuma on Thursday.

Mbeya Kwanza FC, the match's hosts, beat Tanzania Prisons 1-0 and kept alive their hopes of remaining in the Premier League for the upcoming season.

Makata, who moved to Mbeya Kwanza FC after parting ways with Dodoma Jiji FC, said he had to say thank his footballers for fulfilling their responsibility to fight on the pitch and get the victory.

He said the biggest secret that led to the success was the unity and solidarity that exists in his squad along with following the technical bench's instructions.

The tactician stated: "I am grateful that the team continues to change day by day, and I am confident that in the future there will be good things, we are fighting to continue to get good results that will enable us to be in a safe place."

"My players, in general, are very dedicated, so I thank and congratulate them, the unity and solidarity they have, as well as their willingness to follow my instructions, is key to these results," the gaffer revealed.

The 1-0 win over Tanzania Prisons has enabled Mbeya Kwanza FC to amass 21 points and move to 15th place in the Premier League standings, whereas Tanzania Prisons remains in 14th place with 22 points.

Simba SC relishes facing Yanga in Federation Cup semi-final

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC will likely come up against age-old rival, Yanga, in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) semi-final if the former knocks Mwanza's Pamba FC out of the showdown's last eight.

Championship League club Pamba FC will lock horns with Simba SC in the re-scheduled quarterfinal at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on May 14.

The fixture was postponed following Simba SC's participation in continental assignments last month.

Simba had been coming up against South Africa's Orlando Pirates in this season's CAF Confederation Cup last eight duels, which were won by the latter.

Simba SC Information and Communication Manager Ahmed Ally pointed out they are looking forward to meeting Yanga in the semi-final stage.

The official disclosed Simba believes it still owes a debt to itself this season after failing to defeat Yanga in Premier League games that have ended in a goalless draw.

The official noted: "We need this match because we believe that whoever fancies his chances with the best squad

in the remaining games of the ASFC, will be the champion."

Ally said: "Simba SC has still invested in the Premier League, but it has invested more in the ASFC and that is the way of life, there are times when you have to invest in a place where you have a great chance of success."

"In Mainland Tanzania's Azam Sports Federation Cup, Simba SC has a great chance of winning the showpiece, so our mind, thoughts, and energy are focused on this tournament, we plan to finish with Pamba FC first, beat Yanga in the semi-finals and then win the trophy."

"If Simba SC wins this season's ASFC, it will be the club that has achieved more success than any other club in the country," Ally noted.

Simba SC was last season crowned ASFC champion after beating Yanga 1-0 in the final at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma.

In the 2019/20 season, Simba SC won the showdown title after cruising to a 2-1 victory over Namungo FC in the final at Nelson Mandela Stadium in Sumbawanga, Rukwa.

Yanga advanced to this season's ASFC semi-final following a win over Geita Gold FC on penalties in the last eight, after the teams drew 1-1 in the 90 minutes.

Nabi demands more commitment from players

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA head coach Nasreddine Nabi has expressed dissatisfaction with the continuation of player satisfaction after the squad's 0-0 draw with Ruvo Shooting at Lake Tanganyika Stadium last week.

The Tunisian gaffer completed his three-match ban by missing out on the last week's league tie against Ruvo Shooting, which took place in Kigoma.

The tactician had been suspended by the Tanzania Premier League Board after getting marching orders in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) last eight's match between Yanga and Geita Gold FC played in Dar es Salaam.

Nabi will be on Yanga's technical bench in the league match against Tanzania Prisons slated for today at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The gaffer said his outfit's goal is winning the NBC Premier League title this season, a feat they have not reached.

According to the gaffer, after Yanga's 0-0 draw with Simba SC, his players were seemingly satisfied.

Yanga has nine games left in the league of which they need to win five to claim the title



Yanga's Tunisian head coach, Nasreddine Nabi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

this season, irrespective of the results of any other fixture.

In the NBC Premier League leader's remaining eight games, it will play Tanzania Prisons, Dodoma Jiji FC, Mbeya Kwanza FC, Biashara United, Coastal

Union, Polisi Tanzania, Mbeya City FC, and Mtwara Sugar.

Tunisian gaffer revealed: "What I need from the players is to be more committed in the remaining games to get points that will not be achieved by any team to

win this league title."

"We need to set other records such as taking the top honour by posting a lot of points and goals, not losing a game, allowing ourselves to concede fewer goals, and more and we will not be able to do that

without the players volunteering," he said.

Nabi said they have a right to rejoice as it is not good for such a big team like Yanga to play for four seasons without winning the league title, along with other achievements.

According to him to show Yanga is better this season the side needs to achieve another success, namely winning the ASFC silverware, the squad is in the semi-finals of the showpiece.

He said this season they have won the Community Shield and now they have to do the same in the league and ASFC and all that will be possible, should its players volunteer to fight in every game, which is why he does not want to see anyone play with satisfaction.

"There is still a lot of work ahead of us to finish the season successfully after achieving the goals we agreed on before the start of the season in various competitions," Nabi disclosed.

Yanga has reached the ASFC semi-finals awaiting the winners of the quarterfinal between Simba and Pamba that is slated to take place on May 14.



Dar es Salaam's Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park basketball team's players take part in training at the center's courts last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

No margin for errors against Tanzania Prisons, says Manara

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA leadership through the outfit's spokesman Haji Manara has said that there is no margin for errors as the outfit prepares for the NBC Premier League's 23rd round match against Tanzania Prisons to be played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Monday.

Manara said their squad had started preparations and the technical bench was ready to work on the shortcomings that were in view in the last two games that saw them draw 0-0 with Simba SC and then record the same results against Ruvo Shooting.

He said the main plan is to make sure their squad does not drop

points and they will ensure Tanzania Prisons becomes the first team to put their team back to winning ways.

"We will respect Tanzania Prisons, we have accepted the results of previous games... we have come from a goalless draw, but in our game on Monday, the coaches will work with the players so that we can collect three points," Manara disclosed.

Manara said winning the Premier League top honour is still within their hands but they have a good chance of winning the title by 90 percent, leaving 10 percent of the failure to achieve that goal.

He said the club's members and fanatics should continue to back

their team during this period to stay within reach of winning the Premier League title, which was won by Simba SC for four consecutive seasons.

The official stated: "We have not yet won the Premier League title, but the chances of winning the title are 90 percent, that is, 10% is the chance to miss the title, but we are more than 90 percent, so the title is in our hands."

"If we decide not to take it, we will not take it, but if we decide we will win, so let's work together, fight and win our remaining games."

"We are not talking about the unbeaten spell, we are talking about the championship, we will win this season, we might post draw, and

lose games, but at the end of the day, we are still Yanga that will become champions."

"We have no doubt about that although it does not make us overconfident, and no player will accept it until we win the championship, that is, we do not sleep," Manara said.

Yanga leads the Premier League standings with 56 points, followed by defending champion Simba SC with 42 points.

The situation continues to provide a unique opportunity for Yanga, the oldest soccer outfit in East and Central Africa, to move closer to clinching the top honour this season.

Liverpool's title hopes fade after Spurs stalemate

LONDON

JURGEN Klopp said Liverpool cannot give up hope in the Premier League title race after a 1-1 draw against Tottenham despite admitting he cannot see Manchester City slipping up.

Klopp's side edged ahead of City on goal difference after dropping points at Anfield for the first time since February.

But the English champions can now afford to draw one of their remaining four games and still retain their title.

Pep Guardiola's men can retake top spot and open up a three-point lead when they host Newcastle on Sunday. "It is an important point but we all know the situation," said Klopp.

"We are now top of the table and if we and City lose all the rest of our games then great, but we all know that will not happen.

"I would love to sit here and say yes City will drop points, the problem is I can't see it."

A share of the spoils took Tottenham to within a point of fourth-placed Arsenal, but their chance of a top-four finish now also rely on the Gunners dropping points in two of their final four games.

Son Heung-min rounded off a brilliant team move to put Spurs in front on 56 minutes.

Luis Diaz's deflected shot levelled 16 minutes from time, but Liverpool failed to find a winner.

"It is not easy to play in this moment against an amazing team in an amazing atmosphere," said Tottenham boss Antonio Conte.

"The have a lot of energy despite playing every three days, it is incredible. They are deserving of everything they are reaching this season.

"To have a good result is positive but we have to be disappointed because we had the chances to win the game."

Twenty-one points separate the sides, but Spurs have made a habit of saving their best for the big occasion.

Conte's men are unbeaten in all four meetings with City and Liverpool this season.

Liverpool did not start like a side fatigued by reaching the Champions League final in their 57th game of the season against Villarreal in midweek, as the intense press from the home side penned Tottenham in.

But their best effort came from a corner as Virgil van Dijk hit the crossbar.

Spurs also hit the woodwork in the first-half when Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg took aim from long range.

The second-half followed the same pattern, with Liverpool camped in the Tottenham half, but this time Spurs did pick them off on the counter-attack.

Harry Kane was given time to assess his options and played in Ryan Sessegnon who slid the ball across the box for Son to tap in his 20th Premier League goal of the season to move within two of Mohamed Salah.

It was the first time Liverpool have trailed at Anfield in a league match since February. Spurs could have doubled their lead had Son controlled another Sessegnon cross moments later.

Salah did his best to extend his advantage in the race for the Golden Boot and rescue the Reds' title challenge only to be denied by a brilliant block from Ben Davies.

Manchester Utd concede four in 'humiliating' defeat at Brighton

LONDON

RALF Rangnick apologised after Manchester United's dismal season hit a new low with a "humiliating" 4-0 defeat against Brighton on Saturday.

United have endured a host of loss in one of their most embarrassing seasons for decades and this lacklustre loss was among the very worst.

Rangnick's side were routed by goals from Moises Caicedo, Marc Cucurella, Pascal Gross and Leandro Trossard at the Amex Stadium.

After 5-0 and 4-0 defeats against arch rivals Liverpool, a 4-1 loss at Watford that saw Ole Gunnar Solskjaer sacked in November and an FA Cup at home to Championship side Middlesbrough, it seemed impossible for United to fall any further.

But they were so gutless and hopeless on the south-coast that even United's travelling supporters turned on them.

Sixth placed United cannot finish in the Premier League's top four and are certain to miss out on the Champions League for only the fifth time in 30 seasons.

"It was a terrible performance. From the first until the last minute it was not enough, we can only apologise for this performance and a humiliating defeat," Rangnick said.

"We just gave too much time and space. We were never in a position where we could stop them playing through our lines. We told the players be as compact as they could but we couldn't stop it."

With 58 points and only one game left, United's fifth successive away defeat means they will finish with their lowest points total in the Premier League era.

It would be no surprise if Erik ten Hag, the Ajax boss who has agreed to take charge from next season, was having second thoughts about his decision to accept the task of rebuilding a team languishing well behind the standards set by Liverpool and Manchester City.

Asked if United's players had failed to follow his instructions, Rangnick said: "I don't think they ignored the game-plan but we weren't able to stop them.

"We gave them too much space and if you do that against a technically good team like Brighton, you will get punished."

The United fans massed at one end of the Amex Stadium set the tone for another toxic evening as they chanted for the club's owners the Glazer family to sell up and held up banners reading 'We want our club back'.

AFP

Zlatan has seen it and done it all, but he's nervous about the future

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

FEAR is not a word you associate with Zlatan Ibrahimovic. Not unless you happen to be a defender marking him in the box.

But the Zlatan who joined me and Julien Laurens on the latest episode of Gab and Juls Meets has no problem saying he's "a little bit scared" and "a little bit panicking" at what comes next. (Don't worry, during the interview he also says "You can call me God," which reassures you that you are indeed speaking to Zlatan and not some Millennial doppelganger.)

"I'm in a situation now where I'm close to the goal line ... so I'm a little bit panicking," the 40-year-old AC Milan striker told ESPN. "Because when it stops, what do you do? I know I can do a lot of things, I will have offers from all over the place. But the adrenaline I get on the field, I will never get that [from] something else."

Most athletes have to stare down the realisation that the greatest rush they will ever get will come to them before most of their peers' lives are even at the halfway mark. In some ways, those who fall out of love with the game or who don't have a choice as to when they hang up their boots are fortunate. Most, like Zlatan, struggle with the decision of when to call it a day. Forever.

"I've tried to postpone [it]," he says. "For me to take that step over the goal line is to stop playing the game. I'm trying to push [that step] as far away from me as I can."

This doesn't mean he's deluded; he's not going to play if he's a burden on his teammates or if it means torturing his body, which is now in its fifth decade, through a career that spans 23 years, nine different clubs (including Milan on three occasions) in seven major leagues and in which he has won 33 team trophies.

"I need to be healthy and I want to feel good when I play," he says. "[It] makes no sense to play the game if you suffer too much, better to be realistic and tell yourself ... it's enough. But I'm not there yet. And I'm not even thinking about it. Because focusing on it means that in my head I'm prepared to stop. And if I'm prepared to stop, I'm not able to help my teammates and not helping myself achieve what I want."

For somebody who has always been the main man, who plays into the alpha male image with glee, Zlatan is very clear on what his current role is: he's not the hub of Milan's wheel, he's the big brother/motivator/leader who will do everything he can to help the club win their first Serie A title in a decade.

"This is not a one-man show, this is [something] we do together," he says. "I have this responsibility, I have teammates who look up to me. I think of my experience, the players I've played with, the coaches I've played for ... at my age now it's all about giving back. I've had moments in my life where all I did was take, without giving back. Not on purpose, but just because when you're young, you try to show the whole world who you are; you're not satisfied, you want to show you're the best. "But at this age, I have



Zlatan Ibrahimovic

nothing to prove and I've had nothing to prove for many years. This is a young team, I am who I am, so I try to be supportive on the field and off. I try to be a leader in my own way."

You can see the difference in his numbers and in the way the team has changed. After a 21-month spell with the LA Galaxy in Major League Soccer, when he arrived in Milan in January 2019 (his second stint with the club), they were 10th in Serie A. He played in 18 of their remaining 21 games that season (starting 16 of them), scored 10 goals and lifted them to sixth place. Everything went through him offensively. It wasn't necessarily the sort of high-press, high-octane football the club's owners and coach Stefano Pioli, who had taken over that October, wanted to play, but it got the job done.

Last season began the same way. He had 10 goals by mid-January and Milan were top of the table, but then he got injured and missed two months. When he returned, things had changed somewhat. His minutes declined and, when he was on the pitch, it was more about serving the team than the other way around. He'd hold up play, attract defenders, look to set up teammates and drop deeper to help.

Milan finished third, and when he agreed a contract extension to the end of the 2021-22 season -- taking a big pay cut -- he had accepted a different role. Now he shares playing time up front with the 35-year-old Olivier Giroud.

On a team with so much youth -- Fikayo Tomori, Ismael Bennacer and Theo Hernandez are 24; Rafael Leao, Alexis Saelemaekers and Brahim Diaz are 22; Sandro Tona-

li and Pierre Kalulu are 21 -- Zlatan is what Milan need. Heck, most of his teammates were still wearing diapers when he was playing in Champions League quarterfinals. But with three games to go, Milan are top of the table, two points ahead of local rivals Inter. If they win, it will be the 14th league title and the 24th major trophy of Zlatan's career.

"The team is young, we're growing, getting more and more experience," he says. "I know from my own experience, from one week to another, a lot of things can change. So we need to stay focused." Injuries have slowed him this year, but it's not as if he's just the old guy dispensing advice from the corner of the dressing room. When he has played, he has come up big, most definitively in delivering the assist for Tonalì's winner against Lazio last month. And his numbers per 90 minutes aren't dissimilar to his first, prolific half-season back at Milan: his expected goals (xG) are higher (from 0.48 to 0.50), as are his shots (3.89 to 4.05) and his aerial wins

(4.81 to 4.91). So too, incredibly, are his defensive pressures (7.77 to 8.51): still near the bottom of Serie A players' stats, mind you, but an indication that when he's on the pitch, he's going to make it count.

He may be different in some ways, but the old Zlatan, the quotable, larger-than-life Zlatan, is still around. Last year, when a jack-knifed truck caused an almighty traffic jam and left him in gridlock for three hours and late for a guest-host spot at the Sanremo Festival, Italy's highest-rated annual TV event, he did what only Zlatan might do. He got out of the vehicle and flagged down a passing scooter.

The driver recognised him and told him he was a Milan fan. "Listen, you need to bring me to the festival," Zlatan said. Shocked, the driver couldn't possibly say no. "I was lucky that he was a Milan fan and believed in God ... so when I appeared, he did what I asked," says Zlatan. They spent an hour weaving through the gridlock with Zlatan (who is not a small man) hanging off the back

of the scooter. It was slow-going to the point that the Swede offered to drive and only later did he find out it was the driver's first time driving on the highway, but he got there.

Or consider his response when asked about possibly returning to MLS, maybe to join his old PSG teammate David Beckham's franchise, Inter Miami.

"Maybe if I come back I'll have my own club," he says. "Where I go, I am the boss. So that will not change."

Or his time in England at Manchester United from 2016 to 2018, when he arrived as a hated super-villain and then got annoyed when people started liking him.

"I like people when they hate you because then they bring out the best in you," he says. "When they hate you, you really know it. But when they like you, you don't know if it's genuine. In the U.S., you have a big problem, because everybody is looking for the perfect image. I see athletes with an entourage of 20 people whose job it is to create the perfect image of themselves. But the perfect

image is just being yourself. "People get obsessed with image and they think they live in a movie. But when the movie ends, they don't get any attention and they'll suffer. I'm realistic. I'm myself. I know that if I didn't play football, you wouldn't be interviewing me."

"If I didn't play football." Those words leave you wondering what might have become of Zlatan if he hadn't been blessed with talent, as well as the mentality and fortitude to excel in the game. Squint and maybe you can see the big, gangly kid from the tough immigrant Malmo neighbourhood of Rosengård. The one who would pilfer training gear from the Malmo FC academy because it was better than his own clothes. The one who would later steal Tommy Hilfiger and Ralph Lauren apparel from shopping malls so he'd at least dress like the native-born Swedish kids. The one who found solace and purpose (as well as a penchant for spectacular, acrobatic overhead kicks and backheels) in Taekwondo at his local community center.

"Every day was a struggle against poverty and shame," he wrote in his most recent book. It's an immigrant story that has been repeated countless times around the world, though if you ask him about it today, he leaves you with a message of hope.

"I think I helped open up doors," he says. "Even if you're not the stereotypical Swede, people from different backgrounds now have more possibilities. And they can have more belief. A lot of things happened since I was the little kid running around. When I was young, there were no doors, there was a wall. With my mentality, my ego, my will ... I went through those walls. I broke holes in the walls and they made doors and those doors are open now. Whoever comes through them, no matter their background, will have a chance. Things have changed and are still changing. This is what I believe. We just have to keep going and try to [reshape] the world in a better way."

Maybe, when the time comes to hang up his boots and for the warrior to rest, that's what will provide the adrenaline rush he has craved over the past 20-plus years: making the world a better place. He's anxious, he's scared, he's panicked; he's a man confronting his own fear of losing what has driven him for so long. He's a grown-up Zlatan. And while he may not feel ready for what comes next -- heck, he may not be ready for what comes next -- he's stronger and better equipped for it, if only because he's asking the right questions.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Zlatan has seen it and done it all, but he's nervous about the future

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The Absa Bank Tanzania Head of Marketing and Corporate Relations, Aron Luhanga (C), is in a celebratory mood with the institution's staff during the Dar City Marathon which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Absa Bank staff colour 2022 Dar City Marathon

By Guardian Correspondent

ABSA Bank Tanzania has pledged more support for local marathons in the country in a bid to promote healthy lifestyles as it coloured the 2022 Dar City Marathon that was held in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Speaking after the races, the Absa Bank Head of Marketing and Corporate Relations, Aron Luhanga, said the Dar City Marathon was well organized and attracted 45 participants from the bank in the 5km, 10km, and 21km races.

"We at Absa believe in physical fitness but also ensure proper mental health for our employees so they can deliver well. That is why we often participate in such events," he said.

He said they will continue supporting the Dar City Marathon plus other marathons that are well organized.

"This is the second time they are doing this event and it is growing by the year we hope to see more participants and sponsors come next year," he said.

He said apart from sponsoring the marathon to promote healthy lifestyles, they joined hands with the organizers to promote Dar es Salaam city to the world.

Through the Dar City Marathon, Luhanga said Absa staff and customers mingled and socialized with different people from other organizations hence setting up a good networking forum.

"As you can see, Absa staff are so excited and there are a lot of activities going on in our tent as we also have our customers and other partners," he said.

In addition to running, Absa staff and customers underwent a free health check exercise where, among other issues, their weight, height, and pressure were voluntarily checked by a team of experts before and after the races.



As you can see, Absa staff are so excited and there are a lot of activities going on in our tent as we also have our customers and other partners

2022 EAAR Junior Championships preps moving smoothly, says AT



Junior runners participate in the recent East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships which took place in Dar es Salaam.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

PREPARATIONS for this year's East and Central Africa (EAAR) Junior Athletics Championships are at an advanced stage, Athletics Tanzania (AT) has disclosed.

Jackson Ndaweka, AT secretary-general, said all preparations for the championships, which are expected to get underway on Friday and come to close on Saturday at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, are going on very well.

He said all East and Central African nations, except for Kenya and Uganda, have confirmed to battle it out at the track and field championships whose budget amounts

to 80m/-.

Ndaweka, however, said he is optimistic that the two countries, Kenya and Uganda, will, within this week, confirm their participation in the championships.

He said after the championships, there will, on Sunday, be an EAAR executive meeting to be held at the same venue.

"All is set for the EAAR Junior Championships which will involve U-18 and U-20 events, all countries, except for Kenya and Uganda, have confirmed to compete at the championships which are sponsored by World Athletics, National Sports Council (NSC), and Azam Media Group," he said.

He said AT is still looking for sponsors for the championships and appealed to the companies

and sports stakeholders to help the association so that it can successfully host the event.

Recently the AT leadership revealed that it has put more emphasis on youth athletics promotion as it is the only sure way of having a new crop of athletes.

The AT official noted: "We want athletics to grow in the country, AT has put many measures which will see our young athletes, after going through all developmental structures, graduate to the senior team."

"Currently, we are working closely with schools and centers which train athletics," he said.

The last time EAAR Junior Championships took place in Arusha was in 2017 and

Ethiopia is the showdown's defending champion.

The East and Central Africa Junior Athletics Championships (EAAR), also just called the East Africa Junior Athletics Championships, is a track and field competition for junior athletes in East Africa and Central Africa.

The championships were held for the first time at Amaan Stadium, Zanzibar in 2013. They were then hosted by Dar es Salaam in 2016.

They consisted of athletes from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Tanzania, and Zanzibar.

Kenyan athletes won 10 gold medals at the 2016 Championships.

Paralympic athlete, coach jet off to South Africa for Commonwealth Games preps



Sauda Njopeka

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S Paralympic athlete, Sauda Njopeka, and her coach, Bahati Mgunda, left for South Africa yesterday for camping to shape up for this year's Commonwealth Games.

Speaking yesterday, Mgunda said they will camp at Stellenbosch University in South Africa for two weeks.

He said Sauda will attend training to prepare for the coming Commonwealth Games while the coach will attend courses that will enhance his coaching skills.

Mgunda described the South Africa camp as very good to Tanzania.

"The camp in South Africa is good to me and Sauda, you know Para sports are revolving and there are many new techniques and tactics which we need to know," he revealed.

"The knowledge I will get will be of great help to the nation, Sauda will also go for classification," he said.

It is expected that at the end of the camp, Sauda will compete in an event sponsored by Toyota South Africa and return home on May 22.

Sauda is a discus and shot put athlete, her classification is T57 and her best is 4.5m in the two dis-

ciplines.

The South Africa camp is sponsored by GAPS, a developmental arm of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).

Recently, Sauda also went to South Africa to battle it out in a qualifying competition, she did not perform well in it.

She clocked 3.42 meters in the showdown and took the sixth position out of six athletes in her category.

Mgunda attributed the performer's poor showing in the showdown to sickness.

The South Africa championship was held in Boksburg and was used as a qualification for the coming Commonwealth Games which will be held in Birmingham, England from the end of July to early August.

The tactician noted: "To me, Sauda did not perform well at the South Africa event due to sickness, you know she had been sick for some time, the time we were travelling to South Africa, she was recovering from her sickness."

"I'm sure if she will be well in May she will do well and hopefully qualify for the Commonwealth Games, the other good thing is that the 3.42 meters she clocked are within her record meters," he noted.



The camp in South Africa is good to me and Sauda, you know Para sports are revolving and there are many new techniques and tactics which we need to know

Flexibles by David Chikoko

THREE WORDS
EIGHT LETTERSSAY IT, AND
I'M YOURSTHREE WORDS
EIGHT LETTERS