



National Pg 3 Tanzania sends humanitarian aid to Malawi



National Pg 4 \$200m cement factory to be built in Kongwa



National Pg 6 TAMWA-Zanzibar reminds women leaders



TIC registers 575 new projects in two years, creating 87,000 jobs

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) has registered 575 projects worth \$8.64 billion in the two years of the sixth phase presidency.

In a 14-page report released yesterday, TIC said that projects registered from March 2021 to February 2023 have yielded direct employment openings for 87, 187 people.

Out of the projects 32 percent are held by Tanzanian investors, 41 percent held by foreign investors and 27 percent being joint ventures, it said.

Most projects registered target industrial production, numbering 280 (48.7percent), transport 96 projects (16.7percent), with tourism having 48 investment projects (8.3percent), agriculture 44 (8.17 percent) and construction 44 (7.65percent), it said.

The rise in registration of projects represents a 26-percent change from the same period during March 2019 to February 2021, it affirmed.

The rise in foreign capital flows stood at 24 percent, the report stated, explaining it from efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to market the country's opportunities globally, along with an improved environment for doing business in the country.

In the past two years, industrial production led with the largest portion of capital flows at \$4.2bn (49.4percent) followed by commercial buildings with \$1.5bn (17.5percent) and transportation obtaining \$0.95bn (11.07percent).

The business environment has been improving and trade with other countries quickening, it said, referring to changes in

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Samia launches youth farms drive, alerts on use of funds

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma



A cross section of youths from various regions listening to President Samia Suluhu Hassan when launching the block farming project in Dodoma yesterday.

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday launched a major youth agricultural engagement project, directing the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure that money allocated for this initiative is spent prudently.

Speaking at Chinangali area in Chamwino District here upon inaugurating the first phase of youth agro-sector initiative, she said this was part of the sixth phase 'building a better tomorrow' policy course.

This initiative is put at 356.199bn/- (\$148.4m) potential funding of which 24 per cent be placed by the government, while 76 per cent will be sourced from development partners, NGOs and the private sector, she said.

The focus is to ensure the country's crop production contributes at least 10 per cent of the gross domestic product by 2030, implying the need for inter-ministerial liaisons in promoting agriculture as the focus of sorting out youth unemployment countrywide, she asserted.

The 2022-2030 decade-long initiative was designed by the ministry along with key institutions to enhance the engagement of youth in agriculture in a sustainable way for improved livelihoods, she said.

In its strategic design, it focuses on inspiring the youth by diverse training, mentoring

ATCL's long haulage cargo plane arrives next month

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

AIR Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) is next month scheduled to receive a cargo plane, Boeing 767-300F, enabling the country's national flag carrier to compete globally in the cargo business.

Treasury registrar Nehemia Mchechu confirmed this plan yesterday at a cargo stakeholders' conference in Dar es Salaam, organized by ATCL.

The arrival of the cargo plane will be a landmark in aviation business in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), he stated.

Opening the conference, he said Tanzanians are proud of the company's

It is likely that ATCL shall put to use the new B767-300F for Nairobi, Dubai, Mumbai and Guangzhou bound cargo freight hauls

plans that include the procurement of the first cargo plane in the region, a Boeing 767-300 Freighter carrying 54 tonnes.

The growth in international trade volumes boosts the freight forwarding market, with the global market report for air freight for 2023 indicates that market size grew from \$191.01bn in 2022 to \$199.09bn this year.

That represents a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.2 percent, with the freight forwarding market size expected to grow to \$224.78bn by 2027 at a CAGR of 3.1 percent, it elaborated.

The growth in international trade

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Indian Ocean rim states liaise over conservation of mangrove trees

By Henry Mwangonde

A FIVE days meeting started in Dar es Salaam yesterday with African countries on the Western rim of the Indian Ocean seeking to formulate ways to take up the blue economy policy for mangrove forests conservation.

Dr Amani Ngusaru, the country director for the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), said at the opening ceremony that the forests are an important component of the marine ecosystem.

Marine conservation experts in the region are scratching their heads on how to protect the mangrove ecosystem of the western Indian Ocean region, he said, affirming that enhanced governance and management of mangrove forests was a major requirement.

Threats to the ecosystem arise from natural trends like rising sea levels and certain economic activities, he told the experts meeting under the Western Indian Ocean

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Dr John Mduma (C) the director general of the Workers' Compensation Fund (WCF), flanked by the chairperson of the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) Deodatus Balile (R) and the WCF director of evaluation, Dr Abdulsalaam Omar during a seminar organised by the fund for TEF members in Bagamoyo, Coast Region, yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

She directed the timely establishment of a coordinating committee of ministers for proper supervision and smooth implementation of the project

and coaching to take up agriculture. "The government has disbursed enough funds to support the project," the president declared.

The government was taking measures to increase budget allocation for agro-sector engagement to ensure the country's food security, elevate farmers' livelihoods and make Tanzania a crop hub to cut the food supply gap regionally and in wider markets, she emphasised.

"The nature of this project calls for collective interventions from different ministries, for sectors like energy, water, land, environment and infrastructure, to ensure an operational environment for this project to meet targeted outcomes," she stated.

She directed the timely establishment of a coordinating committee of ministers for proper supervision and smooth implementation of the project.

The past census indicated that the country has about 16m youths, of whom 10m are aged 15 to 24 years and the other chunk aged 25 to 34 years. Up to 51 per cent of youths from 15 to 24 years and 46.6 percent of those aged 25 to 34 years are engaged in farming, the president noted.

Off-farm agri-food systems provide employment opportunities for up to eight percent of youths aged 15 to 24 years and 16 percent for youths aged 25-34 years, the data indicates.

Since the 2010s, the government has been promoting youth engagement in the farming sector to steer off the streets and contribute to national economic growth.

Setbacks encountered in this pursuit include the lack of skills, limited access to land, agro-inputs and extension services. Limited access to markets, related infrastructure and auxiliary services aside from scant access to financial services were also cited.



'Women main victims of online gender violence'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ISSA Muhammed Salum, head of the investigation unit from Zanzibar police, says online gender violence is evil and immoral, and that women are the main victims.

Salum disclosed this at a special meeting to mark International Women Day organised by Tanzania Media women association -Zanzibar (TAMWA-ZANZIBAR) held here at the weekend.

He said online gender based violence is not good because many online users are not conversant with the laws, regulations governing the use of social networks.

He said the police continue to address the issue in order to ensure better use of online technology.

He said it is difficult to control sexual video that circulate in the social media because the networks are owned by people outside the country and called on the public to use the networks well lest criminal charges are preferred against them.

He said the 2015 Online Crimes Act, section 23 thereof states that it is a criminal offence for any person to start or send electronic messages to another person for the purpose of coercing, threatening or humiliating any other person and offenders thereof face a 5m/- fine or three years' imprisonment.

He also called on the people,

especially women, to stop transmitting their details or pictures in the social networks because criminals misuse them and contribute to the increase of online crime.

Sarah Omar Hafidh, special court magistrate on gender based violence in Unguja Urban, West Region called on the people to use social networks properly for development.

She said women are the victims of gender humiliation in the social networks hence it would be better to use them for positive results, including development.

TAMWA-ZANZIBAR chairperson Asha Abdi said parents and guardians have the responsibility to protect their children against such gender humiliation.

She also called on TCRA to control the social networks that go against ethics that publish contents that contribute to gender based violence.



He said the police continue to address the issue in order to ensure better use of online technology

ATCL's long haulage cargo plane arrives next month

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volumes fuels the growth of the freight forwarding market, with ATCL standing the ground to compete in the global market, he stated.

ATCL was gaining confidence as a national airline with provision of reliable, safe and sustainable services since it revamped its programmes in October 2016, the registrar noted.

Current government plans include the strengthening of ATCL operations by purchasing passenger aircraft, enhancing ground handling capacity, boosting engineering and maintenance capacity and creating better infrastructure for cargo transportation, he said.

Reviving the national flag carrier is among key objectives of the third national five year plan, he

stated, with ATCL director general Ladislaus Matindi elaborating that ATCL has acquired 12 planes, expanding its network to 14 domestic flights, eight regional flights and two intercontinental destinations per week.

ATCL organized the stakeholders' conference to foster an increase in the demand for cargo transportation, seeking stakeholder sentiments on issues that need to be addressed.

It is likely that ATCL shall put to use the new B767-300F for Nairobi, Dubai, Mumbai and Guangzhou bound cargo freight hauls, he said.

The company is working to attain the 3000 tonnage by the end of 2023 from 2567 tonnes attained in fiscal 2021/2022m with 49 percent of haulage being transit cargo, 48 percent general cargo, and three percent courier, the registrar added

Indian Ocean rim states liaise over conservation of mangrove trees

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Mangrove Network (WIOMN).

They come from institutions in Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Madagascar, Somalia, the Comoros, Mauritius and the Seychelles.

Occasional threats on mangrove threats include floods as they result in water-level alteration, bank erosion, and diversion of water courses.

There is also sand deposition from sea and land that cuts off portions of mangrove forests from salt water even with sea-level rise as a result of global warming, he said.

"Marine life is not complete without sea grasses, mangroves and reefs because creatures like fish live, eat and reproduce in such features. Therefore without proper management, the coastal ecosystem will be dead," he said.

Tanzania's sea mangroves are legally protected though there are challenges threatening their sustainability, including human activities that are now being controlled, the director noted.

"We need to agree on what should be done and the status of the mangrove forests so that we prepare a plan facilitating a stock taking exercise on the conservation of mangroves as we work on the blue economy," he explained.

On the Tanzanian coastline the main threats to mangroves include rising sea levels, uncontrolled

cutting of the trees, industrial harvesting of water from rivers and pathogens introduced into water systems, he said.

Tanzania was doing well in mangrove conservation but there is need for proper implementation of approved land use plans to facilitate conservation, he further stated.

Mwita Mangora, the secretary general for the network from the Institute of Marine Sciences of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), pointed at the need for wider knowledge sharing on the best practices on the issue.

He asserted that only about 0.3percent of Tanzania's forests are mangroves, thus the lack of a conservation focus by the majority of people living around the forests.

Despite high seedling success rates for most mangrove species, as well as relatively fast growth, mangrove forests in Tanzania are facing serious pressure threatening their survival, he cautioned.

Dr Modesta Medard, head of marine conservation at WWF Tanzania, said the marine mangrove strategy has been prepared and participants were to examine the document.

Human activities threatening mangrove forests in Rufiji were particularly noticeable, as the blue zone is the home of the main part of mangroves in Tanzania, where grazing and agriculture activities encroach on mangroves, she added.



Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (C) looks at the Tanzania Embassy building infrastructure in London, UK through Tanzania military Attaché's mobile phone Brigadier General Bright Msuya (L) in United Kingdom yesterday. Right is Tanzania's High Commissioner to UK Dr Asha-Rose Migiro and other government senior officials. Photo: Ben Mwaipaja

TIC registers 575 new projects in two years, creating 87,000 jobs

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the registration process and shift in payment systems.

Establishment of a one stop facilitation centre and strengthening the Tanzania Investment Window (TIW) uplifted the investments

scenario, it said, in addition to an investment call centre and the Tanzania Electronic Investment Window (TeIW).

A year after the sixth phase took off, the National Investment Steering Committee (NISC) approved six projects, including the Bagamoyo

Sugar Ltd, Knauf Gypsum (T) Ltd; Itracom Fertilizer Ltd; Kagera Sugar Ltd; Mtibwa Sugar Estate Ltd and Mihan Gas or Taifa Gas (T) Ltd.

"The projects are expected to contribute to national development and improve production in various sectors," it said, projecting that a

total of \$1.51bn in earnings, creation of 204,150 direct jobs and adding 345,000 tons of sugar to the annual stock will be achieved.

NISC also approved eight projects slated to chalk in upwards of \$1.4bn into the national economy, the report indicated.



Information, Communication and Information Technology minister Nape Nnauye, speaks at the East Africa Communications Organisation discussing the best ways to deal with electronic waste in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Tanzania needs more innovative research to deal with liver diseases, CMO suggests

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIA needs more innovative research to better understand the epidemiology and disease process of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and what management options work best for the population, the chief medical officer, Prof. Tumaini Nagu has suggested.

Prof. Tumaini made the suggestion over the weekend when addressing the first ever liver cancer conference, which was made possible by Liver Tumor Group that brought on board surgeons, gastroenterologists, radiologists, oncologists and pathologists from in and outside Tanzania.

"We need guidelines that are

specific to our population for the diagnosis and management of HCC and also we need a national strategic plan to accomplish all this," she said.

The expert also revealed that liver cancer is still a pressing issue as patients in the country face a disproportionate burden of the disease compared to most other regions in the world.

She said unfortunately the diagnosis for hepatocellular carcinoma patients in Tanzania is still poor.

"It is clear from this troubling statistics that more must be done to extend the lifespan and improve the quality life for patients afflicted with HCC in Tanzania," she said adding that

"I recognise the dedication and

hard work all of you have put in to deliver the best possible care to your liver cancer patients but it's time to unite as a community and transform our individual efforts into a concerted group effort, and as a united front we have the opportunity to prompt changes" said Professor Nagu.

She said there has been great progress in recent years in improving the diagnosis and management of liver cancer whereby for example at Muhimbili the specialty of interventional radiology has been established providing HCC patients with cutting edge treatment options like chemoembolisation.

She added that a hepatobiliary surgery programme is flourishing with patients now able to undergo surgical resection for HCC adding

that there is a thriving hepatitis clinic important treatment preventing patients from ever developing HCC.

"However the work is just beginning and a lot more can be done we need to improve access across Tanzania to Hepatitis B vaccination, HCC screening and the most advanced treatment options for the disease," she said

Andrew Swallow, surgical gastroenterologist and hepatobiliary surgeon, at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) said this is the first meeting of this kind to be held in the country.

He said there were specialists from as far as Egypt, United States, India, Malawi and Kenya and the topic was how to deal with the disease with modern technology.



Morogoro Nguru Hills meat processing factory general manager Eric Cormack (R) explains about the operations of the plant to members of the Public Parliamentary Accounts Committee led by its chairman Japhet Hasunga (3rd L). The committee visited the factory yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Frank Kaundula

Mining firm pledges \$30mil for Tanzania educational sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

BARRICK Gold Corporation has promised to provide \$30 million (70.5bn/-) to expand education infrastructure in Tanzania.

Mark Bristow, Barrick president and chief executive officer (CEO) made the pledge yesterday in Dodoma when he met and held talks with President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The move is part of the "Barrick-Twiga Future Forward Education Programme" which is aimed at building 1,090 classrooms, 1,640 toilets and 270 dormitories in 161 schools across the country to help provide accommodation for approximately 49,000 students out of the 190,000 students who are expected to start their secondary education up to advanced level (A-Level) in July this year. The first \$10 million will be paid in April and the rest will be released as the programme continues.

"We believe that education is important for the development of the country. Both Bulyanhulu and North Mara gold mines continue to support the education sector by building classrooms and improving the education infrastructure in the areas surrounding the mines, which has made some of the schools to be among the leading schools in these regions," Bristow said.

So far, North Mara has spent \$1.9 million (4.5bn/-) in 87 primary and secondary schools in Tarime District, Mara Region 14 of which were the best-performing schools in the district.

Bulyanhulu had spent \$1.8 million (4.2bn/-) in 80 education projects surrounding the mine and is currently building a Vocational Training College at Bunango village in the district.

Barrick's investment in the area

surrounding the mine had enabled 7,557 Tanzanian girls to receive education in 2022.

"Despite the company's support to develop education sector, last year, North Mara was officially recognised as the largest taxpayer in Tanzania and Bulyanhulu was awarded the Best Employer Award that complies with the requirements of the law, which the National Social Security Fund gave."

"North Mara and Bulyanhulu also received first and second runner-up awards, respectively, for selling minerals abroad and for bringing in foreign currency into the country. Both companies have come a long way and we look forward to continuing that journey through our 'Giraffe' partnership with the government," the mining firm's top official said.

Bristow said that since Barrick took over the mines in 2019, it had injected \$2.4 billion into the Tanzanian economy. Through its community development committees, the mines had invested more than 10 million dollars in projects to improve health services, education sector, access to piped water, and road infrastructure.



So far, North Mara has spent \$ 1.9 million (4.5bn/-) in 87 primary and secondary schools in Tarime District, Mara Region 14 of which were the best-performing schools in the district

PAC satisfied with MVTTC dormitories project

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee has expressed satisfaction over the 1.087bn/- expenditure for the construction of two teachers' dormitories at Morogoro Vocational Teachers' Training College (MVTTC) and called for the speedy procurement of the dormitories furniture.

Japhet Hasunga, PAC vice chairman made the remarks following the panel's inspection of the dormitories and advised the government to use furniture made by VETA youth to appraise their

skills.

He also instructed VETA's management to make sure the furniture for the dormitories should be those made by VETA.

He said after receiving the Controller and auditor General (CAG) Audit report, he decided to visit the dormitories project to satisfy himself on the project that is 100 per cent complete.

PAC member Isack Kamwelwe called on indigenous contractors who are awarded contracts to do the jobs that reflect the value of the money allocated and desist from fraud resulting in shoddy work.

Deputy minister for Education, Science and Technology, Omary Kipanga pledged that the ministry will oversee the implementation of the instructions given including the procurement of the furniture for the dormitories.

He said they plan that by April this year, they should procure 54m/- for all the furniture needed ready for the students' academic term.

For her part, the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Prof Carolyne Nombo said the dormitories costing more than 1bn/- have the capacity to accommodate 96 student teachers, 48 women and 48 men.

She said MVTTC has the capacity to enroll 340 students per year and VETA's plan is to increase enrolment to 660 by 2025/26 academic year.

Earlier, VETA acting director general, CPA Anthony Kasore said the dormitories project began in August 2018 and sponsored by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Tanzania government.

He said so far the project is 100 per cent complete and that they were waiting for the furniture, and added more than 97 technicians, and various service providers had been employed in the project.

Tanzania sends relief aid to flood ravaged Malawi

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has sent relief aid to the Malawian government to help the victims of tropical Cyclone Freddy which hit the southeastern African nation on March 13, this year, killing over 400 people.

The humanitarian aid included two heavy-lifting military choppers with fuel supplies, 100 service men and women, 1,000 tonnes of maize flour, 6,000 blankets, mattresses, tents and medical supplies worth \$1million as well as \$300,000 cash.

Dr Stergomena Tax, Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister handed the consignment of assorted items to Malawi on behalf of President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The humanitarian aid was handed over to the Malawian President Dr. Lazarus Chakwera on March 20, 2023 at a brief event in Lilongwe and attended by various leaders including Malawi's Foreign Affairs minister, Nancy Tembo and the Tanzanian High Commissioner to Malawi, Humphrey Polepole.

Dr. Tax said President Samia offered the humanitarian aid and condolences to Dr. Chakwera and the Malawian people for the damage they suffered from the floods including those who lost their lives, injured and homeless as well as the extensive damage to

property and infrastructure.

She said Tanzania as a brother, friend and neighbour of Malawi has been touched by the disaster and had taken immediate steps to coordinate the aid to help the neighbouring country to prove to them that Tanzania is with them in this difficult time they are going through.

"President Samia has sent me to Malawi to deliver a special message of her condolence and humanitarian aid to President Dr. Chakwera and the Malawian people following the effects of Cyclone Freddy which had brought disasters. As our brothers and our neighbour, Tanzania stands with Malawi in this

difficult time of transition and today I have presented that support on behalf of President Samia and Tanzanians in general," the minister said.

For his part, Dr. Chakwera has thanked the President Dr Samia and the Tanzanian people for the help given to them and expressed his happiness that the help had reached them quickly and on time.

He said that the aid is a sign of the brotherhood and solidarity that exists between Tanzania and Malawi and reminded that this is not the first time that Tanzania had helped Malawi as it did so in 2015, in 2019 and this year.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The **Tanzania Maji na Usafi wa Mazingira (MUM) Activity** is a five-year (August 2021 - August 2026) \$25 million activity funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Mission to Tanzania. The purpose of Maji na Usafi wa Mazingira (MUM) Activity is to expand and sustain the provision and governance of WASH services by increasing access to sustainable water services; Increasing access to finance for water, sanitation, and hygiene; Strengthening the market for sanitation products and services; and Strengthening basin water boards and water user associations for stewardship of water resources. Tetra Tech ARD <http://www.tetrattech.com/intdev> is the prime contractor with three subcontractors, FSG, WISE Futures, and IRIS Group.

Only Short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview. No phone calls will be accepted about this position. Deadline for submission of applications is **31st March, 2023**, and applications will be considered on a rolling basis.

Tetra Tech seeks experienced candidates for the following position:

Public Health Specialist (1 Post): Based in Iringa

Under the supervision of the Sanitation and Hygiene Market Team Lead, the Public Health Specialist will be an integral part of Sanitation and Hygiene Marketing. Full job description and application link can be found online: <https://bit.ly/PublicHealthSpecialistMUM>





East Africa Television Ltd
P.O. BOX 4374, Mikocheni Light Industrial Area,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, East Africa.
Tel: + 255 (22) 2775914/6
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Email: info@eatv.tv

EAST AFRICA TELEVISION LTD, the number one youth channel that has grown to a regional with vigor content of educating and entertaining programs. EATV is looking for suitable and qualified people to fill in the following vacancies:

Job Title : SALES MANAGER

Job purpose : Sales Manager is responsible for selling East Africa Television, East Africa Radio and Digital platforms advertising spots and maintaining relations with advertising clients. Act as the link between EATV Ltd and its clients.

Responsibilities:

- In charge of all sales activities and sales personnel involved in Commercial Service department.
- Analyze sales statistics to determine business growth potential.
- Establishes performance goals for all sales team employees, and monitors performance on a continual basis.
- Develops and/or maintains and improves business relations with all customers of the Company.
- Seeks out and targets new customers and new sales opportunities, initiates action plan to approach and secure new business for the Company.
- Develop and implement an effective strategic sales plan.
- Develop and maintain a strong work relationship with key opinion leaders and contacts with other relevant agents.

Skills : Excellent Communication Skills, fluent in English and Kiswahili

Qualification:

- * Degree in Business Administration majoring Marketing
- * 5 years' experience in Sales preferably in the media industry.

Interested candidates who meet the above criteria should send in their applications enclosing a detailed CV addressed to the:

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
EAST AFRICA TELEVISION
P.O. BOX 4374
DAR ES SALAAM - TANZANIA
Or by Email address: jobs@eatv.tv**

Or deliver to EATV Studios at Mikocheni Light Industries Area, Mwenge - Da es Salaam

Deadline 30th March 2023

Shortlisted candidates will be notified.

COSTECH in partnership with CRDB Bank and ICTC officially open loan application window through 'iMBEJU' programme

By Correspondent Mary Kadoko

TANZANIA Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) in partnership with CRDB Bank PLC and the Information and Communication Technologies Commission (ICTC) has officially opened a loan application window through 'iMBEJU' programme.

It's a programme aiming at empowering women and youth economically by providing them with training and capital to support their businesses.

COSTECH public relations officer Faisal Jalil, said over the weekend that one of the applicant's qualifications is he or she should be a Tanzanian.

Jalil said the loan window will also favor youth or women aged 18 to 40 years with new technology, existing products and a business idea not exceeding more than 300 words that should be sent to <http://imbeju.costech.or.tz>.

"COSTECH in cooperation with ICTC will help in receiving and cross checking the application that began

on 12th March and is expected to close April 10th this year. I urge all women and youth to submit their applications as they ensure the mentioned requirements," said Jalil.

During the programme launch, Abdulmajid Nsekela, CRDB Bank PLC CEO said the word 'iMBEJU' is derived from two words, with the 'i' that stands for innovation and 'MBEJU', a Bantu term which literally means seed hence considered it as a seed capital to serve women and youth.

"CRDB 'iMBEJU' programme is a five years plan endorsed with 5bn/- aimed to boost women and youth innovations. We have touched youth and women on many platforms but that has not been enough. We still need support to serve the vulnerable groups," he said.

Nsekela said the aim of the program is to formalize youth and women groups and targeting them to become future investors in the country hence it's upon applicant's time to understand that the application isn't a trial opportunity but a business opportunity.



GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd marketing officer, Peter William explains the quality of FAW trucks for mining during a workshop organised by the company for leaders and miners who attended the mining technology exhibition held in Chunya, Mbeya Region over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



SUPPLIER PREQUALIFICATION NOTICE 2023-2025

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) seeks to end global pediatric HIV/AIDS through prevention and treatment programs, research, and advocacy. Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) seeks to invite interested and eligible organizations to submit applications for the prequalification of suppliers for supply of goods, services and works for the period 2023-2025.

NO	CATEGORY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
SUPPLY OF GOODS		
1	Supply of general office stationery	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
2	Supply of office equipment	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
3	Supply of uniforms and protective clothing (lab coats, riding gear)	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
4	Supply of office furniture, fixtures and fittings	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
5	Supply of motor vehicle tyres, tubes, batteries and accessories	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
6	Supply of motorcycle tyres, tubes, batteries and accessories	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
7	Supply of pharmaceutical items	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
8	Supply of branded promotional items and printing various documents/forms	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
9	Supply of drinking water and dispensers	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
10	Supply of computers and accessories	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
11	Supply of medical equipment, laboratory materials and consumables	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
12	Supply of office kitchen supplies e.g., Sugar, milk, coffee etc	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
13	Supply and maintenance of telecommunication equipment	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
14	Supply of airtime and mobile phones	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
15	Supply of office detergents, toiletries, disinfectants and hand sanitizers	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
16	Supply of asset tagging bar codes and provision of tagging services	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
PROVISION OF SERVICES		
17	Provision of leased photocopy machines	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
18	Provision of software and licenses	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
19	Provision of event organizing	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
20	Provision of photography, videography, interpretation equipment and services	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
21	Provision of network infrastructure services and structured cabling	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
22	Provision of civil and structural design services	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
23	Provision of hotel accommodation and conferencing services	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Morogoro, Mwanza, Pwani, Singida and Tabora
24	Provision of catering services	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
25	Provision of fumigation and pest control	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
26	Provision of cleaning and sanitary services	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
27	Provision of car hire services e.g min buses	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
28	Provision of motor vehicle tracking services	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
29	Provision of air travel and ticketing agency services	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
30	Provision of Logistics service – transportation of office goods	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
31	Provision of local and international courier services	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
32	Provision of clearing and forwarding services	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
33	Provision of translation services	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
34	Provision of HR consultancy service and team building services	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
35	Provision of research, report writing, survey and media monitoring services	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
36	Provision of advertising services	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
37	Provision of website design, development, licensing and hosting services	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
38	Provision of security services	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
39	Provision of occupational safety health audit, advisory and training services	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
40	Provision of repair and maintenance of motor vehicles	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
41	Provision of Statutory Audit	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora
PROVISION OF WORKS		
42	Provision of minor construction services; including renovations and office partitioning	Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida and Tabora

The supplier prequalification exercise will be conducted online via:



Tendersure™ platform is secure, transparent and provides an efficient prequalification process. Interested suppliers may access and register on www.tendersure.co.ke under "Available Jobs" tab. Access to the prequalification will be granted upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **TZS 60,000.00 per category**. All payments will be made via an online payment platform during the application process. Available payment methods include M-PESA, Tigo and Airtel, amongst others. The online prequalification exercise closes on **21st April 2023 at 10pm EAT**.

In case of any inquiry, kindly contact us at egpaf@tendersure.co.ke or WhatsApp Number 0114892485

All existing suppliers are required to participate alongside prospective suppliers in order to be evaluated and considered.

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid in whole or in part at its discretion.

\$200m cement factory to be built in Kongwa

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA Regional Commissioner, Rosemary Senyamule last Friday witnessed the signing of the preliminary agreement for the construction of the USD 200 million cement factory.

The agreement was signed by the Alotab & Amp Block BB and Libyan Petroleum for the construction of the factory in Kongwa district, Dodoma Region.

Meanwhile, Dodoma Regional Commissioner assured the investors of a friendly environment for implementing their activities and welcomed more investors to build other factories.

"I welcome you to Dodoma, our country's capital, there are many investment opportunities, invest more in our region, we have ample land and adequate raw materials," RC Senyamule assured them.

Speaking, Kongwa District Executive Director, Dr Omary Nkullo said in his district, 500 acres have been surveyed at Pandambili area especially for investors.

In the same vein, Anyid Dmjed Rajab from Libyan Petroleum said they will continue investing in other areas of Dodoma Region due to the available friendly environment and the availability of raw materials for the planned industries.



I welcome you to Dodoma, our country's capital, there are many investment opportunities, invest more in our region, we have ample land and adequate raw materials

Manyara earns 24billion/- from tourism in two years

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

A TOTAL of 276,832 tourists were received in Manyara Region and earned the government more than 24.9bn/- in the period of two years of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's leadership due to the friendly environment for tourists.

The number of the tourists was announced here yesterday by Manyara Regional Commissioner, Makongoro Nyerere at the event to assess the achievements of President Samia since she came to power.

Makongoro said the tourists visited Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks.

He said during the period, the government provided 2.7bn/- for the improvement of the tourism environment in Tarangire National Park so that the money to be earned should help in the construction of the airport inside the park area.

He said the airport will be built at morram level and will be for tourists who do not like to use vehicles.

RC Makongoro further said during the period, TRA in the region collected 64.35bn/- as compared to 40bn/- during the preceding two years.

He said in regard to local councils' revenues a total of 25.6bn/- was collected during the period under review by five councils.

He mentioned the reasons for the TRA performing well as mobilising taxpayers to pay taxes without undue coercion.

Meanwhile, the Managing Director of Mati Super Brands Limited factory, David Mulokozi said during the two years of President Samia's leadership, traders got good sleep due to paying their taxes without disturbance.

The Chairman of elders group in Babati District, Juma Mkola said the maintenance of peace should be given utmost priority.

Barrick Gold Mine employee was not shot, says Mara RPC

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

MARA Regional Police Commander, ACP Geoffrey Sarakikya says North Mara Barrick mine worker Emmanuel Chacha (26) was not shot.

"Reports by people who were at the site of the incident, and from the postmortem of his body conducted at Bugando Referral Hospital say Chacha died from wounds after he threw himself into a 20-metre pit.

RPC Sarakikya disregarded news circulating in the social media saying Chacha had been shot.

"These reports are false, and what I say is the truth," RPC Sarakikya said in a statement to the media yesterday morning.

The RPC clarified the issue following his pledge he gave on March 12 this year that he would

issue a statement in regard to the death of the mineworker after receiving post mortem results.

In his earlier statement, he said Chacha's death happened on March 11 this year at the Gokoma Underground in Barrick North Mara Mine.

He said before he threw himself into the pit a task force team found Chacha stealing rocks believed to contain gold inside the mine area.

He said the team comprised the regional mining officer, police officers, the mine's guard unit and Nguvu Moja Security firm guards.



These reports are false, and what I say is the truth



Motorbike riders in Tarime District, Mara Region in road safety training organised by Barrick North Mara during the Road Safety Week held at Nyamongo over the weekend. Barrick North Mara also distributed helmets and reflectors. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Install security systems on Mt Kilimanjaro to combat fire outbreaks, ministry directed

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Natural Resources and Tourism ministry has been tasked to install CCTV cameras, lights and use of drones to combat fire outbreaks on Mount Kilimanjaro.

Mohamed Mchengerwa, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism issued the directives during the climax of the long-week series of activities to mark 50 years of the Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA). The week-long event was themed: "Our Mountain, Our Pride, Our Heritage" observed on March 16, this year at Marangu gate, in Moshi rural district, Kilimanjaro region.

Mchengerwa stated that, protection and conservation of our natural resources is a role that should be shouldered by everyone in the community for its sustainability.

"Today we are celebrating 50 years anniversary of the KINAPA whereby many efforts to protect and conserve our natural resources that God has created for us have been done successfully for the past year, my appeal to you all is to join government's efforts in protection and conservation of our natural resources including mount Kilimanjaro for its sustainability as well as promoting domestic tourism for the future generation," he explained.

The minister said although conservation is facing some challenges including climate change, and human activities in some protected areas, there is high need of planting more trees, and taking care of them for sustainable environmental conservation.

In a move that aims to help protect forests and promote the sustainable use of natural resources, Mchengerwa issued some directives aimed at tightening forest protection efforts, including increasing patrols in forest reserves to prevent illegal activities such as poaching, logging, and charcoal burning.

The minister has also instructed forest rangers to work closely with local communities to enhance awareness of the importance of forest conservation.

He also tasked KINAPA to focus on controlling illegal activities in forest reserves.

Mchengerwa said: "Let's put an end to illicit operations that harm natural resources and devastate protected regions."

He mentioned in particular the involvement of foreigners in illegal harvesting of trees as a big threat to Tanzania's forests.

"Tighten up control, there is growing invasion of forest reserves in Coast, Morogoro and Dar es Salaam regions," he noted.

The minister also directed all institutions under his ministry to improve revenue collection in forest reserves as well in addition to increased transparency and accountability.

He also instructed the agency to focus on facilitating good relations with surrounding communities.

"We must have constructive communication and engagement with local communities in order to address their concerns and encourage their participation in conservation activities," said Mchengerwa.

The reforestation campaign should continue, Mchengerwa noted so as to enhance forest cover in the country.

TANAPA's Commissioner of Conservation, William Mwakilema hailed the role played by the government in the protection and conservation of natural resources in the country including KINAPA which was promoted to national park on March 16, 1793.

"We now have a total of 22 national parks in Tanzania under TANAPA including Mount Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA) which is now celebrating its 50 years anniversary. Kilimanjaro plays a big role in our country as it is one of the main source of water, as well as the second park that collects revenues in tourism sector after the Serengeti National Park (SENAPA)" he explained adding

"By celebrating 50 years of KINAPA, the have a week-long series of activities including inauguration of tree planting campaign at Samanga Primary School in Rombo district, and we planned to plant more than 150,000 trees during rainy season for sustainable environmental protection and conservation," the TANAPA Chief explained.

He named other activities they have done as cleaning-

up mount Kilimanjaro campaign the mountain under the slogan of "Trash- Tourism Symposium that attracts various abroad, aims to promote conservation of whereby a total of 219 trekkers cleaned in, Trash out (TITO), as well as a special tourism stakeholders from Tanzania and our natural resources and tourism.

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
WIZARA YA UJENZI NA UCHUKUZI
BODI YA MFUKO WA BARABARA

Mhe. Dkt. Samia Suluhu Hassan
Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania

SALAMU ZA PONGEZI

Bodi, Menejimenti na Wafanyakazi wa Bodi ya Mfuko wa Barabara tunaungana na Watanzania wote kukupongeza **Mhe. Dkt. Samia Suluhu Hassan**, Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania kwa kutimiza miaka miwili ya uongozi wako.

Ndani ya Kipindi cha Miaka Miwili:

- Umeongeza bajeti ya kugharamia matengenezo ya barabara kwa asilimia 27 kutoka Shilingi bilioni 806.7 mwaka wa fedha 2019/20 hadi Shilingi bilioni 1,027 mwaka wa fedha 2021/22.
- Umewezesha zaidi ya kilometa 50,000 za barabara za Kitaifa na Wilaya pamoja na madaraja kufanyiwa matengenezo kila mwaka.
- Umewezesha sehemu kubwa ya mtandao wa barabara kupitika wakati wote. Asilimia 90 na asilimia 60 ya barabara za Kitaifa na Wilaya, mtawalia, ziko kwenye hali nzuri na wastani.
- Umefungua barabara nyingi za vijijini kwa kutenga zaidi ya Shilingi bilioni 440 kila mwaka kugharamia maboresho ya barabara za Wilaya.
- Umewezesha zaidi ya wanawake 4,000 kupata ajira za muda kwenye kazi za matengenezo ya barabara za Wilaya.

Kazi Iendele

Bodi, Menejimenti na Wafanyakazi wa Bodi ya Mfuko wa Barabara tunakutakia kila lakheri kwenye Uongozi wako mahiri na uliotukuka

Bodi ya Mfuko wa Barabara, Makao Makuu Dodoma, 11 Barabara ya AMMAR, 41107 DODOMA MAKULU, DODOMA
 Simu : +255 26 2963277-8, Nukushi: +255 26 2963279-80, Barua pepe: info@roadsfund.go.tz, Twitter: @rfb_tz,
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/RFBTZ/, Instagram: @rfb_tz

The 50 most powerful women leaders in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

WOMEN In Management (WIMA) has officially announced the top 50 women in management awardees for 2023 marking the fourth year of honouring inspiring senior female leaders in Africa.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam over the weekend at the gala dinner, Naïke Mushi, WIMA founder and CEO stated: "Today, we are celebrating the achievements of women leaders across Africa and beyond. However, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to reflect and acknowledge the incredible contributions which women have made throughout history and continue to make today."

"Women leaders such as President Dr Samia Suluhu, Dr Getrude Mongella, Dr Tulia Ackson, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Mama Scholastica Kimario, the late Maya Angelou, Ellen John Sirleaf, Graca Machel, to name a few, that have continued to pave the way for the advancement of women in the global community.

"But it's not just in the realm of activism where women have made a difference. Women have made incredible strides in fields like science, technology, business, and the arts, challenging gender stereotypes and breaking barriers every step of the way. Yet, despite all the progress which we have made, we still have a long way to go. Women continue to face discrimination, bias, and unequal opportunities in many areas of life."

She said the COVID-19 pandemic has further intensified these challenges, with women disproportionately impacted by job losses, increased caregiving responsibilities, and domestic violence, which is why today, they must commit themselves to the ongoing fight for gender equality.

She said women must continue to speak out against sexism and misogyny, advocate for policies that empower women, and support one another in their personal and professional lives.

"We know that women leaders, unfortunately usually are unable to compete on an equal playing field as their male counterparts, even when they are fully qualified. For instance, according to a recent survey done by WIMA in partnership with CREMES international, the representation of females on Corporate Board of Directors for companies listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) decreased (not increased), from 21.6% in 2021 to 19.5% in 2022. Also, the United Nations secretary-general António Guterres, recently

warned that at the current pace, gender equality was projected to be 300 years away because the progress won over decades was vanishing before our eyes," she said.

"At WIMA, we find this unacceptable! While we understand that these statistics can be discouraging, we want to assure you that we are committed to providing you and your organizations with the tools and resources to help improve the diversity and representation of women in leadership and board roles. Therefore, we urge you all to join hands with us and take a stand for gender equality. Let us celebrate the achievements of women leaders, support each other, and work towards a more equitable future for all," she added.

Lastly, she encouraged women leaders to continue to serve as catalysts for change. Women leaders should embrace their influence to drive change and not shy away from using their power for good.

"Let us celebrate the accomplishments of women leaders, support one another, and work towards a more equitable future for all," said Dr. Naïke.

Speaking during the event, the chief guest of the Women In Management Africa Awards 2023 Dr. Patricia N. Laverley, Country Manager, African Development Bank - Tanzania Country Office, said:

"African Development Bank is committed to support women engagement in innovation and technology. We are doing that through various projects and programs that we finance. Some of these interventions are in the energy, ICT, and transport sector, as well as the lines of credit to the different financial institutions through our Affirmative Finance Action for Women in African (AFAWA). In view of the priority the African Development Bank places on gender empowerment and equality, our lines of credit also target women owned businesses in the ICT space.

"Let me use this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to Her Excellency, President Samia Suluhu Hassan, for giving me the opportunity to serve as the Country Manager for the African Development Bank in Tanzania under her leadership, when this is the perfect time for women to achieve their aspirations.

"I would also like to acknowledge the excellent collaboration we have had with UNDP and Trademark Africa on wide-ranging issues and look forward to strengthening our collaboration with WIMA", she concluded."



Tigo's chief regulatory officer, Sylvia Balwire (L) commends the Apps and Girls founder and CEO, Carolyne Ekyarisiima after she emerged victorious out of 5 champions selected for the 2023 WSIS Prize. The event was held in Geneva, Switzerland recently. Photo: By Guardian Correspondent

Kili RC urges businesses to take advantage of available opportunities in the region

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

KILIMANJARO Regional Commissioner Nurdin Babu has urged businesses in the region to take advantage of various economic opportunities that arise from the enabling environment prepared by the government and financial institutions in the country that have designed specific services that suit their needs.

Speaking during a dinner event organised by Exim Bank Tanzania for its customers in the northern region, RC Babu said that the government in support of various stakeholders including financial institutions have committed to stimulate economic growth by removing various challenges that appeared to hinder the prosperity of business sector in the country so it is the responsibility of businesses to wake up and make good use of the same opportunity.

RC Babu gave an example of

the 'Supa woman account' offered by the Exim Tanzania designed specifically for women which, among other things, aims to move closer to and encourage banking services for women in the country.

"While the government continue to make various efforts aimed at creating a better and enabling environment for businesses in the country, it is even more promising to see that financial institutions are also supporting the same efforts by adding up more services and products based on the needs of different businesses. Exim's Supa Woman account and the Tour Operator product are a good example of the mentioned efforts. It is your responsibility to seize the opportunity," he said.

However, he urged the business community in the region to pay taxes as their primary responsibility as well as being loyal to the financial institutions as a way of proving their appreciation for the efforts made

by the government and financial institutions in improving the environment for the operations of their businesses.

Giving his remarks on behalf of the bank's Chief Executive Officer, Exim Bank's Chief Financial Officer, Shani Kiswaga mentioned Kilimanjaro region as one of the strategic regions for the bank due to the great prosperity of business, agriculture and the tourism sector which is doing well due to the ongoing efforts made by the government to promote tourism including the Mount Kilimajaro.

"And that is why Kilimanjaro Region has been among the first regions to have this opportunity to hear about our plans and strategies that we have set for them since we celebrated our 25th recently. Along with congratulating ourselves for the anniversary, we also used it to reflect and decide the best ways to improve our services to our customers and we are here

to present and discuss about the improvements," he said.

Speaking at the event, the Head of Retail Banking at Exim Bank, Andrew Lyimo said the introduction of the bank's new services including the Wajasiriamali account, Supa Woman account, borderless banking specifically for businesses in Tanzania and Comoros and other modern services for payment have come to join hands with other services provided by the bank specifically for customers in the region, including the bank's TANAPA card.

"The goal is to make services easier for our customers and that is why we are investing much energy in WAKALA (agency) services as well as electronic services. So far we have more than 1000 agents across the country and we are expecting to have more of them," he mentioned while insisting that the bank has kept on giving priority to credit services for various types of customers.

Start preparations for 2025 General Election, TAMWA-Zanzibar reminds women leaders

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA-Zanzibar) has asked women aspiring to run for various leadership positions in the 2025 General Election to start preparing themselves to emerge winners.

Dr Mzuri Issa, TAMWA-Zanzibar director said this over the weekend when speaking to 45 women representatives from various political parties in Zanzibar attending a three-day capacity building training that aims to build their ability to run for various leadership positions.

The training is held at TAMWA-Zanzibar in Tunguu area, Central Unguja District as part of implementing the 'Strengthen Women In-Leadership' (SWIL) project, which is supported by the Embassy of Norway in Tanzania.

SWIL provides an opportunity for participants to meet with representatives of various institutions and successful

politicians to give testimony while the goal is to build more capacity for them.

She said for a long time, many women have grown up failing to fulfil their goals despite having the desire to be leaders, hence the need to capacitate them. "We must realize that we are facing many challenges, including our male colleagues who have tricks to sabotage us, we should prepare early and let me just tell you that there is no going back, the time is now," she added.

She also urged participants and other women not to give up despite the various challenges they will go through including being deliberately disappointed by people with bad intentions against them.

The TAMWA-Zanzibar director also spoke about corruption in the political field, asking the government through relevant authorities to ensure they monitor the elections closely to control corruption.

"Candidates who will be proved to provide bribes to voters should be removed from

the contestant list to ensure a fair election. This will help people to get leaders of their choice," she said, noting President Samia Suluhu Hassan is an example of how women are capable of ruling.

"President Samia is a benchmark for all of us, her presence in power has given us new courage and enthusiasm to contest for various leadership positions," said Dr Mzuri.

Dr Salum Suleiman Ali, training facilitator from State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) said Zanzibar women can achieve their goals if they properly prepare themselves.

She said along with planning, self-awareness and setting goals from the beginning will help women to emerge as winners.

She said that during campaigns, women should make sure they speak on issues that touch the majority and avoid engaging in debates that are not important to society.

Ali Sultan, another training facilitator, said women can win and increase their number in leadership positions, if they do research on the areas they want to contest. He said it is important to know people's challenges and come up with possible solutions.

Mkomazi National Park constructing special enclosure for wild dogs

By Guardian Correspondent, Same

MKOMAZI National Park is constructing a new enclosure for taking care of wild dogs to enable visiting tourists to view them.

The black rhino will also be held in the enclosure that will be erected at Mbula area within the park.

Mkomazi National Park is the country's only wildlife reserve that produces wild dogs and is distributed to other national parks with similar ecosystems.

Apart from producing endangered wildlife, the enclosure will be a tourist attraction in its own right as the visitors will be viewing them without difficulties.

According to the park's tourists' statistics, wild dogs viewing is a big tourist attraction for visitors from the US, UK, India and other countries and the enclosure will increase their numbers to the park.

Already, more than 300 wild dogs have been produced at Mkomazi National Park and distributed to other parks within the Tsavo/Mkomazi ecosystem.

Others were taken to the Serengeti National Park and Maswa Forest Reserve.

Senior Conservator at Mkomazi National Park, Emmanuel Siza recently said that wild dogs' production will help to increase their population as they are in danger of extinction from various causes.

"Apart from natural causes including diseases, the wild dogs are carnivorous and move in groups, sometimes enter into people settlements and kill livestock prompting the wrath of herders who kill them as revenge, hence their populations dwindle," Siza said.

He said the beasts have benefits, as apart from attracting tourists, they perform sanitation work in the park area by eating animal carcasses and other leftovers thereby bringing the natural balance in the park.

According to Siza, the project for taking care of the wild dogs began in 1995 in the park with initial 25 dogs who were kept for three years and then released in groups in other areas with similar ecosystems.

 REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPLY OF EARTHING & GROUNDING MATERIALS REF: ETJ-BB-PR-EI-GEN-GE-0117	
<p>The Republic of Uganda, the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), the United Republic of Tanzania and/or Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), as well as other international oil companies are partaking in the implementation of the EACOP Project.</p> <p>The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation, and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania incl. a Jetty with Load Out Facility for Oil Tankers, near Tanga in Tanzania.</p> <p>BESIX Ballast Nedam (BBN) Limited, executing Early Services for the Jetty and Load Out Facilities in the Tanga Bay for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project, invites experienced specialist Companies to express their interest for:</p> <p>- Supply of Earthing and Grounding Materials</p>	<p>BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE MATERIALS / SERVICES: Earthing: 50mm isolated copper conductor Grounding: 50mm copper conductor</p> <p>Hilti brand or equivalent.</p> <p>MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company profile with prove of capable resources. - Necessary material datasheets - Compliance with petroleum (local Content) regulation of 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania. - Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is highly recommended. - Proof of business registration and business license for Tanzania - Registration with the Tanzania Tax Revenue Authority - Proof of Tanzania Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest available year, 2022
<p>Interested companies which meet the minimum requirements and have the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest by sending together with the above listed documents an email to procurement@bbnltd.co.tz (Max. Email Size: 20 MBs & All documents must be submitted in the English language) on or before 4th April 2023, 1800hrs Tanzania Time.</p> <p>Heading of the application must include the reference number as indicated on the heading to this EOI advert.</p> <p>Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will be evaluated and if selected will be invited, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), to participate in the bidding process.</p> <p>Note: Only pre-qualified companies will receive an invitation to submit their bid in furtherance of the Call for Tender process.</p>	

Educate the public on environmental protection, water stakeholders urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera has called upon various water stakeholders to educate members of the public on the importance of the protection of the environment so as to have sustainable water supply.

Homera also stressed on the importance for the stakeholders to provide education on water policy as it is the guideline for implementing their responsibilities of relieving women the water pails, the issue that is the government's agenda as for now.

The RC made the remarks here at the weekend when addressing stakeholders from the water sector

at the launch of water Week held at Kalobe sewage ponds here.

He said the water sector has many stakeholders hence it is better for them to collaborate in making sure they educate the people on environmental protection as the world is currently experiencing the effects of climate change.

He stressed that as for now the government vows to relieve water pails from women, hence it is the responsibility of the stakeholders in the water sector to explain the public the plans to help in safeguarding the essential resource.

Meanwhile, Acting Director of Mbeya Water and Sanitation Authority (MUWSA), Simon

Bukuku said during the Water Week they plan to plant 3,000 trees as part of measures to alleviate environmental destruction.

He explained that at Kalobe area they planted 150 trees and that they will continue planting more trees at various water sources for the protection of the ecosystem and natural vegetation around the areas.

Fadhil Matiko, a Kalobe resident said they will continue collaborating with water authorities in protecting water sources that help water availability in the areas they live.

He also appealed to local government officials to continue overseeing by-laws against people found destroying water sources.



Deputy Principal Secretary Ministry of Water, Engineer Cyprian Luhemeja (3rd L) leads 15 kms voluntary walk accompanied by the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority acting chief executive officer Kiula Kingu (2nd L) during the International Water Week over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Indian community in Tanzania attends virtual global millets 2023 conference

By Beatrice Philemon

INDIAN community in Tanzania in collaboration with India High Commission attended the virtual Global Millets (Shree Anna) conference that took place in New Delhi India that aimed at increasing the adoption, awareness and to promote Shree Anna millet that can help tackle challenges of food security and help children get proper nutrition.

A Monday statement from Prime Minister's Office India said the Indian community in Tanzania joined the conference as part of the celebration of International Year of Millet 2023.

In his address, Modi highlighted the importance of turning a resolution into a desirable outcome, reiterating that the year 2023 was declared the International Year of Millets by the United Nations after persistent efforts by India.

He expressed delight that India's campaign is a significant step in this direction when the world is celebrating the International Year of Millets

He said that more than 75 percent of Indian farmers were virtually connected to conference. He unveiled the commemorative coin and a postal stamp to mark the occasion along with the book launch on millet standards and the declaration of the Indian Institute of Millets Research of ICAR as a Global Centre of Excellence.

He expressed his appreciation for the youth initiative to bring startups for millet-related enterprises and farming.

"This is an indication of India's commitment to millets," he said.

Modi said that Shri Anna is not limited to just food or farming. Those acquainted with Indian tradition will understand the importance of prefixing Shree before anything.

Millets have been traditionally grown and consumed by the rural population but have recently gained popularity as a 'super food' due to their health benefits and suitability to the changing climate conditions.

Based on India's proposal, the year 2023 was declared as the International Year of Millets (IYM) by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The conference had several sessions on important issues related to millet value chains, development of health and nutritional aspects, market linkages, research and development.

It was attended by Agriculture Ministers from various countries, international scientists, nutritionists, health experts, start-up leaders and other stakeholders.

During the conference, there was a global level exhibition-Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM) that focused on millets with participation of domestic and international buyers, importers, exporters and processors also took place at PUSA campus.

Girls, young women empowerment project wins prestigious award at WSIS forum 2023

By Guardian Reporter

TIGO Tanzania through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative in collaboration with Apps and Girls, a local non-government organization has emerged victorious out of 5 champions selected in the 2023 WSIS PRIZE under the E-employment category edging out other 190 nominated projects from across the globe.

The Jovia programme under the Girls and Young Women Empowerment project was recognised for addressing the digital gender divide by providing ICT and entrepreneurship training and start-up incubation for underprivileged girls and young women in Tanzania.

Speaking while acknowledging the win, Tigo's Chief Regulatory Officer, Sylvia Balwire said: "We have made a commitment to be a digital-first company and this global award is a testament to the impact we are creating across Tanzania in empowering underprivileged girls

and young women."

Balwire added: "This year marks 3years of financially and technically supporting the girls and young women empowerment project, and with this award we have the necessary impetus to keep fostering these girls to greater heights in the digital space."

Apps and Girls Founder and CEO, Carolyne Ekyarisiima said: "I am happy to see the progress that Apps and Girls is making on the global stage. We are proud to be awarded as global champions. Tigo's efforts have hugely contributed to this success. We hope this award will encourage girls and young women under the Jovia programme to work harder towards achieving their goals."

The overall winner of the 2023 WSIS PRIZES was announced and awarded on Tuesday March 14th 2023 in Geneva Switzerland during the 2023 WSIS forum organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD, in close collaboration with all

WSIS facilitators and other UN organisations.

The fact that the girls and young women empowerment initiative won among the WSIS best ICT projects, demonstrates Tigo's goal of empowering the girl child by providing support to further digital inclusion in Tanzania.

The Jovia Programme is a one to six-month programme of advanced IT and entrepreneurship training for unemployed and out of school underprivileged girls and young women. It targets girls and young women who cannot afford higher learning education or drop out of school due to socio-economic reasons.

The Jovia programme has impacted more than 14,965 girls and women. In addition, it has enabled over 270 unemployed and out of school girls and young women to access skills including advanced IT and entrepreneurship for them to create tech driven projects, establish their own tech-ventures and obtain formal employment in the ICT sector.



VACANCIES

FINANCE LEAD-NGARA

Position Summary:

Tembo Nickel is seeking to recruit a **Finance Lead** to join the Tembo Nickel Project Team. She/he will have responsibility for driving the project from the finance point of view including budgeting, cost allocation, governance, and reporting.

The successful candidate will report to the Site General Manager

Duty Station: Tembo Nickel Project Site- Ngara

Roster: 6/3

Duties and Responsibilities

- Play an integral part in the performance of the site project by providing a complete and fully functional financial service to all stakeholders.
- Lead and manage the finance team through hands-on management and applying industry best practices.
- Deliver all financial deliverables and reporting requirements once the associated deadlines are met.
- Facilitate the coordination of GM's integrated planning meetings.
- Timely and accurate submission of planning, management, and Capex deliverables including monthly performance reports.
- Assist the management in achieving the annual operating and project guidance such as cost control initiatives.
- Work closely with the project team to ensure governance on project management from planning, approvals, execution, closeout, and reporting of capital expenditure.
- Review capital expenditure and forecasts to ensure alignment with business strategy and to optimize return on investment.
- Work with the procurement process to ensure proper planning, purchasing, and distribution of project products in compliance with Tembo Nickel's financial and accounting policies.
- Keep the Site General Manager, HOD, and all budget holders informed and fully aware of all financial-related matters that may impact the business units on a daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual basis.
- Initiate, develop, implement, streamline, and maintain the necessary financial strategies, policies, and procedures within the company to effectively manage finances overall.
- Ensure financial governance, internal controls, and compliance with the Group's standards and reporting requirements are achieved in the specific timeline.
- Ensure legislative and corporate governance compliance requirements to manage risk.

Qualifications and Competencies

- University degree in Accounting and Finance, Economics, or another relevant field.
- At least Five (5) years of experience working on mega projects and financial management.
- CPA is a MUST

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT-DAR ES SALAAM

Position Summary:

Tembo Nickel is seeking to recruit a **Senior Accountant** to join the Tembo Nickel Project Team. She/he will be responsible for managing and supervising the finance processes of Dar es salaam and Site projects. The successful candidate will ensure that the daily financial tasks including end of month financial close process are timely and properly addressed in line with the reporting framework.

The successful candidate will report to the **GM-Finance**

Duty Station: Dar es salaam

Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide financial and administrative support in the design, implementation, and monitoring of project activities.
- Ensure that all day-to-day financial accounting tasks are performed regularly (e.g., reconciliation, reviews, documentation, filling, etc.)
- Ensure that the monthly financial close processes are done in line with the requirements set out per the financial close process.
- Verify the completeness and cut-off of accounting transactions loaded into the accounting systems.
- Ensure timely issuing of financial report pack for consolidation timely and accurately.
- Ensure Balance Sheet reconciliations are performed and verify whether follow-up procedures have been planned and performed.
- Identification of accounting issues and reporting the issues in line with documentation standards to the line Manager
- Provide support to the Annual and Half Year financial statement process that might require specific input for the group consolidation.
- Assist in the issuing of the monthly management accounts in accordance with the deadlines and procedures.
- Strictly apply the policies and procedures as set out and verify that these policies and procedures are applied and adhered to.
- Accept responsibility for ensuring compliance with the internal control framework.
- Oversee compliance of Tembo Nickel financial policy guidelines, policies, and procedures of the Government of Tanzania relating to all statutory requirements (PAYE, WHT, SDL, WCF, NSSF, HESLB) and any other income tax.

Qualification and Experience

- University degree in Accounting and Finance, Economics, or another relevant field.
- At least three (03) years of experience working on mega project and financial management.
- CPA is a MUST

How to Apply

Applicants are invited to send their resumes indicating the role title in the subject via email jobs@tembonickel.com. Application closing date is **30th March, 2023**

Note: We are committed to provide equal employment opportunities based on merits and we do not charge candidates any fees in the whole recruitment process.

Women are strongly encouraged to apply.

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Africa should provide clean water, sanitation while adapting to the climate emergency

WATER is life as the saying goes, but for many households across Africa finding their daily supply of clean water remains a struggle. They also face the risk of contracting water-borne illnesses like cholera and diarrhoea, which according to the WHO Health Organisation, remains a major killer but is largely preventable. Better water, sanitation, and hygiene could prevent the deaths of 297 000 children aged under 5 years each year. To add to their troubles climate change is heightening water and sanitation concerns as increasingly frequent storms, floods, and droughts threaten access to these critical services.

World Water Day is an annual United Nations (UN) observance day held on 22 March that highlights the importance of fresh water. The day is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The theme of each year focuses on topics relevant to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), which is in line with the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6. The UN World Water Development Report (WWDR) is released each year around World Water Day.

UN-Water is the convener for World Water Day and selects the theme for each year in consultation with UN organisations that share an interest in that year's focus. The theme for 2021 was "Valuing Water" and the public campaign invited people to join a global conversation on social media to "tell us your stories, thoughts and feelings about water".

In 2020, the theme was "Water and Climate Change". Previous themes for the years 2016 to 2019 were "Water and Jobs", "Why waste water?" "Nature for Water", and

"Leaving no one behind". World Water Day is celebrated around the world with a variety of events. These can be theatrical, musical or lobbying in nature. The day can also include campaigns to raise money for water projects. The first World Water Day, designated by the United Nations, was in 1993.

World Water Day is an international observance day. The intention is to inspire people around the world to learn more about water-related issues and to take action to make a difference. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an additional focus on hand washing and hygiene.

Relevant issues include water scarcity, water pollution, inadequate water supply, lack of sanitation, and the impacts of climate change (which is the theme of World Water Day 2020). The day brings to light the inequality of access to WASH services and the need to assure the human right to water and sanitation.

The World Water Day website announces events, activities and volunteer opportunities. In 2020, featured stories are about adapting to the water effects climate change and using water more efficiently.

UN-Water coordinates activities with UN member organisations who share an interest in that year's theme. UN-Water mobilises organisations of all kinds to action, whether globally or locally.

Non-governmental organisations active in the WASH sector, such as UNICEF, WaterAid and Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP), use the day to raise public awareness, get media attention for water issues and inspire action. Activities have included releasing publications and films, as well as organising round tables, seminars and expositions.

Forest sustainable management and their use of resources are key to combating climate change

A forest is an area of land dominated by trees. Hundreds of definitions of forest are used throughout the world, incorporating factors such as tree density, tree height, land use, legal standing, and ecological function. The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) defines a forest as, "Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10 percent, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ.

Forests are the predominant terrestrial ecosystem of Earth, and are found around the globe. More than half of the world's forests are found in only five countries: Brazil, Canada, China, Russia, and the United States.

Forests account for 75 per cent of the gross primary production of the Earth's biosphere, and contain 80 per cent of the Earth's plant biomass.

Human society and forests influence each other in both positive and negative ways. Forests provide ecosystem services to humans and serve as tourist attractions. Forests can also affect people's health. Human activities, including unsustainable use of forest resources, can negatively affect forest ecosystems.

Extensive research demonstrates that use of forests contributes to reducing stress and promoting more positive moods and feelings. In children, forests help to get healthy mental and social development.

When we drink a glass of water, write in a notebook, take medicine for a fever or build a house, we do not always make the connection with forests. And yet, these and many other aspects of our lives are linked to forests in one way or another.

Forest sustainable management and their use of resources are key to combating climate change, and to contributing to the prosperity and well-being of current and future generations. Forests also play a crucial role in poverty alleviation and in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Yet despite all these priceless ecological, economic, social and health benefits, forests are endangered by fires, pests, droughts, and unprecedented deforestation.

The theme for 2023 is "Forests and health."

Forests give us so much to our health. They purify the water, clean the air, capture carbon to fight climate change, provide food and life-saving medicines, and improve our well-being.

It's up to us to safeguard these precious natural resources.

This 2023 calls for giving, not just taking, because healthy forests will bring healthy people.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests in 2012 to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests. Countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns.

The organisers are the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with governments, the collaborative partnership on forests and other relevant organizations in the field.

A study from 43 000 households across 27 countries in Africa found that the dietary diversity of children exposed to forests was at least 25 per cent higher than that of children who were not.



Open letter to Liberia's opposition parties

By Gabriel I.H. Williams, and Emmanuel D. Abalo

D. Abalo

DEAR Liberia opposition parties and candidates, We, Gabriel I.H. Williams, and Emmanuel D. Abalo, former leaders of the Press Union of Liberia, herewith address this open letter to all opposition political parties and candidates as a call for collective action to prevent the rigging of the October 2023 presidential and general elections and avert imminent violence in Liberia. As Liberia descends into a state of chaos and instability while presidential and general elections are a few months away, this Open Letter is a call to all Liberian opposition parties and candidates to come together and devise a mechanism to ensure free and fair democratic elections.

Consultations are urgently needed to address serious concerns that Liberia's ongoing electoral process is being seriously compromised by actions of the government, which appears to be working in partisanship with the National Elections Commission (NEC), a body constitutionally mandated to supervise free and fair elections in keeping with internationally established democratic standards. Accordingly, the mechanism to be devised from such consultations should incorporate a roadmap to ensure that the electoral process is peaceful, free and fair, and the international community duly informed to engage the Liberian government in this regard. If this is not done as soon as possible, politically motivated violence could be the outcome with dire consequences for Liberian democracy.

This is why the urgency for consultation could not be more pressing, given growing public alarm in Liberia that the country is becoming a powder keg of political discontent. Our concerns that Liberia is gradually slipping into yet another state of political violence are based on but not limited to the following reasons: The three alleged failed attempts to assassinate the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, Her Honor Gloria Musu-Scott, and the last attempt in which her daughter was murdered by the assailants on February 23, 2023.

According to Justice Scott, who is also a former senator and a prominent political figure in the opposition Unity Party, her home was earlier attacked on February 8 and 9 by individuals who searched for documents in her residence and her vehicle, and that these terrifying incidents were reported to the police. The alleged attempted assassination of the former Chief Justice is the latest in a series of what appears to be politically motivated killings in which the culprits have yet to be brought to book, since the government of President George Weah came to power. We recall with alarm that in January 2023, the Liberia National Police announced the seizure of about 450 military-style weapons at the Freeport of Monrovia and parts of Montserrado County. Since then, the government has yet to announce the outcome of any investigation, amid growing public speculation and fear that the country is being saturated with arms. The weapon seizure followed pronouncements by the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) that certain individuals had contacted him to overthrow the democratically elected government of President George Weah, while the President was out of the country. Recent pronouncements by the AFL Chief of Staff and the Minister of National Defense give us reasons for grave concern that the AFL could once again be used



The four political leaders of the CPP (from left): Alexander B. Cummings (ANC), Benoni W. Urey (ALP), Senator Nyonblee Kargna Lawrence (LP), and former Vice President of Liberia, Joseph N. Boakai (UP)

by the government to terrorize and murder defenseless people as was the case in Liberia's recent evil past; example being the brutal regime of military ruler Samuel K. Doe.

We are also alarmed by the increasingly partisan role of the Liberia National Police (LNP), which is seen to be turning into nothing more than a lynch mob for the government. After months of delay, the results of the very poorly conducted national census was recently announced, while there has also been delay in the conduct of the voters' registration, which is critical to determine the number of eligible voters in the country.

As the election date approaches, many critical benchmarks to ensure credible democratic elections have not been met, while election guidelines and regulations are being flagrantly violated, such as the recent mass political rally held in Monrovia by the ruling party. Most disturbing is how the National Elections Commission (NEC) appears to be conducting its affairs as an extension of the ruling party and the government of President Weah, who is seeking re-election.

If the election process is interrupted due to disputes and other challenges, the country runs the risk of a major constitutional crisis. In keeping with the Liberian Constitution, the tenure of President Weah is to end in January 2024. What would happen if there were no elected government in Liberia before next January?

Whether President Weah would continue in office or an interim government would be put in place after the end of his tenure, there is a possibility of violence under these circumstances.

This is a matter of grave concern. And that is why we urge leaders of all registered political parties that are not part of the ruling coalition to designate representatives to a roundtable

gathering for the purpose of addressing the logistics of the elections. It is, therefore, our hope that this Open Letter would claim the urgent attention of Liberians who have declared their respective intentions to become presidential candidates in the October 2023 elections.

All registered political parties whose attention is urgently needed include the following: Unity Party (UP), Alternative National Congress (ANC), Liberty Party (LP), Liberian People's (LPP), All-Liberia Party (ALP), United People's Party (UPP), Liberia Action Party (LAP), Liberia National Union (LINU), Liberia Unification Party (LUP), All Liberian Coalition Party (ALCOP), New Deal Movement (NDM), and People's Liberation Party (PLP).

Liberia is like a ticking time-bomb. You can save our war-ravaged country from further bloodshed by acting collectively to institute a mechanism to ensure that the October 2023 elections are free, fair and peaceful. Best regards,

Water Week: It's race against time to give everyone this precious liquid

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

TANZANIA joins other countries to commemorate the World Water Day 2023, an occasion marked annually on every 22nd of March to observe the United Nations charter on the importance of water for the development of mankind.

In Tanzania, Water Day celebrations start one week before the climax day and it is popularly known as Water Week with the focus on accelerating change to solve water and sanitation issues.

Together, water access, sanitation and hygiene are referred to as (WASH) and Tanzania is experiencing a WASH crisis. The Joint Monitoring Programme—a global database on WASH around the globe—measures water access on a scale, with basic access being safe water which can be collected in a roundtrip of 30 minutes or less and about 40 per cent of Tanzanians rely on water that does not meet this standard.

Women and children traditionally bear the weight of the water problems in their communities, waking early to fetch water from faraway sources and making several trips each day.

Since Tanzania signed the UN charter, the country has been celebrating the occasion in a style which allows people to express their opinions regarding the implementation of various water projects in line with water policy and strategies towards ensuring that every citizen gets access to clean and safe water.

During Water Week, key stakeholders in water sector discuss pertinent issues pertaining to access and quality of the precious liquid to advocate for better services.

The government has invested billions of shillings annually for implementation of water projects across the country with some implemented to the letter but other face challenges hence delays and people continue to suffer.

The Ministry of Water has pledged to continue fulfilling the objectives of the government and President Samia Suluhu Hassan's mission of relieving women of the burden of fetching water

distant sources known in Kiswahili as kumtua mama ndoo kichwani.

In April 2021, President Samia told the National Assembly that she does not like to see women suffering to get water and insisted that water sources should effectively be utilized so as to bring water closer to people.

The government has disbursed 139bn/- under Covid-19 relief package to Rural Water and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) for the implementation of various projects and ease the burden in the rural areas.

Also, the government has bought five sets of well drilling machines through Covid-19 relief funds and four sets of ground water testing equipment to detect availability of water.

Apart from RUWASA, the Ministry of Water is also currently implementing a total of 177 water projects scattered in different villages to bring water closer to the people.

Minister for Water Jumaa Aweso says that upon completion of the ongoing projects, water service will reach majority of the population in the near future. Recently, the government signed an agreement to implement yet a 147.7bn/- project in Songea Municipality, Ruvuma Region.

The ruling CCM's election manifesto of 2020-2025 has set a goal of reaching 85 per cent of the rural population with clean and safe water by 2025 which is an election year. This means relevant authorities must hit the ground running since it is a race against time.

For the party to achieve that goal, it requires an average increase of 3.7 per cent of water service per year which demands an average of 550bn/- annually. Towards that end, the government is implementing various projects in cities, municipalities, towns and villages.

Some of the notable projects being implemented includes Lake Victoria project to supply water in Simiyu Region which is worth more than 400bn/- and the Arusha project being executed at the cost of 520bn/-.

Other are the construction of Farkwa Dam in Dodoma, Kidunda Dam in Morogoro, Lake Tanganyika water project in Katavi, Kigoma and Rukwa regions as well as Mwanza water project.

In June last year, the government



signed contracts with Indian companies for the implementation of projects aimed at improving access to clean and safe water in 28 towns of Tanzania mainland as well as Zanzibar.

The agreement was signed with five companies namely JW Infra Ltd, AFCONS Infrastructure Ltd, Larsen and Toubro, Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd, China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation and Jandu Plumbers Ltd.

A total of 1.2trn/- (US\$ 500 million) will be spent in the projects meant to increase access to clean and safe water in urban areas in line with the 95 per cent target set in CCM's election manifesto for 2020-2025.

The Ministry of Water has laid down legal and policy frameworks that seek to ensure the availability of clean and safe water to

underprivileged communities so as to improve their health as per the national water policy targets.

Through such programmes, water stakeholders in the country as well as the Department of Water Resources work together with the view to formulating various strategies that can help communities get clean and safe drinking water.

Statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics show that Tanzania has sufficient water resources to meet most of its present needs in both surface and underground sources.

About 7 per cent of Tanzania's land surface is covered by three natural lakes (all of them fresh water) namely Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa which are shared with other countries. Surface water resources in

the country consists of lakes, rivers, springs man-made reservoirs and natural ponds.

An inland lake includes Rukwa, Eyasi, Manyara as well as Lake Natron which is located in the Northern part of the country. There are also big rivers flowing to the lakes. Underground water is also another important source of water for both urban and rural settlement areas.

Also, about 50 per cent of the surface water is derived from the main rivers flowing directly to the Indian Ocean namely Pangani, Wami, Mkondoa, Ruvu, Rufiji, Ruaha, Kilombero, Mbarangandu, Matandu, Mbwemkuru, Likuledi and Ruvuma.

In order to protect these sources, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa recently issued a directive to town, district, municipal and city councils to abide by the regulations

Xi's visit to Russia conveys great significance, injects certainty and positive energy

By Bai Yunyi in Moscow and Chen Qingqing in Beijing

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's state visit to Moscow this week is expected to attract global attention as the visit - the first overseas visit of the Chinese top leader in 2023 following the two sessions - is described as a trip of friendship, cooperation and peace.

The visit, embodying the traditional friendship and conveying great significance, will deepen the strategic mutual trust and cooperation between China and Russia, and bring more certainty and positive energy to a turbulent world.

However, the US and its allies are viewing the upcoming visit through "tinted glasses" by distorting the nature of China-Russia relations, smearing China's possible role as a mediator in the Ukraine crisis and rejecting its calls for a ceasefire in the conflict.

Some Chinese and Russian observers believe that the question is whether the US and the West want a mediator now or they just want the Ukraine crisis to prolong as long as possible, using Ukraine as a pawn to weaken Russia and control Europe while maintaining its hegemony in the world.

At the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin, President Xi will pay a state visit to Russia from Monday to Wednesday. During the visit, Xi will have an in-depth exchange of views with Putin on bilateral relations and major international and regional issues of mutual interest, boost strategic coordination and practical cooperation between the two countries and inject new impetus into the growth of bilateral relations, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

The two leaders will also sign important bilateral documents including a declaration on ties entering a new era and another outlining plans to develop key areas of Russian-Chinese economic cooperation until 2030, some Russian media reported, citing the Kremlin's foreign policy adviser, Yury Ushakov.

While the world is closely observing the trip, some US officials and Western media have been badmouthing China's role as a possible peacemaker in the Ukraine crisis, continuing to hype on claim of China's shipment of lethal weapons to Russia's forces in Ukraine and casting doubt over China's neutral stance on the crisis.

Smear campaign

John Kirby, spokesperson for the US National Security Council, told reporters ahead of Xi's planned trip to Russia, that "We don't support calls for a ceasefire right now." He said a proposal from China could include some type of ceasefire, which would merely be a way for Russia to regroup before launching a reprisal, CNN reported on Friday.

Not only is the US worried about the deepening China-Russia relations, it also constantly smears China and rejects China's proposal for peace talks, which shows that Washington does not want peace as it only wants to continue using Ukraine as a



tool of weakening Russia and using the Ukraine crisis to engage in bloc-led confrontation, Zhang Hong, an associate research fellow at the Institute of Russian, Eastern European & Central Asian Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times on Sunday.

Although the US and some of its allies are skeptical about China's role and show "growing concerns" over the deepening China-Russia relations, some European countries such as France and Germany, which have been under the shadow of the crisis over the past year, are expecting China to play a bigger role in mediating the conflict, some experts said.

Russia will certainly trust China in playing the role of a mediator. The problem is that Ukraine and the West will not.

Therefore, China could hardly play a mediating role, Alexander Lukin, director of the Center for East Asian and

SCO Studies at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, told the Global Times.

At the early stage of the conflict Russian and Ukrainian delegations met each other directly. Now the sides don't talk to each other not because they are waiting for a mediator but because Ukraine refuses to start talks before Russia is defeated, Lukin noted.

"So to bring Kiev to the table one would need not to mediate but to press it into the talks. Or the situation has to change in a way that Ukrainian leaders stop thinking that defeating Russia is feasible," he said, noting that by providing Kiev with more weapons, the US and its allies work in an opposite direction.

A multipolar world

The China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era is based on independent foreign

policy, and the regular reciprocal visits of heads of states of Russia and China have been a tradition since mid-1990s said some Chinese and Russian experts.

The Chinese envoy to Russia also viewed such close interactions and exchange of views between the heads of state of the two countries as "the compass and anchor" of the development of bilateral relations.

"President Xi's state visit to Russia this time is a milestone for China-Russia relations in the new era. It will inject a strong impetus into bilateral relations and lead the sustained development of bilateral ties at a high level," Chinese Ambassador to Russia Zhang Hanhui told the Global Times in a recent interview.

Ten years ago, Xi's first overseas visit after being elected as the President was to Russia and during that visit, he elaborated for the first time on building a community of shared future for mankind. Wang Yiwei, director of the Institute of International Affairs at the Renmin University of China, told the Global Times on Sunday.

"Ten years later, Xi's first visit after being elected as president will be to Russia, which also fully underscored how much importance China attaches to China-Russia relations in the new era," Wang said, noting that the visit will convey milestone significance, setting an example for a new type of international relations.

"As two permanent members of the UN Security Council, China and Russia are responsible for advancing the course of a multipolar world, rejecting unilateralism and hegemony," Wang said, noting that it's important to enhance strategic coordination with Russia and remain vigilant on Washington to reproduce the Ukraine crisis in Asia.

Date: 21st March 2023.

Reference: PAT/EOI/OPS/01/2023 – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF ENGINEERING CONTRACTOR SUPPORT TO PANAFRICAN ENERGY TANZANIA LIMITED (PAET)

Services Required.

- (a) PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Ltd. a Producer, Distributor and Marketer of Natural Gas from the Songo Songo gas field in Kilwa District, Lindi Region hereby invites companies to express their interest to pre-qualify for the supply of the following Services under the terms of a Master Services Agreement (MSA) as a preferred contractor.
- (b) The contractor is required to provide conceptual front end development engineering support to PAET (A Subsidiary of Orca Energy Group) initially for planning ongoing project development of the gas chain business for the company in Tanzania. This covers upstream, midstream and downstream activities for which work will be carried out under the terms of an MSA.

The requirement is for Front-End Loading Stages 1 & 2 (FEL 1 & 2). Credit in the assessment will also be given to Contractors who can demonstrate capability to carry out Pre-FEED and FEED activities in the FEL 3 stage prior to project FID although this is not the primary purpose of this contract.

The required services will cover, as a minimum:-

1. FEL 1: Opportunity Assessment.

- 1.1. Technical validation of development opportunities across technical skills areas.
- 1.2. Generation and initial screening of options to provide concept evaluation in FEL 2.
- 1.3. Preliminary ranking of opportunities to identify criteria for evaluation in FEL 2.
- 1.4. Generation of concept reports and work scope definition for FEL stage 2.

2. FEL 2: Opportunity Assessment

- 2.1. Analysis of concepts developed in FEL 1 to confirm viability, benefits and costs of each case.
- 2.2. Cost, benefit, and risk analysis of each option.
- 2.3. Preliminary schedule development of each option.
- 2.4. Development of full project Statement of Requirements (SOR) / Basis of Design (BOD) for progress to FEL 3.
- 2.5. Provision of inputs to economic analysis to identify the preferred concept(s) to advance to the project development stage.
- 2.6. Preparation of decision support packages and management presentations for stage gate decisions.
- 2.7. Preparation of work scopes and tendering packages for Pre-FEED and FEED contracts.

3. FEL 3: Project Definition (Optional)

- 3.1. Completion of full basic engineering to define project for execution.
- 3.2. Cost and schedule estimation to sanction (FID) quality level.
- 3.3. Constructability review to identify construction issues that can have significant impact on design, cost and schedule.
- 3.4. Initial Project Execution plan for selected option.
- 3.5. Assessment of key project risks and development of initial mitigation plans.
- 3.6. Preparation of input for FID decision support package (Economics & Risk).
- 3.7. Engineering Resource Plan - To identify all engineering resources needed for the project.
- 3.8. Scope of Services - Detail of the services that will be required for Detail Design.
- 3.9. Long Lead items list for procurement commitments at FID.

4. Primary technical capabilities required

- 4.1. Understanding of subsurface uncertainties and their impact on wells and facilities front end conceptual engineering.
- 4.2. Facilities design covering gathering and processing facilities, infield flowlines and export pipelines in onshore and offshore settings.
- 4.3. Geotechnical analysis for design and installation of onshore and offshore structures.
- 4.4. Subsea engineering in shallow marine and transition zone settings.
- 4.5. Design and build of low pressure gas distribution networks in urban settings.
- 4.6. Definition and evaluation of both brownfield and greenfield projects for upstream oil and gas field development.

Specific engineering competencies required:

- 4.7. Process design including optimal process flow sheets, process flow diagrams (PFDs) based on closed heat and material balances (H&MBs).
- 4.8. Instrument and control system design including Control Philosophy and control system specification (eg DCS / PLC) including relief valve sizing and specification.
- 4.9. Rotating equipment design, sizing and equipment specification.
- 4.10. Electrical and utilities philosophies, sizing and design to meet facility needs.
- 4.11. Complete, sized equipment lists detailing capacity, duty, dimensions, materials of construction, operating pressure, and temperature (including major utility and infrastructure equipment), Data sheets for long-lead equipment.
- 4.12. General arrangement drawings, equipment layouts and plot plans.
- 4.13. Development of Operations and Maintenance philosophies.
- 4.14. Conduct of HAZID and HAZOP studies and application of corrective action to reach final design approval.

5. Capability to be demonstrated

- 5.1. Interested parties will be required to provide evidence of prior experience in each of the areas defined above
- 5.2. Experience of projects in Africa is desired and contractors should highlight their expertise of delivering conceptual and Front End Studies across the full gas chain

(c) This call for EOI signifies the start of an open, transparent, and objective pre-qualification process to bid for the services described. Selection of the preferred contractor will be based on the result of the pre-qualification process and contractors who have not completed the prequalification process will not be considered for award on an MSA.

(d) Parties are invited to notify PAET of their interest in taking part in the prequalification process in order to receive the package to complete for submission.

(e) Potential Bidders should be well-established and reputable companies and shall indicate that they are willing, capable, experienced, and competent in supplying the said Services preferably to the Oil & Gas Industries and or the Mining Industry. Failure to indicate clearly may result in disqualification.

(f) As part of the prequalification process potential bidders will be required to submit information to demonstrate their technical competency and relevant experience. As a minimum, this must include the following:

- (i) Proof of experience in providing said Services preferably in the Oil & Gas industry and or Mining Industry.
- (ii) Proven relevant technical capability.
- (iii) Proof of QHSE standards, i.e., Certificates of registration with a recognised institutions such as ISO standards for quality, health, safety, and environment, Safety Management System with the following; Company HSE Policy and Compliance Certificates, Incident/Accident reporting procedure, safety statistics for three years, risk assessment of operations, Safety plans, appointed safety professionals, representatives and committee, accident / incident investigation process, flight crew trainings and intervals of trainings, management of change process and safety assurance program.
- (iv) Proof of financial capability (provide latest approved audited financial statements for the past 3 years) and a Comfort Letter from your Bank.
- (v) Current Certification, ratings and credentials for the Contractor.
- (vi) Current approved ESG policy for international companies. (For Local companies this will be an added advantage)
- (vii) Completion of screening pack Checklist provided by Company.
- (g) All correspondence regarding this enquiry shall be in writing and communicated by e-mail via the emails provided below, otherwise the potential bidder may be disqualified from tendering at the sole discretion of PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Limited.
- (h) Interested Parties may obtain full EOI Pre-Qualification package by writing to the email addresses given below.
- (i) All submissions must be considered 'commercial in confidence'. Documents should be password protected, with passwords submitted via separate email.

(j) Deadline for notification of interest is on **Tuesday, 4th April 2023 at 2pm, EAT**. Any EOI submitted after the deadline will be disqualified.

(k) Deadline for submission of prequalification package is on **Friday, 21st April 2023 at 2pm, EAT**. Any submission made after this deadline will be disqualified.

Physical EOI / prequalification package to be delivered to the following address:

PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Limited Offices in Oysterbay, Oyster Plaza, 5th Floor, Haile Selassie Road, P.O. Box 80139, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Attn. Bizimana Ntuyabaliwe, Deputy Managing Director.

Electronic EOI / prequalification package to be sent to the following emails: (bntuyabaliwe@panafricanenergy.com) and a copy to (rmohale@panafricanenergy.com) and (erasmi.inyase@panafricanenergy.com) on the last day of submission.

Press freedom still remains an illusion in today's Afghanistan

By Gie Goris

EVERY year, Afghan journalists celebrate their national day on 18 March. This year, there is little reason to party, because of general restrictions, increasing intimidation and a recent attack on journalists. However, at a unique gathering in Brussels, Afghan journalists showed resilience.

"I have always felt good at my desk," says Seyar Sirat. "I am rather introverted by nature, and so spending hours in front of my screen for TOLO News was a blessing rather than a curse. Until 15 August 2021, when the world of Afghanistan began to crumble. But even that morning, I continued to work with concentration until the moment the news arrived that President Ashraf Ghani had left the country. That was the moment some people burst into tears. That was the moment I left."

Sirat tells his story at the first international gathering of Afghan journalists since the day Kabul fell. Some journalists were able to come over from Afghanistan, a journalist travelled from various European countries where they now live and try to work. And where they have to try to build a second life, "like newborn babies", as Sirat puts it. In a new language, in a foreign context, but with intense and family ties to the homeland. And with deep, mental scars.

"The road to Kabul airport was a one-way street," Sirat observes visibly emotional. "We couldn't go back. Not to pick up clothes, computer or notebooks. Not to go back to work or old life. Those three days and nights around and at the airport are the most tragic and traumatic moments of my life."

Dead and injured

There is no shortage of trauma, among Afghan journalists. A colleague from the north of the country informed me of this just a few days ago that on 11 March, in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif, there was an attack on a meeting of local journalists from various media. The toll was heavy: three dead and 30 injured, including 16 journalists. The Afghanistan Journalists Centre confirms. The attack, meanwhile, was claimed by IS-KP, the local branch of Islamic State.

After the attack in Mazar-e-Sharif, a number of journalists ended up in hospital. Even there, they were not reassured by the armed representatives of the current rulers. "They should have killed you all," they heard from the Taliban, who had to guard and protect them.

In his opening address to the meeting of Afghan journalists in Brussels on 15 March, EU Special Envoy for Afghanistan Tomas Niklasson also referred to that recent tragedy and put it in the broader context of a dramatic deterioration of human rights and rule of law since the Taliban took power. He cited the recent report by UN Special Rapporteur Richard Bennett, who was able to document

245 cases of press freedom violations since August 2021. These include not only attacks, but also arrests, arbitrary detention, physical violence, beatings and torture. 'Most of you will say that this figure is an underestimate,' Niklasson said. All the journalists present nodded.

Lost space

The trauma does not begin for everyone on 15 August 2021. 'At least 120 journalists from home and abroad have been killed in Afghanistan over the past 20 years,' Hujatullah Mujadidi, director of the Afghan Independent Journalist Union, noted in his opening remarks to the meeting. 'Afghanistan had 137 TV stations, 346 radio stations, 49 news agencies and 69 print media until two years ago. Together, these accounted for 12,000 jobs. Little of that remains. 224 media platforms meanwhile closed their doors and at least 8,000 media workers - including 2,374 women - lost their jobs.'

'We had finally created space for ourselves after centuries of restrictions,' says Somaia Walizadeh, a journalist who was able to flee the country. "That space has been taken away from us again. Of the few media that were founded, run and nurtured by women, a few still exist. But even there, men now call the shots." Reporters Without Borders states that in half of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, not a single female journalist is still employed and more than eighty percent of female journalists are out of work. RSF also estimates that 40 per cent of media platforms have ceased to exist and 60 per cent of all media workers became unemployed after August 2021. No wonder, then, that some 1,000 journalists have already fled abroad.

The heart of the problem

Those who want to do real and independent journalistic work in Afghanistan come up against one difficulty after another. "It was never easy to get reliable information," says Somaia Walizadeh. "but today it is quasi-impossible."

According to her colleague Abid Ihsas, who remains active in Afghanistan, this has to do with the fact that journalists on the ground face Taliban fighters 'who do not know or recognise the importance of independent media.' But it doesn't stop there, he says, because the entire administration under the current authorities is extremely centralised and hierarchised. 'Every detail and every shred of information has to be approved and released by a higher authority every time.'

But the real root of the problem, according to Ihsas, lies in the deliberately created ambiguity. There is a 10-point regulation - which is very vague - but no real media law. 'It is never clear what is allowed according to the authorities and what is not. Ultimately, it depends on the moment and the person in front of you. Usually, the rules are communicated verbally and ad hoc.'



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PanAfrican Energy is currently looking to recruit a Receptionist who will ensure the company gets professional front desk services to its clients, guests and co-workers including administrative support as required.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

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- Respond to incoming calls timely and forward in a professional manner.
- Ensure cost effective management of office stationery, consumable, monitor levels and inform Office Administrator of need to re-order as necessary.
- Ensure general cleanliness & tidiness of the office.
- Review newspapers for coverage of relevant issues, scan and e-mail to management of PAET and ORCA.
- Ensure phone system, printers, photocopies are up and always running and have paper and toner.
- Responsible for preparing of all local purchasing orders
- Update telephone extension numbers in case of any change
- Maintenance of the boardroom, including ensuring meeting support (communications, tea breaks, lunch, etc) as required

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- Minimum high school education with Diploma in front office
- Experience within the same field of at least 2 years
- Telephone operations skills
- Active listening
- Computer, Interpersonal and attention to details skills
- Verbal and written communication skills in both Swahili and English

Please submit your updated CV and contact details, and a Cover Letter explaining why you should be considered for the internship programme with PAET, no later than **24th March 2023** to:

The Human Resources Manager PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Limited
Oyster Plaza, 5th Floor, Haile Selassie Street PO Box 80139
Dar es Salaam
or
HR@panafricanenergy.com

Two years on: Tanzanian farmers laughing all the way to the bank

By Guardian Reporter

DELIBERATE measures to improve farming including the introduction of fertiliser subsidies programs during President Samia Suluhu Hassan's two-year tenure have seen farmers laughing all the way to the bank.

Mubaraka Mtengwa, a pineapple farmer from Fukayosi Kiwanga village, Bagamoyo District, Coast Region, says that after the government provided subsidized fertiliser, he has been able to cultivate larger tracts of land compared to previous farming seasons thus improving his venture and maximizing his income.

"Last year, I spent 18m/- on fertiliser to cultivate 20 acres of pineapple, but I ended up cultivating only two acres because the prices of fertiliser were very high," Mtengwa says.

The farmer notes that through the subsidized fertiliser programme, he has been able to buy 30 bags of fertiliser to start as he continues to prepare other areas for farming.

Mustapha Mbwambo, onion farmer from Mang'ola area, Karatu District, Arusha Region says that it has been a huge relief since the government started implementing the fertiliser subsidy programme for farmers during the 2022/23 farming season.

Mbwambo, who also grows maize, beans, and vegetables, adds that when they started the season in June, 2022, the cost of fertiliser was very high and affected yields since one acre of onion needs 12 bags of fertiliser.

"But, the introduction of the fertiliser subsidy programme has reduced the burden by more than half the cost of production and enabled us to increase cultivation areas," he says.

President Samia launched the fertiliser subsidy program on August 8th, 2022 during the Nanenane Festival (Farmers' Day) in Mbeya region, and asked the Ministry of Agriculture through Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) to start the implementation of the program on August 15, 2022.

Dr Stephan Ngailo, TFRA executive director, says that following the increase in the price of fertiliser on the world market, the government allocated 150bn/- to subsidize the key farming input for the 2022/2023 farming season.

He says that during the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 fiscal years, the cost of fertiliser was between 110,000 and 150,000/- per bag, depending on the distance.

The government subsidy program has eased the burden on farmers as of now the price is at 70,000/- per bag of Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Urea, 60,000/- and 50,000/- per bag of calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN) and sulphate of ammonia (SA) respectively.

Dr Ngailo also said that the government has been encouraging more investors to establish fertiliser manufacturing plants in the country to address the shortage taking into account that Tanzania depends on imported fertiliser by 90 percent.

He, however, said that in ensuring that the objectives of granting subsidies are achieved, including benefiting real farmers, enhancing efficiency, and reducing loopholes for fraud, corruption, and time and management costs, the government decided to use a digital system to implement the fertiliser subsidy



program for the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

He says: "The system uses a special digital platform to coordinate all grant implementation activities starting from the identification of members including importers and producers of fertiliser, traders, farmers and types of fertiliser that will be in the subsidy program; coordinate distribution; sale of fertilizer to farmers; and fertiliser subsidy payments."

Dr Ngailo notes that until February 2023, 28 fertiliser importers, 3 producers, and fertiliser distributors, who will be used to distribute fertiliser in all 26 regions of Mainland Tanzania, have been registered.

"As of February this year, the authority in collaboration with local government authorities (LGAs) registered 3,264,440 farmers who have all the criteria to benefit from subsidized fertiliser," he adds.

On the increase in fertiliser factories and their suppliers, Dr Ngailo explains that due to the political will and commitment of President Samia, there are 17 factories that produce various types of fertiliser and their auxiliaries.

Out of 17 factories, 3 factories produce fertiliser supplements—lime and gypsum in Dodoma and Tanga regions, and 14 factories make grain and liquid fertiliser.

President Samia has been encouraging the private sector to invest in fertiliser manufacturing and at the moment an investor from Burundi is in the final stages of the construction of the Itracom Fertiliser LTD factory in Nala area on the outskirts of Dodoma town.

The plant has already started production of 200,000 tonnes per year and after completion of the plant, the factory will produce 1,000,000 tonnes of fertiliser and 300,000 tonnes of lime and thus help to reduce the dependence of imported fertiliser.

According to Ngailo, the authority is constructing a fertiliser laboratory which, as of February 2023, its construction has reached 95 percent.

"The presence of the fertiliser laboratory will increase efficiency in the implementation of the authority's responsibilities and is expected to be used by neighboring countries such as Malawi, Zambia, DRC, Burundi, and Rwanda and thus add to government coffers," he says.

Joseph Charos, TFRA's director for domestic manufacturing and bulk procurement says that for the 2020/2021 financial year, the availability of fertiliser was 546,818 tonnes, while the consumption was 475,870 tonnes, and

until January 2023, the availability of fertiliser in the country has increased to 678,528 tonnes, 102 percent of the fertiliser demand in the country, where the consumption is estimated to be 667,730 tonnes by June 2023 when the farming season comes to an end.

Happiness Mbele, TFRA's control services director, says that the fertiliser control systems have been strengthened to ensure that farmers get the best fertiliser at affordable prices and on time.

Within two years of President Samia's tenure, she says that control has been made possible following the increase in the number of fertiliser inspectors in the country, registering fertiliser dealers, and providing regular training on the operating system of the fertiliser business.

She adds that from 2012 until now there are 140 fertiliser inspectors from TFRA offices and district councils.

In addition, she says 59 out of 140 extension officers received inspection training and are waiting to be announced in the government gazette so that they can continue with the responsibility of controlling fertiliser quality. The director says that another success in the fertiliser industry under the leadership of President Samia is the increase in fertiliser dealers

in the country.

Mbele explains that following the presence of a friendly business environment in the country, the number of fertiliser dealers has increased from 1,691 dealers in 2020/2021 to 4,776 dealers in February 2023.

She says: "This is a great success as it increases the supply of the product to farmers." Other successes, according to Mbele, include the increase in the use of fertiliser where they have increased from 426,550.41 tonnes in 2021/2022 to more than 667,730 tonnes in 2022/2023 where it is still the farming season and the demand for fertiliser in the market continues.

She also noted that the increase is due to the implementation of the fertiliser subsidy program which encouraged farmers to increase their agricultural areas and education and the correct use of fertiliser provided by the authority to farmers to enable them to increase productivity in their agriculture.

TFRA's director for corporate services, Victoria Elangwa explains that, two years ago, the authority had only one office which was the authority's headquarters in Dar es Salaam, which was taking a long time for stakeholders to get services that would have taken them less time if they

had an office in neighboring areas and where they do their activities.

She says within two years of President Samia, the authority managed to open five regional offices—the southern highlands region (Mbeya), the eastern region (Dar es Salaam), the central region (Tabora), the northern region (Arusha) and Lake Region (Mwanza).

TFRA's information and communication technologies (ICT) manager, Robert Mtemdamema explains that in two years the authority has succeeded in improving the service delivery system for its stakeholders where all services are provided through the Fertiliser Information System (FIS).

He explains that the system serves stakeholders including those who need to register to do fertiliser trading, register new fertiliser, new importers of fertiliser and those who submit applications for permits to issue and import fertiliser in the country where previously all services were provided by an analog system and thus use long and involve travel to complete stakeholder requirements.

These achievements lead to Agenda 10/30, which aims to attain an impressive 10 percent annual growth rate for the sector that is the livelihood for some 65 percent of Tanzanians. The target should be met by 2030. The current growth rate is a mealy 2 percent while the government's five-year development plan projects the growth at 5.7 percent by 2025.

BBT brings hope for youth employability

By Guardian Reporter

ONE of the biggest challenges and cry from Tanzanians and young people in general is unemployment. This cry is getting louder particularly citing the report of the National Statistics Office for the year 2021 indicating that 56 percent of the nationals are young people, yet able to work.

However, among them, a large percentage of young people are unemployed, a situation that increases the great concern for creativity in employing them to enable the country to take further steps in development.

That is why when President Samia Suluhu Hassan spoke to the university students (youth) in the country earlier this year, she emphasized to them to make good use of the existing land in the country to cultivate crops, which economically would improve their livelihoods.

President Samia's statement is based on the fact that Tanzania is one of the countries bordering more than eight countries that do not have vast fertile land to produce enough crops and even export.

In quick analysis, in the wake of Covid-19, the countries found themselves going

for quarantine to contain the epidemic in 2020, and that interfered with their food production let alone the increasing demand that faced the whole world.

Studying the situation, President Samia thought of mobilizing Tanzanians to embrace the Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT) project, especially as a youth employment initiative that would make them economically address their woes.

When the Prime Minister launched the project on August 3, 2022 at the Nane Nane Farmers' Day exhibition held at the John Mwakangale in Mbeya, a large percentage of Tanzanians were left with questions as to how the project would be implemented.

But with the will, courage and creativity of the Minister of Agriculture, Hussein Bashe, the project aims at increasing the participation of young people in agriculture by providing them with training, farmland, capital and connecting them with market, has now become a refuge for many Tanzanians in raising them economically.

That fact was confirmed on February 23 this year after some 20,227 young people came forward to apply for the BBT program in

the first phase window that opened in January this year.

In this phase, a total of 812 young people estimated as 4 percent got a chance to start the four-month training that started on March 17 this year.

According to the Minister of Agriculture, Hussein Bashe, BBT is a programme implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture with the aim of enabling young people to participate in agricultural activities through the block farms scheme.

An eight-year programme (2022-2030) BBT will be implemented throughout the country in cooperation between the government, development partners and the private sector. It is one of the most important programmes in the agricultural sector to achieve the goals of growing the industry by 10 percent by 2030 considering that more than 56 percent of the country's workforces are young people with an average age of 18 years according to the National Population and Housing Census of 2022.

In the BBT program, the ministry has identified 162,492 acres of land for cultivation in the implementation of the programme in different regions.

For example, in Mbeya re-



gion - Chunya district they have been allocated (52,165 acres); Dodoma region, Chamwino district (17,000 acres) and Bahi district (3,600 acres); Kagera region of Misenyi and Karagwe (3,227 acres); and Kigoma Region covering Uvinza and Kasulu district allocating (86,500 acres) have been set aside.

Bashe says the implementation of the BBT through block farms will start in Dodoma region through the Chinangali II farm with a total of 400 acres, before being taken to block farms of young people to be trained through the training center in Bihawana for about three months to enable them engage in agricultural activities professionally and efficiently.

He says that in order to implement the programme effectively, the Ministry through the Agricultural Inputs Fund (AGITF) has established a service of grants and loans with low interest to enable young people and women to participate in the agricultural sector by addressing the financial or capital challenge.

In addition, he says the ministry through the BBT Programme would like to invite investors with the ability and willingness to apply to invest in these fields as farmers to stimulate investment by producing crops, increasing the value of crops or providing marketing services.

"Those investors will be given land to cultivate approximately 1,000 - 20,000 acres for long-term lease in those Block farms.

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES OF BBT

Bashe says the strategic goal of BBT is to motivate young people by implementing a strategy to change behavior, attitude and old perception in agriculture and in doing so; it will involve building their capacity through practical training and advice.

It also aims at involving the youth in the management of profitable and sustainable agricultural businesses, empowering them in businesses by improving their agriculture business environment and effectively through coordinating programme to support them professionally.

In addition, he says the beneficiaries are young people where a total of 12,000 of them from rural areas will be empowered to start agricultural busi-

nesses in the program.

He says 200,000 young people will qualify in training on the best methods of agriculture, entrepreneurship on the best ways to preserve crops, financial management and training to increase the value of crops where 20,000 of them will participate in practical training programs and professional advice.

IMPLEMENTATION

He says that the project will be implemented by establishing special areas for young people who are in agriculture business to facilitate access to agricultural land, as well as the classification of areas that will be improved by infrastructure and divided into nursery farms for them, where in particular more than 77,000 hectares of land of irrigation will be allocated for them through various schemes/plans.

He added that practical training will be provided with the aim of giving young people skills in agricultural business as well as advising and training them by experts with international and local experience in agricultural business.

It will be established as a BBT-YIA Youth fund which will begin to mobilize the collection of at least 72bn/-the fund expects to handle and finance more than 15,000 capital applications for start-up businesses but also the coordination of youth programs at the national level through the Ministry of Agriculture and Development of the National Association of Youth in Agricultural Business

PROGRAM RESULTS

Bashe says that the program will enable young people to change their negative perceptions on agriculture and see it as a business and show them the opportunities available in the agricultural value chain and enable them to get agricultural land developed for production.

He adds that it will enable the young people to get loans, start-up capital and other financial services, to create an enabling policy environment for them to fully participate in the agricultural business and more so implement the ideas and instructions of President Samia in creating jobs for eight million young people and women by 2030.

It will be remembered that on March 17 this year when President Samia launched.

Destruction of properties, arrests in EFF's shutdown protests

CAPE TOWN

AFTER days of anticipation and considerable hype and threats of coercion, the EFF's protest - a planned shutdown of the country - unfolded on yesterday morning. The protest, against rolling blackouts and President Cyril Ramaphosa, among other things, took place a day before Human Rights Day and effectively turned the weekend into a four-day break for many. By mid-morning, 87 people had been arrested and there were sporadic reports of violence and intimidation, with law enforcement officers highly visible in hot spots around the country.

National

Law enforcement officers had arrested 87 protesters around the country by 9am, for public violence-related offences, the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (NatJoins) said yesterday morning.

Of the 87 arrested, 41 were in Gauteng, 29 in North West and 15 in the Free State, NatJoins confirmed. Other arrests had been made in Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape.

Additionally, 24,300 tyres had been confiscated by law enforcement. This comes after various community police forums and neighbourhood watches said they had noticed car tyres that had been dumped in certain areas before the planned shutdown, potentially to block roads.

"6,000 [tyres] were seized in the Western Cape, 4,500 in the Free State, 3,600 in Gauteng, 1,513 in the Eastern Cape and a few in other provinces... These were tyres that were strategically placed for acts of criminality," NatJoins said.

Limpopo

A bus belonging to a Limpopo government-owned company, Great North Transport, was attacked, allegedly by a group of EFF supporters, at Blood River village outside Polokwane as it was ferrying passengers to town. The bus was pelted with stones, forcing it to a halt.

Company spokesperson Patrick Monkoe said the driver suffered minor injuries and was taken to hospital for observation. "He will later on open a case at Seshego police station."

At the time of publication a police report on the incident was pending.

In the Polokwane city centre, taxis, buses were operating normally, with shops having opened and those commuting to work doing so undisturbed, a Daily Maverick reporter on the ground reported, adding that "it is business as usual". A heavy police presence and taxi operators manning the streets to ensure law and order were the only things out of the ordinary.

It was a slightly different sight in EFF leader Julius Malema's hometown, Seshego, which is also one of the party's strongholds as it currently has eight wards. At about 8am, a Daily Maverick reporter visited Luthuli Park, just 1km from Malema's home. "A group of EFF supporters have barricaded the road at Luthuli Park, an extension of Seshego, with burning tyres, stones and other objects.

"Police have just arrived, a police chopper is hovering, monitoring the situation. We can see the police cocking their guns, it seems they are ready to fire rubber bullets."

The JSE opened for trade as usual at 9am and was slightly lower at mid-morning. Company announcements on its SENS feed were being issued as on any other trading day - in other words, South Africa's financial heart was not shut down.

Traffic flows into the Sandton CBD were quiet, which was probably a function of yesterday being a school holiday and many people taking a long weekend because of the Tuesday Human Rights Day holiday. But businesses around Sandton such as petrol stations and grocery stores were operating.

"About 200 protesters are currently moving from Alexandra towards Sandton. It is unclear at the moment as to their destination. All services are present around locations in Sandton and we will update as it develops," the Sandton Community Policing Forum reported at 9.45am.



A helicopter circles as smoke rises from Dube village in Kwamashu. (Photo: Gallo Images / Darren Stewart)

According to its website, scheduled flights were arriving and departing at OR Tambo International Airport.

A heavy police contingent remained on standby to guard the national keypoint in anticipation of the shutdown.

In Johannesburg, various roads were clear of protest action with traffic proceeding on Monday morning. Some shops in the CBD remained closed while the high court moved cases to virtual platforms. In Sandton, most businesses were operating, but the streets were mostly quieter than during a normal day of work. On Marlboro Drive, about 15 EFF supporters were peacefully marching alongside two police vehicles. A Randburg resident remarked: "Nothing is shut down."

The situation in several parts of Soweto was also calm, with major roads operating optimally. However, a few incidents were reported to law enforcement officials in the early hours.

Police Minister Bheki Cele was in Soweto assessing the damage to the house of Soweto Parliament leader Nhlanihla Lux, which had allegedly been bombed early in the morning. A few neighbouring houses were also damaged during the "bomb attack".

Cele said no one was injured during the attack but a young girl required counselling. Lux was not at the home when the attack took place, having announced early on that he would be out and about to ensure there was no shutdown.

At 9.30am, Bus operator Putco announced it had temporarily suspended some of its operations due to intimidation.

"Buses were stoned and damaged in the Braamfischer area, passengers were forced to flee and the bus was abandoned. In Eldorado Park, staff buses couldn't access the Vaal areas for picking up drivers [and] as a result buses from Nancefield depot couldn't operate. A bus belonging to a patch subcontractor was stoned by protesters in the same area. In Soshanguve, a bus was hijacked, the female driver was pushed out of the bus and it was used to block a road in Dennilton, but police

quickly recovered it and it was taken back to the local depot," Putco said.

The flagship rally for the EFF was building up outside the Union Buildings in Pretoria at the time of publication.

KwaZulu-Natal

Police and law enforcement as well as private security were out in force in the Durban CBD, prepared for any eventuality to avoid a repeat of the July 2021 unrest that turned violent.

The city centre was quiet, but some food outlets were open, including along the route of the planned EFF march along West Street later yesterday. Daily Maverick reporters said about 200 supporters were present. Most of the foreign-owned shops were closed, with only a few risking doing business. Some people took the opportunity to go to the beach and have an extended long weekend.

Scores of police officers, their counterparts from the Durban Metro Police and security guards - some wearing plainclothes but communicating on walkie-talkies - waited for the marchers at every intersection. Some officers and private security personnel were in armoured vehicles on the front, on the side and at the back of the EFF march.

Before leading the march from the EFF's KZN provincial office in the Berea area, EFF secretary-general Marshal Dlamini told the marchers that they must not be intimidated by the strong presence of the police and security guards: "Today we are going to take control of Durban. We will also be going to Phoenix after the march to see how the situation pans out there."

Phoenix is the predominantly Indian township north of Durban which erupted into racial violence during the July 2021 unrest, resulting in the death of 33 Africans and three Indians.

In Chatsworth, south of Durban, there was protest action by EFF supporters on Sunday night, ahead of the planned shutdown, with reports of vehicles being stoned. However, the area was quiet Monday morning. Roads had been cleared and

police officers were out in their numbers.

The Cape Town city centre was quiet yesterday morning, with not a red beret in sight. As Daily Maverick's Rebecca Davis previously laid out here, because Tuesday, 21 March is a public holiday, many people have taken yesterday off to have their first long weekend of the year. Yesterday was also a special school holiday, since today is Human Rights Day.

At about 8.45am, Daily Maverick reporters in Cape Town noted a heavy police presence, particularly around the Keizersgracht area and Bree Street, but taxis and buses appeared to be running as normal. Delft, Nyanga and Cape Town International Airport were also quiet as of 9.45am. Daily Maverick reporters noted a heavy police presence at Borchers Quarry.

On Friday, the Western Cape High Court granted an urgent interdict ordering the EFF and its supporters not to disrupt, harm or threaten people and businesses as part of the planned shutdown.

The application for an interdict was filed by the City of Cape Town and Western Cape premier Alan Winde last week, and applies to the province.

Cape Town mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis said that while the City "fully recognises" the right to democratic protest, this did not extend to threatening the rights and freedoms of others.

Speaking to Daily Maverick reporters at about 10am yesterday, EFF Western Cape chairperson, Unathi Ntame said marchers would head to Cape Town CBD at 11am.

Eastern Cape

No major incidents were reported in the Eastern Cape by mid-morning.

Nelson Mandela Bay mayor Retief Odendaal said protesters had managed to close two roads with burning tyres, but an attempt to close a major highway had been halted by the police. At 10am a protest started at the Boardwalk Mall. The police, neighbourhood watches and security firms were out in full force. Municipal services such as rubbish collection were uninterrupted.

Protesting rolling blackouts

The shutdown comes days after the appointment of an electricity minister, Kgosisentso Ramokgopa, tasked with reducing the severity and frequency of rolling blackouts and the overall electricity crisis.

On Sunday, Eskom announced that owing to an improvement in generation capacity, load shedding would remain suspended for the remainder of Sunday and resume at Stage 1 from 4pm, then raised to Stage 2 until today morning.

The EFF immediately claimed this as a victory, attributing it to its call for a national shutdown.

"One of the major successes of the National Shutdown, before it even began, is that it has drastically decreased the stages of load shedding. It is because of the National Shutdown that South Africa has moved from Stage 4 to Stage 1 over the past four days, and was even suspended yesterday," said EFF national spokesperson Sinawo Tambo.

"The economy has come to a standstill because they too are tired of Ramaphosa's lies. He and the ANC said it is business as usual yet businesses are closed, meaning workers and the people of South Africa refused to listen to the lies." **DM**

By Rudzani Tshivhase, Velani Ludidi, Bheki Simelane, Estelle Ellis, Ed Stoddard, Nonkululeko Njilo, Victoria O'Regan and Chris Makhaye

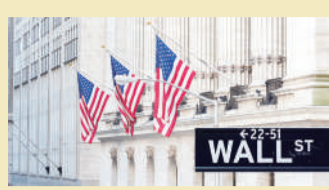


EFF supporters on the Inanda highway in Kwamashu. (Photo: Gallo Images / Darren Stewart)



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Tanzania-India set to increase multi-sectoral diplomatic engagement

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

INDIA is set to increase its investments in Tanzania in various sectors with focus on technology and engineering sectors.

Already, several reputed companies from the Asian country are operating in the country in engineering and allied projects.

This emerged in Arusha at the weekend during a business forum organized by the High Commission of India in association with Tanzania-India Business Forum (TIBF) and local business stakeholders.

India High Commissioner to Tanzania Mr Binaya Srikanta Pradhan said his country's investments will extend to ICT and the mining sector.

According to him, India is currently the fifth largest economy in the world and that it has a fairly developed technology sector.

India is the third trading partner of Tanzania and currently one of the leading investors in the country with investments totalling US\$3.7 billion.

However, he insisted that advancement of technologies, engineering and industrial development will define the coming investments.

"Our investments will extend to the

agriculture, mining and pharmaceutical sectors", he told over hundred business stakeholders at an Arusha hotel.

Besides high ranking officials of the Indian High Commission to Tanzania and TIBF, the symposium attracted business captains from various local business bodies.

They included the East African Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (EACCIA) and the Arusha chapter of Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA).

Mr Pradhan added that several reputed Indian companies are already operating in Tanzania in the engineering and allied sectors.

These include L&T, Megha Engineering and Afcons which are implementing water projects in the Mainland and Zanzibar under Government of India credit line.

According to the High Commissioner, India-supported water projects worth \$500 million, covering several towns in Tanzania will begin soon.

India is also offering capacity building training to Tanzanian professionals under its ITEC programme, with over 4,500 professionals already trained there.

Mr Kake Dharwal, the director of an Arusha-based logistics firm, cited the proposed Institute of Technology in Zanzibar as one of India's support to Tanza-



Indian High Commissioner to Tanzania Binaya Srikanta Pradhan speaks during a business symposium in Arusha at the weekend. With him is Arusha Regional Commissioner John Mongella (centre) and deputy minister for Minerals, Dr Stephen Kiruswa. PHOTO/COURTESY

nia in the sector.

The facility is currently under construction and will admit the first batch of students to train in data science and information technology disciplines later this year.

Mr Dharwal, who is a member of the Tanza-

nian chapter of the East African Business Council (EABC), appreciated the holding of business forums between the two countries.

The deputy minister for Minerals Steven Kiruswa said Tanzania and India recently signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on

value addition technologies in the minerals. Under the deal, Indian companies will assist the local firms to develop skills in mineral polishing, lapidary and gemmology.

Dr Kiruswa said Tanzania was keen to tap technical expertise from India in mineral processing, including strategic minerals such as graphite, copper and nickel.

TIBF secretary Suresh Kumar said with Tanzania and India trade blossoming, efforts must be made to ensure that products from Tanzania were of high quality.

"Our (Tanzania) products must be competitive to be able to penetrate the Indian market. We have to prove our competitiveness," he said.

Arusha regional commissioner John Vianney Mongella said trade between Tanzania has been on the rise in recent years.

"It is remarkably progressive to the tune worth \$4.5 billion last year," he said, noting that there was more room for increased trade and investments.

However, Mr Mongella implored the private sector from both countries to appreciate technological progress made in India and strive hard to tap its potential.

While Tanzania exports minerals, especially gold, and agricultural products to India, the south Asian country exports to the former petroleum products, medicines and engineering goods.

AGRA praises Samia's agriculture initiatives

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

CHAIRMAN of the board of the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Hailemariam Desale has applauded President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan for laying and implementing a series of national strategies aimed to advance the agriculture performance across the country.

He said so far, the government of Tanzania has successfully triumphed in setting up and continuing implementing fruitful agricultural policies, saying the impressive development has put the county's agro sector in the bright future.

He expressed that Tanzania has made a major stride in research and production of improved seeds varieties for numerous food and economic cash crops, as well as unlocking opportunities for many youth to venture into the agriculture sector.

Desale, the former Prime Minister of Ethiopia made the remarks yesterday when paid a special tour of the Tanzania Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) seeds production farms in Songwe Region,

the farms that the state-owned Agency produces improved seeds for sunflower, maize, groundnuts, wheat, and beans in partnership with the private sector-Meru Agro Company.

"If the on-going strategies will be professionally supervised, it is apparent that Tanzania will in the near future stand among major crop producers within the African continent," he observed.

He noted that, 'food security is the national security' and thus, Tanzania is a safe country due to the fact that the country has a comfortable food adequacy.

Speaking more after being impressed with the on-going professional seeds production at the Songwe-based ASA farms, Desale projected that Tanzania holds all potential to stand at the continental seeds production apex come few years, the crucial eagerly-awaited stage that he said will allow the country to start exporting the improved varieties to other countries.

"AGRA will continue standing at forefront to further cementing its working cooperation with the government of Tanzania with an eye to spur performance of



Chairman of the board of the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Hailemariam Desale (Centre with the hat) admires seeds packages that has been produced by ASA in cooperation with the private seed companies in its Songwe based farm. Right is ASA CEO, Dr Sophia Kashenge. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

the vital sector," he assured.

He similarly hailed ASA for opening a friendly window of engaging the private seed companies to give the sector enough muscle.

"ASA is among the excellent seeds producing agencies in the continent and AGRA is keen to support it in the course of implementing diverse seeds multiplication projects," he assured.

ASA Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr. Sophia Kashenge expressed that the tour by AGRA's top officials at its farms was of paramount importance.

"The visitors had ample time to understand and realise the efforts being engineered by the government of Tanzania to scale up seeds production through ASA, and we exchanged with them a number of experiences and ideas that will enable

us to further improve the quality and pace of seeds production," she noted. Together with that, Dr. Kashenge added that through expanding cooperation with the private sector the Agency has successfully managed to increase volume in seeds production from 2500 tonnes to 7500 tonnes in a short period of at least three years.

She appreciated the concerted efforts so far demonstrated by Meru Agro Company at the Songwe seed farm.

"I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to AGRA for rolling out helpful support towards the country's seed side, as well as other agro facets, and it is my high hope that they will continue working to assist others upcoming indigenous private seeds companies to improve production scope," she revealed.

Speaking for his part, Deputy Permanent Secretary (PS) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Hussein Mohamed Omary hailed AGRA for continue to demonstrate high willingness and commitment to assist the country's agriculture sector in many ways, saying the parent ministry was appreciating and will remain committed to collaborate with the African reputable green revolution

Risk off returns as traders gauge response to global bank crisis

FRANKFURT

THE extraordinary global efforts over the weekend to help boost confidence in financial markets received a poor response Monday

Two-year Treasury yields – which swung wildly last week – reversed an early gain and retreated, while the 10-year benchmark slumped to the lowest since September as investors sought out haven assets.

German bonds surged at the open led by shorter-dated debt, with the two-year yield tumbling as much as 29 basis points to 2.10 percent.

At the forefront of investor reaction was a continued debate as to what will happen at the Federal Reserve's rate decision this week, with the lack of consensus adding even more uncertainty to the mar-

ket. Global stocks and equity futures mostly slid while a section of Asia's bank bond market slumped by a record after the wipe-out of Credit Suisse Group AG's so-called additional tier-one notes.

Regulators worldwide rushed to shore up market confidence over the weekend, with the Swiss government brokering a rescue deal of Credit Suisse Group AG and six central banks unveiling plans to boost dollar liquidity. The reaction suggested traders were far from being convinced the rescue measures are sufficient to restore global investor confidence.

"Many will be wondering who could be next," said Rodrigo Catril, a strategist at National Australia Bank Ltd. in Sydney. "Central banks need to instill confidence without given a message of concern."



What was most damping risk sentiment Monday was concerns over global banks'

additional tier 1 bonds, after a Swiss regulator said \$17 billion of such notes from Credit Sui-

se will be wiped out. "You have a marked repricing of a sizable chunk of

banking sector credit" after the write down in AT1s, said Philip McNicholas, a strategist at Robeco in Singapore. "That has started to percolate through to equities and triggered a broader risk off tone and a flight to safety."

US overnight indexed swaps now see a 60 percent chance of a quarter-percentage point hike at this week's Fed meeting, up from the 50 percent odds penciled in during the middle of last week.

"A widespread perception of ongoing, significant banking risks is likely to give the Fed pause in its plan to raise rates," said Jason Schenker, president of Prestige Economics.

Markets are likely to remain nervous even after UBS agreed to buy Credit Suisse, said Andrew Ticehurst, a rates strategist at Nomura Holdings Inc. in Sydney. "That said, we are

only at the start of what could be a long and wild week, and markets are likely to remain on edge for some time."

Two-year US yields swung between 3.71 percent and 4.53 percent last week, the widest weekly range for the interest-rate sensitive benchmark since September 2008. The widely-watched MOVE index, which measures implied volatility in Treasuries, topped out at 199 points on Wednesday, the highest since the global financial crisis in 2008.

"Recalibration of risk sentiment should see some big swings as well and I don't think we'll settle into a new trading range until perhaps after this week's FOMC," said Jessica Ren, a fixed income strategist at Westpac Banking Corp. in Sydney. "Price action will continue to be more sensitive than usual to headlines."

Digital Marketing; Google's Open AI Chatbot (ChatGPT)

By Alley Mmatya

MARCH 12 saw Google launch version ChatGPT-V4 that specializes in the advertising and marketing industry. AI chatGPT is the future of advertising and advertisers have used it to segment and identify their audiences, create and test ads, optimize spend automatically in real time and on a larger scale.

Google's OpenAI (Artificial Intelligence) chatbot, known as Meena, has the potential to have a significant impact on digital marketing. Meena is an AI model that is designed to engage in natural and open-ended conversations with humans. It has been trained on a massive amount of data, including text from the internet and social media, and is capable of generating high-quality responses to a wide range of topics.

Yes Google just launched their highly anticipated chatGPT that operates with artificial intelligence. The biggest companies in the world are fighting for this space. Almost every single individual will be impacted and the best thing right now is to get educated. The big question is, will artificial intelligence put marketers out of business? Likely it will and for Africa it may take some time but eventually it will too. If we are not prepared and well educated on this technology.

ChatGPT AI is smarter than us, it is faster than us and it is cheaper than us. It is also free. For example why pay a script writer to write when you can type what you want into the chatbot and in seconds a



response will be generated. Why pay for a design when you can ask artificial intelligence. Just type what you need and AI will generate designs for free. Even coding of a website. Why pay a developer when you can ask AI to generate a coded website for free. Why pay a human to act in a video? While AI can do it at a fraction of the cost. Just type what you want the person to say then click submit and your video will be ready in minutes. Why pay for a produced song while artificial intelligence can develop a song in seconds for just a few coins. Just click the length of the song, the tempo and mood then submit. It will be ready in seconds.

Why waste time writing or recording while AI can learn my voice or style in which I write then read or write on my behalf. You can almost ask yourself did I write this article? Likely AI wrote this article on my behalf, well I'll leave it for you to judge. Get there first or get replaced is the moto because AI is now.

A great case study I came across on AI was the case of Bank of America. Yes indeed, Bank of America has a virtual assistant or chatbot named Erica. Erica is an AI-powered chatbot created to assist customers with their daily banking needs. Erica can perform plenty of tasks, for example; check account balance, transfer funds, pay bills, set up your account alerts, and much more. It uses natural language processing (NLP) technology to get to know its customers' requests and responses in a conversational manner. Bank customers can access Erica via Bank of America's mobile app or via the online banking platform. Bank of America serves approximately 67 million users (Data: Investopedia.com). Imagine how many employees it would take to answer 30 - 60 million users through its 3900 branches across the world.

There are some banks and businesses in Tanzania that have already deployed chatbots but it is only a matter of time before their incorporated with AI. In the future the chatbot will be able to digitally market through AI to the same customers without having the need for marketers. They are able to study and understand client needs better just by simply interacting with them on a daily basis.

Interesting indeed!

Overall, the development of Meena by Google or Erica by Bank of America or Dall. E 2 by Microsoft (which also generates realistic images and art and is said to be 100 times smarter than its predecessor) or other advanced AI chatbots has the potential to revolutionize the way businesses engage with customers online. By providing more human-like and conversational interactions with chatbots that are powered by AI to help improve customer satisfaction, increase engagement and ultimately drive revenue for businesses.

This AI technological revolution will also create new professions. Marketers will still be required to use their mindset and talent to control AI, but further education and learning is required to be at par with this technology. There will be a need for personalization, optimization and inputting of data for a final or a realistic decision making. An AI Strategist - this person would be responsible for developing and implementing overall AI strategy for the marketing team. An AI Trainer aka Marketing Analyst - who would be responsible for training AI models to recognize, generate insights and read patterns from the data. An AI Ethicist - responsible for insuring AI technology is deployed ethically and in compliance with data privacy regulations or other ethical concerns. An AI Analyst - to analyze data generated by AI tools and platforms and use those insights to inform marketing strategies. They would create and identify patterns and trends in customer behavior and develop insights to drive business growth. If you think about it, it is very frightening but also mind-blowing.

The future with AI is not deem after all. Just our stubbornness to adopt and take advantage. AI chatbots can generate your social media captions, video scripts, story lines or media content in seconds. Imagine all that used to take a day or two or even three. Now it can be done in seconds or minutes.

These roles and more could emerge as critical components for marketing teams in the coming years, as companies seek to leverage the power of AI to drive growth and innovation.

Alley Mmatya
(Founder - Eyeland Advertising and Analytics)

Wall Street funds cling onto the emerging markets in bank crisis



NEW YORK

AMID the banking turmoil that's sent global capital markets into a tailspin and raised the prospect of a full-blown recession in the US economy, true believers in the bull case for emerging markets are digging in.

For veteran managers from Franklin Templeton to Morgan Stanley Investment Management and State Street Corp., the tumult in major markets has reinforced the case for developing nations.

They say the adoption of stronger risk-control measures for corporate and government assets stands to reward bulls with hefty payoffs, while policymakers in the developed world benefit from a head start over peers in the US and Europe in fighting against inflation.

"We are investing more as we speak," said Franklin Templeton's Chetan Sehgal. "For us, there is ample

opportunity at all points in time within the market. There is enough value."

The conviction, at least for the emerging-market bulls, is that some of the recent selloff was triggered by shifts in risk sentiment elsewhere. The banking turmoil spurred a repricing of bets on how much further the world's most-influential policymakers will increase interest rates, with bond traders now eyeing potential Federal Reserve cuts later in the year.

The case for the Fed to forgo an interest-rate hike strengthened over the weekend after UBS Group AG agreed to buy Credit Suisse Group AG in a government-brokered deal, while the Fed and five other central banks announced action to boost dollar funding.

While a pronounced slowdown in the US is bound to impact economies globally, less tightening by major central banks and a sluggish dollar may help a bounce in developing assets once the dust settles, said Jack McIntyre, a money manager at Brandywine Global Investment Management.

"This is not stress emanating from EM," he said. "People are going to sell any risk asset, but if you extend your time horizon a little bit, this could be a net positive because it gets central banks not having to tighten as much."

Growth is the key. Developing nations are still expected to expand at a faster pace than their mature peers, improving the outlook for earnings.

"We still like the emerging markets equity trade that is held at very underweight levels in institutional portfolios," said Daniel Gerard, senior multi-asset strategist at State Street Corporation, which has \$3.5 trillion under management. "They are starting to see a better earnings outlook and get a tailwind from better demand and desire to return to normality in portfolios."

Chinese equities are "one of the few good stories" across global financial markets this year, he said.

On Friday, China's central bank cut the amount of cash banks must keep in reserve in an effort to stimulate the economy. Market watchers were divided on whether the move was a reaction to the stresses seen in the global banking sector last week. The country makes up about a third of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index. The gauge ended the week down 0.4%, but it's fallen more than 9% since a late-January peak.

Options traders are also now betting there'll be less turbulence in developing nations than rich countries. The CBOE Emerging Markets Volatility Index, the equivalent of VIX, has traded below the US fear gauge for the past six sessions.

After a strong start of the year, demand for emerging-markets assets was waning even before the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank. High-profile corporate meltdowns at India's Adani Group and Brazil's Americanas SA prompted analysts to flag growing risks of a second-straight year of limited capital markets access.

Omotunde Lawal, head of emerging-market corporate debt at Barings Ltd. in London, said the past week's banking woes risk a chain reaction that makes it simply too risky to predict what happens next. Treasury yields plunged anew on Friday as financial risk continued to rock global financial markets.

"There's a lot of things that are piling up on the horizon which give us some pause," she said. "A lot of companies will struggle to access the capital markets, which can set off a chain reaction of stress."

At JPMorgan Chase & Co., strategists including Jonny Goulden and Saad Siddiqui declared in a report that a "tactical window" to invest in emerging-market fixed income had closed. They cut a recommendation on local-currency debt to market-weight from overweight and shifted to underweight in their benchmark index for hard-currency sovereign debt.

"Events are supporting the view that we are in a late cycle market environment which EM assets will need to contend with and which calls for reducing risk in EM fixed income," they wrote.

Banking risk in developed markets, however, has yet to affect the case for long-term expansion in emerging markets, where valuations are more attractive than in major developed nations, according to UBS Global Wealth Management.

"If I look at the developments more recently, I don't think that changes our view at all," said Themis Themistocleous, head of EMEA investment at the firm, with a multi-asset portfolio. "Growth dynamics are a lot more interesting for emerging markets," adding that UBS is positive on emerging market equities and dollar debt, while underweight US equities and neutral on global equities.

Jitania Kandhari, deputy chief investment officer and head of macroeconomic research for emerging markets at Morgan Stanley Investment Management, echoes the sentiment.

"At the moment, excesses in the financial system are in the developed markets," said Kandhari, who earlier this year predicted a decade of emerging-market outperformance. "They are the ones that had very low rates for years with excessive borrowing. Emerging markets actually have better debt ratios."

Insignia's Ltd donation paints to change schools image in Mwanza

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

A call has been made to education stakeholders to support the government's continued initiatives to improvise the crucial sector in the country.

Speaking while handing over paints to five schools in Mwanza for repair, Magreth Ngenzi, the Lake Zone Manager of Coral Paints (Insignia Limited), said that the development of the key sector needs a joint support between the government and the private sector to succeed.

"The government, under President Samia Suluhu Hassan has done a lot in improving the schools' infrastructures," she said. "We therefore need to support it to succeed."

The paint will be used to polish the external and internal walls in five classrooms of Isenga 'A' Primary School, which is located in Pasiansi ward, Ilemela district, in the Mwanza region.

The school received 432 litres for repainting classrooms which are currently in a bad shape.

The firm's official said that donation was also part of celebrating President Samia Suluhu Hassan's two years in office.

The handing over ceremony that took place on Friday last week in presence of hundreds of students and teachers at the school.

"We highly appreciate a continued effort by the government to improve the educational sector by providing conducive environment to pupils and students from primary to college levels."

"However, as one of the key stakeholders, we see the need of supporting the government since it needs support from other stakeholders."

"As President Samia is commemorating two years in office, we have decided to support her continued initiatives in the educational sector by improving the school's infrastructures. So that pupils could study in friendly environment," she said.

Isenga 'A' Primary School head teacher Victor Ngaiza said that the school has 943 pupils.

Ngaiza said that due to wall's dust, some students suffer from communicable diseases including flu.

"From now on, our students will study in a clean environment, which will motivate them in their learning," said Ngaiza

On his part, the Acting Chairman of the School's Council, Josephat Matiku said that in addition to the classroom's colours being in bad shape, the school is also facing a shortage of desks, appealing to other stakeholders to show up and give their support.

Speaking on behalf of other pupils, a standard Seven's Lutphia Suleiman (13) thanked the Coral Paints (Insignia Limited) for the timely support, saying that the renovation of the classrooms will motivate pupils to attend classes and pass their examinations.

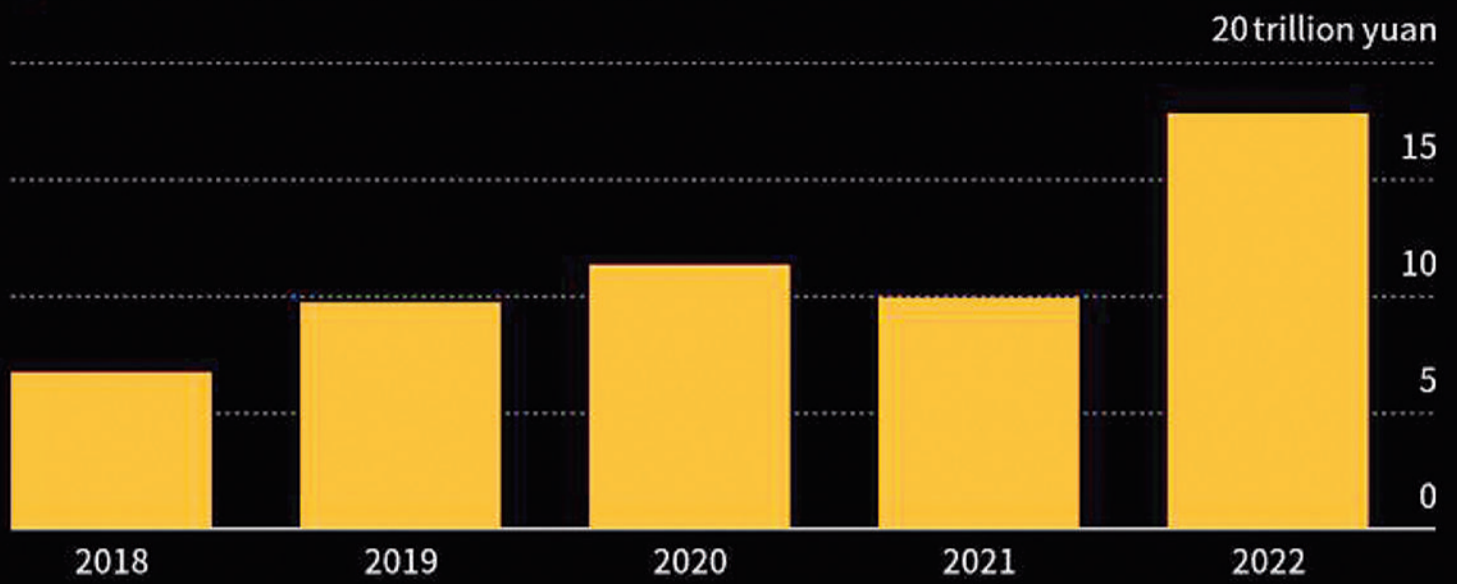


Coral Paints Lake Zonal manager Magreth Ngenzi hands over paints to Mwanza based Isenga A Primary School Head Girl Lutphia Suleiman(R). The company has donated 432 litres of paints for painting five classes Photo by Guardian Correspondent

China Consumers Hoarded Cash During Pandemic

Household saving deposits grew by nearly 18 trillion yuan in 2021

■ Increase in household saving bank deposits



Source: People's Bank of China; Bloomberg

Bloomberg

China needs household stimulus to boost recovery

BEIJING

A direct stimulus of 4 trillion yuan (\$580 billion) paid directly to Chinese households is an option to spur a recovery in consumer spending that has been slowed by weak wage growth during the pandemic, a central bank adviser said.

Relatively sluggish income growth means “short-term measures” are needed “such as putting four trillion in the hands of households,” Cai Fang, a member of the People’s Bank of China’s monetary policy committee, said in a speech on Saturday.

Resident income has “not increased very well in the last few years, so the recovery of consumption is not sufficient to support economic growth,” Cai said at a forum organized by financial magazine *Caijing*. He also floated the use of China’s social security system to stimulate consumption as another option, though he did not give details.

China’s consumers are in focus

after officials at a key political meeting earlier this month suggested they would avoid large stimulus through infrastructure investment or the property market. That means household spending is likely to drive demand in the world’s second-largest economy and support its recovery this year.

Recent official data has shown a recovery in retail sales and services spending in the first two months of the year, though high-frequency data for March also indicated a weakening of some consumer purchases, such as car sales.

Some economists have also questioned the strength of the consumer spending boost, with Bloomberg Economics calculating last month that Chinese households had not stashed away as much excess cash during the pandemic as some have estimated.

China’s top leaders, meanwhile, have so far rejected calls from Chinese academics and economists to finance direct payments to households, instead favoring subsidies to businesses to maintain employment and expand investment.

At the Saturday forum, Cai said bank deposits amassed by Chinese households during the pandemic were concentrated among a relatively small group with high-incomes. That means such savings are unlikely to fuel “revenge con-

sumption” this year, he added.

“That requires the government to put four trillion into the hands of low-income groups,” Cai said.

The central bank adviser also highlighted China’s elevated rate of unemployment in recent years. He argued that joblessness “is bound to hurt households’ balance sheets” – referring to the balance between their assets and debts – as well as their spending power and confidence.

“That will lead to a longer period of restraint,” he said.

Cai, who is also vice-dean of China’s Academy of Social Sciences, suggested the high youth unemployment rate also has an impact on consumption. He cited research saying that 16-to-24 year olds spend more than any other age group in the country.

Economist Wang Yiming – who is also a member of the PBOC’s monetary policy committee – said in a separate article published Saturday that the balance sheets of households had been “systematically damaged” in recent years, leading to “more cautious consumption.”

He suggested the government spend more on public services to improve the consumption capacity of low and middle-income groups.

Rising rates reshape once-lucrative commodity trades

LONDON

HIGHER interest rates are forcing commodity traders to rethink some deals and push up prices, in the latest example of how a period of rapid central-bank hiking is reshaping global business.

The companies that buy, sell and transport the world’s natural resources are particularly vulnerable to rising rates, because they rely on banking lines to finance their trades – from shipping a cargo of wheat or oil to holding inventories of aluminum.

As rates rise, the additional costs of a weeks-long journey or extended storage in a warehouse or tanker are making certain trades far less attractive. The financing cost can dictate whether deals are made or not, and some companies are seeking to pass on the expense to their customers, or getting out of some trades completely.

“It is totally reshaping the supply chain, we have clients coming to us and saying they have to reconsider their business models because of interest rates,” Pierre Galtié, head of commodity trade finance at Banque de Commerce et de Placements, said in an interview.

“Players were able to buy a big cargo and put it on storage for a month or more with bearable cost. Now it is a bit different, the carry cost is much higher and not an option,” he said.

The pressure on commodity traders is an example of how the end of the era of cheap money is changing the business world. But unlike in sectors like technology and crypto, the business cycle for commodities traders has moved in the opposite direction, cushioning the blow, so that they are making record profits even as interest rates rise.

The industry earned an estimated \$115 billion in 2022 even accounting for costs like freight and finance, according to consultancy Oliver Wyman, an increase of nearly two-thirds from a year earlier.

Interest rates are only one element of costs that go into a typical commodities deal – even just moving products from one port to another means chartering vessels and taking out insurance for the trip.

Then there’s the cost of hedging derivatives to lock in the cargo’s price, and collateral in the form of margin to enable those positions.



However, the industry is particularly exposed to rising rates because trading houses rely on bank credit for the huge amounts of money needed to buy, transport and store big volumes of commodities.

The sums accruing interest add up quickly: for example, at current prices a typical LRI tanker shipment of fuel oil could cost around \$46 million, and a mid-size oil trader is likely to have several in transit at any one time. Trading giant Trafigura Group had total credit lines of \$73 billion at the end of its last financial year, with a network of about 140 banks around the world.

One area where interest rates are a central factor is when traders purchase and hold commodities. For example, storing metal in warehouses for an opportune moment to sell has been a feature of the aluminum market since interest rates were set to near-zero levels after the 2008 financial crisis.

As rates have risen, futures prices have traded at a growing premium – or “contango” – over cash rates to reflect the higher cost of carry. But even the widest contango since 2008 is only just enough to compensate for more expensive financing, said Duncan Hobbs head of research at metal trader Concord Resources Ltd.

“The spread has to move out to compensate, and if that doesn’t happen you can imagine some people will walk away from that space,” he

said.

In other cases, increased costs of finance for traders are being reflected in higher prices charged to the end customer. Costs of small-volume oil contracts to buyers based in the Caribbean have “gone up very significantly this year,” says Michael Winstone, director of crude and fuel oil at trading house Novum Energy Trading Corp.

“It depends on the exact logistics but I think with the finance costs in addition to higher shipping rates, some of our diesel and fuel oil sale contracts have gone up between six to ten dollars a barrel,” he said.

The ability to keep profits steady by raising prices and maintaining margins can sometimes be a question of scale, and mid-sized players are under more pressure, BCP’s Galtié said.

Still, even the biggest players are having to weigh the added costs.

“Right now liquidity is limited and capital’s expensive. So what it means is that if you’re going to want to operate in the market, you need higher margins to cover your operating base,” Christopher Bake, a member of the executive committee at the world’s biggest independent oil trader, Vitol Group, said at a panel during International Energy Week. “It does become more difficult.”

How scandal and mistrust ended Credit Suisse’s 166-Year Run

WASHINGTON

CREDIT Suisse Group AG, once one of the stalwarts of the global financial system, is no more.

After tense talks over the weekend, UBS Group AG agreed to buy Credit Suisse in an all-share deal for about \$3.25 billion, less than the market value of troubled US lender First Republic Bank. The government-brokered sale marks the Swiss bank’s final fall from grace, succumbing to a crisis of confidence that threatened to spread to global financial markets.

For 166 years, Credit Suisse helped position Switzerland as a linchpin of international finance and went toe-to-toe with Wall Street titans before a steady drumbeat of scandals, legal issues and management upheaval undermined investor trust. While the decay was years in the making, the end came quickly.

In the aftermath of the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank last weekend, long-suffering Credit Suisse quickly became a focal point of concern. After top shareholder Saudi National Bank told Bloomberg Television on Wednesday that it would “absolutely not” invest more in the lender, a rout was on.

A \$54 billion financing backstop from the Swiss central bank – sealed in the dead of night on Thursday to calm jitters – failed to become the lifeline Credit Suisse had hoped. With the country’s banking sector at risk, Swiss authorities stepped in to push UBS to become a reluctant white knight.

The Swiss government “regrets that CS wasn’t able to master its own difficulties – that would have been the best solution,” Finance Minister Karin Keller-Sutter said at a press conference in Bern on Sunday. “Unfortunately, the loss of confidence from the markets and customers was no longer able to be halted.”

Designated as one of the world’s 30 systemically important banks, Credit Suisse is the biggest casualty of the financial turmoil triggered by central banks as they tighten monetary policy to rein in inflation. While concerns about further contagion are sure to persist, the sale to UBS avoids a disorderly collapse.

Before the global financial crisis – which Credit Suisse survived without a bailout, unlike many of its peers – the Swiss lender had more than \$1 trillion in assets, but after years of decay, they’ve dwindled to about \$580 billion, roughly half of UBS’s.

“Let us be clear, as far as Credit Suisse is concerned, this is an emergency rescue,” said UBS Chairman Colm Kelleher, who will remain in the role after the transaction.

For Switzerland, the blow could be significant. Home to 243 banking groups and 24 branches of foreign banks, the country’s stability and wealth is largely reliant on the finance industry. The combined assets of UBS and

Credit Suisse are roughly double the size of Switzerland’s gross domestic product, and Sunday newspapers from tabloids to broadsheets were filled with stories about the looming demise of a national icon.

Even as market anxiety intensified, Credit Suisse insiders acted as if they could still control the situation. Although the mood was somber, managers organized town hall meetings to quell employee fears and investment advisers fielded calls from clients to discuss liquidity concerns, according to people with knowledge of the discussions.

But in its hometown of Zurich, doubts and frustration were growing. Outside its headquarters on the state-ly Paradeplatz, someone scrawled: “The next bank to go bye bye?” That question was later replaced by expressions of anger and disgust as reality gradually set in.

Over its history, Credit Suisse financed Alpine railroads and Silicon Valley’s development. It tended the fortunes of Arab royals and Russian oligarchs and tilted at the giants of Wall Street. But it struggled to control risk and consistently make money.

In recent years, the bank suffered a revolving door of senior management, with each leadership change putting more pressure on performance. The stock has tumbled more than 95% from its pre-financial crisis peak, and the firm was valued at a mere 7.4 billion Swiss francs (\$8 billion) at the close on Friday – less than a tenth of the value of Goldman Sachs Group Inc.

“In Zurich, we’ve had a ring-side seat to this spectacular fiasco in slow-motion,” said Matthew Ruesch, founder and managing partner of Broad Creek Capital, a family office. “We’ve watched the bank lurch from scandal to scandal for so long that it’s hard to recall all of them at this point.”

The seeds of Credit Suisse’s rise and eventual downfall were sown in the summer of 1990 when then-Chief Executive Officer Rainer Gut saw a chance to take control of the Swiss bank’s US partner, First Boston, for a modest capital injection and backstopping bad loans.

First Boston had embraced high-yield debt markets during the 1980s and lent billions of dollars to fund risky buyout transactions. The once-lucrative industry had imploded, and one of the most problematic deals was a \$457 million loan for the leveraged buyout of Ohio Mattress Co. The failed financing would go down in Wall Street infamy as “the burning bed.”

In the wake of the takeover, Credit Suisse embraced the same kinds of risky businesses – such as leveraged finance and mortgage-bond trading – that led to the burning bed deal. Subsequent leaders of the Swiss lender pushed through numerous overhauls, eventually dropping the once-proud First Boston name in 2006.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



WORLD

Netanyahu softens pace, focus of Israel's judicial overhaul

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced a softening yesterday of his hard-right government's judicial overhaul plan, an apparent concession to more than two months of unprecedented nationwide protests and misgivings voiced by Western allies.

Wielding a parliamentary majority, Netanyahu had looked set to ratify the package of reforms by the Knesset's April 2 recess. But most would now be shelved until it reconvenes on April 30, he and religious-nationalist coalition allies said.

The legislation still slated for ratification in the next two weeks would shake up Israel's method of selecting judges - an issue at the heart of the reform controversy, with critics accusing Netan-

yahu of trying to curb independence of the courts.

He insists his goal is balance among branches of government.

Yesterday's coalition statement used more circumspect language than in the original bill introduced on Jan 4, but said it would continue to check the power of judges on the selection panel to use what it deemed an "automatic veto" over nominations to the bench.

The statement further noted amendments made to the bill in a Knesset review session on Sunday, whereby the selection panel would be expanded from 9 to 11 members as originally planned but with a make-up that grants the government less potential clout.

Previously, the bill envisaged the panel including three cabinet ministers, two coalition lawmakers and two public



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends the weekly cabinet meeting at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem on Sunday. (PHOTO / AP)

figures chosen by the government - spelling a maximum 7-4 vote majority.

It is amended form, the bill envisages the panel being made up of three cabinet ministers, three coalition lawmakers, three judges and two opposition lawmakers. That could spell a slimmer, more precarious 6-5 majority for the government.

The amended bill further stipulates that no more than two Supreme Court justices can be appointed by regular panel voting in a given Knesset session. Any appointments beyond that would have to be approved by a major-

ity vote including at least one judge and one opposition lawmaker among selection panel members.

Netanyahu called for a rethink by the political opposition, which has pledged to boycott ratification votes in the Knesset and encouraged street demonstrations that have reached into the ranks of the Israeli military, which is usually above politics.

"We are extending a hand to anyone who genuinely cares about national unity and the desire to reach an agreed accord," the coalition statement said.

Cyclone Freddy toll passes 400 in Malawi, Mozambique

BLANTYRE/MAPUTO

DAYS before Cyclone Freddy struck Mozambique on March 11 for the second time, cars with loudhailers moved through the streets of the port town of Quelimane warning residents to move to shelters on higher ground with stocks of food and water.

Most people heeded the warnings, knowing from bitter experience the damage such storms could inflict: 600 people had died in Cyclone Idai in 2019.

"Local authorities came around my neighborhood to alert us of the imminent danger. They blew the whistle," recalled 31-year-old Quelimane resident Amelia Antonio.

Those preparations helped save lives in one of the strongest storms ever to hit Africa.

Mozambique has so far recorded 76 deaths, a relatively low toll compared with previous such disasters.

The storm was far more deadly in neighboring Malawi, where at least 447 were killed as Freddy tore through the country's southern tip and inundated the main commercial hub of Blantyre.

There, warnings were inconsistent and often unheeded by residents, many of whom told Reuters they did not know where to go if they did leave their homes.

Mozambique and Malawi are among the poorest 8 percent of countries in the world, according to United Nations data. Over half the population in each country live below the poverty line.

The contrast between what happened in the two southern African nations holds lessons for a world where global warming and population growth have produced burgeoning shanty towns vulnerable to the destructive storms that climate change fuels.

As these storms get stronger, sophisticated warning systems of the sort Mozambique now uses will be required, and swollen cities like Blantyre will have to ad-



People receive food at a displacement center in Blantyre, southern Malawi on Wednesday. (PHOTO / AP)

dress the scourge of unplanned slums that rapid urbanization is creating.

"People were climbing trees" "What remains of my house is just sticks standing," Antonio told Reuters in a telephone interview on Thursday. "If I'd been there, I don't know what would have happened."

She avoided physical harm thanks to a community-based early warning system in Mozambique, which delivers text messages and announcements on local radio and TV. She was instructed to seek shelter at a local school, where she is still sleeping.

"It is a very structured (warning) system ... down to village level," said Myrta Kaulard, United Nations resident coordinator for Mozambique. "People had to move to the shelters and this ... saved a lot of lives."

In Malawi, too, warnings were sounded as the storm moved inland. But a lot of people did not get them, including Madalo Makawa, a resident of Chilobwe, a densely populated township of Blantyre that was one of the hardest hit by the storm.

"We just saw water and rocks coming down the mountains and we started running," she said. "People were shouting for help, others were climbing trees."

Others, like Yohane Simbi, said they were not told where to seek shelter, and so many stayed home.

Chilobwe lies below a mountain with thousands of makeshift shelters, often mud structures with tin roofs that were flattened by mudslides and falling rocks. Between two-thirds and three-quarters of Malawians in the country's four cities live in informal houses, UN Habitat data

from 2020 shows.

Simbi's house was partially destroyed, but he survived.

"Malawi ... normally floods on lower ground," Felix Washon from the Malawi Red Cross Society told Reuters from Blantyre. This means anyone in the hills thought they were safe despite radio, TV and social media messages warning them of the storm.

"During the mudslides ... water broke away from the mountains," he said. "This has never happened in recent times."

As he visited the area of Blantyre hit by the storm, Natural Resources Minister Michael Usi described it as a "national tragedy", but said people had been warned to relocate.

Officials in Malawi's disaster management affairs department did not immediately respond to queries on evacuation orders and whether shelters were set up be-

fore the storm hit.

Bigger towns, stronger storms

Scientists say climate change driven by the burning of fossil fuels is making tropical storms stronger.

The ocean has absorbed much of the warming caused by heat-trapping gasses. This additional heat can fuel a storm's intensity and power stronger winds. In the case of Freddy, this extra energy allowed the storm to pick up strength again and circle back to strike again.

At the same time, rapid population growth in the developing world has pushed impoverished rural folk to seek opportunities in cities, putting pressure on housing in places like Blantyre, which has a population of about a million.

"People are coming from the rural areas ... to find jobs, but when they don't get jobs, they don't go back, they settle in the fragile areas," said Costly Chanza, director of town planning and estates services at the Blantyre City Council.

Much of the construction in the hilly areas around Blantyre flouts planning regulations, he added, but efforts to move people elsewhere have failed as alternative plots were too far away from employment, schools and hospitals.

Court orders blocking relocations have also thwarted the city's efforts, Chanza said. He did not provide specific figures of how many people need to be relocated.

Deforestation - often to make charcoal in places with no electricity - added to the disaster, as it loosens soil, creating the right conditions for mudslides, Chanza said.

In addition, weak building materials like mud and iron sheets made houses more prone to collapse, said Estere Tsoka, emergency specialist at UN children's agency UNICEF in Malawi.

Agencies

Washington protesters call for stop to endless US wars, reflection on Iraq invasion

WASHINGTON

HUNDREDS of protesters gathered outside the White House in Washington, D.C. on Saturday afternoon to demand a stop to endless U.S. wars and the "War Machine," two days before the 20th anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

The anti-war demonstration was the second of its kind in the American capital in less than a month. "It's just a terrible mistake," Claudia Lefko, a protester from Northampton, Massachusetts, told Xinhua when asked to comment on the Iraq War.

"The country is a ruin. We've destroyed it ... The Iraqis are still suffering the consequences." "We started to attack a country already destroyed by years of sanctions," Lefko continued. "There was no work. There was no infrastructure. The country was already destroyed, and we just put it further into the ground."

On March 20, 2003, the United States and some of its allies launched a bombing campaign in Iraq under the false claim that the country was manufacturing weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The Iraq War not only caused hundreds of thousands of deaths, extensive destruction and political turmoil in Iraq, but also resulted in the increase of sectarian politics and widespread violence in the country, as well as the rise of the Islamic State militant group which has been launching terror attacks throughout the Middle East, a study by the Costs of War project at Brown University showed.

The eight-year war cost the United States nearly 2 trillion dollars and the lives of more than 4,000 troops, and caused the country's polarization to gather pace.

"There are strong connections between the decision to invade Iraq and the structural divide in U.S. politics," Molly Reynolds, a senior fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution, remarked on Friday during a seminar at the Washington, D.C.-based think tank. While Saddam Hussein's government was overthrown, no stockpiles of WMDs or active WMD programs were ever found in Iraq.

"The principal reason for invading Iraq, that Saddam had WMD, was wrong," late U.S. Senator John McCain wrote in a book published in 2018. "The war, with its cost in lives and treasure and security, can't be judged as anything other than a mistake, a very serious one."

American journalist and activist Eugene Puryear, also an organizer of Saturday's anti-war rally north of the White House, said that "the invasion of Iraq was twenty years ago, but the U.S. government hasn't learned a single lesson."

"The American public was told that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, but that was a complete lie with no evidence," Puryear underlined. "Now we're being lied to again. We must put a stop to endless war."

A student in Williamsburg, Virginia, who described himself as Esteban to Xinhua, opined that the Iraq War is only part of "a long history of the United States invading, bombing, meddling with other countries." "It was a horrible tragedy," Esteban said. "We destabilized the entire region all for profit. It was based on a lie."

Similar demonstrations were held in some other cities in the United States as anti-war protesters and activists have ratcheted up criticism of the U.S. role in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which escalated more than a year ago.

"We must have a negotiated settlement to this war," Washington, D.C., resident Bob told Xinhua. "A negotiated settlement is something we have to talk about now, and get it done."

"The 'immediate problem' is that the U.S. government 'does not want to negotiate a settlement,' Bob said, adding that Washington is "driving and pushing this war, even though we won't say that publicly."

U.S. President Joe Biden announced his budget proposal for the fiscal year 2024 earlier this month, which includes 886 billion U.S. dollars for military and defense activities.

The Pentagon's spending would surge to 842 billion dollars, a 26-billion-dollar or 3.2-percent increase from the fiscal year 2023 enacted level. The budget "continues support for Ukraine, the United States' strong alliance with the states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and other European partner states by prioritizing funding to enhance the capabilities and readiness of U.S. forces, NATO allies, and regional partners," the White House said about the proposed military spending. William Hartung, a senior research fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank, wrote in an analysis that "the proposed budget is far more than is needed to provide an effective defense of the United States and its allies."

"As military spending soars towards 1 trillion U.S. dollars a year, it is long past time for Congress to take a critical look at the Pentagon budget with an eye towards aligning it with a reasonable defense strategy, rather than piling on weapons we don't need based on pork-barrel politics rather than strategic necessity," Hartung pointed out.

On Saturday, protesters urged the U.S. government to "fund people's needs" instead of the "War Machine," given that American families and consumers are still struggling to address high inflation amid a banking crisis that has rekindled fear of an economic recession. "The military budget is way too high," Bob argued. "We don't need this. We don't need this kind of spending on war. We have people camped out around this city who don't have a home. They're living in tents."

China's AI industry embraces new opportunities for development

BEIJING-based autonomous driving startup QCraft recently launched an advanced autopilot solution based on the Journey 5 processor developed by Horizon Robotics, a leader in computing solutions for intelligent vehicles.

The solution, called QCraft Cheng-feng, can handle a wide range of complex urban traffic scenarios with higher-level assisted driving capabilities including unprotected left turns, pedestrian and vehicle avoidance, automatic lane changes, automatic turning, traffic light recognition, narrow road and congested roadway passing, and automatic yielding to obstacles. It makes driving much easier.

Tianfu district in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan province has built a digital twin platform for ecological governance under the assistance from tech firm CloudWalk Technology. The platform includes 18 intelligent gauging stations, five streamgages and 100 sets of surface fire probes. Real-time data are transmitted to the platform via over 200 front-end sensors. The artificial intelligence (AI) platform is able to well manage urban emergencies such as water quality retrievals and pollutions.

China has achieved positive progress in the AI industry in terms of technological innovation, industrial ecol-

ogy and industrial integration over the recent years, becoming one of the best countries in the world in terms of AI development.

According to the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT), the value of the core sectors of the China's AI industry reached 508 billion yuan (\$73.64 billion) last year, up 18 percent year on year.

China ranked first globally in terms of the number of AI-related invention patent applications. The CAICT estimated that Chinese entities submitted 389,000 such applications between 2013 and November 2022, or 53.4 per-

cent of the world's total, which stood at 729,000; among the 244,000 AI-related invention patents authorized in the world last year, 102,000, or 41.7 percent, came from China.

New progress has been achieved by relevant innovation carriers. A batch of new R&D institutions have made breakthroughs in AI models, AI computing processors and other areas. The country is also in a leading position in the world in terms of computing infrastructure. China has basically built a national integrated big data center system and is accelerating its steps to channel more computing resources from the eastern areas to the less de-

veloped western regions. It has established a batch of national open innovation platforms for a new generation AI technologies.

Chinese enterprises have made important breakthroughs in key technologies such as application algorithm, intelligent processors and open source framework. They are also leading the world in image recognition and voice recognition. A number of signature products including intelligent sensors and intelligent connected vehicles have hit the market.

The ecology of the AI industry is taking shape in China. So far, over 400 universities in China have set up AI-

related majors and the country ranks second in the world in terms of the number of high-end AI talents. As of the end of 2022, there were 27,255 representative AI enterprises around the world, and 4,227, or 16 percent, were from China.

Three AI industrial clusters have been developed in China, which are in the Yangtze River delta, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and the Pearl River delta, respectively. The open AI platforms of Baidu, Alibaba, Huawei, Tencent, iFlytek, CloudWalk Technology and JD.com are now able to support the rapid development of the AI industry.

People's Daily

East Congo militants kill at least 22 in string of attacks

BENI

SUSPECTED militants killed at least 22 people in a string of attacks across the Democratic Republic of Congo's eastern Ituri and North Kivu provinces overnight Saturday, officials and activists said on Sunday.

The incidents were the latest in a stream of continuous violence that has plagued eastern Congo for years, despite increasing interventions from the country's army and UN peacekeepers.

At least 12 people were killed Saturday in simultaneous raids across several villages in Ituri province. Local officials and civil society leaders blamed the CODECO group, one of several militias that have destabilized the densely forested region.

"In spite of numerous appeals for peaceful cohabitation...the CODECO militia continues to massacre the vulnerable," Colonel Jacques Disanoa, who administers the Mahagi territory where some of the villages are located, told Reuters by telephone.

Militants killed another 10 people and abducted three more later that night in the village of Nguli, at the base of North Kivu's Mount Kyavirimu, according to Colonel Alain Kiwewa, the administrator of the surrounding Lubero territory.

Kiwewa blamed that attack on the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a Ugandan armed group based in eastern Congo that has pledged allegiance to Islamic State and taken positions in the nearby Virunga National Park.

"It is a really sad situation," Kiwewa said by phone. "They killed them using machete and other weapons."

Congo's government declared a state of siege in North Kivu and Ituri in 2021, in an attempt to stem rampant militia violence in the country's vast mineral-rich east. But the killings and rebel activity have not shown any sign of abating.

"Even when we are under siege, the enemy still surprises us every day," said Delphine Malekani, an activist in North Kivu.



Democratic Republic of Congo Defense Forces gather in the North Kivu province village of Mukondi, March 9, 2023. (PHOTO / AP)

AU commends Burundi's contribution to peace in DR Congo

BUJUMBURA

THE African Union (AU) has commended the "excellent work" of Burundian President Evariste Ndayishimiye in the restoration of peace in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), said the Chairperson of AU Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat here Saturday at a press conference while concluding a three-day visit to Burundi.

He said that during his visit, he had an opportunity to meet the Burundian president, who is also the current chairperson of the East African Community (EAC), a regional bloc.

"President Ndayishimiye plays a key coordinating role in the Nairobi and Luanda peace process for the restoration of peace in eastern DR Congo," said the AU Commission chairperson.

He reaffirmed the "total support of the AU to the excellent work" that Ndayishimiye is doing as the EAC chairperson for the restoration of peace and security in eastern DRC.

According to the AU Commission chairperson, Ndayishimiye is doing it with a lot of commitment to the satisfaction of the AU. "Africans should solve their problems themselves," he stressed, noting that the AU is recommending African countries avoid interfering in the internal problems of other African countries.

During the press conference, the AU Commission chairperson also commended Burundi for participating in peacekeeping missions in Somalia and the Central African Republic.

Japan marks 28 years since cult's sarin gas attack on Tokyo subway

TOKYO

JAPAN marked the 28th anniversary yesterday of a deadly sarin nerve gas attack carried out by the AUM Shinrikyo cult on the Tokyo subway system that left 14 people dead and injured more than 6,000.

A vigil was held at Kasumigaseki subway station in the Japanese capital where one of the deadly attacks took place, with station officials observing a moment of silence at 8:00 am local time, which was around the time the attack took place 28 years ago.

Families of the victims and station officials offered flowers at a stand set up by subway operator Tokyo Metro Co inside the station, the surrounding area of which is dominated by government ministries and other government-related offices.

Japanese Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Tetsuo Saito was in attendance on Monday to pay his respects, laying flowers at Kasumigaseki.

"The government will strengthen efforts to fight terrorism and to create an environment in which train passengers can feel safe," Saito said in a statement.

Similar stands for flowers were set up at Kodemmacho, Hatchobori, Nakanosakaue and other central Tokyo stations where victims of the sarin attack lost their lives.

Russia and China: A future-bound partnership

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S president Vladimir Putin yesterday published an article in China's *The People's Daily* which highlighted relations between Moscow and Beijing.

I am glad to seize this opportunity to address the friendly Chinese people in one of the largest and most authoritative world media in advance of the state visit of President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping to Russia. This landmark event reaffirms the special nature of the Russia-China partnership, which has always been built on mutual trust, respect for each other's sovereignty and interests.

We have high expectations for the upcoming talks. We have no doubt that they will give a new powerful impetus to our bilateral cooperation in its entirety. This is also a great opportunity for me to meet with my good old friend with whom we enjoy the warmest relationship.

I made acquaintance with Comrade Xi Jinping in March 2010 when he visited Moscow as head of a high-level Chinese delegation. Our first meeting was held in a very business-like and at the same time sincere and friendly atmosphere. I really like this style of communication. I know that people in China attach great importance to friendship and personal relationships. It is no coincidence that Confucius the Sage said: "Is it not a joy to have friends coming from afar!" In Russia we share this value and hold real friends for brothers. Our two peoples have very much in common here.

Three years later, about the same days in March, we met again in the capital of Russia. It was Xi Jinping's first state visit to our country after his election as President of the People's Republic of China. The summit set the tone and dynamics of Russia-China relations for many years to come, became clear evidence of the special nature of relations between Russia and China, and outlined the trajectory for their accelerated and sustainable development.

Since then, a decade has passed, which is but a fleeting moment in the history of our countries sharing a centuries-old tradition of good neighbourliness and cooperation.

During this time, the world has seen many changes, often not for the better. Yet the main thing has remained unchanged: I am talking of the firm friendship between Russia and China, which is consistently growing stronger for the benefit and in the interest of our countries and peoples. The progress made in the development of bilateral ties is impressive. The Russia-China relations have reached the highest

level in their history and are gaining even more strength; they surpass Cold War-time military-political alliances in their quality, with no one to constantly order and

no one to constantly obey, without limitations or taboos. We have reached an unprecedented level of trust in our political dialogue, our strategic cooperation has become truly comprehensive in nature and is standing on the brink of a new era.

President Xi Jinping and I have met about 40 times and have always found time and opportunity to talk in a variety of official formats as well as at no tie events.

Our priorities include trade and economic partnership. In 2022, our bilateral trade, which had already been considerable by the time, doubled to reach USD 185 billion.

This is a new record. What is more, we have every reason to believe that the USD 200 billion target, which was set by Pres-



ident Xi Jinping and myself, will be exceeded as early as this year instead of 2024. It is noteworthy that the share of settlements in national currencies in our mutual trade is growing, further strengthening the sovereignty of our relations.

Long-term joint plans and programs are being successfully implemented. It will be no exaggeration to say that the Power of Siberia Russian-Chinese gas pipeline has become the "deal of the century" for its scale.

The supplies of Russian oil and coal have increased significantly. Our specialists are involved in building new nuclear power units in China, while Chinese companies actively engage in LNG projects; our industrial and agricultural cooperation is growing stronger. Together we explore outer space and develop new technologies.

Russia and China are powers with ancient and unique traditions and an enormous cultural heritage. Now that all pandemic-related restrictions on mutual contacts have been lifted, it is important that we increase humanitarian and tourist exchanges as soon as possible, thereby strengthening the social basis of the Russian-Chinese partnership. Interstate thematic years have a special role to play in this context. For example, the 2022/2023 biennium is dedicated to cooperation in the field of physical culture and sports, which is very popular among our citizens.

Unlike some countries claiming hegemony and bringing discord to the global harmony, Russia and China are literally and figuratively building bridges. Last year our border regions were connected by two new bridge crossings over the Amur river, which has been a "river of friendship" since time immemorial. Amidst the "waves and winds" that sweep the planet, we closely cooperate in international affairs and effectively coordinate our foreign policy positions, counter common threats, and respond to current challenges, standing shoulder to shoulder as a "rock amid a fast flowing stream." We actively promote democratic multilateral structures such as the SCO and BRICS, which become more and more authoritative and influential and attract new partners and friends. The work aimed at coordinating the development of the Eurasian Economic Union with the One Belt, One Road Initiative also goes in this vein.

Our countries, together with like-minded actors, have consistently advocated the shaping of a more just multipolar world order based on international law rather than certain "rules" serving the needs of the "golden billion." Russia and China have consistently worked to create an equitable, open and inclusive regional and global security system that

is not directed against third countries. In this regard, we note the constructive role of China's Global Security Initiative, which is in line with the Russian approaches in this area.

We can feel the geopolitical landscape in the outside world change dramatically. Sticking more stubbornly than ever to its obsolete dogmata and vanishing

dominance, the "Collective West" is gambling on the fates of entire states and peoples. The US's policy of simultaneously deterring Russia and China, as well as

all those who do not bend to the American dictation, is getting ever more fierce and aggressive. The international security and cooperation architecture is being dismantled. Russia has been labelled an "immediate threat" and China a "strategic competitor."

We appreciate the well-balanced stance on the events in Ukraine adopted by the PRC, as well as its understanding of their historical background and root causes. We welcome China's readiness to make a meaningful contribution to the settlement of the crisis. Like our friends in China, we advocate for the strict compliance with the UN Charter, respect for the norms of international law, including humanitarian law. We are committed to the principle of the indivisibility of security, which is being grossly violated by the NATO bloc. We are deeply concerned over the irresponsible and outright dangerous actions that jeopardize nuclear security. We reject illegitimate unilateral sanctions, which must be lifted.

Russia is open to the political and diplomatic resolution of the Ukraine crisis. It was not Russia who broke off the peace talks back in April 2022. The future of the peace process depends solely on the will to engage in a meaningful discussion taking into

account current geopolitical realities. Unfortunately, the ultimatum nature of requirements placed on Russia shows that their authors are detached from these realities and lack interest in finding a solution to the situation.

The crisis in Ukraine, which was provoked and is being diligently fuelled by the West, is the most striking, yet not the only, manifestation of its desire to retain its international dominance and preserve the unipolar world order. It is crystal clear that

NATO is striving for a global reach of activities and seeking to penetrate the Asia-Pacific. It is obvious that there are forces persistently working to split the common

Eurasian space into a network of "exclusive clubs" and military blocs that would serve to contain our countries' development and harm their interests. This won't work.

In fact, today, the Russia-China relations serve as the cornerstone of regional and global stability, driving the economic growth and securing the positive agenda in international affairs. They provide an example of harmonious and constructive cooperation between major powers.

I am convinced that our friendship and partnership based on the strategic choice of the peoples of the two countries will further grow and gain strength for the well-being and prosperity of Russia and China. This visit of the President of the PRC to Russia will undoubtedly contribute to that.

Agencies

Vaccine makers prepare bird flu shot for humans 'just in case'

LONDON

SOME of the world's leading makers of flu vaccines say they could make hundreds of millions of bird flu shots for humans within months if a new strain of avian influenza ever jumps across the species divide.

One current outbreak of avian flu known as H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b has killed record numbers of birds and infected mammals. Human cases, however, remain very rare, and global health officials have said the risk of transmission between humans is still low. Executives at three vaccine manufacturers - GSK Plc, Moderna Inc and CSL Seqirus, owned by CSL Ltd - told Reuters they are already developing or about to test sample human vaccines that better match the circulating subtype, as a precautionary measure against a future pandemic.

Others, like Sanofi, said they "stand ready" to begin production if needed, with existing H5N1 vaccine strains in stock.

There has also been a push among companies to develop a bird flu vaccine for poultry, a market potentially far larger than that for humans.

Less reassuring, however, is that most of the potential human doses are earmarked for wealthy countries in long-standing preparedness contracts, global health experts and the companies said.

Many countries' pandemic plans say flu shots should go first to the most vulnerable while supply is limited. But during COVID-19, many vaccine-rich countries inoculated large proportions of their populations before considering sharing doses.

"We could potentially have a much worse problem with vaccine hoarding and vaccine nationalism in a flu outbreak than we saw with COVID," said Dr Richard Hatchett, chief executive of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, which helps fund vaccine research.

An international framework for pandemic flu allocates 10 percent of global supply for the World Health Organization to share with low- and middle-income countries. By contrast, the WHO is seeking guarantees of 20 percent global supply for other types of pandemic flu in the wake of COVID.

The UN agency said it has signed legally binding agreements with 14 manufacturers for 10 percent of their pandemic flu vaccine "as it comes off the production line", in a



A health worker in protective gear fumigates a motorcycle near a poultry farm during a health alert due to a bird flu outbreak in Sacaba, Bolivia, Jan 31, 2023. (PHOTO / AP)

mix of donated doses and doses to be bought by the agency at an affordable price. The agreements include six of the largest seasonal flu manufacturers, such as GSK, Sanofi and CSL Seqirus, the WHO said.

WHO did not comment on the potential for vaccine hoarding in a flu pandemic but said mechanisms were being developed "so that countries can work together - not in competition with each other" to respond to such a crisis. It said it was "fully confident" manufacturers and member states would meet their obligations.

New approaches

In a pandemic, vaccine manufacturers would shift production of seasonal flu vaccines and instead make shots tailored to the new outbreak when needed. They already have the capacity to make hundreds of millions of doses.

Many of the potential pandemic shots are pre-approved by regulators, based on data from human trials showing the vaccines are safe and prompt an immune response, a process already used with seasonal flu vaccines. This means they might not require further human trials, even if they have to be tweaked to better match whichever strain does jump to humans. Data on how well the vaccines actually protect against infection would be gathered in real-time.

In all, the WHO said there are close to 20 licensed vaccines against the broader H5 strain of flu. Existing antiviral treatments for people already infected will also help mitigate the impact.

At the same time, moving to large-scale production of a more targeted shot could take months, the manufacturers said. Some potential shots use a traditional method, growing the virus used in the vaccines in chicken eggs over four to six months.

"Creating the first dose is the easiest," said Raja Rajaram, head of global medical strategy at CSL Seqirus. "The hardest is manufacturing in large quantities."

Experts have long advocated for new approaches in developing vaccines, both for seasonal and pandemic flu. COVID proved the potential of mRNA technology to adapt more quickly to changing viruses because the vaccines use genetic information from the pathogen, rather than having to grow the virus itself.

Moderna's mRNA vaccine research actually began with pandemic flu, and was modified for COVID, said Raffael Nachbagauer, executive director of infectious diseases at Moderna.

Pakistan police arrest dozens of supporters of ex-PM Khan

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD,

POLICE in Pakistan have arrested dozens of supporters and aides of former prime minister Imran Khan in raids in two cities as part of a crackdown on those involved in recent clashes with the security forces, Khan's party and police said yesterday.

Supporters of Khan's party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), clashed with police in the city of Lahore last week as they attempted to arrest him at his home, and later with police in Islamabad as he arrived to appear before a court on Saturday.

"Around 285 PTI supporters have been arrested in Lahore and Islamabad. Houses of all major leaders were raided by police last night," Khan's aide, Fawad Chaudhry, told Reuters.

Khan, a former cricket star, was prime minister from 2018 until 2022, when he was ousted from office in a parliamentary vote. Since then he has been demanding a snap election and holding protest rallies across the country to press his case.

His successor as prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif, has rejected his demand and said an election would be held as scheduled later this year.

Khan, 70, is facing several legal cases, including one that prompted a failed attempt to arrest him on Tuesday after a court issued warrants for his arrest for not appearing before it.

Clashes between Khan's supporters and the security forces have brought a new round of political chaos to Pakistan, which is in the midst of a crippling economic crisis.

Khan says the government and the powerful military are trying to stop him from contesting the next election, scheduled for No-

vember. If convicted in a case, Khan could face disqualification from the polls.

Both the government and military deny this.

Police in both Lahore and Islamabad confirmed the raids and the arrest of PTI workers they said were involved in clashes with police and arson.

"Police are raiding the houses because seven cases on various charges, including terrorism, have been registered against the leaders and workers," Lahore police chief Bilal Kamiana told Reuters referring to the clashes with police.

He said 125 activists had been arrested in Lahore, including some last week.

In Islamabad, a police spokesman said 198 PTI supporters had been arrested in connection with arson and attacks on police in which 58 people were injured and more than a dozen vehicles, including some police cars, were set ablaze.

More raids were being carried out, the spokesman said.

He said police had also gone to the home of a sitting PTI senator, Shibli Faraz, with a search warrant, but the senator was not home.

Khan, remembered by many for his success as a cricket player and later for his charity work, won considerable support among sections of the electorate with his conservative, nationalistic policies.



His successor as prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif, has rejected his demand and said an election would be held as scheduled later

SPORT



Renowned Tanzanian artist, Naseeb Abdul Juma 'Diamond Platnumz' (R), who is also an Airtel Tanzania ambassador, gets instructions on how to join Airtel's eSIM technology from the company's staff, Diamond Edward, in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Airtel Tanzania launched the technology, which enables customers to access the same functionality as physical SIM available in the market. PHOTO: GUARDIAN PHOTOGRAPHER

Dar artist embraces Airtel eSIM Technology services

By Guardian Reporter

RENOWNED Tanzanian artist, Naseeb Abdul Juma, has turned into the first Airtel customer in the country to register eSIM (embedded SIM), a digital SIM that enables customers to access the same functionality as physical SIM available in the market.

Juma, alias 'Diamond Platnumz', is the Airtel Tanzania ambassador.

Airtel Tanzania launched eSIM in Dar es Salaam last weekend, becoming the first telecommunications mobile services provider in the country to launch the technology.

The artist said after registering with eSIM technology he was happy to become the first Airtel customer to be connected to eSIM technology.

"Instead of a physical and removable SIM, an eSIM (embedded SIM) is a form of programmable SIM card that is embedded directly onto the Universal Integrated Circuit Card (eUICC) chip permanently attached to your phone," the artist said.

"eSIM offers a lot of benefits over the physical card as you can use up to five different numbers in just one phone and therefore avoid the unnecessary difficulties of walking with many phones," he noted.

The musician pointed out that if an individual is a frequent traveler, he/she will find the eSIM very convenient for switching network operators and no longer need to fear damaging his/her SIM card.

The artist stated: "I'm very proud of Airtel for investing in technology as now we are witnessing a new era where an individual no longer needs a physical card for his/her phone."

"I have already joined the new technology

and I would like to use this opportunity to join Airtel and connect with eSIM. It is very easy and functions just like the physical sim card," the singer noted.

Airtel Tanzania's Director of Communications, Beatrice Singano, said that an eSIM profile can only be used in a single device.

Beatrice noted: "If you want to use your mobile number in a new device, you will need to carry out a fresh eSIM replacement and scan a new QR code to download a new profile."

"Not all phones can support eSIM but a customer can dial *#06# to see whether their phone supports eSIM," the official revealed.

"An eSIM card cannot be removed or stolen, whereas removable SIM cards are sometimes stolen, and used in scams hence high security," she added.

According to Beatrice, some of the phones that can support eSIM are iPhone, Samsung, Google Pixel, and Motorola.

"The process of registering with eSIM is the same as registering a physical card as you will require fingerprint verification and NIDA identification or number," Beatrice noted.

"You will enjoy the same functions just like the physical cards including making and receiving calls, SMS, and mobile money services," she said.

The official noted: "The eSIM is more secure than a physical SIM because it can't be removed if your iPhone is either lost or stolen."

"However, in an event that you have lost your phone, you will need to visit any Airtel Shop with your original ID for replacement," Beatrice added.

Tanzania ready for 2023 EAPCCO Games

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S Police athletes have said they are ready for the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) Games which get underway tomorrow at Pele Stadium in Kigali, Rwanda tomorrow.

Director of Sports in the Tanzania Police Services, ACP Jonas Mahanga, said the country is ready for the games, which will come to an end on Monday next week.

He pointed out that the country's performers will take part in athletics, basketball (men), darts, judo, netball, shooting, and Taekwondo.

Mahanga said the EAPCCO Games are vital as they foster interactions among National Police institutions in the fight against transnational crimes, especially in the great lakes region.

The official noted that servicemen moreover share experiences and cement the strong friendship between them when battling it out in the games.

Mahanga said he anticipates a tough competition but was upbeat that Tanzania's teams will do well and bring home medals.

"We are ready for the games our athletes have been in camp for one month and am sure they are well prepared for the games, hopefully, they will bring home medals," he said.

The EAPCCO Games did not take place last year due to the Coronavirus pandemic but Tanzania hosted the Southern Africa Regional Police Chief Cooperation (SARPCCO) Games.

Tanzania's service men emerged overall runners-up and also did well in individual sports, holding sway in athletics which had the athletes amassing 18 gold medals, 12 silver medals, and nine bronze medals.

Zimbabwe finished second with 15 gold medals, 23 silver, and 11 bronze medals, followed by third-placed Namibia with four gold medals, 12 silver medals, and 13 bronze medals.

Tanzania Police athletics team's head coach, Rogath John, said they are ready to win more medals in Rwanda.

The coach noted: "I'm not traveling with the team due to other engagements but my colleague, Oswald Revelian, is with the team."

SPORTS

Simba SC ruthlessly trounces Horoya AC as Yanga comfortably sails through

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

LAST weekend, Tanzanian football heavyweights Simba SC and Yanga provided just cause for enormous cheer among ardent local football fans as both teams produced breathtakingly masterful displays to carry the day in their respective CAF inter-club competitions clashes.

Indeed, Simba SC was the first to put local fans into seventh heaven when the club locked horns with the tricky Guinean side, Horoya Athletic Club, in an all-important CAF Champions League group stage duel at the majestic Benjamin Mkapa stadium.

With a sea of Simba SC fans in attendance, many supporters had been likely expecting to witness a hard-fought contest between two good teams.

However, to the sheer elation of the heavily partisan home crowd, Simba SC pitilessly thrashed Horoya Athletic Club 7-0 in a magical and entertaining display that will live long in the memory.

Indisputably, the star of Simba SC's immensely classy display was the Zambian midfielder Clatous Chama, who went on the rampage and deservedly ended up with a stellar hat-trick.

However, individual displays aside, what was chiefly important about Simba SC's remarkable triumph was the fact that the Msimbazi Street side had sealed a berth in the quarterfinals of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League.

This is an undoubtedly impressive feat especially when one considers the inauspicious start that Simba SC made in the CAF Champions League Group Stage.

For their part, Yanga supporters also have justifiable reasons to engage in merry-making as the Jangwani Street outfit outclassed their Tunisian foes, US Monastir, 2-0 in a 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage encounter at the stately Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Sunday.

It should be noted here that Yanga was beaten by US Monastir in Tunisia at



Tanzania's Simba SC midfielder, Clatous Chama (R), celebrates with teammates once the player netted against Guinea's Horoya Athletic Club in a 2022/23 CAF Champions League's Group C tie which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Simba SC won 7-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

the outset of the Jangwani Street side's campaign in the Group Stage.

Nevertheless, since that shaky start, Yanga has confidently moved forward to pick up several sterling victories both at home and away.

Indeed, Yanga's sublime 2-0 win against US Monastir last Sunday assured them of a spot in the quarterfinals of the CAF Confederation Cup, which is an excellent achievement.

Impressively, the fact that Simba SC and Yanga have progressed to the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup respectively marks the first time in history that the mainland's two representatives have advanced to the quarterfinals of both greatly esteemed continental football competitions.

That is a magnificent and outstanding first in our country's football history that deserves lavish praise.

Let us now focus our attention on the national football team, the Taifa Stars, who are set to face off against the Ugandan Cranes in a make-or-break AFCON finals qualifier on March 24, this year.

The Taifa Stars are in Group F of the qualifiers, where they were drawn alongside perennial heavyweights Algeria, lightweights Niger and regional rivals Uganda.

Thus far, all teams in Group F have played two games

in which the Taifa Stars have lost once and earned a share of the spoils in their second game, which means that they have only a minuscule one point.

Interestingly, the Ugandan Cranes have also amassed only a measly one point thus far in the qualifiers which effectively means that their meeting against the Taifa Stars this week will be a high-stakes showdown between two teams who know that defeat is not an option.

Naturally, many Tanzanians will be keeping their fingers crossed for a Taifa Stars victory in this key clash. We wish them the very best of luck.

SOT official lauds 2023 Special Olympics Games' preparations

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SPECIAL Olympics Tanzania (SOT) Director, Charles Rays, returned home last weekend after attending a one-week Head of Delegations (HOD) site visit in Germany.

Tanzania is among 170 countries that will send special athletes to the coming Summer Special Olympics slated for June 17-26 in Germany.

Rays said while in Germany he attended the HOD meeting, and toured venues that will host the Games and other logistics.

The SOT leader, who described the visit as important as Tanzania prepares for the Summer Special Olympics Games, said they visited Olympiastadion, the home stadium for Bundesliga club Hertha Berlin, which will host the Games' opening ceremony.

Olympiastadion will host Summer Special Olympics Games events such as athletics, football, futsal, hockey, roller skating, handball, and equestrian.

Rays further said Strabedes Stadium will host cycling events, Beachmitte is the home of beach volleyball, while Wannsee will host sailing.

Messe Berlin, which is used for international exhibitions, will host bocce, table tennis, badminton, powerlifting, judo, volleyball, basketball, artistic, and rhythmic gymnastic.

The Messe Berlin will also host non-sporting events such as presentation ceremonies, congress, and a healthy athletes program.

"I left Tanzania last Sunday for Germany where I attended Head of Delegation (HOD) meetings, and visit venues for this year's Summer Special Olympics Games," the SOT leader revealed.

"I visited our village (where the Tanzania team will reside) and I'm expected back home on Sunday, the tour was good as, among others, I managed to connect with other HODs and learn from them," he said.

Tanzania's team made up of 31 people is expected to depart for Germany on June 12, it will participate



Special Olympics Tanzania (SOT) Director, Charles Rays.

in athletics and unified volleyball.

SOT said it needs more than 191m/- to send the contingent made up of athletes, coaches, team doctors, and officials.

The government, through National Sports Council (NSC), promised SOT that it will sponsor half of the team's trip to Germany.

Neema Msitha, NSC Secretary-General, said the government is committed to seeing that people with intellectual challenges are fully involved in sporting activities hence the support.

"We are committed to seeing that people with disabilities and those with intellectual challenges are fully involved in sporting activities," the NSC leader noted.

"The SOT leaders informed us that it plans to send 31 people to the Summer Special Olympics Games," Neema revealed.

Neema added: "Being a government that is committed to vouching for inclusive sports, we will take care of air tickets for half of the group."

"We appeal to stakeholders and others to help SOT so that it can send all 31 delegates," she said.

Athletes in the Germany-bound team were selected in SOT subprograms/regions which competed in the national games held in Mwanza last year.

This will be the first time that Germany is hosting the World Special Olympics and more than 700 athletes with intellectual disabilities from 170 countries will battle it out in the showdown.

The Special Olympics World Summer Games are held every four years and are the world's largest inclusive sports event.

Tanzania has been doing well in Special Olympics Games. In last year's Pan African Special Olympics Games that took place in Egypt, Tanzania collected 11 medals.

Conte outburst leaves Tottenham chairman Levy with decision to make

LONDON

ANTONIO Conte's astonishing rant at his "selfish" Tottenham players and the culture of the club leaves the Spurs hierarchy with a difficult decision to make.

Conte's days in north London already seemed numbered prior to his scathing outburst after Saturday's 3-3 draw at bottom-of-the-table Southampton.

The Italian is out of contract at the end of the season, with neither side keen on extending his stay into a third campaign, but now he could face the sack during the forthcoming international break.

With Tottenham desperately trying to hold on to fourth place in the Premier League and the riches of a return to the Champions League next season, chairman Daniel Levy must decide whether their final 10 games would be more profitable with Conte removed from the equation.

Conte arrived at Spurs in November 2021 with the reputation of a serial winner.

The 53-year-old won league titles at each of his previous three spells in charge of Juventus, Chelsea and Inter Milan.

Despite his success, the former Italian international's time at all three clubs ended in acrimony.

The pattern is set to continue at Spurs but without Conte ending the club's 15-year wait to win a trophy.

Tottenham were dumped out of both the FA Cup and Champions League within a week earlier this month.

Conte has only recently returned to the touchline after a spell back in Italy recovering from gallbladder surgery and his patience ran out after seeing his side throw away a 3-1 lead with just 13 minutes remaining at St. Mary's.

"It's the right moment to speak because I think that after this per-

formance, for me this is unacceptable," said Conte.

"I see selfish players, I see players that don't want to help each other and don't put their heart."

- Levy under the spotlight -

Conte was even more cutting when pushed on the reasons for Tottenham's continued failure to succeed under a string of different managers.

"Tottenham's story is this. Twenty years there is the owner and they never won something," he added.

"Why? Because they are used to it here, they are used to it. They don't play for something important. They don't want to play under pressure, they don't want to play under stress. It is easy in this way."

Amid such a crisis it is hard to believe that Conte's men still sit fourth in the Premier League table.

But they are just two points ahead of Newcastle having played two games more than the Magpies.

Liverpool and Brighton also have games in hand to close in on the Champions League places.

"There are 10 games to go and some people think we can fight. Fight for what with his spirit, this attitude, this commitment?" Conte said.

"For seventh, eighth, 10th place? I am not used to this position. I'm really upset and everyone has to take their responsibility."

With the bond between manager and players seemingly broken, the spotlight is on Levy with 15 days until Spurs play again away at Everton. Levy has not been slow to sack managers in the past.

Mauricio Pochettino was fired just months after reaching the club's first Champions League final, while Jose Mourinho was dismissed in the week before the League Cup final two years ago.

AFP

'Unbelievable' Leverkusen shock Bayern to keep Dortmund top

BERLIN

ARGENTINA'S World Cup winner Exequiel Palacios struck twice from the spot as Bayer Leverkusen blew the Bundesliga title race wide open with a shock 2-1 win over Bayern Munich on Sunday.

With a little help from VAR, Leverkusen came from behind to hand coach Xabi Alonso a famous win on his first reunion with former club Bayern and keep the champions from regaining top spot.

"It's an unbelievable feeling. I'm so proud of the way we played today," said Alonso, who played for Bayern from 2014 to 2017.

Bayern are a point behind leaders Borussia Dortmund and the two sides set to meet in the next round of games on April 1.

"That is now a must-win game for us, because it will be very difficult to win the title otherwise," said Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann.

"It was a deserved defeat today. Apart from the last 10 minutes, they were the better team," he added.

Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic was scathing in his criticism of the performance.

"We let ourselves be overrun by a team who played in midweek. That's not what it means to be Bayern Munich," he said.

Bayern survived an early chance from Jeremie Frimpong before taking the lead themselves when Odilon Kossounou deflected a Joshua Kimmich shot into his own net.

The hosts continued to cause Bayern problems, however, and fully deserved their equaliser from the penalty spot on 55 minutes.

Amine Adli was initially booked for diving after he was clipped by Benjamin Pavard, but the decision was reversed by VAR and Palacios converted from the spot.

The scene repeated itself 20 minutes later as Adli was brought down by Dayot Upamecano just inside the penalty area.

Once again, he was booked for diving, and once again, Palacios smashed the ball into the bottom corner after the intervention of

VAR.

"VAR was a lifesaver today and it was a perfect example of how the system should work," said referee Tobias Stieler.

The win also kept Leverkusen afloat in the race for Europe, with Alonso's side now just three points adrift of sixth.

- Union bounce back -

Elsewhere, Union Berlin gave their Champions League hopes a boost as a rare goal from Rani Khedira helped them to a 2-0 win over Bundesliga top-six rivals Eintracht Frankfurt.

Khedira - the brother of 2014 World Cup winner Sami - stabbed in the opener to score only his seventh goal in 194 Bundesliga appearances and lift Union back into third place.

"It's also my first goal for Union so I am very happy," Khedira told Dazn. "Today was much more about mentality than about tactics."

Both sides came into the game on five-game winless runs and trying to bounce back after being dumped out of European competition in midweek.

Frankfurt had the lion's share of the chances in the first half, with both Randal Kolo Muani and Daichi Kamada coming close.

Yet the hosts took the lead just after the break when Khedira prodded the ball home from close range after Frankfurt failed to clear a corner.

Sheraldo Becker nutmegged Frankfurt keeper Kevin Trapp to find the net again for Union on 69 minutes, but the strike was ruled out for offside.

Trapp was left blushing when he again let the ball through his legs a few minutes later to allow Kevin Behrens to double the lead.

Union - unbeaten in 18 home games in the league - are now two points ahead of Freiburg, who climbed to fourth with a 1-1 draw away to Mainz.

Freiburg looked set for victory after a mistake from Mainz keeper Robin Zentner allowed Japan international Ritsu Doan to steal in and score his second goal in two games.

Rooney powered his side to a title at just 21: Saka can do the same

BY JASON BURT

WHEN was the last time a Premier League club was driven to the title by a 21-year-old? Wayne Rooney won the first of his five when he was that tender age at Manchester United.

But at that point in his stellar career, with Cristiano Ronaldo alongside him, he was not quite as fundamental to the team as Bukayo Saka is to Arsenal even if Rooney did make the most appearances for United in that campaign.

The comparison is a fair one as two goals and another assist for Saka extended Arsenal's advantage at the top to eight points over Manchester City, who have a game in hand, entering the international break.

There is now just 10 matches to go, and no other distractions, for Arsenal in their quest for a first title since 2004 - when Saka was still not even three years old - and so the finishing line gets tantalisingly closer and closer with City still in the Champions League and FA Cup.

There will be those who, understandably, point to the classy influence of captain Martin Odegaard or the transformative effect of Oleksandr Zinchenko in driving Arsenal towards this most unlikely of triumphs but, make no mistake, it is Saka who is their main man; who is their undisputed 'Starboy'.

When he announced his England squad last week Gareth Southgate said that he smiles at the mere mention of Saka's name and the outstanding winger certainly has that effect for his club as well as his country.

Indeed Bukayo means "adds to happiness" in Yoruba, one of the main languages spoken in Nigeria, and there could not be a more apt name for this smiling assassin who now has 12 league goals and 10 assists and is the first player to reach double figures in both those charts this season.

If there was a vote for footballer of the year held today then he would surely win it, which is all the more remarkable given Erling Haaland's 41 goals - so far - this season for City.

It will probably come down to



Arsenal's English midfielder Bukayo Saka shoots to score their second goal during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Crystal Palace at the Emirates Stadium in London on March 19, 2023. (Photo: AFP)

which club claims the title and with six wins in a row since losing to City - with 19 goals scored and five conceded - Arsenal are showing the resilience to go all the way.

They have to go to the Etihad, they have to go to Liverpool, they have to go to Newcastle United but they are showing the kind of belief, all the more noteworthy given they are such a young team, that suggests they might just do it - even though they have that sky blue juggernaut with Haaland at the wheel in their rear view mirror. There is no let-up.

Saka is at the vanguard which is all the more impressive given he plays at the sharp end, is often the recipient of some hefty challenges and fouls, and appears in every game. He is targeted but few can actually nail him. Sleep, Saka said, is something that can wait until the summer although he has the Arsenal fans dreaming.

Once they felt the points were secured those gleeful supporters baited Crystal Palace with a chorus of "Patrick Vieira" with the former midfielder having, of course, captained the 'Invincibles' who won that last league title in 2004.

In fairness to Palace they showed far more attacking threat than they

did under their now sacked manager with caretaker Paddy McCarthy in charge before a temporary appointment, probably that of 75-year-old Roy Hodgson, is made until the end of the campaign.

On this evidence, though, Palace could do worse than sticking with McCarthy, the Under-21 coach, but the reality is it is one win in 17 and four straight defeats. They remain in 12th place but that is a false comfort.

After a decade in the top-flight the threat of relegation looms larger and larger and can they entrust their fate on a rookie? West Ham, in 18th place, are just three points behind and have two games over Palace. If the story is all about Arsenal and Saka then it could, however, have been different had Palace's own talisman, Wilfried Zaha, taken the chances that fell his way.

It was surely telling, though, that Saka claimed the second of his goals to end any doubt just as Palace threatened an unlikely comeback after scoring their first goal for a month. But that is what the best players do.

The convincing win also helped Arsenal get over the disappointment of exiting the Europa League, after a penalty shoot-out, to Sport-

ing last Thursday. This was the perfect response and there was no sign of fatigue or a hangover although there will be a pang of concern from manager Mikel Arteta, with Takehiro Tomiyasu and William Saliba already out injured, now that players head around the world to feature for their national teams.

After Zaha struck a post, Arsenal struck. Defensively it was poor as Saka's cross ran to Gabriel Martinelli who easily beat third-choice goalkeeper Joseph Whitworth with an angled shot.

By half-time Arsenal had gone for the jugular with Saka timing that 'outside-to-in-run' to perfection, meeting Ben White's pass and bending the ball low around Whitworth.

The third came after Granit Xhaka exchanged passes with Leandro Trossard before Jeffrey Schlupp scored from a corner.

Zaha fashioned two more chances but, fittingly, Saka had the final significant contribution with an accomplished first-time finish as he swept the ball home.

It summed up Arsenal's assuredness and the broad grin across Saka's face said it all.

THE TELEGRAPH

Xavi 'proud' after Clasico, Barca move 12 points clear of Madrid

BARCELONA

BARCELONA snatched a 2-1 Clasico win over Real Madrid with Franck Kessie's late goal Sunday to move 12 points clear at the top of La Liga.

The victory dents Madrid's ambitions of retaining the title and leaves the Catalans close to lifting the trophy for the first time since 2019.

Carlo Ancelotti's Madrid took the lead through a Ronald Araujo own goal but Barcelona pulled level when Sergi Roberto tucked home just before half-time.

Both sides had chances to win the game and Marco Asensio struck for Madrid, but the goal was ruled offside by VAR, before Alejandro Balde set up Kessie in the 92nd minute.

"It's not definitive but it's a very important step," Xavi told reporters.

"Twelve points clear at the top of La Liga, we are having an extraordinary league campaign, I am very happy for that and proud to watch the team play."

The build-up to the match was overshadowed by Barcelona's corruption charge in the "Caso Negreira" refereeing scandal.

Madrid joined Spanish prosecutors' complaint against Barcelona last week and their president Florentino Perez snubbed the game for the first time in over 20 years, amid rising tensions between the two Spanish giants.

That fed the match's intensity, both on and off the pitch, in Xavi's sixth Clasico as Barcelona coach but only his first at Camp Nou.

Xavi asked fans to make the stadium a pressure cooker and they responded, selling it out, whistling Madrid in possession and conjuring one of the best atmospheres of the



season.

However, they fell behind in unfortunate circumstances. Araujo deflected Vinicius' cross in at the near post, with Ter Stegen helpless.

Araujo, playing at right-back to counteract the Brazilian, has enjoyed his duels with Vinicius in the past but this time the winger triumphed, albeit fortuitously. Barcelona supporters became enraged by his emphatic celebration in front of them.

It was the first goal from open play Barcelona have conceded at Camp

Nou in La Liga all season long, and only the second strike at home and ninth overall.

- Comeback charge -

Barcelona complained defender Nacho, already booked, should have been sent off for a hand-off on Raphinha.

The hosts did not get their wish, but were building up steam and found the breakthrough just before half-time, from an unlikely source.

Selected in place of injured midfielder Pedri, Sergi Roberto was in the right place at the right time to control a loose ball in the box and arc it beyond Courtois.

Barcelona had significantly more possession than in their cup win over Madrid and significantly more chances, but Madrid nearly won it.

Madrid substitute Asensio fired home but the goal was ruled out for offside after a nery wait for VAR instruction.

"We did not win because of an offside that we're still doubtful about," complained Ancelotti.

"I was not so sure. We have doubts about it, and we go back to Madrid

with this doubt."

Barcelona seemed content with the draw but Kessie's last-gasp strike sparked wild celebrations at Camp Nou.

"I don't have the feeling (the league is won) but I understand the fans singing 'campeones' - it's a considerable advantage but we can't relax," added Xavi.

"The atmosphere was extraordinary, how the fans supported the team."

Earlier Real Sociedad held on to fourth place with a 2-0 win over Elche on Sunday. They are under pressure from Real Betis and Villarreal who both won too.

Betis, fifth, are three points behind the Basque side after they beat Mallorca 1-0, while Villarreal, sixth, thrashed Osasuna 3-0 on the road and sit four points behind the Andalusians.

Sevilla fell to a disappointing 2-0 defeat at Getafe as their topsy-turvy season continued, leaving Jorge Sampaoli's side 14th and two points above the drop zone.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Rooney powered his side to a title at just 21: Saka can do the same

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Dar players tipped to excel in Junior World Tennis Series

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Tennis Association (TTA) says the country has junior players that can cause an upset in the coming Junior World Tennis Series (JWTS), which will take place in Bulgaria if they prepare well.

Francis Thomas, TTA's newly elected president, revealed in an interview held during the conclusion of the showdown's qualifiers that took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) on Sunday.

He said the one-week tournament which has attracted 53 players from across the world has shown that Tanzania has good tennis players.

The top three youngsters in each category will battle it out in the tournament's finals slated for early June in Bulgaria.

Thomas, however, could not disclose the names of the players who will travel to Bulgaria, saying there are other logistics his association is working on.

He challenged local junior tennis players to make full use of the Bulgaria tournament.

"We are happy with the level of commitment shown by our players, the quality was just awesome, the Bulgaria tournament presents an opportunity for the Tanzania team's players to leave a mark in tennis history, when you go there fight for mother Tanzania," he told the youngsters.

The TTA president disclosed that they are looking for companies, institutions, and tennis stakeholders to sponsor the team's trip to Bulgaria.

The official stated: "We need more money given in the JWTS tournament every player is supposed to have his/her coach."

"In some cases, a coach can take charge of more than a single player, but one coach per player is recommended, so we will need a lot of money."

"We ask tennis stakeholders, the cooperate world, and institutions to support us financially," he said.

Tanzania is the first African country to host the JWTS tournament.

Speaking at the tournament's launch at DGC on Sunday, JWTS president Thomas Schulze said through the tournament youngsters play more matches as they battle it out in age categories of U-12, U-14, and U-16, doubles, and mixed doubles.

He said JWTS is a federation that is operating alongside the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and it has its set of laws, rules, and regulations.



Junior tennis player, Isando John, hits a return to an opponent in the boys' singles tie of the BQ Junior Open tournament which took place at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

EATV TUESDAY

MJADALA

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dandao Za Michezo
14:00 SPORTS (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
15:55 Dandao Za Michezo
16:00 Hot Spot
16:30 Zote Kuntu
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA I
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 Club Bangers

MJADALA

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and; is keen to share, engage and participate in the shapping process.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
14:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM



Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC)'s golfer, Arshid Esmail (L), is presented with an award by Qatar Airways Country Manager for Tanzania and Rwanda, Isaac Wambua (R), following the former's triumph in this year's Qatar Airways golf tournament Division B at the club's course on Sunday. Looking on is one of the company's officials. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Gymkhana golfer clinches Qatar Airways tourney title

By Guardian Correspondent

DAR ES SALAAM Gymkhana Club (DGC) golfer, Pradeep Kumar Srivastava, has revealed his triumph in this year's Qatar Airways golf tournament has come about thanks to his participation in training regularly.

Srivastava notched 43 points to get the better of over 100 golfers that took part in the showdown played at the club's course.

"This victory is great and it has put me in a position to do well in other competitions," Srivastava that has consequently secured his first big victory noted.

Golfer G. Lee won the ladies' event after notching 41 points.

The one-day tournament was organized by the DGC under Qatar Airways' backing, aiming to promote the sport.

The 18-hole Stable Ford tournament saw Baraka Sadiki, who was playing off handicap 8, take the A Division title after carding 37 points, followed by Edward with 36 points.

Arshid Esmail that posted 40 points beat Aliasagar Mawji on countback to win the Division B title, forcing Mawji to settle for the runner-up position.

Esmail pointed out he will continue tormenting fellow golfers in Division B.

"I have made my way back to the course after missing out for a long spell, I assure you I will continue excelling," Esmail stated.

The Division C top honour went to Kitomari Thomas, who also had an impressive score of 40 points, while D. Shaha was the division's runner-up with 36 points.

In the ladies' category, Maryanne Mugo, who was playing off handicap 13, laid her hands on the top spot after carding 36 points, while second position went to Sue Van Zyl who notched 35 points.

Morogoro Gymkhana's Seif Mcharo ended as the male guest winner as the golfer posted 34 points, and Vicky Elias notched 35 points to secure the female guest winner's award.

"I played really good golf today and everything was just going right for me on the course," a delighted Mcharo said.

He added: "There were several brilliant golfers out there, but I thank God that I beat all of them."

The golfer pointed out: "I always feel comfortable playing on this course because its greens are perfect and hold well."

Hawa Wanyeché ended as the winner of the Longest Drive in the ladies' category, whereas Mcharo emerged winner in the men's discipline.

Mary Kibugi and Ernest Sengeu also grabbed the ladies' and men's nearest to pin prizes.

Over 100 golfers from four clubs namely Morogoro Gymkhana, Moshi Gymkhana Club, Lugalo Club, and DGC battled it out for honours

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I played really good golf today and everything was just going right for me on the course

Premier League Board lauds President Samia

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA Premier League Board (TPLB) has expressed its appreciation to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for backing soccer development in the country in two years of her leadership.

In a statement issued by TPLB's Information and Communication Department, it disclosed during the two years, President Samia has been at the forefront of all issues about soccer promotion domestically.

According to the TPLB, the President has set a favourable environment for the game and motivated the footballers.

The statement noted that recently Tanzanians have seen the President inspire prominent local football clubs, Simba SC and Yanga, in such a way that the outfits have secured progression to the last eight's stages of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League and 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup respectively.

The 5m/- prize money presented by the President to the two sides for every goal scored in the Group Stage of their respective showdowns, TPLB pointed out, has to a great extent brought about such success.

The TPLB revealed Simba SC and Yanga officials and players have, on several occasions, thanked President Samia and conceded her gesture has inspired the clubs to achieve such a feat.

The statement pointed out: "TPLB values cooperation the government, through the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports, offers the board and teams throughout."

The TPLB further lauded Simba SC and Yanga for securing qualification for the last eight of this season's African inter-club tournaments.

The board noted the achievement has brought honour to the country and its soccer.

All football stakeholders in the country, the board pointed out, have generously chipped in and they, therefore, deserve praise.

The stakeholders' efforts, it stated, have helped the country enjoy significant achievement.



Tanzania's Yanga left-back, Joyce Lomalisa (R), dribbles past Tunisia's Union Sportive Monastirienne's Zied Aloui when they faced each other in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup's Group D tie which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. Yanga cruised to a 2-0 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

The statement said: "TPLB thanks sports journalists, soccer followers, and other stakeholders who have worked tirelessly and requested them to keep on working with TPLB in the coming stage.

Simba SC sealed its progression to the 2022/23 CAF Champions League last eight with a comprehensive 7-0 win over Guinea's Horoya Athletic Club in a Group C encounter that took place in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

The outcome has left Simba SC sitting second with nine points from five games, trailing group leader, Morocco's Raja Club Athletic which has posted 13 points from five clashes.

Yanga booked a place in the CAF Confederation Cup's last eight having clobbered Tunisia's US Monastir 2-0 in Group D tie that took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

The Tanzania soccer big gun, for that matter, is leading the rest of the pack in Group D having notched 10 points.

The group leader's better goal difference has relegated US Monastir to second place.

The Tunisian club, which has equally progressed to the last eight, has also collected 10 points, followed by third-

placed AS Real Bamako of Mali with five points and DR Congo's TP Mazembe which is placed fourth with three points.

Meanwhile, Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Pindi Chana has revealed the government has pledged to hand over prize money totaling 500m/- to the senior national soccer squad, Taifa Stars, should the squad sail through to 2023 Africa Cup of Nations slated for January-February 2024 in Ivory Coast.

Pindi, accompanied by the ministry's Deputy Minister Hamisi Mwinjuma and Permanent Secretary Saidi Yakubu when she held a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, appealed to the country's soccer enthusiasts to support Taifa Stars.

Taifa Stars is currently placed third in Group F of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers, having recorded one point.

Algeria (six points) leads the group, followed by Niger (two points) positioned second, and Uganda placed last with one point.

The Tanzania team will, on March 24, lock horns with Uganda in a clash slated to take place at Suez Canal Stadium in Egypt.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

