



Guardian BUSINESS

EA countries urged to invest more in agriculture industry

Swiss investors invited to Tanzania to explore potential in agribusiness

Kijaji calls on weights agency to win consumer trust

Dollar loans and liabilities rise on forex market woes

HEALTH



GOVT TRAINS MORE DOCTORS
PAGE 3

EDUCATION



PROJECT RELOCATES STUDENTS
PAGE 4

GBV



TABOO MAIN BARRIER FOR WOMEN
PAGE 5

INDUSTRY



DR KIJAJI ASSURES INDUSTRIALISTS
PAGE 6

Registrar, parties to meet on rally regulations

VPO: Canvas cover vital in coal hauling

By Guardian Reporter

COAL transporters in southern regions have been directed to cover all trucks transporting the energy-producing dusty rocks to Mtwara port with canvas to prevent environmental pollution.

Dr Selemani Jafo, the Union and Environment state minister in the Vice President's Office (VPO) issued this directive on Thursday while on a working tour at the port, where he visited the coal storage section. Transporting coal in open trucks enables maximum dust pollution as wind blows on an exposed heap, he said.

Col. Ahmed Abbas Ahmed, the regional commissioner, promised to liaise with environment experts and coal firms to ensure urgent implementation of the directive. Boniphace Guni, the southern zone manager for the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC), promised to oversee that the directive is rapidly carried out.

Bosco Mabena, the Jitegemee coal mine manager visited by the minister, said he would consult experts to see how best to implement the directive, with the minister expressing satisfaction with regulatory compliance with environmental laws at the port.

He praised the regional ports authorities for liaising with clients on measures meant to protect the environment, with the minister pointing at the need for a tight fence around the area where coal is stored to impede the dust from spreading to nearby settlements.

On December 20, 2021 the minister toured the port and asked the management to clear environmental defects within six months, including identifying a usable area for storing coal intended for export.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addresses the Second Russia-Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum in St Petersburg. It was opened by Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday. Photo: PMO

'Hurry up with Msimbazi Basin project contractor'

By Guardian Reporter

FINDING a contractor for the Msimbazi Basin Development Project to end floods facing Dar es Salaam residents must be fast tracked, the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TanRoads) was told yesterday.

Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba issued the directive yesterday accompanied by a World Bank delegation to the project area at Jangwani. Upwards of \$350m in World Bank credit is slated for the works.

He referred to an instruction by President Samia Suluhu Hassan for a meeting with the World Bank to take forward the project, which also involves construction of a wider bridge and strengthening infrastructure.

Deogratias Ndejemi, the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister in the President's Office (PO-RALG) deputy state minister, said

The project design says it is meant to provide an integrated long-term solution to flooding by control infrastructure like river channeling and river-bank protection works.

the responsible agencies are gearing for fast implementation of the project.

Albert Chalabila, the regional commissioner called for rapid take up of the project to address challenges facing people surrounding the area.

Envisaged infrastructure will open up Dar es Salaam commercially in line with its vocation as a commercial city, he said, aware of hopes floating in the zone

among residents along the basin, for implementation of Msimbazi anti-floods project.

Nathan Belete, the World Bank country director, reaffirmed an expected loan facility amounting to \$350m for the basin redevelopment project.

The project design says it is meant to provide an integrated long-term solution to flooding by control infrastructure like river channeling and river-bank protection works.

Other components are control of sedimentation and erosion; rebuilding the Jangwani Bridge to accommodate flash flood events; along with converting the wetland into a community park.

The bridge will be raised up to seven meters from the floor as a widened facility for various types of users, raised embankments and excavation of the riverbed, he added during the construction phase.

By Henry Mwangonde

POLITICAL parties are expected to meet next week to formulate modalities on the participation of various social groups without causing disharmony.

Judge Francis Mutungi (pictured), the Registrar of Political Parties, has convened the meeting in the wake of perceived hyperactivity by some community leaders especially at denominational level in venturing into political issues with gusto.

In an exchange of views with media editors in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the registrar said that in recent weeks there has been a tendency by some religious leaders of delving into political matters "which can imperil national cohesion."

How religious leaders can participate in politics without such threats needs to be discussed, he said, noting that the aim is not to restrict people from participating in politics "as it is their constitutional" right.

"But we need to collectively come up with modalities on how to go about it so that we do not compromise national unity," he said.

There are issues emerging among politicians which if left unattended will have consequences on national unity and political co-existence, a key element of democratic political activity, said the registrar.

He referred to the Political Parties Act as requiring political parties to uphold the national interest and unity "instead of being platforms to preach divisions".

The registrar's office is at times compelled to intervene as it is tasked



with monitoring political parties' activities to ensure that they comply with regulations which govern them, he said.

Judge Mutungi then referred to the specific legislations as the Political Parties Act and the Election Expenses Act, apart from laws relating to safeguarding the public order.

The office has the legal mandate to register and deregister political parties, he cautioned, similarly objecting to public security officers donning party uniforms during campaigns.

The habit is at variance with the law but has been left to happen, he stated.

Contributing, long-serving editor Absalom Kibanda advised the registrar's office to handle the matter with caution "as there is but a thin line between politics and religion".

He cited prominent religious leaders who were widely celebrated for their contributions to political change - one being Bishop Desmond Tutu during the apartheid era in South Africa.

"I am afraid that we may be awash with the fear of the unknown," Kibanda stated, adding that the law allows Tanzanians of all hues and stripes to participate in politics.

"They should also understand the thin line between these two spheres," he added.

IMF: Sub-Saharan Africa GDP 2023 to reach 3.5 pc MoU

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE International Monetary Fund now projects Sub-Saharan Africa's economic growth at 3.5 per cent for 2023 in the latest revision, down from 3.9 per cent last year.

A mid-year review of growth prospects around the world published yesterday said that the growth rate is likely to experience a rebound to 4.1 per cent next year.

Observers said that back in April, the lender had projected the region's GDP growth to decline to 3.6 per

cent, before rebounding to 4.2 per cent in 2024 amid the global slowdown, as activities were expected to decelerate for a second year in a row.

The 3.5 per cent growth projection as well as projection for next year is a 100-basis points downgrade projection for both years, analysts noted, with next year's anticipated rebound tied up with anticipated global recovery.

This is expected to push subsiding inflation and a winding down in monetary policy tightening, with the IMF attributing the weaker

projection to unceasing rise of central bank policy rates to fight inflation.

"The hiked rates continue to weigh on economic activity. However, the global headline inflation is expected to fall from 8.7 per cent in 2022 to 6.8 per cent this year and 5.2 per cent in 2024," IMF says.

In the previous regional outlook, the lender projected Kenya's GDP growth to a slow of 5.3 per cent this year, down from the previous two years' projections of 5.4 per cent in 2022 and 7.5 per cent in 2021.

It attributed the slower growth to a funding squeeze that is impacting the country's ability to invest in health, education and infrastructure, while further projecting GDP growth by 5.4 per cent in 2024.

The East African country with its counterparts were expected to fare better this year in contributing to the Sub-Saharan Africa region growth, but some major economies were projected to bring down the region's average growth rate.

South Africa is an example, whose growth is now projected to decelerate

sharply to only 0.1 per cent this year, after having been projected to grow at 0.3 per cent this year, an upgrade, before rebounding to 1.7 per cent next year.

Globally, the lender's revision projects a GDP growth of 3.0 per cent this year and next year, a 0.2 per cent upgrade from the previous projection of 2.8 per cent in April.

However, the projection is a downgrade from the previous year of 3.5 per cent, with the lender saying the growth rate is still historically weak based on standards.

Col. Ahmed Abbas Ahmed, the regional commissioner, promised to liaise with environment experts and coal firms to ensure urgent ...



Worrying scale of chemical pollution in Mirongo River

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

RESIDENTS in Mwanza city have raised fear over the behaviour of some people who have been washing containers that had been used to store toxic chemicals in Mirongo River. The residents are worried about the action because washing the containers in the river may bring negative impacts to the water, environment and people's health. They told The Guardian in separate interviews recently that relevant authorities should work on the matter to see if the chemicals have no harm to the environment, water species and people. Masalu Joachim, one of the residents said the situation makes them uncomfortable considering that the containers that are taken to be cleaned in the river were storing chemicals. He wanted authorities to take immediate action which included taking water samples from the starting point of washing and where the river enters Lake Victoria and test if there are chemical traces in the liquid. "This move is important to be in

place as it ensures safety on the environment of the river and biodiversity of the lake that hosts different fish species including Tilapia that is famous in the Lake Zone regions and the country as a whole," he said. Raphael Manyasi pointed out that it is important to know the safety of the river as some people in the city use it as a source of income by removing sand from it and selling the material to building contractors or individuals. "After knowing that water in the river has no traces of toxic chemicals, people taking sand from it for their daily operations also will be sure of their health conditions," he said. He further said that when the people remove sand from the river they help to deepen it and help water to flow properly through it, the act that controls flooding during heavy rains. He urged authorities to supervise and ensure that any activity implemented near or in the river is environmentally-friendly to protect both the river and the lake.



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (R) and Switzerland's Ambassador to Tanzania, Didier Chassot, autograph a Swiss National Day Anniversary card at an event held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday to mark the day. Photo: Correspondent Hafani Chusi

Court of Appeal lifts suspension of Finance Act 2023

NAIROBI

The Court of Appeal has overturned an order made last month suspending the implementation of the 2023 Finance Act after Treasury CS Prof Njuguna Ndung'u argued that the government was losing half a billion shillings a day as a result of the freeze.

A three-judge bench of the Court of Appeal lifted the suspension placed on 30 June, pending the determination of an appeal filed by Prof Ndung'u.

The CS moved to the Court of Appeal through Attorney-General Justin Muturi, arguing that the government would lose

about Sh211 billion in the current financial year.

Prof Ndung'u said the freeze will make it difficult for the Kenya Kwanza administration to implement the 2023/24 budget as planned and some projects will have to be suspended if the government is not allowed to raise revenue as proposed in the bill.

Justices Mohammed Warsame, Kathurima M'Noti and Hellen Omondi ruled that the Finance Bill has a life of 90 days, after which the next budget cycle will be set in motion.

"We have no doubt that the Finance Act and the Appropriation Act are interdependent.

While the former provides for the generation of resources, the latter provides for expenditure. There can be no expenditure where the mode of generation of funds has not been provided for," the judges said.

The judges said Prof Ndung'u had estimated that Sh211 billion would be generated at an average daily rate of Sh500 million.

"Although the actual figures are disputed, it is certain that revenue was to be collected with the operationalisation of the Act," the judges said.

Prof Ndung'u had urged the court to set aside the order, which was extended by the High Court on July 10, arguing

that the government needed to borrow to bridge the gap in order to operate.

Prof Ndung'u said in an affidavit, "Since there are no savings provisions in the Finance Act, 2023, the repealed provisions of the Finance Act, 2022, have the effect of affecting revenue collection, resulting in disruption of services for already budgeted revenue."

In the ruling, the three judges said taxation is a continuous and annual mechanism and members of the public can get a refund of overpaid taxes and levies in subsequent tax payments.

Secondly, the judges said that

since the petitions challenged both the entire law and the specific provisions, the court could consider suspending the specific provisions whose implementation has an irreversible effect and cannot be refunded.

"This is in contrast to a blanket suspension of the law. Thirdly, the Appropriation Act, which was enacted on the back of the Finance Act, is in force and is not under constitutional challenge. Finally, had the trial judge considered the substantial and irreversible public interest in the matter, the court would have hesitated to suspend the entire Act," the judges said.

AGENCIES



UN Police Inspector Anna Mwano (R) from Tanzania receives an award from Commissioner Violet Nasambu Lusala (C) of the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) for her role in supporting her female UNISFA colleagues in resolving gender-related challenges. This includes helping in establishing a network for police women and performing her duties with strict adherence to respect for human rights and equality in Abyei, a city located at the border between Sudan and South Sudan. Left is UN Police (UNPOL) personnel officer Gift Obeng. Photo: Special Correspondent

Road Fund earns over 15 million dollars

MAPUTO

THE chairperson of the Board of Directors of Mozambique's Road Fund, Angelo Macuácuca, has revealed that the tolls installed just over a year ago on national roads, mainly on the main north-south highway (EN1), have already earned one billion Meticaís (15.7 million dollars, at the current exchange rate).

"The objective was to generate resources to maintain the roads and this is being achieved",

Macuácuca told the press recently, on the sidelines of the Annual Joint Evaluation Meeting of the Integrated Road Sector Program, 2022.

According to Macuácuca, the amount is already being used for road rehabilitation and maintenance, and this means that the objectives of the tolls are being achieved.

The toll gates, seven in total, installed under the Sustainable Road Maintenance Program (PROASME), raised controversy

when they were installed on various national roads.

They have been operational since June 2022, and the tolls paid range from 50 Meticaís to 1,000 Meticaís, depending on the nature of the vehicle, with the largest tolls being paid by the heaviest trucks.

These fees are applied at the tolls of Chidenguele on the Xai-Xai -Zandamela section of EN1; Nhadundela which covers the Zandamela -Lindela section; Malova, on the Lindela -Nhachengue

section and Mapinhane, which is between Nhachengue and Pambara, all located in the south of the country. There is also the Camuaza - Chenga toll gate, located on the EN7 highway between Catandica and Changara, in the central province of Manica. These fees are also applied at the Congerenge toll gate, between Lichinga and Mandimba; and at the Utukulo toll gate, between Mandimba and Cuamba, both on the EN13 road, in the Northern Province of Niassa. AGENCIES

Russia writes off all Somalia's debts ahead key summit

MOSCOW

SOMALIA and Russia signed two agreements to settle Mogadishu's debts to Moscow totaling more than \$690 million.

Somali Deputy Prime Minister Salah Ahmed Jama said that part of these debts will be paid according to the new payment schedule and part will be written off.

The signing ceremony took place on the sidelines of the second Russia-Africa summit.

One of Somalia's debts to Russia is \$7.5 million, while the other exceeds \$684 million and is part of the Paris Club loans.

The Somali government thanked Russia for signing the deals, Salah Ahmed Jama noted, adding that this move brings Somalia closer to improving its financial and monetary policy.

The debt owed by Somalia to external creditors is estimated to be more than \$5 billion. Somalia Meanwhile, More than 60 Al-Shabaab fighters were killed in a joint operation by government forces and local residents in the El-Dhun Agow area of the Bay region.

The operation is part of the latest efforts to fight Al-Shabaab in the Southwest state of Somalia, where the militants started the imposition of a blockade on key towns, including Baidoa that worsened the humanitarian situation.

The Ministry of Information of the Southwest State said that the operation was conducted in cooperation with the National Army and the locals who attacked the Al-Shabaab base.

This operation aimed at eradicating Al-Shabaab and at the same time restoring peace and security in the areas of the regional administration.

The government said this operation is a big blow to Al-Shabaab, which has been responsible for many attacks in Somalia and neighboring countries, mainly Kenya.

The government of Somalia, with the support of its AU and US allies, said it is committed to defeating Al-Shabaab this year before the full ATMIS exit.

Heavy casualties have been reported after a suicide bomber detonated an explosive vest at Mogadishu's Jaalle Siyaad Military Academy early Monday, sources said.

The bomber targeted military personnel as they lined up after breakfast.

A military officer who asked not to be identified as he was not authorized to speak publicly to the media, told VOA that at least 20 soldiers were killed and dozens of others were injured in the attack. Some of the wounded sustained life-threatening injuries, he said.

AGENCIES

'Work on factors leading to poor performance at workplace'

By Henry Mwangonde

GEORGE Simbachawene, Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance) has ordered directors of government executive agencies to carry out a performance audit to establish their relevance amidst low performance at the workplace.

Speaking when addressing heads of government executive agencies in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Simbachawene said the performance of most of the or-

ganisations was worrying, saying this was against the Executive Agencies Act, 2009 which established them.

"The time for performance audit is now because most of the government agencies are underperforming and some are doing business as usual, the same as some ministries while the establishment of the agencies was to facilitate service delivery," he said.

Simbachawene said government executive agencies must strive to end bureaucracy

which is the main problem in government, saying the government will not hesitate to take serious actions including ending their existence.

The minister also stressed on the need for directors and managers of the agencies to adhere to ethics and discipline saying most of them have been acting in a way which does not match with public service code of conduct.

The minister said the law provides for establishment and operation of semi-autonomous

executive agencies within the ambit of government ministries for the purpose of providing public services in selected areas in a more efficient and effective manner and for related matters.

According to the law, all executive agencies in Tanzania are service providers, but three—Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA), the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) and, more recently, the government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA)—also

perform a regulatory function. As task-specific organizations, each agency has a different group of clients, some private but many from within government itself.

Earlier, Rector of the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC) Dr Tumaini Katunzi said there are various issues which cause the performance of government executive agencies saying among them was the collision of some functions with ministries and government departments.

He said at times ministries are found performing functions which are supposed to be done by agencies hence suffocating their financial muscles because mostly the services are commercial.

"The other issue was that of employment, most of the time the ministry employs people on behalf of agencies, a move which leads to incompetent people being employed because they do not understand what kind of workers the agency wants.



Industry and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji (C, foreground) is shown around the Intracom fertiliser factory in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Kinana: Tanzania's Number One hero is Mwalimu Julius Nyerere

By Guardian Correspondent, Butiama

CCM Vice Chairman (Mainland) Abdulrahman Kinana has said Tanzania's Number One Hero is late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere because of his to the great job he did to lead Tanzania's forces to oust Uganda's dictator Idi Amin as well as fighting for justice and equality for all.

Kinana (pictured) made the remarks here on Tuesday after visiting Mwalimu Nyerere's grave at Butiama as part of the commemoration of Heroes Day—the heroes who fought for the country's independence, saying that Nyerere led the liberation struggles of the entire African continent, while fighting for justice and equality.

"The Father of the Nation is respected here in the country and we shall continue holding him in high esteem as everyone knows his great contribution, and the entire world knows about it," he said.

He added that the late Mwalimu Nyerere "remains a good symbol of the nation for the nation's integrity and that is why even today when you want to discuss any national issue you cannot avoid mentioning him as his leadership was a good example for many countries. "And that is why we have decided to



start our visit here in Mara Region to convey our respects to the Father of the Nation who gave us many examples to emulate from his leadership."

Kinana added: "Tanzanians will continue holding him in high esteem, I do not prefer to talk about other countries which you know that wanted to build up democracy but did not work, this situation never happened under the leadership of the Father of the Nation."

He explained that Mwalimu Nyerere led Tanzania's forces to Uganda and accomplished the mission and added that even today Uganda and their President Yoweri Museveni respect Mwalimu Nyerere's family and Tanzanians in general.

Tanzania now turns focus to equip personnel with specialised skills

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AFTER investing heavily in the infrastructural development in the country's health sector, Tanzania is now turning its focus to equipping the personnel with specialised and skills upgrading training.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the President's Office in-charge of Regional Administration and Local Government, Dr Wilson Mahera Charles has said.

Dr Mahera was speaking during the occasion to officially open the special training programme for health workers from eleven district councils in Tanga Region.

The two-weeks long training programs for health workers from Tanga Region have been funded by the Germany International Development Agency (GIZ).

The health personnel from Tanga have been undergoing specialised auxiliary medical training at the Centre for Educational Development in Health Arusha (CEDHA), which is a government-owned institution operating in the city.

"As the government is working

to ensure that it improves health services in sync with eradicating maternal deaths for both mother and child, it is very crucial to periodically train the medical workers in the country to update their knowledge," said Mahera.

"While it is important to invest in hospital buildings and other medical infrastructures as well as equipment, it is even more vital to ensure that the personnel are better equipped through a series of additional training," explained Mahera.

It was revealed that Tanzania is investing over 950 billion in the construction of new hospitals, dispensaries and health centers across the nation.

"We have constructed more than 720 health centers and out of these there are 552 which have been fully equipped to perform surgical operations at district levels," explained further Dr Mahera.

Dr Mahera added that the country currently has over 188 hospitals and intends to spend 200 billion/- of the same in the procurement of medical equipment and supplies.

The Vice Principal, Centre for

Educational Development in Health Arusha (CEDHA) Dr Johannes Lukumay pointed out that the value of medical properties and equipment that the state invests in the country, will only be realized through upgraded skills of health workers.

On his part, the Health Secretary from Lushoto District Council, Mile Mdika said the medical personnel undergoing the training sessions in Arusha are expected to return to their work station and help to train their fellow colleagues.

CEDHA serves as the Northern Zone Health Resource Centre (ZHRC) catering for four regions of Arusha, Tanga, Manyara and Kilimanjaro and serving 29 districts and 30 Health Training Institutions (HTIs) in the process.

As a sustainable organisation in educational, research and consultancy CEDHA is serving both Tanzania and the East African community with a particular focus on health personnel education, health services management and continuous professional development in health.

PPRA urges institutions to involve officials about national new e-procurement system

By Guardian Reporter

THE Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has instructed public institutions to make sure all officials involved in the procurement process are provided with training on the use of the new national e-procurement system of Tanzania (NeST).

The directive issued by the Authority recently, also called for the users of the system to impart the knowledge to others when they leave their institutions for any reason.

The PPRA statement said another responsibility of the public institutions is to ensure that the preparation of their budgets, in particular regarding goods and services to be procured, is done in accordance to the needs.

The new National e-Procurement System of Tanzania (NeST) officially came into operation in July this

year in which public institutions have been called upon to make annual procurement plans in order to be allowed to use the system.



The PPRA statement said another responsibility of the public institutions

KUPOTEWA KWA PASSPORT



RWAMBALI ALEX THOMAS anatangaza kupotea kwa hati yake ya kusafiria (Passport) yenye namba TAE 145287 iliyoitolewa na Idara ya Uhamiaji Dar es Salaam tarehe 19/07/2019. Yeyote atakayeiona atoe taarifa kituo cha Polisi. Taarifa ya Polisi: MWA/NY/RB/250769/2023.



NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID

VACANCY

Position: Programme Assistant - Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)
Job Location: Dar es Salaam
Reporting to: Program Manager

Background:
 Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) is a diaconal organization mandated by churches and Christian organizations in Norway to work with people around the world to eradicate poverty and injustice. In Tanzania, NCA works mainly with Faith Based Organization to uphold human dignity, promote human rights, and accompany poor and marginalized communities in their struggles for economic and social justice. NCA implements programs that are aligned with NCA global strategy, people's needs in Tanzania and the Government of Tanzania's development policies. NCA's focus areas include strengthening interfaith civil society and building social cohesion, fighting inequality, improving agricultural production in a climate change environment, and increasing market access as well as ensuring gender justice. NCA is Core Humanitarian Standard certified.

NCA has secured a one year project from NORAD Nasen Funding Stream on food Security, and is seeking a dynamic, experienced, strategic-thinking and result-oriented Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Programme Assistant to work on this grant programme activities in line with the Country Strategic Plan and NCA policies with ecumenical and interfaith partners.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Responsible for ensuring M&E systems are functional for the Nansen project.
- Responsible for monitoring and assessment of the progress of the project.
- Follow up on implementation of recommended issues to ensure project targets are achieved.
- Support in development of digital data collection and management system.
- Coordinate and support partners cross-learning and adaptation.
- Responsible for project reporting, including documentation of change and impact of the project interventions in the target community.

Qualifications

- Tanzanian national with a good Bachelor's or Master's degree in, Monitoring and Evaluation, Education, Development studies, Social Science, Agriculture; from a recognized learning institution
- At least 2 years of relevant experience with relevant public or private institution.
- Research skills with practical knowledge in application of both quantitative and qualitative research methods in development work context.
- Competence in design and use of digital systems, for data collection and information management.
- Confident in using MS Office (including excel and power point)
- Ability to work in multi-cultural settings and being able to interrelate with relevant stakeholders both at the national and sub-national levels.
- The ability to learn fast and adapt to change, and work under pressure/ tight deadlines with minimum supervision.
- Being a positive and good team player, open to the new procedures and flexible to the changing environment.

Personal qualities

- Systematic, analytical, dynamic, strategic and result oriented
- Energetic and enterprising
- Team player with good collaboration skills
- Team player and collaborative
- Good relationship building and relationship management skills with internal and external actors

Remuneration
 An attractive compensation package based on performance and consummate with the responsibility will apply to the successful candidate.

How to apply:
 Please submit your application to the address ncatz@nca.no. Only electronic applications are considered. In the subject line of your email, please state clearly which position you apply for. The application should consist of a brief motivation letter and CV, compiled into one document of maximum 4 pages. The document name should start with your name and include which position you apply for. E.g., <Theonat M. Jonas - Programme Assistant- PMER>. Certificates are not of interest at this stage but should be brought during the interview. Applications failing to meet these requirements or sent to other email addresses will not be considered. Interviews will take place in mid of August 2023. If you do not hear from us, please consider your application unsuccessful. Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) reserves the right not to make an appointment/contact.

Application deadline is 8th August 2023.

Sluggish school project forces relocation of 400 Form V and VI students to other schools

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

MORE than 400 Form V and VI girl students taking science subjects in Njombe District who expect to begin their lessons this year will fail to enroll in the new secondary school being built in Usalule village in Wanging'ombe District because it is not completed.

Despite the government dishing out 4.1bn/-, construction work is still sluggish, hence the students will be allocated to other schools outside the area.

This was revealed during the visit to the school of Njombe Regional Commissioner, Anthony Mtaka who was visibly irritated, saying it was a shame to fail completing the school when the government had already funds since August last year.

He also called for a meeting with district officials to discuss whether the contractors should continue with the project or have their contracts terminated.

"You are government officials and well respected in your positions, you have not been called to contribute anything yourselves, the money for the project

was provided, instead you conduct numerous sittings that are not beneficial to the situation, and you cannot even decide whether to terminate services of the contractors who have been sluggish all along," RC Mtaka said.

He added: "The administrative building has not even started, others are at the foundation level and I am told the main excuse is lack of electricity, does bringing in trucks of aggregate or digging up foundations need electricity?" he queried.

He added: "We have 3bn/- since last August and we are still at the foundation level, we have 4bn/- but we have not even started the construction of the administrative building, this is disgusting," he added.

Earlier Njombe regional education officer Nelasi Mulungu said the government's aim was to receive Form V students in August this year but due to the project's sluggish work we have been forced to send them to other schools.

For their part, the project's contractors, including Joseph Nyikonde, Samuel Mhelela and Mariam Sangalawe said the project's delay was caused by the delay in supplying wa-



Pedestrians move with difficulty yesterday along the side of a road in Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Mwisho suburb littered with piles of mud and garbage scooped from a nearby trench. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Water contractor abandons project, instructed to refund money

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

WATER Ministry Deputy Permanent Secretary Cyprian Luhemeja has ordered the revocation of the contract with contractor Pet Corporation and return the money received from the government who is claimed to abandon the water project at Mwaningi Village in Msalala district, Shinyanga

Region.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary made the remarks yesterday during his inspection visit of water projects in the District.

He said the government will not tolerate to continue working with contractors who abandon projects while the people continue using unsafe water.

He also said that the contractor should be blacklisted, should not be awarded any other water projects.

"Today I order the contractor to report to the Kahama district Commissioner, they should also pay back the government money already paid," said Luhemeja.

He also instructed Shinyanga Region RUWASA manager, Eng. Julieth

Payovela that the money that will be refunded by the contractor should be given to the villagers to enable them start digging trenches for water pipes and that the project should be implemented under 'Force Account' and must be completed by October this year.

For her part Eng. Payovela said the implementation of the water project

began February last year at a cost of 2.2bn/-, but the contractor abandoned it while he had already been paid some of the money and he is nowhere to be seen.

Some of the residents of Mwaningi Village, including Malita Charles said they are faced by acute shortage of safe and clean water for domestic use. "Here at the village we have no safe

and clean water, we use muddy water from the dam over there, but we treat our drinking water with chlorine to at least make it drinkable," Malita said.

Modesta Masai, another villager said the muddy water is a threat to our health as they often suffer from water borne diseases, and appealed to the government to complete the water project for them.



Abdalla Shaib Kaim (R, in beret), head of this year's edition of the Uhuru Torch Race, turns on a tap at Masagala in Kishapu District on Thursday to launch the implementation of a sub-project under which Lake Victoria waters will be pumped all the way to the village as well as Maganzo. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

PURA to complete classroom building project under CSR

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

THE Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA) director, Charles Sangweni has said they are closely following guidelines for the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to oil firms including the construction of new classrooms at Likongo Primary School in Lindi Region.

Sangweni made the remarks as he was proceeding to Lindi Region for his working visit during which he visited the school to see the progress of the classrooms building project under TPDC sponsorship and its partners.

Speaking at the school, Sangweni said guidelines on CSR are among issues set to be worked on this year as outlined in their plans on which they discussed with Likongo Ward Councillor and members of various local council committees and some school officials.

"It is our hope that the implementation will be completed this year and that is why we have decided to closely follow up the issue," Sangweni said.

"Likongo area in Lindi Municipality is the site for the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) processing plant.

"The plant with an estimated investment of 97trn/- is expected to provide many opportunities to Tanzanians including employment and various services when the project will be implemented," he said.

For his part, Mbanja Ward Councillor, Thabit Ngwame said the classrooms building issue at the school is supposed to be addressed and finalised as it was in the books for too long.

'Taboo on poultry is still a social barrier for women'

By Correspondent Ambrose Wantaigwa, Tarime

HUMAN rights and development stakeholders have urged communities in Tarime District, Mara Region, to stop forbidding women from eating chicken seasoning parts because it degrades the dignity of women as well as stimu-

lates gender-based violence (GBV).

In a joint training held in Sirari which brought together local government leaders and organised by the non-governmental organisation NABROHO, it was learnt that there are still some societies cultivating outdated traditions and culture which include pre-

venting a woman from eating chicken soup.

Other harmful traditions include female genital mutilation (FGM) where hundreds of under-aged girls are forced to drop out of school.

He said that among the traditions associated with gender violence prohibiting a married woman to open

the gate in the household as the act is a curse to the family. He said that despite the government and civil organisations developing various efforts, including the enactment of laws against acts of gender violence.

NABROHO project manager, Kubini Nkondo said the training has made it possible to set strategies to

deal with violence as well as strengthen the communication system between local government leaders and law enforcement agencies.

"We have agreed with the local government leaders to ensure that they report all perpetrators of acts of humiliation against women and young girls, including female genital mutilation, in

government agencies so that action can be taken," Kubini said.

According to Sirari ward councillor Amos Sagara all village and township government leaders have been directed to submit names of all parents whose children have been circumcised and failed to join school this year. The Sirari ward

development committee agreed that any parent who neglects to send a child to school strict measures will be taken.

He said hundreds of young girls are convinced by some unscrupulous parents to undergo FGM in the neighborhoods with the aim of avoiding law enforcement officers.

Indian Diaspora, Tanzanians show authentic dishes, tastes

By Beatrice Philemon

MORE than 1000 Indian Diaspora and Tanzanians gathered at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural (SVCC) in Dar es Salaam yesterday to learn about foods that are super healthy and nutritious.

Anurag Kaur, founder of Dar es Salaam Based Women Group-Dar Indian Women's Association (DIWA) said the one day DIWA's food and fun mela that was organised by High Commission of India in collaboration with DIWA and SVCC enable participants to showcase amazing authentic Indian foods.

She said there were 41 stalls that showcased the food and allowed Indian Diaspora and Tanzanians to purchase Indian dishes to support DIWA members who will in turn give it back to vulnerable orphans.

So far DIWA has been able to donate food items to Sarah Orphanage centre in Mbagala, Dar es Sa-

laam.

During the event, DIWA has also organized DIWA's food and fun mela competition that involved 41 stalls and offered prizes to winners. The awards were presented by India High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Pradhan.

She said the Bongo Sango Team was named as best savoury recipes and won the trophy, the women empowerment team was named as the best decorated stall and making best dessert food dubbed 'Fenesi Halwa'. The Maharashtra Mandal team was named as the best team.

Binaya Pradhan lauded DIWA for organising the event to display interesting Indian and Tanzanian foods including new variety of millets that can also be grown in Tanzania.

"It is the first time we are having this kind of event, I have witnessed different food cuisines and good decorations. When we buy food we support DIWA members

to secure funds to support more orphans and the education sector as well," he said.

He lauded DIWA for showcasing new varieties of millets that have huge healthy benefits. He said decisions to focus on displaying millet aims to help both Indians and Tanzanians to cultivate and eat millets.

Abdallah Nyoni, Africa Kabaddi Confederation, founder and vice president said: "I am impressed with delicious savoury sorghum food mixed with millet, cashewnut and groundnut. These are foods that Tanzanians can eat to improve their health status and support farmers because they will have a reliable market.

So far, farmers in Dodoma and Morogoro regions have been able to grow millet imported from India.

He said the event was very organised, allowing DIWA to display different food for both Indian diaspora and Tanzanians.



Ardhi University vice chancellor Prof Evaristo Liwa (R) and China Jiangxi International Economic and Technical Cooperation Co. Ltd director Peng Chao pictured in Dar es Salaam on Thursday signing an agreement on the construction of buildings at the university's main campus in the city. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Experts underscore need for care in taking essential drugs

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

A health expert from the Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute (KCRI), Mariana Shayo, has advised Tanzanians to stop taking drugs without prescription from qualified health practitioners to avoid side effects including antimicrobial resistance.

She gave the advice recently when speaking to students at the Reginald Mengi secondary school in Moshi District, Kilimanjaro Region during a special camp to provide awareness education on various health issues.

"Antimicrobials resistance is one of the global public health threats facing people, especially those who use medicines without getting professional advice from doctors," she said.

She said some people may decide to take drugs even when they experience a normal pain caused by fatigue. She said the behaviour is dangerous and if left to continue for a long period, it will lead to an antimicrobial resistance situation.

She mentioned other factors that lead to drug resistance as lack of clean water and sanitation and inadequate infection prevention and control which promotes the spread of microbes, some of which can be resistant to antimicrobial treatment.

Commenting on the camp, Shayo said it was organised by KCRI in collaboration with the sequencing Tanzania project with funding from Denmark.

The camp was aimed to provide education to students at different schools and the community to create a generation with a positive understanding on the correct use of medicines.

"The project also aims to build the capacity for laboratory technicians in selected regional hospitals to enable them to detect epidemic diseases," she added.

A psychology and mental health expert, Dr Aloyce Ambokile from the KCMC zonal referral hospital said lack of self-confidence among many people, including the youth, was one of the causes of mental health related challenges.

In her opening remarks, the head of KCRI laboratory, Prof Irene Kihwelu advice young people to make good use of social networks.

"Technological advancements have brought many successes but there are things that you should not copy. Misuse of social networks may destroy your future life plans," she said, adding that cyber bullying can make people committing suicide.

"Some youth prefer to act and live the types of lives they find on social networks; if young people are not careful, they will ultimately find their life interrupted by inappropriate contents that are against our morals," she said.

TEN/MET cites lack of budget controls, problems with monitoring in schools

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Tanzania Education Network (TEN/MET) has cited lack of information about school budget process, expenditure and parents' involvement is among the factors that hinder promotion of accountability and transparency in education delivery in Tanzania.

Japhet Makongo, TEN/MET education adviser said this yesterday in Dar es Salaam when briefing journalists on the preliminary findings of the social accountability monitoring and public tracking project which commenced in September last year.

The two years' project aimed at empowering citizens to hold local government authorities and services providers to be accountable for the provision of quality public funded education was conducted in 10 local government authorities in Tanzania mainland.

He said some of the findings were lack of information about school budget processes and expenditures of funds allocated to schools.

He said information is not broadly shared to communities/parents and parents are not adequately informed/involved in school priorities and in the planning and budgeting process.

Others were low commitment from parents to participate on education improvement projects such as contributing to rehabilitation of schools infrastructure, weak accountability or slow response from local authorities to take actions against staff or leaders involved in cases of misappropriation of public resources.

He said most school committees lack capacity to enforce transparency and accountability at school level, and the poor and unfriendly school environment is compromising accountability.

"The successful implementation of social accountability monitoring (SAM) is always dependent on sufficient knowledge of existing state-citizen relations, and should include how to stimulate active citizen participation in order to influence continued decision-making process and outcomes especially at lower levels of governance," he recommended.

Makongo said SAM facilitates changes in citizen-state relationship by cultivating citizen's confidence and readiness to engage and interact with service providers accountable; thus promoting better public service delivery, and making public service providers accountable and responsive to citizen's demands.

He said that there were also crosscutting issues such as early marriages and pregnancies for girls, the case of gender Based Violence (Chamwino, Kalambo, Nsimbo, Pangani and Nachingwea councils)

Resource mobilisation manager at TEN/MET Wilson Chacha said that the two years project was conducted in 10 local government authorities in Tanzania mainland.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



MWALIMU JULIUS K. NYERERE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI) (CONSULTING SERVICES - FIRMS SELECTION)

Country: TANZANIA

Name of Project: Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET)

Credit No: IDA-68870-TZ

Project ID No: P-166415

Assignment Title: Provision of Consultancy Services for the Development of Masterplan, Design Review and Construction Supervision of the School of ICT and Business Studies at Tabora Campus

Reference No.: PA.132/WB-HEET-P166415/352449/2022-23/C/03

1. This request for Expression of Interests follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in the United Nations Development Business (UNDB) Issue No. **WB-OP0015674** of **28.11.2021**.
2. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Higher Education for Economic Transformation Project (HEET) in Tanzania, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
3. The consulting services ("the Services") include carrying out the Consultancy Services for the Development of Masterplan, Design Review and construction supervision of the School of ICT and Business Studies at Tabora Campus. The total duration for the entire assignment shall be 31 months from the date of contract signing while the supervision assignment will be carried out up to the end of the Defect Liability Period (DLP). The estimated level of effort is 63.6 professional staff months.
4. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment are available in the following website www.mjnuat.ac.tz or can be obtained at the address given below.
5. The Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere University of Agriculture and Technology (MJNUAT) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

A. Core business of the firm and ten (10) years in business

B. Relevant similar experience, which should specifically include the following:

- i. The firm should have at least ten (10) years of experience in the building industry and must have to demonstrate capabilities of undertaking works of similar nature and value and volume. Information to be provided should include name of assignments, names and full contact addresses of the clients, contract value (in equivalent US dollars) and period (dates) of execution of assignments.
- ii. Demonstration of experience of work of similar nature executed by the firm within the previous ten (10) years (2013-2022). At least one should be pure in education field

C. Technical and managerial capability of the firm

The Consultant must provide the structure of the organization, general qualifications and number of Key staff. (Do not provide CV of the Key staff. Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage).

6. Attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" Fourth Edition, November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
7. Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a Joint Venture (JV), all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. Therefore, each member of JV shall independently meet the requirements of the evaluation criteria. The experience, technical & managerial capability of the Sub-Consultant shall not be evaluated to enhance the qualification of the Lead Firm or JV.
8. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.
9. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 0800 - 1530 Hours East African Time on Monday to Friday inclusive except on public holidays.
10. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, by fax, or by e-mail) by 18th August, 2023 14:00 Hours East African Time. The firms which will submit their EOIs via e-mail must get confirmation of the receipt of their documents. In case the firm does not receive acknowledgement within two days after sending the documents via email they should call +255282985750 or +255755282985748 for follow-up.
11. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful Consultant's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the Request for Proposals.

The address referred to above is:

The Secretary of Tender Board,
Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere University of Agriculture and Technology,
Attn: Head Procurement Management Unit,
P.O. Box 976,
Musoma, Tanzania,
Email: pmu@mjnuat.ac.tz;
Telephone: 255282985750/ +255282985748

VICE CHANCELLOR

MWALIMU JULIUS K. NYERERE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY



Tigo Pesa CEO Angelica Peshu speaks at Thursday's launch in Dar es Salaam of a 'Nivushe Plus' credit service now available through mobile phones, thanks to collaboration with Azania Bank. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt assures industrialists of better working environment

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

MINISTER for Industry and Trade, Dr. Ashatu Kijaji, yesterday assured industrialists that the government will continue resolving challenges facing them to make more conducive environment for their operations.

Dr Kijaji made the statement yesterday when she visited the Dodoma-based Itracom Fertiliser Company--ITRACOM located in Nala area, Dodoma to inspect the progress of the factory operations.

She said that the government is fully aware that industrialists are still facing some hurdles in executing their duties, "but, I can assure you that those challenges can be address as time goes."

"Lets continue to collaborate and develop the sector by producing more products to meet the country's demand and we're here to save you," she assured industrialists.

The minister also said that the Itracom once completed it will be able to produce up to 1.2 million tonnes of the farm inputs once it commences production.

She praised the factory for the production of fertilisers that do not contain a mixture of 100 percent of minerals, but 50 per cent are manure

and 50 per cent are minerals that bring life to the land by its nature and quality.

Dr Kijaji said that after the completion of the construction of the Factory in the first phase, it will be able to produce 1.2 million tons per year while the domestic consumption is 650,000 tonnes, so there will be no reason to import fertilisers from abroad.

She also welcomed the countries of East Africa and Africa through the African Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) to buy fertiliser from the factory, commending Kenya for deciding well and has already bought 3000 tonnes of the input.

Dr. Kijaji however urged Tanzanians to adhere to required ethics at work when hired by investors who establish projects in the country so as to improve their incomes and the country's economy.

Itracom director, Nduwimana Nazaire thanked the government for recognizing the efforts of the factory and urged the Ministry of Industry and Trade to cooperate with other ministries to ensure that the inputs reach many farmers across the country.

The director further said that the factory produces fertiliser Fomi Kuzisha, Fomi otesha and Fomi nenepesha which bring a revolution in enhancing the quality of the land due to its nature.

EALAN members urged to use, cement established partnership

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE VICE Chancellor of Ardhi University (ARU) Prof. Evaristo Liwa has urged members of the Eastern Africa Land Administration Network (EALAN) to value and cement the established partnership for improved land administration in the region.

Prof. Liwa made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam at the 2023 EALAN conference.

He said the exchange of knowledge and sharing experiences in land administration coupled with the skills acquired by university trainers from the pre-conference training on cur-

ricular development of short courses for practitioners should contribute to EALAN members to increase their capacity in delivery of land administration education.

"We need to enhance the capacity of land administration systems to respond to the demands of good land governance in the Eastern Africa countries. The enhanced land administration systems stand to contribute to the fulfilment of the Bathurst Declaration on the importance of land administration for attainment of sustainable development," Prof. Liwa said.

He said Ardhi University is the lo-

cal organising committee and has taken a pivotal role in organising the conference with the support from EALAN secretariat, GIZ - African Union and the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC), all being the important partners in the collaboration.

"I understand that prior to this conference, there has been a training of trainers' workshop on curricula development for representatives of the EALAN member universities and the AGM. I believe the training has equipped the trainers with curricula development skills that will be replicated to other staff at the 12 participating member universities," he said.

"This is a commendable contribution in advancing land administration education in the Eastern Africa region and this gathering is aimed to share knowledge and research in various perspectives in the effort of achieving efficient land administration systems that can efficiently address land governance challenges in our countries," he added.

Prof Liwa said it is important to tackle challenges and issues of security of land tenure, land markets, and land administrations systems which have remained troublesome and unjust to many people.

He said from urban to rural a tiny

bit of land is mapped and titled because the existing technologies are yet to be utilised fully to enable the Eastern African countries to realize a comprehensive land administration systems. He elaborated that land administration is interdisciplinary and broader in nature; hence participants have come a wide range of land related disciplines and stakeholders including scholars, policy makers and practitioners from the land governance realm

He said the composition of a mix of participants therefore promises fruitful discussions and sharing of knowledge during the conference.

The deputy VC noted that the challenges impacting on land governance are manifested in land conflicts, inequalities in access to land rights and resources, limited access to land by women and vulnerable groups, widespread informality in land markets and land development, inefficient use of land and natural resources and many more.

He said the conference therefore was an opportune forum for stakeholders in land governance to share an account of their experiences in addressing the challenges facing the Land administration systems in the region.



Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro (L) briefs journalists in Songea municipality on Thursday on the achievements registered by the Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign which is being implemented in the region and is expected to benefit more than 60,000 people. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Constitution-making process to begin this September - minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

THE government has said that the process of making the country's new constitution is now expected to commence in September, this year.

Addressing reporters on Thursday here, Dr. Damas Ndumbaro, Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs said that the process will commence by engaging special groups of experts and religious institutions to educate the public.

He noted that the major goal of starting with the provision of education is to ensure that every Tanzanian knows the current constitution including its advantages and gaps.

"We are not saying that the current constitution is clean, no, we know that it has some gaps but also its good side, so we need to tell all Tanzanians what all it carries and where are the gaps for them to provide recommendations on where to make amendments," he explained.

The minister said the government has shown its determination to provide Tanzanians with a new and better constitution than any other that has ever happened in the country.

"The provision of public education will help everyone to read and analyse what is in the constitution that we have because it is hard to analyse something they do not

know as there are few Tanzanians who know deeply about the current constitution," he said.

Dr Ndumbaro said that initial processes commenced by the government setting aside special funds for constitution making where it was increased by over 180 per cent so as to facilitate the initiatives in this financial year.

"A total of 9bn/- has been allocated to facilitate the constitution making process in this fiscal year, they are not enough but will help commence initial processes of public education and in December, we will submit requests for additional budget," Dr Ndumbaro explained.

He named the groups which will engage in educating Tanzanians on new constitution making as university scholars, religious leaders and the private sector as well as media practitioners.

In May, this year President Samia Suluhu Hassan directed Judge Francis Mutungi, the political parties registrar, to convene a meeting of political parties to review and map out implementing recommendations of the task force earlier collecting views on how to make multiparty democracy work.

Zuhura Yunus, the State House director of communications, said in a statement that President Samia convened a meeting at the Chamwino State House, to kick start the process for writing a new constitution.

Olmotonyi residents thank SUA for helping them combat poverty

By Guardian Reporter

RESIDENTS living near Olmotonyi training forest in Arusha Region have thanked the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) for providing them with the opportunity to engage in farming as well collect firewood to lift them economically.

The residents expressed their gratitude recently when speaking to journalists within the forest owned by SUA, which is specifically used for practical training for students pursuing various forestry degrees at the university

Mami Lowassa, one of the residents

who was collecting firewood in the forest said that the university management has made a very big decision allowing citizens to collect some resources as well as providing them with farming areas thus enabling them to generate income to support their livelihoods and families.

According to her, she has grown witnessing her parents entering the Olmotonyi Forest to farm in designated areas as well as collect firewood.

"Many low and middle income citizens here in Arusha depend on agriculture to sustain their lives, but unfortunately there are very few agricultural areas. However, due to good relations between

SUA and the community, has enabled many citizens to obtain areas to grow various crops, especially corn, beans and vegetables within this forest especially in open areas where they have already harvested," Mami explained.

Another Julius Sumayaki said after both his parents died, he was left with three younger siblings to take care of but he has no job or farm to cultivate to meet his needs but through the special plots set by SUA, he is engaging in farming and earning income.

"I have no good words to thank this university for its good support that we receive, it has allowed us to get firewood

from the remains of harvested trees as well as conduct farming. This forest is our life, me and my younger siblings, but also many young people here in the town," Sumayaki said.

Said Kiparu, manager of the forest training centre, said that apart from providing opportunities for the community around the forest to get firewood and agricultural areas, the citizens have been providing great cooperation in providing various information about forest poachers.

"The citizens have seen the importance of this forest, they are treating it as of their own and engaging in initiatives to protect it," he said.

Dr Agnes Sirima, Principal of the SUA's College of Forestry Wildlife and Tourism (CFWT) said that providing the people around Olmotonyi Forest the opportunity to cultivate in the forest is a good contribution made by the College to the community as neighbors around the forest.

"In this way, we build strong relationships with the surrounding community and make them learn about the importance of forest conservation but also become good forest guards and thus reduce challenges of burning unlike in the southern highlands where fire disasters destroy many planted forests and cause losses to stakeholders, explained Dr Sirima



Muheza District Traffic Police Officer Leonard Bandora (L) pictured at the Muheza town main bus stand earlier this week overseeing a crackdown on motorcycle taxi riders allegedly involved in various offences, including operating without licences and without wearing helmets. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Putin promises grain exports to Africa in spite of sanctions

ST PETERSBURG

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has said his country will continue to export grain, including some free shipments, to Africa despite sanctions.

While discussing the halted Black Sea grain deal at the Russia-Africa Summit in St Petersburg, he promised large no-cost shipments of grain to six African countries.

"Our country will continue to support needy states and regions, in particular, with its humanitarian deliveries," said Putin.

"We seek to actively participate in building a fairer system of the distribution of resources. We are taking maximum efforts to avert a global food

crisis."

He referred to the difficulties of maintaining the supply with what he called "illegal sanctions" which "seriously impede the supply of Russian food, complicate transportation, logistics, insurance and bank payments."

Delegates from many African nations called for an effective deal on grain shipments.

Chairperson of the African Union and President of the Union of Comoros, Azali Assoumani, said: "An agreement [on grain supplies] must be possible to try to save thousands of people who are dependent on these imports."

"Africa's economic food security will be most at risk, especially since the continent is already badly affected by food

price shocks caused by the interruption of its supplies.

"We, therefore, urge the stakeholders to find common ground to allow the resumption of employment, to secure grain from Ukraine and Russia to our continent."

The summit follows Russia's withdrawal from a deal that allowed Black Sea exports, vital to many African countries, a move that drew a strong condemnation around the world and raised new threats to global food security.

Putin said that Russia made the decision to withdraw from the deal because "none of the terms of the deal, concerning the withdrawal of Russian exports of grain and fertilisers to world markets from sanctions, was fulfilled."

Social network intervention increases HIV self-testing among African fishermen by 50pc

By Edith Magak

AN approach relying on the social connections between men is a promising method for engaging hard-to-reach populations of men in HIV testing, prevention, and treatment.

A randomised controlled trial, presented at the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023) in Brisbane, Australia, this week showed a 50% increase in HIV testing among fishermen in Kenya and a 53% increase in linkage to health facilities.

In Africa, men have a higher likelihood of being unaware of their HIV status compared to women. This trend is particularly evident among highly mobile men, such as fishermen, who tend to have low rates of HIV testing and linkage to

treatment or PrEP (regular medication to prevent HIV infection).

Dr Carol Camlin of the University of California San Francisco told the conference that the HIV epidemic in Kenya is primarily concentrated in the region surrounding Lake Victoria, where many highly mobile men work in fishing communities. Unfortunately, these men have low rates of HIV testing and treatment, as well as low uptake of PrEP.

The reasons for this include limited access to services at fixed-location clinics that are often far from beaches and have opening hours that do not fit their fishing schedules. Additionally, traditional gender roles that associate health-seeking behaviour with weakness contribute to low engagement with testing and care. Nevertheless, HIV self-testing presents an opportunity

to bridge these gaps.

Dr Camlin and colleagues, therefore, conducted a study in Siaya, Kenya, a region with a population of one million, 79 beaches, 38,000 fisherfolk, and an HIV prevalence of between 9.5 and 19%.

The study sought to determine if a social network-based approach could improve testing and linkage outcomes among fishermen via secondary distribution of HIV self-tests and improve linkage to care and prevention among men who test for HIV.

Groups of male fishermen working on three beaches in Lake Victoria with close social connections were clustered together. The researchers asked men who they spent time with, both for work or leisure, and who they might turn to for help with money, health or

emotional problems. A highly connected man in each cluster was identified as the "promoter".

The 156 clusters were randomly assigned to either a control or an intervention group.

In the intervention group, the promoters were trained and given multiple HIV self-tests to distribute to other members of their cluster. They were also given transport vouchers worth US\$4 to encourage their cluster members to seek HIV treatment or PrEP.

In the control clusters, the promoters were given HIV information and referral vouchers for free self-tests at nearby clinics. They were encouraged to offer these to their cluster members.

A total of 733 men participated at the start of the study. The average age was 37 years; 85% were mar-

ried, with 22% being in polygynous relationships, and all worked as fishermen or in occupations linked to fishing.

After three months, 666 men participated in the follow-up survey. The results showed that self-reported HIV testing using self-testing was much higher in intervention clusters (60%) than non-intervention clusters (10%). Similarly, HIV testing through any means was also higher in intervention clusters (47% vs. 27%). Moreover, the proportion of individuals linked to ART or PrEP evaluation after testing was significantly higher in intervention clusters (70% vs. 17%).

Encouraging men to involve their male friends in prioritising their health can positively impact social norms and increase men's use of health services. Utilising social net-

works can be particularly effective in reaching mobile populations for treatment and prevention.

This is especially important given other data presented at the conference showing a higher HIV prevalence among fishing communities along the coastal corridor of West Africa than in the general adult population of their countries.

The Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance Survey estimated HIV prevalence in fishing communities for Cote d'Ivoire (3.4%), Ghana (2.2%), Togo (2.5%) and Nigeria (1.6%).

Benin had both the highest rate (4.6%) and the largest difference compared to the general population (0.9%). Few respondents had recently received free condoms, safer sex information or HIV testing.

Kidatu-Ifakara tarmac road construction is now 59 per cent complete, declares MP

By Guardian Correspondent

CONSTRUCTION of the 66.9km Ifakara-Kidatu road in Kilombero District which had once made the Kilombero Member of Parliament, Abubakar Asenga, kneel in mud while pleading with the government to build it at tarmac level is now 87 per cent complete.

In the past people used to walk four hours from Kidatu to Ifakara, but now the journey takes only one hour. Speaking in a special interview, MP Asenga said in the past the road had many challenges but later the government provided funds and begun constructing the road and now more than 47 kms of tarmac has been built along the road while the remaining 20km stretch from Signali to Ifakara is near to completion.

"We are thankful to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the construction of the tarmac road, as people in Ulanga, Mlimba and Malinyi districts are all farmers of various food crops including sugar cane and rice, and after it is fully completed this road will help us to transport our crops as well as farm inputs thereby increasing people economic activities," said MP Asenga.

He added that the road is essential because it joins together all wards in Kilombero District including 14 wards of the Kilombero Constituency, as there is another road to be built from Kidatu to Ifakara to Njombe Region.

Speaking on behalf of other people, Timtim Isaack and Razulu Hussein said since independence over 60 years ago the Kidatu-Ifakara road had no tarmac but within the two years of president Samia's leadership the road has been built at tarmac level.



Just a few minutes' drizzle yesterday and stagnant rainwater has rendered this part of this section of the Boko-Basihaya stretch of Dar es Salaam's Bagamoyo Road hardly passable for pedestrians. Photo: Correspondent Miraji

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

'Embraer 120 crash: A mock drill for emergency response'

THE Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) has clarified that the recent reported accident involving an Embraer 120 at Msufini Kidete village in Mkuranga District, Coast Region was not real. It was a mock operation to test readiness of rescue systems.

The plane was alleged to have crashed from Kilwa Masoko airport in Lindi Region and was heading to Tanga carrying 25 passengers.

TCAA's public relations and communications manager, Yessaya Mwakifulefule, told reporters in Dar es Salaam yes-

terday that the incident was a planned mock drill designed by authorities to measure preparedness for plane accidents.

He said the exercise was organised by (TCAA) which is responsible for coordinating and managing the search and rescue service for planes crash in Tanzania's airspace so as to test the country's ability and readiness to deal with rescue incidents of planes that crash on land or in water.

He said TCAA has cooperated with the Maritime Transport Regulatory Institutions which are the Tanzania Shipping

Agency (TASAC) for mainland Tanzania and the Maritime Transport Authority (ZMA) for Zanzibar.

This exercise has also involved public and private search and rescue institutions such as Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF), Police Force, Fire Brigade, Tanzania National Parks Agency (TANAPA), airlines, Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA), Meteorological Authority (TMA), Hospitals, Red Cross Tanzania, fishermen, together with other stakeholders in search and rescue," he said.

Mwakifulefule said Tanzania ratified the International Civil Aviation Convention in 1962 and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Convention in 1974 and became a member of the ICAO and IMO organisations.

He said that all the agreements managed by ICAO and IMO require the member countries to provide search and rescue services in air and water transport during accidents and emergency incidents of air and water transport within the territory of the member country.

He said in 1999, ICAO and

IMO prepared a joint manual for search and rescue in air and water transport (International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual) which began to be used in this country in 2001.

He further said the main objective of the guideline is to establish a common procedure for search and rescue during accidents and emergencies in air and water transport.

Mwakifulefule added that in the implementation of the instructions contained in the guideline, Tanzania has strengthened and improved

centres for coordinating search and rescue activities in air and water transport.

He said among the important instructions contained in the guide is asking the member countries to have a national plan to coordinate search and rescue activities in air and water transport.

"The ICAO and IMO guidelines also require member countries to test or practice the plan to test the capacity and readiness of all institutions involved in providing this important search and rescue service," Mwakifulefule added.

"Therefore doing exercises like this is to implement the requirements of the law and international agreements to improve search and rescue systems, procedures and equipment," he said.

He said that the exercise has involved local and foreign observers to assess the areas that need to be improved so that the service can be provided with great efficiency.

The manager further said observers are from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), domestic and international airlines, Dar es Salaam Maritime College (DMI) and maritime organisations.

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SATURDAY 29 JULY 2023

**Taking A New Look
At The News**
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Treasury has a share sale option in dissolving, merging state firms

AT a ceremony where the Treasury received a 5.5bn/- in TIPER dividend payout, the Treasury registrar announced that the government will soon list state companies slated for dissolution for poor performance, while merging a number of operational firms or organisations. He said some companies will be merged to increase efficiency, with the Treasury finalising evaluation of organisations and institutions for dissolving or merging. This is a theme that has for a while been addressed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan this year.

The president is expected to hold a wide ranging meeting with the relevant organisations, the Treasury and investment regulators now lodged in the President's Office, where the nuts and bolts of the plan will be spelled out. The accent in that announcement was placed on the fact that the changes will affect directors of institutions along with board members. This may procedurally be the major strategic issue being discussed in the office of the Registrar, surely!

Yet if the matter is examined from the viewpoint of investments it provides a different picture, for instance when the registrar says that some institutions performed poorly on account of incompetent executives. Here obviously the proper antidote would be to appoint others, or revamping the relevant boards, but the sole shareholder knows that boards and managements are often incurable. So restructuring takes a radical bent since experimenting with new leaders becomes disappointing, thus opting to cut costs by dissolution, gaining revenues, not 'try again' with a new board, etc. That is where Treasury stands.

When the registrar says contracts will be signed with the new directors and board chairmen to ensure

they perform accordingly, it is a reference to those which are not performing well but the government is ready to retain them, on the basis of a new understanding of their tasks. The trouble here is that this method is still too procedural, limited to reflections of the shareholder, thinking within the box of government and board, then with management. Why not shift to public-private partnership - and then sign a proper contract to that effect?

To be sure, signing contracts with new management heads and board chairmen, presumably with expertise in the specific areas, will be 'business as usual,' or more of the same, as failures don't arise from simple ignorance. Over-invoicing doesn't arise from lack of auditing knowledge but a skilful use of such methods, where it takes time for an auditor to notice any real discrepancy. Again, if the government wishes to amend some laws and regulations affecting execution of parastatal activities, why not take up credible partnerships with real investors, instead of signing 'contracts' with an expert getting 70m/- exit cash if he fails?

One valid observation by the registrar was that firms run by the state and joint venture firms must operate profitably and give appropriate dividends, he said, citing the 5.5bn/- dividend from TIPER. With joint ventures or partnerships the Treasury will be assured of dividends, not from contractual arrangements with investment chip into the matter, not just the procedural viewpoint as it is. Indeed TIPER is a good example, as being a joint venture it is a loanable entity operating on credible commercial references and expanding its activities, with greater dividends more or less assured next year. Voila!

We ought to chart strategies to reduce food-stress and drought

LOOKING back through the history of biological evolution and human civilisation, drought not only claimed lives of various creatures but also impeded the development of human civilisation.

Mycenae, one of the cultural centres of ancient Greece, which had been prosperous for centuries, finally became ruins due to the severe drought and the following famine (200 BC). The Mycenaean civilisation vanished along with the city as well. In modern times, damage caused by drought is more shocking.

According to statistics, five of the World Top Ten Major Natural Disasters happened in the 20th century are droughts; others are three earthquakes, one typhoon and one tsunami.

The severe drought in Africa (1968-1973) claimed 2 million lives, hit 25 million people in 36 countries and forced over 10 million victims to flee home. China is also frequently hit by drought and three out of the world five major droughts in the 20th century happened in China.

Yet due to the shortage of water conservancy facilities, Tanzania is still faced with severe water shortage which acted as bottleneck for social and economic development and the improvement of people's livelihood.

The population of Tanzania's central region, comprising Dodoma, Singida and Tabora, is exposed to a range of serious drought-related diseases, in addition to the nutritional impact of lack of rainfall. Prevalent illnesses include malnutrition, trachoma (a sight-threatening eye infection), dysentery, cholera and diarrhoea. New research shows that by 2030, even if the drought frequency and intensity remain stable, 5 per cent of the region's population will

go hungry. In addition, 5 per cent of the population will suffer from trachoma and almost 200,000 children under five from diarrhoea. This would be accompanied by many serious cases of cholera and dysentery.

According to a study, Tanzania has witnessed six major droughts in the last 30 years. The latest numbers from the UN suggest that 24 million people are facing food insecurity in eastern Africa alone, not counting millions of people in the southern region.

The government should therefore urgently evaluate the impact of drought and make short, medium and long-term interventions to save people's lives. Measures should include supplying relief food to households worst affected by food shortages, supplying more food to the market to stabilise prices and restricting cereal exports.

Such an evaluation would make it possible to determine whether there was a need to import cereals or ask the private sector not to export grain and sell it domestically instead.

As for medium and long-term interventions the government should promote irrigation farming as that would guarantee good harvests even during periods of adverse weather. It is time Tanzania made the best use of the over 29 million hectares that is suitable for irrigation farming. This land is currently grossly under-utilised.

We also feel that the government should release food from the national reserve to stabilise skyrocketing cereal prices. Fears of famine were heightened when the Tanzania Meteorological Agency announced that the country received below-average rainfall in November and December, last year.

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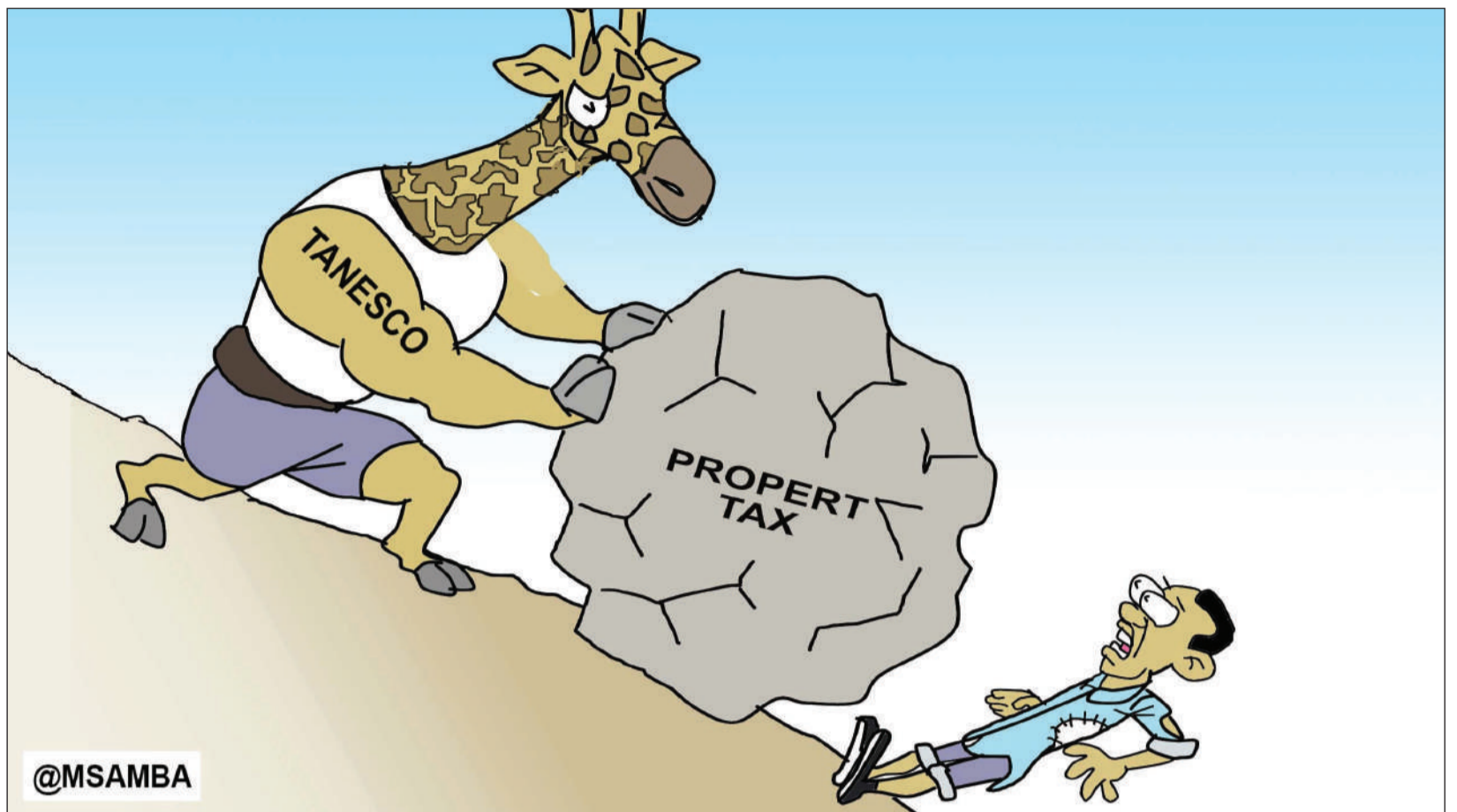
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Protecting families of deceased bank customers

By Special Correspondent

THERE is urgent need for a legislation to ensure easy access to accounts of the deceased by their families

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) recently released draft guidelines on the management of dormant accounts, unclaimed balances and other financial assets in banks and other financial institutions in Nigeria. It proposed that banks should transfer funds in accounts that have been dormant for up to 10 years into a trust fund account. The aim is for the apex bank to mop up about N500 billion in unclaimed balances considered dormant in over 59.7 million bank accounts across the country. According to the proposal, banks would have to transfer funds in accounts that have been dormant for up to 10 years into a trust fund account.

By its definition, a dormant bank account is one that has no customer or depositor-initiated transaction for a period of six months. Since dead people cannot operate

their accounts, it stands to reason that such accounts would be dormant. And because of that, relatives of many dead bank depositors or account holders go through harrowing experiences trying to access the money left in the accounts held by their deceased ones.

Therefore, whatever may be the motivation of the CBN's move to mop up dormant funds in banks, it is necessary to point out that there are no laws restricting the banks from providing Pay on Death (POD) service to a willing client.

Over the years, Nigerian banks have been renowned for mounting several roadblocks to frustrate survivors of deceased account holders.

To access such funds in bank accounts, probate or letter of administration are required. Probate will be required where a deceased died testate (leaving a will), while letter of administration is required where the deceased person died intestate (without a will). Whichever way, survivors of dead bank depositors do not find it funny accessing the funds left by their de-

ceased ones. It is more difficult for poor people.

With stringent conditions that banks demand of deceased depositors' survivors, the financial sector has continued to record more dormant accounts.

For inexplicable reasons, many families have complained of difficulty in securing letters of administration and even when they obtain one, banks often list other conditions that are difficult to meet. With millions of survivors made to forgo funds in the bank accounts held by their loved ones, the amount of unclaimed funds in commercial banks is estimated to be about N1.3 trillion.

We believe that the increasing advocacy for a legislation to mandate banks to provide Pay on Death (PoD) form to every account holder is not only timely but necessary and urgent.

With such legislation, it is expected that banks will be required to contact beneficiaries named by account holders in their PoD before or when such accounts go dormant and transfer the funds

to them. This will mitigate the hardship that many families and beneficiaries of deceased account holders face in procuring letters of administration.

There are lessons we can learn from other countries. For instance, Indian Prime Minister, Modi had in the Finance Bill 2023 proposed an amendment to the Government Savings Promotion Act, which sets to streamline who will get the funds if a depositor dies without nomination. The proposed amendment prescribed that the payment of the available balance in the account will be made to the person legally entitled to receive it if the account holder dies without declaring his nominee. Many other countries have defined laws about deceased bank depositors. We can't afford to be different.

Given what many families go through in the hands of callous bank executives, there is an urgent need to enact a legislation to ensure easy access to the bank accounts of their deceased ones. That should also be a matter of concern for the CBN.

Ghana patronises ongoing COVID-19 vaccinations

By Special Correspondent

WE commend the Ghana Health Service (GHS) for continuing to make sure that the country is not overtaken by any preventable COVID-19 infections.

Therefore, the GHS officials keep educating the public about the disease and also run vaccination exercises.

Thus, it rolls out its seventh edition of the National COVID-19 Vaccination Days campaign exercise from today.

The exercise, like the previous ones, targets persons who have not been vaccinated at all, and those aged 15 and above who have received a single jab.

The objective of the campaign is to increase the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines among eligible persons yet to be vaccinated, thereby ensuring herd immunity and ultimate protection against future infections in the country.

This is important because even though the World Health Organisation (WHO) has since May this year declared that COVID-19 no longer constitutes a public health emergency of international concern, it has not failed to state that the disease is now an established and ongoing health issue.

The WHO has therefore accepted that it is time to transition to long-term management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is where the praise for the GHS becomes loud because it is adhering to every piece of health advice from elsewhere, which shows its collaboration with global experts in dealing with the pandemic.

The country recorded its first COVID-19 infections in March 2020, followed by more cases and deaths subsequently.

The GHS did its best to tame the pandemic in the country by way of providing preventive



protocol, including hand-washing and wearing of face mask; isolating infected people for treatment and finally vaccination.

Unfortunately, some Ghanaians held on to some conspiracy theories and avoided adhering to the preventive protocol and receiving the vaccination even in the face of deaths of unfortunate infected citizens and others elsewhere. The truth is that COVID-19 is still around and can spring surprises anytime anywhere. This is why the GHS does not want to leave anything to chance and so continuously organises vaccination exercises.

Therefore, this is the time for the targeted groups to take advantage of the current vaccination exercise and save themselves from any future COVID-19 infections.

At least 60 per cent of Ghana's over 31 million people must be vaccinated for the population to attain herd immunity.

Efforts to achieve this must not be halted because the WHO says the pandemic is no

longer a public health threat of international concern.

Therefore, we implore members of the Ghanaian public who have not yet taken the COVID-19 jabs or have received only a jab to patronise the current exercise and help the country to achieve herd immunity so that everyone in the country will be safe in case of any resurfacing of the pandemic in the country.

Be informed that on May 18, 2023, there was an article by one Charles Buckley in the New York Times titled 'COVID is coming back in China lockdowns are not.'

In this article, Buckley said China abruptly abandoned its draconian 'zero-COVID' policies in December last year, and half a year on, COVID-19 cases again were on the rise.

China has been able to contain the situation though, but its case must be a caution to Ghanaians to help the GHS achieve success in its efforts for the health benefits of everyone resident in the country.

Constitutional right to presumption of innocence and natural justice

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at recurring land disputes prompted by growing population and land scarcity and said since land is a precious resource and a means of sustenance, we should take great care to develop it in a manner that respects other people's rights and interests. We also said we should find appropriate ways of handling land disputes to ensure those involved in land disputes settle them amicably and continue living in peaceful co-existence.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at the presumption of innocence as provided for in Article 13(6)(b) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977 (as amended until 2005), which states that "no person charged with a criminal offence shall be treated as guilty of the offence until proved guilty of that offence."

Related to this is a right to natural justice, which is provided for in Article 13(6)(a) of the Constitution. It states that "when the rights and duties of any person are being determined by the court or any other agency, that person shall be entitled to a fair hearing and to the right of appeal or other legal remedy against the decision of the court or of the other agency concerned."

In almost all cases, when a person is suspected of



committing an offence, people want to see that person being incarcerated or punished and when he or she is bailed because the offence he or she is accused of is bailable, the people become angry at him and at law enforcers.

A few days ago, a friend of mine called and told me the person I knew as bodaboda was almost killed by an angry mob after he was found carrying two passengers, who were believed to have robbed another bodaboda of his motorcycle.

Since I knew the person, I called him later and asked him what had happened to him. He told me that about five days ago, two people approached him at about 07:00 in the morning and asked him to take them to a certain place where they could get transport. Believing they were good people who wanted transport, he accepted it and rode them to the place they wanted to go.

Apparently, his passengers had stolen a motorcycle and were looking for a way to escape or steal another motorcycle. Then, something happened as some bodaboda were running after them. In the fracas, one of the passengers fell into the hands of the angry mob and was killed. The other ran away to a nearby police station, but it didn't help because the angry

mob killed him before he even arrived at the police station. This means that both suspected thieves were killed after they had revealed what they had stolen and where they had hid stolen the property.

Now, the person I called narrowly survived because when he had also fallen into the hands of the angry mob, he happened to narrowly escape as he ran as fast as he could to the house of one respected person who knew him well and who calmed down the angry mob that he was not a thief, but a known bodaboda of good standing in the community. So, he was spared by the angry mob, but had not been the person who defended him, he too would have been killed.

A few weeks ago, we talked about similar incidents, when two people on different occasions were killed by an angry mob after they were suspected of being thieves. We said the way the so-called "angry mob" behaves nobody can be said to be safe because once you are suspected of anything, the angry mob doesn't have time to think intelligently, but kill you and if anything, it may think otherwise after it has killed you.

Although we may sometimes feel that this mob psychology may deter some offenders, it is nevertheless very risky who

may fall a victim to the lynch mob. All this comes to one thing: when a person is taken to a police station, people don't want to see him or her being bailed or even released after the police find out that there is no sufficient evidence to take him or her to court.

But the logic of the angry mob is different because the angry mob doesn't reason, except act emotionally, unreasonably and illegally. With this type of behavior, we always risk the lives of innocent people in circumstances in which we would have saved them had we behaved intelligently, reasonably and legally. As we have said here above, the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania provides for presumption of innocence.

Even when a person is caught red-handed committing an offence, the law protects that person so that legal action may be taken against him or her and he or she should be treated as innocent until his or her issue is determined by a competent court or any other agency with legal powers to determine the issue brought before it.

If we follow this, then we will be able to spare many people from facing unjustified death by the angry mob. This shows we still have a long way to go to act justly, let alone follow legal procedures. To do this, we must cultivate a culture of tolerance and empathy. Suppose what we do to others would have been done to us, where would we have been today? So, let us take care and always try to act intelligently, reasonably and legally.

Today's legal maxim: "Suspicion rests strongly on the unfortunate side."

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The Law and You



Mandela Day 2023 commemoration and our culture of silence

By Andrew Bomani

THE 18 of July is the birthday of global peace icon, Nelson Mandela. His date of birth was designated by the United Nations General Assembly as an International Day in 2009. A most fitting tribute to a man who spent 27 years in prison, becoming as his good political friend, former British Prime Minister Anthony Blair described, "the world's most famous political prisoner."

I had the privilege of meeting Madiba in Johannesburg in the year 2000 during his role as the facilitator of the Burundi Peace Talks. My father was his representative, continuing on from his work with Julius Nyerere. I do remember Mandela upon being told that I had studied political science, remarking in jest that "I'm supposed to fear you."

I must say that the more the years go by since his passing, the more I appreciate him when looking at Africa's manifold challenges. For the sake of record, upon my joining my first political party, the UDP, in 2016, I took the initiative to commemorate Nelson Mandela International Day (NMID) by mobilising a few comrades to give a donation of foodstuffs to an orphanage in Magomeni, Dar es Salaam.

It was a wonderful occasion and the first time our party had done something of that nature. Unfortunately, due to problems that arose from the top of the party, we were unable to continue doing such community work, but it is our every intention that with a new political party in the pipeline, the day will firmly occupy its space on our annual calendar.

NMID 2023 was a special one as it was the 10th year since his death.

An event celebrating his life was organised at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) by the high commission of South Africa in collaboration with the United Nations. The icing on the cake was the support from the private sector under the aegis of the South Africa Business Forum.

The venue - the auditorium of the newly built library - was appropriate indeed. It is a finely done job by friends from China.

We were informed by the Principal of the Mwalimu Nyerere Leadership School in Kibaha of the original plan for the event to have taken place there only for the chancellor of UDSM, Jakaya Kikwete, who also gave the keynote address, to propose otherwise. That was a sound decision, no doubt.

An anti-climax to the day sadly was the quality of contributions from the floor. By and large, they were very ordinary. Hardly anything of interest was said by the student community. The two prominent panelists, Judge Joseph Warioba and Ambassador Ami Mpungwe, are ex-students of the university and if I were in their shoes, I'd have left with a sense of shame.

It speaks to a deep-seated problem of education quality issues in our country. Of course, in all this



features the language question. That English is a major hindrance for our students such that even some funny anecdotes on Mandela from Mpungwe didn't click.

As a caveat though, I was intimately involved in a remembrance event five years ago on the life of the late law lecturer, Dr Sengondo Mvungi that was all in Kiswahili. It was no different to the Mandela event in the type of contributions. Many students were present only in body, so to speak.

Such an occasion was surely a great opportunity for the student union leadership to display their knowledge of the continent. A school friend of mine once described our pitiful condition as the Tanzanian "culture of silence."

In an intellectual environment is where you find many

Tanzanians struggle while otherwise they are loquacious. It is the case even in our National Assembly when it comes to regional and international affairs. For instance, when Mandela departed, I had expected that our parliament would have set aside a special sitting to reflect on the epic journey we only know too well. Instead, it didn't go beyond 30 minutes. What a joke! The UK parliament set aside not less than seven hours or so for their parliamentarians to pay tribute to Mandela.

One matter among many that would have been of big interest to the general public was his meeting with the opposition leaders during his state visit to Tanzania in 1995.

That he set aside time to have an audience with them was an honour. What lessons though did

they take on board? It wouldn't be surprising to find they had even forgotten of such a meeting.

It also says a lot on Tanzania-South Africa relations how Mandela became the Burundi peace facilitator after Julius Nyerere. There was no automaticity here as Mandela revealed to the late Larry King of CNN that seven other countries had sought him out to help resolve their conflicts. The fact that he chose a country that he admitted he knew so little about, was a testament to the kind of regard he held for Nyerere.

And whilst on Nyerere and Mandela, in a recent book entitled 38 Reflections on Mwalimu Nyerere by Profe Mark Mwandosya and Ambassador Juma Mwapachu, Mpungwe shares an important anecdote on the two. Nyerere had told Mandela (just

after his inauguration), "I have only two pieces of advice. The first one you may wish to ignore, but the second one you shouldn't ignore. It is about your relationship with your fellow Africans. I know very soon Americans will be coming to you. They will tell you that you are like them. You are not like Burkina Faso. Don't listen to them. However, don't behave like a big brother. If you do, your fellow Africans are going to resent you. But don't pretend to be a small brother either. If you do, they are going to be suspicious of you. If Lesotho is providing leadership on an African issue, follow it. Don't say 'oh no'. If, on the other hand, there is an African crisis, and nobody is moving, don't fold your hands. Take leadership. Don't pretend to be a small brother. You may ignore this but advice. The one you shouldn't ignore is the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP)."

Nyerere raised a pivotal matter on South Africa and the rest of Africa that needs an extensive analysis. For the purposes of this article, I'll just say that Mandela became president when multi-party democracy or political pluralism was 'on a roll' in Africa. Nyerere was not left behind on that. And democracy and human rights are indivisible, we are told.

Mandela clearly was determined to make human rights as meaningful as possible as a tool of nation-building. His strong sense of human rights drove him upon his release in 1990, whilst on a visit to Kenya, to cause big embarrassment to the KANU regime by expressing a desire to visit the widow (recently deceased) of the famous freedom fighter, Dedan Kimathi.

More than that, as head of state, he didn't spare General Sani Abacha of Nigeria over his tyrannical rule. When Frederick Chiluba of Zambia was going astray, he called him out. Tensions would be felt between him and Robert Mugabe.

Thinking of Tanzania, I can only imagine that when the late John Magufuli was muzzling the press to the point where the Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ) had to pay us an embarrassing visit, we could have counted on Mandela as a lone voice in the region.

How I so miss you Madiba!

Andrew Bomani is a political scientist based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at abomani@yahoo.com

A shot in the arm can prevent cervical cancer

By Zofeen Ebrahim

“LISTEN to your body, and if there is anything strange happening, do not ignore it,” is the advice of 57-year-old Afshan Bhurgri, a cancer survivor.

Eight years ago, she was diagnosed with cervical cancer at a time when she was “in a good place” in life. Her kids were grown up, and she had more time to herself. A fitness freak, the schoolteacher’s daily routine included going to the gym daily. “I joined a creative writing class as I loved penning my thoughts!” she reminisced.

But then everything changed when she found out she had cancer.

Cancer of the cervix uteri is the fourth most common cancer among women worldwide, with an estimated 604,127 new cases and causing the death of 341,831 in 2020.

In Pakistan, an estimated 73.8 million women over the age of 15 are at risk of developing cervical cancer caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV).

In the absence of complete data, it is estimated that of the 5,000 women diagnosed with this cancer in Pakistan, some 3,000 lose their lives every year due to lack of access to prevention, screening and treatment, thus making it the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in women of the reproductive age group in the country, after breast and ovarian cancers. Up to 88 percent of cervical cancer cases are due to human papillomavirus (HPV) serotypes 16 and 18, as reported by the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

“We are short on authentic data on the prevalence of the disease burden,” said Dr Arshad Chandio, who works at Jhpiego Pakistan as an immunisation lead. His organisation, which has supported HPV vaccine introduction in seven countries with Gavi support, is partnering with the federal and provincial governments, along with WHO, UNICEF, and USAID, to implement a roadmap for cervical cancer prevention and introduction of HPV vaccine in Pakistan. Cervical cancer is the only cancer that is preventable by a vaccine.

“Without authentic data, our plan to eradicate this disease will not be watertight,” admitted Dr Irshad Memon, the director general of the Expanded Programme on Immunisation in Sindh.

Dr Shahid Pervez, senior consultant histopathologist at the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH), co-chair of the country’s newly established National Cancer Registry, recommends legislation to make reporting of cancer mandatory. “This will be one way of collecting basic data, at one place, which is expected by international agencies to roll out an effective cancer control programme in Pakistan,” he added.

Although Bhurgri had knowledge about cancer of the cervix and went for regular health checkups and screenings, her doctors did not carry out full examinations, which led to the infection turning cancerous. It all started in 2009, five years prior to being diagnosed with cancer when she started noticing a “foul smell emanating from my vagina” after her period became “heavier” than usual.

“Let alone screening and testing for the cancer, many healthcare professionals do not even know of the disease, or how women get infected,” pointed out Chandio.

“I am an educated person, I could afford to get the best medical help, and I went to three of the city’s top gynaecologists, got pap smears done on their requests over the years, and I was only sent for HPV test when it was too late,” rued Bhurgri. In 2014, a doctor suggested an ultrasound which gave a true picture. A biopsy confirmed she had cervical cancer.

After her biopsy, Bhurgri started reading up on cervical cancer, and one of the indications was the foul vaginal smell.

“It could have been nipped in the bud if only the doctors had carried out a thorough examination,” said gynaecologist and obstetrician Dr Azra Ahsan, president of the Association for Mothers and Newborns, blaming “sheer negligence” on the part of her fraternity.

“A gynaecological consultation must not only be limited to a conversation across the table,” said Ahsan, but should include an “examination on the couch including a proper internal examination, ideally a pap smear and visual inspection,” especially if, like Bhurgri, a patient was complaining of heavy bleeding and a foul smell.



Afshan Bhurgri, a cancer survivor, advises women to listen to their bodies and be aware of the symptoms of cervical cancer. Credit: Zofeen Ebrahim/IPS

Bhurgri’s journey towards wellness was tough. A radical hysterectomy was recommended, and her cervix, her uterus and her ovaries were removed. Twenty-eight radiations and five chemos later, over a five-month period, she was given a clean bill by her oncologist. The cost of treatment, back in 2014 at a private hospital, was a whopping Rs30,000,000 (USD 104,671) back then.

Screening can save lives

Although Bhurgri’s cancer may have remained under the radar despite regular screening via pap smears, doctors say HPV and pap smear tests are the best way to screen a woman for cervical cancer. They can identify patients who are at high risk of developing pre-cancerous changes on the cervix as well as pick up those who have already developed these changes.

These precancerous lesions can be treated before they turn into cancer. Sadly, in Pakistan, the uptake of pap smears is negligible and estimated to be as low as 2 percent.

According to Dr Uzma Chishti, assistant professor and consultant gynecologic oncologist, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, AKUH, Pakistan’s health system is so financially stretched that it cannot afford to provide screening of women by these expensive tests. Instead, she recommends WHO’s recommendations of performing a visual inspection of the cervix by acetic acid (VIA) to screen women to help reduce the incidence of cervical cancer. “VIA is an alternative screening test for low-and-middle-income countries like ours,” she said.

Vaccinations the best option

The WHO triple intervention recommendation to eliminate cervical cancer in countries like Pakistan includes scaling up HPV vaccination to 90 percent for girls aged between 9 to 14, twice-lifetime cervical screening to 70 percent and treatment of pre-invasive lesions and invasive cancer to 90 percent by 2030.

“All three are essential if we want to eliminate cervical cancer completely,” emphasised said Ahsan.

HPV vaccinations to prevent cervical cancer are the way forward as it provides primary prevention, said Chishti, in the absence of VIA, screenings and pap smear tests. Almost 60 per cent of cervical cancer cases occur in countries that have not yet introduced HPV vaccination. Pakistan is one of them.

Once up and about, the first thing Bhurgri did was get her 14-year-old daughter vaccinated for human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. “My older daughter remains unvaccinated as she was 21 then and studying abroad. She needed three shots and could not make it to that timeline,” she said.

In Pakistan, two globally licensed HPV vaccines - Cervarix (protective against HPV serotypes 16 and 18) and Gardasil (against 6, 11, 16, and 18) were available till a few years ago, but very few doctors, even in the private sector, were prescribing them.

“We made it available in our clinic and counselled any and everyone, but it mostly fell on deaf ears, and very few people actually got vaccinated. As a result, huge amounts of vaccines expired in the warehouses, and the pharmaceutical firms decided to not make it available in Pakistan,” explained Ahsan.

In 2021, medical students at the AKUH interviewed 384 women attending outpatient clinics between the ages of 15 to 50 to find out their knowledge about cervical cancer. They found that of the 61.2 percent of women who had heard about cervical cancer, 47.0 percent knew about pap smear tests, and among them, 73 percent had gotten a pap test. A total of 25.5 percent of women, out of the 61.2 percent, knew that a vaccine existed for prevention, but only 9.8 percent had been vaccinated against human papillomavirus. The study concluded that a majority of the women interviewed for the study belonged to a higher socio-economic class and were mostly educated, yet their knowledge regarding the prevention and screening of cervical cancer was poor. “This reflects that the knowl-

edge levels as a whole would be considerably lower in the city’s general population,” the study concluded.

But this may change if Pakistan introduces the HPV vaccine at a national level, utilising routine effective and established immunisation delivery strategies. According to Dr Uzma Shamsi, a cancer epidemiologist at the AKUH, implementing the HPV vaccine at a national level in Pakistan could save hundreds of thousands of lives annually.

Shamsi highlighted the challenges of discussing HPV in a conservative society where sexual health topics are hardly discussed due to the embarrassment and taboo associated with sexually transmitted infections (STIs). This communication conundrum has resulted in a general lack of information about the disease. “There is a total lack of information about HPV, cervical cancer, and its prevention among the masses,” she said.

But the benefits are enormous, and hundreds of thousands of lives could be saved each year, she emphasised.

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Pakistan is in talks with Gavi the vaccine alliance, to support the country in including the single-dose HPV (two covers four strains) vaccine in its routine immunisation programme. “It will probably take another two years and USD 16 million before we can roll out the vaccine, but when it happens, it will be a country-wide campaign,” confirmed Memon.

Shamsi predicted some tribulation because the primary target group for vaccination is pre-adolescent girls. “A new vaccine for a new target age group comes with its own set of challenges in a society where conspiracy theories about vaccination programmes, stigma and misinformation about cancer and sexual health persist,” she said. And so before the actual roll-out, Shamsi emphasised, it was important to increase awareness about the HPV virus, cervical cancer causes, and vaccine’s safety and usage among the general public, patients, and healthcare professionals while actively dispelling misinformation.

Memon agreed that “conversation around the vaccine must begin”. For its part, the Sindh government set aside Rs 100 million (\$365,884) for advocacy of HPV vaccine uptake in its current budget. “We will initiate a dissemination campaign once we know when the HPV vaccination programme is to begin,” he said. The Sindh province was also the first to initiate the typhoid conjugate virus vaccine after an extensively drug-resistant virus was found in the province. He was hopeful there would be less resistance to the HPV vaccine after the successful administration of measles and rubella and the pediatric Covid-19 vaccines earlier.

However, said Memon, “We will need more women vaccinators this time as young girls are shy of rolling their shirt sleeves up for male vaccinators.” With up to 125,000 female health workers across Pakistan, who were earlier trained by Gavi for MR immunisation, which is a much more difficult vaccine to administer (being subcutaneous) as opposed to the HPV one (which is muscular), he said, this workforce can be engaged to get trained for this vaccination campaign too.

In the end, however, according to Chandio, “without a strong political will and leadership, a national HPV vaccination programme cannot become a reality in Pakistan to eliminate this largely preventable cancer among women”.

Fighting her cancer has changed Bhurgri in more ways than one. Her message to women is to “not put yourself aside; make yourself a priority.” While she continues to lead a healthy life - going to the gym, eating healthy, resting, she said, “You cannot go on and pick up where you left off”.

Note: This feature was supported by the Sabin Vaccine Institute.

IPS UN Bureau Report

**CAPITAL
RADIO**

**RATIBA YA VIPINDI
JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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



CAPITAL RADIO

Project benefits over 100 youths in five districts by making fuel-efficient stoves

By Guardian Correspondent

OVER 100 youths in five districts, which are executing the Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Rural Resilience (EBARR) project have been trained on better ways to make energy efficient cooking stoves.

EBARR national project coordinator Dr. James Nyarobi said in an interview recently that the beneficiaries are from Kishapu (Shinyanga), Mvomero (Morogoro), Mpwawa (Dodoma), Simanjoro (Manyara) and one in Zanzibar which is Kaskazini 'A' Unguja.

"The idea is to address deforestation by promoting energy efficient technologies. In each district not less than 24 young people have received the training on how to make the stoves," said Dr. Nyarobi.

He stated: "The young people who have received training possess skills that they can use to generate income. Since the project does not cover all villages in the district, the trained young people receive orders to help fabricate the stoves from other villages and earn some money from it."

"The young people also earn money when they sell movable charcoal stoves that they have made as a group. Therefore, these are some of the ways in which the project empowers the communities in the project area," Dr. Nyarobi added.

In terms of restoring the natural vegetation in affected areas of forests and residential areas through trees

planting, the project villages have established nurseries to grow a variety of tree seedlings. These trees have been distributed to public institutions and households in their areas. In addition, some degraded areas are left to recover through natural regeneration.

In that cause, one of the EBARR project activities has been to fabrication and use of energy efficient cook stoves. These stoves use less charcoal and less firewood, hence contributes to reduce the pressure on forests resources. So far, about 1,516 households have been supported to build brick stoves that use less firewood and less charcoal in all the five project areas.

In making fuel-efficient stoves, the project has enabled young people in the project sites to acquire skills on how to make the stoves. This has also become an income-generating activity.

According to Asnath Meshack, secretary of the tree planting group in Simanjoro District, planting trees has been beneficial to their community. The tree planting campaign have reduced illegal cutting of trees and helps to restore the environment in Simanjoro.

Asnath added: 'Currently we witness a gradual change in our environment here in Orkesmet because the response to receiving the seedlings was great. We have distributed about 6,000 seedlings to the households, and we are now expanding the nursery area so that we can grow more seedlings.'



Hamadi Faki Makame, a beneficiary of the project from the Matemwe village in Kaskazini 'A' District, Unguja said that in their trees nursery they have planted seedlings so that they can restore the lost tree species and the natural vegetation.

He said: "The tree species we are raising we will get trees for firewood and roofing materials for our houses."

Makame is very grateful for being a beneficiary of the EBARR project. He promised to continue

working hard in implementing all the viable activities in this project, so that as a community, they can adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), EBARR project is implemented by the Vice President's Office in Tanzania and kicked off in 2018/19 and is expected to end in 2024.

The goal of the project is to increase resilience to climate change in rural communities of Tanza-

nia by strengthening ecosystem resilience and diversifying livelihoods, using an ecosystem-based adaptation approach.

One of the areas that the project focuses is to enable these communities to reduce the use of charcoal and wood for energy. This is because rural and even urban communities rely heavily on firewood and charcoal as cooking energy. Therefore, the project works to reduce excessive cutting of trees or the destruction of forests in search for firewood and charcoal.

EABC organises regional business, investment summit and expo to take trade to higher heights

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) and other partners is next month expected to organise the highly anticipated East African business and investment summit and expo 2023, that is geared to bring in more than 500 participants from African countries and outside the world.

The business and investment summit and expo has been organized by the East African Business Council (EABC), Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), and the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat, in partnership with Afreximbank, German Development Cooperation (GIZ), RSM Eastern Africa, and Standard Char-

tered Bank.

According to a statement issued by Uganda's 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, the prestigious event will take place from August 31st to September 1st, 2023 in Kampala, Uganda.

She said: "The East African Business and Investment Summit 2023 is the premier East African Community Economic Forum where East African will chart out a common agenda to take trade to higher heights for increased prosperity."

"Uganda is committed to fostering a better business environment for increased trade, investment, and prosperity for East Africans," said Rebecca.

Themed: "Private Sector-Driven Regional Integration for Increased Intra-African Trade, Investment," the East African Business and Investment Summit 2023 will serve as a crucial platform for key stakeholders to converge and discuss the successes, challenges, and opportunities in trade and investments within the East African Community (EAC) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

"Intra-EAC exports grew throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, rising from US\$ 3.0 billion in 2019 to a record US\$ 5.2 billion in 2022," said John Bosco Kalisa. Intra-EAC export share grew to 24.3% of total exports in 2022, increasing from 21.9% in 2019.

According to him, the Chair

of the EAC Council of Ministers will give the keynote address on the Role of the Governments on Promoting Private Sector Led Regional Integration.

"Following discussions of the East African Business and Investment Summit we will have a Communique outlining the resolutions and strategic actions needed to drive intra-EAC trade and investment forward," said Kalisa.

The East African Business and Investment Summit 2023 will explore continental and global trends, shifting economic environments, and discuss strategies to position the EAC as the prime investment destination in Africa.

This Summit is organized in close collaboration with all Investment Promotion Au-

thorities in East Africa, who will showcase investment opportunities and present viable projects ready for investment to East African, African, and international investors.

Over 500 delegates from the continent and beyond are expected to attend, including esteemed Ministers, senior government officials, industry leaders, potential investors, and financial institutions. The East African Business and Investment Summit 2023 will facilitate valuable business-to-business engagements, joint ventures, partnerships, business deals, and an exhibition. The high-level panel discussions will share progress and insights on Trade and Investment Climate, African Continental Free Trade Area - Position-

ing the Private Sector to Take Advantage of the AfCFTA, Sustainable Industrialization and Value Chains in Africa. There will be side sessions on the Digital Economy in East Africa, Tax Regime Harmonization, Climate Change & Agriculture, Services Trade in AfCFTA, and Women, Youth & SMEs in the EAC.

Exhibition, B2B Networking, Pitching Session for innovators and Testimonials on Exporting under AfCFTA and visits to potential investment sites will also be available during the Summit.

Businesses, entrepreneurs, and investors from across the continent and beyond are invited to register their attendance at www.eabc-online.com/businesssummit. The Summit presents a unique

opportunity for networking, knowledge exchange, and exploring potential partnerships that will contribute to the growth and prosperity of our region.

Special appreciation goes to all our partners and sponsors, particularly Afreximbank, German Development Cooperation (GIZ), RSM Eastern Africa, Standard Chartered Bank, Private Sector Foundation Uganda, Uganda Manufacturers Association, Uganda Investment Promotion Authority, and Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UNCCI).

Together, let us seize the opportunities, drive economic growth, and shape a prosperous future for our beloved EAC bloc region.

Cabo Verde: €14 million loan from AfDB will strengthen role as regional tech hub

PRAIA

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) and the government of Cabo Verde have signed a €14 million loan agreement to enhance the Cabo Verde Technology Park by making it more climate resilient and supportive of enterprise development.

The agreement was signed on 19 July in Praia, Cabo Verde. The African Development Bank earlier had provided a loan of €31.59 million to finance the first phase of the state of the art technology park, which is already transforming the country into an innovative regional information and communication hub. The park, which functions as a special economic zone with tax and import duty incentives, will draw ICT professionals from across Africa. It has two campuses: one in the capital, Praia and the second on the island of São Vicente.

As part of phase two, the hub will be equipped to run on renewable energy and, as part of a public-private partnership, furnished with two data centers.

The Cabo Verde ICT hub will launch a €1 million seed fund to invest in approximately 20 innovative Cabo Verde startups. It will

offer more than 50 tech startups from across Africa integration grants of at least €5,000 each. There are also plans to collaborate with international universities and corporations to extend soft skills training to 300 African youth over the next three years as well as help prepare them to secure jobs that will be created as part of the Fourth industrial revolution (link is external).

Cabo Verde's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Olavo Avelino Garcia Correia, signed the loan agreement. He expressed his enthusiasm for the project's transformative potential. He said, "Our ambition is to transform Cabo Verde into a digital nation, with a circulating economy and the technology parks in Praia being part of this significant government strategy."

During the ceremony, Uyoyo Edosio, the African Development Bank's project lead, stressed the project's synergies. She said that Cabo Verde's unique advantage in terms of tourism will now be enhanced as tourism will meet technology.

Commenting on the loan signing, Dr. Abdu Mukhtar, the African Development Bank's Director for



CABO VERDE'S Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Olavo Avelino Garcia Correia and African Development Bank (AfDB) project lead Uyoyo Edosio at the signing of a loan agreement for €14 million to support development of the Cabo Verde Technology Park.

Industrial & Trade Development, said: "The next generation of African talents need not seek

opportunities abroad; Cabo Verde possesses the necessary infrastructure and a supportive

political system to cultivate their dreams and ambitions within their homeland."

A key African democracy bites Sahelian dust as Presidential Guard seizes control in Niger

By Phillip van Niekirk

Lord Frederick Lugard, the man who established British imperial control over Nigeria, once explained why he had no interest in colonising the Sahel: "We would rather leave it to the Gallic cockerel to peck around in the desert."

This week as yet another military coup occurred in a former French colony, this time in Niger, the French rooster was truly having its neck wrung.

If the coup holds it will be catastrophic for France, which has seen its neocolonial empire disintegrate piece by piece, from the Central African Republic to Mali and Burkina Faso - while placing most of its remaining eggs in the basket of Niger.

Niger is different from the others. It was a genuine democracy. President Mohamed Bazoum was not in the mould of most of the corrupt, recycled old-guard politicians and military officers who were kicked out in the other Sahelian states.

He was a rarity in a harsh region. Long-time Niger watchers interviewed said he was intent on transforming the lives of ordinary people in the seventh-poorest country in the world through agriculture and other economic reforms. There has been no whiff of corruption around him. One source who has worked in Niger extensively spoke of Bazoum having "a project for his country".

Bazoum is an Arab, a group that constitutes less than 1% of the population of Niger, which frees him from any tribal or ethnic loyalty.

Bazoum was felled by domestic politics. He tried to break free from the stranglehold of his predecessor, Mahamadou Issoufou, who left office in 2021 but still exerted control through the Presidential Guard and his son, Petroleum Minister Sani Mahamadou Issoufou.

The president fired the head of the Presidential Guard, General Omar Tchiani, who instead turned around and fired the president. After a long stand-off, the military joined the coup.

Media reports of the past 48 hours have concentrated on the fact that the coup has been a massive blow to the Americans and the French.

The Russian media and Wagner's Yevgeny Prigozhin, dressed in natty jeans and speaking from the sidelines of the Africa-Russia



Frederick John Deatry Lugard (1858-1945). (Photo: Topical Press Agency / Getty Images) | A firefighter douses torched cars near the Nigerien Party for Democracy and Socialism headquarters in Niamey on 27 July 2023. (Photo: EPA-EFE / STR) | Yevgeny Prigozhin in Saint Petersburg, Russia, on 17 June 2016. (Photo by Mikhail Svetlov / Getty Images) | Russian National Guard Service officers in Moscow on 27 June 2023. (Photo: Contributor / Getty Images)

conference in St Petersburg, have been crowing, characterising it as a huge defeat for the West and a "victory against colonialism".

As if on cue, hundreds of people, some waving Russian flags, demonstrated in Niamey in support of the coup, vandalising the offices of Bazoum's ruling Nigerien Party for Democracy and Socialism, looting stores and torching cars.

But there is no evidence that Wagner instigated the coup, other than the quick-on-the-uptake propaganda spin. Wagner was always better at fake news than real combat.

What should not be lost sight of is that the biggest damage will be to villagers and farmers of a small, vulnerable country who face an uncertain and probably violent future - and that the whole of west Africa down to the Atlantic coast shuddered this week.

Western interests

This is not to deny that the coup is a massive blow to Western interests. The French and the Americans have been helping Niger in combating the various insurgencies from al-Qaeda, Islamic State and Boko Haram.

Russian troops forced to leave Mali and Burkina Faso were deployed to Niger, which became France's mainstay in the region. The uranium mines, the largest revenue producer in the country, are also French-owned.

The US has a drone base near Agadez in the north and several hundred military and intelligence boots on the ground monitoring

insurgent activity in the Sahel and southern Libya. The strategic value of this installation can be seen by the fact that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Niger in March.

American commandos have trained Nigerien special forces, though they might pause to consider what it means that General Moussa Salao Barmou, their protégé and head of special forces, participated in the coup.

Despite being close to the French and the Americans, Bazoum was no one's lackey, being especially aware of anti-French feeling in the capital. He opened channels, for instance, to negotiate and search for peace with the Jihadists and could be publicly critical of his Western allies.

There does remain one hope of reversing the coup - the diplomatic efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas). Its chairperson, Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu, was quick to denounce the putsch and his awareness of the seriousness of the threat to the region was seen in his rapid response, immediately dispatching a delegation to Niamey including the president of Benin, Patrice Talon.

The democratic countries along the Atlantic seaboard fear that the coup in Niger will mean the expansion of the Jihadists southwards.

Sources in Abuja say the situation is personal for Tinubu. His early political career was in the struggle against the military dictatorship of General Sani Abacha. But he is also keenly aware of the impact on Nigeria, which has a

long and porous border with Niger.

Cross-border insurgency and banditry between Zamfara state in Nigeria and southern Niger has increased over the past few years while Boko Haram has run operations across the border for more than a decade.

Tinubu has shown a willingness to make tough and painful choices with his economic and security reforms at home. Regionally, he has indicated that he wants to return Ecowas to the policy of zero tolerance for coups. At one point, Ecowas was prepared to send intervention forces into recalcitrant countries.

Ecowas' lack of political will and feeble responses to the coups of the past six years effectively encouraged further coups.

The challenge for Tinubu and Ecowas will be to talk the military men back to barracks, even if this does not happen immediately but over a longer time.

The democratic countries along the Atlantic seaboard fear that the coup in Niger will mean the expansion of the Jihadists southwards.

The insurgencies in both Burkina Faso and Mali have worsened dramatically in the past two years since the coups. Cameron Hudson, an associate at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, says that unlike Mali and Burkina, violence is "much closer to Niger's capital, Niamey, making the military's coup even more perplexing since on their own, without Western support, they're unlikely to counter the threat".

"The political instability in Niger remains a major concern," a senior military officer from Benin told the Wall Street Journal. "From now on, we might face increasing activity by terrorist groups along our common border."

For the Western powers, if the coup succeeds, the last friendly government in the Sahel is Chad, which is distracted by the unfolding humanitarian disaster in the civil war in Sudan and is having to deal with 150,000 refugees from Darfur who have fled across the border into makeshift camps.

Without a resolution, Niger could represent a target of opportunity for Wagner - though the apparent "cure" is almost worse than the malady. In Mali, where Wagner stands accused of massacres and extra-judicial executions, the number of casualties in the violence has tripled since their troops were deployed.

From discussions this week it is apparent that few people in west Africa would want to take a leaf out of Lord Lugard's book and leave the Russian crow Prigozhin with free rein to peck around in the desert. **DM**



RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

Table with 7 columns: MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY. Each column lists a time programme with corresponding broadcast times and content descriptions.

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

EA countries urged to invest more in agriculture industry

By Guardian Reporter

EAST African countries have been tasked to invest more in the agriculture sector to avert the impact of multifaceted factors including climate change and Covid-19 pandemic.

Businge Rwabwogo, East African Business Council (EABC) board member made the call yesterday in Kampala, Uganda when speaking at the regional masters training of trainers (ToT) Capacity-Building Workshop on EAC Export Procedures & Contract Farming that was organized by EABC.

Aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of the agri-food industry and improve food security in the East African Community (EAC) region and was made possible through the generous support of GIZ under the Business Scouts Fund in the implementation of the project with EABC, titled: "Enhancing Competitiveness of Agri-food Industry and Mitigating the Impact of Global Crises to Improve Food Security in the EAC Region."

Rwabwogo, underscored that the EAC, like other regions, has faced challenges due to the pandemic, global economic shocks, and climate change, pointing out the importance of improving food security, especially as some EAC countries had low food



EABC board member Businge Rwabwogo speaks at the regional masters training of trainers (ToT) Capacity-Building Workshop on EAC Export Procedures & Contract Farming held in the Ugandan capital, Uganda.

security index scores prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He highlighted the studies conducted by GIZ under the Business Scouts Fund, which assessed the impact of global crises on food security in the EAC region and identified investment opportunities in selected agriculture value chains.

Rwabwogo emphasized the potential of the EAC's agriculture sector, highlighting staple foods such as cereals, roots, tubers, and legumes. However, he also acknowledged the hindrances faced by the sector, including limited access to improved seed varieties, high seed costs, low adoption of improved seeds, and challenges related to climate change, soil fertility, and pests.

He cited statistics that indicated an increase in total

foreign direct investment (FDI) in the EAC region, with most FDI directed towards manufacturing, construction, and services rather than agriculture.

John Kalisa, EABC executive director and chief executive officer (CEO) called for the formation of an East African food security alliance.

He highlighted the significant challenges posed by global crises, including the Covid-19 pandemic, conflicts, and climate change, on the region's food security and agricultural sectors. He acknowledged the disruptions caused by the global crisis, affecting supply chains, transportation, and the availability of agricultural inputs, leading to food insecurity for millions of people in the East African Community (EAC).

The CEO emphasized

the urgency of addressing these challenges through collective action and meaningful partnerships.

Dr. Sarah Kagoye, Principal Agricultural Business Officer from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries, Uganda, commended the workshop for emphasizing value chain integration at a time when the Government of the Republic of Uganda is implementing the National Development Plan under the theme of "Agro-industrialization."

She reiterated the government's commitment to promoting productivity, nutrition security, farm and off-farm employment opportunities, value addition, and trade in agricultural products.

Lydia Koch GIZ official said: "GIZ-Business Scouts is committed to supporting

food security. The workshop will improve associations' knowledge on contract farming and export procedures and facilitate knowledge sharing on best practices across East Africa."

Martin Maku, Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU)'s sector coordinator for agriculture, agribusiness & forestry stated that increasing agricultural productivity is central to improving food security and achieving the EAC Vision 2050.

The workshop focused on capacity building and sensitization of key agri-actors in EAC Export Procedures and Contract Farming, aiming to equip participants with the knowledge necessary to mitigate the impact of global crises on food security in the region.

The workshops were organized as a crucial step towards enhancing the competitiveness of the agri-food industry and mitigating the impact of global crises on food security in the EAC region. The workshops aimed to empower agri-actors with knowledge and expertise in these key areas, enabling them to contribute to building resilience in the region's food systems.

Prof. Ojijo Nelson and Mabila Moses shared the latest updates on contract farming and export procedures in the EAC.



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba

Swiss investors invited to Tanzania to explore potential in agribusiness

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has invited the private sector from Switzerland to come and invest in the agriculture sector value chain especially in production of products for exports and in value addition of cash crops such as cotton, and cashew nuts.

Minister for Finance Dr Mwegulu Nchemba, made the welcome sight on Thursday in Dar es Salaam when he graced a function to mark the 732th Switzerland's National Day.

He said the government is confident that the private sector is the engine of the economy, since it has a role of creating employment, income generations, trade and investment and improving relations.

Dr Nchemba said that the government will continue seeking for the support from Switzerland in implementing its agenda of industrialisation by encouraging its private sector to consider Tanzania as the most preferred investment destination.

The minister said Tanzania values every support that has been received from Switzerland and for the friendships for mutual benefit of two countries.

"On the basis of joint efforts and co-operation, we have every reason to look positively into the future when it comes to bilateral relations in order and broader sense as well," he said.

In Spite of major challenges the world is facing, we can join our efforts to overcome all the difficulties on our way to rescue numerous ways Tanzania has a lot to commend to the government of Switzerland, he asserted.

He commended Switzerland for its continued support to Tanzania as a development partner and, increasingly, as a trade and economic partner.

According to him, Tanzania will continue to partner with the Swiss government for the mutual benefit of two countries.

He said Switzerland has been supporting Tanzania through technical assistance and is committed to ensure that it remains politically stable and its people in particular.

Switzerland Ambassador to Tanzania Didier Chassot highlighted areas of cooperation and the good relation between the two countries.

Switzerland has been supporting development projects in Tanzania since the early 1960s.

He said Switzerland and Tanzania have a long history of mutually fruitful collaboration and people-to-people relations dating back nearly 100 years.

Over the decades, the two countries have developed strong partnerships through political exchanges, development, and economic cooperation

"Switzerland and Tanzania enjoy friendly bilateral relations, reflecting the long and fruitful partnership between the two countries.

Tanzania is part of the Great Lakes region, where Switzerland is committed to supporting peace, protecting basic human rights, and promoting quality basic education and vocational skills development, which helps create jobs.

According to the statistics on the Swiss abroad, at the end of 2020 there were 244 Swiss nationals living in Tanzania; 290 Tanzanian nationals were living in Switzerland.

Kijaji calls on weights agency to win consumer trust

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

INDUSTRY and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji has called upon the new advisory board of Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) to ensure that consumers are protected through the verification of weight machines so that people can realize value of money from the products they purchase.

Dr. Kijaji made the remarks yesterday in Dodoma when she was launching the 6th advisory board of MWA.

The minister commended the chairman of the advisory board of the agency and the members of the board for being appointed as they form a bonding teamwork that is expected to deliver in line with the government's vision by ensuring transparency.

The minister called on the board to do its work professionally and to ensure that it manages the security of Tanzanians' assets through accurate measurements.

She said the government's ex-



Industry and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji (L) receives weighing machines from the Weights and Measures Agency board chairperson, Dr Eliza Mwakasangula, shortly after the minister launched the agency's new board. Looking on is WMA chief executive officer Stella Kahwa. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

pectation is to see the board help the agency to ensure that it implements the government's priorities in the management of the correct use of weight measurements.

The minister said through the

current management, the board will be able to serve businessmen and investors and advise the government on all issues related to measurements and ensure that the agency protects the consumer by

using the correct measurements.

Dr. Kijaji asked the agency to keep up with the good work they are doing in the management of measurements and continue increasing strength in managing the accuracy of measurements in various areas. WMA board chairperson, Dr. Eliza Mwakasangula, commended Minister Kijaji, as well as the agency's management and promised to manage and work on all the instructions given and advise the ministry properly on issues of measurement to ensure that the agency continues to provide the best service to people.

On her part, chief executive officer of WMA, Stella Kahwa expressed gratitude to the minister for appointing a board that will help bring development to the agency, including increasing the number of measurements that are verified per year.

She said she is confident that the agency will continue to contribute to the government's general fund in order to continue providing better services to people.

Dollar loans and liabilities rise on forex market woes

NAIROBI

Banks increased their issuance of loans in foreign currency amid the recent local forex market dysfunction, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has disclosed.

In addition, the banking sector deposits and other liabilities rose to heighten the industry's exposure to forex risks.

The build-up in foreign currency loans is largely attributable to commercial banks seeking to hedge against currency risks which were defined by forex access difficulties in the domestic market.

According to the IMF, banks' shares of FX loans, deposits and liabilities stood at 30, 25.6 and 31.5 percent, respectively, at the end of 2022, compared to 28.5, 24.5 and 29 percent, respectively at the end of 2021.

"Banks' shares of FX loans, deposits and liabilities continue to rise. FX market dysfunction led to a buildup of larger gross FX positions on banks' balance sheets," the IMF said in a new report.

The build-up in FX positions for instance saw larger on-balance sheet net short forex open positions where the foreign currency asset-to-deposit ratio was less than 100 percent.

The exposure was, however, partly offset by off-balance sheet net long positions, the majority of which consisted of currency swaps between banks and clients.

Larger short FX positions mean that banking clients were bearish of the country's forex exchange direction and would largely expect the local currency to depreciate significantly in the short run while the inverse points to a bullish position

where clients expected the local exchange rate to improve over the long-term.

The IMF warns the build-up of banks' FX exposures has increased the industry's vulnerability to exchange shocks even as it notes positive recent action to resolve the foreign exchange market dysfunction.

In 2022, the real effective exchange rate appreciated according to the IMF but yielded dollar shortages at the start of 2023 with widening spreads between the interbank forex market and the rate at which banks transact with their clients (and within the bank client market).

In essence, forex exchange, particularly dollars, could not be purchased from banks at the prevailing exchange rate while banks were limited in forex dealings among themselves.

In late March, the CBK took steps to restart the dealings (interbank forex market), including the issuance of a forex code for market participants, bringing two inter-dealer brokers and increasing engagement with market participants.

"The CBK started holding more regularly scheduled meetings with market participants to increase two-way communication and transparency, and provided verbal clarifications on banking circulars (Circulars 10 and 11 issued in 2015) that interbank transactions need not be limited to, and can be smaller than, the standard ticket size and that the spread limits only apply to the indicative quotes for the standard ticket size."

Data provided by the IMF shows interbank forex trading volumes for all currencies have improved and

rose to around four percent of all transacted volumes from volumes of less than two percent for the most part of 2022.

Earlier this week, the CBK said activity had returned to the Forex interbank market even as more improvements are expected.

"We have actually seen the inter-bank market working a bit more than it was before. There is still some way to go but this is an area where we do not need to engage more with commercial banks to increase activity. It's an area we are working on but can see some success for instance when you look at the spread between the CBK rate and the retail rate, which is not as high as it was before," CBK Governor Kamau Thugge said.

During the height of the forex dysfunction, clients seeking dollars largely deployed currency swaps

where a customer could deposit a lump sum in local currency and obtain a comparable supply of dollars but would have to pay for the difference in the exchange rate at the maturity of the contract handing FX gains to commercial banks.

Across 2022 and in the opening quarter of 2023, commercial banks multiplied earnings from foreign exchange trading by leveraging the crisis.

Similarly, foreign currency deposits have continued to soar and reached Sh1.075 trillion as of April from Sh834.5 billion at the same time last year.

The rise in foreign currency deposits is nevertheless partly masked by a weaker local exchange rate and holdings by commercial banks in regional subsidiaries where foreign currencies are more prevalent.

Hackers shake Kenya's digital financial system

NAIROBI

A major cyber-attack that caused an outage of more than 5,000 public services in Kenya for more than 48 hours while disabling Internet-based and mobile payment platforms has exposed the growing threat of payment service disruptions to the economy.

The attack hit a critical section of the country's financial system with M-Pesa, a mobile service product that is fast turning into an artery for the circulation of money in Kenya's economy, also disrupted.

Activities on the M-Pesa App - which handled transactions valued at Sh1.3 trillion in the year to March - were particularly affected in what is turning into a major test of the country's preparedness against cyber-attacks as the government moves most of its services online.

But it is the hacking of e-Citizen - a government e-services portal - that has shocked the national intelligence and financial systems on the risk of a shutdown of public

services days after the government shifted to the platform.

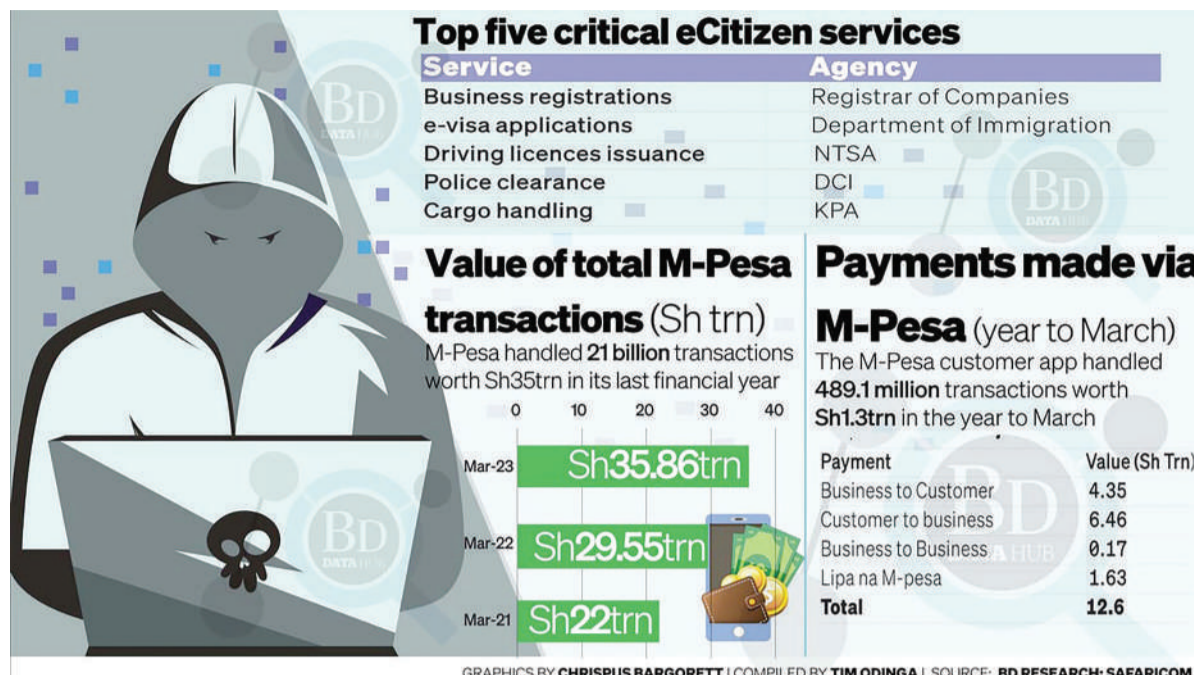
ICT Cabinet Secretary Eliud Owalo described the attack as a distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack, which disrupted the servers by jamming the platform with meaningless Internet traffic to successfully bar legitimate users from access.

Owalo said the attack had been carried out by a group that identified itself as Anonymous Sudan.

"There was a cyber-attack on the eCitizen platform but no data was accessed or lost. We are addressing that, and we are not just coming up with instant remedial measures to address the current situation but are also ensuring that we build an elaborate risk mitigation framework," said the Cabinet Secretary.

By the time of going to press some payment platforms were getting back online. However, the eCitizen, which provides critical government services like the issuance of driver's licences, passports and visas, was still down.

"Further to our earlier



communication, accessibility to some of our services including Driver Testing and Licensing and Public Service Vehicle licensing is affected by an intermittent connection on the eCitizen network," said the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) in a statement.

Some households also had problems paying their electricity bills through their M-Pesa App.

"We are experiencing

a system hitch due to a network breakdown from our service provider. Consequently, some of our services such as the purchase of prepaid tokens through M-Pesa and USSD [Unstructured Supplementary Service Data] code *977# are unavailable," said Kenya Power in an update.

Other companies that came out to announce disruption of services included the Kenya

Railways, with passengers having difficulty paying for services on the standard gauge railway.

The disruption cut across the whole economy from payment of bus fares by those going home after work to visa processing for those who want to leave the country.

Safaricom had not issued an official statement on the attack by the time of going to press, but the Communications

Authority of Kenya director-general Ezra Chiloba told the Business Daily that the agency had issued an advisory to relevant agencies on how to deal with the threat.

Mr Chiloba said the eCitizen platform first experienced service disruption characterised by service unavailability on Sunday, July 23, 2023.

"The National KE-CIRT/CC has been monitoring Kenya's cyberspace and

issuing daily cyber threat advisories to critical information infrastructure organizations, which include energy companies, banks, and telecommunications companies, among others."

He said that based on the reported incident, the National KE-CIRT/CC undertook and continues to undertake technical cyber threat analysis on the eCitizen platform and related services.

"We have issued relevant advisories for action. National KE-CIRT/CC continues to monitor the situation on a 24/7 basis."

The National Computer and Cybercrimes Coordination Committee (NC4) director, Evans Ombati, confirmed that the organisation, which is mandated to monitor the national cyber threat landscape, has in recent days noticed abnormal global internet traffic targeted at Critical Information Infrastructures (CIIs) in Kenya.

"NC4 has established that in the recent past, there has been increased/abnormal global internet traffic targeted at several CIIs in Kenya, aimed at dis-

rupting essential services, particularly in telecommunications, banking and education sectors," he said.

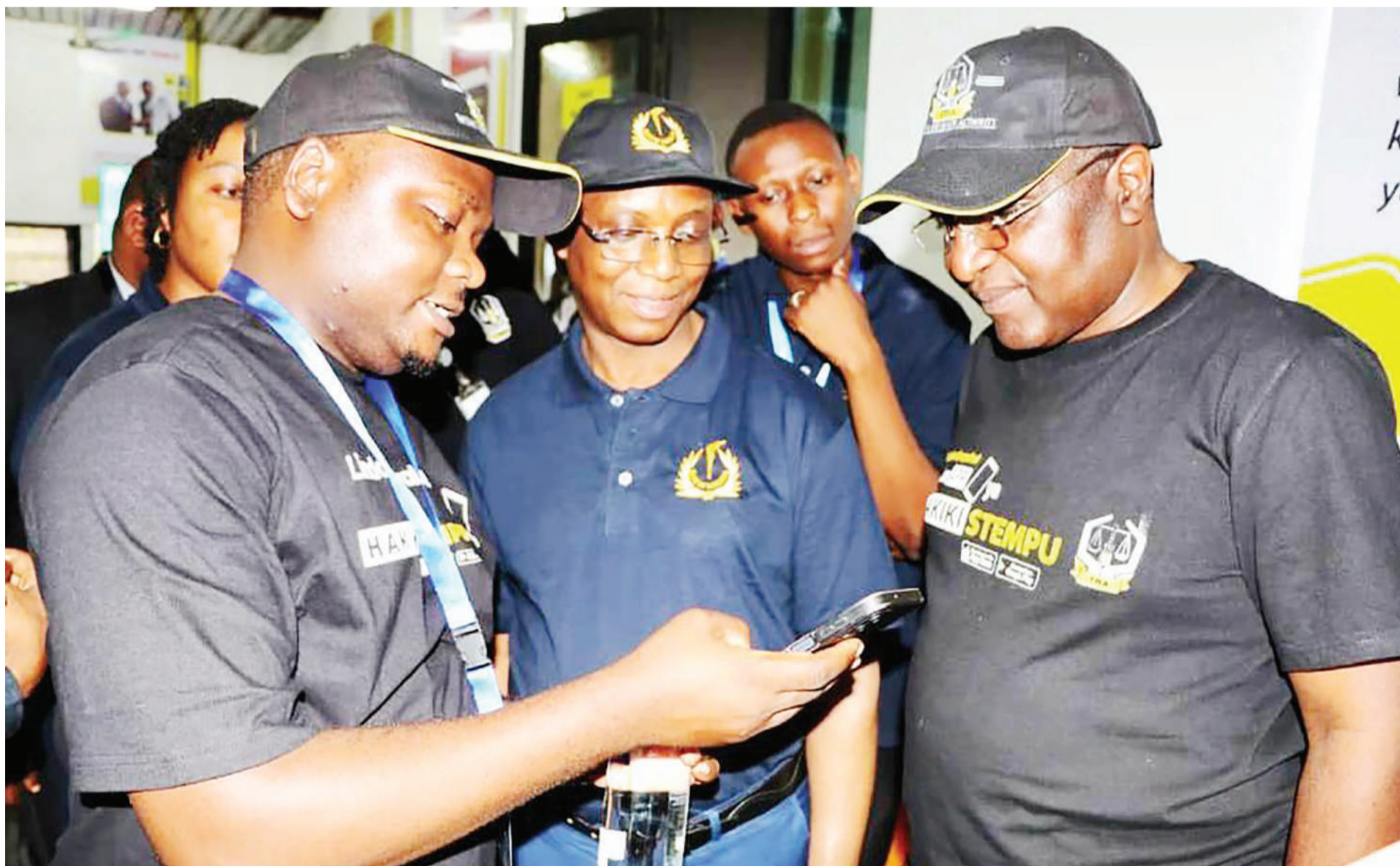
"In this regard, it is recommended that the Kenya Education Network Trust informs all research and education institutions in Kenya to implement necessary cybersecurity measures and share with NC4 on any malicious traffic and incidents."

The attack is a major test of President William Ruto's plan to develop a digital super highway as part of his job-creation agenda.

Last month, while unveiling more services into the e-Citizen portal, the head of State talked of ushering the country into the era of e-governance that was supposed to make life easier for every citizen, irrespective of their status in society.

"This is the power and promise of Gava Mkononi: you have your government in the palm of your hand," said the President.

However, he acknowledged that with most of the government services being taken online, the danger of being hacked was also pronounced.



Bank of Tanzania governor Emmanuel Tutuba (center), listens attentively to human resources officer at Tanzania Revenue Authority during his visit at the 47th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair ended recently. Looking on is TRA's director for taxpayer services and education, Richard Kayombo. Photo: Guardian correspondent.

Russia's trade with Africa increased by 35% In the first half of 2023

SAINT PETERSBURG

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said the trade turnover between Russia and African countries had increased by almost 35% in the first half of 2023 despite international sanctions and the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking at a trilateral meeting with the Chairperson of the African Union, President of the Union of Comoros Azali Assoumani, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat, Putin said "despite the difficulties related to the coronavirus pandemic and the imposition of illegal sanctions against Russia, it was possible to ensure the growth in the pace of trade and economic ties" with African countries.

Putin added last year, "the volume of mutual trade amounted to about 18 billion dollars."

"In the first half of this year, the trade turnover increased by almost 35%," Putin noted.

"Russia continues to be a reliable supplier of food to Africa," he added, saying that in 2022, Russian exports of this group of goods had amounted to 4.7 billion dollars."

Some African leaders arrived in Russia for a summit with Putin as he seeks allies amid the military operation in Ukraine, while the Kremlin accused Western powers of "outrageous" efforts to pressure other African heads of state not to attend.

Putin has billed the two-day summit that opens Thursday in St. Petersburg as a major event that would help bolster ties with a continent of 1.3 billion people that is increasingly assertive on the global stage.

But Azali Assoumani told Putin during the meeting that they were "not going to close our eyes to the issue between Russia and Ukraine, because these are two countries with which we have partnerships, and we can see the negative consequences around the world, specifically in Africa."



South African competition watchdog greenlights SAA's sale

JOHANNESBURG

THE South African government has announced that the country's highest anti-trust watchdog, the Competition Tribunal, has approved the proposed sale of 51% of South African Airways (SA, Johannesburg O.R. Tambo) to its preferred strategic equity partner, Takatso Aviation.

The Tribunal has approved the transaction subject to a moratorium on retrenchments and the investment in Takatso of minority shareholders Global Aviation Operations (GE, Johannesburg O.R. Tambo) and management consultancy Syranix over concerns regarding their ownership of the Lift Airlines brand, which competes domestically with the national carrier.

The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), in a statement on July 25, welcomed the decision as "a significant step in the government's efforts to consolidate the re-emergence of the national carrier as a key strategic asset". "The Competition Tribunal's decision sets Takatso and the DPE firmly on course to finalise other critical regulatory requirements to conclude the transaction," it added.

Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gor-



South African Airways Airbus A330-300

dhan said: "It is very gratifying to see that we are on the verge of having SAA finally infused with the requisite strategic vision, expertise, and capital by Takatso. The approval by the Competition Tribunal also sends a very strong message about the extent of the hard work that has gone into this transaction, considering that SAA was on the brink of liquidation. The steps we have taken will ensure that SAA is returned to profitability and sustainability."

Takatso, led by majority partner Harith General Partners, a black-economic empowerment asset management firm that also owns Lanseria airport, will gain a 51% controlling stake in the South African Airways Group, in exchange for injecting ZAR3 billion rand (USD167 million) in operational

capital into SAA over two years, for a nominal ZAR51 rand (USD2.84) purchase price. DPE will be issued ZAR3 billion worth of preferred shares in SAA and retain a 49% equity stake, plus the right to a "golden share", securing a long-term national strategic interest in the airline. The government will cover the rest of SAA's legacy debt, which reportedly still sits at ZAR1.5 billion (USD83.5 million). The transaction will establish SAA as a joint venture between the South African government and Takatso. Still, the government will retain ownership of the SAA name and brand if the venture fails. SAA's key subsidiaries - SAA Technical and Air Chefs - will see key strategic partners acquire significant shareholdings in each entity.

The minority shareholders in Takatso

initially vowed to contest their sidelining in the deal but last month agreed to withdraw from the transaction. Their departure was a condition set by the regulator for the conclusion of the privatisation deal, which has dragged on for more than two years. Conflict within the Takatso Consortium became evident in November last year when Global/Syranix director Gidon Novick resigned, saying the minority partners were being kept in the dark about negotiations with DPE for the sale of SAA. Novick said the minority shareholders have started the process of selling their 20% stake in Takatso - through which they would have had an effective 10.2% stake in SAA on deal closure. "We do not want to hold up Takatso's transaction with SAA and perpetuate any further state funding of the airline," he said.

Harith General Partners confirmed the Takatso minority shareholders' divestment must happen before the sale of SAA can be concluded. "Engagements are ongoing between Takatso shareholders, on the modalities for the exit of the minorities," it said. "Other regulatory requirements" and Harith "preparing" to invest ZAR3 billion into SAA operations must also be concluded, it said in a statement.

WORLD

Extending cooperation, wiping off debts: What Putin said at Russia-Africa summit

ST. PETERSBURG

AFRICA is turning into a new center of power despite the fact that "some manifestations of colonialism" still persist on the continent, Russian President Vladimir Putin (pictured) told a plenary meeting of the Russia-Africa summit.

the past" - "however, not without resistance on the part of those who got used to their own uniqueness and monopoly in global affairs."

punitive restrictions" for an independent line. They jointly stand against using the topics of climate, protection of human rights and "the so-called gender agenda for malign political purposes."

On cooperation with Africa

"Russia's attention toward Africa is continuously growing." "Moscow is ready to reinstate and open new Russian embassies abroad, as well as to increase the staff of a number of functioning embassies."

imposed against Russian exports." "Russia also participates in efforts on easing the debt burden of African countries. The indebtedness written off by Russia has reached \$23 bln by now. According to the latest requests of African countries, Russia will allocate another \$90 mln for those purposes."

On situation in Ukraine

Russia understands that the Ukrainian crisis is "a pressing problem": "We do not evade its consideration." Moscow respects the peace initiatives of African leaders: "We are attentively considering them."

Agencies



Modi, Xi Jinping spoke about need to stabilise bilateral relations during Bali G20 Summit

NEW DELHI



INDIA on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra (pictured) Modi, and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the conclusion of the dinner hosted by the Indonesian President during the Bali G20 Summit last year, exchanged courtesies and spoke of the need to stabilize bilateral relations.

Israel PM defends justice reform, air force chief warns of threat

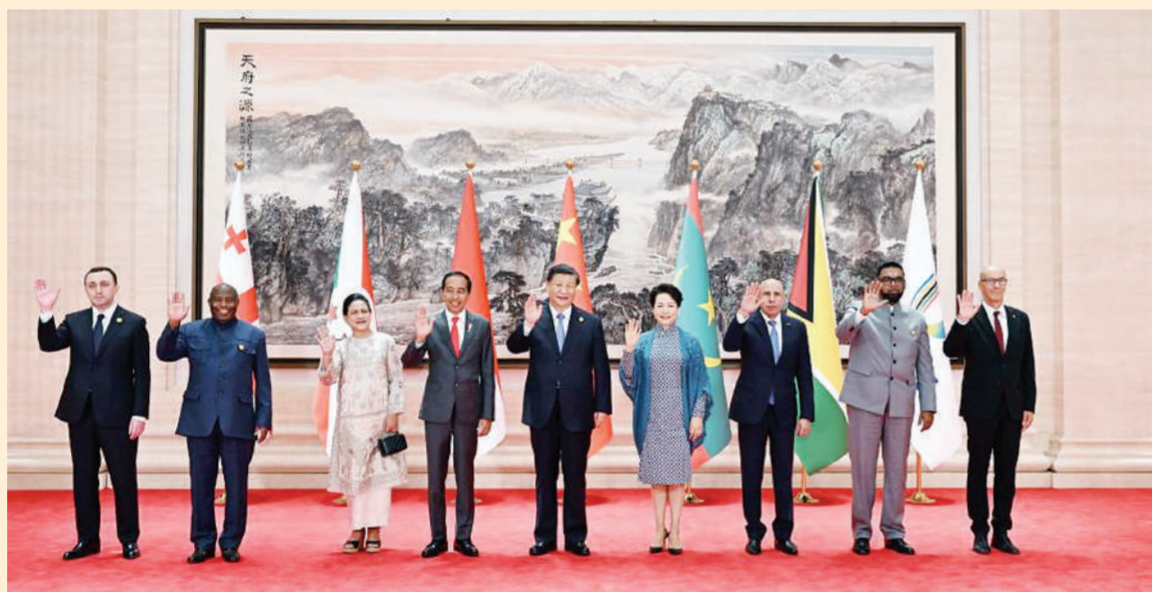
JERUSALEM



PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said parliament's decision to trim Supreme Court powers to overrule government actions as part of his planned judicial overhaul would not hurt Israel's democracy.

Xi stresses youth, solidarity, inclusiveness in vision for shared future

CHENGDU



Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan pose for a group photo with guests during a welcoming banquet ahead of the opening ceremony of the 31st summer edition of the FISU World University Games in Chengdu, capital city of southwest China's Sichuan Province, July 28, 2023.

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan yesterday hosted a banquet in Chengdu, capital city of southwest China's Sichuan Province, to welcome guests attending the opening ceremony of the 31st summer edition of the FISU World University Games.

of COVID-19 and other adverse factors, China has acted vigorously to fulfill its solemn pledge for a suc-

cessful World University Games and to make new contributions to the cause of international youth sports.

Since its inception, the World University Games has always been a celebration of youth, solidarity and

friendship, Xi said. He called for bringing together young people from around the world to promote world peace and development with the power of youth, and carrying forward the spirit of the World University Games to stand up to global challenges in solidarity.

India, Japan emphasize role of partnership in ensuring free, open, prosperous Indo-Pacific region

NEW DELHI



EXTERNAL Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar, his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi on Thursday emphasized the role of India-Japan partnership in ensuring a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region that is inclusive and rules-based.

in comprehensive discussions covering a wide range of issues of bilateral, regional, and global significance. They highlighted the importance of further strengthening India-Japan partnership based on shared values and principles.

isfaction with the strengthening of defence and security cooperation, including regular exercises and staff talks between all three services. In this context, they discussed a way forward to deepen Defence Equipment and Technology Cooperation.

issues of interest. Jaishankar, his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi also discussed cooperation under multilateral and plurilateral frameworks, including Quad. They agreed on the need for early reforms of the UNSC. They also exchanged views on their respective G20 and G7 presidencies.

Japan. The India-Japan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue reaffirmed the commitment of both sides to strengthen their Special Strategic and Global Partnership. The meeting further deepened bilateral cooperation and set the stage for enhanced collaboration on regional and global issues.

Southwest Asia and Africa to bolster relations with a group of nations known as the Global South, NHK World-Japan reported. Speaking to reporters in Tokyo earlier this week, Yoshimasa Hayashi said he will visit India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, South Africa, Uganda and Ethiopia through August 4. During his visit, he plans to hold meetings with foreign ministers of those countries and other senior officials, according to the NHC World-Japan report.

Smearing Chinese-foreign port cooperation is creating barriers for common development

AS the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) kept growing in both depth and substance over recent years, Chinese enterprises joining the construction and operation of ports in other Belt and Road countries have not only forcefully promoted local employment, infrastructure and economic development, but also benefited these countries with outstanding maritime transport services.

Such accusation is groundless. It politicizes normal business cooperation and makes it an issue about ideologies and security. Its aims at smearing and oppressing Chinese enterprises so as to maintain the so-called "competitive edge" of the United States.

Ports are comprehensive transportation hubs. How relevant infrastructure and support facilities are built and how well ports are operated and managed bear important significance in developing national economy, especially maritime economy.

Merely based on China's ownership of ports, some people in the United States came to the conclusion that China has an ulterior motive in investing nearly 100 ports around the world, claiming that the overseas ports of China have gained "important military functions."

brings important opportunities for development to host countries. Over the years, Chinese enterprises have taken an active part in the investment, construction and operation of ports in countries along the Belt and Road, creating remarkable economic and social benefits.

create over 400,000 jobs for local communities. A container terminal constructed by Chinese enterprises in Phnom Penh, Cambodia has now become a major hub for Cambodia's foreign trade. It facilitates the exports of Cambodia's rice and other farm produce, and is creating huge economic benefits.

People's Daily

Prince Harry's trial against Murdoch tabloids to go ahead

LONDON

PRINCE Harry can take some of his lawsuit against media magnate Rupert Murdoch's tabloids to trial, London's High Court ruled on Thursday, but claims of decades-old phone hacking were thrown out for being filed too late.

The court also rejected one of Harry's central arguments, that there had been a "secret deal" struck between Buckingham Palace and Murdoch's newspaper group to keep quiet the illegal hacking into voicemails of royals' mobile phones.

Harry, the younger son of King Charles and the late Princess Diana, is suing News Group Newspapers (NGN) over alleged invasions of privacy by its tabloids, the Sun and the now-defunct News of the World, from the mid-1990s until 2016.

It is one of four cases that the 38-year-old prince, who now lives in California with his wife Meghan and their two children, is pursuing at the High Court against British publishers. He casts the legal actions as a mission to hold tabloid executives to account for lying and covering up widespread wrongdoing.

In Thursday's ruling, Judge Timothy Fancourt said he could not conclude there was a "sufficiently plausible evidential basis" for Harry to allege a secret deal.

But he said the rest of Harry's claims of "blagging" - or obtaining by deception - confidential details about him and using other unlawful invasions of privacy could proceed to a trial due to begin in January next year.

"The remaining claims must be tried," Fancourt said. "I do not find this is a case where it's possible to say one party is clearly the successful party."

However, NGN hailed the ruling as a "significant victory", and said it drew a line under hacking accusations dogging the publisher since 2005.

The Palace has declined to comment.

Harry's legal team will have to submit new details of claims against NGN, exclude phone hacking, ahead of next year's trial.

In earlier court documents, his lawyers suggested "blagging" took place as recently as when he began dating Meghan. They alleged the Sun instructed a private investigator to obtain information including her social security number.

Since stepping down from royal duties in 2020, Harry has turned his focus onto battling the British press which he says has intruded into his private life since he was a child, spreading lies about him and those close to him.

He has also lashed out at his own family, including the king and his second wife Camilla who he says conspired through royal aides into planting stories about him in papers to enhance their reputations or distract from wrongdoing they might have committed.

In June, he became the first senior British royal for more than 130 years to give evidence in court when he appeared as part of another lawsuit against Mirror Group Newspapers.

Harry has divided British opinion: some disapprove of his distancing from the royal family and view him as attention-seeking, while others applaud him as a progressive tackling an immoral media and old-fashioned establishment attitudes.

Niger military declares support for presidential coup plotters

NIAMEY

THE Niger military has declared support for coup leaders who have reportedly seized the presidency of the West African nation, CNN reported. World leaders and humanitarian bodies have issued stark warnings against the people involved in the coup.

Niger's army command on Thursday said it was supporting the takeover against Niger President Mohamed Bazoum to stop the bloodshed and maintain "the well-being of our populations," according to CNN. In a statement released on Twitter, Niger's army command said it had to "preserve the physical integrity of the president of the republic and his family," and "avoid a deadly confrontation... that could create a bloodbath and affect the security of the population." It further said that any foreign military intervention "risks having disastrous and uncontrolled consequences."

The statement said, "Our country remains prey to insecurity imposed by the terrorist armed groups and other organized criminal groups." On Wednesday, Niger President Mohamed Bazoum was apparently taken by members of the presidential guard and his precise whereabouts remain unknown.

On Thursday, Niger's Presidential office said, "All Nigeriens who love democracy and freedom will see to it." The statement shared on Twitter did not give details of whether the Niger President is still being detained, according to CNN.

When Bazoum assumed office in 2021, it was the first time that there was a democratic transfer of power in Niger after years of military coups since the nation gained independence in 1960. On Wednesday, visuals emerged that showed hundreds of pro-Bazoum protesters taking to the streets of Niamey as national institutions were shut down and land borders remained temporarily closed.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk in a statement said he is "shocked and distressed" by the events. Turk said that Niger President must be "immediately and unconditionally released." He urged all actors to refrain from violence and respect the rights and fundamental freedoms of everyone.

"I am shocked and distressed by the attempted military takeover in Niger and condemn it in the strongest terms. All efforts must be undertaken to restore constitutional order and the rule of law," Volker Turk said.

Volker Turk said, "I urge all actors to refrain from violence and respect the rights and fundamental freedoms of all. It is in the interests of all the people of Niger that the important democratic gains made in recent years are safeguarded and preserved."

BRICS Summit 2023: Shaping equitable global order

JOHANNESBURG

As South Africa anticipates hosting the eminent 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, the world awaits with bated breath to witness the unfolding of this influential alliance on the global stage. Formed as BRIC and later joined by South Africa, BRICS stands as a beacon of economic optimism, presenting an alternative global order to challenge the dominance of traditional institutions.

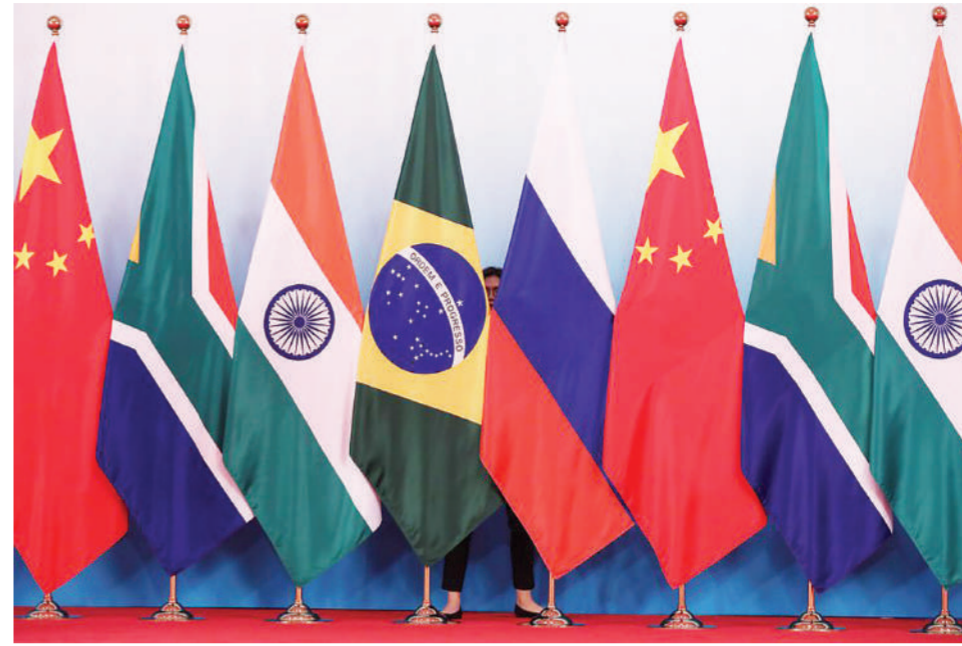
With a track record of accomplishments through the New Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement, BRICS draws interest from numerous nations seeking an equitable platform of representation. This defining moment summons unity and commitment, promising a future of fairness and prosperity for the Global South. South Africa is poised to host the prestigious 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg from 22nd to 24th August 2023 with great anticipation. Initially formed as BRIC, a visionary concept coined by Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neil in 2001.

The alliance was comprised of Brazil, Russia, India, and China - a collective representation of burgeoning emerging markets brimming with current and future economic prowess. In a momentous development in 2010, South Africa joined the ranks, bestowing the acronym BRICS upon this formidable bloc of nations.

Now, on the cusp of this landmark event, the world eagerly awaits the world awaits with bated breath to witness the unfolding of this influential alliance on the global stage.

As a consortium of the world's five fastest emerging economies, the BRICS exudes profound economic optimism. It was touted to present an alternative global order that would act as a formidable response to the Washington consensus-driven Bretton Woods Institutions. The heft of the group springs from the fact that it comprises 3.2 billion people collectively, that is, 42 per cent of the total world population.

BRICS economies represent 27 per cent of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and over 18 per cent of global trade. These countries also register 50 per cent of the total global economic growth, making them the most significant countries propelling global growth.



Over the years, the BRICS has accomplished several achievements. The two notable ones are the New Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement. The New Development Bank (NDB) was launched in 2014 with an initial capital of USD 50 billion, with member countries making an equal contribution of \$10 billion each.

It is contended as a new multilateral bank that provides an alternative to Bretton Woods Institutions of the IMF and the World Bank. It also claims to have a fairer governance structure by being democratic as all the original members have equal votes and say in its functioning. The NDB is highly respectful of member states' laws and rules. It provides faster financing than the World Bank, and without imposing strict conditions like the IMF.

With a substantial investment of USD 32.8 billion already directed towards 96 projects within BRICS member countries, the NDB displays an impressive track record. Ambitiously, it seeks to broaden the horizons of its operations further. The NDB is open to new members as well and in 2021, countries like Egypt, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bangladesh and Uruguay became stakeholders by acquiring its shares.

The Contingent Reserve Arrangement works as a liquidity mechanism to support BRICS member countries that are facing balance of payment issues or struggling with payments. A series of swap arrangements were established among the BRICS member countries' central banks.

This swap arrangement provided for an exchange of local currency for hard currencies

such as the US dollar by the central bank of the member country facing a balance of payment crisis with other member countries of the BRICS.

These mechanisms are attracting many other emerging economies and developing countries that have had poor past experiences and lingering issues with IMF's structural adjustment programmes and austerity measures. It has become one of the significant reasons why several countries have expressed their keen interest in joining the BRICS grouping.

This a resounding testament to the burgeoning legitimacy and significance of BRICS, as no less than 19 nations have already stepped forth to express their desire. Among them, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Mexico, Argentina, and Nigeria, each enticed by the allure of the BRICS family, yearn to join the ranks of this prestigious alliance. United in their pursuit of prosperity and stability, they exemplify the appeal of this illustrious grouping, leaving an indelible mark on the global landscape.

ANI

African, Caribbean nations join forces for slavery reparations

REPRESENTATIVES from various African and Caribbean entities joined forces at a historic event this week in the capital of Barbados, Bridgetown, to demand reparations for slavery and its legacy in today's society.

The University of the West Indies (UWI), the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (AU), Barbados' government, grant-making network Open Society Foundations and the Caribbean Pan African Network teamed up to "call for reparations for historical crimes".

The meeting in Bridgetown, from Monday to Thursday, included strategy sessions and plenaries and marked the beginning of an "intercontinental campaign", the UWI said in a statement, describing it as "ground-breaking".

Attendees included ambassadors and representatives from AU member states and the Caribbean Community political and economic union (CARICOM).

"This is a historic moment... humanity cannot go forward with all the toxic interferences of colonization," Hilary Beckles, head of the CARICOM reparations commission, told a news conference on Thursday. "We have to clean up this mess to allow humanity to function."

The CARICOM reparations commission, which was set up to seek reparations from former colonial powers such as the United Kingdom, France and Portugal, "sees the persistent racial victimization of the descendants of slavery and genocide as the root cause of their suffering today", it said in its 10-point reparations plan.

Outcomes of the meeting include a proposal for a roadmap for cooperation between the AU and CARICOM, according to the UWI statement.



In this file photo dated March 22, 2022, people protest to demand an apology and slavery reparations during a visit to the former British colony by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince William and Kate, in Kingston, Jamaica. Representatives from various African and Caribbean entities joined forces at a historic event this week in the capital of Barbados, Bridgetown, to demand reparations for slavery and its legacy in today's society. AP

"It is crucial to recognize how slavery, colonialism and racism intersect and impact the lives of Black people around the world," said AU

official Youssouf Mandoha.

From the 15th to the 19th century, at least 12.5 million Africans were kidnapped and forcibly transported by

European ships and merchants and sold into slavery. Those who survived the brutal voyage ended up toiling on plantations under

inhumane conditions in the Americas, mostly in Brazil and the Caribbean, while others profited from their labour. Barbados, where the meeting took place, received 600,000 enslaved Africans between 1627 and 1833, who were put to work in sugar plantations, earning fortunes for the English owners.

The Caribbean island ditched Britain's late Queen Elizabeth as head of state in 2021 and renewed its campaign for reparations.

The idea of paying reparations or making other amends for slavery has a long history but the movement is gaining momentum worldwide.

The EU said earlier this month that Europe's slave-trading past inflicted "untold suffering" on millions of people and hinted at the need for reparations for what it described as a "crime against humanity". Agencies

Booming cultural industry accelerates Beijing's urban development

BEIJING, the capital of China, is witnessing expanding scenarios and business forms of the cultural industry.

It has enriched residents' spiritual life and empowered the city's development.

For instance, Jixiang Theater, a time-honored Peking Opera theater in Beijing, has taken on a new look after renovation. It is serving coffee named after famous opera stories, offering visitors an experience that blends the East and the West.

The 798 Art Zone, which is built upon a complex of 50-year-old factory buildings, houses a thriving artistic community and presents various master art shows to visitors.

There's even a virtual show presenting the Beijing Central Axis, the backbone of old Beijing stretching 7.8 kilometers from south to north, where people can immerse themselves in the magnificence and evolution of the Chinese capital.

Culture is the soul of a city. The preservation and inheritance of the city's soul can be found in every corner of the capital.

The Zhongyuan Peking Opera Theater is a two-storey wood structure now located in Beijing's Xicheng district. With a history of over 300 years, it is hailed as a "living fossil of Chinese theater."

The ancient theater has gone through several ups and downs. It was once used as a warehouse in wartime, and also served as a coal shop, a school building and a hotel.



Photo shows a beautiful view of the Shougang Park, a steel mill-turned cultural and sports complex in Shijingshan district, Beijing. (Photo by He Luqi/People's Daily Online)

Though it was restored afterward, it barely attracted theater-goer.

"After we took it over in 2019, we carried out a comprehensive restoration in accordance with its original historical appearance," said Sun Minglei from the Northern Kunqu Opera Theater.

The Zhongyuan Peking Opera Theater became popular after reopening. In April this year, it launched a month-long performance series to mark the anniversary of its reopening.

"For four of the ten performances, the ticket price could be as high as 1,280 yuan (\$178.13). Tickets were always in high demand," Sun

told People's Daily.

Besides, various activities have been held at the Zhongyuan Peking Opera Theater, including lectures by famous artists, the filming of an 8K documentary and exhibitions of intangible cultural heritages.

According to general manager Zhang Peng, the theater is currently planning to host featured activities about the Kunqu Opera.

"With the ancient theater and creative ideas, we'll build new scenarios of cultural consumption," Zhang said.

Beijing has become the first super-large city in China that has achieved growth with reduced in-

put. Many old industrial parks in the city have chosen to transform themselves into creative cultural parks.

The 798 Art Zone in Beijing's Chaoyang district is one of the first to benefit from the transformation.

The former factory complex is currently home to more than 400 enterprises engaged in art, creative designing and cultural technology, said Yang Jinwei, who's in charge of the art zone.

According to Yang, the art hotspot has been visited by more than 100 heads of state and political dignitaries. Besides, it hosts nearly 4,000 art activities and receives 10 million visits each year. About 30 percent of its visitors are from overseas.

The 798 Art Zone, by connecting the production and consumption of the cultural sector, has fostered a new business model that integrates sightseeing, art appreciation, entertainment and shopping.

Yang told People's Daily that a massive renovation project was launched last year at the art hotspot, which aimed at maintaining its original appearance and creating more space for cultural creation. The pedestrian areas in the art zone were expanded to nearly 100,000 square meters.

"An oracle bone script-themed cultural festival is being hosted, which not only presents traditional Chinese culture to visitors, but also vitalizes the night economy in

surrounding communities," Yang said, adding that nighttime foot traffic at the art zone has surged 65.38 percent during the cultural festival.

It is reported that over 70 percent of the cultural parks above the municipal level in Beijing were transformed from old factory buildings, including the Shougang Park, the Langyuan Station Cultural Center and a cultural park at the Longfusi Temple. These facilities both meet people's new demands for a better life and contribute to the city's urban renewal.

Thanks to the wide application of digital technologies in the cultural industry, which drives profound reforms of the supply and consumption sides, a batch of new business forms are emerging in the industry.

As China's cultural center and an international hub for sci-tech innovation, Beijing enjoys unique advantages in promoting the integrated development of culture and technology. Artificial intelligence, 5G, big data and other frontier technologies are accelerating the upgrading of Beijing's cultural industry.

According to statistics, the total revenue of Beijing's cultural enterprises above the designated size reached 766.53 billion yuan between January and May this year, up 15.3 percent year-on-year.

People's Daily



Nigeria U-19 cricket squad's Solomon Chilemanya (L) receives a prize from a cricket official following his squad's victory over Tanzania U-19 squad in the 2023 ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifier's clash which took place in Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club on Thursday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Tanzania U-19 cricketers crash out of 2023 ICC U-19 WC Africa Qualifiers

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S U-19 cricketers have crashed out of the 2023 ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifiers following their 37-run loss to Nigeria U-19 team at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) on Thursday.

The loss was the third for the tournament hosts given the youngsters previously went down to Namibia U-19 and Uganda U-19 squads.

Tanzania's U-19 cricket team once again could not shake off its batting woes in the clash against Nigeria U-19, given the former hardly had what it takes to chase a modest score amassed by the latter.

Nigeria's U-19 cricketers went on to post 149/10 in 47.4 overs once they took the crease first, setting up a 150-target for the Tanzania U-19 cricket squad.

The batting team's innings hardly got off well, as opening batsmen Paul Pam and Selim Salau could not last long at the crease.

The duo was back in the pavilion within the first two overs, in which Pam was trapped for leg before wicket by Tanzania U-19's Shaikh Basha, and Salau's wicket was taken by Johnson Nyambo after two knocks.

Chijioke Okeke nailed 15 runs as the West African country's team sought to wade off the Tanzania U-19 bowling unit's challenge.

The team's captain Ridwan Kareem also ended with a double-digit score having notched 16 runs but Solomon Chilemanya was the player with the most meaningful showing with the bat. The batsman went on to post 66 runs not out, which included three fours, once he stepped at the crease with the squad having registered 49 runs after 24.5 overs.

Joshua Sunday made his way back with 17 runs, fellow batsman Emmanuel Udekwe chipped in with 14 runs, whilst cracking a boundary and a six, as the team pressed for more runs.

Augustine Mwamele was the most prolific bowler for the Tanzania U-19 squad, given the cricketer posted four wickets leaking 28 runs in 10 overs. Shaikh Basha and Nyambo ended their bowling spells with two wickets apiece with the former leaking 18 runs in 10 overs and his fellow bowler conceding 11 runs in 1.4 overs.

Amassing 150 runs to come out victorious happened to be a tall order for Tanzania U-19 cricketers, given they ended with 112 runs, losing all wickets in 48.1 overs, to stretch their losing run.

Ally Hassan that was deployed at number three sought to make his presence felt after the early exits of openers Hamza Ally and Acrey Paschal, as the former recorded 12 runs.

Baraka Laizer and Nyambo kept on pushing for better figures, with Laizer notching 11 runs and Nyambo ending with 13 runs.

Mwamele was, in the end, the batting squad's cricketer with the most runs, ending with 25 runs. Laksh Snehal later chipped in with 11 runs.

Tanzania's U-19 cricketers were

expected to have a two-day rest and will return to the pitch tomorrow to conclude their campaign with an encounter with Sierra Leone U-19 cricketers- which will serve as a formality.

Seascope Hotel, METL, CTV, Ashton Media, Pepsi, GI Security, Red Dot Distribution, and Reliance Insurance are backing the ongoing ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifier slated to conclude tomorrow.

Six teams namely Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Uganda are playing in the 2023 ICC U-19 Men's World Cup Africa Qualifiers.

Sixteen teams will be competing at the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup Sri Lanka 2024 over 41 matches and 11 teams automatically qualified for the event as the best-placed Full Member nations from the previous event played in 2022.

The remaining five spots are to be determined through regional qualification pathways, with one team from each region securing a place at the global event.

Americas and East Asia Pacific have hosted one qualifying event in 2023, with the winner of the show-downs sealing a spot at the 2024 U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup.

The African, Asia, and Europe regions have each gone through a two-step qualification structure. These regions hosted Division 2 Qualifiers in 2022 to determine the teams that will compete in the second and final qualifying event, the Regional Qualifier, with events taking place in 2023.

The winner of the African event will join regional qualifiers from Asia (Nepal), East Asia Pacific (New Zealand), Europe, and America's representatives, as well as the 11 Full Member cricket nations that automatically qualified for the 15th edition that will be played in Sri Lanka.

The Full Member competitors are Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies, and Zimbabwe.

Sri Lanka will be hosting a third U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup after riveting events in 2000 and 2006.

Tanzania's U-19 cricketers were on the verge of qualifying for the previous global showpiece which took place in the West Indies in 2022 after dictating the pace in the Africa Division One Qualifiers, which took place in October 2021 in Kigali, Rwanda.

Unfortunately, they were pipped to that lone berth by Uganda on net run rate (NRR) after the latter bundled the former out for 51 runs in 26.5 overs on the final day of the qualifier and proceeded to chase down the target within 11 overs to boost their NRR to 2.128.

The trio of Uganda, Namibia, and Tanzania finished with the same number of points as Uganda emerged victors with a superior NRR.

Amazingly Tanzania finished third as the Namibians beat Nigeria in a rain-curtailed match played at Gahanga.

Yanga set in realistic mood to target Group Stage of CAF Champions League

By Correspondent John Kimbuta

THREE weeks or so of the registration window has demonstrated to all and sundry that there are glaring differences between the city rivals, despite that perennial underdog but reigning Premier League champions, Young Africans SC (Yanga) make an effort at cover-up.

As the two city sides moved to pre-season camps and played friendly matches meant to test their respective squads, club positions about their targets this season could be audibly heard.

The two positions were an evaluation of signings with Simba SC while for their archrivals, Yanga, the position was a disclaimer about opponents.

After the draw for the preliminary stages of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League was drawn up, and this time without a fallback option into the CAF Confederation Cup tourney, people noticed that Yanga is likely to have a walk in the park for the first round.

Still, the next stage, where the likely opponent is Sudanese bruised giants El Merreikh now that they face deep-seated problems at home, was not altogether predictable like the preliminary round.

The Yanga leadership and incoming technical bench had little reason to be gleeful about the first round, issuing caution of respecting opponents.

Their remarks did not end with respecting First Preliminary Round opponents and the Second Preliminary Round duel which unavoidably will be a test, as Al Hilal, next-door rivals of El Merreikh, proved a tough nut to crack in the first round encounters last season.

With visible squad improvement this time, there



Yanga's winger, Denis Nkane (R), dribbles past Kaizer Chiefs' defender when the two clubs took on each other in a friendly tie that was held in Dar es Salaam recently. Yanga won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

is a plausible expectation that the side stands to make it to the Group Stage, and that is where their prediction ended.

That was salutary, for it shows the Jangwani Street club's leadership isn't absorbed into either its propaganda or that of the fans, which suggests that in the past year, they were the more successful side in the city, instead of saying 'for domestic cups'.

The Msimbazi Street club's leadership, with a more impressive performance in retaining squad cohesion and visible improvement, could let itself dream much higher than their archrivals' decidedly realistic assessment of their continental tournament chances.

Talking about signings rather than first-round opponents, they took for granted that they will have the ability to cruise to the quarterfinals as they have done so in the past, but this time expecting something bigger, the semi-finals.

No one can say that this is likely to be the proper outcome, as just a few clubs are perennially assured of the semi-finals, or perhaps just two - Al Ahly and Mamelodi Sundowns. And the latter looks like a newcomer to

the very top flight, admittedly.

How far this situation changes the psychological relationship between the two sides is not easy to tell, for much of the same situation was evident last season, namely in Simba SC having a stronger side but with Yanga winning nearly all the trophies.

The reasons were not altogether forthcoming, whether the Jangwani Street outfit leveraged more energy on domestic tourneys than the Msimbazi Street side, or on the other hand the green and yellow shirt owners moved around to influence ties and outcomes.

This suspicion wasn't idle as it was at one time echoed by none other than the number 1 Yanga fan in social ranking, the one and only Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete.

What was amiss last year was thus the respected continental side, standing at number 9 in the rankings, failing to win any domestic title, which may also have had to do with the rotation of players to give a chance to others in domestic matches.

There is a tendency for up-country sides to be especially muscled when they play either of the city rivals and for some evident reasons, Simba SC was the

side to beat even if Yanga had accumulated often questionable points.

A forward sidesteps a looming defender and another slips and falls, so the Yanga forward brilliantly finds the net.

There is a chance that this is corrected this year and a more realistic impression of league capacity is reflected in the standings, instead of either tricks or subterfuge being chalked up as capacity.

Even then Msimbazi Street outfit had the opportunity of putting the record straight in a 2-0 win over their next-street rivals in a league encounter that could have been the decider, had the numbers been right at that time.

The season was admirably in favour of the Jangwani Street side, winning domestic trophies and seemingly reaching the top of African soccer, with a rather flawed yardstick.

Things seem less rosy this time round, with the considerable uplifting of the squad such that its commitments in the continental tourney and even in the Africa Football League initiative would not diminish their ability in the domestic run.

The disadvantage that former Yanga pivotal striker Fiston Mayele at some point mentioned, is that other teams combat the two top sides more ferociously than is usually the case, with an adequately good number of replacements, the Msimbazi Street side can do well in the league run without overly tiring its preferred first eleven line up.

A last-minute surprise is still being awaited in a much-vaunted signing of a player, ostensibly from Cameroon, to take the place of the departed point striker.

What was an illustration that Yanga's president Hersi Said was more awake than many of those airing their views on the state of the squad?

Being realistic about what it takes to reach Group Stage is important, as El Merreikh is no pushover.

Geay opts out of World Athletics Championships

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN athlete Gabriel Geay has opted out of battling it out in the 2023 World Athletics Championships scheduled to take place from August 19-27 at the National Athletics Center in Budapest, Hungary.

As a result, compatriot Alphonse Simbu will be Tanzania's only envoy in the World Athletics Championships scheduled next month.

Geay, who also secured qualifying marks for the global meet, has opted to skip it, focusing on other races including the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

The athlete's move has prompted Athletics Tanzania (AT) to submit a letter of request to World Athletics (WA) to allow a replacement of its three runners namely Emmanuel Giniki, Agustino Sulle, and Failuna Matanga ahead of the event.

The Budapest event is the 19th edition, according to the history of the WA Championships.

The city of Budapest had previously shown interest in hosting the 2007 WA event but withdrew and it eventually was held in Osaka, Japan.

Jackson Ndaweka, AT secretary general, said WA is yet to reply to their request as tomorrow is the deadline for submitting entries.

Ndaweka said Simbu and Geay met the qualification marks, however, they have requested WA to endorse Giniki to compete in the event after performing well in international competitions while Sulle will battle it out through a wild card.

"We also have requested WA to endorse the country's top female runner, Failuna, to feature in the event per her impressive position in the WA rankings," Ndaweka disclosed.

He said all runners are currently in preparations for the event, even though they have not been given the green light.

"The runners are under their respective coaches and in a few days they will set up joint residential camp," he said.

According to International

Olympic Committee and WA, a male marathoner must clock 2:08:10, while a female athlete ought to clock 2:26:50.

"I can say that the runners are in good shape ahead of the events and I believe they will record the best results," the AT official said.

Ndaweka said Simbu will leave the country on August 22 for Hungary and arrive in Budapest the next day.

"The body initially planned for him to leave on August 14 so

that he could participate in the opening ceremony but he asked to arrive there three days before and if he ever does, it should be three weeks before the competition so that he can get used to the weather," he said.

It is to be recalled that, Simbu came second in the 2022 Commonwealth Games marathon that was held in Birmingham, England to grab the silver medal behind Ugandan Victor Kiplangat that won the first-ever gold medal for his country.



Dar es Salaam youngsters are pictured playing soccer at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's venue recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Sweden won't back down against 'physical' Italy at Women's World Cup

WELLINGTON

CAPTAIN Kosovare Asllani warned her Sweden team won't back down in the face of Italy's physical approach when the two unbeaten sides clash at the Women's World Cup today.

A victory for either will be enough to qualify for the knockout phase but Italy-based Asllani said her team will need to come through a rigorous examination.

Third-ranked Sweden dug deep and found a 90th-minute winner in their 2-1 defeat of South Africa in their opener, while 16th-ranked Italy also left it late to see off Argentina 1-0.

A 2-2 draw between Argentina and South Africa on Friday leaves the two European teams as favourites to advance from Group G.

Experienced AC Milan midfielder Asllani -- the only outfield Swedish player in Italy's top flight -- has warned her team-mates to expect some old-fashioned Italian treatment in Wellington.

"I'm quite used to that type of football. It's very focused on man-marking and we know that there will be tough situations," she said.

"The duels are very important. We expect them to come in very close... but other spaces will open for us as a result.

"We never turn down the offer of a physical game so we're very much looking forward to it."

Asllani was unsurprised Italy's goal was rarely threatened by Argentina, pointing out Le Azzurre kept nine clean sheets during their 10 World Cup qualifying matches.

Sweden coach Peter Gerhardsson said their second game will be a marked contrast to the first, when South Africa operated without the ball and relied on fast counterattacks.

"Italy is perhaps not a team with the same speed as South Africa but many players are good with their heads and, methodically, they'll work to create opportunities."

Barcelona forward Fridolina Rolfo, who scored the equaliser against South Africa, was replaced late in the game with a knee complaint.

She said she had trained without incident, although the injury hadn't completely cleared.

Sweden have contested all eight previous Women's World Cups but their best performance was runners-up in 2003. They have finished third three times.

Italy reached the quarter-finals in two of their three appearances.

AFP

Colombia's Linda Caicedo: teenage World Cup star 'touched by God'

SYDNEY

COLOMBIAN forward Linda Caicedo has already survived cancer, earned a move to Real Madrid and scored for her country at the Women's World Cup.

She is also a hero among the LGBTQ+ community in Colombia having come out as gay. She also campaigns against marine plastic pollution.

And she is still just 18.

Whether in football or life away from the pitch, Caicedo seems to do everything at breakneck speed.

True to form, the teenager scored on her debut at the World Cup this week, getting Colombia's second goal in a 2-0 win over South Korea in their opener in Sydney.

That result set the team known as The Powerpuff Girls up nicely for their second match, against much-fancied Germany on Sunday.

The teenager was at the centre of a health scare on Thursday when cameras captured her holding her chest during training before lying on the ground. Colombian team officials later said she was fine.

Caicedo may only now be becoming a global household name, but she is already a big star in her homeland.

Last year, when still just 17, she helped Colombia reach the quarter-finals of the Under-20 Women's World Cup.

A few weeks later she stood out as Colombia went all the way to the final of the Under-17 World Cup, before losing 1-0 to Spain.

Before either of those tournaments, Caicedo played for Colombia's senior side as they made the final of the Copa America on home soil, which they lost 1-0 against Brazil.

- 'Born with a gift' -

Caicedo comes from Villagorgona, a town near the city of Cali, in western Colombia.

She honed her skills there on a battered pitch as the only girl playing among dozens of boys, in a country where women's football struggles in the face of sexism and a lack of funding.

AFP

Argentina comeback denies South Africa first win at Women's World Cup

DUNEDIN

ROMINA Nunez scored the equaliser as Argentina roared back from two goals down to draw 2-2 and deny South Africa a landmark first Women's World Cup win yesterday.

South Africa were cruising to a first-ever win in five matches at the World Cup after goals by Linda Motlhalo and Thembi Kgatlang either side of half-time in Dunedin.

But Argentina pulled one back via a stunning Sophia Braun strike in the 74th minute and then drew level five minutes later when Nunez headed home. South Africa also threw away the lead, and then conceded the decisive goal in the last minute, to lose 2-1 to Sweden in their opening



Argentina players celebrate after Romina Nunez scored their equaliser against South Africa in Dunedin. Agencies

match. "It is about taking our chances, making better decisions in the final third. If we take our chances we have a different conversation," coach Desiree Ellis said.

"Today was a great opportunity to put ourselves a step ahead, but

it is not all lost."

Appearing at their fourth World Cup, Argentina have still never won in 11 attempts themselves.

"I am really proud of how we came back, we never gave up. We showed a lot of heart,"

said Braun, Argentina's US-born full-back.

After losing their opening matches in New Zealand, Argentina and South Africa have one point each.

Favourites Sweden and Italy have three points before playing

each other in Wellington on Saturday, before a decisive final round of games on August 2.

Banyana Banyana let slip a golden opportunity to break their World Cup duck here having initially overcome the loss of captain Refiloe Jane to injury in the first half.

She was taken off on a stretcher, with Kgatlang taking the armband.

Kgatlang, who recovered from a ruptured achilles tendon to be fit for the World Cup, set up the opener when she ran away from the Argentina defence and squared for Motlhalo to score after half an hour.

The Argentina players stopped tracking back, convinced Kgatlang was offside in the build-up, and the flag did initially come up.

However, the goal was given on review and South Africa were in

front.

Paulina Gramaglia hit the bar with a cross-cum-shot for Argentina before Kgatlang put the ball in the net again in first-half stoppage time, but this time the goal was ruled out for offside.

Chances came at either end in the second half but South Africa appeared to be out of sight when Jermaine Seoposenwe's low centre was turned in by Racing Louisville forward Kgatlang just after the hour.

Argentina looked down and out but they were given hope when Braun beat goalkeeper Kaylin Swart with a fantastic strike, controlling a clearance and letting fly from 25 metres out.

Five minutes later they drew level as Yamila Rodriguez crossed for fellow substitute Nunez to head in and make it 2-2.

AFP

Messi mania sweeping across South Florida

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

TIME and space mark the finest margins in the game of futbol. With Lionel Messi and Sergio Busquets on the field, it seems Inter Miami now has infinite of both.

Messi landed in South Florida on July 11 after being in China with the Argentina national team followed by a Bahamas vacation and trip back home to South America. Shame on us for even having the thought that he might need some time to adjust to his new surroundings.

After a few practices and getting to know his teammates, he has already added spectacular highlights to an unparalleled résumé in just a couple of games. He played only 36 minutes in the first and 78 in the second, but remember, time is infinite when dealing with this legend.

Three goals and an assist already -- it all still seems unreal.

The greatest soccer player ever is now in Major League Soccer and using this blank canvas to continue painting masterpieces as only he could.

His first goal was a magical stroke of the brush, a classic free kick from right outside of the box to give Miami a 2-1 win in stoppage time versus Cruz Azul in his debut.

The second was a flashback to Barcelona as Busquets sailed a superb ball over the top and left Messi alone with the keeper. His initial shot ricocheted off the post but of course bounced back perfectly to his feet as he put it in the back of the net.

The third was a simple tap-in, but it was orchestrated by a vintage Messi run and movement that is routine for him as he sent the ball wide and drifted back into the box to receive the assist.

In a pair of matches, Messi and Busquets have almost made you forget that Inter Miami is the worst team in MLS. But



Fans are seen as Lionel Messi of Inter Miami CF arrives during his first game in a Leagues Cup match against Cruz Azul at DRV PNK Stadium on July 21, 2023 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Agencies

that's something they'll worry about later because the objective now is Leagues Cup, and they've looked like the best team in that competition thanks to the new acquisitions.

This might be a good time to remind you that Jordi Alba, who is signed, hasn't even joined the group yet.

On Tuesday, they host their next rival in the knockout round of the tournament. For as much conversation that preceded his arrival and whether or not they should play games at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami due to larger capacity, Fort Lauderdale has already transformed into a comfortable home for "Messi mania."

Take a lap around DRV PNK Stadium hours before a game and you might think Argentina is playing because those classic No. 10 jerseys are in abundance as they blend in with the pink and black.

When the team steps on the field for warmups, Messi's every move is cheered and recorded as fans scream out their admiration and soak in the moment.

It's a name so easy to chant, two syllables, that has now become an instant soundtrack throughout Inter Miami games. The stands in the stadium are like bleachers, so at times it sounds like a thunderstorm is rolling through, which isn't unusual for the area, but it's really just fans stomping on the ground in a furor.

It is indeed a full show and experience. So far LeBron James, Serena Williams, Diddy, Kim Kardashian, DJ Khaled among others have pulled up to the Messi show.

Cameras often pan to

co-owner David Beckham smiling uncontrollably among the celebs and bright lights. He's finally watching his dream come to life. The plan was never Rodolfo Pizarro, Gonzalo Higuain or Blaise Matuidi. Those were names Inter Miami ultimately had to settle for. But from the very inception they were shooting for the stars, and they finally got them.

New head coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino is also a massive part of this equation, especially due to his familiarity with the league and players. When asked what the biggest differ-

ence he sees in Messi now compared to when he coached him years ago, Martino didn't hesitate.

"The biggest change in Leo is that he's lifted a huge weight off him he had with the Argentina national team," Martino told Yahoo Sports. "He has done it in the past few years and that shows in everything: his day-to-day, statements, way of facing each of the games. Lionel is feeling very free, and undoubtedly, a player of that caliber being free means starting to see much more of these types of performances."

That's the most important part aside from what happens on the field. Messi, humble as always, doesn't want this to be about just him. This is about Inter Miami as a whole and being the best teammate possible. He's now also a teacher, constantly giving his teammates advice and pointing them in the right direction. It isn't something he had to do much of in his career besides maybe lately with the national team, and you saw how well that worked out for them in December as they won the World Cup.

Naturally, everyone around him will improve because his caliber is one of a kind. But his arrival has allowed for Inter Miami players to loosen up, play freely and much more confidently. The stars are now going to inherit

the responsibility, all his teammates have to do is execute. And do it well.

Miami midfielder Robert Taylor has answered the call, scoring three goals along with an assist in the past two games. Same stats as Messi.

Interestingly, Busquets and Alba might end up being the more influential pieces tactically for Inter Miami. But if teams aren't going to press and get physical with these guys on the field, they are going to punish them every time.

"Coaches can prepare a game plan in a certain way, but players that good will always create their own space," Martino said.

They've been doing it their whole lives.

A month ago, it was unimaginable that Miami might be able to make a Leagues Cup run. Now? Sky is truly the limit. Then they will shift focus to try and erase such an atrocious start to league play and make a push for a playoff spot. There's also the U.S. Open Cup semifinals, where they visit FC Cincinnati in a place where no visiting team has won this year.

That could change just as everything else seemingly has.

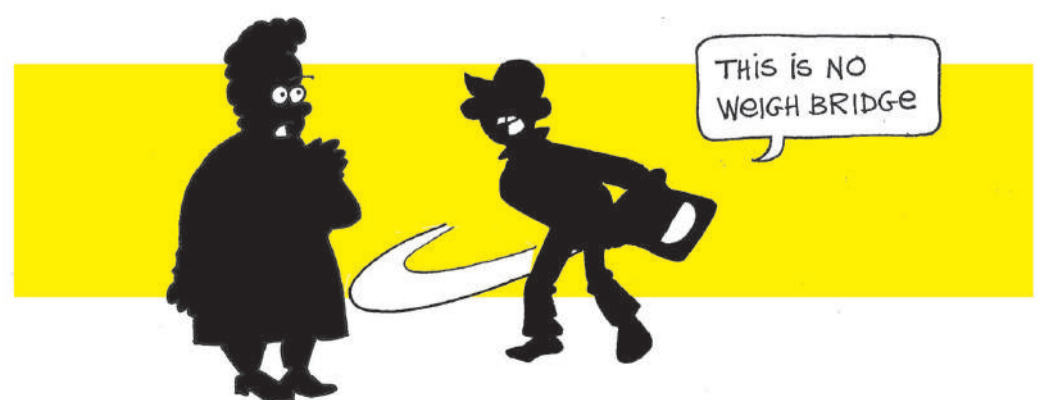
It's a new era in South Florida. This isn't Barcelona or Paris. It's not the legendary Camp Nou or Parc des Prince.

It's Fort Lauderdale. DRV PNK Stadium.

But at the end of the day, it's the same ol' Messi.

AGENCIES

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Argentina comeback denies South Africa first win at Women's World Cup

PAGE 19

Singida Fountain Gate FC set to host AS Vita in international friendly



Singida Fountain Gate Football Club's footballers are pictured shortly before the kickoff of one of the club's past Premier League ties in Singida. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SINGIDA FOUNTAIN GATE FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Fountain Gate FC will lock horns with DR Congo's soccer big gun, AS Vita Club, on the climax of the former's festival, termed Singida Day, scheduled to take place at Liti Stadium in Singida on August 2.

On the day, Singida football fans will have the opportunity to witness the unveiling of their 2023/24 season squad with Ghanaian winger Bernard Morrison set to be introduced as the club's new signing.

Information from the club disclosed that the agreement for the friendly tie has been reached following a recommendation issued by the technical

bench under Dutch head coach, Hans van der Pluijm.

Pluijm said that he is satisfied with the team's preparations so far and all he is waiting for is getting another game before the Premier League preparations.

The Dutch tactician stated: "I want to build a strong team that will bring competition in the country and CAF inter-club competition (CAF Confederation Cup)."

"I am aware we are, this season, participating in the continental showdown (CAF Confederation Cup)

so we must prepare well," Pluijm noted.

"So far the new players are adapting quickly as I wait to see if we can rope in more signings before the season transfer window closes as we don't have enough time."

Singida Fountain Gate FC will use the game to test its footballers' prowess as they prepare to play the Community Shield semi-final against Simba SC at the Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga on August 10.

Simba SC and Yanga former players Dickson Am-

bundo, Habib Kyombo, and Joash Onyango are among the players to have joined the Singida-based outfit to strengthen the squad for the upcoming season.

In their debut season, Singida Fountain Gate FC, then known as Singida Big Stars, finished fourth in the NBC Premier League, reached the Azam Sports Federation Cup semi-final, and final of the 2023 Mapinduzi Cup.

In the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup, Singida Fountain Gate FC will begin its campaign in the First Preliminary round, locking

horns with Zanzibar's envoys JKU SC.

The two teams will face each other in the first leg slated for August 20 and will thereafter take on each other in the rematch scheduled for August 27.

In the CAF Confederation Cup qualifying rounds, each tie will be played on a home-and-away two-legged basis.

If the aggregate score will be tied after the second leg, the away goals rule will be applied, and if still tied, extra time will not be played, and the penalty shoot-out will be used to determine the winner.

AS Vita Club is already looking ahead to the 2023/24 season by playing various international friendly games.

The Congolese club, which has trimmed its squad, has been organizing trials bringing together 28 players, including 24 foreigners, to fill the gaps left by departures. The trials at AS Vita Club started early this month.

AS Vita, which will represent DR Congo in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League, will have to punch the Group Stage ticket by defeating CD Primeiro de Agosto of Angola.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zote Kuntu
13:30 Kall Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguko
15:30 Akil & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kall Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SSPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA1 (r)

5Sports
The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5Sports.

eastafrika RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Sports meets tourism as maiden Lake Manyara Marathon attracts 3000 runners

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

IT is the first such sporting event set to take place at Mto-wa-Mbu with more than 3000 athletes confirmed to be racing along the wildlife in the forthcoming Lake Manyara Half Marathon slated for September.

The marathon, to be flagged off on September 17, comes in three categories, the main event- 21 kilometers, a 10 kilometers executive race, and 5 kilometers Fun Run all taking place at Mto-wa-Mbu area, in Monduli District adjacent to both Lake Manyara and its corresponding Manyara National Park.

'Racing in the Country of Flamingo,' is the guiding theme, and indeed, all participants will be given special T-shirts with the 'Flamingo' logo, in honour of the pink-colored trademark species of Manyara.

The marathon will be flagged off from the Lake Manyara National Park entry gate and climaxes at the Barafu grounds of Mto-wa-Mbu.

International athlete, Emmanuel Giniki, who has been appointed the goodwill ambassador of the race, is among the Lake Manyara Marathon participants.

"The race, which covers mostly cultural and attractive sites, will double as an active tourism event, cultural sampling fair, and talent identifying platform," Morris Leonard Okinda, the Director of GreenLeaf Mohar disclosed.

GreenLeaf Mohar is the firm behind the organization of the maiden Lake Manyara Marathon and the race's future editions.

Okinda added that they have chosen Mto-wa-Mbu because most residents of the area have always been playing the role of tour and safari guides to foreign visitors.

"Mto-wa-Mbu is also a spectacular tourist destination in its own right, starting from being located next to Lake Manyara National as well featuring cultural offerings such as traditional food, cultural ornaments, banana plantations, and paddy farms," he added.

Mto-wa-Mbu happens to be a cultural melting point for both locals and foreigners.

The small but very active township is perched below the Great Rift Valley wall and serves as a gateway to Karatu, Ngorongoro Crater, and Serengeti National Park.

And now the Lake Manyara Marathon is being added into the mix to spur things up through the hybrid sports and tourism offering.

Of all the categories, it is the Fun Run- which covers five kilometers- that has attracted the most participants with 1500 showing interest.

The Executive Race of 10 kilometers has on the other hand attracted 1000 participants, while the main toiling event of 21 kilometres will bring together 500 athletes.

Medals for all 3000 participants of the Lake Manyara Marathon have been imported from China.

Bonite Bottlers Limited of Moshi, through its Kilimanjaro Natural Spring Water brand, is among the race sponsors that include Jungle Pearl Lodge, Tanzania Cultural Tourism, and the Scorpion Tour Company.

Musonda ready to embrace central attacking position at Yanga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

GA's Zambian striker Kennedy Musonda is ready to embrace the leading striker's role at the club after Fiston Mayele's departure to Pyramids FC.

Musonda has been in fine form since he arrived at Yanga from Zambia's Power Dynamos having left as the top goalscorer of MTN Super League.

He was also the joint top goalscorer at Power Dynamos with Andy Boyeli as the goal-getters had, during Musonda's exit, notched 11 goals apiece.

The 28-year-old striker has scored in all competitions since arriving in January having displayed wonderful performance in the left wide forward role given to him by former coach Nasreddine Nabi who is now with FAR Rabat FC of Morocco.

Musonda said the central striker, a position that Mayele operated on throughout his tenure with Yanga, is a position he wants to play on the pitch and he is ready for it.

"I cannot refute the coach's decision when he wants to assign me to a certain role, even if it's not of my choice," the Zambian attacker revealed.

The player noted: "I like to be used as number nine, playing in front of my attacking midfielders where I can have the freedom to rotate left and

right to find spaces to score goals."

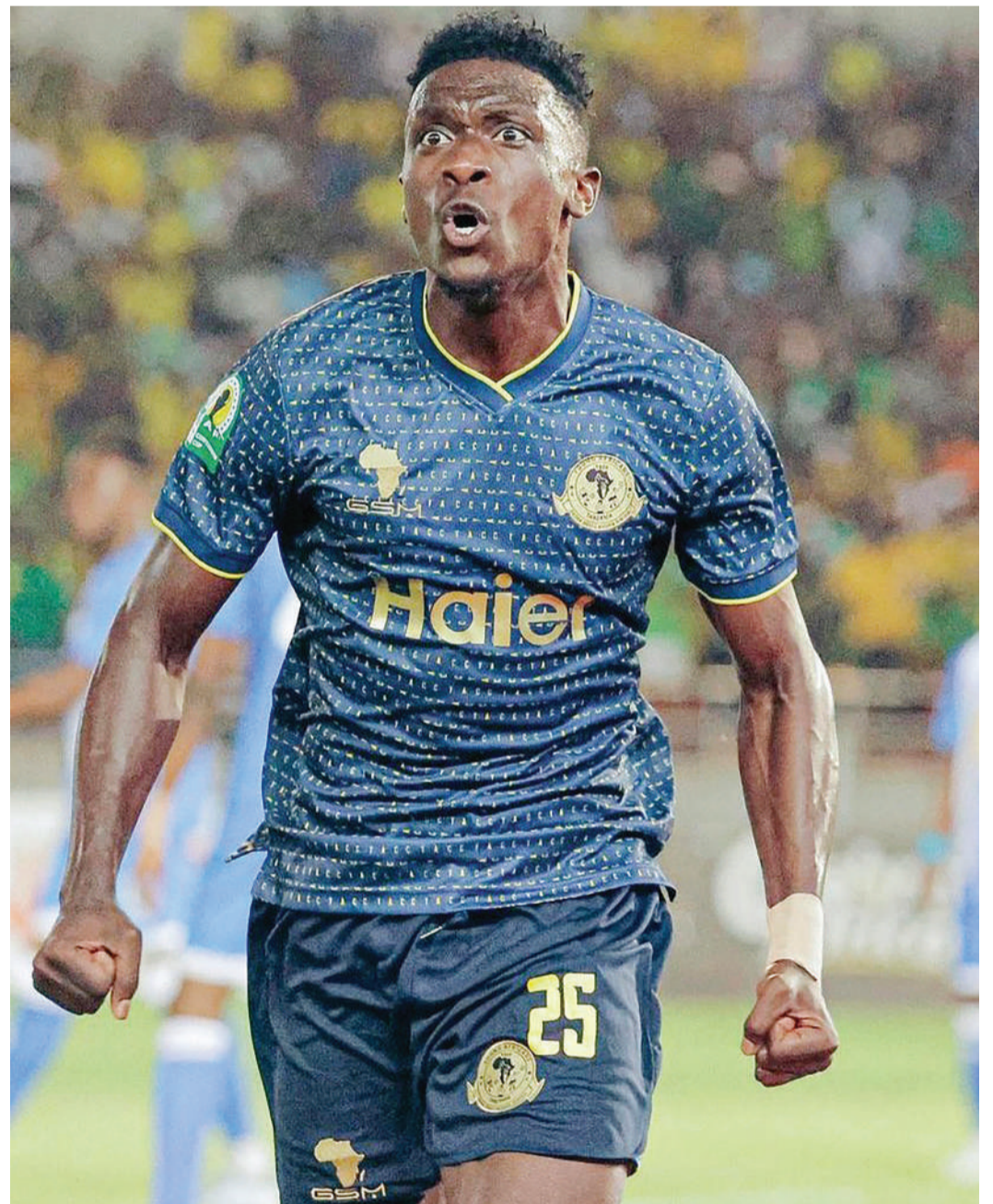
"I am ready to embrace the number nine role, I feel very free playing as a central striker despite my achievements with the club coming at left wing, but mostly I like to score, I plan to score a lot next season whenever I get a chance to play," Musonda stated.

Last season, Musonda was used as a number nine in the final of the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC), scoring the only goal that won Yanga the showdown's trophy.

In the international friendly match which had Yanga locking horns with South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs on the 'Mwananchi Day' at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, the Zambian forward was again played as center-forward and scored the only goal of the game as Yanga secured 1-0 victory.

Musonda is likely to lead the attacking line after Yanga failed to reach an agreement with Cameroonian international Emmanuel Mahop due to failure to reach the demands of the player's salary.

Clement Mzize that earned promotion to the Jangwani Street side's first team at 20 years old looks like a player that will take many years for Yanga to trust him to lead the attacking force, leaving Musonda as the leading forward for the club next season.



Kennedy Musonda. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

SOMETIMES ALL I NEED IS A BILLION DOLLARS

...AND A WIFEY

