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Pupils from Mhamba and Bwitini primary schools in Muheza District pictured earlier this week at Mhamba marching while brandishing a placard bearing a message appealing to parents and guardians to keep setting aside time to sit with their children and get a feel of whatever they might be experiencing or thinking about. It was all in the spirit of the commemoration of the International Day of the African Child (June 16). Photo: Correspondent Steven William

NFRA gets 320bn/- to buy maize, 800/- a kilo

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has disbursed 320bn/- for cereals purchases by the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) to start purchasing maize and other crops to farmers at a fair price.

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe said in the National Assembly made the statement here yesterday after the Speaker, Dr Tulia Ackson asked him to clarify the matter upon demand by MPs.

George Mwenisongole (Mbozi) asked for the Speaker's guidance on the need for the session to be adjourned to allow MPs to deeply discuss the issue of low price of maize and the government's ban on exporting the produce.

He said that farmers in Mbozi and other areas face a difficult time given the due low price of maize after the government banned exporting the produce.

"This is so hurting because our farmers are spending a lot in farming but things become harder when they want to sell," he said, citing the fact that a 20kg bucket of maize in Mbozi is now sold at 7,000/-.

"This is so poor and discouraging, for anyone to invest in the agriculture sector," he declared, to which the minister responded that the government wants traders to be registered, so that their activity is captured in government monitoring systems.

"This anomaly has been denying the

government its required revenues," he said, noting that NFRA has started to open buying centres for farmers to deliver their crops there.

"The government's indicative price of maize is 800/- per kilogramme in regional centres and 600/- in peripheral districts," he said, affirming that after NFRA starts purchasing the maize, farmers need to send their maize there instead of selling to other people.

It is traders who purchase the produce at poor prices, he stated, underlining that the government hasn't banned export of food crops including maize.

Traders should ensure that they have special permits to proceed with the activity, he said, affirming that the government had the previous day issued export permits of over 20,000 tonnes of maize and 15,000 of maize flour.

"The permits are issued to traders who meet the set requirements," he stated, insisting that many traders are not adhering to the required procedures in seeking to deliver crops across borders.

"Any trader who wishes to transport crops outside the country should seek a permit from the ministry," he said, elaborating that the trader first needs to register, have a licence and taxpayer identification number (TIN), tax clearance and a permit. This will

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'Ignore negative views, fast-track port accords'

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government needs to fast-track implementation of the recently approved Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between Tanzania and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a number of lawmakers are convinced.

Subira Mgalu (Special Seats) made this appeal in the legislature yesterday, contributing to debate on the Budget estimates, noting that the pact would transform Dar es Salaam port and increase revenues.

She was forthright on the need for the government to ignore some unpatriotic former leaders and those spreading negative views about the agreement.



Yet an ordinary person with a wage that does not exceed 400,000/- per month is deducted tax each month

"They are not looking forward to implementing the agreement fully for the wider interests of the country," she asserted, pointing at some former MPs who she said are bent on creating fear.

"We should not listen to them at all as they are not patriotic," she appealed to loud applause, echoed by Hamis Tabasamu (Sengerema) who advised the government not to be discouraged by negative statements in social media that the pact "is aimed to destroy and sell the country."

"We know how important this agreement is, so we need to strengthen efforts and the government needs to focus on implementing it to bring about the

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France, three CSOs tie up for project on reproductive health

By Felister Peter

THE French Embassy has launched a new project—'Tanzafya' that will enhance sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) among adolescents aged 10 to 24 years.

Nabil Hajlaoui, the French Ambassador to Tanzania, said on Wednesday that three civil society organizations—Doctors of the World, Family Planning Association of Tanzania (UMATI) and the Doris Mollé Foundation (DMF) are lined up to implement the project.

It will be financed by the Solidarity Fund for Innovative Projects (FSPI) based in the

French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he told delegates during the launch ceremony in Dar es Salaam.

France will invest 1.57bn/- to facilitate the successful implementation of the project, billed to reach 13,800 young people in Dodoma Region, he stated.

"We aim to create awareness and educate young people on SRHR. We have selected Dodoma due to the high prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) and its needs in terms of health provision and services," he explained.

Reducing gender-based inequalities goes together with promotion of women's rights over their bodies, the envoy remarked, affirming that the embassy also supports various health programs.

France is the second largest contributor and first European contributor to the Global Fund to fight against Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, he pointed out.

Dr Felix Bundala, a senior official of the Health ministry for child and adolescent health, said at the ceremony that Dodoma

USAID, TAHA link up on \$5m food security project



By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE United States will be extending donating \$5m to support efforts by

Tanzania's horticultural sector in boost irrigation agriculture. Samantha Power (pictured), Administrator of the United States Agency

for International Development (USAID), said yesterday that the funds are in addition to \$14m directed to the Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA) in the past nine months.

The new donation is intended to empower targeted food growers to create proper irrigation systems, access farm inputs, put up storage facilities, purchase agricultural machinery and offset a variety of climate change effects.

She explicitly stated USAID awareness of local food producers working hard to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic which affected global supply chains.

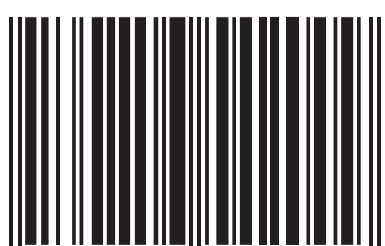
Touring Arusha Region, the USAID administrator visited horticultural farms in Ilkiding'a Village of Arumeru District, holding talks with farmers, especially women growers.

She also met with the aspiring young farmers being incubated under the state supported 'Build a Better Tomorrow' (BBT) program.

Eva Petro Mollé, the Association of Arusha Onion Growers (UVIWA) secretary, said of late more women have been joining commercial farming activities, unlike in the past.

"As per traditions, women were not allowed to own land or engage in activities

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NFRA gets 320bn/- to buy maize, 800/- a kilo

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ensure smooth exportation of the produce, he declared.

What the government has banned is for people from outside the country freely entering the country and directly proceed to farmers in villages to purchase maize and other crops, he said.

"The traders were freely roaming in villages purchasing crops and paying middlemen a lot of money to cross the crops in border areas with the government getting nothing," he stated, intimating that this is what was banned "as we want to control illegal export of produce."

The government was doing this to formalize selling and buying of crops as well as expanding the tax base, he clarified, specifying that if any foreign trader wants to purchase Tanzanian maize for resale across the border, he should come into the country and register

a local company for the purpose.

The trader could also strike a partnership with a locally registered company to transport maize or other crops, he said, insisting that the government will no longer entertain informal buying and export of maize or any other crop.

The Speaker later asked lawmakers to inform their constituents that the government through NFRA will start purchasing the maize at a better price.

"We should go and tell our farmers there to better send their maize to NFRA buying centres because as per indicative price one bag of 100kg is purchased at 80,000/- and within 60,000/- in peripheral areas," she urged.

MPs can bring the matter to the House for discussion if they discern any challenges concerning prices of maize once NFRA commences the exercise, she added.

USAID, TAHA link up on \$5m food security project

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that go beyond domestic chores," she told the gathering.

"And when it comes to irrigation farming, this is usually a night-time activity when peasants are compelled to trek long distances at dusk to open the water gates for drenching the farms and close them after irrigation," she stated.

Women waking up late at night to irrigate the land is something that their husbands would usually refuse, "but nowadays they have been enlightened and even escort

their wives, sometimes taking up the tasks themselves," she stated.

Dr Jacqueline Mkindi, the TAHA director, said that the apex body has been working with USAID in empowering local farmers.

"Nowadays, farming is all about markets and with the series of donations we are working to secure local and overseas markets for local horticultural products," she said.

USAID assisted the apex association in coming up with its logistics arm, TAHA Fresh, the director added.

Govt to improve mobile coverage

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LEAST 800 communication towers are to be upgraded to 3G and 4G generations of wireless mobile telecommunication technology, the Parliament heard yesterday.

Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye said the aim is to improve mobile phone connectivity in the country.

He also noted that the government is aware that communication is human right and would not deny Tanzanians their right, adding that tender for building 26000 towers across the country has been opened.

The minister gave the explanation following Speaker of the National Assembly, Tulia Ackson's appeal for explanations to the legislatures.

The speaker was forced to ask for explanations on poor connectivity in many parts of the country, calling on the government to give explanations on when the situation would be improved.

"As you can see many lawmakers are on their feet, want to ask supplementary question on the same issue. Would you therefore provide overall explanation because not all of them can get time to ask

questions here" said the speaker.

The minister called on the members of Parliament to remain calm as tender for the new towers will be announced in December this year.

Nape also explained that some 100 towers build recently had not been operational because some key equipment could not be imported into the country due to COVID-19.

The minister said that the equipment have since been imported into the country and completion of building of the towers is currently going and once completed will increase connectivity.

Earlier in a main question the Ludewa MP, Joseph Kamonga (CCM) had wanted to know when the government would build towers in wards within the constituency and upgrade the existing ones to 4G.

In response, the Deputy Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology, Kundo Mathew said at least 19 out of the 26 wards in Ludewa have mobile communication towers.

He added that through (UCSAF) the government is implementing projects in six wards of Ibumi, Kilondo, Lumbila, Lupingu, Makonde and Madope.



Tanzania Horticultural Association CEO Dr Jacqueline Mkindi (L) gifts visiting USAID Administrator Samantha Power a hand-made basket shortly after they went around a horticultural farm at Ilkiding'a village in Arumeru District, Arusha Region, yesterday. The latter is on a two-day tour, primarily to highlight the partnership between Tanzania and the US. Photo courtesy of US Embassy

France, 3 CSOs tie up for reproductive health project

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has the highest rate (22 percent) of early pregnancies against the national rate of 12 percent.

"It is the responsibility of every Tanzanian to protect girls from GBV and other forms of rights violation. Young people have the right to know about HIV and preventive

measures," he said, underlining the need to keep girls in school.

He commended the French embassy, appealing for concerted efforts to make sure similar services are provided to young girls in other regions.

Doris Mollel, speaking for her NGO, said it is partnering with the

Ministry of Education to incorporate pre-maturity knowledge to young girls in primary and secondary schools. "This initiative aims to reduce the knowledge gap," she emphasized.

Ensuring that GBV issues are being spoken and understood is the key objective, as well as how girls

adapt to challenges of adolescence and growth, she explained.

Suzana Mkanzabi, UMATI executive director, said the project includes building capacity among health workers. Implementation is expected to increase the demand for contraceptives among young girls, she added.



Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir bin Ally speaks at Muslim Council of Tanzania national headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday to mark his eighth year in the position. He underlined the need for unity in the country generally and among Muslims in particular. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Kenyan MPs vote to double taxes on fuel

NAIROBI

KENYAN MPs have voted in favour of doubling of the value added tax (VAT) levied on fuel to 16 per cent, which is expected to add to the rising cost of living.

On Wednesday, ruling party coalition MPs pushed through the proposal with 184 approving the clause within the new finance bill, while 88 lawmakers opposed it.

The government, which is looking to raise about 50bn Kenyan shillings (\$356m; £279m) from the additional tax, has defended the move as necessary amid a rising debt burden.

But the leader of the opposition MPs in parliament said it was punitive, terming the decision to push ahead with the fuel tax clause as "the saddest day in the history of this country".

This week, Kenya's parliament has been combing through clauses within the unpopular finance bill and considering and voting on amendments.

Besides the fuel tax, some of the controversial proposals include a housing fund levy to be paid by all salaried workers and an increase in taxes for social media influencers.

AGENCIES

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intended outcomes," he stated.

In other contributions, the government was asked to invest in modern revenue collection and management systems as well as expanding the tax base so as to increase collections and stimulate development.

Jerry Slaa (Ukonga) said that despite remarkable successes in revenue collection, many tax eligible individuals evade their duties, occasioning vast revenue losses.

He pointed at official statistics showing that people with taxpayer identification numbers (TIN) are pegged at 4.45m, including those

with business licenses or eligible for Pay as you earn (PAYE).

Holders of business TINs are upwards of 1.64m, where 400,000 out of the number pay over 80 percent of all collections under that category, he said.

Underlining the need to learn from other countries, he cited the case of Estonia which has a central ledger for all social and economic activities found in a particular location.

This enables the government to monitor all trading operations and design an appropriate method of collecting revenues, he explained.

There are traders who have been exporting tonnes of crops and large numbers of livestock

worth millions of shillings, who were not monitored to ensure that they pay the required taxes, he said.

Yet an ordinary person with a wage that does not exceed 400,000/- per month is deducted tax each month, he said.

Esther Matiku (Special Seats-Opposition) urged the government to take up the issue of greater public awareness on the importance of paying tax for the country's development.

She commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for opening up the country, improving democracy, freedom of expression and the rule of law.

Measures taken by the

president help to pull investors from around the world to the country, stimulating employment and faster growth, she said.

Leaders can use the numerous development projects and social services uplift to encourage people to pay tax to facilitate implementation of more social and economic development, she said.

She urged the government to improve the working and living conditions of prison officers, including extending overdue promotions, while Khadija Hassan Aboud (Special Seats) urged the government to revive the Sugar College owing to the lack of experts in the sector.



Acting Katavi region police commander Kaster Ngonyani (L) and acting Katavi chief conservator Francis Makaranja show what they said were 16 elephant tusks seized in a recent police crackdown that saw nine suspects end in police custody. Photo: Correspondent Neema Hussein

1.9 billion/- to benefit 10,000 poor households through Tasaf projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

MORE than 1.9bn/- is expected to benefit more than 10,000 people targeted from poor households who will receive employment in 108 projects being implemented by Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) in Misungwi District, aimed at economic development for the households.

Addressing reporters after

inspecting a 18.8m/- dam project built by 122 from among the targeted from poor households at Mwakalima Village, Kanyenyele Ward, Misungwi TASAF Coordinator, Gloria Emmanuel said the project is being implemented by the people through community projects empowered by TASAF.

She said the District is implementing 108 projects on

roads and water dams, i.e. eight for dams and 100 community roads from which people from poor household get short time employment.

Gloria said in the projects TASAF beneficiaries receive 3,000/- per and are expected to be completed 100 per cent by the end of June this year day.

Alogius Dokson, Mwakalima Village Executive Officer said

her villagers no longer lose their livestock while crops harvests have increased after the completion of the water dam that benefits more than 486 households in the area.

"Our village has 2,281 cattle, 331 sheep and 820 goats, hence apart from being used by the livestock to drink, we also use the dam for irrigation, hence villages can grow crops throughout the year," said Dokson.

For his part, Marco Luchemba, resident of the village said through the project, they have benefitted by short time jobs targeting TASAF beneficiaries aged between 18 and 65 years.

Stakeholders call for innovative, resilient solutions in research

By Henry Mwangonde

STAKEHOLDERS have called for adoption of research based and innovative solutions to increase resilience of the country's health system to shocks, ranging from occurrence of pandemics, the changing population and disease patterns.

Speaking at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) 11th MUHAS scientific conference, the stakeholders said the health system continues to be challenged in several dimensions hence the need to come up with research-based solutions.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Prof James Mdoe said as a country, Tanzania needs to foster the resilience of its health system to both foreseeable and unforeseeable shocks.

"As a country we need to give due attention to research that explores how best to improve our healthcare financing, taking into consideration the ever-growing healthcare costs that have been exaggerated by the recent health challenges including pandemics, shifting populations and changes in disease patterns," he said.

Prof Mdoe said scientific knowledge exchange in such a gathering helps the government in many folds including to improve guidelines for the management of our patients, to develop preventive measures against diseases, and to help ameliorate suffering for those who get sick.

"Such discussions and presentations also help us, as policymakers to interact with you scientists, and share common challenges that require your scientific skills to address," he said.

The conference has brought together a diverse of representatives including scholars, scientists, academicians, development partners, policymakers, and other stakeholders representing different sectors and sub-sectors related to health, higher education, research and development from within and outside the country.

MUHAS acting Vice Chancellor Prof Appolinary Kamuhabwa said it is high time that as a country should come with ways to enhance the resilience of health systems to both foreseeable and unforeseeable shocks.

He said through support from the government and development partners has continued to grow and expand teaching and research environment while taking a leading role in providing consulting services and advice.

"To date, the University has over 135 ongoing sponsored research projects, working with more than 100 international and local collaborating institutions, and producing between 450 and 500 scientific papers in reputable peer reviewed local and international journals annually," he said.



Such discussions and presentations also help us, as policymakers to interact with you scientists, and share common challenges that require your scientific skills to address

Women journalists should vie for leadership positions in media organisations, says judge

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE President of the African Court on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR), Judge Imani Aboud says women journalists trained in leadership should vie for leadership positions with women in media organisations in order to have strong media organs that are able to explain to the public about the rights, responsibility, unity and solidarity in the country.

Speaking in Arusha on Wednesday when closing the three-day training seminar to media organs for senior women journalists, judge Aboud said no one opposes that for a long time the media sector was controlled by men and that various researched made showed that men still control positions in many media organisations.

She said research made by Media Council

of Tanzania (MCT) in 2019 dubbed 'Breaking the Glass Ceiling' proved that still there is a shortfall in the leadership positions disregarding gender equality.

She said the training will be the vision in getting strong women leaders in media organisations who will spur transformation in the media industry.

"therefore I call upon you graduates to work hard, with innovation and diligence, as by only doing so you can perform your duties with great achievements, as surely women can do that," she said.

According to Judge Aboud, history shows that women have been left behind

in the issue of leadership, hence various efforts have been taken both in zones and internationally to elevate women into leadership positions. "The efforts include the endorsement of women rights and leadership in various global policies and regional protocols," she said

For his part, MCT executive Secretary, Kajubi Mukajanga said the training aims to empower women journalists in various fields of leadership and in other areas including investigative reporting.

He said MCT has attained in having gender desks in media organisations in order to bring about gender equality.



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SALE OF USED MOTOR VEHICLE

The International School of Tanganyika is selling used motor vehicle as detailed below:

Description of item:

Item	Condition	Quantity
1. PICK-UP MAKE - TOYOTA MODEL: HILUX MODEL NO: KUN255R-PRMDHN6 COLOUR: WHITE REGISTRATION NO. T148BAK ENGINE NO: 2KD7732103 ENGINE CAPACITY: 2494, DIESEL YEAR OF MANUFACTURE: 2009	Good running condition	1

Inspection can be done during office hours at UN Road campus, Upanga.
Contact persons: Gaspar Kimario (mobile no. **0716 626201**) or Paulo Bigo (mobile number **0655 549816/0754 549816**)

Offers in writing to be be emailed to bids@istafrica.com latest by 3.00 p.m. on Friday, July 7, 2023

The school reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.



Renewable Energy Transition Consultant, specializing in Solar Photovoltaic Systems

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES-USCCB (CRS) was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to serve World War II survivors in Europe. Today, it is the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic community. It provides support to impoverished and disadvantaged people in over 100 countries based solely on need, regardless of their race, religion, or ethnicity.

CRS has its headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, USA, as well as offices across the African continent that would be supported by this consultancy.

In keeping with its values of Care for Creation and Climate Action, CRS aims to reduce its Greenhouse Gas Emissions throughout its operations. This includes decreasing energy consumption, reliance on diesel generators and fossil-fuel powered grids in favour of renewable energy solutions.

CRS is looking for a consultant to support CRS' strategic energy transition across its offices, specifically with solar photovoltaic systems. This includes:

- 1) Conducting solar feasibility studies in countries where local expertise is not available. Where local expertise is available the consultant will be asked to support quality review of local consultant designs.
- 2) Drafting of clear guidance on tracking and return on investment for solar photovoltaic systems so that CRS can standardize how offices track energy and cost savings.
- 3) Drafting clear guidance on how teams should approach system maintenance, including what should be managed by the system supplier and what should be managed by the local team.

The evaluation process will be conducted according to the CRS Procurement Policies and Procedures. Only shortlisted vendor will be selected based on submitted business profile which entail legal compliance, brochures, price list, experience in the market, financial health (provision of audited financial statements), description of similar assignments, technical competence (CVs of key staffs), warranty validity, after sale services and manufacturer's authorization added as an advantage.

Tender Documents:

The detailed invitation tender documents are available any time from **June 26 to June 30th, 2023**. Interested bidders are invited to pick up a hard copy of the tender document at the CRS office or can request a soft copy. Requests for tender documents should be submitted on a company letterhead signed by the Director/Manager of the company in hardcopy or via e-mail to Elizabeth Sendama at elizabeth.sendama@crs.org with "Request for Tender Documents: 2023-CRS-03."

Renewable Energy Transition Consultant, specializing in Solar Photovoltaic Systems".

The deadline for submission of the completed and sealed proposal application is **17hrs local time on July 12, 2023**.

LOSS OF PASSPORT



AMIRI RAMADHANI MHINI is announcing the loss of his passport number TAE 230948 issued in DAR ES SALAAM PCO on January 29th 2020. Anyone who sees the document please give notice to any police station. A reward will be offered. Thank you advance. A loss report is given hereunder.

POLICE NOTICE: DAR/TAB/RB/190079/2023

'Sufficient blood supply is key for effective health care operations'

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIANS have been tasked to come forward and donate blood to improve healthcare services in the country.

Dominick Mkane, Chairman of the association of voluntary blood donors in Tanzania made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when he visited Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) to see the services provided as well as to get information on the need for blood at the Institute.

Mkane said that anyone can get sick and need blood at any time, so it is important that the community understands that the blood donation is necessary because there is a day when a blood donor will also need blood from another person.

A sufficient blood supply is a key part of an effective health care system and essential for disease prevention, he said.

"We as voluntary blood donors would like to join with the health experts of JKCI to reach out to the community and explain the importance of blood donation regularly to facilitate the treatment of patients including heart patients who are treated here at JKCI", said Mkane.

Dr. Angela Muhozya, JKCI director of the Department of Surgery said that a lot of blood is needed in major heart surgeries, as one patient needs three bottles of blood to undergo surgery and in case of an emergency, the patient can use up to ten bottles of blood to complete the surgery.

"In order for a major heart surgery to be performed, there must be enough blood because in a major heart surgery we stop the heart and send the blood to the heart by using Heart Lung Machine," she said.

"This machine is made of balls, so when the blood enters the machine, it loses its originality and there is

a level of blood that will no longer be suitable to the patient after the surgery, that's why even after the surgery, the patient will need a blood transfusion again", said Dr. Angela

The patient who was admitted to the Institute, Mariam Selemani, said that it took him a month to stay in the ward to wait for blood so that she could undergo major heart surgery and after the surgery, due to his blood being small, her wound has been slow to heal quickly.

"My blood belongs to the group "O+" and its availability has been a problem but thankfully it was available a little and enabled me to undergo surgery but until now I have not been allowed to go home due to the fact that my blood is low, I need another blood transfusion so that the wound will heal completely", said Mariam.



This machine is made of balls, so when the blood enters the machine, it loses its originality and there is a level of blood that will no longer be suitable to the patient after the surgery, that's why even after the surgery, the patient will need a blood transfusion again



A 'gender and development' seminar organised by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme in progress in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

'Investors will enjoy tax exemptions'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government has created a friendly environment for investors to enjoy tax exemptions.

Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga, Zanzibar Minister of State in the President's Office (Labour and Investment) made the remarks in the ongoing session of the Zanzibar House of Representatives here on Wednesday when responding

to a question from Wawi Representative, Bakari Hamadi Bakari who wanted to know about the environment in place by the government to attract investors in Zanzibar.

Soraga said there are exemptions on various taxes including import and export taxes.

He named other benefits as including the permission to utilise foreign contractors for the

implementation of various projects including in the construction sector and hiring of foreign workers.

He said as for now the government continues to strengthen infrastructures in free economic zones at Fumba (Unguja) and Micheweni (Pemba).

He added that at Micheweni a seven km road is in the last stages of construction aimed at opening the Island in strategic investment.

He said infrastructures for other services have also been provided including clean and safe water and electricity for establishing factories.

"Hon Speaker, these are the government's strategies in wooing investors, and for now we are in the final stages in the construction of infrastructures in free economic zones at Fumba and Micheweni," Soraga said.

'Z'bar set to attract investment projects'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MUDRIK Ramadhan Soraga, the Zanzibar Minister of State in the President's Office (Labour and Investment) has invited more investors to chip in the Indian Ocean archipelago and invest in various sectors.

Soraga said the main sector depended on is tourism which has 40 per cent of all investments, hence legal practitioners have a big part to collaborate with the government to attain the goals.

The Minister made the remarks here at the weekend when opening a general meeting of Zanzibar Law Society (ZLS) that also involved elections of office bearers.

Soraga said lawyers face complaints owing to poor services to investors, hence, he added it is better to understand that lawyers have the responsibility to serve their clients.

"When your client is looking for you, you don't answer his phone calls, you say he is just bothering us, but it is him who gave you the job in the first place, hence I have every right to look for you at any time to get the progress of his activities," he said.

Soraga said their reports reach the government hence lawyers should not be hard on their clients as they depend on their services, hence they should always be available when sought.

He also called upon the lawyers to learn on how to serve their clients especially through the use of good language that will not offend clients.

He also called on them to work

in collaboration in order to achieve development goals and stop backbiting.

For his part, former ZLS President Slim Abdallah Said said lawyers are an important link in the entire investment value chain hence they should stand by justice in order to ensure the laws are abided by, hence, he added, if there are no lawyers then there won't be any investments.

He said a calm legal environment spurs sustainable investments, economic growth and community development.

ZLS elected Masoud Rukazibwa to be its president.



When your client is looking for you, you don't answer his phone calls, you say he is just bothering us, but it is him who gave you the job in the first place, hence I have every right to look for you at any time to get the progress of his activities



Commissioner General of Prisons Mzee Ramadhan Nyamka (2nd-L) cuts the ribbon at Prisons headquarters at Msalato in Dodoma Region yesterday to launch motor vehicles meant for Prisons use. Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

Office of National Assembly 3rd winner of best presented financial statements awards

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

OFFICE of the National Assembly has emerged the third winner in the best presented financial statements awards for the year 2021, category of ministries and government departments.

The awards which are organised annually by the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA), showed that the House's office victory, based on books prepared

by adhering to the financial systems of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson said this in the House yesterday explaining that such achievement was due to internal transformation being made to assure that international standards are met.

The award was issued during the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the board which was

held late last year.

She said that according to NBAA, the awards seek to promote integrated reporting through enhancing accountability, transparency and integrity in compliance with appropriate financial reporting framework.

This is the best platform for promoting professionalism and excellence in the presentation of financial statements of both public and private companies and

institutions.

Dr Tulia commended the House's staff including the clerk, accountants and auditors for the job well done saying that the award gives them more zeal to the House to continue to serve Tanzanians while ensuring that public finances are handled carefully to attain value for money.

Speaker Dr Tulia said the Parliament embraces professionalism which brings value for money assuring that it will continue investing in systems to further ensure proper spending and preparation of financial statements.



Selemani Jafo (L), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), pictured earlier this week with National Environment Management Council experts during an inspection tour of Jitegemeo coal mine in Ruvuma Region. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Govt in strategic plans to restore the environment

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Minister of State in Vice President Office (Union and Environment), Selemani Jafo, has instructed all mining companies in the country to ensure that they have strategic plans to restore the environment.

Minister Jafo issued the order yesterday after he visited mining companies of Jitegemeo, Tancoal and Ruvuma coal mines located in Ruvuma Region, to see how they take care of the environment.

He made the visit accompanied by the leaders of the National Council for Conservation and Environmental Management (NEMC), including its Director General, Dr. Samuel Gwamaka

He said he was pleased to see that the mines companies are mining coal and they are restoring the environment.

"I have asked other investors in all mines in the country to make sure that when they conduct mining activities they should restore the environment well and if they want to learn they should come to Mbinga in Ruvuma Region where they will see what their colleagues are doing," he said

"I have instructed the director of NEMC to visit all the mines, especially in the lake zone, so that all those who mine but do not restore the damaged land to its former state should do so quickly before action is taken against them," said Minister Jafo

He said Tancoal stopped production for a while but he is happy to see that it has started production activities and they have been taking care of the environment by restoring the areas they mined.

He said he was also happy to see that the Ruvuma Coal Mining Company has made a big investment and currently has the capacity to produce 200,000 tons of coal per month.

He said that many miners use sulfur minerals during mining activities which is dangerous to human health, so they should control the discharge of water from their mines to protect people.

"I have given instructions to them to control the flow of water that can have an impact on human life, but I am also happy with all the places I visited because they have shown their willingness to take care of the environment," he said.

Regarding the transportation of coal, minister Jafo asked the owners of the trucks transporting the coal to cover the coal so that it does not affect human life when it is being transported.

"I am very grateful to the Tanzanians who are ready to protect the environment, we are building the economy but we must also protect our environment, so all trucks must be covered to protect the health of our people from danger," he said.

He said that NEMC is a council that has been created according to manage the environment, so their responsibility is to protect the environment and when people

see them performing their duties they must give them sufficient cooperation.

He said that wherever NEMC is seen, it is there to administer the environmental law, so people should obey the law instead of pointing the finger at it and attacking it.

"NEMC have made our country proud and we are appreciated by international community by protecting the environment and we have signed many international agreements to protect and take care of the environment, so I thank NEMC and all companies that comply with the environmental laws," said Jafo.

Director general of NEMC, Dr. Samuel Gwamaka, thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for creating good environment for investment that led to the increase of coal mines.

He said that in the past there was only one coal mine in Kiwira but now there have been opportunities for large coal mines.

Dr Gwamaka asked those who have permits to mine coal to cooperate with the Ministry of Mines so that they can mine the coal quickly because they will not have that value for all the years to come.

"We are very grateful to the government of the sixth phase for giving permission to mine these minerals and we, the council, have received instructions to continue cooperating with various sectors," he said.

He said NEMC wants to see all mining companies especially coal mining put a strong plan on environmental restoration of those areas where mining activities was conducted to bring the areas as it was before.

Govt to train 593 specialty doctors in next two years to check shortage

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government plans to train at least 593 specialty doctors in the next two years in efforts to help reduce shortage of the medical experts in the country, the Parliament heard yesterday.

Minister for Health, Umyy Mwalimu made the remarks to the lawmakers, adding that the government was aware of the a cute shortage of the health experts and is taking various measure to rescue the situation.

She said some 136 doctors are scheduled to undertake specialized training outside the country, adding they are attending trainings together with four supporting peoples from different departments working with them.

Umyy added that some 457 doctors are attending training as

single persons, noting that it is President Samia Suluhu Hassan's initiatives through the 'Health Super-specialization Programme' that aims to achieve this within two years.

The minister gave the explanations in the parliament as several members of parliament asked to know what the government was doing to provide specialized doctors in hospitals in their areas.

Earlier, Special Seats MP, Tecla Ungele (CCM) had wanted to know when the government would see it fit to employ specialized doctors of internal complications and bones to Lindi referral hospital.



In response the Deputy minister for Health, Dr Godwin Mollel noted that the hospital has five specialized doctors in areas of surgery, maternal, x-ray, pharmaceuticals and nursing.

In effort to increase the number of specialized doctors at the hospital, the deputy minister noted that some seven doctors are currently undertaking trainings in different fields.

He named the respective areas of training as two doctors for children, two for surgery, one for bones, another one for x-ray and one for maternal and child care.

Dr Mollel explained that the government is finalizing the process to get specialized doctor internal complications to be posted to the hospital.

Experts argue that another problem is the fact that doctors are clustered in cities and affluent areas, leaving rural and poor Tanzanians critically underserved. There is oversupply in urban settings and an undersupply elsewhere.

REQUEST FOR TENDER

NEW CRUSHING CIRCUIT PLANT

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

Installation Works of Prefabricated Steel structures, Mechanical Equipment's, Plate work and Piping (SMPP) Installation for New Crushing Circuit at North Mara Site

Pre-qualification Criteria

No	Reference no	Description of work	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	NM020/2023	Installation of prefabricated steel structures, equipment's, plate and piping installation works for New Crushing Circuit at North Mara Mine Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Applicants to submit Company profile with proven experience in Mechanical construction works. ii. Information required to include a list of relevant projects undertaken in last 3 years. For each project provide: description and relevance to the tendered project; project cost; and duration of project. iii. Completion certificates of previous projects with reference list of Clients, applicant agrees - without reservation-upon the submission of EOI, that the Company has the full right to contact any of the references provided. iv. Applicant to submit list and specifications of Equipment's, including facilities and intellectual property. v. Applicant to submit organizational structure, list of experienced personnel and resource schedule. vi. Method statement for key construction works. vii. Construction management strategy. viii. Local content compliance. ix. HSE policy. x. CRB registration, Class 3 contractor and above. xi. Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary regarding its financial stability, engineering capabilities, documents complying with Tanzanian laws and Regulations.

Expression of interest

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

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.

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

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

Key Dates

- Last Date to Submit EOI **29 June 2023**

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

Coast Region strengthens resilience of susceptible communities, ecosystem

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

THE community in Coast Region has been urged to identify their rights and responsibility on mangrove management, an initiative that will strengthen climate change adaptation in the areas and the ecosystem in general.

World Wide Fund for nature (WWF) Tanzania country director Dr Amani Ngusaru, made the call recently in Dar es Salaam during the official launch of a three - year project dubbed 'Mangrove Management for Climate Risk Resilience and Improved Livelihoods'.

He said the project worth approximately 3.3bn/- donated by Norwegian Agency for Cooperation Development (NORAD) aims at strengthening the resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems to climate change.

"It is our hope that coastal communities will see their rights to manage and benefit from secured mangrove, reduce their vulnerability to that will lead to climate resilient livelihood opportunities," he said.

Officiating the launch, Conservation Commissioner of the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS), Prof Dos Santos Silayo commended WWF mangrove project initiatives in the Coast Region noting that the project came at the right time when the government is fulfilling the CCM manifesto that directs on forest reserves and national parks preservation likewise investment on the sector for sustainable development.

According to him the project will reveal a lot of what they don't know upon the project on the economic aspects and water bodies however the way forward on the ecological interaction in Coast Region forest reserves.

"The mangrove discussion looks at the ecological system that preserves Coast Regions natural vegetation. It's the ecological system with the immediate statistics analysing that approximately quarter per cent (7 billion) people are living along the seashores on either mainland or isles," he said.

He added: "Approximately 118 countries in the world with

mangroves forests, the citizens are literally protected by it. Therefore mangrove areas ensure protection to living beings including plants and aquatic species.

January Ndagala, mangroves and marine programme project executants', highlighted the mangrove management for climate risk resilience and improved livelihoods theory of change noting lack of meaningfully devoted rights to resources and benefits.

According to him, the output to the problem will ensure policy and legal framework review to improve community user rights like gender equity and rights to vulnerable groups.

He said the impact will strengthen resilience to climate change of coastal communities and ecosystems likewise to ensure that households' have increased resilience to climate change and disasters.

The project is set to benefit Mafia Island, Kilwa District and Kibiti district. However apart from Tanzania the project will involve countries like Tanzania, Madagascar, and Mozambique.

'Govt determined to raise enrolment for students in universities and colleges'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government plans to increase enrolment of students in higher learning institutions through Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project, Deputy Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Omar Kipanga said yesterday.

He said the project aimed at improving infrastructure in over 14 higher learning institutions will increase enrolment, especially for science students.

The improvements, he said will help increase the number of students in science programmes from 40,000 in 2020 to 106,000 in 2026.

"The programme will also help review 290 syllabuses and train over 831 lecturers" he said

At least 14 higher education institutions in both mainland and Zanzibar are set to benefit from the \$425 mn/- Higher Education for Economic Transformation project.

He told the parliament that the aim to strengthen the learning environment, ensure greater alignment of priority degree programs to labor market needs, and improve the management of the higher education system.

The deputy minister was responding to a question asked by the Livalale MP, Zuberi Kuchauka (CCM) who had wanted to know what the government was doing to increase enrolment of student studying science subjects in higher institutions.

The deputy minister explained that the Isles have been allocated over \$ 20mn/- for improvement of infrastructure and building capacity.

Through HEET, participating universities will add or modernize over 260 academic programs within priority areas, with over 100,000 students benefiting from direct interventions to enhance learning.

Earlier in the main question, the Chumbuni MP had also wanted to know when the government would build ministry of Education, Science and Technology's office in Zanzibar in order for higher education students in the Isles get services easily. He also argued by renting office in Zanzibar, the ministry was spending a lot of money.

The deputy minister told the House that ministry of Education and Vocational Training in Zanzibar own a building that hosts the higher education department under leadership of a director, aim being to ensure students get services.

He said that there are also higher education institutions that provide services to students at the College of Business Education (CBE), Open University of Tanzania (OUT), The State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) and Higher Education Students Loan Board.

Others are Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Institute, Karume Institute of Science and Technology, Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) and Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH).

"The government continues building offices at different places due to demand and availability of funds" said the deputy minister.

He expressed the commitment to move education services closer to people and that the aim is to ensure every public learning institutions have own offices.



The government continues building offices at different places due to demand and availability of funds

'Govt developing skills for youths of the future'

By Correspondent Anaeli Mbise

THE government has made various efforts to develop skills for young people for the well-being of the country's economy.

Patrobas Katambi, Deputy minister of the Prime Minister's Office, Labour, Youth, Employment and the Disabled made the remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the meeting that was meant to discuss issues related to skills that was organised by Association of Employers (AET).

Katambi stated that meeting is also aimed at ensuring that the workforce gets the right skills so that they can be self-employed, taking into accounts that innovation of new skills will reduce the workforce in the labour market from 77 per cent in 2021 to 54 per cent in 2025.

"Through this programme that the ministry has of imparting new skills among the youth is in of four main areas which are training through apprenticeship, work experience training for graduates of higher and secondary education institutions, training for the formalization of skills acquired outside the formal education system (RPL) and skills development training for those in residence for the public and private sectors," he said.

He said that the government through the ministry with collaboration and other stakeholders has trained 91,106 young people in apprenticeship training.

He added: "About 22,296 young people have benefited from training to formalise skills acquired outside the formal education system (RPL) and 6,300 have benefited from work experience training for graduates of higher and secondary education colleges and 2,196 have get development training for those living in the public and private sectors".

Katambi congratulated the

employers that have their own private programs for training young people in preparing and building the various skills that enable them to find employment opportunities.

In her remarks, Executive Director of Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE), Suzan Ndomba, said that it is a good thing that the government has been lowering recruitment costs and this has stimulated employment opportunities in the country.

"We have heard in this budget that the costs have been reduced from 4 to 3.5 per cent and the government has promised to continue lowering it gradually," she said.

Ndomba added that the association will continue to cooperate with the government so that they can all together fight the challenges of unemployment.

She said that the meeting was looking at the importance of stakeholders in developing skills in the workplace through apprenticeships, graduate work training and practical.

Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE), has been implementing various skills projects in collaboration with International Labour Organization (ILO), Confederation of Danish Industries (DI), GIZ-Employment for development Program Tanzania.



We have heard in this budget that the costs have been reduced from 4 to 3.5 per cent and the government has promised to continue lowering it gradually



TotalEnergies customer Ambrose Kumbila (on motorbike) shares a moment with the TotalEnergies Marketing Tanzania Ltd marketing manager Caroline Kakwezi (R) and Vodacom Tanzania's director of customer care operations, Harriet Lwakatere (2nd-R) shortly after buying fuel through 'LIPA kwa M-Pesa'. It was at the launch in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday of a strategic partnership between Vodacom M-Pesa and TotalEnergies. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Investors in industries called upon to observe labour laws

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

INVESTORS in the industrial sector have been called upon to abide by the country's various labour laws and guidelines, including boosting safety systems at work places to protect workers against disasters.

The call was given here on Tuesday by Prof Joyce Ndalichako, Minister of State in the PM Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities) during the visit by the Parliamentary Community Development Standing Committee to various factories here

in Arusha Region.

The committee's visit aimed to see the implementation of various labour laws and guidelines including the Occupational Health and Safety Act (No 5 of 2003).

"We like investors to come to the country in big numbers and when they invest, they should conduct all their businesses in accordance to various laws and guidelines of the country," said Prof Ndalichako.

For his part, the House Standing Committee's Chairman, Riziki Lulida urged the investors to make sure they install friendly infrastructures at various areas of

their factories for people calls for the installation of infrastructures for people with disabilities.

Ali Hassan Kingi, a Committee Member and Jang'ombe Constituency MP advised the Occupational Health Safety Agency (OSHA) to continue strengthening health safety systems at work places and pledged that they will continue advising the government on the issue.

"Through this visit we have learnt a lot of things and to a great extent we are satisfied with the situation regarding the implementation of labour laws at work places, we have

also queried on various shortfalls and the responses thereto will be analyzed and included in our report to be submitted to parliament," he added.

Dr Jerome Materu, OSHA Director said it is of great importance for all investors to adhere to guidelines and procedures regarding safety at work places.

For their part, representatives from factories visited by thanked the House panel saying the visit has provided them with a good lesson while pledging to continue strengthening systems mon safety at work places.

The house panel visited three factories in Arusha Region - including TANELEC Limited for manufacturing electric transformers, A to Z Textile Mills and Fides Tanzania, flowers dealers.



Arusha district commissioner Felician Mthengerwa (R) receives a gift from TIB Development Bank acting managing director Lillian Mbassy shortly after opening a meeting of the bank's stakeholders in Arusha city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Berth on Tumbatu Island to undergo refurbishment'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government has said the berth in the small island of Tumbatu in Pemba North Region will undergo major refurbishment to allow small ships and dhows to berth and for offloading and loading cargo.

This was disclosed here on Monday in the ongoing House of Representatives session by the Deputy Minister for Works, Communications and Transport, Nadir Abdulatif Yussuf when responding to a question from Wingwi Representative, Kombo Mwinshehe who sought to know

when will the berth in the Tumbatu island undergo major facelift to serve the resident better.

The deputy minister admitted that the berth in the island is old and it cannot offer better services to handle both passengers and cargo.

He added that his ministry is set to refurbish small berths at various

ports that are essential for public use. He said in Tumbatu island the berth was built more than 10 years ago, but now it is no longer able to offer services.

He named another berth that has been lined up for major repairs as including that in Panza island in Pemba South Region.

Preparations for new long-course syllabi for Tucta institute ongoing

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TRADE union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) Institute based in Mbeya has begun preparing new curricula that will make workers in various cadres to study long term courses to enhance their knowledge.

Early this week the Institute's Board of Directors met with education stakeholders to discuss various issues regarding the Institute's development including curricula improvement.

The head of the Institute, Hezron Kaaya said as for now the institute provides short term courses of not more than six months, the arrangement that need improvement.

Kaaya said at the moment they plan to start one year courses that will make workers learn more things to improve their work performance at their working stations.

"Among the courses we will start with is the one on human resources and relation at places of work which according to the present environment, are much needed by workers," he added.

Joseph Sayo, one of the Institute's board members said the meeting was the first one on the management which kick-starts the improvement process.

He said at the meeting, they discussed various issues including the improvement to the curricula in order to go in tandem with the present environment and workers' needs.

He said after finalizing the process they will submit to the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET) for registration to be used at the Institute.

For his part, the Institute's board

chairman, Tamimu Salehe said the courses expected to be provided at the Institute are in high demand at work places hence they will make sure to get them registered for teaching.

"But also it is necessary to make sure students study in a good, friendly environment, therefore all these will be improved through our various sittings here," he added.

Mahija Waziri, NACTVET representative called on the Institute's management to prepare the curricula that go in tandem with the criteria given by the board.

He said one of the criteria is to make sure the courses go in tandem with the job market needs and in making various researches.

Speaking on behalf of the government, Mbeya District Commissioner Beno Malisa advised the Institute's management to look into how to provide courses for unofficial sectors.



Among the courses we will start with is the one on human resources and relation at places of work which according to the present environment, are much needed by workers



Livestock from poor households go for a drink earlier this week at an 18.8m/- dam at Mwakalima village in Kanyeleele ward, Misungwi District, built by 122 beneficiaries of Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) funding. Photo: Correspondent Neema Emmanuel

Stray lions attack and kill livestock in Iringa District

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

A PRIDE of lions has invaded villages in Mseki and Maboga wards, Iringa District, Iringa Region and attacked livestock.

Veronica Kessy, Iringa District Commissioner said the beasts raided villagers' settlements beginning June 17 this year.

Addressing Tanangozi residents on Tuesday, Iringa

Regional Commissioner Halima Dendego, who is also the Chairperson of the Region's Defence and Security Committee called on the people not to fear regarding lions lurking in the vicinity as already TANAPA wildlife rangers had arrived to hunt for them.

She said the exercise to hunt for the lions continues hence called on them to take necessary

precautions.

For his part, head of Ruaha national Park, Godwell Meng'gataki called on the people to remain calm as they are mobilised to get the beasts as soon as possible before they great havoc to the people.

He also warned them against eating remains of livestock that had been devoured by the lions.

He added that if the people do

not remove the remains of the livestock eaten by lions, the task to get the lions will be easier as they will put sleeping into the remains that will put them to sleep, adding that lions have the habit to go back to the remains of the livestock they had killed.

So far more than 10 cows are claimed to have been killed by the lions who hail from Ruaha National Park.

Freddy leaves farmers with nothing to grow

LILONGWE

COMMUNITIES affected by the Cyclone Freddy in Malawi and Mozambique face a bleak future with the winter farming season approaching.

This week marked 100 days after the cyclone hit.

One of the deadliest storms to hit the continent in the last two decades, it killed over 1 000 people, forced dozens of thousands out of their homes, decimated over one million acres of crop land, ripped apart over 5 000 kilometres of roads, powerlines, telecommunications, and public infrastructure such as schools and hospitals.

Oxfam reports that many families have had to sell their farmland or withdraw their children from school in order to use the money to buy food.

"Torrential floods washed away everything, leaving farmers (with) nothing to harvest," said Amjad Ali, Oxfam Southern Africa Programme Director.

"Families told us they have nothing to grow ahead of the winter as they lost their seeds, harvest and agricultural tools forcing them to make desperate decisions to survive."

Ali said this had hugely contributed to food insecurity in the affected areas and the situation would only get worse if people were not assisted to grow food this winter.

Production of staple food in Malawi such as maize has plummeted by nearly 30 percent forcing prices to surge.

Food Inflation has increased by 37.9 percent. A 50-kilogramme bag of maize costs approximately US\$22, a price that is out of reach for most Malawians living on less than \$1 a day.

Prices are forecast to further rise before the next harvest, which is ten months away.

Cyclone Freddy is seen as another glaring reminder of how the people least responsible for climate change continue to pay the steepest price.

"Rich polluting nations must honor their US\$100 billion climate financing to support countries hit hardest like Malawi and Mozambique, sadly that is not the case," said Amjad.

Oxfam's "Climate Finance Shadow Report 2023" published in June 2023 shows that while donors claim to have mobilized \$83.3 billion in 2020, the real value of their spending was -at most- \$24.5 billion.

The \$83.3 billion claim is viewed as an overestimation because it includes projects where the climate objective has been overstated or as loans cited at their face value.



Families told us they have nothing to grow ahead of the winter as they lost their seeds, harvest and agricultural tools forcing them to make desperate decisions to survive



Singida regional administrative secretary Dr Fatuma Mganga pictured yesterday at Manyoni addressing a council meeting held discussing the 2021/2022 Controller and Auditor General's report. To her left is Singida regional commissioner Peter Serukamba. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

Police in Katavi Region hold 16 over possession of ivory

By Guardian Correspondent, Mpanda

POLICE in Katavi Region have detained nine people for various crimes including being found in possession of 16 pieces of elephant tusks in sulfate bags and hidden inside one house waiting for customers.

Addressing reporters here yesterday, Acting Katavi Regional Police Commander, Kaster

Ngonyani said the suspects were arrested at different times and areas in the region.

He said Juma Malosa (47), resident of Kotazi was arrested with 10 pieces of elephant tusks and other suspects including Edes Maridadi (62), Silasi Maiko (19), Julius Msumeno (73) all residents of Kabwe were jointly arrested with six pieces of elephant tusks in Tanganyika District in the region.

Ngonyani said other suspects were Pius Mbalamwezi (50), Edward John (49), Godfrey Mwaka (35), Chrispin George (43), Gerald Mashamba (45) all residents of Muze Village were arrested for being in possession of two locally made firearms (gobore) and meat believed to be game meat.

For his part, Acting Chief Conservator of Katavi Region, Francis Makaranja said the

trophies show that about seven elephants were killed in various areas within and outside Katavi Region

He warned the people involved in poaching to stop doing so and find other activities to do as the police will always pounce on them.

All the suspects were still undergoing interrogation after which they will be taken to court.

All the suspects were still undergoing interrogation after which they will be taken to court.

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Private sector can help in converting cars, buses, lorries to natural gas use

TRANSITING to cleaner energy as a measure to conserve the environment is now taking a different trajectory, that of reducing foreign exchange costs in importing petroleum oils, as well as making better use of the country's stock of natural gas. All this is proceeding well but has largely been dependent on the strategies as well as short term tactics of responsible organisations. Many are in the public sector, a sphere characterized by a regulatory comfort zone, chiefly.

Were it that the private sector was more energetically involved in the energy transition streamlining, as well as in opening up petroleum use markets to shift to natural gas, things could have gone a bit faster. Some nearby countries are piling up mileage in renewable energies drive, especially from solar and wind, while our pace is often lethargic. During the Richmond debate in 2007-8 there was a wind power project for Singida; the news: it is still lined up, even now.

A similar scenario where shutting out the private sector harms the environment in a massive way is obtaining coal from Mchuchuma mining site in Njombe Region, to add combustible material to soften the burning of the coal. Even as far back as 2011 experts were talking about making coal briquettes to replace charcoal, a vital need to slow down the clearing of forests. But the zone is administered by the National Development Corporation whose fixed idea is a 600MW power project; it runs against global trends and ignores the JNHPP.

A new write up of the 600MW coal to power project came up in June 2021, well within the

period of implementation of the Nyerere power station mega project. Another public agency, the State Mining Corporation, is now involved in mega deals for rare metals, diamonds, some disused gold mines, and has little time or resources to focus on making briquettes for charcoal replacement. Hardly is any noticeable ministerial effort seen to see other firms do the job, say with subsidy.

Of late, a flurry of efforts has been noticed in a vast campaign to shift to cleaner energy, and especially to natural gas, whose key element is to take the use of gas as esthetic, not an economic issue. Late 2021 the price of a small gas tank for domestic use was 18,000/- and has now climbed to 24,000/- before adding the transport mark up to a dwelling. And cylinders aren't freely accessible as yet, while the rising price removes portions of those who had made an effort to use gas to revert to charcoal, as they can manage its lower unit purchase amounts.

Shifting in fuel use from petroleum and diesel to natural gas falls under the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation, too busy coordinating a myriad of gas projects, oil prospecting, etc. Close to two years back it was lining up petrol stations to convert to natural gas; then the matter was eclipsed as another quarrel came up of illegal urban petrol stations near habitats.

Nothing is heard since, whereas scores of engineering firms can be solicited to place gas filling units in petrol stations and fill them with tankers as usual. Waiting for pipelines in a city where demolishing and rebuilding is a daily occupation is far too risky.

We need global programmes, policies for ending violence against widows

FOR many women around the world, the devastating loss of a partner is magnified by a long-term fight for their basic rights and dignity. Despite the fact that there are more than 258 million widows around the world, widows have historically been left unseen, unsupported, and unmeasured in our societies.

When widows are denied the right to access, own, control or inherit property and the land they live on, it is a violation of their rights.

When these women and their children are evicted from their homes because their husbands have died, it is a violation of their rights.

Today, as armed conflicts, displacement and migration, and the COVID-19 pandemic left tens of thousands of women newly widowed and many others whose partners are missing or disappeared, the unique experiences and needs of widows must be brought to the forefront, with their voices leading the way.

Experience from the past, shows that widows are often denied inheritance rights, have their property grabbed after the death of a partner, and can face extreme stigma and discrimination, as perceived 'carriers' of disease. Worldwide, women are much less likely to have access to old age pensions than men, so the death of a spouse can lead to destitution for older women.

With lone-mother families and single older women already particularly vulnerable to poverty, this is an area that needs urgent attention.

On International Widows' Day, 23 June, we should take a look at some of the issues affecting widows around the world and what must be done to safeguard and advance their rights.

The International Widows Day

since 2011, draws attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanise the unique support that they need.

Now more than ever, this day is an opportunity for action towards achieving full rights and recognition for widows. This includes providing them with information on access to a fair share of their inheritance, land and productive resources; pensions and social protection that are not based on marital status alone; decent work and equal pay; and education and training opportunities.

Empowering widows to support themselves and their families also means addressing social stigmas that create exclusion, and discriminatory or harmful practices.

Furthermore, governments should take action to uphold their commitments to ensure the rights of widows as enshrined in international law.

Even when national laws exist to protect the rights of widows, weaknesses in the judicial systems of many states compromise how widows' rights are defended in practice and should be addressed. Lack of awareness and discrimination by judicial officials can cause widows to avoid turning to the justice system to seek reparations.

Programmes and policies for ending violence against widows and their children, poverty alleviation, education and other support to widows of all ages also need to be undertaken, including in the context of action plans to accelerate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In post-conflict situations, widows should be brought in to participate fully in peacebuilding and reconciliation processes to ensure that they contribute to sustainable peace and security.



Labour market information system: The way forward for job seekers

By Isaac Ametepé

THE Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations (MELR) has developed an advanced technology platform to revolutionise Ghana's formal and informal job market.

The platform will provide real-time information on Ghana labour market, trends and skills required on the market.

According to the Ministry, the GLMIS will serve as a comprehensive repository of labour-related data, which will also change the way labour market information is accessed, analysed and disseminated.

The Deputy Minister for Employment and Labour Relations, Bright Wireko Brobbey made this known at a day's workshop on media sensitization and awareness on the GLMIS in Accra.

He said that since 2016, the Ministry has tried to establish a reliable database, which captures all the necessary information

By Yasmine Sherif

AS we head into June, we will commemorate a number of important international days that call for much-needed support to protect refugees, end child labour, stop sexual violence in conflict and ensure human rights for the innocent children victims of aggression.

Together, this work will propel our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. To deliver on these commitments, we urgently appeal for substantial, sustained increases in public and private sector funding support for quality education - especially for the more than 222 million crisis-impacted girls and boys who desperately need it.

These include refugee girls and boys fleeing conflict in Sudan. In May, ECW made important new commitments to keep Sudan's children, wherever they are, in school - as outlined in the joint Op-Ed by The Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown and I in The Times.

During my mission with UNHCR and UNICEF to the border region of Chad with Sudan just two weeks ago, we announced a fast-acting emergency response to UNHCR and civil society with total funding in Chad now topping US\$41 million. Here, I would like to appeal for additional funding to UNICEF who stands ready to deliver

related to the labour market. This effort was realized with the support provided by the World Bank and other stakeholders involved in the Ghana Jobs and Skills Project.

Wireko Brobbey said that the Ministry is committed to ensuring the timely implementation of the GLMIS, with plans for full functionality later this year.

In a presentation on the GLMIS at the workshop, the project consultant, Amoako Bonbi Kakra Asante explained that after the official launch of the GLMIS, all that job seekers and employers need to do is to register an account which is for free.

Answering questions on whether the GLMIS has made provision for uneducated job seekers who cannot use the platform, the project consultant said that as part of the main project, the Labour Department, Public Employment Centres and Labour Vans will be used to reach out to those who cannot make use of the GLMIS.

The GLMIS was developed under Component 3 of the Ghana Jobs and

Skills Project, which was funded by the World Bank.

On this system, job seekers will have the opportunity to create detailed profiles, showcasing their qualification, skills, and employment preferences. This will enable them to present a comprehensive picture of their capabilities to potential employers.

The GLMIS will also leverage advanced algorithms to match job seekers with suitable employment opportunities, based on their skills, qualifications, and preferences. This will significantly reduce the time and effort involved in the job search process, fostering better outcomes for both job seekers and employers.

On the part of employers, the GLMIS will provide them access to an extensive pool of qualified candidates. By registering and uploading job vacancies, employers can outline the required qualifications, skills and other relevant details to attract the right candidates who are aligned to their organizational needs. This

streamlined process will enhance the efficiency of recruitment and selection, leading to improved productivity and growth in both the public and private sectors.

Ultimately, the GLMIS will provide real-time information on the Ghana labour market, emerging trends, in-demand skills, and training opportunities. Hence, job seekers can utilize this valuable data to make informed decisions regarding skills development and career choices leading to increase employability and competitiveness in the job market. Employers can also observe the evolving labour market dynamics to adapt their talent strategies and invest in skill areas that are in high demand.

Inputs from a similar stakeholder engagement this year enabled the GLMIS to be equipped with accessibility features such as text-to-speech functionality, adjustable fonts sizes and contracts and keyboard navigation to ensure Persons with Disabilities are able to access and utilize the system effectively.

No peace until peace for all

urgently needed education to host-communities already living in abject poverty along the borders in Chad.

Together with governments, donors and civil society partners, we are working to expand our support in response to the refugee arrivals in other neighbouring countries as we unite in our efforts to respond to the enormous, urgent needs accounted for in the Regional Refugee Response Plan.

At the May 2023 G7 Summit in Hiroshima, under the leadership of the Government of Japan, global leaders committed to "ensuring continued support to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and UN agencies, including UNESCO and UNICEF, as key partners in helping countries to build stronger education systems for the most marginalized children." As outlined in the G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communique, this is an investment in "resilient, just and prospering societies."

We must now turn these commitments into actions. This means every nation in the G7 must step up their support. As we lead into ECW's four-year 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, we will welcome much needed substantial and new commitments from G7 leaders for the ECW strategic period.

The private sector will also

play a key role in our resource mobilization plans. Our teams are working across the globe to develop new and innovative public-private partnerships, such as our recently announced agreement with the Zurich Cantonal Bank and the Government of Switzerland. Without the private sector and entrepreneurial spirit, we cannot meet the rapidly growing needs. In other words, abnormal problems require extraordinary solutions.

We will also work with Arab States, Nordic States and G20 nations to create new models for funding that crowd-in resources and know-how to deliver the depth, speed and agility needed to ensure quality education and holistic supports in places like Sudan, Ukraine and beyond.

Colombia has emerged as a model of this cross-sectoral approach. In this month's high-level interview, we speak with Mireia Villar Forner, the United Nations Colombia Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian, who highlights the power of education in building sustainable development pathways. This is done through coordinated joint programmes through the United Nations coordination mechanisms. This is indeed one of the chief reasons that have allowed ECW to deliver with development depth and humanitarian speed.

Through ECW's Multi-Year Resilience Programmes, we are providing transformative education investments in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. This is good for business, good for government and good for the world. It also provides an optimized investment opportunity for Overseas Development Assistance, corporate social responsibility and philanthropic giving. By investing in education, we are investing in all of the SDGs. Without education, how can any of them be achieved?

The month of May was also Mental Health Awareness Month, and we announced an ambitious new target to have at least 10% of resources go to mental health and psychosocial services. We do so because we firmly believe that mental health is essential, if not also existential, to children and adolescents who having survived the most painful forms of violence and disasters.

I have no doubt that 2023 will go down as a landmark year in global funding support for education. ECW and our strategic partners will not stop until our work is done. There can be no peace, until there is peace for all, to cite Dag Hammarskjöld. Indeed, there can be no peace without education. We will leave no child behind.

Yasmine Sherif is Director of Education Cannot Wait.

Legal procedures guiding purchase of land in Tanzania (1)

AS pointed out in our previous article on land disputes in Tanzania, there is increase of land disputes in various parts of the country, particularly when it comes to ownership.

One of the reasons for this is the non-compliance with the law and procedures during purchase of land by a person or company. Today, we shall share our practical experiences in dealing with purchase of land transactions in Tanzania.

The experiences come from handling land purchase transactions for more than 20 years, including both complex and simple transactions in all levels, from the vendor to government offices and in courts of law namely District Land and Housing Tribunal, High Court of Tanzania and Court of Appeal.

What is shared here comprise the best practices and procedures in our jurisdiction and upon compliance with the same, then huge number of land disputes will be reduced or avoided in our country.

For the purposes of addressing the issue adequately, we shall categorise land in Tanzania into two: surveyed land and un-surveyed land. In this part one, we shall deal with surveyed land and will deal with the other category in the next article.

Purchase of surveyed land is easier than un-surveyed land for one reason: records of that land are readily available including its allocation of use and the owner or vendor along with its size due to the existence of the land register maintained by

the registrar of titles at the ministry of land.

One thing to note which makes Tanzania different from other jurisdictions is that whatever is affixed to the land belongs to the land owner, commonly referred to in latin maxim "quicquid plantatur solo, solo cedit".

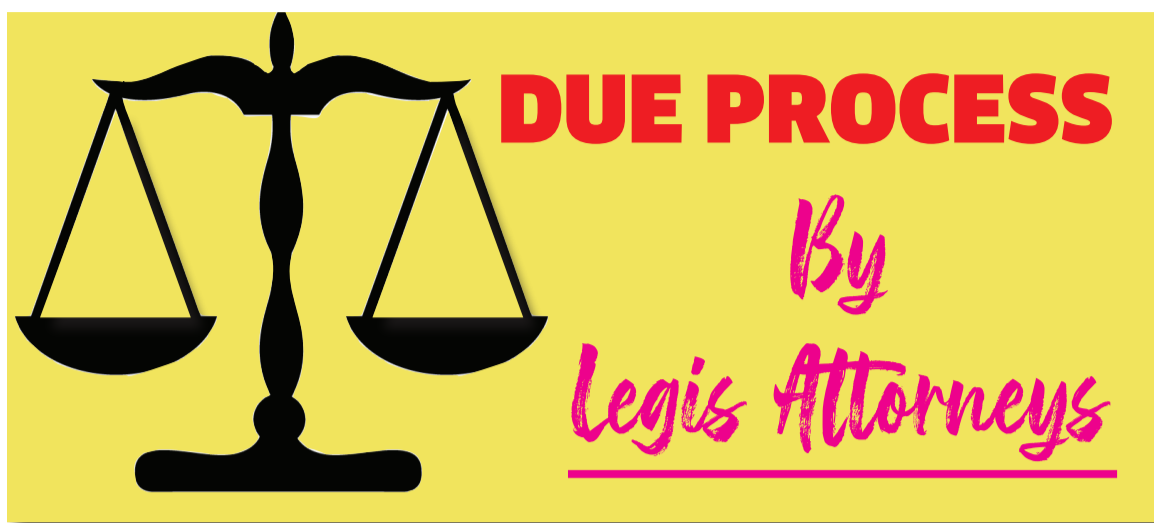
We wish to point out this because many people have this notion that they could sell only the land and not the development or the house on it. Once you sell either the house or the land and complete transfer processes of the same to the purchaser, then one cannot get back and allege that payment made was for the house only or land only because anything erected on the land belong to the owner of that land and you cannot separate them.

Business transaction of purchasing land normally commences either by the vendor approaching the purchaser directly or through advertisement or in any other ways but first and foremost obligation of the purchaser is to conduct careful and extensive due diligence on the status of the land intended to be purchased.

It is trite law that the buyer is required to be aware of the property he or she intends to purchase in the sense that due diligence is mandatory to be conducted before purchasing a property.

The principle of "buyer be aware" is reflected in Section 34 of the Land Registration Act Cap 334 whereby the law requires every purchaser of land to be presumed to have notice of the land purchased, whether it is attached with any issues or not.

There is no hard and fast rule to determine



what is required to be done when due diligence is conducted but it include various items with the view of depicting whether the property to be purchased is free from any encumbrance or not.

The first stage, after establishing preliminary issues such as purchase price, size of the land, time frame for due diligence and other many issues, is signing of letter of intent which contains strict or binding terms and conditions which shall guide such purchase, particularly when the transaction in question is a complex one involving substantial amount of money.

Why is there a need for letter of intent at early stage? The answer because due diligence is not an issue which can be done in a single day and it is always a costly engagement which in most cases incurred by the purchaser.

Therefore, in order for the purchaser to bind the vendor from changing his or her mind on the proposed sale, the letter of intent is advisable to be in place before commencement of the due diligence process.

It is a matter of principle that good information is costly. Therefore, in order to be properly guided and protected, the process should be properly documented with probable consequences in the event one of the parties

to the transaction defaults the process.

Second stage is the relevance of carrying due diligence and how the process can be undertaken on purchasing land. Non-compliance with some basic issues in the process is always among the sources of land disputes.

Relevance of this process is to determine whether there are any encumbrance attached to the landed property intended to be purchased such as caveat, mortgage or notice of deposit or whether the right of occupancy has been revoked or in the process of being returned to the president of united republic of Tanzania, the actual location of the property and boundaries among many others.

Once you are aware of the status of the property intended to be purchased, you are in a position to either proceed with transaction or not. For example when official search depicts that there is notice of deposit, it means the title deed of the land will be in the custody of another person who registered the said encumbrance or in case of caveat, it means another person is interested in that land so the process cannot proceed without their involvement.

The law requires due diligence to be conducted but the manner of conducting it

and to what extent is left to land experts. In whatever possible means, diligence should be conducted into two phases: the first phase to establish the authenticity of the documents or right of occupancy through the office of the registrar of title at the ministry of land by lodging an official search and sometimes in case records are not traced or found in the registrar's office, they may advise you to do the same at the municipal level where the land is located.

This is because in most cases, the process of surveying land sometimes commences at the municipal level where that land is located and records are later on dispatched to the ministry of land.

Therefore, an official search will provide proper details of the land in question. Search relied upon should be recent one and we do advise that it should be done at the request of the purchaser and not emanate from the one previously done by any other person.

The third phase is to make physical due diligence on the land intended to be purchased. Some people do not take this phase seriously thinking that having an official search from the ministry of lands is sufficient for them to proceed with preparation of the required legal disposition documents for endorsement between the parties

ready to commence transfer processes.

This is not right at all. Physical diligence is of paramount importance unless you are satisfied with the land you are purchasing or you are familiar or have known the vendor for some time.

It is important to involve registered professional surveyor in dealing with physical diligence, particularly when transaction is complex and involves huge amount of money. Professional surveyors are responsible for translating the data available in the certificate of right of occupancy namely beacons and other details so that the purchaser can be actually aware that what is in the right of occupancy is the one physical land.

We emphasize that this be done because we have experienced or handled various land disputes in courts of laws in which the place shown by the vendor and actually evidenced by the official search from the registrar of titles is not the one reflected in the right of occupancy.

Further, sometimes issues of trespass or boundaries cannot be revealed through official search secured at the land registry but only when physical diligence is conducted. Therefore, professional surveyor who can translate details physically is of much importance during physical due diligence before the purchaser opts to enter into sale agreement.

The fourth step is documentation stage which is very normal. Once the purchaser has all the above facts in his or her possession, all required documents should be in prepared and placed for the purchaser and vendor

to sign the same.

It is a mandatory requirement that sale transaction of land should be in writing so that the same can be enforceable. Sale agreement along with other land forms such as deed of transfer of right of occupancy, notification for approval of disposition and application for approval of disposition are crucial.

Sometimes, consent from the spouse in case the land sold is a matrimonial property may be required. The other paramount document which needs to be included is the valuation report which provides the actual value of the land and its development. This along with sale agreement provide basis of paying some government taxes such as stamp duty, capital gain and other related costs.

There are other legal processes and procedures which need to be considered keenly by a professional lawyer handling land purchase transaction such as mode of payments of the purchase consideration, payment of duties and others.

Note: the material and information contained in this article are for general information purposes only. They only provide either elementary or basic legal knowledge on the above subject. Anyone considering legal action should consult an experienced lawyer to understand current laws and how they may affect a case in question.

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BY MARK MAPAMBANO

THE 2023/24 national budget tabled in Parliament last week by Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba is the third under President Samia Suluhu Hassan. The income and spending plan has been greeted with kudos in some quarters, indicating that it has the potential to change Tanzania for the better.

It should be remembered that the government is in the third year of implementing the third National Five-Year Development Plan for the years 2020/2021 - 2025/2026 with a theme of realising competitiveness and industrialization for effective development.

And, the theme for the 2023/2024 budget is 'Accelerating Economic Recovery, Climate Change Adaptation/Mitigation and Enhancing Productive Sectors for Improved Livelihood.'

In a nutshell, the budget whose implementation starts next month if endorsed by Parliament is pegged at 44.39trn/-, up from the 41trn/- in the current 2022/23 financial year. Domestic revenue is projected at 31.38trn, equivalent to 70.7 percent, total domestic revenue to be collected by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) is estimated to be 26.73trn/- and non-tax revenue collected by ministries, departments, institutions and local government authorities is 4.66trn/-.

Some of the priorities in the budget include construction of standard gauge railway line, improvement of the national airline Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL), production of electricity from the 2,115 MW from Julius Nyerere hydropower project and implementation of liquefied natural gas terminal project.

I submit that this particular budget is of paramount importance compared to the two previous ones under President Samia. It is a make or break budget depending on its implementation. If implemented to the letter, livelihoods will

Full implementation of 2023/24 Budget will surely make things easy for Samia



improve and the government won't have to tell the people what it has done but simply show them.

In case you forgot, we have civic elections pending next year when aforementioned projects are expected to be seen and improvement of living standard felt. Successful implementation of projects that positively impact livelihoods will make it easy for the government to sell its agenda to the people.

Also, we have General Election starting at us just around the corner in 2025. Again, political life will be very easy for President Samia if this budget is implemented to the letter. If it is bungled, you can guess how tough things could be.

I say so because people are very optimistic given the comments and analyses

by key stakeholders. Expectations are high and given the political tussles ahead; this is one budget whose implementation the government cannot afford to botch.

The Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF)—the apex private sector organisation—has showered this plan with praise, saying it has given local businesses voice and opportunity to thrive.

Winding up private sector budget review meeting in Dar es Salaam recently, TPSF acting chief executive officer Raphael Maganga suggested that the plan is exactly what the doctor ordered for the private sector which was badly wounded under President Samia's predecessor, the late John Magufuli.

"It is the budget for the private sector and this is due to the government's efforts

in improving several policies with a view to taking the sector to new heights," he said.

"We expect to see increased efficiencies in local government authorities for the prosperity of the private sector because huge burden will be borne by us since we are the main taxpayer."

In its analysis of the budget, Bank of Africa (BOA) Tanzania said the plan has what it takes to drive the country's economic development as well as empower businesses and attract investors.

Adam Mihayo, BOA managing director said the budget contains a clear blueprint for improvement of the business environment with some of the steps taken include elimination of regressive red tapes in public institutions and reduction of

rates in some of taxes and levies.

He named other positive steps taken as protection of the shilling and making sure that foreign reserves are always adequate and reducing government's borrowing from commercial banks, the move that will allow lenders to serve private sector.

"This will lead to innovative investment and increased production of goods and services necessary for improvement of lives of struggling Tanzanians and spur economic growth," he said.

In its highlight, Deloitte Tanzania stated that the national budget 2023/24 presents a unique opportunity for the government to prioritise strategic investments and policies that can help pivot the country's economy for inclusive growth.

"Over the medium term, 2024/27, GDP is expected to grow at an average rate of 6.5 percent supported by mega infrastructure projects such as the completion of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), Nyerere Hydropower Project, sizeable mining projects and increased private consumption," the accounting giant says.

It should be noted that Tanzania's economy registered growth of 4.7 percent in 2022 compared to 4.9 percent in 2021 which is our country's lowest growth over the last three years and attributed to the lingering impact of COVID-19 and the effects of the Russian-Ukraine conflict which has impacted many countries across the world.

However, the good news is that Tanzania's growth is still above the 3.4 percent and 3.7 percent growth rate for the global economy and Sub-Saharan African countries respectively. We can implement this budget to the letter, can't we?

The author is a commentator on current affairs based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached on 0655 522 922.

BY CORRESPONDENT HABIB MIRADJI

Kariakoo saga: Traders vilify our TRA officials but they are not angels either

BUSINESSPEOPLE in Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo trading area went on strike recently, protesting what they termed as harassment by tax payment enforcers. Eventually, the government through Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, organized an open dialogue to hear their concerns and provide a remedy to the stalemate.

The discussion ended in the businessmen and women singling out members of the police force, Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) employees, and local government executive officers as the stumbling block to due government taxes payments.

They portrayed themselves as angels. Of course, while there are genuine business people, there are also those who engage in illegal trade practices. This is how we can explain smuggling, corruption, tax evasion and selling below-standard goods. One will also find business people who would not mind even selling poisonous goods, so long as they make profit. These have to be identified and controlled.

There is a need to look at the other side of the coin of the Kariakoo traders' complaints against TRA employees and the police. Regular inspections are a must to ensure that Kariakoo does not turn into the source of government revenue leakages. At the same time, even buyers have their side of conspiracy.

Many Kariakoo traders do not issue EFD machine receipts. And in the event of doing so, sometimes the value does not reflect the true value of the business transaction. I accompanied a friend to a vehicle tires shop along Livingstone Street. The language we were told is that the cost of one tire with an EFD machine receipt was 120,000/- and without receipt, 100,000/-. My friend chose to pay 100,000/- and the trader offered to fit them for free.

Customers from neighboring countries rush to Kariakoo where they can access undervalued EFD machine receipts to enable them evade tax at border posts. It is extremely rare for them to do their shopping at Kitumbini area where genuine EFD machine receipts are issued.

Besides businesspeople who do not issue EFD machine receipts, there are people called "vishoka", who comb the Kariakoo area trailing buyers who do not collect receipts and extort money from them. These pretend to be either police officers or TRA employees. The blame falls on the police and TRA.

Another Kariakoo phenomenon is that many



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addresses traders at Kariakoo in Dar es Salaam recently after the latter closed their shops in protest of what they termed harassment by tax collectors. File photo

traders are just agents of big importers, ending up being middlemen who sell goods without issuing receipts. In this aspect, Tanzania has a leaf to pick from South Africa where even a street vendor has a receipt issuing machine. For example, thousands upon thousands plastic water bottles are sold on the Dar es Salaam streets and nobody cares about government revenue.

When he was Finance and Planning Minister, Vice-President Dr Philip Mpango, took time to tour fuel stations and big shops to sensitize people on issuing and demanding receipts. That was his vision.

Where the government has faltered in the Kariakoo tax

question is that after ending the task force tax payment enforcement system, no delivering alternative was put in its place. In effect, the Kariakoo story of goods smuggling and price hiking repeats itself at all border areas in the country.

What vision do we have today? On a historical note, the vision at independence was that the colonial tax system was dehumanizing. So those who ended up paying tax were civil servants, parastatal organizations and their employees and private companies.

It is a misguided opinion to see TRA as a public enemy when it stands as a strategic tool for the country's self-reliance and real independence.

The quantity and quality of social services delivered depends on the performance level of TRA. Everybody is, therefore, duty-bound to help rather than castigate it.

Since Tanzania set its foot on the market economy, we have witnessed many scandals involving business people and politicians pertaining to tax exemptions, tax evasion, theft and corruption on top of political parties and government systems being hit by business middlemen.

Political party leaders, members of parliament, government authorities and the people in general must unite and help TRA to deliver. In some countries, tax evaders are sent to jail. The legislature and Executive constitute the source of tax rates we pay. TRA is just the enforcer.

It is imperative to remember that the settlement of loans we access from international finance institutions depends on TRA collections. It leaves a lot to be desired when we compare Tanzania tax rates with those of neighboring countries when the country has sought so many loans for development. If we don't support TRA, we put our independence at risk.

Tanzania has gone through a difficult period. Prior to the establishment of TRA, we witnessed Dar es Salaam City councilors and militia taking part in tax collection to sustain city service delivery.

My plea to our leaders is that if disbursement of tax money passed by parliament is implemented promptly, the country will be in a better position to provide for population increase and continue to win trust of international lenders because the repayment capacity will be ensured.

BY BAHAR KAMAL

Extremist ideology that spreads like an oil spill all over Europe

THE abuse of human rights has sharply increased with the steady rise of the right and far-right parties in the wealthy industrialised countries, whose extremist ideology is now spreading faster than ever in Europe.

Indeed, most of the European Union 27 member countries are now either formally ruled by or strongly influenced and supported by extremists and populist parties, which publicly negate basic human rights, while masking their policies of suppressing public services like health, education, pensions, and protection of workers.

Life of citizens to be handled by private corporations

Let alone, their negation of the existing deadly gender violence, the right of women to equal opportunities, and the devastating climate catastrophes which impact the very same Europe, let alone all international laws regulating the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

And they are active in most European countries, from Scandinavian and Baltic States, to Italy and Greece, through Hungary, Poland, Czechia, France and Austria, let alone the United Kingdom.

Spain is one of very few European countries still ruled by a progressive Government, although it is feared that the right and far-right parties will take over after the 23 July 2023 general elections.

The myth of white supremacy

Their trend to further promote the myth of 'white supremacy' is not new, but rather a reflection of what is being done by European descendants in the United States, Canada, and Australia.

Such a myth goes against what they call 'minorities,' e.g., anybody who is not White and Christian.

They call it "the defence of our national identity."

In short, the spread of hate speech, stigmatisation and racial discrimination is now being widely "institutionalised" in European countries, those whose governments signed -and their Parliaments ratified- all international, legally-binding declarations, treaties and laws defending the protection of human rights.



Santiago Abascal, leader of Spain's far-right Vox party. The party could soon be in government, after the 23 July 2023 general elections. Credit: Shutterstock

For such purposes, they further spread hate speech, which reinforces "discrimination and stigma and is most often aimed at women, refugees and migrants, and minorities," as described by the United Nations on the occasion of this year's International Day for Countering Hate Speech (18 June).

With hate "spreading lightning fast on social media and mega spreaders using divisive rhetoric to inspire thousands, hate speech "lays the ground for conflicts and tensions, wide scale human rights violations."

'Dark age of intolerance'

On this, Mita Hosali, Deputy

Director of the UN Department of Global Communication (DGC), said young people are often seen today as vectors of such toxic trends as online hate speech.

"Increasingly, we are entering this dark age of intolerance, fueled by polarisation and misinformation, and there are all kinds of 'facts' swirling out there," she cautioned.

"It's like a ladder of incremental extremism," Hosali said.

"You start at the bottom with a stereotype, move on to emojis and memes that lead to harmful speech. Harmful speech leads to hate speech, a

torrent of hate builds up, and results in the incitement of violence. And then you have actual violence."

Tech companies must now show effective leadership and responsibility around moderation to set up guard rails for respectful online discourse, she said.

"It really boils down to leaders, whether they are political, business, faith, or community leaders," she said, emphasizing that such efforts must also start within the family and ripple across all circles of influence so that ordinary people fight back against hate speech.

According to the world's largest multilateral body -the

UN-, the devastating effect of hatred is sadly nothing new.

However, "its scale and impact are amplified today by new technologies of communication, so much so that hate speech has become one of the most frequent methods for spreading divisive rhetoric and ideologies on a global scale."

Social exclusion fuels terrorism

The consequences of such a growing social exclusion spreading in Europe and elsewhere are dire.

On this, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, on 19 June 2023 stressed at the UN's Third Counter-Terrorism week that terrorism affects every region of the world, while preying on local and national vulnerabilities.

"Poverty, inequalities and social exclusion give terrorism fuel. Prejudice and discrimination targeting specific groups, cultures, religions and ethnicities give it flame."

No one is born to hate

Hatred, conspiracy theories and prejudice infiltrate our societies and affect all of us. We are flooded by information - and disinformation - more than ever before both on- and offline. "But no one is born to hate."

Nevertheless, 'toxic and destructive' hate speech has now grown much faster and wider than anytime before.

Migrants, the easiest victims

In the right and far-right campaigns in defence of what they call "our freedom," "our Western civilisation," "our

democracy," "our values," and "our Christian faith," they turn migrants, now more than ever before, into the easiest prey to chase.

In fact, like the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia, among other Western wealthy powers, the 27 members of the European Union on 8 June adopted a strongly criticised by major human rights organisations, which further restricts the basic human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

Death of migrants, 'normalised'

The number of migrants who died and are still hopelessly missing as a consequence of the 14 June shipwreck off Greece coast of a fishing vessel carrying between 450- and 750 migrants, is still unknown.

Anyway, it just adds to a long series of migrant deaths in only one sea: the Mediterranean.

Although the number of dead migrants in the Mediterranean is far from being credibly counted, the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s Missing Migrants Project documented 441 migrant deaths in the first quarter of 2023, "the deadliest first quarter on record since 2017."

The most dangerous maritime crossing

The increasing loss of lives on the "world's most dangerous maritime crossing" comes amidst reports of delays in State-led rescue responses and hindrance to the operations of humanitarian non-governmental organisations' search and rescue (SaR) vessels in the central Mediterranean.

Not only that: Italy, like other South European States, still argues that the non-governmental, voluntary humanitarian vessels dedicated to search and rescue migrants in the Mediterranean, are involved in... human trafficking.

Millions of Ethiopians go hungry again as US, UN pause aid after massive thefts

ADDIS ABABA

An Orthodox Christian priest, Tesfa Kiros Meresfa, begs door-to-door for food along with countless others recovering from a two-year war in northern Ethiopia that starved his people.

To his dismay, urgently needed grain and oil have disappeared again for millions caught in a standoff between Ethiopia's government, the United States and United Nations over what U.S. officials say may be the biggest theft of food aid on record.

"I have no words to describe our suffering," Tesfa said.

As the U.S. and U.N. demand that Ethiopia's government yield its control over the vast aid delivery system supporting one-sixth of the country's population, they have taken the dramatic step of suspending their food aid to Africa's second-most populous nation until they can be sure it won't be stolen by Ethiopian officials and fighters.

Almost three months have passed since the aid suspension in parts of the country, and reports are emerging of the first deaths from starvation during the pause. At the earliest, aid to the northern Tigray region will return in July, the U.S. and U.N. say, and to the rest of the country at some point after that when reforms in aid distribution allow.

Tesfa, who lives in a school compound with hundreds of others displaced by the war in Tigray, laughed when asked how many meals he eats a day. "The question is a joke," he said. "We often go to sleep without food."

In interviews with The Associated Press, which first reported the massive theft of food aid, officials with U.S. and U.N. aid agencies, humanitarian organizations and diplomats offered new findings on the countrywide diversion of aid to military units and markets. That included allegations that some senior Ethiopian officials were extensively involved.

The discovery in March of enough stolen food aid to feed 134,000 people for a month in a single Tigray town is just a glimpse of the scale of the theft that the U.S., Ethiopia's largest humanitarian donor, is trying to grasp. The food meant for needy families was found instead for sale in markets or stacked at commercial flour mills, still marked with the U.S. flag.

The implications for the U.S. are global. Proving it can detect and stop the theft of aid paid for by U.S. taxpayers is vital at a time when the Biden administration is fighting to maintain public support for aid to corruption-plagued Ukraine.

At a private meeting last week in Ethiopia, U.S. aid officials told international partners that this could be the largest-ever diversion of food aid in any country, aid workers said. In an interview with the AP, a senior official with the U.S. Agency for International Development said the exact amount of food aid stolen may never be known.

Donated medical supplies also were stolen, according to a Western diplomat and U.N. official who, like others, spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

With USAID giving Ethiopia's government \$1.8 billion in humanitarian assistance since 2022, a delay in providing food aid causes widespread pain. Millions of people went hungry during the war while food stocks were looted, burned and withheld by combatants, and U.N. investigators have warned of possible starvation-linked war crimes.

Now the hunger is being traced to corruption

Preliminary findings released this month by Tigray regional authorities said they



have tracked the theft of more than 7,000 metric tons of donated wheat – or 15 million pounds – in their region, taken by federal and regional authorities and others. The findings did not specify the time period. Other regions have yet to report amounts.

Ethiopia's government dismisses as harmful "propaganda" the suggestion that it bears primary responsibility for the disappearance of aid in Tigray and other regions, but it has agreed to a joint investigation with the U.S. while the U.N.'s World Food Program carries out a separate probe.

The way that Western aid officials "distance themselves from the accusations by linking the alleged problem only to government institutions and procedures is absolutely unacceptable and very contrary to the reality on the ground," government spokesman Legesse Tulu told reporters earlier this month.

Aid workers say humanitarian agencies have long tolerated a degree of corrup-

tion by government officials. Provision of aid in Ethiopia has been heavily politicized for decades, including during the devastating famine of the 1980s, when the then-communist regime blocked assistance to areas controlled by rebel groups.

The senior USAID official said that the latest theft of US and UN food aid included the manipulation of beneficiary lists that the Ethiopian government has insisted on controlling, looting by Ethiopian government and Tigray forces and forces from neighboring Eritrea, and the diversion of massive amounts of donated wheat to commercial flour mills in at least 63 sites.

A former Tigray official said government workers often inflate beneficiary numbers and take the extra grain for themselves, a practice that two officials with international organizations working in Ethiopia called widespread elsewhere in the country.

Numerous officials accused WFP of simply dropping off

ing of aid distribution.

"We accept that we could have done better," he told the AP this week. But until now, Dunford said, "it's been very much the Ethiopian government that was managing" the process.

For USAID's part, the senior agency official cited a range of reasons that U.S. officials missed the extent of the aid theft for so long. The war blocked the agency's ground access to the Tigray region for 20 months. Elsewhere in the country, COVID restrictions and security concerns limited USAID's oversight, the official said.

Some Republican and Democratic lawmakers said the rare countrywide suspension of aid showed USAID is taking the theft of US aid with appropriate seriousness. Asked if he was concerned about USAID oversight, a senior Democrat, Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware, said: "I'm concerned about the ways in which the Ethiopian military and government may have systematically diverted

food that was meant for hungry Ethiopians."

US and UN officials said they were working to limit – or end – Ethiopian government officials' role in the aid system.

"We're taking back all the control over the commodities," Dunford said. "The entire supply chain, from the time that we receive the food in the country to the time it's in the hands of the beneficiaries."

Plans include third-party distribution, real-time third-party monitoring and biometric registration of beneficiaries, he said.

The U.S. government wants Ethiopia's government to remove itself from the compilation of beneficiary lists and the transport, warehousing and distribution of aid, according to a briefing memo by donors.

The senior USAID official said Ethiopia's government has committed to cooperate on reforms, but "we have not yet seen the specific reforms in place that would allow us to resume aid."

Ethiopia's harvest season is over, and the lean season is approaching. The U.N. humanitarian agency has privately expressed fears of "mass starvation" in remote parts of Tigray, according to an assessment made in April and seen by the AP. Another assessment in May cited reports of 20 people dying of starvation in Samre, a short drive from the Tigray capital, Mekele.

Tigray's main hospital reported a 28% increase in the number of children admitted for malnutrition from March to April. At the hospital in Axum town, the increase was 96%.

"It is a good day if we manage to eat one meal," said Berhane Haile, another of the thousands of war-displaced people going hungry.

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TAVETA

IN the small town of Taveta, lodged in Kenya's Taita Hills close to the border with Tanzania, families sat on every available bench under a canopy at a local health clinic. Those who could not find space stood or sat on the grass.

"Who here has sickle cell?" asked Lea Kilenga Bey, the woman at the front, who they had all been waiting to hear from.

"All of us," they shouted in unison, meaning that they either carry the genetic mutation or are looking after someone who does.

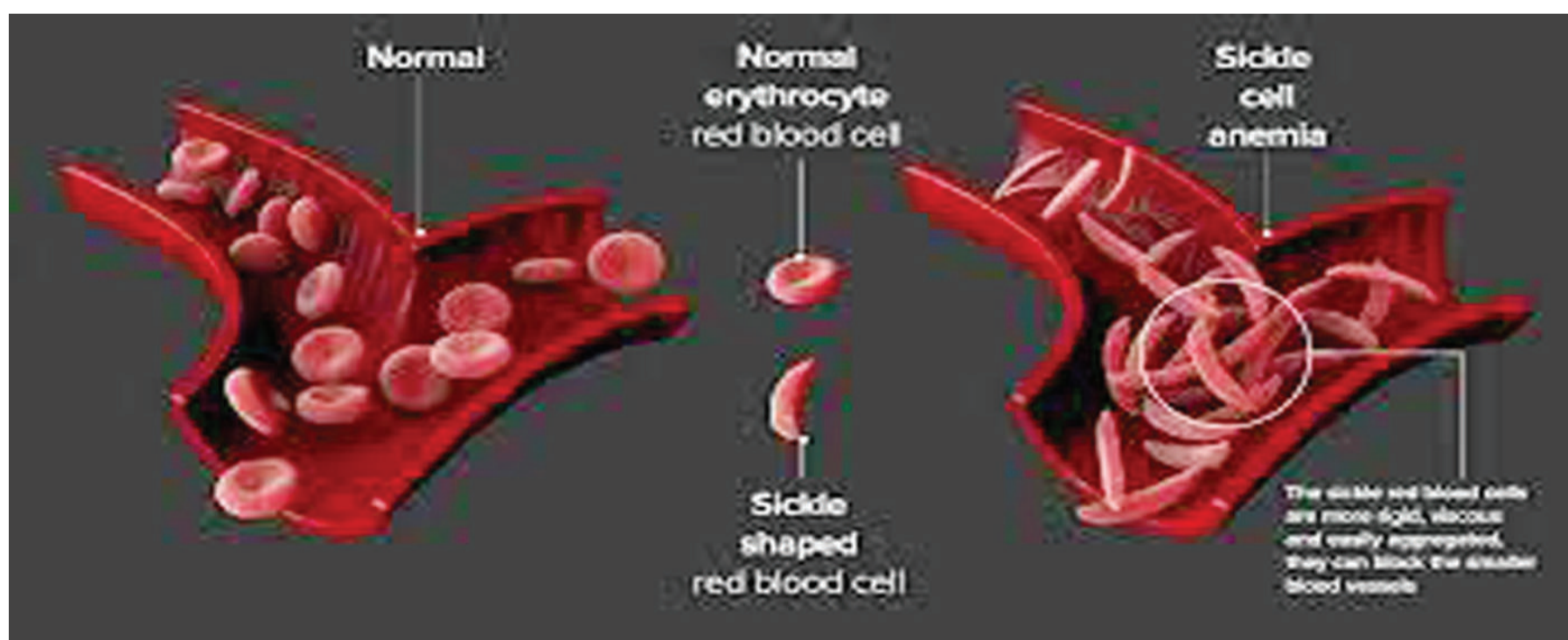
In this busy market town at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro, with a population of just 22,000, nearly one in four of the residents have sickle cell, one of the highest rates of the genetic disease in the country.

The red blood cells of some people with sickle cell, which are normally round, are shaped like a crescent moon or a sickle, and cannot transport enough oxygen around the body. Those with sickle cell can experience episodes of severe pain sometimes lasting weeks.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), two-thirds of people affected by sickle cell worldwide live in countries in Africa.

It is the most prevalent genetically acquired disease in the region, and the survival statistics are

Sickle cell: Fighting to dispel the myths around the disease



stark.

More than half of children born with sickle cell will die before the age of five, usually from an infection or severe anaemia. Some medical journals say child mortality rates are as high as 90%.

"They say that someone with sickle cell cannot live beyond 20 years old. They only get to 15 years and most they can live is 18 years old."

Bey pointed out that she was diagnosed with sickle cell at the age of six months and had survived – she is now in her 30s.

"It is a curse," another woman shouted out.

In 2017, Bey founded the Africa Sickle Cell organisation, a non-governmental organisation focused on improving the lives of people with sickle cell. She regularly visits communities to spread awareness of the genetic disease, but she went back to Taveta, her hometown, to help support the people there.

"A lot of communities attribute sickle cell to ancestral curses, witchcraft," said Bey.

"This is a situation for any un-

known thing in the community. People form their own stories around them. So, I had to go and tell people sickle cell is not witchcraft. It's not ancestral curses. It's something that we can solve."

One of the main challenges for people with sickle cell in Taveta, and other towns across Kenya, is access to medicine.

Daily treatment is needed for people to live normal lives: antibiotics to prevent infection, drugs to treat the blood cells and dietary supplements like folic acid to help with the anaemia.

Albert Loghwaru became a campaigner after his children were diagnosed with sickle cell and faced stigma

"The majority of people who have less \$1 [£0.80] or \$2 a day will not sacrifice the meal of their home to buy this expensive medicine," Bey said, adding: "It's either the meal or the medicine."

She knows more than anyone what it is like to experience what is known as a sickle cell crisis – extreme pain caused by the blockage of a blood vessel, which can affect any part of the body.

Bey has recorded video diaries of her sickle cell crises. Holed up in bed, without any medication, she stares at the camera, eyes half closed, trying to explain how excruciating the pain is.

She does not want others to suffer.

In Taveta, she also joined a group of people who were protesting at the local hospital, demanding better treatment.

"We are given expired medicine," one woman holding out a blister packet of tablets told her.

"So many people have died because they couldn't get proper medical care," another woman said.

"I told a friend I was giving my child medicine, but his eyes were still yellow. She discovered that the medicine had expired," said another.

Jaundice is a common symptom of sickle cell. Yellow eyes are a regular feature of this town.

Albert Loghwaru, 50, was the leader of the group. Two of his children had been diagnosed with sickle cell. They were then stigmatised despite so many in Taveta living with the disease.

"People around here would call us two things. It's either we had demons that were sucking blood from our child, or we are HIV positive."

Loghwaru is determined in his fight to get access to treatment for his community.

"We have to find a way of helping these people."

As a result of his campaigning, along with Bey, a joint haemophilia and sickle clinic finally opened in their town, the first in Taita Taveta county.

But this is not the end of the struggle for Bey.

"We are just getting started. This is not a marathon. It is not the one who runs the fastest who will win. This is a relay race."

Safety of rights defenders in exile imperiled by declining civil rights

BY JOYCE CHIMBI

HOME Away From Home is the theme of World Refugee Day 2023. However, for many, including human rights activists who have fled their homes, a decline in civil rights in their host countries means their lives are often endangered and their activism curtailed.

While leaving one's country and becoming a refugee is a last resort, it is a decision that many, like Steve Kitsa, have had to make. As conflict becomes increasingly protracted in many African countries, many others will take this step.

"In a matter of life and death, I fled the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) five years ago and left my elderly mother behind. One day we were seated in a group of young men, chatting and enjoying the morning sun, when a lone gunman in uniform approached us and started firing away unprovoked. Such incidences had become too common in the eastern region, and some of my friends were killed," Kitsa tells IPS.

Kenya hosts one of the largest refugee populations in Africa. Kitsa is one of more than 520,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers. But human rights defender Irene Grace, who fled Uganda two years ago, says the number is much higher because borders are porous.

Nevertheless, official records show that about 287,000 refugees come from Somalia, 142,000 from South Sudan, 50,000 from DRC, and 32,000 from Ethiopia; many live in Dadaab and Kakuma camps.

Others, like Kitsa, have found their way into the urban centers of Nairobi, Kisumu, Mombasa, and Eldoret. Outdated statistics from 2017 indicate that more than 67,267 refugees live in Nairobi.

"There is a lot of exploitation because we need the locals to survive. Along the highways, you will find many young men hawking peanuts. You can tell they are from DRC because of the kind of Swahili they speak. They sell these peanuts under the hot sun, all day, every day, in exchange for a plate of food and somewhere to sleep as the profits go to the host. Most of us are desperate to go to France," he explains.

Irene Grace fled Uganda for promoting the rights of the LGBTIQ community as the country clamped down on their rights. As the government-endorsed crackdown against the community intensified, so did threats against her life.

"The issue of human rights defenders in exile is one aspect of the refugee situation that is hardly ever talked about. The risk is very high because you are under an alias in a foreign country, and if murdered, you are likely to remain unidentified for a long time, and it might take years to connect the dots. The question of who bears the duty of protection for us remains unanswered," Grace says.

Her fears and concerns reflect the 2022 report findings by the global civil society alliance, CIVICUS, and the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), highlighting the decline in civil rights in Kenya. According to the report, the government was using excessive force to quieten dissent.

Kenya was placed on the CIVICUS Monitor's human rights 'Watchlist' in June 2022. The Watchlist highlights countries with a recent and steady decline in civic freedoms, including the rights of free speech and peaceful assembly.

Kenya was rated Obstructed by the CIVICUS Monitor. There are 42 countries in the



Irene Grace says human rights defenders hiding in Kenya fear harassment and intimidation due to a decline in civil rights. Credit: Joyce Chimbi/IPS

world with this rating. The rating is typically given to countries where power holders heavily contest civic space and impose a combination of legal and practical constraints on the full enjoyment of fundamental rights.

In 2021, Front Line Defenders released a report accusing the governments of Uganda and Kenya of giving the South Sudanese National Security Service (NSS) intelligence agency the freedom to target refugee human rights workers who fled the country.

"It is very difficult to continue with activism in such a hostile environment, on top of the many other challenges confronting us, such as a lack of documentation and access to services. Some of us left our families behind, exposed and unprotected. Over the eight years, I have lived in Kenya, I have received many threatening calls from South Sudan, but I know the in-

formation of my whereabouts came from within this country," Deng G, an activist from South Sudan, tells IPS.

"Our situation worsens when local activists are targeted. In exile, you must connect with local networks to survive and continue with your activism. I am aware of activists in Kenya currently being held without trial for protesting against the high cost of living." KHRC continues to express concerns over the misuse of laws to undermine peaceful protest and recently responded with speed when five activists from the Social Justice Center, a Nairobi-based grassroots group, were arrested during a peaceful protest against the controversial Finance Bill 2023.

A pre-independence Public Order Act requires activists to notify authorities of protests at least three days in advance. Police have mistakenly un-

derstood the provision as a requirement for protests to be approved or denied, using it as an excuse to deem protests 'unpermitted.' Even though the right to peaceful assembly is guaranteed in Kenya's constitution, it is continually undermined, says CIVICUS and KHRC.

Irene Grace says ongoing hostilities have derailed efforts to promote the safety and security of LGBTIQ asylum seekers and refugees in the Kakuma Refugee Camp complex in northwestern Kenya whose lives are at risk. She says they are experiencing discrimination, and physical and sexual violence, among other forms of human rights violations.

"I am unable to travel there to determine how we can mobilize and improve their safety, working hand in hand with grassroots activists in Kenya. There are corrupt security officers,

and once they discover you are hiding in the country, you become a target. They want you to pay them to turn a blind eye as you go on with your activities," she says.

Kitsa says the issue of bribes is a most pressing challenge for many refugees seeking to integrate with the locals.

"They usually threaten to send you to the refugee camps despite having refugee documentation allowing you to live among the locals. They can create many problems for you."

Against this backdrop, Irene Grace says activism is being suppressed from multiple angles, and human rights activists, local and those operating from exile, must now go back to the drawing board to find safer, impactful ways to speak truth to power and take the powers that be head-on.

IPS UN Bureau Report



Kakuma refugee camp, in northwestern Kenya, is the largest refugee camp in the world. Established in 1992, the camp is jointly managed by the Kenyan Department of Refugee Affairs and UNHCR. Photo: UNHCR



RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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WHI TO CONSTRUCT 1 000 HOUSING UNITS IN DIFFERENT REGIONS

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

WATUMISHI Housing Investment (WHI) is expecting to launch the second phase of the Public Servant Housing Scheme (PSHS) in the financial year 2022/23, the robust project which will entail construction of a total of 1,000 units in different regions.

During the project's first phase, which started in 2014, the state-owned real estate developer and fund manager has managed to erect 1,003 affordable housing units by June 2023.

Under the phase, the WHI's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr. Fred Msemwa informed the Guardian during an exclusive interview that the housing projects have been implemented in 19 regions including Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Mwanza, Dodoma, Simiyu, Tanga, and others.

"The first phase of the Public Servant Housing Scheme (PSHS) also seen the construction of 186 housing units in hard to reach ward secondary schools in Lindi, Mtwara, Simiyu, Mafia, Kil-



WHI chief executive officer Dr Fred Msemwa

osa, Kilwa, Ukerewe, Bagamoyo Busega and Gairo, to mention but a few," he unveiled.

According to him, the envisaged launching of the second phase of the Public Servant Housing Scheme (PSHS) in this fiscal year will be implemented in the capital city of Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Lindi, Mtwara and Arusha.

"WHI is now set to embark on

an official launch and implementation of the second phase of the country's major Public Servant Housing Scheme (PSHS), the ambitious initiative which focuses to help improve the availability of modern apartments towards the public across the country," he unveiled.

And he added that Dodoma houses will include construction

of apartments at Njedegngwa investment area during this financial year.

"Apart from the said grand project, we are also continuing with useful efforts to source funds to support other projects for the construction of a number of apartments in other areas," he informed.

"We're planning to market the houses at affordable prices and payment will be done through flexible and convenient terms with a view to enabling more public servants and other employees to afford purchasing," he added.

Projects set to be implemented by WHI in the near future in Dodoma include construction of a number of modern residential housing units in Bwigiri ward area of Chamwino district in Dodoma region.

Dr. Msemwa informed that the project will be constructed in different group flats in the plots number 383, 384, 385 and 549 in the fast-growing ward of Chamwino district, focusing on allowing the civil servants in the region to afford owning modern apartments at affordable prices.

He stated that projects slated for implementation will cost 50bn/=

sourced from internal sources and external borrowing.

"We're currently at a good pace of holding talks with financiers to complement internal sources of financing.

WHI is now at final stages for the completion of the 'Kisasa Hill-top Project' the on-going initiative which has so far erected residential apartments of numerous sizes and selling them to the public servants at prices, ranging from 45m/- to 98m/- at Njedegngwa areas, in the fringe of Dodoma capital city.

WHI was established under the Companies Act (Cap 212) of 2002 and licences as a developer and fund management.

The primary objective of WHI is to implement the Public Servants Housing Scheme by constructing affordable houses to be sold to public servants and members of pension funds.

The establishment of WHI has seen access to affordable housing by public servants thanks to WHI's affordable and flexible payment terms. The implementation of the PSHS is in line with the objectives of the Housing Policy (2005) contained in the Tanzania Development Vision 2025.

Africa's property technology market gets \$12.7m funding

NAIROBI

Africa's proptech market is still small compared to the global market, with funding in 2022 reaching \$16.7 million, while the global market is valued at \$18.2 billion and projected to reach \$86.5 billion in 2032.

Financing is a major issue affecting Africa's proptech sector, along with localized property markets and power shortages in some regions.

Nigeria dominates the African proptech market in terms of players, while Egypt leads in revenue generation. East Africa remains an under-explored market with significant potential for growth and the adoption of technology in the real estate sector.

Technology in Real Estate was one of the major topics discussed at the 2023 East Africa Property Investment Summit event that ended on 18th May 2023, at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Upper Hill, Nairobi.

Africa's proptech market growth has been gaining momentum across the region in the past ten years.

However, the growth has been at a slow pace and as such the market is still very small when compared to the global market.

Tilda Mwai, Research Associate at Estate Intel, also added that African startups in general raised a total funding of \$3.3 billion in 2022, which is higher than the proptech funding, and a sign that the market still has a long way to go.

On the brighter side, the 2022 proptech performance was five times better than the \$3.8 million funding realized in 2019, with key companies such as Nawy, Small Small, Spleet, and Estate Intel having raised \$5.0 million, \$3.0 million, \$2.6 million, and \$0.5 million, respectively, which is a positive sign in the sector.

In addition to this, Coldwell Banker Egypt recently partnered with Estate Waves to launch a proptech platform dubbed Meta Egypt, which is expected to showcase over 450 projects and over 30,000 residential, commercial, and administrative units from 100 of Egypt's largest real estate development firms.

Notably, the investment amount for Meta came in at EG 150B (\$ 4.9M), from an undisclosed source. Despite this, mild activities are still witnessed in the East Africa proptech sector.

From the aforementioned outlook, financing stands out as a key issue affecting Africa's Proptech Sector and as such the market is still small when compared to the global market.

Other setbacks witnessed in the sector include but are not limited to power shortages in some regions, coupled with some regions having a localized property market making integration of technology a challenge.

In terms of proptech players distribution, Nigeria stood out strongly out of sampled 225 proptech companies spread across Africa, followed by South Africa, and Kenya, as at 2022.

However, in terms of revenue generation, Egypt topped the list with an average sum of \$1.8m p.a. This was followed by South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya which generated an average revenue of \$205,100, \$50,420, and \$16,290 per annum, respectively.

In terms of category, the majority of proptech players are concentrated on the property listing and management sector.

In terms of investment opportunity, Chriscabell Ojuk, co-founder rent-score pointed out that East Africa's proptech market continues to remain largely unexplored and as such there is a need to establish an ecosystem such as Nigeria's and South Africa's.

'NBC Connect' extends its wings to Dodoma

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

Companies and organizations operating in the Dodoma region and nearby areas have every reason to smile following the official launch of the new digital payment solution, dubbed 'NBC Connect' proudly introduced by the National Bank of Commerce (NBC).

The new digital service will enable corporate customers in the region to make safe and reliable payments without physical movement to bank branches. The Dodoma launch follows two successful launches held in Mbeya and lake zone respectively.

Speaking during the launch, NBC's Dodoma branch manager Japhet Fungo said the introduction of the new service is a continuation of the bank's



NBC Bank Dodoma branch manager Japhet Fungo explains on how NBC Connect is simplifying financial transactions. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

efforts to provide simplified, reliable, safe, and tailored banking services to its corporate customers.

"Through this digital payment system, NBC corporate

customers in Dodoma can now enjoy a new innovative digital banking experience. The product provides our customers with safe and convenient services anytime, anywhere through online banking," he said.

Fungo further noted that the service will enable, customers to use their phones or computers to easily perform various transactions, including local and foreign payments, and government payments without wasting too much time.

"NBC Connect has been designed with modern technology and high-level security features while prioritizing customer data privacy. Our customers will also be able to access their transaction information, anywhere, without having to visit our branches," he added.

Corporate customers in

Dodoma will also enjoy personal assistance as the bank's staff will be available to help them based on their needs and also provide guidance on how to use the NBC Connect platform efficiently, according to Fungo.

The chief guest at the event Dodoma Regional Administrative Secretary Ally Gugu expressed his appreciation to NBC for the great role that the bank is playing in the financial sector, especially by coming up with innovative services that save time and increase efficiency.

"We are confident that the arrival of NBC Connect will increase efficiency in companies and organizations using the facility here in Dodoma. The new service will also easy transactions and reduce the time that was spent visiting branches," he said.

Dangote refinery will boost real estate sector - operators

LAGOS

Experts projected that the Dangote refinery would spur the growth of real estate along the Lekki-Epe area of Lagos State.

The Chief Executive Officer of UACN Property Development Company Plc, Odunayo Ojo, said this in a chat with The Punch correspondent.

Ojo said, "It will have a net positive impact. That is a massive infrastructure. The first thing that is going to happen is that it is going to create an ecosystem of demand. Thousands of workers are going to be working there directly, and hundreds of thousands of workers are going to be working there indirectly.

"Someone is going to provide food, uniforms, transportation, security, and cleaning services. Someone is going to provide housing for the people who are going to be working there. There is going to be a multiplier effect. It is going to be a huge driver.

"That is why you have economies all over the world clamouring for companies to come and set up in their countries. I am surprised that many states in the country did not clamour for Dangote to set up in their



states, and give him free land, and incentives because one way or the other, it will crystallise. If he is in a Free Zone and it does not pay taxes, the people working there will pay, and the person selling water will have to pay. That is the first thing, economies of scale."

In the same vein, the Treasurer of the Nigerian Institute of Building, Philips Ayotunde, said the impact of the Dangote refinery would be great, adding that the con-

struction of the refinery had opened up the entire Epe-Ajah axis.

He said, "We need more of such development that will be a catalyst to real estate development in Nigeria.

"Everyone in that area is about to reach a level of prosperity because economic activities will be driven to that area. Land value in that area is going to appreciate."

He added that structurally, the economic nodes in Lagos would be expanded from

Victoria Island and Ikeja to now include the Epe-Ibeju area.

"There is going to be a third node that is going to make sure the city is decentralised. The Epe-Ibeju node is about to really come alive. I believe the effect of the project is a net positive."

According to Ojo, there are some unintended consequences of traffic management and even environmental ones, which he claimed could be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

"However, net impact, this country needs facilities like that, even more of things like that," he continued.

The refinery is expected to boost domestic refining capacity, getting rid of the current consumption shortfall. It will also reduce import dependency and stimulate economic growth.

Meanwhile, the Executive Secretary of the Association of Housing Corporations of Nigeria, Toyé Eniola, said the impact would be felt if only the operation reduced or eliminated the importation of refined oil, which will help to conserve foreign exchange used for importation and in turn stabilise the country's forex market.

MBEYA CEMENT'S PARENT COMPANY LINED UP FOR TAKEOVER

JOHANNESBURG

The share price of mining and materials company Afrimat rose by more than 12 percent midweek after it announced the planned acquisition of Lafarge South Africa (LSA), including all its subsidiaries, subject to the fulfilment of conditions precedent relating to the receipt of customary regulatory approvals.

LSA Group, a member of the Holcim Group, is a provider of construction materials in South Africa, offering an extensive range of products to the construction and infrastructure industry, including aggregates, concrete, cement and fly-ash.

The acquisition will be housed in Afrimat's Construction Materials division, which together with its subsidiaries supply a variety of aggregates and concrete-based products to the market, and the Afrimat Group, in response to customer demand, continues to focus on market and product development within this segment.

Afrimat is highly cash-generative and effectively debt free, allowing this acquisition to be financed largely in cash.

The core LSA assets being acquired include aggregate quarries, readymix batching plants, an

integrated cement plant, cement grinding plants, cement depots and high-quality fly-ash sources.

The lime and aggregate sources are long-life assets, well-designed and all with good-quality plants and infrastructure characterising the entire portfolio being acquired, Afrimat states.

The purchase price for the acquisition of the equity in the LSA Group is \$6-million, with an additional amount of R900-million towards repayment by or on behalf of LSA of an amount owing by LSA to the Holcim Group. The effective date of the acquisition is ten business days after all the conditions precedent have been met.

During Afrimat's Investor Day, held on January 20, the group outlined three conditions that need to be met for the deal to be finalised. These are Competition Commission approval, a Section 11 rights transfer and approval from the South African Reserve Bank.

Afrimat said it would continue to diversify its portfolio. It has made various acquisitions in the bulk commodities, as well as the construction materials, sectors in recent years.

It noted that the LSA transaction offered a good geographical



split for Afrimat, as well as access to solid assets.

Afrimat's debt to equity ratio at the end of February was very low at 4.4 percent, making the group essentially debt free, and this has come down even further since then, it was mentioned.

While the Lafarge acquisition will see this increase, it will still remain well within the target range for the board, Afrimat said.

It expects it will need to invest about R365-million of capital expenditure (capex) on the LSA assets in the next few years.

Afrimat will focus on improving operational efficiencies and

spending the capex in the right places, to turn around the culture and get the business in good shape and unlock its value, the company said.

Afrimat's executives said they were pleased with the cash the business was generating, with this almost reaching R1-billion, and being up 5 percent from the previous year.

It was highlighted that the group's financial results show that its diversification strategy is working, with the business generating strong cash flows, and Afrimat able to use these cash flows

to even grow the company even further with more acquisitions, and more capital employment.

Meanwhile, Afrimat has implemented an efficiency drive at three of its mines, that is, an efficiency tool that monitors machines to mitigate the increase in diesel and energy prices, with this already resulting in improvements. Afrimat is now rolling this out to other mines.

It was also highlighted that Afrimat spends considerably on employees. In the last year it spent almost R1-billion on salaries and cost of employment.

Also mentioned was the high

return on investment that Afrimat is achieving. It is aiming to continue to grow the company at the current growth rate of 20% and for return on assets to stay at 24%.

Afrimat said it would continue to seek good acquisitions to diversify the business even further and keep this strategy going.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS Profit was down in this division in the February results, owing to a tough period with increasing fuel and explosive prices, the impact of loadshedding and markets being down in general.

However, Afrimat said it had recently seen a considerable increase in volumes, with the first quarter of the year showing a significant increase in terms of profits, and this trend continuing.

Also, it was noted that business is spread throughout South Africa, and that there is a wide distribution of contracts, across different markets, including roads and rural markets, although private construction seems to be muted.

Afrimat is bullish about this division, as construction materials continues to give positive cash contribution through the various industry cycles. Moreover, it is a low-cost operator with good efficiencies.

Crowdfunding goal: CMSA to introduce platform for MSMEs

By Correspondent James Kandoya

CAPITAL Market and Security Authority (CMSA) is set to introduce a crowdfunding platform - a missing alternative financing to Micro, Small and Medium -sized Enterprises in the country.

CMSA Director of Research Policy and Planning Alfred Mkumbo said this in a crowdfunding awareness seminar organized for small scale businessmen and startups that was held in Dar es Salaam.

He said CMSA has already finalized the guidelines and will issue a licence to the company wishing to operate the platform, adding that there will be a limit to mobilize capital funds to avoid loss, just in case something happens.

He said already two companies have shown interest to run the crowdfunding platform when CMSA advertises in the public gazettes as recommended by regulations and procedures.

Mkumbo said that it was for the first time established in the country but it has proved successful in countries like Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa.

"CMSA will anytime announce crowdfunding platform in the public gazettes the before officially established call on the small and medium scale-sized entrepreneurs to utilize the missing alternative financing," he said.

He said by 2016, crowdfunding platform facilitated \$182 million to support businesses operated by small and middle scale entrepreneurs in the continent.

Cedric Merel, Counselor, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union in Tanzania said that the EU has funded a lot of actions towards banking sector enabling environment on access

to finance now looking for missingly for access to finance

It is an alternative to companies specially to get access to finance and go their business by giving access to their capital to potential investors.

"It is good to see digitalization factor is well capture this means we are looking not only after funding but it also using more than technology make it possible," he said

An opportunity of coordinating networking we sometimes underestimated states because we think of building capacity accessing to finance and how to interact with others,

Fatma Songoro, Senior Associate/Victory attorneys & consultancy based in Dar es Salaam said that "personally I'm very proud and feel glad to hear the process of enabling laws to allow crowdfunding in Tanzania,"

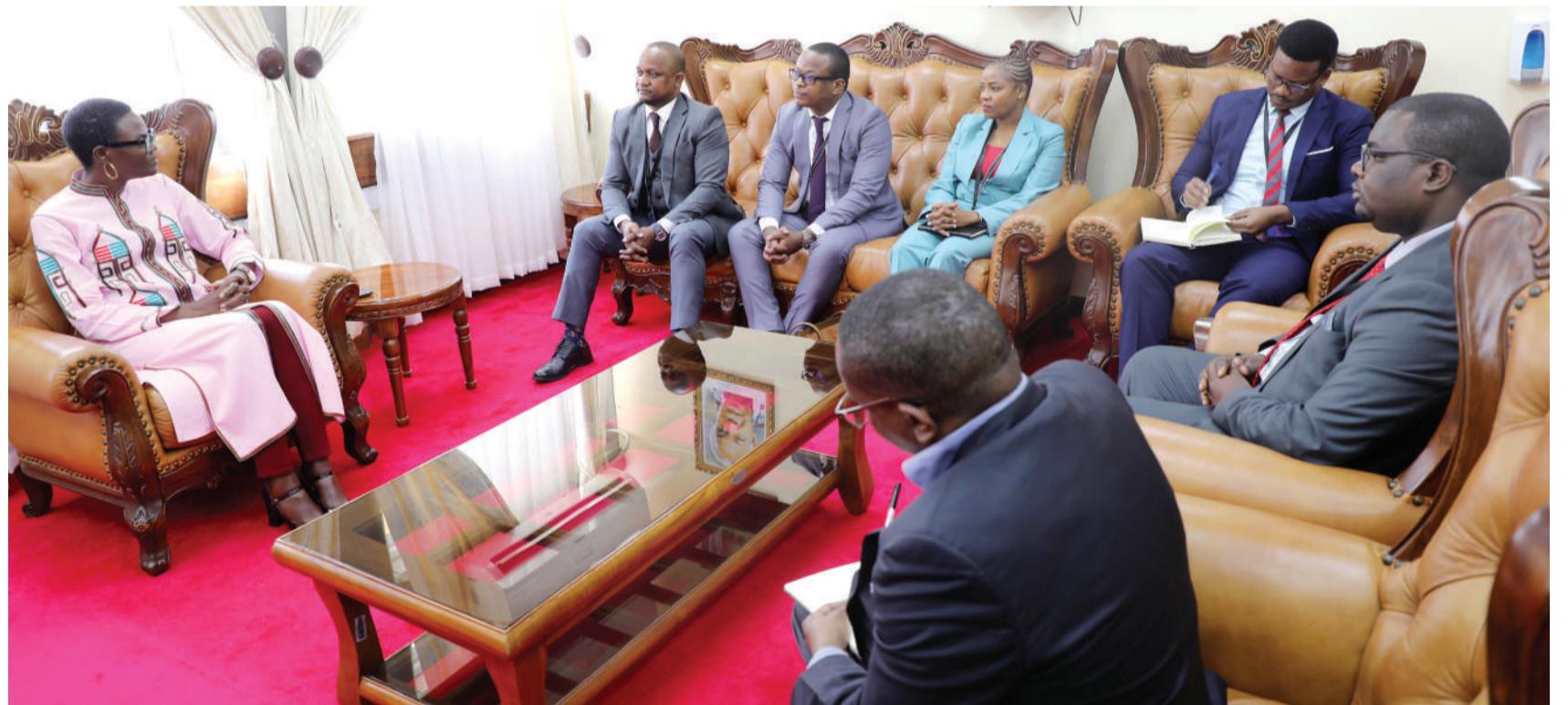
Julius David, crowdfund does exist in the United States of America and the United Kingdom but in Tanzania, there are a lot of limitations.

He said crowdfunding serves as a powerful marketing tool for MSMEs, since crowdfunding campaigns are real marketing campaigns that raise awareness of the company's brand and its products or services.

In addition to reaching investors, crowdfunding campaigns help gain new customers and help to strengthen the company's financial structure.

According to an African and Pacific countries (ACP) report, access to finance is amongst the main challenges faced by MSMEs in creating and growing their business.

Despite its relatively slow development in ACP countries, crowdfunding has great potential for increasing access to finance for MSMEs by enabling them to tap into alternative sources of funding.



National Assembly speaker Dr Tulia Aickson (L) has a word with Absa Bank Tanzania delegation led by managing director Obedi Laiser in Dodoma city mid this week
 Photo by Guardian Correspondent

Sahara Group, Covenant University partner to transform human capital

By Guardian Correspondent, Ota

Leading energy and infrastructure conglomerate, Sahara Group, has announced a strategic partnership with Covenant University aimed at accessing and transforming exceptional talent from the institution to outstanding global business leaders.

The partnership is a significant step towards enhancing Sahara's commitment to supporting young Africans to compete internationally as "innovators birthing sustainable solutions to unfolding global challenges."

Speaking during a meeting with the Management Team of the Covenant University in Ota, Nigeria, Ivie

Imasogie-Adigun, Group Head, HR at Sahara Group said the collaboration between the energy conglomerate and Covenant University will focus on building a talent pipeline that aligns with Sahara's business goals. "Our data over the years indicate that Covenant University is among the top 3 universities where we get the best candidates. Working with Covenant presents a unique opportunity to collaborate with a world-class institution to attract, retain and develop the best talent for our businesses spread across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East," she said.

The Vice Chancellor of Covenant University, Prof. Abiodun Adebayo, who expressed excitement

about the partnership, stated that it would open more frontiers, expand the institution's industry relations, and create more opportunities for graduates of Covenant.

"In the past years, we have produced the most employable graduates in Nigeria. We look forward to Sahara Group absorbing more Covenant graduates as it continues to record sterling achievements as a foremost energy company in Africa," he said.

Emphasizing Covenant's status as a leading institution in Nigeria, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olujide Adekeye said Covenant was always delighted to partner with reputable organisations like the Sahara Group. "Our graduates have

been trained to be world-changers and this opportunity offered by Sahara would help them flourish and excel more," he said.

Regina Tobi-David, Registrar, Covenant University commended Sahara for choosing to work with Covenant, adding that the partnership was a resounding "testament to the quality of education and training that Covenant University provides to its students."

Describing interactions with Covenant graduates as a "recruiter's delight", Israel Oloyede, Head, Talent Acquisition, Sahara Group, noted that the initiative with Covenant University will give Sahara access to "an incredible talent pool of graduates with diverse backgrounds, skills, and aspirations that will drive innovation and growth."

Samuel Gwani, an alumnus of Covenant University and a Sahara Graduate Management Trainee described the project as a "game-changer for Covenant University students," noting that "Sahara Group will give you regional and global platforms that will ensure you make a difference in all you do, in Sahara, we call that being MAD." Tolulope Bero, also a Covenant alumnus and Sahara Graduate Management Trainee said, "the partnership would be a win-win situation for both brands and above all, provide a world of endless possibilities to Covenant University graduates who join the Sahara family."



The partnership will open more frontiers, expand the institution's industry relations, and create more opportunities for graduates of Covenant. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION OF WORLD'S LARGEST WOOD CITY TO BEGIN IN 2025

STOCKHOLM

Atrium Ljungberg has just revealed Stockholm Wood City – the world's largest urban construction project in wood.

Construction on the project is expected to begin in 2025, and the first buildings are expected to be completed in 2027.

The initiative is a demonstration of Swedish sustainability.

The largest wood-building project in the world is now in progress, covering an impressive 250,000 square meters.

The project sets a sustainable example for the real estate market, which is essential because built structures contribute a sizeable 40 percent of the world's CO2 emissions.

Furthermore, Stockholm Wood City is set to become a turning point in sustainable architecture and urban planning. Situated in Sickla, southern Stockholm, this innovative neighborhood will offer



Nusantara, the planned new Indonesia capital city

an additional 2,000 houses and 7,000 business spaces. By merging workplaces, homes, neighborhoods, dining establishments, and retail spaces, it aims to create a vibrant and dynamic urban environment.

Wooden structures provide many ben-

efits for the environment, human health, and overall well-being.

Numerous studies have shown that timber structures have superior air quality, lead to lower stress levels and higher productivity levels, and can store carbon dioxide.

Stockholm Wood City also includes several additional environmental advantages in addition to the benefits of wood.

The focus on office space is a strategy to address the lack of workplaces south of Stockholm's central business district and reduce commute times for more locals.

The design will concentrate on self-produced, stored, and shared energy in a nation where energy supply and efficiency are high on the national agenda.

Atrium Ljungberg seeks to alter the urban developer's function by investing in resource-efficient construction techniques and circular material flows.

"We are proud to introduce Stockholm Wood City. This is not only an important step for us as a company, but a historic milestone for Swedish innovation capability. Stockholm Wood City manifests our future. From tenants, there is a strong demand for innovative, sustainable solutions – a demand that we meet

with this initiative," said Annica Ånäs, CEO of Atrium Ljungberg.

The developer's ambition is to be a catalyst for innovation in the entire real estate and urban planning industry.

Additionally, they aim to create an environment where those who will live and work there can participate in the development and design of the future city district.

Atrium Ljungberg has collaborated with many architecture offices, specifically in Stockholm.

In 2020, they were the developers assigned to the winning competition design for the new office building in District 15 designed by 3XN.

Similar to "Stockholm Wood City", in Copenhagen, Henning Larsen recently announced a proposal for the city's all-timber neighborhood.

Both wood constructions transform the world's understanding of sustainable living and showcase an embrace of environmental principles.

Elevator maker shows growing shareholders' activism in Japan

TOKYO

Elevator manufacturer Fujitec Co. is becoming an unlikely test case of corporate governance in Japan, where founders' families continue to wield substantial influence at many companies.

Fujitec shareholders rejected a raft of proposals from ousted chairman Takakazu Uchiyama to overhaul the board during the annual shareholders meeting on Wednesday, a Fujitec spokesperson said. That marks another win for activist shareholders, who are capitalizing on a decade's worth of incremental steps that are now transforming boardrooms in Japan.

Wednesday's vote represents the culmination of a months-long revolt by shareholders against the family of Fujitec's late founder Shotaro Uchiyama. It also marks a shift in a country that long held activist investors in suspicion, with opponents arguing they pushed for short-term gains at the expense of long-term growth.

Hong Kong-based hedge fund Oasis Management Co., a significant shareholder in Fujitec, previously called out the younger Uchiyama for abuse of power and enriching himself at the expense of the company and other shareholders – claims the executive has denied. Last year, Uchiyama provoked backlash after the company named him chairman despite public opposition from shareholders.

In February, Fujitec shareholders voted to replace three of the company's outside directors with four people nominated by Oasis. The next month, the newly reconfigured board unseated Uchiyama.

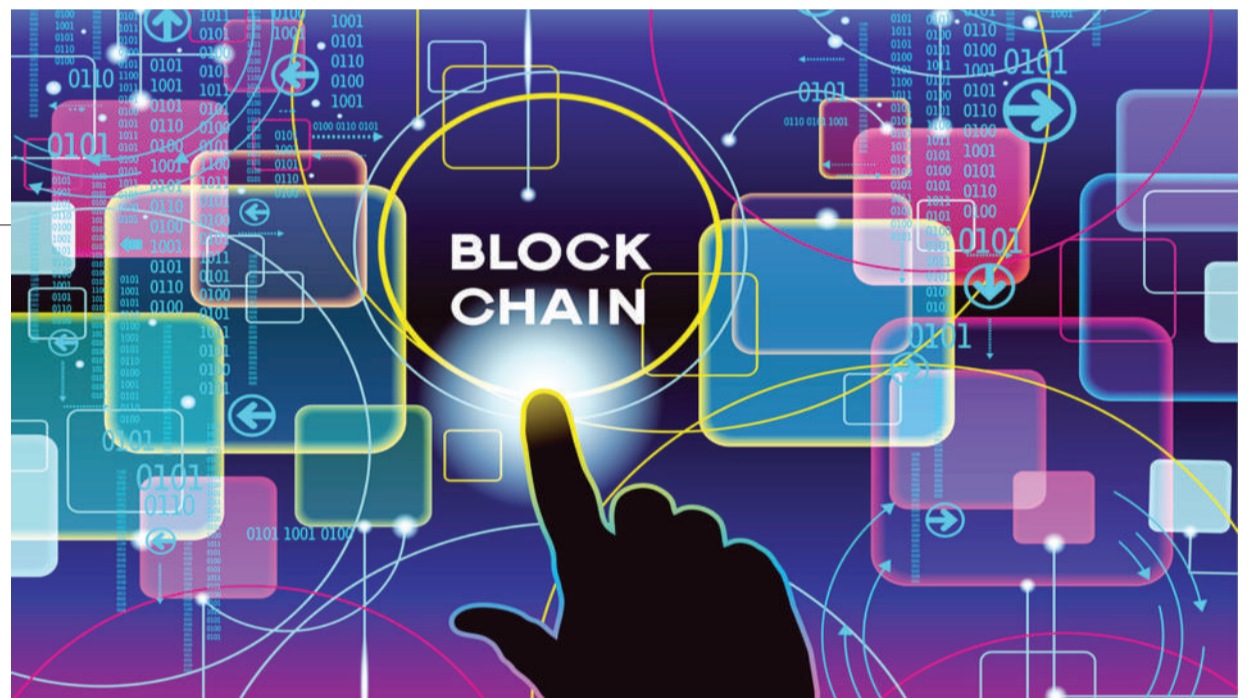
Activist investors are poised to make record shareholder proposals in Japan this year. Bourse operator Japan Exchange Group Inc. is also prodding companies that trade below book value to work toward boosting their share price, while Japan's financial regulator is urging independent directors and asset managers to be more active in challenging

management.

The country may see more proxy fights ahead, said Daniel Lee, head of Japan research at Fujitec shareholder Asset Value Investors Ltd. AVI voted against candidates proposed by Uchiyama, while voting for all of Fujitec's nominations, he said.

In May, US-based ValueAct Capital Management LP called for the ouster of President Ryuichi Isaka at Seven & i Holdings Co.'s AGM in a bid to install four new directors. That motion was rejected, but more shareholder proposals are in the works, including AVI's plan to propose two candidates to conveyor belt and parking systems developer NC Holdings Co. later this month.

"If we can hold management accountable so they step down when they fail to deliver results, results should follow," said Nao Makino, head of research at Fujitec investor Kaname Capital LP, which also voted to support Fujitec's proposals and opposed Uchiyama's.



Blockchain in building sector: Impactful technology or hype?

By Paul Wallett

In the past few years, technological advancements have revolutionised the field of project management in numerous ways, from improving collaboration and communication to streamlining operations and increasing efficiency.

With the emergence of new software, tools, and communication channels, project managers now have more resources at their disposal than ever before.

As technology continues to evolve, new tools can have a significant impact on functions such as scheduling, budgeting, communications, performance tracking, and contracting, allowing businesses to remain agile in a competitive market.

Blockchain technology is taking centre stage amid the rising integration of advanced technologies, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning. The tool has the potential to transform and open up new opportunities for innovation in a variety of industries, including construction by providing a secure, transparent, and decentralised method of storing and transferring data.

However, being a relatively new technology, there is still a lot of uncertainty and speculation surrounding its potential applications and impact. In order to evaluate whether the technology is overhyped in the construction industry, it is crucial to explore its potential uses and limitations.

In simple terms, blockchain technology is a distributed ledger that is decentralised and records transactions across a number of computers. It is practically hard to manipulate or hack the ledger because of its security and transparency.

Each block in the blockchain contains a set of data, along with

a cryptographic hash of the previous block in the chain, creating an unalterable record of all transactions. Due to the fact that any modifications made to one block would be immediately visible to all the other nodes in the network, it is extremely difficult for anyone to tamper with or modify the data.

There is now a high probability that blockchain technology will disrupt the global construction sector. As we can see, construction projects involve a large number of stakeholders, intricate supply chains, and a large amount of data, due to which project managers must look for tools that will improve the collaboration between these elements.

Supply chain management is just one of the many areas of the industry where blockchain technology can be put to use. By tracking the movement of goods, blockchain technology can also help ensure their authenticity and prevent counterfeit materials from entering the supply chain.

Similarly, blockchain technology can be used in project management. Project management is one of the most important aspects of the construction sector, especially when it comes to large EPC projects. Project managers and project management offices (PMOs) generally use a wide range of tools to balance these tasks, timelines, and budgets, while also ensuring the flow of information between various stakeholders. With the integration of blockchain systems, the industry can increase transparency and rates of project success against traditional metrics, such as resource allocation, cost, time, and quality.

There is currently a growing trend among project managers to integrate blockchain-powered applications into operations, planning, and monitoring processes.

By establishing a secure, decentralised database that all stakeholders can access, blockchain technology can improve project management by lowering communication errors and equal access to the same information.

Additionally, blockchain technology is increasingly used in the sector to manage payments. Smart contracts are created that automatically execute payments based on predefined criteria, thereby reducing disputes and guaranteeing prompt payments.

Despite having the potential to significantly transform the global construction sector, the technology also possesses some challenges. Although the technology has made great advancements, it is still relatively young, with several aspects that are still not completely understood. As a result, the construction sector may require more time to completely adopt the technology. Another constraint of blockchain technology in the construction space is its cost.

Since it can be expensive to operate blockchain technology as it needs a lot of infrastructure and computational power, it may prevent small enterprises from using it. This may limit the potential benefits of this technology since only an industry wide broader use of technology can truly make an impact on the sector.

In conclusion, the widespread adoption of blockchain technology has the potential to transform the construction industry's practices by improving its transparency, efficiency, and security. As more businesses identify and embrace the potential of blockchain, we can expect to see substantial changes in the way construction projects are planned, performed, and managed, leading to increased productivity, cost savings, and overall progress in the sector.



German property lender sees weaknesses in US real estate

BERLIN

A German bank that finances property worldwide is bracing for a possible hit from the U.S. office market this year as it looks for "solutions" with clients to keep loans from souring, its chief executive said.

Banks and regulators around the world have identified commercial real estate as a weak link in global finance, with low occupancy rates after the pandemic and a surge in interest rates pressuring the sector.

Jochen Kloesges, CEO of German bank Aareal, said the US office market was challenging, though it should be seen in shades of grey rather than black-and-white.

"The United States is dark grey. You have to be honest about it," he told journalists on Tuesday evening.

Aareal has a US office loan portfolio of around 3.9 billion euros (\$4.26 billion) across some 50 transactions. Around 4 percent of the portfolio is so-called Stage 3 loans that are at risk.

"It's clear that individual cases can hit us in this portfolio this year. This can result in risk provisions here and there that are perhaps somewhat higher, or also considerably higher, than we originally anticipated," he said.

The bank has previously expected allowances for possible loan losses this year of between 170 million euros and 210 million euros, but it has said it is comfortable if it exceeds that level because it is generating healthy interest income.

WORLD

Zimbabwe's Mnangagwa files papers to contest in elections

HARARE

ZIMBABWEAN President Emmerson Mnangagwa on Wednesday filed his nomination papers to contest as the ruling party's presidential candidate in elections set for Aug 23.

His papers were filed by his election agent and justice minister Ziyambi Ziyambi.

"We are ready for the elections and we just wait to find out who the other contestants are," Ziyambi said.

Mnangagwa, who is seeking reelection for a second five-year term, is set to launch the ruling ZANU-PF's manifesto and election campaign Saturday in

Chipinge, Manicaland province.

The main opposition leader, Nelson Chamisa of the Citizens Coalition for Change, confirmed Tuesday that he had pre-submitted his papers.

A representative of Saviour Kasukuwere, a former top ZANU-PF official and government minister, told Xinhua by telephone that he had filed Kasukuwere's nomination papers to contest in the upcoming presidential election.

"ZEC (Zimbabwe Electoral Commission) is still going through the verification process. We hope to know if he (Kasukuwere) is successful anytime from now," the representative said, speaking on condition of anonymity.



Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa speaks during a handover ceremony where he received medical emergency and police helicopters from Sergey Chemezov the Director General of the Russian State Corporation "Rostec" at the Robert Mugabe International Airport in Harare on May 18, 2023. AFP

Other presidential aspirants in the upcoming general election who have already filed their nomination papers include Lovemore Madhuku, leader of the opposition National Constitutional Alliance; Trust Chikohora of the Zimbabwe Coalition for Peace and Development; and Douglas Mwonzo of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change party.

More presidential candidates are expected to file their nomination papers by the end of the sitting of nomination courts at 4 pm, local time, Wednesday.

Nomination courts are sitting countrywide Wednesday to accept applications from candidates for presidential, National Assembly and local authorities' elections.

Xinhua

PM Modi thanks US President Joe Biden, First Lady Jill Biden for hosting him at White House

WASHINGTON

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday (local time) thanked US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden for hosting him at the White House. PM Modi noted that they held "great conversation" on several subjects.

Taking to his official Twitter handle, PM Modi stated, "I thank @POTUS @JoeBiden and @FLOTUS @DrBiden for hosting me at the White House today. We had a great conversation on several subjects."

US President Biden on Wednesday (local time) welcomed PM Modi for an intimate dinner at the White House, a day before the high-profile state dinner. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and his US counterpart Jake Sullivan, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra and Deputy Chief of Protocol Assem Vohra also attended the dinner, which featured the President's favourite foods - pasta and ice cream.

During the dinner, the trio enjoyed a musical tribute to the regions of India, performed by youth dancers from Studio Dhoom, a DMV-based Indian dance studio that helps connect a new generation to the vibrant culture of Indian dance, according to the White House.

The leaders also exchanged gifts at the White House. PM Modi presented a special sandalwood box to US President Biden that has been handcrafted by a master craftsman from Jaipur, Rajasthan. He also gifted a lab-grown 7.5-carat green diamond and 'papier mache' to US First Lady Jill Biden.

Joe Biden and Jill Biden presented PM Modi with a handmade, antique American book gallery from the early 20th Century.

Biden also gifted a vintage American camera, accompanied by an archival facsimile print of George Eastman's Patent of the first Kodak camera, and a hardcover book of American wildlife photography.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves the Indian community, in Washington DC on Wednesday. ANI Photo

Jill Biden gifted a signed, first-edition copy of "Collected Poems of Robert Frost" to PM Modi.

Joe Biden and Jill Biden received PM Modi at the White House in Washington DC on his arrival for the second leg of his official state

visit. PM Modi's motorcade pulled up in the South Portico around 7:36 pm (local time). The camaraderie between leaders was visible as they were seen laughing and engaged in conversation.

Prior to the dinner at the White

House, PM Modi met Gary E Dickerson, the President and CEO of Applied Materials, Sanjay Mehrotra, President-CEO of Micron Technology and H Lawrence Culp Jr, Chairman and CEO, of General Electric and CEO of General Electric Aerospace.

Upon his arrival in Washington DC, PM Modi started his day by attending the "Skilling for Future" event. During his visit to the US, PM Modi will attend the state dinner on Thursday which US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden are hosting. He will also address a Joint Sitting of the US Congress on the same day.

On June 23, the Prime Minister will be jointly hosted at a luncheon by US Vice President Kamala Harris and the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. Later on, he will meet business leaders of 20 top American companies and is also expected to address a gathering of more than 1,500 diaspora and business leaders. ANI

US dragging feet on Ukrainian conflict, instigating third world war – Russian envoy

WASHINGTON

SUPPLYING weapons to Ukraine, the US is dragging out bloodshed and provoking a third world war, Russian Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov said on Wednesday answering a media question.

"Particularly striking is the ease with which the Americans squander money on Ukrainian clients," he said. "The Pentagon can afford to 'overestimate' the cost of military equipment supplied to Kiev, mistaking its calculations by several billion dollars," Antonov was quoted as saying by the embassy's press

service.

"While unprecedented funds are allocated for the purchase of weapons for the Kiev regime, the poorest states in Africa, Latin America and Asia are left without attention. There are places on the planet where people die of hunger."

At the same time, the United States considers it more urgent to prolong the bloodshed and provoke World War III through the West's de-facto involvement in the conflict," the diplomat noted.

US Department of State Deputy Spokesman Vedant Patel admitted earlier when



asked about the risk of escalation of the conflict over supplies of equipment to Ukraine by the West and Washington's approval to deliver F-16 jets, that the Western strategy in providing military assistance to Kiev implies boosting the supplies of arms to the Ukrainian army.

Earlier, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said commenting on supplies of Western arms to Ukraine in an interview with RT that the special military operation started as ensuring Donbass' security, though it has virtually become a war with the collective West by now. Agencies

G20 welcomes Goa Roadmap for tourism to achieve sustainable development goals

PANAJI

THE Ministers of Tourism of the G20 member countries met in Goa on Wednesday, held discussions on various issues, and welcomed the Goa Roadmap for tourism for achieving sustainable development goals.

According to an official release, the ministers reaffirmed the importance of working towards the

full recovery of tourism from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and advancing the role of tourism in accelerating the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Achievement of its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in the meeting. The minister supported five tourism priority areas identified by India's G20 Presidency for the Tourism Work-

ing Group for the development of a resilient and sustainable tourism sector namely, Green Tourism, Digitalization, Skills, Tourism MSMEs and Destination Management, added the release.

According to the release, the minister in the meeting mentioned that tourism significantly contributes to the main objective of the G20 which is to promote "strong, sustainable, balanced and inclu-

sive growth" and they will work towards positioning the sector in accelerating sustainable development and achieving the SDGs.

The release mentioned that there was a discussion on the issue of the Ukraine war and its impact on the global economy. Most of the members stressed that it is causing immense human suffering.

"The war in Ukraine has further adversely impacted the global

economy. There was a discussion on the issue. Most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and stressed it is causing immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy constraining growth increasing inflation, disrupting supply chains, heightening energy and food insecurity, and elevating financial stability risks," it said. ANI

Sino-German ties a stabilising force for world

BERLIN

CHINA and Germany have agreed to enhance cooperation in a wide range of fields, including climate change response, innovation, advanced manufacturing and vocational education, as they vowed to maintain a higher-level partnership to jointly ensure the stability of global industrial and supply chains.

Premier Li Qiang, who concluded his four-day official visit to Germany on Wednesday, and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz witnessed the signing of a series of cooperation documents on Tuesday in Berlin after jointly chairing the seventh China-Germany intergovernmental consultation, a regular dialogue mechanism between the two countries.

Both sides agreed that bilateral cooperation is solidly based and dynamic, and that bilateral cooperation is in the interests of both countries and is also of great global significance.

In addition, the two countries agreed to set up a dialogue and cooperation mechanism on climate change and green transformation, hold the third China-Germany High-Level Financial Dialogue as well as new editions of the Sino-German Environmental Forum and bilateral health dialogue, and continue to deepen cooperation in the fields of economy and trade, investment, automobile manufacturing, high-tech, new energy and digital economy.

While co-chairing the consultation meeting, Li said that China and Germany should work together to play the role of stabilizer in the midst of a changing world.

Under the current circumstances, the two sides should seize the opportunity of green transformation and promote the upgrading of bilateral cooperation, he said.

Li proposed that China and Germany should become partners in green development, strengthen communication and coordination on green and environmental issues, promote green energy technology development and industrial technology upgrading, and deepen cooperation in such fields as new energy vehicles, green finance and third-party markets.

China and Germany should adhere to a pragmatic and open attitude to better achieve mutual benefits and win-win results, Li said, adding that the two countries should also strengthen cooperation on global economic governance, ensure the stability of international industrial and supply chains, and promote an early recovery of the world economy.

Scholz said the intergovernmental consultation mechanism reflects the special significance of the relations between the two countries.

Germany is willing to maintain close communication with China on all issues between the two countries and to jointly address global challenges such as climate change, food security and debt problems, he said.

The German chancellor reaffirmed that Germany has no intention of decoupling from China and is ready to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation with China to promote world development and prosperity.

Before the consultation, Li held a meeting with Scholz. They exchanged views on bilateral ties as well as international and regional issues of common concern.

Before the meeting, Scholz held a grand welcoming ceremony for Li at the square in front of the Federal Chancellery. With a military band playing the national anthems of both countries and the Chinese and German flags flying high, Li, accompanied by Scholz, reviewed the honor guard.

On Tuesday, Li and Scholz also attended the 11th China-Germany Economic and Technical Cooperation Forum. More than 200 representatives from the Chinese and German economic and business communities attended the forum. Addressing the forum, Li said that China and Germany should work together to deepen economic and technical cooperation to set an example in strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Europe and promoting global development.

In the current changing and turbulent international situation, strengthening cooperation is the right way to achieve mutual benefits and win-win results, and it is also the right thing for countries to do with all-out efforts, he said. Xinhua



Chinese Premier Li Qiang (left) and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz brief the media following government consultations of the both countries at the Federal Chancellery in Berlin, Germany, on Wednesday. AP

China's smart home industry embraces rapid development

TODAY, smart home devices are more and more popularized, bringing much more convenience to people's daily life. New technologies, investment and business forms in the smart home industry are thus one of the keys to the transformation and upgrading of China's traditional industries.

New demands of consumers are what encourage traditional industries to make a change.

"We have gradually turned from a manufacturer of traditional lighting products into a provider of comprehensive and intelligent lighting solutions," said Nan Junxia, head of CHINT, a leading intelligent energy solu-

tions provider in China.

The company has launched smart sockets that are able to directly replace the old ones, as well as smart home control panels and sensors that can be placed anywhere. With the production offered by the company, the brightness and colors of lights can be controlled remotely on mobile phones.

Besides, the company has also developed a home-based intelligent nursing system that monitors the safety of seniors in real time through smart integrated circuits and sensors. The system would inform seniors' families or

medical personnel immediately after it detects tumbles or lasting inactivity.

"Mr. ROKI, stir fry please," said Lin Xiaojia, user experience engineer with the cooking research center of Robam Appliances, a Chinese firm specialized in manufacturing household kitchen appliances.

Soon, an automatic range hood started working, and the man selected a home-style dish on a color display that read "cloud recipe" and turned on a smart kitchen stove, which automatically adjusted the flame according to the dish Lin had selected.

Then an "unattended wok" began stirring the ingredients in it. The temperature in the wok and a timer were displayed on a screen on the cover of the wok.

A major difference between the ROKI digital kitchen appliances and traditional kitchen appliances is the "Mr. ROKI," an AI assistant that connects different sets in the kitchen and thus creates new scenarios through inter-device collaboration.

In a "future factory" of Robam Appliances in Linping district of Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang province, researchers have turned recipes into digital curves

based on the variation of ingredients' mouthfeels and nutrition in different temperatures and under different cooking methods. It is learned that thousands of digital recipes have been developed for ROKI digital kitchen appliances, which not only make cooking much easier for users, but also help them create their own digital recipes that can be shared with more people.

The transformation and upgrading of home appliance manufacturers rely on the common efforts and collaborative innovation of all enterprises along the industrial chain.

Robam Appliances has developed a high-definition camera module with fisheye and wide-angle lens in cooperation with an optical company, which serves as an "eye" for the "unattended woks" and intelligent combi ovens. The camera offers recommendations based on the ingredients it recognizes and observes the variation of ingredients' colors to avoid overcooking.

Besides, the Chinese manufacturer of household kitchen appliances also joined hands with a tech firm in Shenzhen to develop an infrared thermometer module that controls the switch and

ventilation of range hoods and smart stoves based on the variation of temperature.

Sensor, integrated circuits, and controller developers, as well as other enterprises in the upstream of the industry, have reaped fruitful results in their cooperation with manufacturers of smart home devices. Lower-stream enterprises are also working to build relevant platforms, systems and comprehensive solutions.

In an experience center of CHINT, a number of smart home devices are exhibited, including automatic door locks, smart air conditioning systems and smart shower systems.

People's Daily

Covid: How do UK pandemic death rates compare?

LONDON

THE UK had one of the worst increases in death rates of major European economies during the Covid pandemic, BBC analysis has found.

Death rates in the UK were more than 5% higher on average each year of the pandemic than in the years just before it, largely driven by a huge death toll in the first year.

That was above the increase seen in France, Spain or Germany, but below Italy and significantly lower than the US.

Comparing death rates across countries

Back in April and May 2020, the UK was seeing one of the worst waves of Covid deaths in the world.

But Prof Sir Chris Whitty, England's chief medical officer, warned against international comparisons of Covid deaths too early in the pandemic.

Instead, he recommended looking at deaths for any reason, since they do not depend on what a country calls a Covid death.

And he said analyses should take account of the age profile of each country, which can explain a lot of differences in death rates.

We have built a database of those figures, collecting data for the last eight years from a range of European countries, as well as the US and New Zealand.

Now the UK's long-awaited Covid in-

quiry is under way and Sir Chris is about to give evidence for the first time.

And as the World Health Organization has declared an end to the global health emergency, we have looked back at three years of pandemic deaths, starting in March 2020.

We compared countries by measuring how much their death rates rose from those seen in the five years before the pandemic.

Over the three years to February 2023, the UK's death rates went up by more than 5%, which is more than France, Germany and Spain (all up between 3% and 4.5%), but by less than Italy's (up more than 6%). The US and Eastern European countries like Poland were even harder hit, with death rates more than 10% above their pre-pandemic levels over the three years to February 2023.

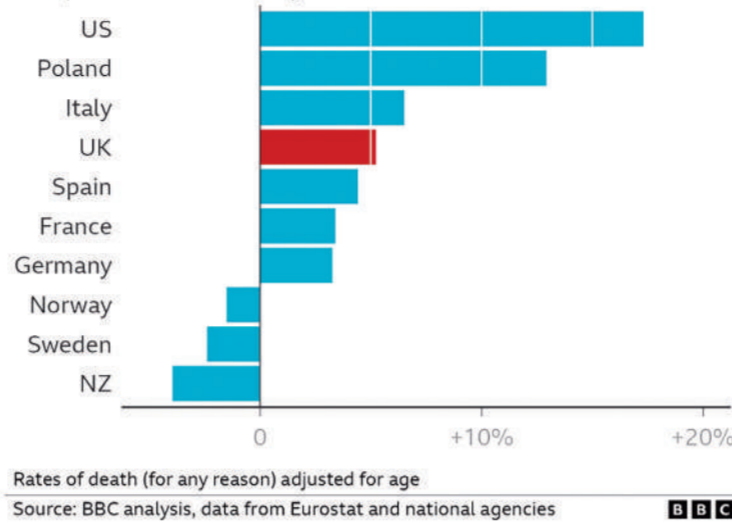
In contrast, death rates fell in countries like Sweden and Norway and also New Zealand, who contained the virus successfully before its vaccination programme took off. The year-by-year figures tell different stories for each country. For the UK, they point to early losses followed by significant success in 2022.

How do the UK's deaths compare each year?

The UK was one of the worst-hit countries in the first year of the pandemic,

Pandemic death rate rises

Average death rates from March 2020 to February 2023 compared with the five years before



with death rates running 15% above those before it started.

The combination of a terrible first wave and the rapid spread of the alpha (or Kent) variant just as the vaccine rollout was getting going contributed to a huge death toll.

Many eastern European countries like Poland avoided the spring 2020 wave but overtook the UK in numbers of deaths in the winter of 2020-21.

The US continued to have steadily increasing death rates during the summer of 2020 and by the end of the year, it passed the UK's total.

Death rates fell in many European nations in the second year of the pandemic as vaccine programmes got under way.

The UK's vaccine rollout is regarded as a "global exemplar", says Prof Devi Sridhar of University of Edinburgh.

That is not just number of doses, it was also getting them to the people most at risk.

And the UK looked better than any major European economy bar Spain in that second year - with death rates below historical averages. In the third year, death rates rose in many countries as they opened up again.

Some of the largest rebounds we found were in countries like Germany, New Zealand and Norway, who had fared better in the first two years of the pandemic (and well overall).

Norway had far fewer deaths than Sweden in the first year of the pandemic but over the three years the two countries look more similar.

It is hard to read straight across from Scandinavian countries to the UK, cautions Prof Sridhar, arguing "we'd never look like either Sweden or Norway", and describing them as "healthier, wealthier and more equal" countries that are very different to the UK.

Lessons for the UK

It would take many inquiries to tease apart the effect of all the possible reasons behind every nation's pandemic outcomes: preparedness, population health, lockdown timing and severity, social support, vaccine rollout and health care provision and others.

But some argue that there are lessons for the UK that need to be learned even before we think about future pandemics.

UK-India partnership a defining one for our times - British PM Rishi Sunak

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak hailed the UK-India partnership on Wednesday, calling it "a defining one for our times", informed an official release.



His remarks have come ahead of India Global Forum's flagship UK-India Week 2023. Praising the role of IGF in fostering closer ties between India and the United Kingdom, Sunak said the event is a catalyst for forging new trade ties.

"India Global Forum's annual UK-India Week is a highly anticipated fixture in the bilateral calendar of our two great nations. It is a catalyst for forging new trade ties, lasting collaborations, and a better future for our people. I am confident this partnership will be a defining one for our times," the British PM said.

Responding to Sunak's remarks, Manoj Ladwa, founder and chairman of India Global Forum, said that given the geopolitical upheaval and economic turbulence, it is more important than ever for India and UK to forge closer ties.

"Given the geopolitical upheaval and economic turbulence around the world, I believe that it is more important now than ever before that the UK and India forge closer and deeper ties. I am therefore grateful to Prime Minister Sunak for recognising the role that IGF is playing in bringing our two great democracies closer to unlocking the true potential of the partnership," he said.

Last year, as Chancellor, while speaking at IGF's UK-India Awards, Sunak had emphasised the importance of forging a partnership of equals.

"India isn't looking to the past. And nor can we. We need to move forward. Because the UK does not have a natural right to sit at the table with one of the world's largest, fastest-growing, and most dynamic economies. We must earn it," he said.

In the backdrop to the 2030 Roadmap agreed upon by both governments and the ongoing Free Trade Agreement negotiations, Prime Minister Sunak's comments are a key indicator of his ambition to transform and elevate UK-India ties, the release stated.

On the sidelines of the recent G-7 Summit in Hiroshima, Sunak and Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviewed the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership while taking stock of the progress in the FTA negotiations.

ANI

Titanic sub: Safety concerns raised about missing submersible

A former employee of OceanGate - the company that operates the missing Titan submersible - warned of potential safety problems with the vessel as far back as 2018.

US court documents show that David Lochridge, the company's Director of Marine Operations, had raised concerns in an inspection report.

The report "identified numerous issues that posed serious safety concerns", according to the documents, including the way the hull had been tested.

Mr Lochridge "stressed the potential danger to passengers of the Titan as the submersible reached extreme depths". He said his warnings were ignored and called a meeting with OceanGate bosses but was fired, according to the documents.

The company sued him for revealing confidential information, and he counter-sued for unfair dismissal. The lawsuit was later settled

but we don't know the details of the settlement.

The BBC tried to contact Mr Lochridge but he is not commenting.

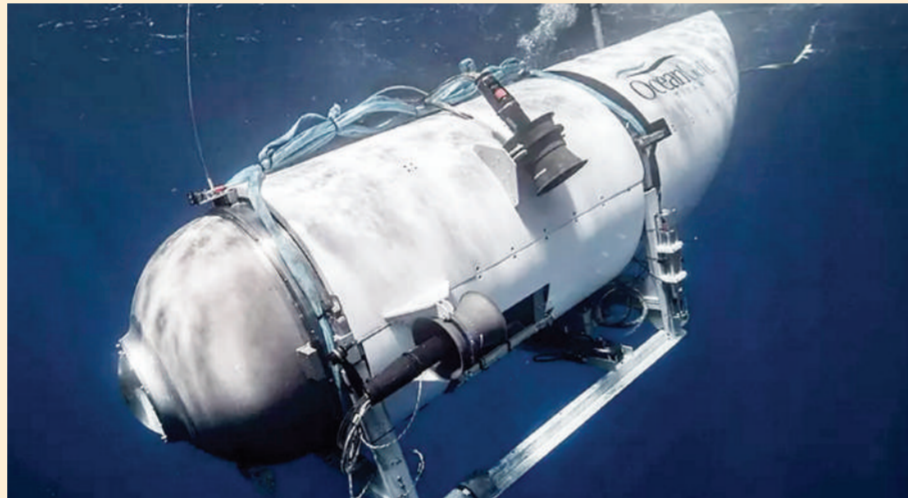
Separately, a letter sent to OceanGate by the Marine Technology Society (MTS) in March 2018 and obtained by the New York Times, stated "the current 'experimental' approach adopted by OceanGate... could result in negative outcomes (from minor to catastrophic)".

A spokesman for OceanGate declined to comment on the safety issues raised by Mr Lochridge and the MTS.

The Titan submersible, described as "experimental" by the company, was built from an unusual material for a deep sea vessel.

Its hull - surrounding the hollow part where passengers sit - was made from carbon fibre, with titanium end plates and a small window at one end.

"Typically, the part of deep-sea submersible housing the humans is a titanium



sphere around 2m in diameter," said Dr Nicolai Rotterdam, lecturer in marine biology at the University of Portsmouth.

To withstand the immense pressures of the deep you need super-strong materials, to resist the weight of water above that's pressing down on you.

Carbon fibre is cheaper than titanium or steel and is extremely strong, but it is largely untested for deep sea vessels like the Titan.

In an interview with Oceanographic last year, OceanGate's CEO Rush Stockton said: "Carbon fibre is used successfully in yachts and in aviation, but it has not been used in crewed submersibles."

In the court documents, Mr Lochridge claimed the hull had not been properly tested - where it's placed under extreme pressures and analysed to look for potential problems.

He claimed that trials on

a smaller scale model of the sub had revealed flaws in the carbon under pressure testing.

Mr Lochridge also raised the issue of the Titan's glass viewport. He claimed the company that made the material would only certify its use down to 1,300m.

A December 2018 statement from OceanGate said the Titan had completed a 4,000 meter dive which "completely validates OceanGate's innovative en-

gineering and the construction of Titan's carbon fiber and titanium hull".

In a 2020 interview with GeekWire, Mr Rush said tests were conducted which revealed that the Titan's hull "showed signs of cyclic fatigue".

In a May 2021 court filing, the company said Titan had undergone more than 50 test dives, including to the equivalent depth of the Titanic, in deep waters off the Bahamas and in a pressure chamber.

The shape of the Titan is also unusual. The hull of a deep-diving sub is usually spherical, which means it receives an equal amount of pressure at every point, but Titan's hull is tube-shaped, so the pressure would not be equally distributed.

"Titan is quite a different deep-sea submersible compared to those used in research," said Dr Roterman. "Whether or not this design with composite materi-

als represents a structural weakness would be for engineers to determine, however," she added.

Why wasn't the sub certified?

In the court documents, Mr Lochridge also said he had urged OceanGate to get the submarine inspected and certified.

Subs can be certified or "classed" by marine organisations - for example by the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) or DNV (a global accreditation organisation based in Norway) or Lloyd's Register.

This essentially means that the vehicle must meet certain standards on aspects including stability, strength, safety and performance.

The process involves reviewing the design and construction, assessing testing and trials to be certified. And once the sub is in service it needs to be checked periodically to ensure it still meets these criteria.

Agencies

3 Palestinians 'killed in Israeli airstrike on car in West Bank'

RAMALLAH/UNITED NATIONS

THREE Palestinians were killed Wednesday night in an Israeli airstrike on a car in the northern West Bank city of Jenin, Palestinian and Israeli sources said.

Palestinian security sources and eyewitnesses said an Israeli army reconnaissance drone struck near Al-Jalama, a village north of Jenin, killing all three Palestinians in the car.

The civil defense of the Palestinian Authority said in a statement that its crews arrived at the scene, put out the flames of fire, and found the bodies of the three young men.

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) prevented the civil defense crew from taking the bodies, it added.

The Palestinian sources said that the IDF also prevented the ambulances of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society from taking the bodies from the burned car.

In a statement, the IDF said it killed on Wednesday night "a terror cell in the West Bank using a drone, an unusual move generally reserved for targeting major terrorists or rocket firing cells in Gaza."

The IDF believed the targeted Palestinian individu-



Palestinian firefighters try to extinguish a fire set by Jewish settlers in the West Bank town of Turmus Ayya, yesterday. Three Palestinians were killed on Wednesday night in an Israeli airstrike on a car in the northern West Bank city of Jenin, Palestinian and Israeli sources said. AP

als of the terror cell were "perpetrating a shooting attack near Jalma in the Menashe region," adding that this same terror cell has recently carried out other shooting attacks.

The drone attack came amid a recent escalation of violence in the West Bank. On Monday, six Palestinians were killed, and at least 90 others were injured during an Israeli army raid on Jenin. On Tuesday, two Palestinian gunmen, members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), were killed after they opened fire and killed four Israelis near the West Bank city of Ramallah.

'Deeply troubled'

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is deeply troubled by the continued violence and loss of life in the occupied Palestinian territory, his spokesman said.

"The secretary-general condemns all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror," Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for the UN chief, said in a statement.

The statement stressed "it is crucial to reduce tensions and to prevent further escalation."

Israel must ensure that the civilian population is protected against all acts of violence, and that perpetrators are held to account, it said.

Israel must abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law, including the proportional use of force and the taking of all feasible precautions to spare civilians in the conduct of military operations, it added.

"Ultimately, only a return to a meaningful political process and ending the occupation will bring an end to this devastating cycle of violence and senseless loss of life," said the statement.

Agencies

US, NATO's aggressive policies may result in clash between nuclear powers - Russian MFA

MOSCOW

AGGRESSIVE policies by the United States and NATO, leading towards an ever-deeper involvement in military confrontation, can result in a direct clash between nuclear powers, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told a news briefing on Wednesday.

"The greatest danger is that with the aggressive policies of inflicting a strategic defeat on Russia in the Ukrainian conflict they have provoked themselves the United States and NATO continue to raise the stakes and become drawn ever deeper into military confrontation. It is obvious that such a policy, which we qualify as reckless, is capable of leading to a direct armed clash between nuclear powers," she said.

"I think there is no need to explain once again the essence of the strategic risks that

arise in this connection and the potentially catastrophic nature of further developments of events according to the worst-case scenario."

Zakharova said that Russia was fully aware of the seriousness of the situation and "systematically sends sobering signals to the Western countries."

"The problem, however, is that the West is simply obsessed with anti-Russian hysteria and a total hybrid war against our country. It shows no willingness to adequately perceive our position.

The entire responsibility for the further degradation of the situation lies with the Western capitals. For our part we can only firmly reiterate that Russia is determined to defend its security interests and we would not recommend the West to doubt this," Zakharova concluded.

Agencies



The Guardian

SPORT



Junior soccer players, Ramadhan Rusambo (L) and Saidi Kabengwa, take part in a training at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

IOC banishes boxing governing body from Olympics, but the sport will still be at the Paris Games

GENEVA

THE International Boxing Association was banished from the Olympic family yesterday, ending a years-long dispute fueled by defying advice and instructions from the IOC. Boxing, however, will keep its status as an Olympic sport at the 2024 Paris Games.

The International Olympic Committee voted to derecognize the IBA at a specially called meeting – an outcome that was inevitable after being recommended two weeks ago by the executive board, a body chaired by IOC president Thomas Bach.

The vote was 69-1, with 10 members abstaining. Boxing was never really in danger of being kicked out of the Olympics over the four years since the IOC suspended the sport's governing body in an effort to force changes.

"We highly value the sport of boxing. We have an extremely serious problem with IBA because of their governance," Bach told IOC members during their online meeting.

The dispute centered on the IBA's management under presidents from Uzbekistan and Russia who the IOC disapproved of, its finances being backed by Russian state energy firm Gazprom, plus the integrity of bouts and judging.

"The boxers fully deserve to be governed by an international federation with integrity and transparency," Bach said.

The IOC is already overseeing boxing competitions for the Paris Olympics without IBA involvement, as it did for the Tokyo Games in 2021.

Boxing can now be confirmed on the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic program, which the IOC and Bach withheld as leverage against IBA. Boxing is "guaranteed" to be in Los Angeles, members were told Thursday.

The sport is good for Olympic business with broad appeal – 25 different countries won boxing medals in Tokyo, with nine taking gold – and the IOC repeatedly said its problem was with boxing officials, not its athletes.

"We appreciate boxing as one of the most global sports. We embrace the values of boxing," Bach said, praising the sport's "important social

role promoting inclusion."

Olympic boxing has had a tainted reputation for decades, typified by notorious judging at the 1988 Seoul Games that denied American light-middleweight Roy Jones Jr. the gold medal against home fighter Park Si-hun. Jones, who now has Russian citizenship, was enlisted by the IBA last year to support its fight for Olympic status.

There were allegations ahead of the 2012 London Olympics of cash deals planned to fix medals, and further doubt cast by fighters on the integrity of bouts at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

At those Olympics, the president of boxing's governing body, then known by its French acronym AIBA, was a long-time IOC member C.K. Wu of Taiwan.

After Wu was ousted by boxing officials in 2017, the sport's problems with the IOC intensified.

National federations defied IOC warnings in 2018 by electing Gafur Rakhimov as president. The businessman from Uzbekistan allegedly had ties to organized crime and heroin trafficking.

Umar Kremlev's election to replace Rakhimov in 2020 followed another round of IOC election warnings that went unheeded.

The IBA's debts approaching \$20 million were cleared under Kremlev and the IOC objected to the boxing body's financial reliance on Gazprom.

Kremlev announced last month at the men's world championships that the IBA was no longer sponsored by Gazprom, and his rhetoric against Olympic officials got more confrontational.

Thursday's meeting went ahead after a late appeal by the IBA to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against the IOC board's recommendation failed this week.

The IOC can now start to work with a rival organization created this year called World Boxing. It has drawn support from officials in the United States, Switzerland and Britain, countries whose national federations resisted Kremlev's leadership of the IBA.

'Exodus' mood at Jangwani removes the veil on business model immaturity

By Correspondent John Kimbutu

DISTURBING reports are being heard of a cloudy atmosphere at the Young Africans SC (Yanga) head offices, in the wake of an avalanche of technical bench and playing squad departures.

A number of these expected shifts are already known while several others are undecided, but the level of expectation is quite high, implying that anyone who has a palatable chance of a similar attachment seeks to move out.

One reason is of course finance but it is now interfering with leadership.

There is a chance that this aspect may turn out to be more damaging for club prospects than cash, either technical bench or player departures, as it involves confidence levels in the club, whether they have faith in the leadership or are starting to be bored.

A moment or so of that situation was said to have surfaced in an executive committee meeting or such other leadership gathering, which has to be abandoned without any decisions being reached. It is a situation that calls for reassessment at upper levels.

From the look of it, the chances that the club's president Hersi Said can solve it are zero or next to negligible as he is personally at the center of the storm with his style of leadership.

Many outsiders admire that style and it appears that many insiders are fraught with misgivings about it as well, which singularly illustrates the problem itself.

Those who have no personal interest in the club picture the club president as hard-



Yanga's players warm up a few minutes before facing Simba SC in the 2022/23 Premier League's curtain raiser, the Community Shield clash, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam in August last year. Yanga cruised to a 2-1 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

working and perfectionist, seeing to it that everything is properly conducted.

That is not exactly what everybody else wishes for in the club, in which case this situation is a recycling of past crises and confusions, from the 'raizoni' and 'kandambili' divisions of the 1970s and 'asili' vs 'kampuni' cleavages of the past decade or so.

Their next-street rivals had the 'Friends of Simba' and 'Taliban' factions at around the same period, class divisions between those who wished for a business model and those demanding a communal approach.

The difference is that the communal approach plays into everybody's hands and leads to a mediocre side.

Yanga's president Said is thus accused of being single-minded and touch-all, instead of delegating functions to others who are elected for the purpose.

Those who come to the inner circle by appointment are likely to be servants and loyal, but those who are elected feel they have a power base and therefore can demand several things, in this context, Said can't provide them. The result is 'discombobu-

lation'.

The discomfiture, and confusion being felt is clear but it is not as yet evident how it is related to the 'exodus' mood, as again this is explained at various levels.

Someone like former head coach Nasreddine Nabi appears to have struck a deal with Kaizer Chiefs and chances are that he is bagging his squad's best player, Fiston Mayele on the same rendezvous, if not with one or two others.

A few others include former Premier League Most Valuable Player Yannick Bangala's wish to leave on financial contentions, a broader reason that scoops plenty of the readiness to go.

The situation leads to double questioning which may throw light on the confusion at the upper level of leadership, namely in what manner the club president has handled the matter, and what is the specificity of the crossroads.

The president has likely attempted to accommodate the matter for instance not handling player payments directly, and then the delegation of responsibilities leads to round claims of missed benefits. Tallying them may need hefty new disburse-

ments, etc.

In the leadership format that the leaders are attached to, the club president would stop complaining about unpaid players and just disburse the cash to pay them, keeping the same distance as he did earlier.

In other words, he isn't even supposed to know what is demanded by which player but is given the figure, which says the total being demanded, by a responsible official who then proceeds to pay up.

It is totally unlikely that it is the supposed office employees who are responsible but elected leaders, as the club president could discipline errant officials, not fellow leaders.

For one thing, it is hard to pin down where the Feisal Salum matter comes up in this, from the consideration that it now seems that the player's decision wasn't an isolated case – from being influenced by Azam FC or some other interested parties.

It appears to have been an accident waiting to happen, as low salaries and the inability to raise them has to do with excessive demands on the part of auxiliary officials.

Unless the players are directly employed by the club secretary, little will change.

That is precisely where the meeting appeared to be standing, that the club president cannot raise his finger at this or that official for dereliction of duty unless he has to make an investigation, which is unhealthy.

The Feisal saga shows at once that he was the only one who could make a decision altering the situation but it also seems he failed to do so as he would step onto the toes of several other leaders.

In sum, GSM Group Limited is supposed not just to satisfy the wishes of players and employees but also of other leaders, who strangely ought to be moneyed individuals offering more cash!

Lions B cricketers sail through to 2023 DC 30 Overs Division B League quarterfinals

By Guardian Reporter

LIONS B cricketers have improved their quest for the top honour in the 2023 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) 30 Overs Cup Division B League, cruising to the showpiece's quarterfinals following a 16-run win over the Caravans C squad early this week.

Experienced cricketers had to step up their game once Lions B went in to bat first in the clash which took place at Anadil Burhani's oval and posted 124/10 in 23.2 overs of the 30-over encounter.

Opener Mubin Hassan put good knocks to show in the early stages to somehow give Lions B an upper hand, his displays had the skipper getting back with 28 runs which included three fours and a sixer.

Efforts by the batting squad to dominate the innings though experienced a drawback in the form of two quick exits of top-order cricketers.

Fellow opener, Taher Chakera, was one run short of a two-digit score, whilst nailing two fours, and Abdulsamad Ahmed, deployed at number three, could so far score five runs.

Umar Shaikh thereafter laid his hands on the bat to significantly push the score with impressive knocks, which had the cricketer staying eight runs short of a half-century.

It was the most impressive showing at the crease, with Shaikh blasting six boundaries in his batting stint.

The rest of Lions B cricketers could hardly contain Caravans C's bowling unit onslaught, having been dismissed in quick succession.

Shaikh managed to showcase his resilience right up to the 18th



Lions C squad's cricketers pose for a picture when they battled it out in the 2023 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) 30 Overs Cup Division B League encounter with Caravans C recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF LIONS CRICKET CLUB

over, exiting the crease after the cricketer was dismissed by Caravans C's Prabhu Subramani with the former's squad amassing 112 runs.

The other members of Lions B's batting unit could not notch two-digit figures, as Yasser Abdulhamid was one run short of two-digit figures and Rehaan Rafiq chipped in with eight runs not out.

Sixteen extras conceded by Caravans C's bowling unit to some extent boosted Lions B's total.

Caravans C's Arjun Kumar ended with an impressive bowling figure of 4-17 in six overs, seeking to efficiently lead his squad's efforts to frustrate Lions B's plan to post a challenging target.

Fellow bowler, Sandeep Sundar, as well enjoyed an impressive day having taken two wickets whilst conceding 33 runs in six overs.

Needing 125 runs to garner victory, Caravans C's cricketers played their hearts out during the chase, their efforts sadly ended in vain having been skilted for 108 runs in 25.3 overs.

Even though top-order batsman Prabhu Subramani, Sundar, Kishwabi Ngozi, and Abhishek

Sinha battled hard, the quartet could not garner support from fellow cricketers that had brief spells.

Subramani was the batsman with the most runs in the futile attempt given the cricketer ended with 25 runs, whilst clearing the boundary on three occasions.

Openers, Ngozi and Sundar, had significant contributions having scored 21 runs and 20 runs, middle-order performer Abhishek Sinha made his way back with 12 runs.

Jomson Jose managed to hold his own for the remainder of the innings and chipped in with 10 runs not out, with the side moreover garnering a slight push thanks to the 12 extras given away by Lions B.

Rafiq and Shaikh put in stellar showings during Lions B's turn with the ball to successfully foil Caravans C's chase having taken four wickets apiece.

The victory turned out to be a third recorded by Lions B which was, during group stage fixtures, positioned second in Group D of the league, trailing group leader, Union SC.

Second-placed Lions B had come out victorious in three matches and succumbed to de-

feat in one, collecting six points and a 0.5639 net run rate, scoring 500 runs and leaking 424 runs.

The group leader, Union SC, had tied Lions B in victories and game lost, the latter however has a better net run rate, 1.7331, after posting 460 runs and leaking 456 runs.

Sandy's Super Strikers, Anadil Burhani, and Caravans C had been placed third, fourth, and fifth respectively in Group D.

Lions Cricket Club's Chairman, Atif Salim, said: "The performances of Lions B have been encouraging as our youths, who have well graduated from Division C level, are prominently playing in the B and A divisions respectively."

He noted: "Even though it ended up being a difficult victory against a very spirited Caravans C side, we are now only aiming to win the Division B trophy."

Salim stated: "We know it's only going to get tougher from this position as the other quarterfinalists are very good teams and all are looking to make it to the Final as that will mean promotion to Division A next season."

"We are also delighted to have tied up with Libya Apartments Ltd as our new title sponsor for the 2023/24 season," the Lions Cricket Club Chairman added.

The leader moreover noted the club is also happy to welcome General Petroleum (GP) as the outfit's co-sponsor for the 2023 season.

The news sponsors have teamed up with the club's other co-sponsors I&M Auto Parts, AR Technologies, RAK Energies, Riyakh Logistics, FLTC Construction, AMB Limited, and Motor36.com.

Mourinho given four-match ban for insulting referee

GENEVA

JOSE Mourinho has been suspended for four European matches for insulting referee Anthony Taylor after Roma's Europa League final defeat by Sevilla, UEFA announced on Wednesday.

The Portuguese confronted Taylor in a car park following Roma's penalty shoot-out loss after a 1-1 draw in Budapest.

Mourinho has been banned from "the next four UEFA club competition matches in which he would otherwise participate, for directing abusive language at a match official", European football's governing body said.

His team will play in the Europa League group stage next season.

Roma have also been fined 50,000 euros (\$54,744) and banned from taking away fans to their next European match "for the lighting of fireworks, throwing of objects, acts of damage and crowd disturbances".

The Italian club were also fined 5,000 euros over the "improper conduct of their team" and ordered to "contact the Hungarian Football Federation within 30 days" to agree a settlement regarding damages caused by their supporters in the stadium.

Taylor was harassed by Roma fans at Budapest airport with his family the day after the controversial final.

An Italian man was charged with affray after the ugly clash.

Referees' body PGMOL said: "We are appalled at the unjustified and abhorrent abuse directed at Anthony and his family as he tries to make his way home from refereeing the UEFA Europa League final."

Taylor booked 13 players, seven of them from Roma, while the bad-tempered game was littered with delays due to the unusually high number of fouls.

It was Sevilla's seventh Europa League triumph and the first European final defeat of Mourinho's managerial career.

Sevilla were not punished by UEFA despite having also been charged over a pitch invasion and the behaviour of their fans and the players.

West Ham were also fined 58,000 euros and cannot take fans to their first two Europa League away games next season following their Europa Conference League triumph over Fiorentina.

The Italian club's captain Cristiano Biraghi suffered a head injury inflicted by a cup thrown by a West Ham supporter.

West Ham, who won the final 2-1 in Prague, were also sanctioned for a pitch invasion.

AFP

Saudi Arabia money has turned transfers into 'chaos' – will it last?

By Miguel Delaney

IN the days after winning the treble, Manchester City had a meeting to discuss recruitment this summer, but they have not acted with the decisiveness usually expected. The club have long known their list of potential targets but any moves are dependent on who leaves. As many as six players could go, and two of them - Riyad Mahrez and Bernardo Silva - have had offers from Saudi Arabia.

Even City, who have become the most assertive force in the game through their Abu Dhabi ownership, have had all their plans affected by this summer window's most disruptive force. The key figures in Saudi Arabia might say this is the natural order, since they are the main power in the region.

It has had an immense influence on this summer's market, maybe the biggest since Paris Saint-Germain bought Neymar for what remains a record fee. Many involved insist it surpasses the effect of the Chinese Super League in the winter of 2016-17.

While the headline element in all this has been the staggering money offered for so many prime players, the main effect has been how it has abruptly changed the plans of every major club. It is difficult to remember anything like it.

It's all the more pronounced since this was expected to be a frenetic summer anyway. All of Manchester United, Chelsea, Tottenham Hotspur and Newcastle United planned significant comings and goings while Arsenal and Liverpool have been aiming for at least two major signings each. The competition for strikers was meanwhile set to be the driving force, from Eintracht Frankfurt's Randal Kolo Muani through Harry Kane to Atalanta's Rasmus Hojlund.

Even that has been overtaken. Many of those plans have been almost totally put off, because the market has been completely transformed.

A number of Premier League clubs have had new meetings this week, as they attempt to untangle so many connected issues. There is first of all the fact that the nature of every negotiation has changed. Saudi Arabian interest weighs over everything, even with players that wouldn't yet dream of going there.

THE INDEPENDENT

West African football coach dreams big in Kyrgyzstan

BISHKEK

UNDER the watchful eye of Daniel Tagoe, a coach from Ghana, around 30 children wearing blue and yellow kits learn to play football in a village outside the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek.

One of several West African players living in Kyrgyzstan, 37-year-old Tagoe says he dreams of developing a football culture in the poor Central Asian country.

"My dream is to have them play in English Premiership, in Spain, in Russia," Tagoe told AFP in English, referring to the young players.

It is an ambitious task in a country not known to be a major football nation.

Mixed martial arts and wrestling are among favourite sports in Kyrgyzstan, and much of the country still lacks adequate sporting facilities.

Tagoe arrived in Kyrgyzstan from Russia when he was in his early 20s and played for the mountainous country's national side for years.

After a successful career which saw him win the Kyrgyzstan Player of the Year award in 2009, the Ghanaian opened a football school in the village of Leninskoye outside Bishkek.

"I have my house here. My wife lives here," he said, adding that a lot of parents asked him to teach their children.



Daniel Tagoe dreams of developing a football culture in Kyrgyzstan, a poor Central Asian country where mixed martial arts and wrestling are popular sports. AFP

"When I finished my career, I decided, why not teach them?" said Tagoe, a fluent Russian speaker.

Children say they are happy to learn football skills from him.

"I am glad that Tagoe came and opened his club," said eight-year-old Daniil Mukhamedaliev.

He said he lived far away from Leninskoye and had to walk through the fields to attend his classes.

"He's a good coach."

- "My son is pleased"

Around 80 aspiring football players aged between 6 and 18 have signed up, and regularly come to play at the new pitch.

It is located next to a primary school still

bearing the name of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin and featuring a map of the USSR on a wall.

Nearby, horses graze in a field where locals played before Tagoe's arrival and abandoned football goalposts have no net.

"We've never had anything like this before," Arzu Jafarova said, smiling.

"My son just sat at home," the 38-year-old added.

"Now we are pleased and my child is pleased."

Another parent, Zamir Jooshev, is equally enthused.

"Not all villages have such an opportunity," said Jooshev, whose son and daughter are learn-

ing to play.

He said it was also rare to have a former Kyrgyzstan national team player train local children.

Along with another Ghanaian, David Tetteh, Tagoe is one of several Africans to have played for the Kyrgyzstan national side.

Their contribution to the country's football successes is indisputable.

In the 2010s, Kyrgyzstan was among the worst football teams. With the help of foreign players including the West Africans the country has moved up in the FIFA rankings, reaching its highest-ever place of 75 in 2018.

The national team has also qualified twice for

the Asian Cup.

- "My heart"

Tagoe briefly lived in Russia, but was later convinced to play for the Dordoi Bishkek football club in Kyrgyzstan.

His success encouraged others to try their luck in Central Asia.

"Everybody wants to play in Dordoi, especially the Ghanaian football players," said Tetteh.

"Dordoi is my everything, it's my heart," said the 37-year-old, who scored a record 123 goals for Dordoi and was later promoted to coach.

Another Ghanaian, striker Joel Kojo, has played in Kyrgyzstan since 2017 and now represents the country internationally.

He played for Kyrgyz-

stan in the CAFA Nations Cup in mid-June.

Tagoe and Tetteh have shot to fame in Kyrgyzstan, and their framed jerseys adorn the walls of a building housing Dordoi.

"David Tetteh and Daniel Tagoe are among the first foreign players to come to Kyrgyzstan," Ruslan Sydykov, general director for Dordoi, told AFP.

"In my opinion, they are the best African footballers to have played here."

Back in Leninskoye, Tagoe said he wanted to help raise a new generation of professional footballers in the country.

"My dream will come true," he said.

AFP

N'Golo Kante, the midfield miracle worker who changed football

By Richard Jolly

FIRST the romance, then the new reality. N'Golo Kante's eight years in England were bookended by two phenomena, two dramatic shifts in the footballing world. In his debut season, came Leicester's improbable Premier League win, powered by Kante, destined to be a one-off. As he goes, it is to Saudi Arabia, to Al Ittihad, to a project that has greater funds and may have more longevity. Kante, the footballer who famously drove a Mini, will get a super-sized salary, reportedly £86m. Selfless running has proved to be a profitable business.

That it came in the same summer Leicester were relegated is a coincidence. Yet an era has ended: the three catalysts for English football's greatest fairytale may not play in the Premier League again, with Jamie Vardy going down with the Foxes and Riyad Mahrez perhaps destined to join Kante in Saudi Arabia. A new force in the global game now is in the Middle East, not the East Midlands.

Kante goes as Leicester and Chelsea's likeable legend, the unassuming and perhaps inimitable - though maybe Moises Caicedo will be charged with emulating him at Stamford Bridge - architect of unexpected triumphs. If xG has been a factor in football in recent years, so has 'NG'; the latter was a way of confounding predictions.

It says something that winning the World Cup may not rank in Kante's top three achievements; not given the context, anyway, because France were at least among the favourites in 2018. Their prowess, however, relied upon a recurring theme in Kante's career: his ability to do the work of two men, which in turn released Paul Pogba to adopt a more attacking brief.

But the Kante hat-trick consisted of his back-to-back Premier Leagues, with Leicester and Chelsea, who had finished 14th and 10th respectively the previous seasons, and then the 2021 Champions League. Arguably, he was the outstanding player in each competition. In 2015-16, the individual honours went to Vardy and Mahrez, before Kante was named both PFA Player of the Year and Footballer of the Year the following season. Aided by Italy's triumph at Euro 2020, Jorginho won Uefa's Player of the Year for 2020-21; it is no slight on the regista to say he was not even the best player in Chelsea's midfield. Kante, man of the match in the final and both legs of the semi-final, was the small man who doubled up as a big-game player, and not merely because a disproportionate share of his few goals came against Chelsea's peers.

Chelsea won the Champions League by conceding two goals in seven knockout games. Thomas Tuchel branded Kante "our Salah, our Van Dijk, our De



Kante became a hugely popular figure at Chelsea. (PA)

Bruyne". He was right: Chelsea's X-factor footballer was a runner who was playing in France's third tier when he turned 22. Kante's defining attributes seemed prosaic: running - he could cover 13km

in a game - tackling and intercepting, which he did more than virtually anyone else. But he felt flawless: the king of tackles was never sent off for either Chelsea or Leicester. And his brilliance was illustrated by his uniqueness: as others sought their own Kante, players who had similar statistics for regaining possession, such as Idrissa Gueye and Wilfred Ndidi, were acquired, but no one else had the full package.

Instructive as Tuchel's tribute was, it was not the most pertinent praise of Kante. That came from the man who brought him to England, Steve Walsh, who took to whispering "Kante" to a sceptical Claudio Ranieri when their paths crossed in corridors and in ultimately successful attempts to persuade the manager to sign him. A year later, with Leicester champions, Walsh reflected that City played three in the heart of midfield in their seemingly anachronistic 4-4-2 formation: "[Danny] Drinkwater in the middle with Kante either side".

And Kante, with his extraordinary energy, held back trends in tactics. There was a sense that teams with him had 12 men. A central-midfield trio tends to be a prerequisite at elite level these days: unless, that is, one of a duo is Kante, covering the ground of

two men, compensating for the times he was actually outnumbered. The last two teams to win the Premier League with a central-midfield duo are Leicester and Chelsea; the first as a low-possession team, the second sometimes with the immobile Cesc Fabregas alongside the all-action Kante. In the last decade, only one team has won the Champions League with just two out-and-out central midfielders: Chelsea in 2021. Factor in France in 2018 and Kante made tactics and teams work.

Al-Ittihad will have to confront the question if such feats are consigned to the past, if a man whose physicality - along with his reading of the game - made him so good is now in decline. He only made nine appearances for Chelsea last season. Graham Potter is entitled to feel himself luckless in at least one respect: Kante was only able to play 33 minutes in his ill-fated tenure. Frank Lampard rather strangely used him as a No 10 against Real Madrid and Brentford. It was a glamour position but Kante was the man who long excelled at the unglamorous. He became a miracle worker by being the greatest worker of his generation.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

West African football coach dreams big in Kyrgyzstan

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South Africa looks to repeat success with coach Ramoreboli

DURBAN

THE South African Football Association has turned to a coach with recent Hollywoodbets COSAFA Cup success to his name to lead their side in the 2023 competition that will be staged in Durban from July 5-16.

SASA has appointed Morena Ramoreboli for the regional showpiece event, a return to the helm for a coach who lifted the trophy under extremely trying circumstances in 2021.

He was not the original pick back then, but when Bafana Bafana assistant coach Helman Mkhalele fell ill with COVID-19 - along with several of the team's players - and number two Vela Khumalo broke his leg, Ramoreboli was thrust into the post as the third choice just days before the competition started in Gqeberha.

He had to patch up the squad to make up for the ill players, drafting in whoever he could, some only arriving in Durban as the games started.

In the end, he did a remarkable job, leading the side to the trophy without conceding a single goal in their six games. They defeated Senegal on penalties in the decider.

Ramoreboli performed another minor miracle shortly afterward when he took Botswana club Jwaneng Galaxy to the group stages of the CAF Champions League for the first time in their history.

And he was also in charge of the third-tier side Maluti FET College when they performed one of the greatest upsets in South African football history by beating Orlando Pirates 4-1 in the Nedbank Cup in 2013.

This is a coach who manages to eke out every ounce from players and gets them to perform above what is expected.

He will need those skills again with Bafana Bafana in a tough first-round pool in the 2023 COSAFA Cup as they face Namibia (July 5), Botswana (July 8), and Eswatini (July 11), with only the top team in each pool automatically advancing to the semifinals.

Ramoreboli has football in his veins, he was just 18 when he started coaching his local team in Bloemfontein.

He led various teams to promotion to the South African professional ranks and aside from working in Botswana, he has also coached in Lesotho before, so is well aware of the nuances of the region.

He has also been a coach at the junior international level and led many players who went on to become household names at the club level, such as current Pirates star Thembinkosi Lorch.

There is a new format for this year, but many of the regulations from past competitions remain in place. Here is a quick run-down of the major criteria you need to remember.

Coaches will be able to select a preliminary squad of 30 players, which must be cut down to 23 for the final tournament in Durban. The final squad is due to be submitted by June 26.

In line with CAF requirements, all head coaches at the tournament must have a minimum of a CAF Pro, A, or B coaching license.

Assistant coaches can have a Pro, A, B, or C license. The equivalent qualifications from other zones are accepted. Should coaches not have the above, they will not be allowed to sit on the bench during matches.

This year sees a departure from previous tournaments with 12 teams competing, split into three groups each containing four sides. The group winner and best second-placed side will advance to the semifinals. The winner of Group B will take on the winner of Group C, with the top team in Group A to meet the best runner-up.

Should two or more teams finish on the same number of points in the pool phase, they will be separated by the result of their head-to-head meetings in the first instance.

If this does not provide a conclusion, the next criteria will be goal difference resulting from the group matches between the teams concerned and then a greater number of goals scored in all the group matches between the teams concerned.

If there is still no clear winner, then goal-difference in all group matches and finally a Fair Play points system in which the number of yellow and red cards are evaluated will be used. Failing that there will be the drawing of lots.

AGENCIES

Aces outfit succumbs to defeat to Aga Khan SC in 2023 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup



Aurobindo Aga Khan SC cricketer, Abhik Patwa (R), receives the Colourflex Man of the Match award from Carol Chisora, Director of Colourflex Inks and Coatings, following the team's clash against e-Parking-backed Aces squad in 2023 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament's Super4s stage early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

By Guardian Reporter

THE e-Parking-backed Aces squad suffered a 40-run defeat to Aurobindo Aga Khan SC in a high-stakes Super4s encounter of this season's 2023 Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup which took place early this week.

Having won the toss, the e-Parking-backed Aces side chose to bowl first in the enthralling match, hoping to restrict the batting side.

Opener Abhik Patwa, determined to make amends for his previous golden duck, showcased exceptional form with the bat for Aurobindo Aga Khan SC.

Patwa played a vital innings, scoring a well-crafted 77 runs off just 48 balls and his knock provided the much-needed foundation for Aurobindo Aga Khan SC's innings.

Despite losing wickets around him, Dhrumit Mehta and Harsheed Chohan contributed valuable runs, scor-

ing 26 runs off 18 balls and 28 runs off 17 balls, respectively.

Their partnerships helped Aurobindo Aga Khan SC reach a respectable total of 174 runs for the loss of five wickets in their allotted 20 overs.

Among the e-Parking Aces bowlers, Aisah Chinbanda stood out despite being slightly expensive, taking two crucial wickets to put a dent in the Aurobindo Aga

Khan SC's innings.

In response, Aurobindo Aga Khan SC got off to a dream start with their pace bowler Vipin Abraham striking early.

Abraham dismissed two key batsmen on the second and third ball of the innings, sending shockwaves through the e-Parking-backed Aces' camp. With the score at 0/2 in just 0.3 overs, the e-Parking-backed Aces faced an uphill battle.

Jeremiah Makanya showed resilience and stability in the face of adversity, scoring 45 runs off 42 balls to steady the innings. He found support from Salum Jumbe, who contributed 23 runs off 19 balls.

However, e-Parking-backed Aces struggled to build momentum and failed to keep up with the required run rate.

They ultimately managed to reach a total of 134 runs for the loss of nine wickets in their 20 overs, falling short by 40 runs.

Aurobindo Aga Khan SC's bowlers shared the spoils, with Vipin Abraham, Kartik Syal, Laksh Snehal, and Ajith Augustin each taking two wickets to restrict e-Parking Aces' batting lineup.

Patwa deservedly won the Colourflex Man of the Match award and Sivaraj Selvaraj earned the Rickshaw Game Changer of the Match award for his economical bowling figures giving away only 12 runs and taking two wickets in his four-over quota.

Following this round of matches, Aurobindo Aga Khan SC has one foot in the finals, while e-Parking-backed Aces find themselves at the bottom of the Super4 table.

Despite the challenging position, e-Parking Aces have shown resilience in the past and have surprised doubters before, notably with their victory over Alliance Caravans in the group stage.

They will be hoping for a stroke of luck in their final match of the Super4s, which is set to take place on Saturday at the Leaders Club venue and Gymkhana Grounds.

The Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup finals will be held at Leaders Club from 1:00 pm onwards between the top two sides of the Super4s.

The Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup is an annual T20-formatted cricket competition organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of the showdown. Other sponsors include Alliance Insurance, Colourflex, TATA Africa Holdings, ASAS, Rickshaw Travels, RAS Logistics, Pepsi, e-Parking, Remax, Flashnet, and Aurobindo.

Others are Azania Bank, Jiuzhou, All Season Hotel, General Petroleum, UMC International, Automark, Hisense, Oman Air, Ashton Media, Mo Assurance, Aucom & Harmonic, and Car & General.

Horizon Teleports, Aone Bottlers, Samsonite, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Euro Cables, VL Smart Solutions, Mobidoc, G1 Logistics, Delta Africa, The Works, and Tanzania Assurance wind up the sponsors' list.

Alliance Caravans lifted the 2022 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament's trophy following the outfit's four-wicket drubbing of Aurobindo Aga Khan SC in the final.

Dodoma Jiji U-20 edges Yanga U-20 in 2023 U-20 Premier League

By Guardian Correspondent

DODOMA Jiji FC's U-20 squad has got off to a good start in the 2023 U-20 Premier League after registering a 1-0 win over Yanga's U-20 squad in the duel held at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Poor communication between Yanga U-20's keeper, Almasi Suleiman, and the team's defenders allowed Dodoma Jiji FC U-20 to notch the only goal of the clash during the added-on time.

Yanga U-20 made several forays into Dodoma Jiji U-20's goal in the early stages of the opening 45 minutes and wasted a host of clear opportunities.

Yanga U-20's winger Daruweshi Rashid was a constant threat to the Dodoma squad on the left flank with his dangerous runs and incisive through balls.

Rashid, in one of the good opportunities for Yanga U-20, dribbled past Dodoma Jiji U-20's defender on the left, floated in a good cross that bounced off one of the defenders, and went slightly over.

The Jangwani Street outfit's



Dodoma Jiji U-20's Hamisi Maru (L) negotiates his way past Yanga U-20's defender Ally Mohamed when they locked horns in this season's U-20 Premier League duel at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Dodoma Jiji U-20 cruised to 1-0 win. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

U-20 squad also has a good chance which was wasted after a free kick the team won a few meters from Dodoma Jiji U-20's 18-yard area was poorly executed.

Yanga U-20 kept on putting on Dodoma Jiji U-20 as winger Farid Nassor came close to putting Yanga U-20 1-0 up later on in the first 45 minutes.

Nassor beat Dodoma Jiji U-20's shot-stopper Wilbard Desdeus with a left foot attempt off Rashid's well-executed cross but the winger's effort could not cross the goal line.

The opening period, in the end, had the clubs still failing to find each other's back of the net.

It was an end-to-end affair right up to the half-hour mark, with neither of the outfits making a move that led to a clear chance.

Defenders for both Dodoma Jiji U-20 and Yanga U-20 stood firm and kept the striking forces at bay as the game wore down.

The game further was hard-

ly free-flowing given there were plenty of stoppages that were caused by several fouls done by the team's players.

Dodoma Jiji U-20 went 1-0 up in the third minute of the added-on time as their winger's effort from the left side beat Yanga's keeper Suleiman and the squad's defenders.

Yanga U-20's shot-stopper Almas Suleiman calmly dealt with a long-range free-kick executed by a Dodoma Jiji U-20 midfielder from the left thereafter as the Dodoma side sought to notch a goal.

Dodoma Jiji U-20's goalie Desdeus was forced to react on time in the 77th minute to save a dangerous cross floated in by the menacing Yanga U-20 winger, Rashid, from the left.

Dodoma Jiji U-20: Wilbard Desdeus, Crespo Haule, David Dickson, Bakari Mondwe, Fadhil Masoud, Hamisi Maru, Omari Mwinymvua, France Matonya, Zidane Sereri, Geofrey Kasanga, and Layson Layson.

Yanga U-20: Almas Suleiman, Zonga Mbwana, Ally Mohamed, Shaibu Mtita, Hamisi Nanguka, Arafat Swakal, Farid Nassor, Raymond Lolend, Saeed Mohammed, Ahmed Fred, and Daruweshi Rashid.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

MUM, WHEN CAN I GIVE DADDY HIS FATHER'S DAY CARD?



Wait! When he gives you sweets