

National Pg 3
VP warns uncouth govt leaders



National Pg 4
Songwe residents get relief maize



National Pg 6
Govt executes PPPs concept in deeds



WIZARA YA NISHATI

IMEBAKI SIKU

Tukio la ufungaji njia Mchepusho ya Maji ili kuruhusu Maji ya Mto Rufiji kuanza kujaa kwenye Bwawa la Julius Nyerere

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan witnesses the signing of the contract for the construction of the standard gauge railway (SGR) Tabora - Kigoma (506kms) section between the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) and Chinese contracting firms CCECC and CRCC at the State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Samia roots for loans as social media cautions over rising debt

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has defended the construction of the standard gauge railway (SGR) with loan financing due to the country's low capacity to generate adequate funds for mega projects.

Observers say that disquiet has been growing over the rapid rise of the national debt which has crossed the sensitive 90trn/- level, with the president asserting that borrowing cannot be avoided in implementing large development projects like the SGR.

She made the remarks at a ceremony for the signing of the Tabora-Kigoma lot of the SGR construction drive, held at the State House in the commercial capital yesterday.

Depending on local funds would hurt the

potential for pursuing major projects, so the government has to borrow, she said, vowing to pursue that strategy so long as the project is beneficial to the country.

"Our aim is to implement projects that will benefit the current and future generations, thus promoting sustainable development," she stated, urging revenue collection officers to intensify their efforts. The government needs to get enough to pay back the loans, she said.

Noting that the Treasury has to put this clear and explain where the country has reached with loans and is repaying, she said this is vital to protect the country's image in executing agreed contracts.

"We need to ensure that the loans are

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Burundi takes EALA Speaker seat as South Sudan bows out

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) has elected Ntakirutimana Joseph from Burundi as the new House Speaker.

Ntakirutimana replaces Martin Ngoga, a Rwandese who led the outgoing fourth assembly, elected uncontested after four contenders from South Sudan, Dr Leonardo Anne Itto and Gai Deng pulled out of the race in the last minutes.

The new speaker is among new EALA members who have just taken the oath upon taking their places in the chamber,

officials said.

The new assembly is the first regional chamber with members from all the seven EAC member states, namely Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan and new entrant, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Upwards of 60 EALA members took the oath of office at the EAC headquarters on Monday, as the legislative chamber is at present having 63 members. Each country is represented by nine legislators and five ministers who sit in their cabinet

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Zanzibar gets office for WFP disaster response

By Francis Kajubi

REGULAR offices of the World Food Programme (WFP) are being set up in Zanzibar to house liaison activities tied to the capacity for disaster reduction initiative (CADRI), a United Nations inter-agency partnership that helps countries address disaster and climate risks.

Sarah Gordon-Gibson, WFP country

director, outlined the agency's objectives in setting up the office, noting that the CADRI partnership aims at contributing towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals by boosting national capacity at a ceremony late last week.

"If we want to truly transform the path to the 2030 Agenda, none of us can do it alone, we must combine our forces at the level of government, the private sector,

development partners, innovators and the WFP to accelerate our efforts," she said.

Zanzibar has experienced rising water level with coastal waves spreading into farmland, washing up crops and making the land too salty for cultivation of a number of staples.

Highlighting the role that science, technology and innovation can play

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Germany gives 51 vehicles for tourism conservation

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday received 51 vehicles as part of emergency assistance in boosting tourism conservation in various national parks.

Resident German ambassador Regine Hess to Tanzania presented the equipment to the premier, intended for use in the Serengeti and Nyerere parks as well as the Selous reserve forest, worth euro 20m (56bn/-)

The project involves the purchase of more than 60 vehicles, a plane and helicopter for strengthening patrols, establishing community conservation banks and boosting plans for better land use in 55 villages around the cited national

parks, the premier explained at the Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre (JNICC) event in Dar es Salaam.

He praised Germany's backing for the emergency assistance programme for tourism conservation, signed in October 2021 to be carried out on a joint venture basis.

The key stakeholders are Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) and the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) which has long term ties with the Serengeti in particular, as well as the German Development Bank (KfW).

The vehicles will to a great extent reduce the scarcity of working tools, he said, expressing gratitude for this support in addition to euro 15m provided by the German government to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project is in preparatory stages, the premier affirmed, projecting that this additional sponsorship will broaden the scope of vital tourism conservation activities pursued in other parks or reserves.

The projects strengthen ties between the two countries and provides a vital

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and German Ambassador to Tanzania Dr Regine Hess (R) inspect 51 vehicles at a handing over ceremony under the emergency project for conservation and tourism in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Left is Natural Resources and Tourism minister Ambassador Dr. Pindi Chana. Photo: PMO





Mbeya MP who is also the Speaker of National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson visits road construction at Iyela ward yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

IMF approves disbursement of \$447.39 Million to Kenya

NAIROBI

THE board of the International Monetary Fund, IMF, has approved the release of \$447.39 million to Kenya, the fund announced on Tuesday.

The fund stated in a statement that efforts toward fiscal consolidation had caused Kenya's public debt to "level off," and it added that it had

given extra money under an existing facility.

In April of last year, the IMF and the East African country agreed to a 38-month financing arrangement under its extended fund facility and extended credit facility. The most recent payment brings the total to \$1.65 billion.

According to the IMF, Kenya would now receive a total of \$2.416

billion from the present agreement. The increase was agreed upon by both parties last month to cover expenses for external finance "due to the drought and difficult global financial conditions".

President William Ruto, who took office in September, intends to eliminate costly commercial borrowing in favour of less expensive sources like the World

Bank to lessen the burden that debt servicing puts on revenue.

This is coming after the IMF announced that it would release \$3 billion to Ghana by the first quarter of 2023, according to Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta.

The Minister claims that the medium-term macro-economic framework, structural reforms, and important fiscal measures included in the 2023 Budget are in line with the IMF-supported Programme.

On economic policies and reforms, Ghana has secured a staff-level agreement that will be supported by a three-year arrangement under the Extended Credit Facility.



Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) Director General Dr Athuman Ngenya (L) presents the National Quality Award for Best Company of the Year 2022\2023 (Large Enterprises) to GF Vehicle Assemblers Limited Executive Director Imran Karmali during the awarding ceremony organised by TBS in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is GF Vehicle Assemblers General Manager Ezra Mereng. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ruto meets Delta Air bosses, seeks to sell all state stake in KQ

WASHINGTON, D.C.

KENYAN President William Ruto met top executives of Delta Air Lines in his American trip where he launched the government bid to sell its entire 48.9 per cent stake in Kenya Airways.

The president held a meeting with executives from Delta Air Lines Inc., the largest US carrier by market value, last Thursday.

He, however, declined to provide details of the talks as Kenya seeks a cash-flush foreign airline as a strategic investor in the national carrier to offer expertise and cut its reliance on Treasury handouts for operational cash.

"I'm willing to sell the whole of Kenya Airways Plc," Dr Ruto told Bloomberg News on the sidelines of the US-Africa Leaders' Summit in Washington, D.C. on Friday. "I'm not in the business of running an airline that just has a Kenyan flag, that's not my business."

US President Joe Biden last week

hosted the US-Africa summit and will discuss the 2023 elections and democracy in the continent with about 50 African heads of state.

Over 300 American and African companies met with heads of different delegations to talk about investments in critical sectors, the White House said Tuesday.

"Discussions with Delta are at a preliminary stage," Dr Ruto said in the US. "The government is looking for partnerships that will make Kenya Airways a profitable entity whatever that means, in whatever configuration, whatever form it takes," he added.

Delta has previously shown interest for a piece of Kenya air traffic.

In 2009, the airline halted plans to launch four direct flights a week between Nairobi and Atlanta via Dakar after the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) failed to clear the new route, citing "noted security vulnerabilities in and around Nairobi."

This saw Kenya summon the then US ambassador to explain the last-minute cancellation of new Delta Air Lines flights on security fears.

The government in 1995 sold a 26 per cent stake in KQ to Dutch airline KLM and sold a further 22 per cent stake to local shareholders through an initial public offering at the Nairobi bourse in 1996.

The deal offered KLM seats on the KQ board, the right to appoint certain executives, in particular the CFO, and act as the technical partner for the national carrier.

KLM has reduced its stake from 26.7 per cent after the conversion of state debt and bank loans to equity diluted the firm's ownership to 7.76 per cent.

The multinational had expressed its desire to exit KQ when the government opted to nationalise the airline.

In 2021, Kenya Airways agreed with Air France-KLM to end a code share for Africa-Europe routes.

The national carrier has received

multi-billion-shilling state bailouts amid delayed recovery from a travel slump following COVID-19.

The fresh restructuring plan comes after the State dropped the favoured long-term solution that was anchored on nationalisation of the airline.

The plan approved by MPs in July 2019 would have led to the delisting of the airline from the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE).

A law to pave the way for the nationalisation of the airline, which had been proposed before the pandemic, is before Parliament.

Kenya wanted to emulate countries such as Ethiopia, which run air transport assets – from airports to fuelling operations – under a single company, using funds from the more profitable parts to support others.

Under the model approved by MPs, Kenya Airways would become one of four subsidiaries in an aviation holding company.

AGENCIES

Samia roots for loans as social media cautions over rising debt

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paid on time as well as funds directed to contracted firms," she stated, elaborating that an investor interested in the Uvinza-Msongati section of the railway to connect Tanzania with neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is available and will use his own funds, for gradual repayment when the railway is being used.

The SGR project has taken up 23.3trn/- and its construction is expected to open up the country. The rail facility will be transporting passengers and cargo to areas of high demand and faster transit time, lowering business costs.

Transporting one container from Dar es Salaam to DRC costs \$6,000

and up to \$15,000 depending on the final destination and taking up to 30 days on the road, she elaborated.

With the new facility, the costs will drop to \$4,000 whilst the consignment remains on transit for upwards of 27 to 30 hours, she said, pointing at the need to implement strategic projects like improving the old railway in Mtwara and the old central railway line, equip them with modern equipment to stimulate economic activities.

Masanja Kadogosa, the director general for the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) signed the contract, saying that the 506km-Tabora-Kigoma section will have 10 passenger stations and two terminals of Uvinja on the DRC side and Katosho dry port in Kigoma.

Zanzibar gets office for WFP disaster response

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in achieving the sustainable development goals, she said that WFP will support Zanzibar to adopt technology efficient methods for better effects in disaster preparedness and responses.

WFP similarly handed over drones to minister Hamza Hassan Juma (Second Vice President's Office) for use by the Disaster Management Commission to carry out surveillance missions.

The latter mainly relate to mapping hazards such as floods, crop pests and diseases, plus monitoring dry spells tied to effects of climate change, the director noted.

The minister said the WFP office expands the presence of UN agencies in the islands, indicating that more support will be extended in realizing objectives of the sustainable development goals.

In collaboration with WFP, the government is completing a review

of the disaster response plan for the two western districts A and B, he said, noting that the support extended by WFP will enable all 11 districts of Zanzibar set up disaster response plans.

A CADRI diagnosis was conducted in October to identify sectorial shortcomings in protecting the population against disasters, whose evaluation is vital to ensure that the country is safe from natural disasters, or negative impacts of economic activities, he explained.

Officials said WFP's engagement in Zanzibar dates back to the 1980s when it coordinated a livelihoods, with the youthful Samia Suluhu Hassan working at the agency's office in Unguja.

The agency has been working with Zanzibar authorities in formulating WFP's country strategic plan, the disaster preparedness and response programme and the women's economic empowerment project, they added.

Germany gives 51 vehicles for tourism conservation

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forum for other global efforts like biodiversity protection in conservation areas ecosystems, he stated.

Ambassador Hess expressed Germany's interest in pursuing

sustainable conservation, while the Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Pindi Chana said implementing the project will strengthen tourism conservation, helping to boost patrols in the selected areas.

Burundi takes EALA Speaker seat as South Sudan bows out

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capacities as envoys. The secretary general and the EAC legal counsel are part of the chamber, governed by Article 9 of the EA Treaty of Cooperation signed on November 30, 1999 to take effect on July 7, 2000.

The protocol provides that

each country is represented by nine elected deputies from each member state, charged with adopting legal edicts that regulate the work of the EAC Secretariat, monitoring government activities and advocating on various issues touching on the general interest of the partner states.

S. Africa's Ramaphosa re-elected as leader of the ruling ANC party

JOHANNESBURG

CYRIL Ramaphosa, president of South Africa's ruling party, the African National Congress (ANC), has been re-elected to lead the party for a second term of five years, according to the election results released on Monday.

Ramaphosa was re-elected during the 55th national conference of the ANC, which started in Johannesburg on Dec. 16 and ends Tuesday.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa is pictured after being re-elected as president of the African National Congress (ANC) during the 55th national conference of the ANC in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Dec. 19, 2022. (Xinhua)

Ramaphosa, also the country's president, got 2,476 votes while his

challenger, Zweli Mkhize, got 1,897. "Cadres had preferences when they came to the congress, but all must be committed to the unity of the ANC, selflessness, and a great sense of responsibility. We have to support anyone who has been elected," ANC spokesperson Pule Mabe told a press briefing.

The ANC national conference, which takes place every five years, was attended by about 4,500 delegates from across the country.

"Cadres had preferences when they came to the congress, but all must be committed to the unity of the ANC, selflessness, and a great sense of responsibility. We have to support anyone who has been elected"



CCM women wing national chairperson Mary Chatanda (R) receives beehives from Mwambao Handeni bee farm chief keeper Juma Mchafu for UWT project in Handeni district, Tanga region yesterday. The handing over event was held in Korogwe district. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

VP warns uncouth govt leaders

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has warned uncouth government leaders who have been contributing to the destruction of the environment by bringing livestock into conservation areas as well as diverting water sources.

Dr Mpango said this yesterday at the conference which brought together editors, journalists and conservation stakeholders. The event was organised by the Media Centre for Information and Resources Advocacy (MECIRA).

According to him, some environmental destruction practices are being conducted by government leaders with some others allowing the culprits to send their animals in the parks and at water sources.

Dr Mpango instructed the government leaders to demolish all the walls built by various users at water resources that prevented water from flowing into the Great Ruaha River causing the river to dry up thus affecting lives of both animals and people.

He urged the journalists and editors to fulfill their obligations by using pens to educate the community on the importance of protecting the environment through investigative reporting.

“Editors and journalists, stop taking bribes, write the truth without fear or favour. I ask you to prepare a special article and send it to all Tanzanians to get feedback,” Dr Mpango said.

Meanwhile, VP Dr Mpango asked the owners of passenger buses to ensure that they put waste containers inside their vehicles to prevent environmental pollution.

He added that environmental management is a cross-cutting issue that requires the joint efforts of various environmental stakeholders to protect water sources where he instructed the Tanzania Forestry Services Agency (TFS) to strengthen supervision of forests in the country. Chairman of the Editors’ Forum (TEF), Deogradus Balile claimed that there are 12 families of leaders who are occupying the Usangu valley for their own benefits.

“Within that group there are judges, ministers, Members of Parliament and some government leaders who are inciting people to destroy the environment,” Balile said.

Balile has told Dr Mpango that there are leaders within the government who are afraid to convey the correct information about the damage done by some leaders fearing response from them.

Poor households to be enrolled for Tasaf programme

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

ABOUT 173,076 beneficiaries of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) are expected to graduate from the programme in January 2023, being the first batch since its inception of the programme in 2012.

They are from the households that have recorded improved livelihoods and economic status and therefore are expected to pave way for others, still living in poverty.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, TASAF’s executive director, Ladislaus Mwamanga, said at least 156,586 of the graduate beneficiaries who were identified after the verification process had been informed of the process to graduate since June 2022.

He said they are still benefiting from the unconditional cash transfer until next month. “Those graduating next month are a clear picture of how the programme has changed lives of people, removing them from abject poverty to a better life” he said.

He explained that some 16,490 beneficiaries are those registered in the livelihood enhancement grant, getting between 150,000/- and 500,000/- and invest in any income generating projects.

The livelihood enhancement grant programme, he said was being implemented in Bagamoyo, Kibaha, Lindi and Chalinze district councils.

Other are Mtwara, and Lindi municipal councils as well as Unguja in Zanzibar. The ED noted that some 223,418 beneficiaries are lined up for graduation from the programme in September, 2023.

“TASAF is pleased to let the public know that those leaving the programme are those who joined when poor but now had achieved achievements,” he added.

He took the opportunity to thank those graduating from the programme, saying they remain in the fund’s database for reference and evidence to others that it is possible to succeed from the little support they get.

He said TASAF was established in 2012 and until the end of phase one in 2019, the programme had 1,118,752 beneficiaries in some 70 percent of all villages Tanzania mainland and shehia in Zanzibar.

Mwamanga noted that second part of the third phase of TASAF was launched in February, 2020 and its implementation has taken two and a half years to date.

He said the number of beneficiaries have increased to 1,371,038 households with more than five million people, being 50 per cent of households living in poverty in the country.

Since the start of the second phase in 2020, he said a total of 580,297,395,975 have been disbursed to poor households under the programme.

The executive director noted that after the first section of that lasted for six years, verification of the beneficiaries was conducted in 186 implementation authorities to establish their welfare.

During the verification that involve 888,724 households showed that some 730,138 households are still in poverty and continue benefiting from the programme.


It also showed that 156,586 have stabilised economically and can now survive without depending on support from the fund.



TASAF is pleased to let the public know that those leaving the programme are those who joined when poor but now had achieved achievements




WIZARA YA NISHATI



Mhe. Dkt Samia Suluhu Hassan

Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania.


Zoezi la kuanza ujazaji wa maji kwenye Bwawa la Julius Nyerere

22/12/2022

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Miracle Corners – Tanzania (MC-T): Country Manager Job Description

MC-Tanzania is a community-focused non-governmental organization offering oral health programs in Dar es Salaam, Mbeya and Tanga, Tanzania. We are seeking a dynamic and creative Country Manager with a wide range of skills in order to oversee a small team with many diverse projects.

Reports to: Board of Directors

Duration: Fixed 12-month position with a 3-month probation period

Responsibilities:

Strategy & Growth

- Develop organizational strategy and ensure execution of a diverse portfolio of programs and projects;
- Bring strategic, visionary, entrepreneurial and collaborative thinking to the operations and country management function;
- Develop and implement innovative strategic initiatives in direct support of MCT's mission, goals and objectives;
- Demonstrate and embrace the mission and vision of MCT in all internal and external activities, and achieve the organization's strategic initiatives with transparency, accountability, consistency, and adherence to the highest ethical standards;
- Advance MCT's mission through rigorous, ethical financial and contractual practices, and lead staff to ensure behavioral competencies;
- Identify, report and address risk to the organization in a timely manner;

Business Development:

- Respond to new funding opportunities;
- Actively cultivate creative partnerships and donor relationships;
- Sensitize potential donors on the relevance and importance of oral health and advocate for its inclusion in funding priorities;
- Lead MCT Team in program design and proposal writing;
- Mobilize the necessary funds to grow the organization as per the strategic plan;

Stakeholder Management

- Develop, manage (i.e., coordinate) relationships with project funder(s) and other key stakeholders, including producing periodic progress reports and other materials requested by funders;
- Maximize relationships with MCT Affiliate organizations in the United States, Rwanda and Zambia and creatively contribute as a member of the global team;
- Identify, pursue and manage strategic partnerships and collaborative relationships with internal and external stakeholders including project partners, key experts, and in-country contacts.
- Work with partners to address challenges and problems in a proactive, solution-based manner;
- Serve as a resource for stakeholders by counseling them on the political and contextual situation in Tanzania, and by understanding the various actors involved in the healthcare and NGO sectors;
- Ensure staff development and succession plans are in place;
- Provide day-to-day oversight of and leadership to a small team working in a hybrid work setup (some office-based, some remote);

Technical Leadership:

- **Operational**
 - o Demonstrate stewardship in ensuring the organization meets and exceeds compliance standards of country regulations, organizational policies, and donor requirements;
 - o Develop, update and clarify organizational policy as needed to reflect the change and growth of the organization;
 - o Ensure budget and expense management is clear and linked with organizational and programmatic goals;
 - o Work closely with the Finance and Administration Officer to carry out all functions related to human resources, including but not limited to recruitment, performance evaluations, corrective action plans, terminations and maintaining human resource files that include conflict of interest forms, confidentiality agreements, and other documentation as required.
 - o Ensure annual work plans and budgets are developed according to the organization's strategic direction with clear Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) outlined for each team member;
 - o Contribute to all reports, annual external audits, as well as any federal and/or donor-specific audits.
- **Programmatic**
 - o Develop strong core competencies in oral health across the MCT team and develop a team culture of learning and participation around issues related to the programmatic work and mission of the organization;
 - o Participate in oral health and non-communicable disease policy/development strategies at the country level;
 - o Oversee monitoring and evaluation through the creation of survey and data collection tools; ensure accurate, timely reporting and conduct community needs assessments at regular intervals;
 - o Develop knowledge management (KM) and communications strategies to support the dissemination of program achievements with internal and external stakeholders.
 - o Review progress reports and respond to programmatic and technical challenges in a proactive manner;
 - o Lead key meetings and technical events, including developing agendas and background materials, presentations, summary reports, and follow-up actions related to health systems upgrades and oral health outreaches;
 - o Assess and evaluate new and emerging trends in the oral health delivery system.

Governance:

- Support the MCT Board of Directors, primarily through the coordination of quarterly meetings, including: setting and managing a Board calendar, preparing Board Packets with relevant information, liaising with the Board Chair to set an agenda which reflects the needs of the organization, taking accurate Minutes of meetings, ensuring follow-up on Board Directives and communicating as per preferred communication and engagement channels of the Board Members;
- Produce timely, accurate, and useful reports on grants and programs for funders, foundations, and the MCT Board of Directors;
- Oversee the preparation and communication of quarterly monitoring and evaluation reports;
- Contribute to all reports, annual external audits, as well as any federal and/or donor-specific audits;
- Lead efforts to modernize and clarify reporting through the use of data visualization and creative communication of information, leveraging available technology and tools.

Requirements:

The requirements listed below are representative of the professional qualifications, knowledge, skills, experience and/or abilities required to successfully perform this job:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university; Master's degree in Public Health or related field preferred;
- Minimum of 10 years in the NGO sector, with progressively increasing experience managing complex programs in Tanzania, or experience in another sector which can be directly applied to the job description;
- Experience working with the Ministry of Health and relevant agencies in Tanzania;
- Experience working with local government and regulatory authorities in Tanzania;
- Experience working with and between multi-country non-profits and with multiple funding sources, including foundations, corporations and USG funding;
- Demonstrated ability to anticipate problems, assess situations quickly and implement appropriate policies and procedures in response;
- Strong diplomatic and political skills, and excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Demonstrated ability to plan and develop programs for, and manage, large, complex, multi-disciplinary, geographically-dispersed programs/initiatives;
- Proven ability to manage, motivate, coach, and develop staff;
- Ability to gather, evaluate and present information effectively to employees, management and a Board of Directors and make actionable recommendations; strong written and oral presentation skills;
- Ability to think conceptually and deal decisively with practical matters in a proactive manner that reduces financial risk to the organization;
- Proven ability and willingness to work independently, prioritize and hold oneself accountable;
- Strong mastery of Google Drive and Microsoft Office, particularly Word and Excel;
- Fluency in English and Swahili required.
- This position is based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with significant domestic travel.

To apply, please email the following to africaprogams@mcwglobal.org no later than January 8th, 2023 17:00h EAT:

1. Letter of interest;
2. CV/Resume; and
3. 2 References.

Compensation:

Compensation will be commensurate with experience.

Govt offers 16 tonnes of maize to households affected by rain

By Guardian Correspondent, Momba

A TOTAL of 105 households whose houses were destroyed by heavy rains and strong winds in Chilulumomo and Ivuna Wards, Momba District in Songwe Region have received 16 tonnes of maize as assistance as they try to rebuild their houses.

On December 13 this year heavy rains accompanied by strong winds destroyed the houses in the two wards as well as destroying reliable food stocks.

Following the disaster, the government, through the district's disaster committee step in and made some assessment thereafter the Agriculture Ministry authorized NFRA to provide 16 tonnes of maize to disaster victims.

After presenting the maize to

Momba District Commissioner, NFRA Manager for the southern Highlands Zone, Eva Kwavava said after receiving the report of the disaster the government has responded, hence it has decided to provide the maize to the victims.

She said apart from the 16 tonnes of maize provided for free to the 105 households, they will also provide additional maize that will be sold at a remitted price of 680/- a kilo and a person is required to purchase up to 30 kgs.

Receiving the maize, Momba District Commissioner, Fackir Luandala said after receiving reports of the disaster, he visited the area with his team for assessing the situation.

He said the maize will be distributed to the disaster victims through a

procedure under the supervision of ward executives and councillors whereby each household will receive 140 kgs that will carry them through two months while they continue with rebuilding their houses and their farming activities.

Meanwhile, Momba District Executive Director, who doubles as chairman of the district's disaster committee, Regina Bieda said the government has responded to the appeal from its citizens and asked each household to plant 10 trees to prevent environmental destruction, and added that the government will distribute tree seedlings for free to all villages.

Speaking on behalf of fellow villagers, Chilulumo Village Chairman, Lualina Isdor said he had every reason to praise the government for its recognition of its citizens' plight, and called upon the villagers to use well the donated maize.



Zanzibar Community Development, Gender and Children minister Riziki Pembe Juma launches Gender Desk at the University of Zanzibar in Tunguu yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Centre equips small-scale traders with crucial skills to improve their projects

By Getrude Mbagu

TWENTY small-scale traders from various parts of Dar es Salaam Region have been trained and equipped with prerequisite business skills and knowledge to help them improve their businesses.

The two-day training organised by the Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI), involved women under the Tanzania Urban Poor Federation (TUPF), a network of small savings and loaning groups living in informal settlements.

Speaking during the event in Dar es Salaam yesterday, CCI programme officer, Theresia Ntanga said the training is part of the organisation's sustainable initiative aimed to empower small-scale traders with skills to support them register their groups so as to benefit from various opportunities.

"These are just representatives of a huge population of petty traders and entrepreneurs in unplanned settlements, we have brought them here to equip them with essential skills on how to improve businesses and overcome various challenges thwarting the growth of several

small-scale businesses," she said.

Ntanga said that the beneficiaries of the training will later become game changers by imparting the knowledge and skills to other traders in their respective areas so as to help transform lives of many.

She said that the training, which has been conducted by CCI in collaboration with the Dar es Salaam regional commissioner office, has been supported by Cities Alliance which is a global partnership fighting urban poverty and supporting cities to deliver sustainable development.

Andrew Olotu, one of the participants from Mzimba federation group and a member of the TUPF working team commended CCI for organising the training which will help many of the participants improve their businesses but also help others to grow.

"Majority of small-scale business groups in the country as well as individual petty traders are facing a number of challenges including lack of information and essential skills, lack of capital and innovation on how to operate business projects, something which see many of them not reaching far," he said.

Olotu noted that home-based business such as baking, processing, tailoring and many more are important engines and drivers of socio-economic development but unfortunately many of them do not grow due to several challenges.

Husna Chechonge also from TUPF said many small-scale businesses die of lack of creativity with many traders shifting from one business to another.

"The challenge here is lack of focus and stance, I also started engaging in business in 1992 but I have spent many years changing businesses seeking for high profits, unfortunately I ended up getting loss, but when I joined federation groups, my mindset changed due to several training I attended and I decided to stick with one business which is currently paying me a lot," she explained.

Herieth Kamara, senior community development officer, Temeke Municipal council shared secrets to enable small-scale traders to grow which include hard work, commitment, creativity and tolerance.

She also wanted traders to seek right information concerning business as well as joining in strong groups to enable them to benefit from various opportunities including loans.

Thabit Massa, principal trade officer, regional commissioner office urged small-scale traders to invest in innovative ways to increase value to their products, something which differentiate them with others and thus grab more customers.

"Even if you are a food vender, try to apply small innovations on what you are doing, being clean and smart, adding things to make your products attractive and taste better, are among the secrets that will make you sell more," he said.

RE-ADVERTISEMENT DEV RECOVERIES LIMITED

NOTICE OF SALE BY TENDER PROCESS

ALL THAT LANDED PROPERTY LOCATED AT SITE PLAN NO. 1135/2011, MATEMWE AREA, NORTHERN REGION OF UNGUJA, ZANZIBAR (0.14) MARKED BY CONCRETE BEACONS 150, 151, 153 AND 154 in the name of MANDHARI VILLA MATEMWE LIMITED, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, under the appointment letter dated on 15th November 2022 in favor of Equity Bank Tanzania Limited Head Office, Golden Jubilee Tower, Dar Es Salaam instructing us to advertise the sale by Tender process of the property captioned above.

1. The property is a four storey beach hotel villa property with the total of 64 rooms; 50 standard villa rooms, 8 executive villa rooms and 6 family villa rooms together with administration block and generator cum laundry block built to a very good standard of workmanship, design and material specifications.
2. INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED to submit bids for the purchase of the property in a sealed envelope clearly marked "BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF MANDHARI VILLA HOTEL PROPERTY LOCATED AT SITE PLAN NO. 1135/2011, MATEMWE AREA, NORTHERN REGION OF UNGUJA, ZANZIBAR" indicating the offer for the property with full address of the bidder shown and the same should be submitted so as to reach the undersigned on the address below before 1600 hours on 30th December 2022 by 1630 hours at the office mentioned below. Bidders are invited to attend during the event if they so wish.
3. Bidders should note that the information supplied herein is without liability to the Seller as to its correctness independent valuation and inspection of the property is highly recommended.
4. The Seller shall not be bound to accept the highest bid or any bid at all.
5. The Property is sold in a condition as it is.
6. The successful bidder shall be bound to make a 25% down payment on the price within 4 days of the date of the award and the balance shall be paid within 14 days or as the successful bidder agreed with the bank for payment arrangement. In event the balance is not paid within 14 days or as the successful bidder agreed with the bank for payment arrangement, the Seller shall forfeit the down payment and the next highest bidder shall be awarded the option to purchase.
7. Members of the Public and/or bidders who are desirous of viewing and/or inspecting the property may do so subject to the appointment and prior consent of the Seller agent on the address below:

Ahmed El-Maamry and Maryam Ndama
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Momba district commissioner, Fakir Luandala receives maize from the National Food Reserve Agency southern highland representative, Eva Kwavava for distribution to 105 families whose homes were washed away following heavy rains accompanied with strong winds in Chilulumo and Ivuna wards. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Yasini

65 to 75 pct of communicable diseases come from animals, researchers reveal

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

RESEARCHES made, including one by World Health Organisation (WHO) show that 65 to 75 per cent of human communicable diseases are contributed by both wildlife and livestock.

This was revealed by the SUA Director of the Directorate of Research, Technology Integration and Professional Consultancy, Prof Esrom Karimuribo at the meeting of experts and other officials in the One Health Detect-TZ (Afya Moja) Project.

Prof Karimuribo said due to the

big size of the problem, the Prime Minister's Office charged with the disasters management including various diseases has established a forum that goes in tandem with the current digital technology.

He said the aim is to coordinate, identify and deal with all disasters incorporated with the "Afya Moja" concept.

He said the concept involves researchers, experts and other officials from various sectors including those of health, livestock, wildlife, PO-RALG and the environment.

Prof Karimuribo who is the lead

researcher in the coordination of the current task plan under the Prime Minister's Office (Disasters Management Division) said they have decided to work together with SUA in monitoring diseases that go in tandem with the "Afya Moja" concept.

He cited various examples that resemble incidents of communicable diseases including Covid-19 three years ago and the Rift Valley Fever that emerge as pandemics.

He said establishing the system aims to protect, take care of and reduce effects of the diseases

pandemics from animals to humans or vice versa.

He explained that the system will be of success where the community concerned that has been victims of any disaster incident will provide their reports to the appropriate sector and thereafter reach the government more quickly and assistance provided accordingly.

Similarly, Assistant Director in the Prime Minister's Office, (Policy, Parliament and Coordination) at the Emergency Communications Centre, Prudence Constantine said the "Afya Moja" project also looks on how experts can pool their efforts to arrive at a solution in regard to many diseases affecting human kind as more than 70 per cent of these diseases jump from animals.

Internal conflict, climate change fuel education crisis in Ethiopia - official

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA is experiencing one of the largest education crises globally, mainly due to internal conflict and the effects of climate change, a senior UN official has said.

"More than 3.6 million children across Ethiopia are out of school directly as a result of conflict and climate-induced disasters," said Graham Lang, chief of education at Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the UN's global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises established at the World Humanitarian Summit.

Based on estimates by the government of Ethiopia, over 13 million children are out of school in the east African country, and the figure has seen a rapid increase due to internal conflict over the past two years, Lang said.

Lang said half a million Ethiopian children did not go to school during the past six months because of climate-induced disasters, particularly drought.

Noting that 222 million children and adolescents are impacted by forced displacement and crises globally, Lang said the African continent is the worst-hit region by protracted and often forgotten crises.

Talking about the impacts of conflict and instability on access to education in Africa, Lang said the security crisis in the Sahel region, including Mali, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), as well as across East Africa, has caused massive internal displacements, which are severely impacting the rights of children and adolescents to education.

Stressing that education is the key to resolving instability and security crises in Africa, Lang said there is incredible resilience among communities in crisis-hit areas and a need for education to continue during those crises.

"We are seeing how governments, local actors, international

organizations are rallying around to adapt and respond to those changing circumstances to ensure that those rights of children and adolescents are upheld, even in these most damaging crises," Lang said.

However, the official said funding shortfall remains a major challenge to giving children and adolescents in Africa their right to education.

"There is a proliferation of climate-induced disasters in Africa," said Lang, citing cases such as the recent floods in Chad and drought in the Horn of Africa region, including Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia.

"Education is a pathway to peace. It is absolutely critical to promote resilience and encourage tolerance, mutual respect, and ability to negotiate; peace will never be achieved without an educated population," he said.

Lang added that education is also fundamental to mitigating the impacts of climate change and promoting climate-sensitive approaches.



We are seeing how governments, local actors, international organizations are rallying around to adapt and respond to those changing circumstances to ensure that those rights of children and adolescents are upheld, even in these most damaging crises



NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Notice is given to the public that Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) Tanzania has been awarded a Grant by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) for Small Holders Economic Empowerment Project. Further details below.

Donor	United Nation Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
Donor Currency	US Dollar (US\$)
Grant Amount	100,000
Duration	11 months
Implementation Period	1st November 2022 to 30th September 2023
Key activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Strengthen linkage to farm inputs for maize farmers via digital platform. ii) Support SME led assembly of micro-irrigation kit including offering technical assistance in the design and operationalization of a business model for 2 SMEs. iii) Support local government authorities adopt e-extension approach/methodology. iv) Mobilize and support 1,500 new Micro investors (45 producer groups) on good agricultural practices, and access to inputs and markets.
Region/Area of Implementation	Kigoma Region
Contact for Further Details	Country Director Norwegian Church Aid Tanzania Plot 436, Mwai Kibaki rd, TCRS House 3rd Floor P.O Box 3955, Dar Es Salaam Tel: +255 787 770 811 na +255 22 2700252



CALL FOR APPLICATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF MTOTO KWANZA PROJECT ACROSS 16 REGIONS OF TANZANIA MAINLAND

Tanzania Early Childhood Development Network (TECDEN) is a national umbrella network of Early Childhood Development (ECD) Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working to promote Early Childhood Development in Tanzania by influencing change in policies, programs, and practices. Our work aims to impact children's holistic development, inspired by a vision of **a society where all children are developmentally on track to reach their full potential**. TECDEN has been in operation since 2000 and is a leading platform for ECD dialogue coordination among civil society, government, and other stakeholders, for more info see: <https://www.tecden.or.tz/>.

TECDEN in partnership with Children in Crossfire (CiC) secured funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to deliver a three years project from 2022 to 2024 to catalyse the implementation of the launched National Multisectoral ECD Programme (NM-ECDP) 2021/22-2025/26 across national and sub-national levels.

The Mtoto Kwanza Project is implemented in partnership between TECDEN, CiC, and the Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC) across all 26 regions in **two phases**. Currently, Mtoto Kwanza is moving into phase II with 16 regions these are **Singida, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Geita, Mara, Katavi, Simiyu, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Pwani, Mtwara, Ruvuma, Njombe, Iringa, Kigoma, and Songwe**. TECDEN is looking for one focal CSO from each mentioned region above to support project implementation. Interested CSOs from these regions are invited to apply by downloading Call for **Application and Application Form at: <https://www.tecden.or.tz/>**.

Interested Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) should send a filled Application Form to TECDEN through: ecdnetwork@gmail.com indicating in the subject line: **"Name of the Region - Name of the CSO Application"**. All application documents should be in a **single pdf format**.

Only those CSOs shortlisted will be contacted for the next step of the recruitment process

The closing time for receipts of applications is 23:00hrs on Sunday 22nd January 2023, local time in Tanzania

People with permits for house refurbishment should not build new houses, minister warns

By Guardian Reporter

DR ANGELINE Mabula, Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development has cautioned people who seek permits for house refurbishment and instead build real houses in disregard of the urban development grand plan, saying they should stop the practice at once.

Dr Mabula gave the caution on Monday at Kigamboni District in Dar es Salaam during the exercise to issue title deeds to residents of the district whose land plots had been formalised during her four-day visit to the Dar es Salaam Region.

Giving example in regard to Mwanza Region and Kigamboni District, she said some people applied for permits for refurbishment of their buildings but instead, during the night they demolish the entire existing structures after which they build new houses or shopping blocks, the task which she said they do day and night.

She mentioned areas with such practices as including Mwanza Region in Nyamagana, Pamba and Mabatini areas where she stressed those given permits were going against the urban development grand plan and instructed them to stop construction work at once.

Dr Mabula also instructed Regional Land commissioners and Assistant Land directors to make sure they go around to inspect whether there have been new permits issued and construction work going on against the procedures to also stop them immediately.

"We want to build our towns, we do not want to go back, the cost to prepare the grand master plan was huge, now it is not possible to build

a new house in the master plan area," she stressed.

The minister also instructed four firms that were engaged in land formalisation in the country not to be hired in both the Dar es Salaam local councils or outside until the Urban Planning Experts Registration Board is satisfied with the fines given to the firms due to various shortcomings that emerged during their improper implementation of land formalisation exercise.

She named the firms as Hosea Co. Ltd, Makazi Consult Ltd, Visible Planners and Eresco Development Estates Ltd.

"We want to provide a lesson because land formalisation work had created many complaints directed to the ministry while President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directives to implement land formalisation had intended to involve the private sector in order to attain more achievements," said Dr Mabula.

Meanwhile, Dr Mabula called upon the people who invade land areas to be treated as having committed crimes, and not ordinary invasion of land, adding that legal action should be taken against these invaders.

Earlier, Kigamboni District Commissioner Fatma Almasi Nyangasa told the Lands minister that her district continues to mobilise well in the issue of urban land planning and added that challenges that arise are being addressed accordingly.

"We want to build our towns, we do not want to go back, the cost to prepare the grand master plan was huge, now it is not possible to build a new house in the master plan area"



The end for Christmas shopping: Muheza residents in Tanga region purchase items as the festive season draws near. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Farmer refuses to recognise mining investor

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

A HUGE dispute has erupted in a farm that was discovered to hold gold in the Nyamahuna homestead, Sobola Village, Magenge Ward, Geita District in Geita Region after the owner of the land refused to recognize an investor, Hussein Nyamanche who is claimed to possess a small miner's licence in the area.

The investor is claimed to have used some village officials to pressurise the owner of the farm to agree to the 1 per cent share from

the value of gold to be produced from the farm instead of the earlier agreed rate of 13 to 17 per cent.

In an interview with this paper, the farm owner, Batende Mayombo said the investor has emerged after the area was discovered to have gold last October.

He said early November this year, the man who is claimed to hold a mining licence arrived at his farm after it was discovered to have gold.

He added that the 5-acre area is his farm which he uses as his settlement and that when the investor came up the first time with

a mining licence they had agreed that he receives 13 to 17 per cent of the value of gold mined.

Batende said that thereafter he was surprised to see he has abrogated the earlier agreement.

He said when mining officers from Geita visited the area November 26 this year, the licence owner failed to show them the size of his land area.

He added that on November 27, the licence owner again visited the area with several people in order to survey the size of the area, but he was prevented to do so and told to

abide by the laws and procedures regarding issues of mining.

"This has made me suspicious on the validity of his mining licence as there are reports that the area has two licence holders, but it is not yet known who has the valid one, I therefore request the government to intervene to end the conflict," said Batende.

When contacted, the manager of the mine identified by only one name - Moris said this paper should look for the director who is the holder of the mining licence, but when this paper tried to contact him by phone, his mobile phone went unanswered.

Govt begins implementing PPPs concept in deeds

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has started to implement the public-private partnerships (PPPs) concept in deeds that utilises the build, operate Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) procedure.

The remarks were made in Arusha on Monday by Ludovick Nduhiye, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Works and Transport Ministry (Works Division) as he was opening a two-day training seminar organised by the ministry in collaboration with Tanzania Roads Association (TARA).

Citing an example, Nduhiye said the government will soon start the construction of Kibaha-Morogoro and Igawa-Tunduma highways in Morogoro and Mbeya regions respectively through PPPs, the procedure that has shown great achievements.

He said the government will partner with the private sector, both

within and outside the country in order to speed up the construction of strategic projects for national development, economically and socially.

"As a country we have many ongoing projects, hence our aim is to speed up their implementation by also involving the private sector, especially roads, bridges, airports and other projects," he said.

He said the seminar aims to build up some understanding and capacity on vital issues beginning with paperwork preparation for the projects up to their implementations whereby important stakeholders involved include the construction and transport sector, PO-RALG and Ministry of Finance.

Similarly, the Zanzibar Works, Transport and Communications Permanent Secretary Hadija Hamisi Rajabu said among benefits for the involvement of the Zanzibar's Government include solving challenges regarding projects being

stuck through lack of expertise.

"In implementing such kinds of projects, policy and legal issues are all right, but the problem arises during actual implementation when numerous misunderstandings erupt, because we have not fully understood this issue, and that is why we are here to see where we had been making mistakes and the correct way forward," she said.

Joseph Haule, TARA chairman said the training has been organised in collaboration with the ministry so that experts should be able to learn about countries that have implanted similar projects.

Various countries in Latin America and others in Africa that embraced these projects made some mistakes, and from these we have to learn in order to avoid them," Haule said.

The seminar has brought together various infrastructure experts in the country and some from South Africa and Brazil.



Residents looks at a car which rammed into a kiosk near Makumbusho in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel



EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL
PIPELINE



DCG

JOB ADVERTISEMENT FOR VARIOUS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFERENCE NO. MST-TZ-20221216

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

Daqing Oilfield Construction Group Co., Ltd. (hereinafter as DCG), is the main CONTRACTOR for Storage Terminal of EACOP Project (MST). DCG invites experienced and reputable candidates to apply for various employment opportunities which will be at Tanga region in the Chongoleani ward.

All Tanzanians with the following qualifications and who are ready to work on the storage Terminal Project (MST) at Chongoleani should apply. Those employment positions include the following:

1. Environmental Engineer (1 Post)
2. Warehouse (Inspection) Engineer (1 Post)
3. Local Bidding Management Officer (1 Post)
4. Planning Control Officer (1 Post)
5. Local Procurement Engineer (1 Post)
6. Construction Coordinator (4 Post)
7. Civil Engineer (1 Post)
8. NDT Engineer (1 Post)
9. QC Engineer (1 Post)
10. H3SE Supervisor (1 Post)
11. Security Supervisor (1 Post)
12. Translator and Interpreter. Chinese, Swahili & English (1 Post)
13. Logistics Management Officer (1 Post)
14. Document Control Management (1 Post)
15. Local Salary Manager (1 Post)
16. Tax Management Officer (1 Post)
17. Lifting Engineer (1 Post)
18. Electrical Engineer (1 Post)
19. Plumber (Several)
20. Riveter (Several)
21. Welder (Several)
22. Electrician (Several)

Interested individuals with the capacity and willingness to work with DCG in the position mentioned above at the construction Marine storage terminal (MST) should send application email title: position-name-location to DCG Human Resource Office through e-mail tz_hr@dccgi.cn on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on 4th JANUARY, 2023. Subject of the email should be **EOI for MST-TZ-20221216 DCG**.

WOMEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

Deadline for Applications shall be 14 days from day of advertisement.
NOTICE: NO HIRING AT THE GATE

Application is completely free, do not pay to apply or to get a job
For inquiries (working hours): 0692117239, 0652178898 & 0764 467564

Issued by :-
Human Resource Officer (Daqing Oilfield Construction Group International)
On this 20th day of December 2022

217203301

17.8bn/- set aside to build roads in Dodoma region

By Guardian Reporter

TANROADS in Dodoma region has allocated 17.8bn/- for the construction of roads totaling 1,707.02 kms whose implementation is sponsored by the World Bank (WB).

This was revealed at the second annual meeting of Tanzania Road Board that discussed on the implementation of regional roads under its chairperson, Dodoma Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule.

Submitting his implementation report for the half year period, Acting Regional TANROADS Manager, Eng Salome Kabunda said apart from the good development in the implementation of Dodoma region's road projects, there are still challenges that face the institution in regard to implementation work.

She mentioned the challenges as including invasion of road reserves

by the people, moving livestock along the roads, throwing trash in rain water drainage systems that often create floods, budgetary constraints and wanton parking of trucks along roadsides.

In regard to rural and urban roads, Dodoma Region TARURA manager, Eng Lusako Kilembe said they plan to build roads with a total length of 7,504.94 kms as well as feeder roads to the main highways totaling 900.56 kms in length.

"A total of 67 road contracts valued at 23.65bn/- have been endorsed.

"In building these roads, the use of ECOROADS and POLYMER technologies have been used including with the use of stones at areas where they are available to reduce the use of cement and round bars," said Eng Kilembe.

The meeting has resolved that TANROADS should follow up the procedures for shifting Unkunku

Primary School in Kondoa Town to pave way for the road building project, endorsing the construction of Simanjiro-Kongwa road, construction of vehicles' parking area at Chimulata in Kongwa District and penalties against people who vandalize road infrastructures.

The meeting's chairperson, Dodoma Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule instructed TANROADS to educate the public on the correct use of roads, especially at tricky areas where people have been closing roads demanding construction of road humps even at places where these are unnecessary.

The meeting was attended by Tanzania Road Board members including Dodoma Regional Administrative secretary, Fatma Mganga, all the seven DCs of Dodoma Region, all eight council directors, MPs and officials from institutions tasked in road building - TANROADS and TARURA.



Fish mongers in Tanga marketing processed fish as captured by our photographer recently. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Nambinda villagers earn 60m/- as timber revenue

By Beatrice Philemon

NAMBINDA village in Liwale district, Lindi region has managed to earn over 60m/- as revenue collection generated from timber harvested in its Nampengele and Ndungutu villages' land forest reserves.

Said Barabara, village natural resource committee (VNRC)'s secretary said this recently when briefing journalists who visited the village to see the impact of 'conserving forests through sustainable, forest-based enterprise support in Tanzania (CoForEST) 2019 - 2022. The project is being implemented by Tanzania forest conservation group in collaboration with Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) with funding from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

He said that from January 3rd to June 7th this year, the village earned over 42m/- from selling 144 cubic meters of standing pterocarpus angolensis tree species, Afzelia quanzensis tree species and pterocarpus tinctorius tree species.

Barabara also stated that in July 13th to October 12th this year the village also earned 18m/- from selling 65 cubic meters of standing pterocarpus angolensis trees species and were sold at a price of 290,000/ per 1 cubic meter of timber weight.

According to him, from this income nearly 30m/- has been

utilized to build modern dispensary at Nambinda village, 21,318,500/- has been paid to the village natural resource committee (VNRC) so that they can utilize it for forest conservation and management activities, pay allowance to 18 VNRC's members who conduct patrols inside the forest reserve and timber harvesting.

He stated that the village bought two motorcycles, buy office diary, contribute 7.7m/- to the village council for the construction of Nambinda's dispensary project.

"Right now the construction is underway and we are looking for more donors including Liwale District Council who can support us in- terms of funds so that we can finalize the construction work," he said.

Currently, Nampengele and Ndungutu village land forest reserves has 33 indigenous tree species suitable for sustainable timber harvesting and more than 20 tree species suitable for charcoal production.

He further said revenue is divided into three main groups, the first group is on forest conservation development and supporting district's technical support to the village, while the second group is on forest management costs and the third group is on village development projects costs.

According to him, 10 per cent is paid to the district council, 35 per cent to the Village Natural Resource Committee (VNRC) and 48 per cent to village government for village

development projects.

He lauded TFCG and MJUMITA to teamed up in the village and train them on forest conservation "We are very proud for this achievement because we have managed to obtain funds to implement village development project something that was not the case in past," he said.

For his part, Nambinda village chairman, Said Kowe said that the project was officially introduced in the village in 2020 and helps the village government to earmarked a total of 6837 .8 hectares of land for Community Based Forest Management at Nampengele and Ndungutu village land forest reserves for sustainable timber harvesting and charcoal production.

Liwale forest officer Lilian Kato, said the project is very good, has introducing a new things to the communities that is sustainable charcoal making and timber harvesting.

"Before TFCG and MJUMITA intervention, we used to earn revenue collection from timber, but now we have a lot of forest conservation areas where we can earn revenue collection, thanks SDC to support MJUMITA and TFCG to train people on forest management," she said.

The district will scale-up CoForEST project in other villages to enable more people engage in Community Based Forest district has 28 villages engaged in forest conservation and 36 conserved forests.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR PROVISION OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR INCLUSIVE GREEN GROWTH (IGG) CONCEPT UNDER PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR SUPPORT (PASS)

Reference No. PASS/2022/HQ/C/02.

Date: 21 December 2022

This assignment will enable PASS to market and communicate the significance and need of inclusive and greener agricultural sector in Tanzania, scaling up implementation of PASS Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) Strategy commitments, and consequently achieving the envisaged development impact on reduced poverty levels. Assignment is expected to start early January 2023 and be carried out for Six (6) months. The assignment will start at PASS TRUST HEAD OFFICE in Dar es salaam including other five (5) PASS TRUST zones. Furthermore, the assignment is dived into 4 packages as shown in the table below.

No.	Package Number	Description
1	Package One	Design and Development of Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) Marketing and Communication Strategies
2	Package Two	Consultation and Media Mapping/Media Buying
3	Package Three	Designing and Productions of Promotions Material
4	Package Four	PASS Marketing Campaigns and Coordination of Stakeholder Engagements Meetings/Exhibition to increase PASS IGG initiative yisibilit

NOTE: When expressing their Interest Consultant are required to choose the specific package and indicate the applied package in their Expression of Interest. The consultant may quote for one or more and maximum of two packages. For those who will quote for 2packages are encouraged to quote package 2&4.

The PASS TRUST 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: **consultant's profile, core business and years in business, description of relevant experience, technical and managerial capability of the firm, availability of appropriate skills among staff and experience in similar condition.**

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, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method.**

Futher information can be obtained at the adress below during office hours 9:00AM to 4:00PM. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the following emails: tenders@pass.or.tz by/before **10:00AM on 30th December, 2022.** Late Submission of the documents, portion of documents, and documents not received, document not opened at the opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Managing Director,
PASS TRUST,
Head Office, Patel Building,
4th Floor, Kisutu Street,
P.O. Box 9490,
Dar es salaam,
TANZANIA

Attn: Doreen Mangesho
Email: doreen.mangesho@pass.or.tz
Tel: 0753956599

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Globalisation has negative effect on the world's cultural diversity

CULTURAL diversity is the quality of diverse or different cultures, as opposed to monoculture, the global monoculture, or a homogenisation of cultures, akin to cultural decay. The phrase cultural diversity can also refer to having different cultures respect each other's differences. The phrase "cultural diversity" is also sometimes used to mean the variety of human societies or cultures in a specific region, or in the world as a whole. Globalisation is often said to have a negative effect on the world's cultural diversity.

There are many separate societies that emerged around the globe differed markedly from each other, and many of these differences persist to this day. As well as the more obvious cultural differences that exist between people, such as language, dress and traditions, there are also significant variations in the way societies organise themselves, in their shared conception of morality, and in the ways they interact with their environment. Cultural diversity can be seen as analogous to biodiversity.

By analogy with biodiversity, which is thought to be essential to the long-term survival of life on earth, it can be argued that cultural diversity may be vital for the long-term survival of humanity; and that the conservation of indigenous cultures may be as important to humankind as the conservation of species and ecosystems is to life in general.

Diversity is an opportunity to help communities understand the value of cultural diversity and learn how to live together in harmony.

It was adopted in the wake of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed this holiday due to UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity in November 2001.

The many separate societies that emerged around the globe differed markedly from each other, and many of these differences persist to this day. As well as the more obvious cultural differences that exist between people, such as language, dress and traditions, there are also significant variations in the way societies organise themselves, in their shared conception of morality, and in the ways they interact with their environment.

This position is rejected by some people on several grounds; Firstly, like most evolutionary accounts of human nature, the importance of cultural diversity for survival may be an un-testable hypothesis, which can neither be proved nor disproved. Secondly, it can be argued that it is unethical deliberately to conserve "less developed" societies, because this will deny people within those societies the benefits of technological and medical advances enjoyed by those in the "developed" world.

In the same manner promotion of poverty in underdeveloped nations as "cultural diversity" is unethical. It is unethical to promote all religious practices simply because they are seen to contribute to cultural diversity. Particular religious practices are recognised by the WHO and UN as unethical, including female genital mutilation, polygamy, child brides, and human sacrifice.

Can drones alone save Africa's elephants?

PARKS around the continent have embarked on an unusual high-tech experiment to curb poaching. Flying silently and invisibly, drones could be a game-changer as they track both wildlife and the movement of hunters, relaying information to ground enforcement teams, who can then stop poachers in their tracks. But is technology the weapon that will ultimately eradicate animal poaching and save various species from eradication?

Poaching has been defined as the illegal hunting or capturing of wild animals. In 1998, environmental scientists from the University of Massachusetts Amherst proposed the concept of poaching as an environmental crime, defining any activity as illegal that contravenes the laws and regulations established to protect renewable natural resources including the illegal harvest of wildlife with the intention of possessing, transporting, consuming or selling it and using its body parts. They considered poaching as one of the most serious threats to the survival of plant and animal populations. Wildlife biologists and conservationists consider poaching to have a detrimental effect on biodiversity both within and outside protected areas as wildlife populations decline, species are depleted locally, and the functionality of ecosystems is disturbed.

This year marked a milestone in the battle to protect endangered species, when an international team of scientists announced they had successfully created two northern white rhino embryos.

The landmark achievement is a promising step towards pulling the white rhino back from the brink of extinction.

It also highlights how technology is being harnessed to protect wildlife - including efforts beyond the lab in

places like South Africa.

More than 760 rhinos are killed annually in South Africa - including 421 slaughtered last year in Kruger National Park.

Rhinos are killed for their horns, which are prized in traditional Asian medicine and command high prices when poachers hawk them on black markets. But international trade in rhino parts is illegal.

Research indicates that tech innovations have already helped to curb poaching in Africa. Black and white rhinoceros - the continent's two rhino species, classified as endangered and threatened, respectively - have increased in population in recent years, reports WWF.

In conservation hotspots across the world, artificial intelligence, drones, and surveillance platforms are among the technologies that have become the latest line of defence against the \$23bn global illegal wildlife trade, which claims the lives of 800 rhinos - along with 15,000 elephants and untold numbers of pangolins, impalas, bush pigs, warthogs and other animals - in Africa every year.

Only 25,000 rhinos, 415 African elephants, and dwindling numbers of other at-risk species survive on the continent in the wild today.

"There is too much to protect, and too few people to protect it, so technology has become essential when addressing the global poaching crisis," says Rohit Singh, head of the Zero Poaching initiative for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

As conservation groups get smarter about technology, so do the poachers they are battling to stop. Environmentalists say the fear of never being more than one step ahead is tangible in their campaign to save animals hunted for their horns, tusks, pelts, scales or skin - or for capture as exotic pets.

What would you like for Christmas?



By Banji Ojewale

WHAT matters is if we've learnt from what happened in those three 'countries'. We must see more than one country, Biafra, in Achebe's book.

In 2023, a better country must emerge from the ashes of the failed ones. That new country should outlaw political lopsidedness, which makes power to move in 'circles' between only two geo-ethnic zones. No one would then take up arms to protest "Nigeria did not belong we" and seek justice in a new place carved out of Nigeria.

In the distant past, you wouldn't talk about Chinua Achebe without instant reference to his mountaintop novel, *Things Fall Apart*. He was inseparable from his literary creature that outstripped its creator. But Achebe was lucky: he was spared the tragedy of bringing forth a monster which would fatally prey on its Frankenstein god. Achebe's own genie was genial. Upon escape from the bottle-cage, it gave the illustrious novelist a new identity tag: Africa's foremost storyteller.

However, 2012 would deliver another lingering literary lease to this great man of letters. He wrote *There Was a Country: A Personal History of Biafra*. More than five decades had passed to serve as a hiatus between the book of Achebe's youth and the new product of his advanced age. Both were mileposts, the one his first published novel (1958), and the other his last huge work before his death in 2013.

But when on 16 November, the world quietly observed the eminent raconteur's 92nd posthumous birthday, we were all drawn to his latter-day effort, rather than to the one that lionised him. Why?

Things Fall Apart adumbrates a system (community) collapse, whereas *There Was a Country* mourns the arrival of the foretold decadence and disintegration. Man is given to concerns about the now and how he can step on it to launch into a tomorrow unaffected by a deleterious yesterday. True, he needs to know what led him to the now, so he can disallow old pitfalls from surfacing again. Yet, man must understand more of his present and work on it to enable him shape a future close to nirvana; a future defeating its own deadly past.

That's what many compatriots salute Achebe for in *There Was a Country*. He writes of the past, the present and the future. Of the past, he sees a near-perfect Nigeria that enabled him script a bestseller at 28. There was a country that saw Achebe work at the old Radio Nigeria at Ikoyi, Lagos, in a senior position. In this non-nepotistic

There was a country... remembering Chinua Achebe



country, he later became the director of External Broadcasting. There was a Nigeria that put Achebe in the company of other Nigerians from the North, East, West and South, with none looking over his shoulder to see if a dagger-wielding figure was lurking in the shadows. There was also a country that took the Anambra State Ogidin-born Achebe to the University of College of Ibadan in the old Western Nigeria, where, as he studied the Liberal Arts after dropping Medicine, he beheld the progressive socioeconomic and political developments of the Action Group administration under Obafemi Awolowo. There was a country that blissfully enjoyed a centrifugal federal order where the regions were lifted to great heights because they didn't take orders from some lordly central government. There was a country where the talking point wasn't our fault lines that might lead to the creation of other destabilising cracks. By the way, in that country, were there such open or concealed cleavages which held us down as they do today?

Now, there arose another country that deposed the 'ideal' one Achebe

met. Here, the soldiers were at work. Dismantling the structures on the ground that had admirably nurtured the land to place her on the path heading for a golden future. The men in boots did to Nigeria what the Barbarians did to the Roman Empire in 410 AD. They sacked Nigeria and imposed on us a sterile centripetal 'federal' arrangement. Rome writhed into extinction after the Barbarians' assault. There was indeed a country.

Now, there was yet a third country that arose from the battle over what was left of Nigeria, following the dissolution of its federal soul into a unitary contraption: Biafra. Those who brought it into existence said it was the answer to the untended injustices that accompanied the actions of the soldiers and their political collaborators, as well as their shadowy friends in the civil service and the private sector. According to Achebe, Biafra happened because "There was a strong sense that Nigeria was no longer habitable for the Igbo... (which) made us realize that Nigeria 'did not belong we,' as Liberians would put it." He argues: "Following the ethnic cleansing in the North

that occurred over the four months starting in May 1966, which was compounded by the involvement, even connivance, of the federal government, secession from Nigeria and the war that followed became an inevitability."

Wole Soyinka, Nobel Laureate in Literature and Achebe's compatriot, has wished the book hadn't been written. "It is a book I wish he had never written... not in the way it was. There are statements in that work that I wished he had never made."

Why we're revisiting *There Was a Country* on the recent natal anniversary of its author is simply because it addresses poignant political issues we're all talking about, as we prepare for new public office holders in 2023. If we don't want to drop again into a rapid succession of 'countries' the book depicts, none of which was permitted the opportunity to lead us into the Promised Land, it does us priceless good to be guided by Achebe's observations, among them his claim that the Biafrans' secessionist bid was a logical reaction to the apparent rejection of the Igbo by Nigeria. It's neither here nor there decades after to ask if a breakthrough was the answer to the challenge of perceived or proven marginalisation.

What matters is if we've learnt from what happened in those three 'countries'. We must see more than one country, Biafra, in Achebe's book. What we observe, sadly, is that the main players of the political class are back to that jejune old game by refusing to recognise the reality of injustice in the 'ouster' of the South-East from the presidential race. The presidential contest shouldn't have been an all-comers' affair. It should have been an exclusive South-East game to demonstrate our faith in what we profess: justice, fairness and equity for all in the land. We honoured these values in 1998, when the military and their political arm, beholding the injustice the Yoruba were suffering from following the raw deal given their son, Moshood Abiola in an earlier poll, 'arranged' for only candidates from the South-West to contest for the presidential slot.

In 2023, a better country must emerge from the ashes of the failed ones. That new country should outlaw political lopsidedness, which makes power to move in 'circles' between only two geo-ethnic zones. No one would then take up arms to protest "Nigeria did not belong we" and seek justice in a new place carved out of Nigeria.

I strongly recommend regular blood donation on your 2023 to-do list

HAVE you ever saved someone's life by donating blood? If you haven't, put it on your 2023 to-do list and see how fulfilling it is. For, when we start living for others is when we understand the actual meaning of life.

From nature we always learn that sun never shines for itself, rivers never drink their own water, trees never eat their own fruits or enjoy sitting under their own shade. It is good to follow this rule of nature by always trying to live for others.

Giving blood is an act of solidarity. Your blood is an amazing gift to people who need it in an emergency. The donated blood helps patients survive surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses and traumatic injuries. This lifesaving care starts with one person making a generous donation. The need for blood is constant but supply is limited.

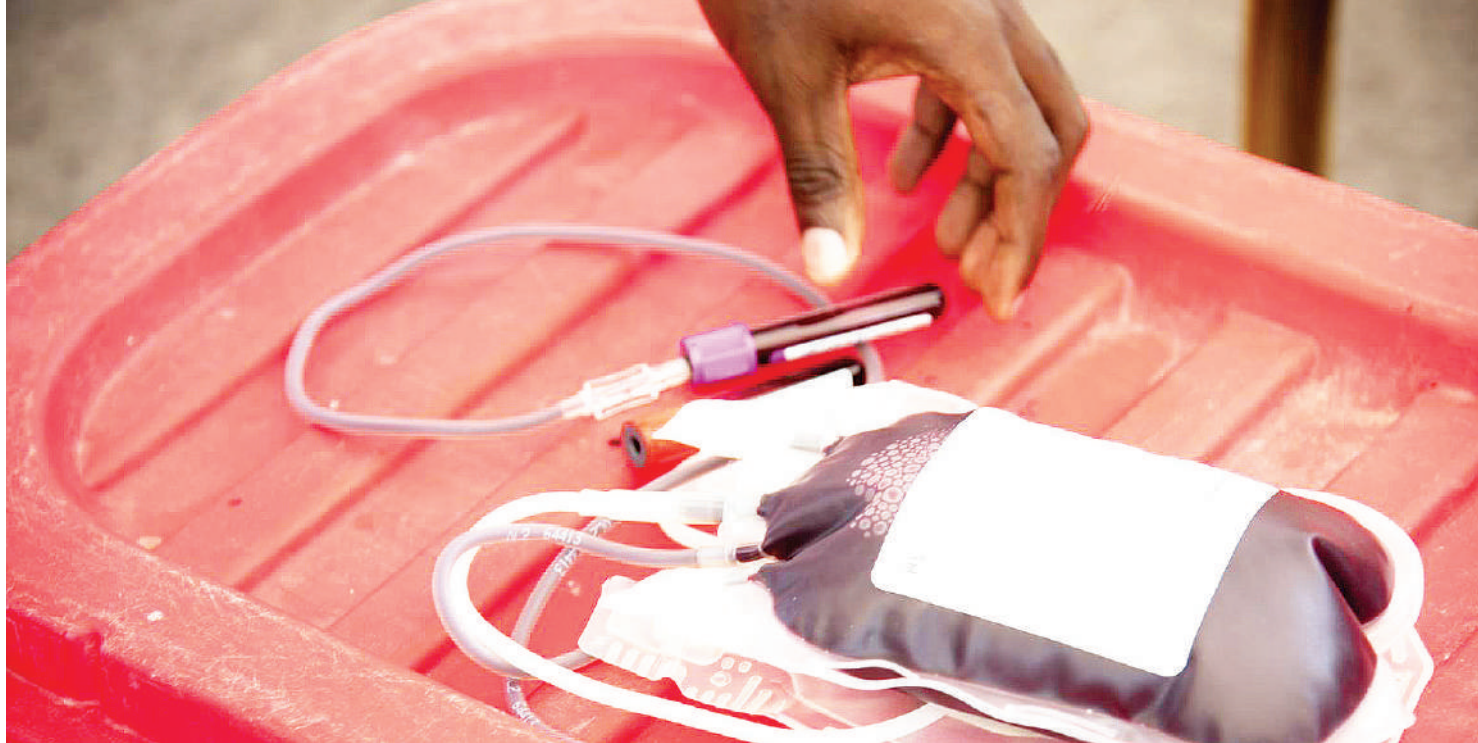
According to the World Health Organization (WHO), about 118.54 million blood donations are collected worldwide and 40 per cent of these are collected in high-income countries, home to 16 per cent of the world's population.

WHO adds that blood transfusion saves lives and improves health, but many patients requiring transfusion do not have timely access to safe blood. Providing safe and adequate blood should be an integral part of every country's national health care policy and infrastructure.

It turns out that donating blood doesn't just benefit recipients. There are health benefits for donors, too, on top of the benefits that come from helping others. Donating blood has benefits for your emotional and physical health.

According to a report by the Mental Health Foundation, helping others can reduce stress, improve your emotional wellbeing, benefit your physical health and help get rid of negative feelings, provide a sense of belonging and reduce isolation.

Promise yourself that in 2023 you'll contact our National Blood Transfusion



pulse, blood pressure, body temperature and hemoglobin levels. This free mini-physical checkup can offer excellent insight into your health. It can effectively detect problems that could indicate an underlying medical condition or risk factors for certain diseases. Your blood is also tested for several diseases including hepatitis C, HIV, West Nile virus and syphilis.

The demand for blood and blood products is great. Blood donation is safe for healthy adults. There's no risk of contracting disease. New sterile equipment is used for each donor. According to some research, some people may feel nauseous, lightheaded, or dizzy after donating blood. If this happens, it should only last a few minutes, all are temporary feelings.

Apart from free health screening and consultancy, regular blood donation is linked to lower blood pressure and lower risk for heart attacks. What's the connection? Experts say that if your hemoglobin is too high, blood donation helps to lower the viscosity of the blood, which has been associated with the formation of blood clots, heart attacks and stroke.

One blood donation can save up to three lives. People usually donate because it feels good to help others and altruism and volunteering have been linked to positive health outcomes including lower risk of depression and greater longevity. There is no doubt that donating blood can do a lot of good.

Many people are not aware of just how important blood donations can be. Approximately one of every seven people admitted to hospital needs blood, according to research. Many people experiencing a range of conditions require blood provided through donation.

It may be people involved in an accident, mothers experiencing labour complications, emergency operations, patients with anemia or cancer in need blood and so on. Imagine someone walking out of a hospital and it is all because of you.

When one donates blood, they give patients the gift money cannot buy or science cannot create. You can make a difference in somebody's life by donating blood. Blood donors are actually lifeline for patients who need blood badly. So what are you waiting for? Donate blood and save lives.



It may be people involved in an accident, mothers experiencing labour complications, emergency operations, patients with anemia or cancer in need blood and so on. Imagine someone walking out of a hospital and it is all because of you.

Pressing Issues
With
Chaitra Chatterjee

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Service (NBTS) with a generous request to join the list of life-savers in the country. Any healthy person aged between 17 and 60 can donate blood and save a life. According to NBTS guidelines, women can donate after every four months while men can do so after every three months.

There are several blood types and the rarer ones are always in high demand. One of the rarest types of blood groups, O negative, can be given to patients of any blood type,

therefore, donations of O negative can be really appreciated.

Studies have found further evidence of health benefits that come with donating blood. In order to give blood, blood donors are required to undergo health screening. In a world where most people die prematurely because of late diagnosis of disease, blood donors seem to be on the safe side.

Should you choose to do it, you will notice that a trained staff member will check your

Global biodiversity framework: A good compromise or bad?

By Stella Paul

IN a landmark agreement, all parties of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) adopted the draft Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to protect at least 30 per cent of the world's lands and water by 2030.

Led by China and facilitated by the CBD, the parties of the convention adopted the draft very late on Sunday night, after 12 days of intense negotiations over 23 targets that, put together, make the framework for biodiversity protection until 2030.

The old vs. new GBF

When COP15 negotiations began on December 7, the GBF had 22 targets. However, on December 19, the final day of the COP, there were 23 targets in the adopted document. There have not been any new additions, but Target 19 - focused on finance - has been divided into two targets: Target 19 and Target 20. Target 20, therefore, is now Target 21, Target 21 is Target 22, and Target 22 is now Target 23.

The adopted document looks leaner and shorter compared to the version presented before the parties on December 7. However, the new version - presented by China on Saturday and adopted later by all parties - has all the text considered crucial.

For example, on Target 3 - widely considered as the lifeline of the GBF and equivalent to the Climate Change COP's goal of keeping global warming to 1.5 degrees - the old text was long and somewhat vague, with too many details but no indication of action.

In Target 19.1, focusing on resource mobilization, the draft framework proposed to increase financial resources progressively and annually from all sources by reaching at least \$200 billion by 2030.

The adopted framework has a more straightforward but detailed language: "Raise international financial flows from developed to

developing countries ... to at least US\$ 20 billion per year by 2025, and at least US\$ 30 billion per year by 2030."

In Target 22, the draft version read: "Ensure women and girls equitable access and benefits from conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as their informed and effective participation at all levels of policy and decision making related to biodiversity."

The adopted version of this target has a language that is richer and more action-oriented: "Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the framework through a gender-responsive approach where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy, and decision-making related to biodiversity."

The big decisions

In addition to the GBF, the parties at COP15 have approved a series of related agreements on the framework's implementation, including planning, monitoring, reporting, and review; resource mobilization; helping nations to build their capacity to meet the obligations; and digital sequence information on genetic resources.

For example, Digital sequence information on genetic resources - a dominant topic at COP15 - has many commercial and non-commercial applications, including pharmaceutical product development, improved crop breeding, taxonomy, and monitoring invasive species.

COP15 delegates agreed to establish a multilateral fund for the equal sharing of benefits between providers and users of DSI within the GBF.

Another big decision was to create a specific fund for biodiversity



Final plenary session of COP15. Some analysts say the adopted framework is a good compromise. Credit: Stella Paul/IPS

within the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) - the nodal agency that receives, channelizes and distributes all funds for environmental protection in the world. Reacting to the decision, Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, GEF CEO and Chairperson, called GBF a significant breakthrough and supported the creation of the fund.

"Resource mobilization has been a central theme here in Montreal over the last two weeks, both to reach an ambitious agreement, and to ensure it is implemented. I am therefore honored and extremely pleased that the Conference of the Parties has requested the GEF to establish a Global Biodiversity Fund as soon as possible, to complement existing support and scale up financing to ensure the timely implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework," Rodriguez said in a press statement.

A good compromise

Jennifer Corpuz of Indigenous People's Forum for Biodiversity (IPFB), an umbrella of over 10 thousand indigenous organizations

across the world, had been lobbying intensely to ensure mainstreaming of indigenous peoples' rights in the GBF, called the adopted document, a "good compromise" and "a good start."

According to Corpuz, the GBF - now known as "The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework," contains strong language on all targets that concern indigenous peoples and local communities. The language is very strong, especially in the areas of spatial planning (Target 1), area-based conservation (Target 3), customary sustainable use (Targets 5 and 9), traditional knowledge (Goal C, Targets 13 and 21), and participation and respect for the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities to lands, territories, and resources (Target 22).

"The Framework should be celebrated as a historic step towards transforming how we approach biodiversity conservation. The text provides a strong basis for countries to walk hand in hand with Indigenous peoples in addressing the biodiversity crisis and in ensuring that the negative legacy

of conservation on Indigenous peoples will be corrected," Corpuz told IPS.

Basile Van Havre - the co-chair of the framework, appeared to agree with Corpuz. Answering a question on the implications and meaning of various terms such as "equitable governance" in the GBF, Havre told IPS, "it would help local governments to create a mechanism for working together with different sections of the populations, especially the Indigenous peoples."

On the adoption of a gender target (Target 23) and the adoption of the Gender Action Plan, the CBD Women's Caucus expressed their gratitude to various parties for their support. A group of women also broke out in a jubilant dance - an expression of their joy and relief after years of persuasion to include Gender as a stand-alone target in the GBF.

The next steps and challenges ahead

According to experts, the success of the GBF will heavily lie on two factors: 1) Adopting and operationalizing GBF indicators

relevant to each target and 2) Creating a mechanism quickly for those decisions that involve a multilateral system.

For example, under the new GBF, finances for biodiversity will come from rich and developed nations and private investors. But the pathways and mechanisms for these are yet to be decided, and the sooner these are done, the better it will be for all parties to begin implementing the framework.

A lot will also depend on how quickly the countries can revise their current National Biodiversity Action Plans to make ways for implanting new decisions under the GBF, according to Francis Ogwal, CBD co-chair of the GBF.

Others have also cautioned that if countries are not able to make necessary policy changes, there is a risk that the GBF could fail.

"The agreement represents a major milestone for the conservation of our natural world, and biodiversity has never been so high on the political and business agenda, but it can be undermined by slow implementation and failure to mobilize the promised resources. Governments have chosen the right side of history in Montreal, but history will judge all of us if we don't deliver on the promise made today," warned Marco Lambertini, Director General of WWF International.

The agreement also obligates countries to monitor and report on a large set of "headlines" and other indicators related to progress against the GBF's goals and targets every five years or less. Headline indicators include the percent of land and seas effectively conserved, the number of companies disclosing their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity, and many others.

The CBD will combine national information submitted by late February 2026 and late June 2029 into global trends and progress reports.

(IPS UN Bureau Report)

Migrants? 'Don't you dare come here, unless...'



By **Baheer Kamal**

"There is no migration crisis; there is a crisis of solidarity" says UN Secretary-General, António Guterres. Credit: UNHCR

WHEN tens of thousands of Europeans had to flee the horrors of two born-in-Europe devastating armed conflicts that attracted other powers: the World Wars I and II, they migrated to the Americas and other Western countries in search of safe haven.

Upon their arrival at their destination, they were checked at the border and admitted to enter as useful workforce.

Seldom, if ever, anybody classified them as "illegal" migrants. Those human beings were fleeing the horrors of those wars. Now that millions of people are forced to flee the horrors not only of wars but also of additional waves of devastation, from a climate emergency they did not create to a train of world's financial crisis originated in and by the world's most industrialised -and richest- powers, these migrants are classified as "illegal."

There have been different approaches to get around what the right to far-right political parties in Europe, the United States, Australia, among several others, call "invasion," a "threat to our civilisation," "our democracy," and "our religion," let alone that they represent a "high risk of terrorism."

Here, there is an open message

from the rich West to these poor migrants: 'don't you dare come here, unless...'

Unless you bring money: in the aftermath of the 2008 world financial crisis, several industrialised countries followed the example of the by then United Kingdom's government, i.e., migrants were admitted provided they have money enough to buy a property and open a sound bank account;

Unless you are highly skilled: another criteria used to admit migrants depends on their professional, useful capacity;

And unless you are "like us": such is the case of the tens of thousands of human beings attempting to escape the horrors of another, absolutely condemnable war, the European proxy war unfolding in Ukraine. Hungarian Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, referred to Ukrainians as "they look like us... they are like us."

If migrants do not enjoy these conditions, they are immediately called "illegal," and thus non-admitted. And those who had already arrived are being swept away from the US and Europe.

Why such a race to expel migrants?

The trend to expel migrants has steadily increased in this year 2022, coincidentally -or not-

proxy war in Ukraine started in February, pushing millions of Ukrainian citizens to flee the horrors of this condemnable armed conflict.

All Western countries, in particular Europe, have opened their doors to those millions of migrants and refugees, to whom all sorts of humanitarian assistance are rightly provided.

In contrast, millions of other human beings are fleeing horror, looking for ways to survive and a job that allows their families and themselves to stay alive.

Migrants workers "dehumanised"

"Migrant workers are often dehumanised", said the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Volker Türk, reminding that "they are human beings entitled to human rights and full protection of their human dignity".

No one should have to surrender their human right to migrate in order to find a living wage, the UN human rights office, OHCHR said in a new report published on 16 December 2022, highlighting the importance of temporary migratory labour programmes.

The report, We wanted workers, but human beings came, published just two days ahead of the International Migrants

Day, zeroes-in on schemes in operation across the Asia-Pacific region - the largest single migrant-producing region in the world.

The report points to just some of the abuse, discrimination, and inhuman treatment of migrants: as part of some seasonal schemes, migrants are expected to work on Saturdays and Sundays, leaving them no time to attend religious services.

Migrant domestic workers in other States have reported being told they would be fired, if they prayed or fasted while at work.

Some migrant construction workers report receiving sub-standard medical care in clinics provided by their employers.

Enforced disappearances

Migrants are particularly at risk during what are often arduous journeys just trying to reach their destination, warn UN-appointed independent human rights experts.

The experts stressed that States must coordinate in "preventing the yearly disappearances of thousands of migrants en route."

Citing International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates, they said that over 35,000 migrants have died or disappeared since 2014.

"However, there are no exact figures on the proportion of enforced disappearances in cases involving State agents or people acting with the authorisation, support or acquiescence of countries."

But information indicates that most disappearances occur "during detention or deportation proceedings or because of migrant smuggling or trafficking," said the UN-appointed human rights experts.

Blanket refusals, detention, expulsions

They blamed States' rigid border management and migration policies for many disappearances, citing policies that include "blanket refusals of entry; criminalization of migration; and mandatory, automatic, or extensive use of immigration detention; and arbitrary expulsions."

"These factors encourage migrants to take more dangerous routes, to put their lives in the hands of smugglers and to expose themselves to a higher risk of human rights violations and enforced disappearance", the experts spelt out.

Misleading promises

Every year, millions leave their countries under temporary labour migration programmes that promise eco-

nomical benefits for destination countries and development dividends to countries of origin.

The report details how in many cases temporary work schemes impose a range of "unacceptable human rights restrictions."

It highlights how migrant workers are "often forced to live in overcrowded and unsanitary housing, unable to afford nutritious food, denied adequate healthcare, and face prolonged and sometimes mandatory separation from their families."

Moreover, policies that exclude them from government support in some countries put migrants at a disproportionate risk of COVID-19 infection, the report says.

"They should not be expected to give up their rights in return for being able to migrate for work, however crucial it is for them and their families, and for the economies of their countries of origin and destination", Türk underscored.

Are all the "other migrants" illegal?

One day a year -18 December-, the world is expected to observe the International Migrants Day.

On it, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, stated that today, over 80% of the world's migrants cross borders in a safe and orderly fashion.

On this International Migrants Day, "we reflect on the lives of the over 280 million people who left their country in the universal pursuit of opportunity, dignity, freedom, and a better life," he said.

"Today, over 80 per cent of the world's migrants cross borders in a safe and orderly fashion." This migration is a powerful driver of economic growth, dynamism, and understanding.

Over the past eight years, at least 51,000 migrants have died - and thousands more have disappeared. Behind each number is a human being - a sister, brother, daughter, son, mother, or father.

"Migrant rights are human rights" the United Nations chief reminded. "They must be respected without discrimination - and irrespective of whether their movement is forced, voluntary, or formally authorised."

Thoughts for the 2023: Promoting innovation and new technologies

By **A.H. Monjurul Kabir**

PROMOTING innovation and technology to promote inclusive development means using new technologies to enhance equal access to services, eliminate discrimination, increase transparency, and create a stable and just future for all - especially the most vulnerable and marginalized.

Obviously, the rule of law is a key driver of inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development, and empowers people from all strata of life to seek and obtain justice. Doing more with less is posing a challenge here. We are operating in an increasingly connected yet complex global and national settings and fiscally fragile environment.

Our traditional structures, systems and processes are proving to be inadequate to deal with new developmental challenges, pandemics, inaccessibility and exclusions, conflicts, and humanitarian crisis. Our governance and justice systems are not the most transparent and data friendly domain. Bringing that information to light is no easy task.

Barriers to governance and rule of law

As indicated before, there are many barriers to accessing public services and ensuring accessible public health, rule of law, especially where there are high levels

of poverty, marginalization, and insecurity. Governance institutions - formal and informal - may be biased or discriminatory. Public governance systems may be ineffective, slow, and untrustworthy.

In the last 3 years of pandemic, we also realized our public health system is often crippled by lack of investment, inclusive and accessible initiatives, and innovation. Discriminatory decision making and exclusivity further complicated the situation at all levels. People may lack knowledge about their rights. Often legal assistance and consumer protection are out of reach, leaving people with little recourse to formal mechanisms for protection and empowerment. There may be a culture of impunity for criminal acts, unacceptable level of tolerance for exclusionary practices.

Other discriminations, injustices, and abuses in the family, or through deprivation and labour exploitation, may go unaddressed. Despite all these, more can be done to ensure that they benefit from the inclusive governance and public health work, and, rule of law practices, which expand their opportunities and choices.

Quest for new ideas ...

Despite all these, more can be done to ensure that the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups benefit from inclusive public



Patients seeking treatment at the Redemption Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia. Credit: World Bank/Dominic Chavez

health, legal empowerment, and access to justice, which expand their opportunities and choices.

We need fresh ideas, resources, and unconventional ways of collecting and analyzing data, such as using micro-narratives or innovative, accessible public hearings, targeted consultations, to complement traditional mechanisms including surveys. But innovation is rapidly becoming the new buzzword, so I would be careful in applying it here:

- Innovation is not cost-free and takes time so it should be mainstreamed.

- Innovation is both science and arts. And it should be seen as a standalone practice, one of the biggest problems that public sector innovation faces today is that governments have de facto created a 'class of innovators,' rather than making innovation an inclusive process that is open to anyone who has the motivation and capacity to influence change. This must change.

- Repackaging or reproduction is not innovation unless it caters to the specific needs of vulnerable and marginalized communities which are not supported by existing mechanisms and services.

- What is innovative in Bangladesh, Turkey, and Tanzania may not be so in India, Turkmenistan, Senegal, or Mexico;

- Big data is important but harnessing it for the right cause should be central consideration. Linking it with better evidence base is of critical significance. The COVID-19 challenges amply demonstrated it.

- Going beyond social networking is key - while Facebook, Twitter and other Social Media outlets play an admirable role in connecting people, these are not enough to solving a protracted problem and sustaining a solution. We must also be mindful of the recent trend of using social media to silence public defenders, journalists, and whistle blowers. The twitter is a case in point (December 2022).

- Innovative ideas, while refreshing, need to be pragmatic so that they can be implemented. They must be part of a solution, not the overall problem.

- Evidence of impact is more important than the novelty factor. Innovation and New Technologies for Solutions

My own take is that ideas do not need to be always transformational or revolutionary. Our platforms can replicate or even recycle what already works by introducing successful models to new actors and environments.

Even seemingly ordinary things can become innovative in different terms, approaches, or settings. Linking inclusion to innovation is not only about looking at how it can advance policies and create better impact for governments, but also about giving people, public servants, and citizens alike, the self-efficacy, power, and freedom to direct change in the way they see necessary. This contributes

directly to the making of inclusive development.

New technologies are changing the lives of people around the world. In the same way that they make daily tasks simpler, they can make official and routine interactions with government institutions, service providers easier and can provide innovative solutions to a host of public sector governance, public health, and rule of law challenges.

Technology has an immense untapped potential to strengthen inclusive practices for governance including public health governance, and the rule of law. Technological innovation must provide equal access to services, help to eliminate discrimination, and assure more transparency and accountability. They must not be used to silence voices, deny human rights, or create justifications for maladministration, inaccessibility, and exclusions.

(IPS UN Bureau)

700ha of forest reserves at risk of extinction in Kilwa

By Beatrice Philemon

OVER 700 hectares of forest reserves in Kilwa district, Lindi region are in danger of disappearing due to environmental degradation caused by pastoralists who get into them for water and pastures.

The move has been threatening thousands of villagers who depend on it for survival.

A week-long survey conducted by this paper found that Mkongoro and Sanduku forest reserves located in Somangasimu village in Kilwa district are highly affected by the ongoing human activities.

Speaking recently, secretary of Somangasimu village natural resources committee, Kassimu Simaya admitted that the forest reserves are in danger of disappearing because of invaders illegally conducting farming activities, cattle grazing and timber harvesting inside the forest reserves.

He also said the water source which is inside the forest reserves has also been affected as invaders are now illegally conducting farming activities, constructing cattle dips and livestock grazing.

He said about 5000 villagers in Somangasimu village have been affected and called on the government's intervention so that they can benefit from forest resources they conserve within the village land and implement village development projects.

"Due to the situation, villagers in Somangasimu village are calling for the government's intervention to remove the invaders because the number of invaders is increasing inside the forest reserves and clearing trees that we depend on for revenue collection to implement village development projects," he said.

He said a good number of farmers invaded Mkongoro forest reserves to start farming activities and are now cultivating sesame, sorghum, potatoes, banana, maize as well as cattle grazing.

"They have so far taken 110 hectares of land for their illegal activities, environmental degradation is very high, threatening the existence of the forests that we depend on for sustainable charcoal making, timber harvesting and water sources," explained.

Simaya said the village noticed the ongoing destruction when conducting patrols inside the forest reserves to fight encroachers who invade the forests for agricultural activities, cattle grazing and charcoal making.

"We need government's intervention on this issue because Mkongoro forest reserve is our forest and has been gazetted by the government notice No. 487 in June 2020 paving way for sustainable charcoal and timber harvesting by villagers to earn revenue that will be invested to implement the village development projects in Somangasimu village," he said.

Somangasimu village chairman, Athuman Mkwembya said: "We are calling for support so as to fight the increasing invaders in the forest reserves, as the situation do not only affect the areas' ecology but also deny the government from earning revenues to implement village development projects."

Mkwembya said cattle grazing inside the forest reserves was increasing and the village leadership has done all it can to fight the invaders without succeeding.

Kassimu Mahiro from Mitondo hamlet said that the village has been able to allocate Mkongoro and Sanduku village land forest reserve for conservation activities so as to protect water sources and fight climate change impacts.

"But with more invaders entering inside the forests, we will not benefit from it, all trees that we depend on it for water sources, sustainable timber harvesting and charcoal making will completely disappear," he said.

He called on Kilwa district executive director, responsible ministers to visit in the area and see how big the environmental damage was and take immediate measures.

Mahiro said failure of government officials to visit the village and witness the situation, has caused more invaders to continue flowing in the forests and conduct their activities freely.

"Since October this year, we have been waiting for a land officer from Kilwa district council to visit our village and resolve the challenge we are facing, until now he hasn't shown up and the forest had continued to be damaged," he said.

Planning officer at Kilwa district council (land department), Musa Luvunga said they were aware of the problem and have been working to address it.

"We met with Somangasimu village leaders on October 21, this year and had a long discussion with them. The district executive director (DED) is also aware of the problem," he said.

He said: "After the discussion we found that the major problem here is forest boundaries between the villages surrounding the forests, we are ready to visit the area and resolve the situation," he said.

African lobby says elephants' survival at stake amid conflicts with humans

NAIROBI

THE survival of African elephants is at stake as the iconic land mammal finds itself at the crosshairs of wrath from farmers and herders, the conservation lobby Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) said in a statement on Monday.

The EPI said some of the dynamics fueling human-elephant conflicts in Africa include rapid population growth, urbanization, shrinking wildlife habitats, and climate change.

"Across Africa, human-elephant

conflicts result in injuries and tragic loss of human life, the destruction of crops and infrastructure, the loss of livelihoods, and the killing of elephants in retaliation," said the EPI.

The 21 African member states of EPI lobbied for the recognition of human-elephant conflict as a critical threat to the survival of the giant land mammal during the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity meeting, held in Montreal, Canada. In addition, Africa's elephant range states urged the international community

to incorporate evolving threats to elephants in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that was approved at the end of COP15.

Angolan Minister of Environment Ana Paula de Carvalho, who chaired the meeting of Africa's elephant range states at the UN biodiversity meeting, called for renewed attention to human-elephant conflict as part of efforts to save the continent's wildlife heritage and sustain tourism.

Carvalho added that robust financing of community-led conservation models will be key to minimizing the intensity

of human-elephant conflicts in Africa's savannas and tropical forests.

The EPI member states proposed careful land use practices, enhanced protection of wildlife sanctuaries, and adoption of alternative livelihoods to reduce poaching alongside human-elephant hostilities.

Other recommendations intended to minimize human-elephant conflicts in the continent include robust financing toward research, public education, and deployment of surveillance technologies.

"By preserving elephants and their



This photo shows an elephant at the Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga, South Africa.

TAHA pushes vegetable farmers to embrace organic farming practices

By Correspondent Zuweni Shem

TANZANIA Horticultural Association (TAHA) has encouraged vegetable growers to embrace organic farming, which in most cases is environmentally friendly and pesticides' free.

Zacharia Kiputa, TAHA's food safety, and standard officer said that the association has started telling farmers the important need of embracing organic vegetable farming that allows them to use organic waste—animal wastes, plant wastes, crop wastes, farm wastes, and biological materials.

He says the move also optimizes the health and productivity of interdependent communities of soil, plants, animals, and people.

According to him, there are many effects of using pesticides and industrial fertiliser in agriculture because of the chemicals from farmers as well as consumers.

"This is caused by lack of enough or proper awareness on how to use alternative farming inputs such as organic fertiliser and pesticides," he says.

The expert said that TAHA believes that with adequate and extensive training of farmers on proper pesticides application and overall use of the registered pesticides instead of counterfeits, food safety for all Tanzanian consumers is a possibility.

According to Kiputa, many farmers aren't aware of how to use organic pesticides like how and when to use them as in most cases they want short-term results, hence selling chemical-

contaminated vegetables in the market outlets.

For example, Kiputa says that a farmer who uses chemical pesticides and sells them on the same day, something is extremely wrong and puts consumers at health risk.

"As we are moving to organic agriculture, we need to have strategies for sustainable agriculture which will enable farmers to not depend on chemical pesticides and instead rely on environmentally free' agronomic practices."

Kiputa said the use of chemical pesticides has short and long-term adverse health effects on farmers themselves and end users.

Some of the health effects include stinging eyes, rashes, blisters, blindness, nausea, dizziness, diarrhea, cancer, reproductive challenges, and among others.

Women are more susceptible to pesticides, as most of them spend longer on the farm than men.

According to Kiputa, pesticides are contributing to the widespread decline of insects, hence threatening entire ecosystems.

Janet Maro, Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) executive director says that food and nutrition security is everyone's responsibility. Producers should make sure that crops are grown using sustainable methods that keep the health of people, the environment, and ecosystems.

"Consumers should demand clean, free, and fair food that nurtures their bodies. Agroecology and organic

agriculture offer the possibility to grow healthy nutritious crops without relying on inputs with adverse effects on the environment," said Maro.

Aggrey Mawole, Arusha city council agricultural engineer, said that efforts are being made to improve the market's infrastructure and sewage system to combat the worrying levels of chemical residues in the fresh foodstuffs sold and consumed in Arusha.

The findings of the study conducted between 2019 and 2021 show that fruits, and vegetables sold in Arusha were contaminated.

Titled Assessment of the Food Safety Risks Along the Main Fruit and Vegetable Supply Chains in Arusha City, the study that was carried out in Arusha City aimed at establishing the safety levels of fruits and vegetables.

Dr Jonas Kapeleka, Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) researcher said recently that fruits and vegetables involved in the study include tomatoes, onions, black nightshade, curly kale, cabbage, carrot, okra, spinach, tomatoes and watermelon among others.

Dr Kapeleka said the study aimed at establishing contamination levels: biological, chemical, and physical in Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions.

"Fruit and vegetable traders, transporters as well as storage value chain stakeholders were involved, with Kilombero, Tengeru, Mto wa Mbu, Samunge, and Ngaramtoni

among markets earmarked during the study," he said.

The findings show that 63 percent of sampled fruits and vegetables had been contaminated by at least one microbial contaminant.

This, according to Dr Kapeleka, means that 63 percent of fruits and vegetables produced and consumed in Arusha are contaminated with bacteria, noting that samples gathered from marketplaces have higher contamination levels compared to those collected from the farms.

"This is attributed to customers' behaviour, which involves touching vegetables before purchasing. The same happens to fruits too," said Dr Kapeleka.

He also stated that over 90 percent of the analysed bacteria are pathogenic (disease-causative) micro-organisms, insisting that spinach, watermelon, onion, tomatoes, carrots, and curly kale were among the crops found to be contaminated with pathogenic bacteria, with some containing up to five different bacteria.

He said fruits and vegetables collected from marketplaces had higher levels of pathogenic bacteria as compared to samples collected from farms primarily due to poor hygiene in most markets.

"Market environments are excessively dirty, with some products being arranged on the ground. People should avoid purchasing vegetables piled on the ground despite being cheap," he suggested.

With ANC election done, here's what's next on Ramaphosa's list

By Marianne Merten

WITH President Cyril Ramaphosa's second term as ANC president secured on Monday, party renewal talk hit fever pitch, alongside how the President's government reform agenda has been bolstered. All that, of course, with a firm view on the 2024 elections.

In Monday's vote announcement, President Cyril Ramaphosa's slate secured five of the seven top ANC officials' posts, almost a clean sweep, after terse and tense last-minute horse-trading and cajoling that was reflected in several narrow result margins.

Effectively, that means Ramaphosa remains in Luthuli House and the Union Buildings, set to steer a governing party that's admitted to being in an existential crisis and in decline. Or as the organisational report put it: "We must acknowledge that the ANC is experiencing a crisis threatening its existence. We cannot expect to achieve any of our goals and regain the people's trust if we fail to take the necessary actions."

The organisational report bluntly talks of the ANC's falling electoral support, how "disunity and factionalism remain rampant" amid inadequate party functioning. "We are at a crossroads," said the report.

Such blunt statements from an organisation whose membership has dropped to 661,489 from just over a million members in its 2012 centenary year, come against recent research that put Ramaphosa's public trust levels, in the mid-30 percentages, at between 10 to 15 percentage points higher than the governing ANC he leads.

But Ramaphosa's clean governance push was damaged by a Section 89 independent panel recommendation that he had an impeachment case to answer over his Phala Phala farm forex scandal. While probes by the Public Protector, Hawks, the tax authorities and South African Reserve Bank are ongoing, ANC MPs used their numbers to kill off any further parliamentary steps for Ramaphosa's removal from office.

Read more in Daily Maverick: "Phala Phala, Parliament, Eskom:

Ruling party is closing ranks again, playing ANC vs Everyone Else"

However, Cooperative Governance Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma voted for starting an impeachment inquiry, while absent for that vote was Tourism Minister Lindiwe Sisulu, who's also been sharply critical of the President.

A Cabinet reshuffle

Segue to the first hurdle Ramaphosa faces – a Cabinet reshuffle, possibly as early as January, on the back of a strengthened political hand following his re-election.

It's tricky timing amid a confluence of factors, including recompense for faithful organising and electoral regimen. It will test Ramaphosa's political nous and backbone.

Both Sisulu and Dlamini Zuma are to be dropped, according to speculation. Two other vacancies exist: the public service and administration ministry that's not had a political boss since Ayanda Dlodlo left for the World Bank; and the transport ministry, where Fikile Mbalula's resignation is pending as his ANC secretary-general role is a full-time position.

That could happen at February's State of the Nation Address, or on Monday, according to Mbalula in a televised briefing about the ANC elective conference on Monday evening.

Further executive vacancies may arise from shifting out deputy ministers such as Deputy Public Enterprises Minister Phumulo Masualle, who stood on the Mkhizze slate.

Mashatile and Mabuyane

Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane would have to be accommodated in Cabinet in one of the many consequences of deals and horse-trading that must unfold. Mabuyane, a Ramaphosa ally, got 1,858 votes against 2,018 for ex-treasurer Paul Mashatile, and failed to become party deputy president.

Mashatile's wish to move into government was clearly expressed by the now ANC deputy president to Bloomberg, where he said: "If I am deputy president of the ANC I think it will be better to go and assist in government".

But Mashatile is not an MP. And



President Cyril Ramaphosa and newly-appointed deputy president Paul Mashatile embrace following the announcement of the top seven during the ANC's 55th national conference at Nasrec in Johannesburg, South Africa on 19 December 2022. (Photo: Emilie Gambade)

according to section 91(3) (a) of the Constitution, "The president must select the deputy president from among the members of the National Assembly."

Not applicable is the possibility of two Cabinet posts filled from outside Parliament, currently held by Trade and Industry Minister Ebrahim Patel and Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana.

So Ramaphosa must wait – until May 2023 when the electoral regimen allows the amendment of public representatives lists, to get Mashatile on those after a vacancy is created by resignation, and then manoeuvre a vacancy on the ANC benches in Parliament for Mashatile to take up a seat there.

This timeframe, alongside Mbalula's comments, signals flexible timing for a Cabinet reshuffle, and possibly even another step towards the reorganisation of the state, including downscaling, which Ramaphosa talked of when elected by MPs as President in February 2018.

Mabuza conundrum

Exactly how incumbent Deputy President David "DD" Mabuza would agree to resign, or be shuffled out, is another co-

nundrum for Ramaphosa. But at the ANC national elective conference, Mabuza did turn down a nomination from the floor, perhaps signalling his readiness for a political move.

Much of the five-day ANC elective conference was taken up with voting and related matters – from a messy delegates' registration process that delayed the start, and voting, plus eleventh-hour backroom wheeling and dealing.

The narrow margins in some of the official elections are a sign of this, and some rather strange strategies that saw two candidates linked to the Ramaphosa side split the vote in the polls for deputy presidency, secretary-general and national chairperson.

NEC obstacles

With an overwhelming number of candidates for the 80-strong ANC National Executive Committee (NEC) not Ramaphosa-friendly, the balance of power in the highest decision-making structure between conferences may not necessarily allow Ramaphosa to make the moves he'd like.

The noise, contestation and, yes, disu-

nity are set to continue. Not just in the ANC, but also in the government structures it controls.

Some of that seemed to emerge on Monday, with the grapevine indicating the economic transformation commission discussions had agreed to shift troubled Eskom, wracked by almost persistent rolling power outages, from the Department of Public Enterprises to the Department of Mineral Resources.

That's headed by Mantashe, who over the past three weeks went to battle for Ramaphosa in a series of deals that secured the President's stay and ultimately his election for a second term as party president.

While the policy debating commissions had completed their business on Sunday night, reports were still before adoption in plenary. The resolutions are expected to be published on Tuesday, when the ANC said the conference would close.

The old is making way for the new. The question that remains, however, is: how much actually has changed?

DM

Emancipation expectations weigh heavy on Maropene Ramokgopa

By Nonkululeko Njilo

AT 42 years old, she is the youngest member in the ruling party's newly-elected top seven leadership. Her political career spans over two decades, having initially carved her niche in the often crude and brutal ANC Youth League (ANCYL) school.

Ramokgopa made history when she ascended to power on Monday when she was elected the first "second" deputy secretary general of the ANC – a position which came into existence after the 55th National Conference passed a constitutional amendment for the position which, among other functions, was aimed at strengthening the party's administrative capacity.

The position was necessitated by the crisis that the secretary general's office faced over the past five years. Former party secretary general Ace Magashule was suspended for involvement in the Free State Asbestos scandal. Then deputy secretary Jessie Duarte died earlier this year. This saw the then ANC treasurer general Paul Mashatile juggling three positions.

Ramokgopa's name was nomi-

nated from the floor and she emerged victorious having garnered 2,373 votes to Ronald Nalunga's 1,948.

In her past interactions with the media, she's always maintained a calm demeanour and expressed the importance of women and youth representation in the party's top leadership structure.

Read more: Ramaphosa allies form slim majority in top seven while Mashatile, Mokonyane balance the numbers

Previously, the party's top six structure had a single woman, the late Duarte. The newly elected top seven leadership has three women, a first for the ruling party.

The newly elected women are, Ramokgopa, Nomvula Mokonyane – the first deputy secretary-general and Gwen Ramokgopa, the newly elected treasurer-general, who too made history as the first woman to occupy the position.

ANC's head of transformation, Mmamoloko Kubayi said, "having three women in the leadership, a gendered generational mix, this is a mixture of different generations that are there. I believe society will be able to resonate with us".

Kubayi believes the mix will also bring about vibrancy to the party.

Among other positions, Ramokgopa is currently a member of the Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) in Limpopo, she is also a chief advisor to President Cyril Ramaphosa on international relations at the African Union (AU).

In June this year, she was appointed coordinator of the national task team (NTT) of the disbanded ANCWL.

The women's league national executive committee's term expired after the league failed to convene a conference in the previous two years under the leadership of convicted perjurer Bathabile Dlamini.

Among other duties, Ramokgopa and her team were tasked with ensuring that the league's structures were in good standing, and conferences were held in branches, regions and provinces to ensure its national conference is convened within a year. At the time of her appointment as coordinator, the move was seen as Ramaphosa's consolidation of power at the party's headquarters, Luthuli House ahead of the 55th conference.

Speaking to the media at the time of the ANCWL appointment, she shut down criticism of her capabilities by publicly stating her credentials and arguing she would not stop supporting Ramaphosa, as he previously supported his other bosses; former presidents Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma.

In the same breath, Ramokgopa said she was not in the business of fighting anyone's battles but to strengthen and rebuild her organisation.

As early as age 26 she had already started occupying executive positions. Mbeki appointed her Northern Cape mayor in 2006 which made her the youngest mayor in the country at the time.

Zuma appointed her to represent SA as the head of mission at



Newly appointed second deputy secretary-general Maropene Ramokgopa speaks to journalists on the sidelines of the ANC's 55th national conference at Nasrec in Johannesburg, South Africa on 19 December 2022. (Photo: Leila Dougan)

the consulate general in Mumbai, India in 2016 a position she occupied until 2020.

Since 2008, she has served on the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the ANC Youth League.

In a wide-ranging interview with Daily Maverick last month, she was unapologetic about her credentials amid a lack of confidence in her capabilities and those of women which the structure endorsed as preferred candidates ahead of the conference.

Read more here: 'It was not about a man, or woman' – Women's League defends choosing Ramaphosa over Dlamini Zuma in presidency bid

At the party's 2017 conference, the structure rallied behind Nko-

sazana Dlamini Zuma on the women's ticket. Quizzed on the move from that position, Ramokgopa told Daily Maverick that circumstances were different now.

"There is no shift or change of heart. It's just that we said to ourselves, when we look at society and we look at what has been happening in the ANC, the outcry that was there was not just to have a head of the structure being a woman. But the outcry was that there is no gender parity in structures of the ANC," Ramokgopa told the publication.

Ramokgopa's win is a victory for the women in the party and so is that of Gwen Ramokgopa, the newly elected treasurer-general who was the structure's preferred

candidate.

On why the structure endorsed Gwen for the treasurer-general position, Maropene told Daily Maverick that, the move would ensure that programmes for women's emancipation are funded adequately, as this was not the case previously when the position was held by Mashatile.

The news of Ramokgopa's victory has been characterised as a step in the right direction, particularly by those close to her.

Kubayi added that "Maropene Ramokgopa represents what we have aspired for."

Minister in the presidency, Mondli Gungubele said, "the future of South Africa looks bright."

DM

Brussels agrees details of world-first carbon border tax

BRUSSELS

EU member states have reached a deal on the world's first major carbon border tax, finalising the details early on Sunday in the face of claims from the bloc's key trading partners that the levy creates protectionist trade barriers.

Environmental regulators and ministers from across the bloc signed off on the introduction of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), a tool that will force foreign importers to cover the cost of their carbon emissions, after the deal was provisionally agreed on Tuesday.

The deal, a central part of the EU's strategy to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero by 2050, is expected to be formally agreed by leaders at the European Council and adopted into EU law by the European parliament before coming into force in 2026.

Peter Liese, lead negotiator for the European parliament, told Reuters on Sunday that the CBAM was "the biggest climate law ever in Europe, and some say in the world". Liese said a large amount of CO emissions would be cut "at the lowest possible price."

However, the deal has sparked controversy with the EU's main trading partners, who say it will expose their industries to unfair competition.

The US and South Africa, in particular, have said the CBAM will unfairly penalise their manufacturers, which may now face a wave of cheap imports from companies that are unwilling to pay the EU charge and instead export their goods elsewhere.

European lawmakers have risked stoking criticism after they agreed to discuss the need for subsidies to support exporters based in the EU and "if needed" present a proposal for rebates by 2025.

Adina Georgescu, energy and climate director at the metal industry trade body Eurometaux, said policymakers had to "find a solution for keeping our exports competitive". Georgescu added: "Our companies cannot afford further revenue loss and uncertainty on top of today's existential energy crisis threat."

The EU has claimed carbon-related rebates would be compliant with World Trade Organization regulations. However, several analysts have said such support would contravene the rules, should foreign importers need to purchase certificates from the EU to cover their own carbon emissions at the same time.

Geneviève Pons, director-general of the Paris-based think-tank the Jacques Delors Institute, said that offering subsidies of any sort would be one of the "main risks" of CBAM if they were introduced. "This would be really not likely be WTO compatible," she said.

Following roughly 30 hours of talks that dragged into the early hours of Sunday, policymakers also agreed to raise the target for reducing emissions in industries covered by the European Emissions Trading System, the mechanism for carbon pricing, to 62 per cent by 2030.

Negotiators in Brussels also agreed to set up a Social Climate Fund to help vulnerable households, small businesses and transport users cope with the effects of carbon pricing. The fund would come into play between 2026 and 2032 and could offer up to €65bn in aid.

"This [deal] will allow us to meet climate objectives within the main sectors of the economy, while making sure the most vulnerable citizens and microenterprises are effectively supported in the climate transition," said Marian

Jure ka, environment minister for the Czech Republic, which holds the rotating presidency of the EU.

Ministers also agreed to phase out free allowances to cover emissions in energy intensive sectors – including cement, aluminium, iron and steel – by 2034.

Not everyone thought the deal was ambitious enough. "The EU missed a critical chance to significantly ramp up its climate ambition," said Klaus Röhrig, head of climate at CAN Europe, a coalition of NGOs fighting climate change, arguing that the deal prioritised "polluting industry over the people."

NBC Bank Twiga bond now trading at DSE after successful over-subscription



Commissioner responsible for Sovereign Debt Management at the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Japhet Justine (C) rings a bell to officiate the listing of the NBC Twiga Bond in the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) during a short ceremony to officiate the listing of the bank's bond held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Along with him are DSE Chief Executive Officer, Mary Mniwasa (2nd L), NBC Bank Director for Treasury, Peter Nalitolera (L), Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) Chief Executive Officer, Nicodemus Mkama (2nd R) and the bank's Board representative Felix Mlaki (R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC) has achieved another milestone by listing its first-ever NBC Twiga Bond on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

Twiga Bond, a Medium Term Note of 300bn/-, was opened in the primary market on 31 October 2022, with the first tranche of 30bn/- was oversubscribed by 30 percent to the tune of 38.9bn/-, against a target of 30bn/-, representing a subscription record of a whopping 130%.

NBC Twiga Bond's offer, which opened on 7 November 2022 and closed on 6 December 2022, is the first by the bank. The net proceeds will lend to retail, small and medium-sized businesses, agricultural value chain businesses whose products and services directly impact women and youth, and local and multinational corporations.

Gracing the event at the DSE offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the Commissioner responsible for Sovereign Debt Management at the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Japhet Justine, who represented the

Permanent Secretary Ministry for Finance and Planning, applauded NBC Bank for the move as it will open up the stock market and empower the business community.

"The government applauds the innovation of bringing Twiga Bond to the market to raise funds to support the SME and the agricultural value chain. Apart from supporting the financial inclusion drive, we are happy to learn that the trickle-down effects will reach further down the supply chain by financing the SMEs, MSMEs, and the agriculture value chain at large. Let me assure you of maximum government support," he said.

NBC Bank Managing Director Theobald Sabi, who was represented by the NBC Bank Director for Treasury, Peter Nalitolera, said: "As one of the largest lenders in Tanzania, we are thrilled to announce the success of the 1st tranche of Twiga bond issued early last month where we oversubscribed by 30%, raising a total of 38.9bn/- from the target of 30bn/-. The oversubscription shows the trust that the market has in the NBC Bank brand, and we are equally grateful for their trust and support."

he said.

He explained that listing Twiga Bond on the Stock Market will open more doors for further trading of the Bonds. "Today, we are happy to list Twiga Bond in the DSE to allow further trading by the public. Now investors who bought the bonds during the primary market can easily trade, while those who did not manage prior can now buy via the stock market brokers," he said.

"We had 639 applications, out of which 97% were individual retailers, and the rest were institutions. This is a good sign of improved efforts in financial literacy in our country, where now most Tanzanians understand the importance of investing in bonds and financial securities. Our records show that women accounted for 42% of all retail investors (241). This is a big leap in our efforts for financial inclusion. The oversubscription demonstrates the trust the market has over the NBC Bank brand and what it stands for," he said.

Sabi also said investors in the NBC Twiga Bond would earn an interest rate of 10 percent per annum, payable quarterly throughout the

five years investment tenure.

Giving her remarks during the occasion, the DSE Chief Executive Officer, Mary Mniwasa congratulated NBC bank for the important step while noting that the bank's participation in the market makes DSE close this year with the listing of two corporate bonds.

"The two bonds listed within this year make the number of corporate bonds that have been listed on DSE reach five with a total value of 186.67bn/-. The figure may seem small, but it reflects the great efforts that are being made," she said.

Speaking during the same occasion, the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) Chief Executive Officer, Nicodemus Mkama, in addition to congratulating NBC bank for the success, he also congratulated the government for creating an enabling environment that attracted more investors to the bond.

"The achievement has largely been backed by the enabling environment of the government, especially its move to remove the withholding tax on corporate bonds, a move that has attracted more investors to the kind of bond," he said.

Y9 Microfinance expands horizon in Dar

By Francis Kajubi

Y9 Microfinance has launched five new branches in Dar es Salaam to simplify the access of its mobile phone loans to small and medium entrepreneurs among other social groups in a move towards an inclusive digital economy.

The launch of the five branches comes after a successful pilot project of supplying over 3,000 SMEs with mobile phones in Dar es Salaam between October and November this year.

Y9 branches are located at Makumbusho, Mbezi Louis, Tandika, Kigamboni and Buguruni in the city.

Y9 branches play as a game changer in increasing convenience to customers who can't afford a direct purchase of smartphones and are looking for financing options.

Speaking during the launch of the service in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Y9 chief executive officer Faith Pella said the mobile phone loans compliments the partnership between Y9 Microfinance and Samsung that aims at offering affordable yet quality smartphones to low income earning social groups.

"Customers can now easily get a smartphone of their choice with an initial payment of 40,000/ and pay as low as 2,000/- on a daily basis as phone purchasing cost for a period of 12 months. The mobile phone is ensured and has a two-year warrant," said Pella.

However, she said, the mobile phone lending model is in line with its strategy to grow Y9 Microfinance business by taking the smartphone loan services closer to its customers.

The mobile phones are connected to a locking system to control unfaithful borrowers and protection of devices



Y9 chief executive officer Faith Pella cuts the ribbon during the launch of Y9 branch at Makumbusho suburb in Dar es Salaam. Looking on is Y9 Microfinance head of sales and distribution Fredrick Mtui. Photo: Courtesy of Y9.

from thieves.

"We are offering 4G smartphone loans to different groups including the employed, entrepreneurs, farmers and livestock keepers" she said adding,

"We are delighted to inform our customers that they can now access our services conveniently at our Y9 centers across Dar es Salaam and we will continue to open up in every region to reach more customers in

the country."

Y9 Microfinance head of sales and distribution Fredrick Mtui said that the digital financing firm that secured its operational license in September this year is looking forward to expanding the service nationwide in the next six months.

He said for one to access the loans he or she needs to have a national identification number with a clean record of borrowing from digital

lenders such as mobile companies.

"We have started with smartphone financing, and we are layering more products and services in order to give our customers quality financial services that will be available in our Y9 application" he said.

Y9 is committed to delivering meaningful financial inclusion through digital financial services that will impact the social and economic life of people in Tanzania.

'Addressing the uneven playing as it relates to entrepreneurs of African heritage within the United Kingdom

By Alice Cumming

BIRKETTS has advised on the registration of the African Diaspora Economic Inclusion Foundation (ADEIF) as a charity in England and Wales.

ADEIF, registered as a charity on 29 November 2022, was founded by speaker, educator, and bestselling author, Shereen Daniels, who is Managing Director of anti-racism and racial equity advisory firm HR rewired and former Vice Chair of the Black Business Association with the London Chamber of Commerce.

The ground-breaking new charity has been established specifically to address issues of economic inequality for members of the African Diaspora, in particular Black female entrepreneurs. The charity will work to support the African Diaspora professional and entrepreneur community to gain equal economic opportunities within the UK.

The charity's beneficiaries will receive, in some cases for the first time, much-needed guidance, education, and financial support to address issues of economic inequality affecting the African Diaspora, helping to put them on a level playing field in the business community.

Lack of access to finance, funding, and network are consistent challenges affecting women business owners. These issues are exacerbated for Black women who face exclusion because of both gender and race.

The charity will bring greater access to opportunity which, in turn, will help the economy to become one that is not subject to internal or hidden discrimination. Additionally, by raising awareness of the issues of economic inequality facing the Afri-



Shereen is an inspiring Philanthropist, doing important work to address very real issues impacting members of the African Diaspora business community.

can Diaspora, the charity will help drive sustainable economic solutions for the benefit of the public.

The Birketts team was led by Liz Brownsell, Partner, and Head of Charities, and was supported by Amy Bradburne (Solicitor) and Florence Paul (Trainee).

Liz Brownsell, Partner and Head of Charities at Birketts, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to have seen Shereen's vision come to life and to have advised her from start

to finish.

"Shereen is an inspiring Philanthropist, doing important work to address very real issues impacting members of the African Diaspora business community, and we are very supportive of her goals, objectives, and mission. I'm looking forward to seeing the impact that ADEIF will have, and am delighted to have had a role in its establishment."

Shereen Daniels, Chair of ADEIF,

said: "Addressing the uneven playing as it relates to entrepreneurs of African heritage within the UK is vital if we are to realise the economic opportunities that come with ensuring equal access to venture capital funding and/or debt finance.

"The Board of Trustees and I are deliberately homing in on supporting Black female entrepreneurs, as despite the public commitments to address funding inequities, we

have yet to see any tangible progress. In fact, one could say many African Diasporic businesses are over-mentored and underfunded and we want to play a small part in changing that.

"Helping viable business achieve their ambitions through small grants and educational support, demonstrates our tangible commitment to helping female entrepreneurs build thriving businesses."



GFA wins best quality award, eyes on quality production expansion

By Francis Kajubi

GF Vehicles Assemblers (GFA) has emerged the first and an overall winner of the Excellence in Quality Award 2022/23 as the best company of the year in the large enterprises category.

GFA, owner of the Kibaha based factory in Pwani region emerged the winner for the large enterprise category of the awards organized by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) at a gala held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend.

GF Vehicles Assemblers (GFA) managing director Imrani Karmal congratulated his employees for their unity that leads to quality in the production of vehicles; without them they would not have been able to succeed in the victory.

He said the company accepted the award with joy due to participating for the first time and emerging as the first and overall winners.

According to him, the award

motivates workers to continue working harder and if possible next year to win international awards for manufacturing the best trucks and entering the international competitive market.

He also thanked his colleagues led by the whole team of experts from different units of the factory.

Karmali said that due to the investment-friendly environment and good relations with the government, the factory is in the second stage of expansion to be able to produce all types of trucks.

Since its inception the company has invested US\$2.5million (6bn/-).

"GFA has employed 180 workers so far at its Kibaha facility and created another 100 temporary jobs. Since last December the company has been working on expanding the factory with 5bn/- investment," said Karmal.

He said the company had in June this year launched a new FAU Tipper of a CA 3256 model. The vehicle is the 600th assem-



bled model of the trucks that have been produced by the company since the first model put on market in 2020.

"Not less than 70 assembled vehicles are sold by the company on a monthly basis. We hope that the factory expansions will double production. The expansion has been influenced by the growing demand from mining companies especially in the coal and gold sectors," asserted Karmal.

GFA was established in 2020

and has successfully assembled light and heavy commercial trucks which they have supplied to the local market as well as for export to neighbouring countries.

TBS director general Dr. Athuman Ngenya asked GFA not to be satisfied with the victory, asking them to participate in the SADC country competition of quality and standards to represent Tanzania.

He said that TBS will cooperate with GF to ensure that they broadcast well in Tanzania.

ACAMS east Africa chapter drives alliance in the fight against regional financial crime

By Guarding Reporter

ACAMS, one of the leading membership organisations dedicated to fighting financial crime globally, aims at illicit actors in Africa with a new chapter co-located in Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Launched recently, the ACAMS East Africa Chapter provides a platform for the education and professional development of AFC and sanctions compliance practitioners. It aims to drive collaboration among private-sector institutions, regulatory bodies, law enforcement agencies, and other organisations engaged in combatting illicit finance.

To mark the launch, the chapter hosted its first event virtually with a keynote address by Joseph Jagada, Principal Expert for the Eastern and South African Anti-Money Laundering Group (ES-AAMLG). The event included panel discussions on the potential impact of climate change on financial-crime risks, the compliance implications of the FTX collapse, the emergence of cybercrime as a predicate offense to money laundering, and professional-development guidance linked to Big Data, virtual assets, and other technologies.

As the 63rd chapter in the organisation's global network and the second on the African continent, the East Africa Chapter welcomes professionals from all segments of the AFC space, including banks, mobile payment providers, FinTech businesses, insurance companies, consultancies, law firms, cryptoasset issuers, regulatory bodies, law enforcement agencies, and other entities exposed to illicit-finance risks.

"ACAMS Chapters are a testament to the simple truth that financial institutions and governments are most effective at fighting illicit finance when they collaborate and communicate with one another," said Scott Liles, CEO of ACAMS. "Through the ACAMS East Africa Chapter, AFC professionals now have a network of peers that can work together in identifying and reporting money laundering, terrorist financing, sanctions evasion, and other illicit activity in the region."

"Chapter members can build on their compliance knowledge to better mitigate their institutional risks, protect those vulnerable individuals who have fallen victim to criminal groups, and ultimately save lives," Liles continued.



Survey shows many Africans are victims to climate change effects

Luxembourg

THE first African climate survey findings by the European Investment Bank (EIB) 2022, shows that 88 percent of the continent's residents are extremely affected by climate change implications.

According to the survey results released yesterday, 61 percent of interviewed respondents said that climate change and environmental damage have affected their income or source of livelihood.

However 76 percent of African respondents say renewable energy should be prioritized on the way forward in fighting climate change effects.

The results of the survey come at a critical moment for Africa, after COP 27 where the mobilization of resources for the mitigation of global warming and the adaptation to its effects were at the heart of the debates with the decisive agreement reached on a new "loss and damage" fund for vulnerable countries hard hit by climatic disasters.

Ambroise Fayolle, vice-president of the EIB, said the majority of the respondents in the countries polled in Africa warn that climate change is already impacting their families and sources of income.

The results of the EIB 2022 Climate Survey also show that developing renewable energy is an important priority by most of the respondents in addressing climate change effects.

He said supporting clean energy investments in Africa, such as wind power, hydropower and off-grid solutions, can serve for many future years.

"We stand ready to use our full range of advisory and financial instruments to support our partners on the ground to mitigate climate change, adapt to its already palpable, negative effects and ensure a just transition," he said.

The results show that losses are typically due to severe drought, rising sea levels or coastal erosion, or extreme weather events such as floods or hurricanes.

More than half of African respondents (57 percent) say they or people they know have already taken some form of action to adapt to the impact of climate change.

Some of these initiatives include investments in water-saving technologies to reduce the impact of drought and drain clearing in advance of flooding.

Africa is the part of the world most affected by climate change, although it contributes least to the problem.

The continent faces an increased

threat from extreme weather events and chronic climate change, which influence agricultural yields, food and water security, ecosystems, livelihoods, health, infrastructure and migration.

By damaging vital resources and increasing competition for natural resources, climate change is likely to increase poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Our investments contribute to the building of the infrastructure that helps mitigate climate change and allows Africans to adapt to its unavoidable impact on their lives.

The EIB is the lending arm of the European Union and the world's largest multilateral lender for climate action projects. Since 2018, the EIB has conducted similar large-scale climate surveys across Europe, China and the United States.

EIB has a long-established presence on the African continent and provides support for numerous initiatives and projects, including in the areas of environmental protection and climate change, and the digital economy and telecommunications.

Other areas are sustainable agriculture and food security, clean water and sanitation, clean and affordable energy, sustainable infrastructure, sustainable industrial development, urban development, education, and lending for sustainable projects carried out by small and medium-sized enterprises and large corporations.

The EIB has been a strong partner of African countries for more than 55 years. Through our new development arm, EIB Global, we are strengthening our presence in Africa and are supporting climate and environmental action projects.

EIB financing includes providing access to clean and modern energy for hundreds of millions of people in Africa. For example, we are supporting clean water in Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Niger, and flood protection in Burkina Faso.

On the other hand, solar energy in Zambia, wind power and geothermal projects in Kenya, hydropower in Liberia, Ghana and Madagascar, and off-grid solutions in Benin that will improve access to energy for households and micro-entrepreneurs.

The EIB has operated in Africa since 1965. Since then, the EIB has invested €59 billion in 52 African countries, supporting infrastructure projects, innovative firms and renewable energy schemes, in the public sector and private companies, from microenterprises to the largest multinationals.

Boosting Africa's creative industries should be leaders' priority, critics say

By Tesfaye Negussie

WHEN delegates from 49 countries and the African Union converged in Washington, D.C., for the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit this week, it appears one of Africa's most popular cultural ambassadors, Afrobeats superstar Burna Boy, was not top of mind.

Even so, the Grammy-award-winning artist sold out the nearby 20,000-seat capacity Capital One Arena just a few days beforehand. He also had filled every seat in iconic arenas like Madison Square Garden and State Farm Arena during the same "Love, Damini" tour.

"People, like Burna Boy, the African continent has so many of them," Roger Muntu, host of the "RM Show," Voice of America's entertainment and culture show aimed at Africa, said. "They just haven't been discovered yet. Because there's no way, there's no means in this industry."

The delegates had the opportunity to attract more investors to help build Africa's dynamic creative and cultural industries (CCI) - a sector that includes music, film, fashion and visual arts, and could bring in billions of more dollars into Africa.

But even though their focus was on the more pressing needs of a continent that has struggled with decades of wars, famines and inadequate infrastructure, Muntu sees far greater potential in the impact CCI can have on Africa's overall growth.

"This cultural entertainment industry will generate, win more money faster, quicker than you will use for all these other things that you need for health, for education," Muntu said. "That's how fast that this business can generate money if, and only if, the governments focus on that."

According to UNESCO, CCI employs half a million people in Africa and generates \$4.2 billion in revenue. According to Selam, a platform that supports the growth of CCI in Africa, much of the financing comes from non-traditional investors,



It is a powerful industry, with a tremendously important potential but undermined by the leaders," Ambassador Rama Yade, senior director of the Atlantic Council's Africa Center, said. "They only dedicate 1% of their GDP or the GDP of their countries to the African creative industry."

since banks and governments are hesitant to fund these sectors.

"It is a powerful industry, with a tremendously important potential but undermined by the leaders," Ambassador Rama Yade, senior director of the Atlantic Council's Africa Center, said. "They only dedicate 1% of their GDP or the GDP of their countries to the African creative industry."

Yade used the film "Black Panther" to illustrate the influence of soft power, a term first used by Joseph S. Nye Jr., former chair of the National Intelligence Council. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, soft power refers to a country's use of cultural and economic influence to convince other nations to do something, instead of military force.

"It ('Black Panther') talks about Africa, and it features African artists," Yade said. "America knows about soft power. They know how powerful it is to convey your message through songs, movies, TV shows. That's the way America be-

came the first economic power in the world. Through influence - billions of minds."

The fictional movie's representation of Africa helped to make it one of the highest grossing films of all time, raking in over \$1.3 billion in box office sales.

Muntu can also attest to the influence of soft power. He has a group of about 25 African American friends who get together every Saturday to watch Nollywood films on Netflix. Nollywood is the moniker for the Nigerian film industry.

"I spoke to them once to ask them, why do you want to do that? And they say, 'Roger, this is bringing us back to our culture,'" Muntu said. "We've seen the culture that they never taught us, here. We didn't know that all this existed in Africa. We didn't know that people were living like this in Africa."

Before the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit came to close on Thursday, President Joe Biden pledged to invest \$55 billion over three years in Africa to help fund health programs, food security, clean energy infrastructure and the digital economy. If used effectively, these finances could go a long way for the continent with the fastest growing population in the world, according to Forbes.

Vice President Kamala Harris announced that \$100 million would be used to fund the Young African Leaders Initiative. Part of that money will be used to support the private sector, expand digital connectivity and empower young African entrepreneurs.

Some of those funds could be used to support CCI on the continent, but only time will tell. Muntu felt the investments geared towards creative industries at the summit were insufficient. But he is still confident in the potential of one of Africa's most dynamic sectors.

"You have not seen anything yet about Africa. There's so much that's coming," Muntu said. "It's just the beginning. You have other countries who are coming and you're not ready for it, yet."

WORLD

British nurses walk out again, threaten further strikes in pay dispute

LONDON

NURSES in Britain went on strike for the second time this month yesterday, and their union threatened to escalate a dispute over pay by setting out further strike days if the government does not respond to its demands within 48 hours.

The industrial action by up to 100,000 nurses is unprecedented in the British nursing union's 106-year history, but it says it has no choice as workers struggle to make ends

meet with inflation running at more than 10 percent.

The government has offered nurses around 4 percent and declined to discuss pay further, with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak saying the nurses' demand for a pay rise of 5 percent plus inflation would equate to a 19 percent hike and is unaffordable.

"Let's get this wrapped up by Christmas. I will negotiate with him at any point to stop nursing staff and patients going into the new year facing such uncertainty," the head of



Nurses participate in a protest outside the St. Thomas' Hospital in London, on Dec 15, 2022. AP

the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) union Pat Cullen said.

"But if this government isn't prepared to do the right thing, we'll have no choice but to continue in January and that will be deeply regrettable."

The RCN said it was giving the government 48 hours from the end of Tuesday's walk out to respond, before it announces further strike dates.

Britain is facing a wave of in-

dustrial action this winter, with ambulance workers also due to strike on Wednesday, as the government prepares to use the military to step in and drive ambulances.

"Our door is open to discuss with the unions anything relating to working conditions. What we can't do is go back into reopening the pay award," junior health minister Will Quince told Sky News.

Putin urges Russian special services to improve work in all areas amid new risks

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has called on the country's special services to intensify work in all areas amid new challenges and risks.

In a transcript of his video address on Security Agency Worker's Day, published by the Kremlin yesterday, the Russian leader said, "Today's rapidly changing global situation and the emergence of new threats and challenges impose high demands on the entire system of Russia's security agencies."

This means that you need to significantly improve your work in key areas, and use your operational, technical and personnel potential to the fullest."

He laid a special emphasis on security agency units in the new Russian regions where he said the situation was extremely complicated. However, he said it was their duty to do all it takes to ensure the safety of Russian people living there.

Outlining the priorities of all special services, primarily the Federal Security Service (FSB), Putin focused on the fight against terrorism. "You have vast experience in countering terrorism; therefore, it is necessary to keep up efforts to prevent terrorist attacks in a system-wide and consistent way," he insisted.

The Russian president also urged the country's counterintelligence agencies, including military ones, to show "utmost readiness and concentration. It is necessary to put an end once and for all to the activities of foreign special services, and to promptly identify traitors, spies and saboteurs," he said.

Xinhua



Chinese envoy calls for efforts to advance two-state solution

UNITED NATIONS

A CHINESE envoy on Monday called on the international community to advance the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Palestinian-Israeli question has been on the UN agenda for over seven decades. Each day of inaction by the international community is a disservice to peace, a betrayal of justice, and a failure to the next generation, said Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the United Nations.

"We call on all parties to show their conscience to uphold justice and fulfill their commitments with actions. We hope that the United Nations and the Security Council will take substantive steps to advance the two-state solution, and support the Palestinian people in restoring and exercising their inalienable rights so that Palestine and Israel can coexist in peace, the two peoples -- Arabs and Jews -- can live in harmony, and lasting peace can be achieved in the Middle East," he told a Security Council briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

China supports the full im-

plementation of the two-state solution. The historical injustice suffered by the Palestinian people cannot be prolonged indefinitely. Their legitimate national rights cannot be traded. And their demand for independent statehood cannot be vetoed. The international community should stay committed and work together to translate the two-state solution from consensus into action and from vision into reality, he said.

China is in favor of strengthening the authority of the Palestinian National Authority, supports greater unity among Palestinian factions, and welcomes the important progress made by Arab countries in promoting intra-Palestinian reconciliation, said Zhang.

China is in favor of putting the Palestine question high on the international agenda, supports the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli peace talks as soon as possible on the basis of the two-state solution, and calls for the convening of a larger scale, more authoritative, and more influential international peace conference, he said.

Zhang said China encourages Palestine and Israel to pursue common security.

The year 2022 has been the



Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, speaks at a Security Council debate at the UN headquarters in New York, Sept 23, 2021. File photo

deadliest for the Palestinians in the West Bank since 2005. Attacks on Israeli civilians also hit a record high since 2015. China condemns all indiscriminate attacks against civilians, condemns serious violations against children, opposes the excessive use of force by security forces, and calls for investigations to ensure accountability. The occupying power should effectively fulfill its obligations under international law to ensure the security of the population in the occupied territory, he said.

Palestine and Israel are inseparable neighbors with indivisible security. The international community should pay equal attention to the legitimate security concerns of both sides, encourage co-

operation between the two to achieve common security through political dialogue and peace talks, and break the vicious cycle of violence, said Zhang.

The expansion of Israeli settlement activities encroaches on Palestinian land and resources, squeezes the living space of the Palestinian people, and violates the Palestinian right to self-determination, making a contiguous, independent, and sovereign Palestinian state even more elusive, he said.

China urges Israel to comply with its obligations under Security Council resolutions and cease all settlement activities, including the demolition of Palestinian homes, stop unilateral changes to the status

quo in the occupied territory, and return to the right track of the two-state solution, he said.

China supports the improvement of the Palestinian economy and people's livelihood, said Zhang.

The decades-old occupation and frequent conflict and turmoil have severely constrained Palestinian economic and social development, and continue to aggravate the plight of the Palestinian people, he said. "We call on Israel to ease unreasonable restrictions on the movement of people and goods and the use of land in the occupied territory, create conditions for the development of Palestinian communities in the West Bank, and lift the blockade of Gaza as soon as possible."

The international community should provide assistance to Palestine through multiple channels to help ease its financial crisis and guarantee public services, he added.

China always cares about the Palestinian people, he said, adding that China will continue to provide humanitarian assistance, support the implementation of livelihood projects, and increase contribution to the UN agency for Palestine refugees.

Xinhua

400 U.S. troops sent to border as Supreme Court halts lifting asylum-limiting policy

HOUSTON

THE U.S. state Texas on Monday deployed more than 400 National Guard troops and other personnel to El Paso, a city bordering Mexico, as the U.S. Supreme Court temporarily halted the termination of an asylum-limiting policy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The deployment aims "to safeguard the border and repel and turn back illegal immigrants," the Texas Military Office said in a statement.

Long lines of migrants were seen to have crossed border into El Paso from Mexico every day recently as the border policy, known as Title 42 which allows the U.S. government to swiftly expel asylum-seekers at the border during the pandemic, was set to end on Wednesday.

Following the Supreme Court decision, El Paso Mayor Oscar Leeser said the city is going forward as if Title 42 were no longer in place. "We are seeing breaking news that Title 42 may not be lifted."

One of the things we are going to do is we are going to proceed as if it is going to be lifted. We are going to make sure we are prepared," Leeser said at a press conference.

Since the city announced an emergency declaration over the migrants surge on Saturday, the federal government has released 6 million U.S. dollars for El Paso, Leeser added.

The city said in its emergency declaration that it lacks resources to ensure new migrants have shelter from the cold and food, fearing lower temperatures expected this week could be deadly for migrants who have had to sleep on the streets.

Earlier on Monday, 19 Republican state attorneys general asked the high court to let Title 42 stand as states are grappling with an influx of migrants at the southern U.S. border. Chief Justice John Roberts, in Monday's order, also asked the federal government to respond on the matter by late Tuesday afternoon.

The White House said on Monday that it is asking Congress for 3.5 billion dollars in funding to help with the situation at the southern border. "The fact that the removal of Title 42 is happening in just a day or two doesn't mean that the border's open," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters.

"It would be wrong to think that the border is open. It is not open, and I just want to be very, very clear about that," she said.

Xinhua

SAN FRANCISCO

TWITTER users voted with a majority in a weekend poll indicating that Elon Musk should step down as CEO of the social media company.

Among the 17.5 million votes cast in Musk's 12-hour poll, which closed early Monday, 57.5 percent were in favor of his exit, with 42.5 percent indicating he should stay.

The move followed another day of controversy for the so-

Twitter users say Elon Musk should step down as CEO in a poll

cial media platform that has been embroiled in tumult since Musk (pictured) bought it in October and subsequently laid off large swaths of employees, according to a report of

The San Francisco Chronicle. On Sunday morning, Twitter announced that it would prohibit users from steering their followers to their Instagram, Facebook, or Mastodon



pages. It said accounts that repeatedly violated this new rule would be permanently suspended.

Vigorous blow-back from

Twitter users followed, and Musk later on Sunday tweeted an apology, saying that "going forward, there will be a vote for major policy changes."

By Sunday night, Twitter had taken down its posts and its website notice announcing the new policy about linking to the targeted social media platforms.

By that time, Musk had also invited Twitter users to vote

"yes" or "no" to the question whether he should step down as the head of Twitter, and promised he'd follow the 12-hour poll's results.

Later Sunday, he tweeted, "No one wants the job who can actually keep Twitter alive. There is no successor." Musk expressed pessimism about the prospects for a new CEO, saying that such a person "must like pain a lot" to run a company that "has been in the fast lane to bankruptcy."

RECENTLY, China Tourism Academy issued seven reports on Chinese tourism to summarize the performance of the sector this year.

According to the academy, new products and business models have emerged in the domestic tourism market, and niche sub-markets such as study tours, family trips, road trips and camping have seen flourishing development.

A report on domestic tourism said that there was an obvious shrinkage in both the distance of trips and the radius of tourists' activities at their destinations this year, adding that 81.24 percent of domestic trips were made within provinces.

It said domestic trips this year present features of short time, short distance and high frequency, with new highlights such as mini vacations and hotel-staycations.

New products and business models of domestic tourism are favored by tourists. Driven by the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, outdoor tourism is thriving, especially in Beijing and Zhangjiakou, where the Winter Olympics was hosted. More and

Chinese tourism bucks trend in 2022



Tourists drive on a magnificent mountain road in Dayu county, Ganzhou, east China's Jiangxi province, December 2022. (Photo by Ye Gongfu/People's Daily Online)

more people have joined skiing, camping, hiking, mountaineering, horse riding, grass skiing and rafting to get close to nature.

In summer this year, waterside activities, countryside leisure, and trips for escaping the heat were popular among tourists.

A report on leisure tourism said the national leisure time has been significantly improved, and leisure activities at week-

ends are becoming regular. Short-distance trips have been frequently made across the country since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and leisure activities were often carried out in places one to three kilometers from homes.

Leisure activities of Chinese people were diverse and prevalent in the life of urban residents. The number of urban residents

visiting museums, exhibitions and science museums was on a rise.

Cultural tourism has gained bigger popularity among Chinese residents. More and more museums started exploring new methods to present visitors with individualized and immersive experiences and vitalize history and culture, bringing people closer to culture. During the National Day holiday this year, 93 percent of tourists joined cultural activities.

Consumption scenarios of tourism became diversified. Various activities can satisfy people's different demands for tourism and leisure, including open spaces such as community gardens, urban pedestrian lanes, urban and suburban parks and national parks, commercial places such as restaurants, bars, coffee shops, shopping centers, wet markets, hotels and B&Bs, as well as cultural venues such as libraries, cultural clubs, museums, art galleries, cinemas, concert halls and cinemas.

The changing demands of tourists gave birth to new business models of leisure tourism. For instance, the Dewey Center Beijing has launched a light show themed on the works by Vincent van Gogh and Claude Monet; Jiaying in east China's Zhejiang province has built a chocolate-themed town. These new consumption scenarios have created infinite possibilities for the innovation and construction of scenic spots.

Scenic spots in China have also contributed to rural revitalization and played an important role in promoting common prosperity.

In the past three years, tourism bucked the trend in suburban areas in the country. Rural tourism used to depend on local scenic spots, but now villages have become part of the scenery.

The pattern of rural tourism has been changed by consumption scenarios defined by tourists. Every attractive scene in the countryside, be it an idyllic rural resident building, a time-worn countryside passage, or a tavern in the woods, is a great place to go to for urban tourists.

People's Daily

Climate change exacts heavy toll on Africa

BY EDITH MUTETHYA

SERAPHINE Mutindi, a villager in Makueni county, southern Kenya, used to rely on farming to support her family of six. However, things began to change three years ago.

"There has been little rain due to changing weather patterns, and the land is so dry that I cannot even grow maize," Mutindi, 35, a mother of four, from the Kithina village, said.

Having to abandon her farmland, which is less than half a hectare, she has to do manual jobs such as cleaning the house, gathering firewood and washing clothes to earn about \$2 a day to buy food to support her family.

To make ends meet, they only have one meal, primarily ugali, a locally popular staple made of corn flour, at noon every day.

Mutindi's situation is not the worst in the village of 35,000 people. About 200 people in the village, mostly elderly who have lost all or the partial ability to work, have starved to death over the past two years, she said.

Kenya is just one of the countries in the Horn of Africa experiencing the most severe drought in the past 40 years induced by climate change. Across the Horn of Africa, more than 36 million people will be affected by the prolonged drought by the end of this year, including 4.5 million in Kenya, as a result of a likely fifth consecutive failed rainy season, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said last month.

Worse, the region may face a sixth failed season between March and May next year, it warned. Already 9.5 million livestock have died across the region, it said.

During a visit to Garissa county in eastern Kenya last month the country's Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua appealed for international aid to help his country fight catastrophic drought.

"We are here today in Garissa to bring a spotlight to the suffering being endured by Kenyans as a result of the global climate crisis," he said. "Our resources cannot be sufficient to address the challenges of climate



People work in a drought-affected area in Mandera, Kenya, on Dec 2. Mandera residents are attempting to care for animals while fighting for water and food needs in the state, which has not had adequate rainfall for the past few years. File photo

change."

With the increasing impact of climate change worldwide, the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or COP27, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, last month, gained global attention.

Following intense negotiations between different countries, a historic agreement to provide "loss and damage" funding to vulnerable countries most affected by global climate change was reached, which was applauded by developing countries.

"People who have done the least to cause the climate crisis are paying the highest price," said Mahmoud Mohieldin, the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for Egypt. "Africa accounts for no more than 3 percent of global emissions, yet many of its people are suffering the most from climate change."

As the continent is most severely affected by the climate crisis, Africa has shown great determination to join other countries to fight climate change by developing renewable energy.

"Energy transition has become a global

responsibility for us all, especially in view of the impact of climate change," Ghana's President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo said during COP27, adding that his country is committed to increasing the ratio of renewable energy in its electricity mix, as well as exploring the potential of hydrogen and other clean energy sources.

Developing renewables

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa said the country will give priority to investment in developing renewable energy sources to switch to a low-carbon economy, and Kenya's President William Ruto reiterated the country's commitment to making use of its rich green energy resources, such as hydro and solar power, to develop clean energy, and called for international collaboration to help Africa develop green industries.

Africa, with rich resources in clean energy, has great potential in developing renewable energy, which can bridge gaps between supply and demand in energy while reducing carbon emissions.

Africa's solar potential stands at 7,900 gigawatts, with South Africa and Egypt being the

largest solar producers, the International Energy Agency says.

The agency estimates that the continent has wind generating potential of 461 gigawatts, with Algeria, Ethiopia, Namibia and Mauritania possessing the greatest potential.

With African countries now committed to developing clean energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, experts forecast increased Sino-Africa collaboration in the area.

"Green energy is now an important component of China-Africa cooperation," said Cavince Adhere, a scholar of international relations in Kenya with a focus on China-Africa relations, adding that China has shown a willingness to partner with African countries in terms of green energy transition.

"China has been very pragmatic and constructive in the implementation of different energy projects in Africa like wind, solar and hydropower, and we look forward to more partnerships in that area."

China is home to the most advanced technologies of green energy, and it is also the biggest supplier of green energy equipment to Africa and a big financier of green energy projects, he said.

Within the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, a major platform for bilateral collaboration, China has implemented about 100 clean energy and green development projects in recent years.

These include Garissa solar plant, the largest grid-connected solar power plant in East Africa. Since it was put into operation in 2019, the plant has generated enough electricity annually to meet the demands of more than 380,000 people.

In addition, Kafue Gorge hydroelectric station in Zambia, the Aysha wind power project in Ethiopia and Sakai solar power station in the Central African Republic are all providing clean energy to locals.

About 160 kilometers south of Kenya's capital Nairobi, Thwake dam, the biggest multipurpose dam being built in the country, is 80 percent complete. Agencies

African lobby says elephants' survival at stake amid conflicts with humans

NAIROBI

THE survival of African elephants is at stake as the iconic land mammal finds itself at the crosshairs of wrath from farmers and herders, the conservation lobby Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) said in a statement on Monday.

The EPI said some of the dynamics fueling human-elephant conflicts in Africa include rapid population growth, urbanization, shrinking wildlife habitats, and climate change.

"Across Africa, human-elephant conflicts result in injuries and tragic loss of human life, the destruction of crops and infrastructure, the loss of livelihoods, and the killing of elephants in retaliation," said the EPI.

The 21 African member states of EPI lobbied for the recognition of human-elephant conflict as a critical threat to the survival of the giant land mammal during the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity meeting, held in Montreal, Canada.

In addition, Africa's elephant range states urged the international community to incorporate evolving threats to elephants in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that was approved at the end of COP15.

Angolan Minister of Environment Ana Paula de Carvalho, who chaired the meeting of Africa's elephant range states at the UN biodiversity meeting, called for renewed attention to human-elephant conflict as part of efforts to save the continent's wildlife heritage and sustain tourism.

Xinhua

Bill Gates upbeat on climate innovation, even if 1.5C unlikely

WASHINGTON

WHEN it comes to climate change, Bill Gates considers himself a realist - even if that means admitting the world has no chance limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Given "the overall scale of our industrial economy ... we're going to have to do mind-blowing work to stay below 2 degrees," he said.

But on meeting the Paris Agreement's 1.5C goal? No one wants to be "the first to say it," but the math shows it's no longer within reach, Gates said in a video interview with Reuters.

The software-developer-turned-philanthropist was nevertheless upbeat about climate innovation - ticking off numerous areas advancing low-carbon technologies with funding from the Breakthrough Energy Group, which Gates founded in 2015.

Gates has invested more than \$2 billion toward climate technologies, including direct air capture, solar energy and nuclear fission. The 14-year-old fission company under the Breakthrough umbrella, TerraPower, aims to have a demo reactor running by 2030.

These things take time, said Gates, co-founder of Microsoft Corp (MSFTO).

Gates spoke with Reuters ahead of the release of his annual letter - reflecting on 2022 and describing what he's most excited about in the year ahead.

He transferred \$20 billion of his funds to the Gates Foundation's



Bill Gates, billionaire and co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, gestures as he speaks during a panel session on the opening day of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, on Jan 22, 2019. File photo

endowment, which plans to increase philanthropic spending on public health and education from \$6 billion to \$9 billion in coming years.

He also praised Warren Buffett for his contribution, which Gates said totaled \$45 billion since 2006, counting Berkshire Hathaway stock appreciation.

Breakthrough Energy, however, operates separately from the Gates Foundation charity. In his letter to shareholders, Gates explains that the climate problem is too enormous for philanthropy alone to tackle.

"There's not enough money, and so you have to have some innovation," he told Reuters. "The idea that it can be done by brute force, there's just no chance."

Companies need investment and technical support to prove their low-carbon ideas beyond the pilot phase - and then to scale up manufacturing, he says. But any Breakthrough Energy profits are funneled back into the group or to the foundation.

Some of the companies under Breakthrough that are developing Direct Air Capture (DAC) - technology designed to pull CO2 straight from the atmosphere - have their sights set on some \$3.5 billion in newly announced US contracts to build DAC plants and fund research grants.

"We have a number of Direct Air Capture companies that will bid on being a part of those projects," he said, noting that the recent Inflation Reduction Act legislation has boosted prospects for climate innovation. He did not elaborate on the DAC companies' plans.

In manufacturing, the steel and cement industries have made "fantastic" progress, he said, a change from his worries about that sector just two years ago.

Manufacturing is responsible for about a third of global climate-warming emissions.

Now, "there's no area of climate mitigation that I feel like 'Oh, that's really completely uncovered,'" he said. Agencies

Envoy slams as far-fetched allegations of Russia's use of Iranian drones in Ukraine

UNITED NATIONS

RUSSIAN UN Ambassador Vasily Nebenzya criticized as far-fetched on Monday accusations that his country was allegedly using Iranian unmanned aerial vehicles in Ukraine.

Addressing a UN Security Council meeting, Nebenzya (pictured) said the story alleging that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been sending drones to Russia for use in Ukraine "has nothing to do" with work to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Tehran's nuclear program, while it has been actively "promoted by [our] Western colleagues."

Meanwhile, "such accusations are of an absolutely far-fetched and artificial nature," the Russian envoy added.

He said Russia was aware that Kiev's representatives had been unable so far to provide Tehran with any evidence through diplomatic channels confirming the use of Iranian-made UAVs by the Russian military.

"Despite this, the United States and the European Union consider it possible, on the basis of their own fabrications, to get the UN Secretariat drawn into this story without any reason and impose sanctions on Iranian and Russian legal entities and individuals," Nebenzya maintained.

He said it was noteworthy that the insinuations against Russia and Iran concerning drones could be heard exactly when the Vienna talks entered their final stage.

"This shows who is seeking to find a diplomatic way out of the situation and who has been politicizing the discussions and keeps undermining the fundamentals of the JCPOA," the Russian diplomat concluded.

In 2015, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany signed the JCPOA with Iran in order to address the crisis around its nuclear program.

In 2018, then-US President Donald Trump

decided to pull out of the deal. Incumbent US leader Joe Biden has repeatedly indicated his support for reentering the nuclear agreement.

Since last April, Russia, the UK, Germany, China, the US and France have been conducting discussions with Iran in Vienna on reviving the JCPOA in its original form.

In August, the Washington Post published a report alleging that Iran has been sending drones to Russia. The report was later followed by similar claims by the US administration.

Moscow and Tehran have repeatedly rejected allegations of Russia's use of Iranian drones in Ukraine. Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov deemed such reports as bogus stories and assured that the Russian Army used Russian-made drones.



ACCRA

Ghana to default on most external debt as economic crisis worsens

GHANA on Monday suspended payments on most of its external debt, effectively defaulting as the country struggles to plug its cavernous balance of payments deficit.

Its finance ministry said it will not service debts including its Eurobonds, commercial loans and most bilateral loans, calling the decision an "interim emergency measure", while some bondholders criticized a lack of clarity in the decision.

The government "stands ready to engage in discussions with all of its external creditors to make Ghana's debt sustainable", the finance ministry said.

The suspension of debt payments reflects the parlous state of the economy, which had led the government last week to reach a \$3-billion staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

Ghana had already announced a domestic debt exchange program and said that an external restructuring was being negotiated

with creditors. The IMF has said a comprehensive debt restructuring is a condition of its support.

The country has been struggling to refinance its debt since the start of the year after downgrades by multiple credit ratings agencies on concerns it would not be able to issue new Eurobonds.

That has sent Ghana's debt further into the distressed territory. Its public debt stood at 467.4 billion Ghanaian cedis (\$55 billion as per Refinitiv Eikon data) in September, of which 42 percent was domestic.

It had a balance of payments deficit of more than \$3.4 billion in September, down from a sur-

plus of \$1.6 billion at the same time last year.

While 70 percent to 100 percent of the government revenue currently goes toward servicing the debt, the country's inflation has shot up to as much as 50 percent in November.

Ghana has been experiencing what some say is its worst economic crisis in a generation. Last month, more than 1,000 protesters marched through the capital Accra, calling for the resignation of the president and denouncing deals with the IMF as fuel and food costs spiralled.

Its gross international reserves stood at around \$6.6 billion at the end of September, equating to less than three

months of imports cover. That is down from around \$9.7 billion at the end of last year.

The government said the suspension will not include the payments towards multilateral debt, new debts taken after Dec 19 or debts related to certain short-term trade facilities.

'Not coming out of the blue'

Holders of Ghana's international bonds confirmed in an emailed statement late on Monday the formal launch of a creditor committee aimed at facilitating the "orderly and comprehensive resolution" of the country's debt challenges.

Any good faith negotiations, the creditor committee said,

would need to avoid unilateral actions and require the timely exchange of detailed economic and financial information between international bondholders, the government and the IMF.

The steering committee was made up of Abrdn, Amundi, BlackRock, Greylock and Ninety One, the group said in its statement.

Kathryn Exum, who co-leads Gramercy's Sovereign Research department, was hopeful about debt restructuring, noting that it should prove easier for creditors than other recent emerging market restructurings.

One bondholder who requested anonymity said the

lack of detail in the announcement could be cause for concern for investors.

Ghana's external bonds, which are trading at a deeply distressed level of 29-41 cents in the dollar, dropped with the 2034 bond losing more than 3 cents, Tradeweb data showed.

Nonetheless, some investors said the suspension of external debt payment was expected.

"It is in line with Ghana getting into talks about restructuring with various debt holders, so not coming out of the blue," Rob Drijkoningen, co-head of emerging market debt at Neuberger Berman, which holds some Ghanaian Eurobonds.

Ghana did pay a Dec 16 coupon due on a 2049 Eurobond, according to a person familiar with the matter.

It was not immediately clear if the debt service suspension would include a \$1 billion 2030 bond that has a \$400 million World Bank guarantee.

Agencies

Q&A: Naomi Ackie, Kasi Lemmons tell Whitney Houston's story

By LINDSEY BAHR

NAOMI Ackie, who plays Whitney Houston in the new biopic "I Wanna Dance With Somebody," is the first to admit that she is not a doppelgänger for the pop star. In fact, she'll go so far as to say she doesn't look like her at all.

"I was like, are you guys sure? Are you absolutely sure?" Ackie said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

But the people who really knew Houston, her family and record producer Clive Davis among them, were all convinced that the rising British actor was right for the film, meant to be a music-filled celebration and a kind of corrective to other projects that took a more salacious treatment.

The film, written by "Bohemian Rhapsody" scribe Anthony McCarten, shows Houston's ascent from New Jersey choir girl to global superstar, with a focus on the woman behind the icon, troubles, triumphs and all, up until her death in 2012 at age 48. It opens in theaters nationwide Friday.

"It's a study on the essence of Whitney and not the image of Whitney," Ackie said. "I thought, if I'm going to do this, I'm going to speak on Whitney's internal world, and everything else is completely out of my control."

An important part of that journey was finding the right director to help hold her hand and challenge her when needed. Kasi Lemmons was a stranger to Ackie when they met, but they developed a quick, deep bond on a soul level.

They spoke to the AP about Houston, society's complicated relationship with icons and telling the truth while keeping her dignity intact. Remarks have been edited for brevity and clarity.

AP: Kasi, what was your relationship to Whitney and how did that inform your approach?

LEMMONS: I watched her rise to fame as a young actress in New York City who was part of the Black dance world. I can remember the first moment I saw her, like who is this beautiful creature with this voice? But we also had ownership of her. We were all up in her business and it was all speculation, right? We didn't really know her. Then 10 years later, at the height of her career, I ended up writing two scripts for her. So I got to see her as a woman. Like she's sitting on a chair in front of me in her sweats and she's tired and she's high and she's got stuff on her mind. In that same experience, I got to meet (her father and manager) John Houston and he's talking about the brand, the image. That was the experience that stayed with me that I wanted to bring to the movie.

ACKIE: And that was exactly what I needed. Someone who had direct contact and had an insight, especially to that relationship, because it was one of the ones that was most challenging to try and unpack. But you took me by the hand and just said, "I've got you."

AP: The question of identity is important here as everyone has different ideas of what she is and what she should be. How did you internalize that conflict?

ACKIE: I think it's very easy to identify with that, especially if you're a woman and especially if you're a woman of color. That part felt quite simple to me,

when you are told what you should be and for a time, you can adhere to that. And then at some point something in you shifts and you can't anymore.

AP: This movie gives new depth to the song "I Wanna Dance with Somebody" in connecting it to her relationship with Robyn Crawford (portrayed by Nafessa Williams).

ACKIE: That was you, wasn't it?

LEMMONS: I would ask (the screenwriter) why is it called that? And he'd say it's spirit and the effervescence and the uplift. And I'm like, 'OK but it has to have meaning.' He had written it in the script, that the song is "about wanting to dance with somebody really badly but for whatever reason you can't." And I was like, I think that's about Robyn!

AP: Her performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the Super Bowl in 1991 is a big moment in the film. Tell me about re-creating that, and why that was so important to her.

ACKIE: How many performances of that song have been made? And for her to make it so individual, so memorable? Obviously (I'm) not American, and it even made me patriotic! But filming, I mean, it's meant to be in Florida, and we were filming in November.

LEMMONS: In Boston.

ACKIE: Yeah, you could see my breath.

LEMMONS: We took a little bit of that out. I think one of my favorite things is that it was a moment where she was being herself. She didn't want to wear a gown. She chose the outfit that she wore. And she said no, it's going to be in my rhythm. I want it slow. And then to take it to these great heights? We tried to just bring the excitement of everybody observing it, even if you saw it on television, even if you weren't there.

AP: This film doesn't shy away from her drug use either, but it does so sensitively.

LEMMONS: We wanted it to be truthful. I have to commend the estate for letting us go places. Sometimes I had to push them past their comfort zone, and they were willing to say, OK, yeah, and that was that was great of them because I don't think I would have done the film if it hadn't been an aspect of it. It's part of the story, and it was something I observed and was what ultimately led to her demise.

ACKIE: We have to remind ourselves constantly that this is an illness. These people suffering are not villains of their own story or other people. They are the victims of this illness and kind of allowing space and holding space for Whitney to be treated with a bit of compassion when it comes to that. How awful it must be to suffer through all your struggles and your addictions and then have a big portion of the media ripping into you and making fun of you during that period. I can't even imagine. So it's important to show it but also make sure that we hold on to her dignity.

LEMMONS: That was it, to hold onto her dignity and to really make you admire the things that were admirable about her. And even in that struggle, there were things that were very admirable. It's very human, we try and we fail, we hope and we dream. We hope it's going to get better and put our best foot forward, and then we fall backwards.

AP



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Naomi Ackie in Tristar's "Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance with Somebody." (AP)

Twelve teams to compete in Mapinduzi Cup next year

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TWELVE teams are expected to compete in the next year's Mapinduzi Cup to be held in Zanzibar.

According to the competition committee, the next year's Mapinduzi Cup, which is held annually at Amaan Stadium, will involve six teams from Zanzibar, five teams from Mainland and one from Rwanda.

The teams from Zanzibar are Malindi, Jamhuri, KMKM, Mlandege, KVZ and Chipukizi, while teams from Mainland are Simba, Young Africans (Yanga), Azam, Namungo and Singida Big Stars. The team from Burundi is Aigle Noir.

The teams have been drawn in four groups. Group A will have Azam,

Malindi and Jamhuri while Yanga, Singida Big Stars and KMKM will be in Group B.

Group C will involve Simba, Mlandege and KVZ while Namungo, Aigle Noir and Chipukizi will be in Group D.

According to the committee, the preparations are going well and in the next edition of the tournament, which will kick off on January 1, the champions will get 30m/-, a trophy and gold medals while the runners-up will take home 20m/-, silver medals and a trophy.

The committee has also called on various stakeholders to contribute to the competition which is part of the 59th anniversary of the Revolution of Zanzibar.

In history, Azam FC have a record of winning the



tournament five times, in 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018 and 2019. The Mapinduzi Cup defending

champions Simba are in the second place where they won the title three times in 2011, 2015 and this year 2022.

In the third place are Mtibwa Sugar and Young Africans where they have won the title of Mapinduzi Cup twice as Mtibwa Sugar won in 2010 and 2020, while Young Africans won in 2004 and 2021.

Other teams that have won the tournament are Jamhuri, Polisi SC, KMKM, Mafunzo, Malindi, Miembeni, Kampala City Council and Uganda Revenue Authority.

The tournament's records show that Azam FC is the only team that has won the title three years in a row, in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

In 2017 Azam won 1-0 against Simba, in 2018 they won 4-3 on penalties against Uganda Revenue Authority and in 2019 they won 2-1 against Simba.

The final will be held on January 13 at Amaan Stadium.

French fans sing for 'Black players only' before final with Argentina

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

WHILE technically the big issue in France's post-penalties final match loss to Argentina was definitely the absence of Real Madrid superstar Karim Benzema to convert any of the clear heading chances to settle the game within 90 minutes, this issue wasn't prevalent in the pre-match images from social media postings.

The question that French fans were asking was if there was a cap on the number of black players that can play for France at any given moment.

This was a surprising gesture or intervention as clearly France did not have a dearth of black players as they straddled the line up.

The issue has been on air for a while, as a December 6 entry on 'thesierraleonetelegraph.com' sports pages was raising the issue of 'why has England manager Gareth Southgate reverted to the old practice of fielding a maximum of only three black players', as it was clear there is plenty to choose from.

Similar questions were in the past (and at present) being asked about Premier League coaching habits, for instance the celebrated quarrel between Pep Guardiola, first at Barcelona and then at Manchester City FC (after Bayern Munich) falling out with Yaya Toure and Samuel Eto'o (now president of the Cameroon football federation).

To make the point clear, Eto'o was axed from Barcelona, joined Jose Mourinho at Inter Milan, helping it lift the UEFA Champions League that same season, to seal the point as to who was possibly in error.

One exception among good teams in the 2022 World Cup finals is Ecuador, and a question was being posed at Quora.com as to 'Why does the Ecuador football team have only black players?' The issue, as is the case for England, France, Belgium, Portugal or the Netherlands which have at times half the players in the national side being black.

The response on the website was the majority black people are placed under intense discrimination in Ecuador 'so they train incredibly hard sometimes with nothing...' in the way of supporting their efforts.

It is arguable if the website could just have accepted that they have a greater share of soccer talent as a community of younger players.

The fact that Afro-Ecuadorians make up five percent to eight percent of population and still they dominate the country's soccer squads' selection shows not incredible training but talent.

Discrimination per se doesn't lead to effort in an automatic manner but at times to disbelief and loss of motivation, in which case it



France's head coach Didier Deschamps, left, and his players react after receiving their second place medals at the end of the World Cup final soccer match between Argentina and France at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar, Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022. Argentina won 4-2 in a penalty shootout after the match ended tied 3-3. (AP Photo)

is possible they are also encouraged at grassroots levels and even up to the national side.

And then, successful soccer players make effective role models to shanty town school going children, so they try to imitate such a player, some ball holding gimmicks, an addiction.

Just why Benzema was missing was tantalizing to say the least but at least he picked up a thigh injury days after he was named in the squad, as club were preparing for the World Cup break.

It was at that moment that he was replaced, but it appears he wished to be in the team, such that speculation started as to remaining ill feelings with coach Didier Deschamps owing to a past exclusion lasting well above two calendar years after an out of pitch squabble with then fellow national team player Mathew Valbuena.

He was recalled since 2019 and did quite well.

An entry at leading soccer website, 'goal.com' said Deschamps will not risk disrupting the dynamic already built into the side after the first two games, as they rapidly qualified for the knock-out stage.

It thus appeared AC Milan striker Olivier Giroud was a fitting replacement and combined well with others, so Deschamps did not wish to believe Benzema at 33 years was in a sense indispensable. But in the final, many French fans who saw the role the Real Madrid striker took in a final with Manchester City FC definitely wished he was there to repeat it.

Passing harmony isn't all there is in a final but quite often there ought to be a player who can make a difference.

The site noted that France won the World Cup in 2018 without Benzema, and as he already was a golden boot player as highest scorer, there was a chance that

someone else stood to win the title as talismanic goal scorer, with eyes on Antoine Griezmann of Atletico de Madrid and Mbappe of Paris Saint Germain.

They were right on that point as well but sorely missed the picturesque heading ability of the Real Madrid Ballon d'Or winner, while in matches of the sort (the final) middle ranking players often fail.

Portugal had a young player, Goncalo Ramos (21 years old) get a hat-trick in a group match but was quickly substituted for Ronaldo the next round as the going was far tougher.

The issue about Benzema may have been a bit technical (not 100 per cent fit, doing light training, etc.) and perhaps a bit selfish, but racial divisions among the fan base were not missing.

Two weeks or so before the show in Qatar unfolded, Parisian football fans were chanting racist abuse at French players, picked up by African news site www.znbc.co.zm on Nov 17 2022 said that in one of the chants they made an explicit remark about star Kylian Mbappe, who plays for France and is of Cameroonian and Algerian heritage.

Another site talksport.com just a day before the final match sang about absent holding midfielder N'Golo Kante stopping Lionel Messi, as if they were disappointed he was not there.

At best all the same, when he took to the pitch, Bayern de Munich midfielder Kingsley Coman did just that, in largely stopping Messi and clearing the way for a revival of the French side towards the end of regular time and during 30 minutes of additional time.

Reacting to outbursts from the fans on the prominent position of black players in the side, theconversation.com during the July 2018 campaign said the success-of-French-football owed to

its multicultural southern.

Its July 13 2018 edition said 'this echoed the sentiment of the times, that a multicultural team of united 'black, blanc, beura' (black, white or Arab) players had united the country.

Another site, okayafrica.com countered that while some saw this (chanting) as a celebration of the country's diversity, the far-right used it as an insult towards those players who are not considered French in their racial characterization, a minority view.

This time around the dominant sentiment was that France was carrying Africa's hopes in the World Cup finals, as bleacherreport.com noted that the song played each time France score a goal is 'Magic in the Air' by Ivorian group Magic System.

It was chosen as the team's official fan song prior to the tournament, despite that football fans chanting racist abuse at French players did not actually disappear.

The song for black players only, extolling exploits in the national side of those in the current squad and outside appeared to say the black players would nearly suffice for the team.

A reaction that reminded some observers of the taunting from Morocco after its exploits in these finals was that 'When You Win, You're a French Player, When You Lose, You ...' become an African player, while some adopted the colours of the French flag to characterise the team in Qatar as 'bleu, blanc, beur...' where the last replaces 'red' for 'brown,' which thus takes players from Africa and Arab world as a distinctive component of the flag.

Just one record for black players remain, to get Mbappe (most probably) win the Ballon d'Or as the first black player since George Weah in 1995.

It will be a massive uplift for African fans - despite that he plays for France.

Ballon D'Or winner Benzema ends tumultuous France career after Qatar blow

PARIS

BALLON D'Or winner Karim Benzema called time on his tumultuous international career with France on Monday, a day after the defending champions World Cup final defeat to Argentina.

Benzema, who scored 37 goals in 97 appearances for France, had to withdraw from the World Cup squad before their first match in Qatar due to a left thigh injury he suffered in training.

In his surprise announcement, the 35-year-old Real Madrid forward said on Twitter: "I made the effort and the mistakes it took to be where I am today and I'm proud of it! I wrote my story and ours ends."

Benzema, who won the Ballon d'Or award for the world's best player in October, had been desperate to feature in this year's World Cup having not been selected when France became world champions in Russia four years ago.

He was frozen out of the France team for five and a half years because of his involvement in a blackmail scandal over a sextape involving his former teammate Mathieu Valbuena.

In a trial over the affair last year he was handed a one-year suspended prison sentence and fined 75,000 euros (\$79,500).

For the Qatar World Cup, coach Didier Deschamps opted not to call up a replacement for a squad that included 23-year-old Kylian Mbappe.

Paris Saint-Germain forward Mbappe won the World Cup Golden Boot award with eight goals, including a hat-trick in Sunday's penalty shootout defeat by Argentina after the teams had drawn 3-3 at the end of extra time.

Benzema's departure, just three days before the first match against Australia, a 4-1 victory, was a turning point for the former Lyon player.

A knock to his left thigh in training while he was recovering from a niggling right thigh problem was estimated to need a recovery time of three weeks.

- 'Not on my mind' -

However, his hasty departure from Qatar had fuelled speculation of a rift between him and the rest of the squad as well as Deschamps.

Asked about the case of the striker, not replaced and officially on the squad list until the end of the tournament, Deschamps had insisted "these things are not on my mind".

In any case, his departure made it possible to return to the line-up which was in place before his return just before Euro 2021, with an unrivalled star Mbappe and Olivier Giroud once again becoming the number one centre forward.

Antoine Griezmann, whose star had waned slightly since the last World Cup, also took the opportunity to reassert himself in midfield.

Benzema did nothing to dispel the misunderstanding with an array of mixed messages on social media. Amid encouragement for France, he also posted on Instagram before the final: "I'm not interested".

That message came after he rejected an invitation from French President Emmanuel Macron to attend the World Cup final.

The injury was just the latest chapter in Benzema's complicated and turbulent history with Les Bleus.

Benzema, who scored on his senior debut in March 2007 against Austria, never tasted real glory with France, with his only title the 2021 Nations League.

He had numerous run-ins with Deschamps over the years with the player, who is of Algerian descent, at one stage hinting the France coach was being "racist" in keeping him out.

He made a surprise return to the France team just before the Covid-delayed Euro 2020 last year, scoring 10 goals in a year including four in the European Championships which still were not enough to prevent France crashing out to Switzerland in the last 16.

Freed from the weight of national duty, Benzema will now be able to devote himself to Real Madrid where he has won the Champions League five times and helped them to four Spanish titles.

AFP



Messi's GOAT status now stamped, Mbappe's grows

By Henry Bushnell

LIONEL Messi began his ride off into soccer's golden sunset with teammates streaming across the field. He'd just scored the goal that Hollywood had scripted, in the 108th minute of a manic World Cup final, his last game on soccer's biggest stage. Limbs flailed all around him. Friends mobbed him. An ear-splitting roar filled the Lusail Stadium. It crescendoed again as Messi wound up for an undercut pump of his right fist, and louder still as he spun to all sides of the arena, soliciting more noise, all part of a celebration of a would-be winner that lasted nearly two full minutes.

And all the while, standing at midfield, waiting patiently and knowingly as soccer saluted its king, was Kylian Mbappé.

Over three hours in Lusail on Sunday, Mbappé tolerated destiny. He watched his sport fawn over the greatest to ever play it. He then contrived his own audacious, alternate script. It co-starred King Leo and the man who'll eventually dethrone him, as joint protagonists, in the greatest sporting story ever told.

Argentina 3, France 3, the World Cup final "for eternity," was a glorious remix of Mbappé's script and Hollywood's. It had far too many characters and chapters to recall, too many twists and mind-blowing turns. It was nonsensical and unforgettable for many reasons, but most of all because it featured the two greatest players on the planet.

It crowned Messi, the now-undisputed greatest of all time.

In the process, it elevated Mbappé into a



Kylian Mbappé and Lionel Messi displayed their brilliance in Sunday's World Cup final in Qatar. (Agencies)

stratosphere that only Messi and a few others have occupied in soccer's multi-century history.

It droned on with the score at 2-0 until, with the 80th minute nearing, Mbappé popped a ball over the top of the Argentine defense. It led to a penalty, which the 23-year-old converted, and which set the stage for this drama.

A minute later, Mbappé needed all of half a second to leave Argentine fullback Nahuel Molina in the dust. After he had, a ball floated toward him at the top of the box, and as it hung in the air, in a fleeting instant, Mbappé's enchanting authority rippled up into the rafters of the Lusail Stadium. As he swiveled his hips, and announced his intentions, Argentine fans cowered in horror. Neutrals braced themselves for greatness. French fans erupted, a few thousand making the noise of millions, almost before Mbappé had swept a majestic volley past Emi Martínez.

Because greatness has a way of feeling inevitable. Mbappé and Messi are

entirely different players, but they share a superpower that strikes witnesses nearly every time each gets the ball. It stimulates anticipation and fear. Fans prepare for sorcery; opponents perk up to defend against it, which often isn't possible. From the 82nd minute onward Sunday, Mbappé's every touch flipped the game. Each one sent Argentine defenders backpedaling, scrambling to shield themselves from his pace, just as opponents have long tried to protect against Messi's passing and dribbling.

And yet Mbappé still terrorized them. He seemingly pounced on every loose ball late in the second half, and drove at overmatched defenders. They looked petrified of him, hesitant to even attempt a tackle near the box for fear of being a split-second slow and conceding a clumsy penalty.

He also checked back onto his right foot and curled in delightful crosses that nearly latched onto Randal Kolo Muani's head. He jinked

and juked into and out of defensive cul-de-sacs. He manufactured danger from almost nothing. In the 124th minute of an unfathomably taxing game, he tied Cristian Romero into knots in the left corner, and cut into the box, and – a billion viewers thought in unison: no, he couldn't, could he?

He would stay high and wide as Argentina possessed the ball, thereby stressing the Argentines instantaneously whenever they lost it. He lashed right-footed shots toward Martínez, and that, in the end, is why Messi's ride into the sunset was delayed. One of Mbappé's shots struck an Argentine hand. Mbappé completed his hat trick – the first in a World Cup final by a losing player – to send the game to penalties.

Messi ultimately rode into World Cup lore on the shoulders of teammates. He capped an unparalleled career with the missing trophy it deserved. He ended all rational GOAT debates with a second World Cup Golden Ball to go along with his seven Ballon d'Ors. He

is a magician, the greatest goalscorer and creator and dribbler of his generation. He now has the World Cup that Cristiano Ronaldo doesn't. He already had the longevity and consistency that Diego Maradona didn't, against a level of competition that Pelé never confronted. He is in a tier of his own.

But as he pranced around the Lusail pitch Sunday night, revealing in the moment that he called a "childhood dream," there sat the one adult man capable of someday equaling him. There sat Mbappé, slumped in the French dugout, his jersey pulled over his face. He later moved to the worn-out grass and plopped himself there, to watch the celebrations he wished were his. Emmanuel Macron, the president of France, tried to console him, to no avail. Mbappé spared no thought for a World Cup final hat trick – a World Cup final hat trick! Earlier in the tournament, he had said that for him, "the World Cup is an obsession," and he hadn't won it. The Gold-

en Boot was little consolation.

But it was a precursor for the decade to come. Messi isn't retiring, but will someday fade. Mbappé, meanwhile, is rising just as rapidly as Messi once did. At age 23, he has scored more goals and accumulated more assists than 23-year-old Messi had. He is on pace to smash France's goal-scoring record by his mid-20s.

"He will beat all the records," teammate Olivier Giroud said a couple weeks ago. Teammates and coaches speak of Mbappé's insatiable drive for both team and individual success – which makes him, in the words of France assistant coach Guy Stphán, "an off-the-planet player."

Messi is, too, and that, in a nutshell, was the recipe for the greatest World Cup game ever played. It was two very good teams each with a peerless catalyst.

"He's the best in history, no doubt about it, and he showed that in the game," Argentina midfielder Rodrigo de Paul said of Messi. "He's been showing it during the whole tournament." Messi didn't get his storybook goal but he got his storybook ending; his lovely moments on the field with his children; his chance to replicate that Diego Maradona photo; his ride through Lusail, atop the team bus, toward the moonlight.

Mbappé, meanwhile, respectfully sulked back to his locker room, through a post-match interview area, and out of the spotlight, for now.

But he is coming. He is already here, of course, and has been for years, but his time is coming. Only the Messiah could put his ascent to soccer's throne on hold.

Argentina lauds united footballers in divided crisis-riven country

BUENOS AIRES

FOR the last month, Lionel Messi and his Argentina teammates have brought success and unity to their fans, in stark contrast to the country's economic woes and polarized political landscape.

Years of economic crisis weighs heavily on the daily lives of people in a country where some 40 percent live in poverty as rampant inflation and a depreciating currency have decimated ordinary people's savings and purchasing power.

And yet on Sunday the whole country was draped in the national blue and white colors as political and sporting rivalries were put to one side and 45 million people celebrated a first World Cup success in 36 years.

But experts say the elation will not last.

"What happens is that sport, and particularly football in Argentina, has the ability to unite us through emotion, and that is very important in terms of national symbolism," sociologist Ro-

drigo Daskal told AFP.

"But that does not mean that it can be effectively transferable to other fields."

- 'United we can achieve much more' -

During Sunday's match, supporters of bitter city rivals such as Boca Juniors and River Plate in Buenos Aires, or Rosario's Newell's Old Boys and Rosario Central, stood shoulder to shoulder during the thrilling and at times torturous penalty shoot-out victory over France in Qatar.

"This passion and this unity, hopefully it will serve as an example for the future and to make us realize that we are better together," said fullback Nicolas Tagliafico.

The team's success and their tangible togetherness has created a sense of hope amongst some Argentines.

"It's not about forgetting our problems, it's about reminding us that we can unite, and when we're united we all pull in the same direction," said Julio Berdun, 50, as he walked through

the iconic Plaza Mayo in front of the Casa Rosada presidential palace with his family.

"We have to close this rift that makes us so divided as a country," he said, his face painted blue and white, wearing a curly wig and draped in the Argentine flag.

At the same time, there is skepticism and weariness that comes from decades of broken promises and shattered dreams.

"We're world champions, but nothing more. I have to go to work, everyone has to go work.

The situation won't change, it will be like always, only that in the sporting domain we're world champions," said architect Ricardo Grunfeld, 65.

- 'Playing for the people' -

What resonated with fans was the players' emotional commitment, embodied in Messi's brilliance, his team-mates' joy and the tears of coach Lionel Scaloni.

"This team plays for the people, for the Argentine fans, there are no individual egos, ev-

eryone plays for the team and for the country," said Scaloni.

The political class is the polar opposite, and not just because of the fractious relationship between the Peronist government and right-wing opposition.

The current administration has been beset by an ever growing fissure between President Alberto Fernandez and his vice-president and former leader Cristina Kirchner.

"This competitive, effective and humble team with good vibes

contrasts with a political class fighting amongst itself that doesn't improve things in the country," said political scientist Carlos Fara.

"Society is very tired with this rift. They feel like it's political business and a barrier to development."

But, he added, "I don't see the political class reflecting on this. Most probably, after the euphoria passes, things will be the same again."

"The economic problems are long-term and the World Cup win doesn't mitigate that."

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Messi's GOAT status stamped, Mbappe's grows

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Kaly Ongala

Azam out to claim Geita Gold's scalp

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC will look to claim the scalp of Geita Gold when the teams meet for a NBC Premier League clash at the Nyankumbu Stadium in the afternoon, kick-off at 4PM.

Azam extended their unbeaten run in the league to nine games when they managed to twice come from behind to hold Kagera Sugar to a 2-2 draw at Kaitaba Stadium on Friday.

Kaly Ongala's side have won eight games and drawn one in the process in their impressive run that has kept them in the title race with Young Africans and Simba.

When you look at the bigger picture, Azam have only suffered two defeats in 16 league outings this season - picking up eleven victories and three draws along the way.

Coach Ongala has a full squad available for selection with the exception of Ibrahim Ajib and Shaban Chilunda who were left behind in Dar.

Lusajo Mwaikenda could continue getting the nod at right-back, while James Akaminko and Sospetar Bajana could potentially line up alongside Yahya Zaydi in midfield.

Kipre Junior and Ayoub Lyanga are expected to feature in the wide areas for the 2013/14 champions, with Prince Dube set to lead the line, having overcome his fitness problems.

Idris Mbombo, who scored his seventh league goal of the season, is likely to be introduced in the second half. On the flip side, Geita Gold will be looking to bounce back from their defeat to Simba on Sunday at CCM Kiburumba.

They will be buoyed by the fact this game will be played at their Nyankumbu fortress where they remain unbeaten since the start of last season.

Geita Gold have once again exceeded expectations this campaign and find themselves in seventh place in the league standings with Fred Felix 'Minziro' at the helm.

They are in a good position for a push towards another continental qualification in only their second topflight season.

They have claimed 10 points from 8 home matches this season. Their last three games as hosts have brought them one win, one draw and one defeat.

Coach Minziro will otherwise have all of his troops available this week, with Said Ntibazonkiza set to return after serving a Premier League suspension following his red card against Mtibwa Sugar, potentially alongside Juma Liuzio in the frontline.

Ntibazonkiza, who is linked with a move to Simba, has four goals and six assists, and will be the main man to watch for Geita Gold.

In head-to-head stats, Geita Gold and Azam have met in three league matches since the 2021/22 season.

Azam have claimed one victory with the other two games ending in stalemates including.

When the teams met earlier this season, at Chamazi Complex in August, they played out a 1-1 stalemate.

Simba and Kagera braced for tight clash at Kaitaba

Union (0-3), Ruvu Shooting (4-0), Ihefu (1-0) and Namungo (1-0), Juma Mgunda's side have won five of their past seven league games without conceding a single goal.

With that in mind, it is no surprise that Simba boast the best defensive record in the division - having conceded a measly seven goals in 16 outings this term. With 36 goals scored they also boast the best attack in the league.

Not only have Simba won each of their last three NBC Premier League games, but they have also won six of their previous seven.

When you look at the bigger picture, Mgunda's men have lost just one of their 16 league outings this season - claiming eleven wins and four draws in the process.

Thanks to their impressive form, the high-flying Msimbazi Reds sit second in the table - one point more than third-place Azam and four points behind first-place Young Africans.

Simba have no injuries or suspensions to worry about, meaning head coach



Juma Mgunda

Mgunda has a full-strength squad at his disposal. He is unlikely to make any changes to a winning XI after his side completed their joint biggest win of the season against Geita Gold last time out.

As for Kagera Sugar, they

head into today's clash on the back of a 2-2 stalemate with Azam on Friday.

They find themselves sixth - eight points outside the top four and one point behind Mtibwa Sugar.

Mecky Mexime's side are unbeaten in their last five

league games - securing three wins in the process. They have had two days' greater rest than their forthcoming opponents, which could prove crucial as they look to repeat their last season's feat of defeating Simba at Kaitaba Stadium.

Given how close his side were to claiming maximum points against Azam at the weekend, Mexime may choose to pick the same team, providing he has no concerns regarding his player's energy levels.

He will look to Anuary Jabir, Meshack Mwamita and Mbaraka Yusuph for inspiration in front of goals.

In head-to-head stats, Kagera Sugar and Simba have met in 25 league matches since the 2010/11 season.

Simba have claimed 13 wins compared to 7 for Kagera Sugar, while five matches have been drawn.

When the teams met earlier this season, at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in August, Simba claimed a 2-0 home victory.

Dar City ballers now plot DB Oysterbay downfall in 2022 Division 1 League final

By Guardian Correspondent

DAR City and DB Oysterbay basketball sides will take on each other in this year's Regional Basketball Association (RBA) Division 1 League final scheduled to take place in Dar es Salaam today.

DB Oysterbay side's coach Isihaka Masoud had bragged his squad will make short work of Dar City squad in the clash.

The 2022 RBA Division 1 League final is set to take place at Don Bosco Oysterbay basketball court.

DB Oysterbay squad booked a place in the final thanks to the side's hard-fought 64-63 victory over Magnet side in the last four stage.

Dar City squad defeated Leaders outfit in the last- four round clash to set up the final with DB Oysterbay side.

Masoud said his outfit's intensive two-day training has put it in great shape ready to garner victory over Dar City side today.

He boasts a glorious record of propelling various hoops outfits to their respective tournaments' finals.

Masoud is credited for guiding TRA hoops squad to this season's Inter-Parastatals and Non-Parastatals Sports Federation of Tanzania (SHIMMUTA) Games' basketball final held in Tanga.

He pointed out: "I have a competent side, that is why we have made it to the final... we therefore match Dar City side's quality."

"Honestly, we have prepared well for it and we have addressed weaknesses we displayed in the last four, our opponents should brace for stiff opposition," Masoud stressed.

The experienced gaffer conceded that Dar City outfit is made up of experienced ballers but his players have promised him they will stage spirited showing right up the tie's completion.

Masoud noted there was high level of competition in this year's RBA Division 1 League, as all clubs had adequately prepared for the showdown,



Basketballers making some of teams which participated in 2022 Regional Basketball Association (RBA) Division 1 League feature in a tie which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

seeking to win promotion to the top flight.

According to him, much as DB Oysterbay side was hardly given chance to make it to the final, his ballers saw to it they emerge victorious in every clash so they can secure promotion to the next season's RBA League.

Dar City squad will be banking on key ballers that include Kenyans Michael Makiadi, Austin Akoki, and Sudanese Akok Law in today's duel.

Vijana hoops squad's coach Abdul

Sultani predicted that DB Oysterbay and Dar City teams will next year prove to be hard nut to crack in RBA League.

Sultani pointed out: "These two clubs can sign good foreign ballers therefore we should brace for a tough showdown next season."

Former basketball player Peter Julius applauded DB Oysterbay side's efficiency which has helped the outfit qualify for the final.

Julius noted DB Oysterbay squad has

promising players that can emerge as a force to reckon with in next season's RBA League.

Clubs which battled it out in this year's RBA Division 1 League are Dar City, Magnet, Magone, Yellow Jacket, Leaders Club, DB Oysterbay, Kigamboni Heroes, KIUT, Crows, Segerea Stars and Mabibo Bullet.

The RBA Division 1 League was hosted to get two clubs that will garner promotion to next season's RBA League.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

