




National Pg 3
Samia to grace exhibitions next week



National Pg 4
JNHPP project reaches 86.8 per cent



National Pg 5
Govt to build low-cost residential houses



PM: TRA must halt 'taskforce' activity in Dar, all major cities

By James Kandoya and Getrude Mbago

THE government has suspended operations of a taskforce in the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) enforcing tax collection at the Kariakoo International Market in the wake of a generalised closure of shops yesterday.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa issued the directive to TRA when addressing the striking traders yesterday, asking them to resume businesses while he prepared to meet traders and the responsible agencies at the Amatouglu Hall tomorrow.

The sprawling Kariakoo central business district was a no-go area for most of yesterday as a 10-hour traders' strike unfolded, protesting the clogged taxes and levies environment supervised by the tax agency.

The premier told traders that the government has rejected the use of force in collecting taxes, underlining the slant President Samia Suluhu Hassan adopted on the issue from the start.

"Most taxpayers complain over the taskforce," he said, pointing out that officials involved harassing people and are disdainful of what traders have to say or feel.

He appealed to the traders to resume businesses as the government meets their representative with a view to sorting out all the problems, at midweek, where the Minister for Finance and Planning as well as officials from TRA and the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) will be present.

Traders from neighbouring countries

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Traders with businesses in Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo market zone seated yesterday morning next to their shops, which stood closed for some ten hours as they heeded a call for an indefinite strike. Reports said they were protesting a hike in various taxes and allegedly untoward behaviour by some tax collectors. However, the strike was later called off following intervention by Prime Minister Kassim Msajaliwa and promises of further consultations aimed at striking a deal agreeable to all parties concerned. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel



Private sector readying for November's Shanghai Expo

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A SECTION of the Tanzania business community is set to take part at the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, scheduled to kick off from November 5th to 10 this year, vowing to utilise the Chinese market of about 1.4 billion population.

Deogratius Massawe, Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) finance manager, said at the meeting with organizers of the exhibition in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

In past sessions, 26 African countries have participated, where Tanzania was present in the second and fourth country exhibitions. A total of 633 companies from 50 African countries have so far participated, 10 being Tanzanian companies, he stated.

"Vertically and horizontally, we believe this exhibition has big potential," he said, underlining that the private sector and entire business community are ready to participate and make good use of

opportunities unfolding.

The exhibition will make Tanzanian products and services become visible to Chinese companies and consumers, thus offering distinct advantages in establishing close links with Chinese partners, he said.

Hamad Hamad, Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) executive director, said that CIIE provides a bigger opportunity not only for Tanzanian enterprises to trade with China, but to trade with the rest of the world in China.

"It is an opportunity for us to increase and utilize our market share in the Chinese market of about 1.4bn people," he said.

Cathy Wang, East Africa Commercial and Logistics Center Limited (EACL) director general, said that CIIE has become a showcase of China's development paradigm. It is a platform for high-standard opening-up, and a public good for the whole world, the trade executive noted.

Fortunatus Mhambwe, the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) acting director, said that Tanzania and China have a long development relationship, with Tanzania importing \$2.5bn worth of goods from China and exports pegged at \$256m.

Song Shangzha, China International Import Bureau (CIIB) deputy director, said that Tanzania and China both went through struggling times.

"We welcome Tanzanian companies and businessmen to visit China more often

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Zanzibar seeks 180MW solar power generation

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

RENEWABLE energy is coming to Tanzania in a big way following the signing of an agreement yesterday for a \$140m (330bn/-) power purchase agreement for a 180 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) project in Zanzibar.

In the pact with a Mauritian-based firm, Generation Capital Limited (GCL), Zanzibar is set to start generating its own power where the Mauritius firm has set up a subsidiary, Generation Capital (Z) Ltd, where the Zanzibar Electricity Corporation (ZECO) will purchase the power produced.

The new venture is set to alter Zanzibar's energy landscape, ensuring reliable supply of clean and renewable power, beeping up the tourism industry and improving chances of realising the sustainable development goals,

“The current lack of reliable power creates suppressed demand and limits economic growth in Zanzibar

officials said.

The project uses advanced battery energy storage systems for energy supply during evening peak demand periods, the lead investor stated.

The project will be developed as a joint venture between GCL and Taifa Energy, whose chairman Rostam Aziz said the venture is a landmark partnership with ZECO for the first ever utility-scale solar PV project, not just in Zanzibar but the country as a whole.

GCL sought to involve local resources, thus sought a major local company, joining forces under a joint venture agreement with Taifa Energy, he stated.

"This project represents a significant milestone in our commitment to renewable energy development in Zanzibar and the continent as a whole," he asserted, praising the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) for granting GCL strategic investor status.

This follows a successful application to invest in Zanzibar, proposing multi-phase

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US Diaspora firms, Japan to buy Hai coffee while prices fluctuate



By Guardian Reporter, Hai

MAJOR coffee traders from the US and China intend to purchase local coffee, working with an agricultural marketing cooperative in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region.

This was observed at an annual general meeting of the Lukani/Losaa Amcos Ltd when submitting a report on coffee sales for 2022/23, where the chairman, Ebenetho Munuo, said US-based Diaspora firms expressing such intention include Rafiki

Coffee Ltd and Mteja Crop to Cup.

During the outgoing crop season the Amcos had problems regarding the foreign market after, Kyowas Company, the lead customer, had coffee orders remaining stagnant.

In addition to the Amcos board efforts in collecting the crop, the domestic market price dropped from \$260 to \$160 per bag of top grade coffee, contrasting with the preceding season.

Farmers were thus paid 6,500/- per kilo of dried coffee and 9,000/- per kilo dried

coffee ex-factory. The Amcos was able to export 140 bags of coffee to Japan at \$285 per 60kg bag, he elaborated.

In the 2022/23 season Lukani/Losaa villages received \$6,000 (more than 13m/-) for community development projects, he said, requesting that the money paid to villages be seen to have contributed towards community development.

For the 2023/24 season villages will receive \$2,000 on the basis of an agreement with the Boloti farm investor, he specified.

The board has established a youth group, VIKATA, registered for coffee production its coffee is being advertised in Japan, he stated, noting that this is part of efforts at empowering the youth to cultivate coffee.

This season, the Hai Amcos distributed 67,000 coffee seedlings to farmers, including the new "compact" variety from the Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI), he affirmed.

In addition 66 demonstration farms have been established and proceeding,

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Private sector readying for November's Shanghai Expo

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and experience the potential and vitality" of the Chinese market, he stated, affirming that CIE is keen on follow-up actions of the 2018 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the Beijing Summit and the ministerial conferences on the matter.

CIE seeks to implement United Nations resolutions and programme of action on South-South cooperation, he stated, having as its origin a policy directive planned, proposed, arranged and promoted by President Xi Jinping, he specified.

With its theme, 'New Era, Shared

Future,' CIE works to expand China's opening-up and turn the enormous market into enormous opportunities for the world, he emphasised.

"CIE welcomes global companies from 178 countries and regions, including 129 developing countries, with a cumulative intended transaction amount of anywhere up to \$350bn," he said in illustration.

"With a population of more than 1.4bn and a middle-income population of over 400m, China's market is huge and full of opportunities. The CIE stands ready to assist Tanzanian enterprises obtain a bigger share," he added.

Zanzibar seeks 180MW solar power generation

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180-megawatt renewable energy facilities in strategically identified locations in the two islands archipelago.

Billed for completion by late next year at phase one, the project is expected to be fast tracked for its jobs and sustainable development impact in key sectors where reliable and affordable power supply is a major requirement, he said.

The project will commence with the expedited construction of a 30 MW solar PV power plant at Bambi, Central District in South Unguja

Region.

Mshenga Haedar Mshenga, the Water, Energy and Minerals minister for Zanzibar, said the project will boost Zanzibar's renewable energy capacity, cut greenhouse gas emissions and push the overall development of Zanzibar.

"The current lack of reliable power creates suppressed demand and limits economic growth in Zanzibar," he declared, underlining that the project is the start of ending 100 per cent dependence on TANESCO, the Union government power utility.

US Diaspora firms, Japan to buy Hai coffee while prices fluctuate

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with the board having set aside 7m/- for preparing seedlings for the 2023/24 season, he said

The Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) has pledged to provide Lukani/Losaa Amcos Ltd with 16,000 coffee seedlings on subsidy basis, for 4.8m/-, he added.

Govt planning to offer dialysis services at district hospitals - deputy minister

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is planning to scale down dialysis services to district hospitals in the country, thanks to the increasing budget allocation to the ministry of Health, the Parliament heard yesterday.

Dialysis—a process of removing excess water and toxins from the blood of people whose kidneys have lost function—is a costly service in Tanzania and elsewhere.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Godwin Mollle said the government is looking into ways of establishing more dialysis centres across the country as a way of reducing the burden on patients who are forced to travel long distances to referral hospitals to access the service.

He noted that currently the service is offered at Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam, all zonal and regional referral hospitals and some special others, including the University of Dodoma's hospital.

Dr Mollle was responding to a question asked by the Special Seats MP, Lucy Sabu (CCM), who had wanted to know what the government was doing to bring services to people with low income.

The lawmaker asked, "What is the government doing in order to provide dialysis services to poor people in the country?"

She also argued that currently, a patient must part with 300,000/- to get a single session of dialysis, whereby three sessions are recommended by doctors per week.

In response, the deputy minister explained that the government provide the service to all Tanzanians of all walks, stating that there are always procedures for those who cannot afford the charges to get free treatment.

He said those who are unable to pay for such services are required to get introduction letters from their respective ward of village executive officers and submit to the hospitals.

UVCCM in Zanzibar applauds party's officials for prioritising young people

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE ruling CCM Youth Wing (UVCCM) in Zanzibar has commended efforts by the party's Vice Chairman and President of Zanzibar, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi in prioritizing employment to young people who have been volunteering at different posts within the party.

The compliments were given by UVCCM Deputy Secretary General (Zanzibar), Mussa Haji Mussa during an interview with The Guardian journalist at his office at Gymkana in Unguja. He said that the wing will continue to respect, appreciate, protect and fight for the interests of CCM.

He explained that Dr Mwinyi's decision to employ youth is in line with the CCM election manifesto 2020-2025 that gears to ensure implementation of development projects.

He said Section 136 (C) of the manifesto indicates that by the year 2025 the government of Zanzibar

will produce more than 300,000 formal and informal jobs.

Mussa noted that promises by Dr Mwinyi that he will give priority to the youth in the employment process is commendable, adding he should be applauded and supported by all the youth in the Isles.

He said that UVCCM Zanzibar is among the best institutions that has produced reputable government and party leaders that are patriotic.

He said Dr Mwinyi's visit to their office has increased the working morale of youth and motivated them to do more for the party.

"We sincerely congratulate Dr Mwinyi and we promise him that we will continue to be strong and obedient to the party as we respect our leaders at all levels," said Mussa.

He added: "We will also continue to work for our nation and support the great efforts by our government in bringing development to the people. We will also continue to honour the good things done by our party founders."



Former Prime Minister John Samuel Malecela (2nd-R) pictured at the Karimjee Hall in Dar es Salaam yesterday paying his respects to his blogger son William Malecela alias Le Mutuz, who died in the city at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

PM: TRA must halt 'taskforce' activity in Dar, all major cities

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found themselves in trouble after falling into the hands of the taskforce, pointedly discouraging them from using Dar as a hub for the sourcing of goods, he said.

TRA has to come up with a better mechanism for calculating or estimating taxes based on the volume of cargo imported by a trader and what is stored at warehouses, he asserted.

Ilala MP Mussa Hassan Zungu said the National Assembly will take to task top officials reported to sneer at the president's directives on tax collection, saying the remarks are 'politics' if not followed by an explicit letter, a position the premier had scathingly deplored.

"This is unacceptable. Stern measures will be taken on all those involved in forming the taskforce

even after the president ordered them to stop," the MP intoned, who is also parliamentary deputy speaker.

Despite meeting with Amos Makalla, the regional commissioner, the traders refused to heed his appeal to resume business, until the premier cleared the air with a positive affirmation of the government's distaste for the TRA methods.

At the open air meeting, the traders carried placards with messages such as 'You have chased away foreign traders,' 'The taxes are unfriendly to us' and one which pleaded for the president's intervention, to stop the famous marketplace from 'dying.'

In Dodoma, legislators demanded that the government provide concrete answers on the issues

surrounding the traders' strike at the Kariakoo commercial hub, saying that the situation poses great risk to the economy.

During the question-and-answer session, Makete MP Festo Sanga sought for the Speaker's guidance, demanding that House business be adjourned to allow the lawmakers to deeply discuss the issue.

He said the situation at Kariakoo was tense so the House has to take immediate measures to see how it addresses the matter.

"The situation at the Kariakoo trading hub is not good. The government will lose a lot of revenues there if we leave traders to just closing shops," he stated.

Hawa Mwaifunga (Special Seats) urged that the government be open on the matter and tell the public the facts of the matter at Kariakoo for

the wider interest of the country's economy.

Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson directed Industries and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji to respond to the matter, who ventured to suggest that a few traders were on strike and the government was working on the matter.

Otherwise activities at the commercial hub are going on well, she asserted, referring to ongoing discussions between the government and Kariakoo traders "on various challenges raised by the traders."

She said a government team led by RC Amos Makalla was holding a series of meetings with businesspeople, to end the strike situation, meanwhile as the meeting had failed and the premier had taken charge of the situation.



Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project resident engineer Lutengano Mwandambo (gesturing) makes an on-site briefing to members of the project's management committee at the weekend on the implementation stage reached. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has unveiled plans to deduct some 34,000 hectares from the Ruaha National Park for human activities including agriculture and livestock keeping.

The move is geared at reducing disputes between villagers and the park, thus stimulating development.

Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Mohamed Mchengerwa told the House yesterday in his statement following directives by Prime Minister Majaliwa last week whereas he ordered the ministry to immediately initiate a close follow-up on people's complaints regarding some parks rangers using force to remove villagers who were grazing within the park.

The game wardens were also said to confiscate the livestock found in the parks for purposes of getting money from pastoralists.

However, five people were said to be injured by Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) rangers

Govt set to deduct 34,000 hectares from Ruaha National Park for human activities

at Mwanavala village in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region for allegedly invading and sending their animals in the park illegally.

The minister said in the plan a total of 900 acres will be set aside for livestock grazing.

He added that the land which will be allocated will benefit residents surrounding the Ruaha National Park and will be divided and used as per the better land use plan to be arranged by the residents together with their leaders.

Mchengerwa said: "On May 12th, I and other officials arrived in Mbarali and met with various regional leaders from both the government and ruling party where we all headed to Mwanavala village, we conducted a public rally and listened to people's complaints."

He said: "During the meeting,

we found that there are some residents who have invaded and constructed cowsheds within the Ruaha National Park, something which is illegal. When park rangers conducted patrols to bar their activities, the invaders attacked rangers with their traditional weapons, thus forcing rangers to protect themselves whereas in the process, some pastoralists were injured."

He said that the residents entered the park illegally as the area does not allow human activities such as farming or livestock keeping.

The minister however said there is no single animal which was seized during the conflict or any person who was abused.

"We are also calling for Members of Parliament (MPs) to support the government by educating the public

on the importance of protecting our national parks and other conservation areas," he added.

He further urged conservation officers and wardens all over the country to work closely with the local government leaders as well as surrounding communities so as to strengthen conservation.

"Rangers and wardens in all national parks in the country should create good cooperation with the locals while also prioritizing educating the populace on various issues regarding conservation so as to promote inclusive conservation of our protected areas," he said.

He also directed TANAPA to commence construction of a rangers' post at Ruaha National Park so as to strengthen patrol and conservation operations within the park.



Tigo managing director Kamal Okba (L) and Mohammed Abdulla Khamis, Permanent Secretary in the Information, Communications and Information Technology ministry, pictured in Dar es Salaam late last week displaying copies of documents on contracts the mobile phone service provider had just signed with and UCSAF (Universal Communications Service Access Fund) relating to the installation and upgrading of 409 telecommunication network sites in 371 wards in rural Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Samia to grace vocational education and training exhibitions in Arusha next week

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is expected to officially grace the National Technical and Vocational Education and Training Exhibition 2023 being staged at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha.

Dr Adolf Rutayuga, executive secretary of the National Council for Technical Education and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET) revealed this here yesterday when addressing journalists at the forthcoming exhibition.

Dr Rutayuga said that the eight-days long exhibition features pantomimes, special shows and displays of works, inventions and products from various colleges and vocation training institutions from all over the country.

The special vocational educational training exhibitions that have already started in Arusha are open to all members of the public.

The event has attracted more than 300 exhibitors and it is being anticipated that over 300,000 people will be visiting the exhibitions between the 16th and 22nd of May 2023.

On the other hand, the Head of State is expected to officially open the exhibitions on Friday, May 19, 2023.

"We encourage all Tanzanians from the Northern Zone regions of Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro to turn up in large numbers and experience for themselves what our youths in the vocational training institutes are capable of achieving," Dr Rutayuga stated during a press conference held at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium, along Col. Middleton Road, where the events are also taking place.

The exhibitions are held in sync with a special symposium that has brought together over 250 students from various Technical and Vocational Education and Training institutes across the country, taking place for two days at the Mount Meru Hotel in Arusha.

The symposium will be attended by the Minister of State, the office of the Prime Minister, in-charge of Policy, Parliament, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled, Joyce Lazarro Ndlichako.

The Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) essentially serves various tenacities, with the main purpose

being the preparation of youth for work.

That takes the form of learning and developing work related skills and mastery of underlying knowledge and scientific principles.

The National Council for Technical Education works to assist technical institutions to improve and maintain the quality of the education they provide and to ensure that their programmes meet labour market demand, by guiding and monitoring their adherence to the regulatory framework.

It also performs advisory functions in advising both government and technical institutions on the strategic development of technical education and training that can be undertaken.

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NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING.

Pursuant to section 345(2) of the Companies Act, Cap 212 of 2002, we HEREBY GIVE NOTICE to the general public that on 10th June 2023 at 1000hrs EAT, NERAPEAK COMPANY LIMITED (hereinafter called "the company") shall hold a final meeting in respect to the voluntary winding up at their registered office and virtually.

SEIF JUMA MMBAGA
BOARD CHAIRPERSON / DIRECTOR

Judiciary to construct court buildings in each district

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE judiciary is committed to build district courts in every district that do not have the structures, Deputy Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Pauline Gekul told the National Assembly yesterday.

She said the Judiciary has prepared a map of the country as well as a five-year infrastructure development plan, which has identified all areas with court building challenges.

The deputy minister explained that the government has allocated a budget for construction of the courts in the 2023/2024 financial

year. She said this in response to a question asked by Nyasa MP, Stella Manyanya (CCM) who wanted to know when construction of the Nyasa District court building would start.

The lawmaker argued that many courts in the country operate within rented premises; a situation she said would jeopardize provision of justice in case the landlords are found to be on the wrong side of the law.

Gekul responded that the government was aware of the challenge, thus the decision to increase the ministry's budget to

meet such demands. On Nyasa district court, the deputy minister noted that the government planned its construction in the 2022/2023 financial year whereby all procedures including budget and building plan have been met and processes to get the contractor are in final stages.

"Expectations are that the project will start any time from now and is likely to be completed in the coming financial year," she said.

In October, 2021, the judiciary announced to have begun implementing a major project to construct 19 district courts

buildings in various parts of the country to bring justice closer to the people.

This was disclosed by the Chief Justice (CJ), Prof Ibrahim Juma, while addressing Tarime and Rorya District Commissioners (DCs) in Mara Region as well as judicial officers during his working visit to the Musoma Zone of the High Court of Tanzania.

The CJ said that the judiciary had prepared a map of the country as well as a five-year infrastructure development plan, which has identified all areas of Tanzania that have court building challenges at various levels.

BODI YA USAJILI WA MAKANDARASI (CRB)

MIKUTANO YA MASHAURIANO NA WADAU WA SEKTA YA UJENZI KWA MWAKA 2023

"Kujenga Uwezo wa Makandarasi wa ndani; Mafanikio na Changamoto".

Dar es Salaam; Tarehe 25 - 26 Mei 2023, Ukumbi wa Diamond Jubilee Hall

Bodi ya Usajili wa Makandarasi (CRB) inapenda kuwataarifu Makandarasi na wadau wote wa Sekta ya Ujenzi wakiwemo Waajiri, Wataalam Washauri (Wahandisi, Wabunifu Majengo na Wakadiraji Majenzi) na wataalam mbalimbali katika sekta ya ujenzi kuwa imeandaa mkutano wa nne wa kikanda mashauriano na wadau wa sekta ya ujenzi utakaofanyika mkoa wa **Dar es Salaam kuanzia Tarehe 25 - 26 Mei 2023**, Ukumbi wa Diamond Jubilee Hall.

Mkutano utaanza saa 2.00 asubuhi. Kaulimbiu ya mkutano ni: **"Kujenga Uwezo wa Makandarasi wa ndani; Mafanikio na Changamoto". Mada zifuatazo zitajadiliwa:-**

- Uzoefu wa CRB kuhusu mafanikio na changamoto za kujenga uwezo wa Makandarasi nchini.
- Mtazamo wa Makandarasi kuhusu uwezo, mafanikio na changamoto zinazowakabili.
- Tathmini ya Utekelezaji wa vifungu wezeshi vya sheria ya manunuzi ya umma katika kujenga uwezo wa Makandarasi wa ndani.
- Mtazamo wa waajiri kuhusu changamoto zinazoathiri utendaji wa Makandarasi
- Haki za Makandarasi katika zabuni na uwezo wao wa kuzidai; uzoefu wa mamlaka ya rufaa za zabuni (PPAA)
- Mambo muhimu ya kikodi kwa Makandarasi.

Mkutano pia utaambatana na **Maonesho ya Teknolojia, Huduma na Vifaa ya Ujenzi.**

Walengwa	Makandarasi, Wataalam washauri; Wabunifu Majengo, Wakadiraji Majenzi, Wahandisi, Wataalam wanaoshabihiana nao, Waajiri, Watunga sera za uwezesaji wananchi kiuchumi na wadau wote wa Sekta ya Ujenzi wanaalikwa kushiriki.
Ada ya Ushiriki	Ada ya ushiriki ni TZS 50,000/= kwa Makandarasi na TZS 100,000/= kwa Wadau wengine. Ada itagharimia mahitaji ya mkutano kama ukumbi, chakula cha mchana na vinywaji.
	Ada ya ushiriki italipwa kwa utaratibu ufuatao:- Malipo ya ada ya ushiriki yafanywe benki ya CRDB Plc au NBC Ltd. au NMB Plc kwa jina la CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION BOARD pia kwa kupitia mitandao ya simu kwa kutumia "Control Numbers" kama ifuatavyo:- Makandarasi "Control Number" 995740073520 Wadau wengine "Control Number" 995740073522 Hakikisha namba ya simu ya mshiriki imeoneshwa katika karatasi ya malipo ya benki.
Maonesho (Exhibitions)	Bodi inayalika makampuni na watu binafsi kushiriki kwa kuonesha teknolojia, huduma, bidhaa, vifaa na zana za Ujenzi kwa lengo la kuzitangaza kwa wadau wa sekta ya ujenzi. Watakaopenda kushiriki maonesho hayo wawasiliane na Ndugu Leonard Lucas kwa namba ya simu 0713 271493 au kwa barua pepe kwa anwani leonard.lucas@crb.go.tz au Ndugu Alois Manamba kwa simu namba 0715809473 au kwa barua pepe kwa anwani alois.manamba@crb.go.tz au crbhq@crb.go.tz au Eng. Awadh kwa namba ya simu 0713336987 au kwa barua pepe aaawadh@yahoo.com .
Jinsi ya Kujisajili	Washiriki wathibitisha kuhudhuria mkutano kwa kulipa ada ya ushiriki angalau siku kumi (10) kabla ya tarehe ya mkutano na kutuma majina na mawasiliano yao katika ofisi yoyote ya CRB nchini. Washiriki wanahimizwa kujisajili mapema siku moja kabla ya mkutano kuanzia saa 1:00 asubuhi ili kuepuka usumbufu unaoweza kujitokeza.
Mafunzo endelevu (PDU)	Washiriki ambao ni wataalam wa fani za ujenzi watatuzwa alama za mafunzo endelevu (AQRB-16 CPDs, ERB-13 PDUs), zitakazotolewa na Bodi zao za usajili.

Kwa taarifa zaidi fanya mawasiliano kama ifuatavyo:-
CRB Makao makuu, S.L.P 96 Dodoma Simu 026 2962403/4, Tovuti: **www.crb.go.tz**,
Barua pepe: **crbhq@crb.go.tz** Mitandao ya kijamii; Facebook @Crb Tanzania, Instagram @crb_tz, Twitter @crb_tz
CRB Kanda ya Mashariki, S.L.P 33621 Dar es Salaam Simu 022 2771877, Barua pepe: **crbez@crbtz.org**
CRB Kanda ya Ziwa, S.L.P 2815 Mwanza Simu 028 2500218, Barua pepe: **crblz@crbtz.org**
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CRB Kanda ya Kaskazini, S.L.P 16795 Arusha Simu 027 2547107, Barua pepe: **crbnz@crbtz.org**
CRB Kanda ya Kati, S.L.P 2618 Simu 026 2966040, Barua pepe: **crbcz@crbtz.org**

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Mob: +255 763 300 042
Email: regional@habari.co.tz
regionaltanzania@gmail.com

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Water board mounts campaign to restore natural direction of flows of five rivers

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

WAMI/Ruvu Basin Water Board (WRBWB) has established a special campaign for the restoration of the natural direction flows of five rivers that had lost direction whose sources are located in the Uluguru Mountains.

The rivers - Mlali, Mgera, Lukulunge, Ngerengere and Mzinga are located in Mvomero District and lost their natural direction flows contributed by human activities along them thereby destroying their natural environment.

WRBWB Water Resources Officer, Martin Kasambala made the remarks in his statement during the tree planting exercise in Mindu Dam area in Morogoro Municipality to the 2023 National Uhuru Torch Leader Abdalla Shaib Kaim.

Kaim and his team joined the people in the tree planting exercise around the dam that has been surrounded by four wards: Mindu, Luhungo, Magadu and Kauzeni.

Kasambala said in the implementation of the exercise, a total of 15,500 trees have been

planted at the dam's water source and the goal is to plant 200,000 trees in the area under WRRBB management.

"We have established a block for tree seedlings for various kinds of trees, including those for fruits with 30,800 trees," he said.

He said Mindu Dam is among 231 water sources managed by WRRBB and is depended on by 75 per cent of Morogoro Municipality residents.

He said the board has started implementing the directives of the vice president, Dr Philip Mpango last November calling for planting 200,000 trees in every region.

Kasambala further added that in implementing the campaign, more than 509m/- will be spent towards the distribution of the seedlings and the labour force to be used.

Meanwhile, Kaim, the National Uhuru Torch Leader, called upon the people to stop engaging themselves in human activities near water sources to ensure water supply sustainability.

"We have established a block for tree seedlings for various kinds of trees, including those for fruits with 30,800 trees"



Despite the visibly unhygienic conditions at this Mbezi Mwisho mixed-goods open market in Dar es Salaam's Ubungo municipality, it was business as usual at the facility during yesterday afternoon's casual tour by Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Manyara health authorities advised to inspect infants regarding FGM status

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

MANYARA Region residents have appealed to health authorities in the region to initiate a special operation to inspect infants when they begin attending clinic services to know whether they have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM)

so that legal steps should be taken against their parents.

The appeal was given here at the weekend by a Babati Town resident, Janeth Gerald in an interview with this paper on the best ways to control FGM on infants. She said many parents secretly conduct FGM on their infants when they are three

days or a week old by removing their clitorises using fingernails.

Elizabeth Patrick, another Babati resident, said parents should stop circumcising their infants as it is a savage act doing so.

Meanwhile, Manyara Region Planning and Coordination Officer Maarufu Makwaya said the region is

rampant to shameful acts of female genital mutilation. "These acts reduce resource production and make the nation incur huge losses in treating the children who receive injuries after circumcision," he said.

Manyara Regional Administrative Secretary Karolina Mthapula appealed to the community to stop

circumcising their infants saying when they grow up they will also have to be married in other regions, and not Manyara Region only.

In the same vein, Dr Yusuph Mwalimu from Manyara Region Referral Hospital said they have a unit that deals with FGM issues and added that they will start following

up infants who have undergone FGM as they attend clinic at the hospital.

Research conducted in 2015/16 by Tanzania Demographic Health Survey (TDHS) showed that Tanzania had 10 per cent FGM rate on average with Manyara Region at 58 per cent.

JNHPP officials satisfied with project implementation pace

By Guardian Reporter, Rufiji

THE Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project (JNHPP) coordinating committee has expressed its satisfaction by the project's implementation pace and called on Tanzanians to continue supporting it whose construction work has now reached 86.8 per cent.

Dr Jim Yonaz, the committee chairman, who is also the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (policy, Parliament and Coordination) made the remarks here yesterday during his inspection visit at the project site.

The visit also involved the permanent secretary in the ministry of Energy, Eng Felchesmi Mramba, and Permanent Secretaries from other ministries directly

connected to the project's implementation, the Commissioner of Renewable energy (CERE) Innocent Luoga and other senior officials from TANESCO.

Dr Yonaz said the implementation of the project has great benefits to Tanzanians, saying that soon after the project is completed and starts production, other achievements will be realised in the fishing, farming and tourism sectors thereby boosting the country's economy.

He lauded the Energy ministry and TANESCO for the great job in implementation and supervision of the project up to the stage reached.

Mramba, the committee's secretary explained that the project is now 86.8 per cent complete from 81.22 per cent last

December and the expectation is for the project to begin power production come June 2024. "Work progress on the project is excellent compared to the time President samia Suluhu Hassan came to inaugurate the dam's filling with water, and now the water is 30 metres deep at the place she stood," Eng Mramba said.

He thanked President Samia for continuing to provide funds and directives that have enabled to reach the present stage, as well as various stakeholders including the Finance ministry for effecting funds payment in time and the ministry of Works and Transport for transporting of the project's equipment.

While at the site, the coordinating committee visited the dam's banks, the main ridge, the main turbines room and other area.



Jane Goodall Institute
TANZANIA
For Wildlife Research, Education & Conservation

INVITATION FOR TENDER TO SUPPLY VEHICLE & BOATS

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania for Wildlife Research, Education and Conservation (JGI-TZ) has received funding from Global Affairs Canada (GAC) in partnership with JGI Canada and Plan International and we hereby intend to use part of the funding to procure a Motor Vehicle and Boats for the implementation of Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (COSME).

The specifications for Motor Vehicle and Boats for tender are as listed below:

1. Motor Vehicles

Type/Brand: TOYOTA Land Cruiser

Specifications: Hard Top, 5 Doors, 10 Seaters and Diesel Engine

Condition Status: Brand New

Quantity: One (1) Unit

2. Boats

Specifications: Speed Boat - Fiberglass body, 7 to 9 meters long, 7 seaters, with a canopy or cover, and extra storage space for luggage, powered with single YAMAHA outboard engine 55HP each (long shaft), steering and ignition systems should be installed

Condition Status: Brand New

Quantity: Two (2) Units

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania now invites sealed bids from reputable and registered firms that wish to tender for the supply of the above items under the following conditions:

- Bidders are allowed to tender for one or all items.
- Application for the bid is free. No fee is associated with the bidding.
- Tender will be conducted in accordance with the JGI Tanzania's Financial and Procurement Policies.
- Sealed Bids marked clearly 'TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF VEHICLE & BOATS' shall be addressed to:

Executive Director

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania

Mikocheni, Serengeti Road Plot # 375

P.O. Box 70728

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

And be deposited into the Tender box located JGI Tanzania's Mikocheni office in Dar es Salaam.

5. The deadline for the submission of the tender is **14 days** from the date of the advertisement.

6. Electronic and/or late applications shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.



From-L: Tanzania Chamber of Commerce vice president Vicent Minja, China International Import Expo deputy director general Song Shanzhe, Tanzania Private Sector Foundation financial manager Deogratius Massawe, and East Africa Business Centre director general Cathy Wang show copies of documents on a business agreement they had just signed in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Govt to build low-cost residential houses for civil servants in all district councils

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MINISTRY of Lands, Housing and Human settlement yesterday reiterated the government's commitment to build low-cost residential houses for civil servants in all district councils in the country.

The ministry through the National Housing Company built a total of 1,189 low-cost houses in 31 districts aimed at selling to civil servants between 2012 and 2014. It also built 983 others in 19 districts through the Watumishi Housing Company as from 2013 to date.

The Deputy Minister, Geofrey Pinda made the explanation in the Parliament yesterday while responding to a question raised

by the Ushetu MP, Emmanuel Cherehani (CCM), who wanted to know the government's readiness to build houses for civil servants in the new district councils throughout the country.

"The government through its agencies will continue building houses for its servants in order to help improve their commitment to serve people and improve service delivery" said Pinda.

In February this year, WATUMISHI Housing Investment (WHI) announced a number of measures aimed at addressing housing challenges for public servants and other cadres through a number of interventions, including construction of 983 houses.

Speaking to reporters here

yesterday on the implementation of projects, WHI Managing Director, Dr Fred Msemwa, said so far the houses that have been constructed in various areas countrywide have been a solution to the public servants.

"The 983 houses have been constructed since establishment of WHI in the last eight years and we are focused to end the challenge of the residential houses to the public servants and members of the social security funds," said Dr Msemwa.

He noted that there are a number of projects in place for the construction of residential houses, further underscoring the need for the public to develop a habit of investing on capital markets and security.



Willa Haonga (3rd-L), Kilombero Sugar Company's communication and stakeholders relations manager, presents medical supplies and various other items to Kidodi Health centre's Dr Eliya Mwakibete in marking International Nurses Day (May 12). It was part of the company's support to Mkamba-Nyandao and Kidodi health centres in Kilombero and Kilosa districts, respectively. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Water project to benefit 10,000 Morogoro residents

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

MORE than 10,000 residents of Kauzeni Ward, Morogoro Municipality have started benefitting from the 592.19m/- water project by Morogoro Urban Water and sanitation Authority (MORUWASA).

Morogoro District RUWASA Manager, Grace Lyimo said here at the weekend that they had started to implement the project but later it was taken over by MORUWASA since February this year and is expected to be completed July 16

this year.

Grace said the project's capacity is to serve 10,000 residents and now 5,512 residents are benefitting.

She said the project's cost covers the construction of water infrastructures from River Tangeni, the construction of a huge 300,000-litre tank and the laying of water supply pipes to consumers.

She added that so far the contractor has been paid 359.34m/- with 144.9m/- outstanding.

She said the project will avert waterborne diseases among the residents in the area owing to lack of safe and clean water supply.

Meanwhile, MORUWASA

Managing Director, Tamim Katakweba called on the community to grab the opportunity to install water services in their households by adhering to the laid down laws and procedures.

He also said that as for now MORUWASA continues to educate to the public on the protection of water sources by planting trees to make the water supply services sustainable.

Before launching the project, the leader of the National Uhuru Torch Race Abdala Shaib Kaim said water supply is essential since water is life hence the community should welcome the project and protect it.

Women urged to involve spouses when taking up loans

By Guardian Correspondent,

Shinyanga

WOMEN have been called upon to involve their husbands whenever they want to take up loans from financial institutions because it has been discovered that many marriages break up owing to the secrecy.

Theresa Fabian, an advocate from Lawyers Environmental Action Team (LEAT) said some women have been taking up loans without involving their spouses and when they get stuck in the repayment, creditors attach household property, and that is the time when conflicts start, many ending in divorces.

However, she said the 1971 Law

of Marriages Act and the 2008 Collateral Act, state that when a husband or wife takes up loans without consulting each other, the loan becomes invalid and no property is to be under attachment.

Msikale loans provision institution official, Robert Prosper, cited procedures regarding taking up loans saying women come up with their guarantors and a letter from the local authorities, while others say they are still unmarried.

Street chairman from Ndembezi ward, Shinyanga Municipality, Solomon Najulwa made similar remarks at the weekend in an interview with this paper following increasing marriages conflicts owing to women taking up high interest loans.

Najulwa said when women

take up loans from various loan institutions, some of them do not speak the truth in regard to their marriage statuses, some even do not own any businesses, and everything comes in the open when they get stuck in repayments.

"And when creditors move to attach their property, they often find out many are married but their husbands were not made aware about the loans," he added.

Kulwa Juma, a resident of Kambarage in Shinyanga Municipality said he almost had his household fall apart after his wife took up a loan without involving him, while she did not own any business at all.

She said one day he was shocked to see people entering his house and started taking away some property.

Abide by ethics, RC tells journalists

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

KILIMANJARO Regional Commissioner, Nurdin Babu has advised journalists to abide by professional ethics in executing their duties to avoid distorting information.

The RC made the advice here recently when speaking to journalists from various media houses and key stakeholders in

Kilimanjaro Region. The meeting was part of celebrations to mark the 30th year of the World Press Freedom Day.

This year's theme was, 'Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of expression as a driver for all other human rights'.

The meeting that was organised by the Media Club of Kilimanjaro (MeCKI) was attended by more than 60 journalists.

"I am aware of the crucial work done by journalists; you are playing an important role in educating, informing as well as entertaining people. Tanzanians get educated on diverse issues including social, economic and political," said Babu.

He said by abiding to ethics, journalists will not mislead the public and therefore contribute to the country's socio-economic development.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES DEVELOPMENT OF THE MENTORSHIP AND COACHING PROGRAM FOR WOMEN EMPLOYEES, GBV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE FRAMEWORK, GENDER RESPONSIVE PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE ZANZIBAR ENERGY SECTOR)

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ZANZIBAR ENERGY SECTOR TRANSFORMATION AND ACCESS PROJECT.

CREDIT NUMBER: 68970-TZ
CTF LOAN NUMBER: TF085747-TZ
CTF GRANT NUMBER: TF085660-TZ

Assignment Title: Development of the Mentorship and Coaching Program for Women Employees, GBV Prevention and Response Framework, Gender Responsive Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Zanzibar Energy Sector Reference No. TZ-MOWEM-332217-CS-C05

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ), through the United Republic of Tanzania, has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Zanzibar Energy Sector Transformation and Access Project (ZESTA), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

Objective

The objectives of the assignment include:

- To develop and implement the mentorship and coaching program for selected women employees in the leadership, managerial positions, and STEM fields in Zanzibar energy sector institutions;
- To develop a Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response framework for the Zanzibar energy sector and facilitate its implementation; and
- To develop a gender-responsive Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation framework for the energy sector and build the capacity of staff to support its implementation.

Scope of assignment

a) Mentorship and Coaching Program Development

Referring to national and international best practices of mentorship programs for women in leadership, and managerial positions as well as women in STEM fields, the Consultant is expected to carry out the following tasks:

- Conduct institutional review and analyze the capacity needs assessment report (i.e., refer to the capacity needs assessment report produced by the ZESTA gender team) to document key capacity needs and identify the mentorship/coaching needs of women employees in the energy sector that hold leadership, managerial positions and in STEM fields.
- Assess the experiences and work environment of women employees in leadership, managerial positions, and STEM fields in the Zanzibar energy sector.
- Design and develop tailored mentorship and coaching program documents to address the mentorship/coaching needs of women employees in leadership positions and in STEM fields in the Zanzibar energy sector.

b) Mentorship and Coaching Program Implementation

Under this task, the Consultant is expected to lead the implementation of the mentorship and coaching program for women leaders and women in STEM fields in the Zanzibar energy sector and ensure that the mentees/coaches are capacitated enough up to the level of cascading and replicating the program for their subordinates and team members in their work unit. In this regard, the Consultant is expected to:

- Develop a roadmap for the mentorship/coaching program, implementation guidelines, and manual to be utilized by the energy sector in the future. The roadmap should indicate the steps to be followed for the implementation of the mentorship/coaching program, and monitoring tools to measure the level of success of the mentorship/coaching program).
- Provide periodic capacity support through one-to-one and group mentorship/coaching support for women leaders and women in STEM fields in the Zanzibar energy sector
- Measure the progress of all target groups of the mentorship/coaching program by developing a monitoring tool to document the progress achieved, and submit quarterly reports to ZESTA PIU coordinators at MoWEM and ZECCO.

c) Documentation of mentorship and coaching program knowledge products

The main objective is to document knowledge products to be used as future references by different target groups in the Zanzibar energy sector. Under this task, the Consultant will be expected to produce and share a number of knowledge products.

These will include:

- Establish a database for women employees who pass through the mentorship, and coaching program in the Zanzibar energy sector.
- Bi-annual report on the best practice, challenges faced, and lessons learned throughout the implementation of mentorship and coaching program.
- End of program report.

The Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals now invites eligible consulting firm to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Interested consulting firm should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. The consulting firm (or consortium of firms) should have at least the following qualifications and experience:

The consulting firm is required to have the following experience:

- Core Business and year in Business
At least fifteen (15) years' experience in consulting work of which five (5) years must be in similar assignments.
- Relevant similar experience, which should specifically include the following:
 - Must have successfully carried out at least three (3) assignments of a similar nature and scope for the energy sector in developing countries.
 - Provide information on previous assignments which should include the name of the assignment, name and full contact address of the client, tasks performed by the consultant under the assignment, assignment value (in US dollars), and period (dates) of execution of the assignment.
- Technical and Managerial capability of the firm in the areas of development and implementation of Mentorship and Coaching program for Women Employees, GBV prevention and response framework, and Gender Responsive Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. (Provide the structure of the organization, qualifications, and number of key staff for the assignment and their CVs).

The attention of interested consulting firm is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" November 2020, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Firms intending to submit expression of interest should not have conflict of interest and unfair competitive advantage as per Bank's Procurement Regulations.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. For firms participating in JV, each member of JV should independently meet the requirement of EoI criteria. For firm participating as association of lead and subconsultant, only the experience and qualification of lead firm will be assessed as per EoI criteria

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultant Qualification Selection set out in the Procurement Regulations. (The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be Obtained upon asking through Email: (proc.zesta@majismz.go.tz and copy to saleh.suleiman@majismz.go.tz)

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hour, 07:00 to 03.30pm East African Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below: (Both hard copy along with soft copy by 7th June 2023 at 10:00 am local Time).

Ministry of Water Energy and Minerals
ZURA building 5th floor,
Procurement Unit, Room No. 502.
Attn: Saleh Said Suleiman (Project Coordinator)
P.O. Box 1569 Zanzibar
Maisara, Zanzibar
Tel: +255 776 858555
E-mail: proc.zesta@majismz.go.tz and copy to saleh.suleiman@majismz.go.tz

Note: Submission of Softcopy only will not be considered in opening ceremony and any difference in hard and soft copy, the information in hard copy will be used for evaluation.



**CHRISTIAN SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
(CSSC)**

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

About CSSC

The Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) is an ecumenical body jointly established by the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) and the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) in 1992 to facilitate social services, with the main focus on education and health services provided by member Churches. It is the largest ecumenical organization in Tanzania, working under more than 87 dioceses and provinces which own and manage about 42% of hospital health services, 56% of health facilities in rural areas, and more than 10% of education services in Tanzania.

Project summary

CSSC has been awarded a 5-years Grant by U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the project known as Comprehensive Child Centered Care and Services (C4S). The overall goal of the project is to ensure health facilities in priority areas provide high quality integrated pediatric HIV services and that children and adolescents are able to access comprehensive health and other services. Specifically, this project will provide technical assistance to end mother-to-child-transmission of HIV (MTCT) by supporting pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBFW) and their HIV-exposed infants (HEI), close the HIV treatment gap for children and adolescents living with HIV (CALHIV) and drive TB elimination and well-being for CALHIV in Tanzania.

The project will ensure the continued delivery of HIV services for PBFW, HEI, and CALHIV at two pediatric centers of excellence (COE) and support these COEs to serve as hubs for service delivery and clinical capacity building. This project will advance support to the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) and the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Programme (NTLP) to end HIV and TB among children and adolescents aged 0-19 years old and inform policy decisions and discussions at the national level with the Ministry of Health, and other key stakeholders and will coordinate implementation

In view of the above, CSSC is hereby seeking applications from highly qualified, well experienced, competent, and motivated persons to fill-in the following vacant positions:

Prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) Officer (2) Posts

Position Details
Job title : PMTCT/EID officer
Direct Supervisor : PMTCT Lead

- Provide technical assistance in the implementation of PMTCT/EID activities at regional level
 - In collaboration with Regional IPs and R/CHMTs Plan, organize and implement PMTCT/EID activities in the project regions
 - Work with Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning department to regular monitor progress towards PMTCT/EID targets, to strengthen the documentation and reporting of /on the PMTCT/EID cascade
 - Work within the regional IPs teams on identifying and addressing region specific PMTCT/EID issues, especially HIV, TB and early childhood development, family planning, gender and violence against children, while observing child safeguarding principles
 - Strengthen the implementation of mother mentors' approach across the supported regions
 - Implement, monitor, evaluate and report different initiatives and client centered service delivery models, including quality improvement methodologies
 - Participate in coordination of mentorship program at different levels in the region including inter-facility learning exchange sessions
 - Coordinate pediatric and youth services in the region, including AGYW, ASRH and CECAP for adolescent girls
- Pediatric PMTCT/EID capacity building of HCPs and other stakeholders
 - Facilitate and participate in trainings to build capacity of HCP on PMTCT/EID care and services
 - Assist in addressing site specific needs by direct didactic training and mentoring
 - Coordinate and supervise the roll out and implementation of new guidelines, ARV regimens recommendations/circulars or any changes as guided by the MOH
 - Conduct site assessment to identify gaps and needs, and address them, including morbidity and mortality case reviews
 - Participate in case management including attending technical working groups, zonal and national learning sessions

Required Qualifications

- MD, or Nurse with more than 3years of experience working in HIV, TB and AYFHS related programming, managing and or supporting implementation of programs with a focus on PMTCT/EID

Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

- At least 3 years of proven experience in program management and implementation of HIV/AIDS programming, including supervision and reporting. Experience in PMTCT/EID is an added advantage
- Possess excellent interpersonal skills to deal successfully with existing stakeholders, team members, potential partners, and government officials
- Experience in clinical management of pregnant and or breastfeeding women with HIV/AIDS and TB
- Experience in project management
- Excellent analytical, oral and written communication skills.

Data Analyst (1) Post

Position Details
Job title : Data Analyst
Direct Supervisor : Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Director
Location : Dar es Salaam

The Data Analyst will be responsible for planning and executing the analysis of various quantitative data sets related to HIV & AIDS services and TB.

- Plan appropriate analyses to answer programmatic and stakeholder questions.
- Use statistical tools to identify, analyze, and interpret patterns and trends in datasets that could be helpful for provision of technical assistance to clinical IPs.
- Prepare analysis reports for clinical IPs to understand the gaps and ensure informed decision making and address the identified gaps.
- Support triangulation of HIV program data across various sources, including CTC3, monthly portal, and DHIS2.
- Conducting continuous quality improvement monitoring and assessments of existing data management and analysis systems to maintain high quality, accessible electronic data at two COEs
- Develop and implement standard operating procedures for data collection, collation, verification and use for all custom indicators.
- Lead the development of data visualization dashboards to inform program monitoring and improvement at all levels.
- Develop mapping tools, manuals, standard operating procedures, and training materials to build informatics competencies in regional project teams and health facility partners.
- Lead the development of electronic data collection systems to capture real-time data from the two COEs.
- Carry out any other assignments as may be required by the immediate supervisor.

Required Qualifications

- Undergraduate degree in statistics, mathematics, epidemiology, or a related field is required.
- A Master's degree in Biostatistics, Public Health, or Epidemiology is a strong advantage.

Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

- Strong mathematical skills to collect, measure, organize, and analyze quantitative data is required.
- Demonstrable skills in data visualization tools such as PowerBI or Google Analytics.
- Minimum of five years of progressive professional experience in public health working in analytics-focused positions is required.
- Intermediate to advanced knowledge of Microsoft Excel is required.
- Knowledge of both PEPFAR and MOH reporting tools and systems (including DATIM, CTC2, DHIS2, Monthly Portal and DIS), and HIV and AIDS indicators is required.
- Demonstrable experience working with a variety of organizations and stakeholders, including experience collaborating with MOH, is an advantage.
- Good strategic, analytical, problem-solving, and systems thinking skills with the capacity to see the big picture and the ability to make sound judgment.
- Excellent computer skills, including word processing and PowerPoint.
- Presentation, facilitation, training, mentoring, and coaching skills

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer (2) Posts

Position Details
Job title : MEL Officer
Direct Supervisor : MEL Lead
Location : Dar es Salaam

He/she will be responsible to provide expertise in monitoring, evaluation and learning of C4S project activities.

- The Monitoring and Evaluation (MEL) Officer will be responsible for the follow-up and monitoring the implementation of the C4S project and will report directly to Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Lead (MEL Lead).
- Assist MEL Lead in developing and strengthening MEL systems of C4S Project;
- Develop and monitor data collection tools/ instruments for qualitative and quantitative C4S indicators;
- Facilitate collection, analysis aggregation and use of data for improvements in implementation of C4S activities;
- Build capacity of data collection and entry personnel in the two centres of excellences on C4S monitoring systems through on the site training.
- Participate in periodic data quality assessment activities to track progress in data management at 11 Regional Hospitals and COEs.
- Carry out supportive supervision, onsite mentoring and coaching to health facilities staffs from COEs using appropriate tools according to the CSSC operational manual and an agreed work plan;
- Monitor quality of data received from the Health facilities and other implementing partners and use information to identify quality strengthen strategies and give feedback to the project team and management of health facilities.
- Collect and prepare monthly, quarterly, semiannual and annual C4S project performance reports;
- Take lead in soliciting and documenting successes, challenges, best practices and lessons learned from the field sites and inform the projects;
- Carry out any other assignments as may be required by the immediate supervisor.

Required Qualifications

- A degree in Computer Science, Statistics or equivalent. Master's in public health or Monitoring and Evaluation will be an added advantage.
- Knowledge in various statistical data packages including Epi info, Stata, etc is very essential

Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

- 3 years' experience in project monitoring and evaluation activities.
- Good strategic, analytical, problem-solving, and systems thinking skills with the capacity to see the big picture and the ability to make sound judgment.
- Presentation, facilitation, training, mentoring, and coaching skills
- Previous work experience in M&E in HIV related interventions.
- Should be computer literate with proficiency in data management and processing.
- Experience in planning and facilitating trainings
- Excellent research, coding, and analytical abilities.

Health Informatics officer (1) Post

Position Details
Job title : HIO Officer
Direct Supervisor : Data Analyst
Location : Dar es Salaam

Provide technical assistant on HIV-related health information systems and dashboards in Tanzania, including CTC2, CTC3, CTC Analytics, the PEPFAR Monthly Portal and others.

- Supporting maintenance of the CTC3 dashboard in line with NACP and PEPFAR needs as well as adoption of user requirements to improve analytic and visualization capacity
- Support programming additions and innovations to project and collaborating health facility systems as required.
- Support the use of data visualization dashboards to inform program monitoring and improvement at all levels.
- Support development and use of electronic data collection systems to capture real-time data from the two COEs.
- Build project team capacity to use a centralized web-based data visualization platform for real-time access to data from the two COEs.
- Support data officers at the two COEs to follow data security guidelines and activities to ensure that all data are stored and maintained in a secure and effective manner in compliance with institutional and donor requirements.
- Support the development of mapping tools, manuals, standard operating procedures, and training materials to build informatics competencies in regional project teams and health facility partners.
- Liaise with national partners, Clinical partners, and technology partners to advance the integration of health informatics systems including mHealth and eHealth initiatives.
- Perform any other tasks as assigned by the supervisor.

Required Qualifications

- A Bachelor's Degree or equivalent qualifications in computer or information science/engineering, information systems/ technology, or related field required. Additional training in public health, health informatics, or health-related field is strongly preferred. Experience working with health information systems required.

Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

- Minimum 3 years' work experience in monitoring and evaluation of large-scale health or development projects; experience integration of data from diverse paper and electronic sources preferred. Must have:
 - Demonstrated competence in frameworks and elements of informatics systems.
 - Familiarity with PEPFAR-funded projects and related monitoring and evaluation components such as MER indicators and DATIM. Experience with USAID-funded projects preferred.
 - Excellent computer skills, at minimum in Microsoft Office, including Excel Macros and Visual Basic; familiarity with DHIS2 and other data management software systems.
 - Expertise in elements of geographic information systems and data visualization software such as Power BI or Tableau.
- Demonstrated knowledge of and experience with CTC2, CTC3, CTC Analytics, the PEPFAR Monthly Portal and other HIS applications in Tanzania
- Demonstrated understanding of routine PEPFAR and NACP HIV-related indicators and experience with national HIV data collection and reporting tools
- Experience managing and analyzing HIV-related health data
- Advanced experience developing data-driven applications utilizing significant relational database engines as part of the overall application architecture (experience with at least two of the following is highly desirable: MS SQL Server, PostgreSQL, MySQL, MS Access)

Compliance Officer (1) Post

Position Details
Job title : Compliance Officer
Direct Supervisor : Finance and Administration Director
Location : Dar es Salaam

Position Purpose:

The Compliance Officer will directly report to and supervised by the Finance and Administration Director. The Compliance officer provides high-level grants, and contracts management as guided by the donor and organization's regulations to attain the goal of C4S project, s/he will be working with consortium members and COEs to ensure program activities and operations are implemented as planned. S/he will provide Capacity building to staff on the grant for all aspects related to grants management to ensure compliance with USG Rules and Regulations, and other donor guidelines.

Key Responsibilities'

Grants Compliance

- Verify monthly indirect cost calculation if correctly and properly done.
- Verify expenditure cost centers in the payment request match with the budget lines.
- Verify time sheets are properly done and submitted timely.
- Lead on all necessary correction for all previous month cost centers errors and mismatch
- Review sub awardee advances and liquidations on monthly
- Support DFA with new proposal budgets development
- Support sub-awardee annual budgets preparation and revision during the year
- Support Partners capacity to Develop sub contract and sub-grant award documents compliant with donor requirements
- Support Partners capacity to administer the full cycle of sub-award management activities beginning from solicitation through selection, pre-award assessments, negotiation, monitoring/compliance visits, and closeout.
- Ensures partners capacity to Oversee budget management of projects' sub-award funds
- To support partners to Ensure that office systems for grants and contracts administration are developed and maintained and can provide regular reports
- Support partners capacity to Develop and/or update their Sub-awards Manual in compliance with USG Regulations
- Support partners capacity to manage closeout of awards, including preparation of final inventories, property disposition, etc.
- Advise partners to Comply with federal, state, and local legal requirements by studying existing and new legislation; enforcing adherence to requirements; advising management on needed actions.
- Support partners capacity to Reviews, analyzes, and drafts contract language to ensure they comply to all applicable donor, and host government regulations
- Provide training, as required, related to areas of his/her expertise and partners staff needs.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Minimum requirement is a bachelor's degree but preferred is a MA/MSc/master's in business administration degree or equivalent relevant qualification
- At least 7 years of relevant experience in the NGO sector within Tanzania in managing the award and administration of sub-grants funded by Global Fund, USAID, or international donors.
- Experience managing sub-award design and administration
- Experience in donor funds administration
- Understanding of local contract and procurement law
- Excellent communication skills both verbal and written Kiswahili and English
- Knowledge of OMB Circular A-110, A-122, and A-133; 22 CFR 226; and 22 CFR 228 a plus
- Strong knowledge of donor auditing requirements and demonstrated ability to exercise financial oversight of Agreements programs.
- Demonstrated solid knowledge of USAID and other donor regulations applicable to Agreements administration.
- Proven capacity to design and deliver a range of training and technical assistance programs to build full range of capacities for grant management

Skills and Abilities:

- Consistently works within internal process and procedures
- Strong interpersonal and team building skills
- Exceptional planning and time management skills
- Strong written and oral communication skills, including the ability to make a presentation
- Ability to problem-solve difficult issues
- Strong understanding of budgets
- Strong analytical skills to successfully perform financial reviews and other forms of quantitative analyses.
- Effective written and oral communications skills that are essential to building relationships with donors, host country counterparts, and partner organizations.
- Ability to exercise sound business judgment to wisely prioritize and successfully perform multiple and complex tasks.
- Highly organized and able to develop and streamline systems for efficient conduct of day-to-day tasks.
- Excellent computer skills and proficient in excel, word, outlook, and graphic/web design, knowledge of QuickBooks, sun System and Navision

Grants Officer (1) Post

Position Details
Job title : Grants Officer
Direct Supervisor : Finance and Administration Director
Location : Dar es Salaam

Position Purpose :

The Compliance Officer will directly report to and supervised by the Finance and Administration Director. The Compliance officer provides high-level grants, and contracts management as guided by the donor and organization's regulations to attain the goal of C4S project, s/he will be working with consortium members and COEs to ensure program activities and operations are implemented in-line with the guiding S/he provides Capacity building for all aspects related to grants management of sub-grants. This requires close collaboration with CSSC Finance and Grants units to ensure compliance with USG Rules and Regulations, and other donor guidelines.

Key Responsibilities'

Sub-award Administration

- Support Partners capacity to Develop subcontract and sub-grant award documents compliant with donor requirements
- Review sub awardee monthly project advance request and submit for approval and then for payment.
- Review of sub-awardee monthly project liquidation to ensure expenses are supported with appropriate documentation.
- Ensure the subs submits monthly liquidations on time to maintain efficiency of the fund's flows.
- Support Partners capacity to administer the full cycle of sub-award management activities during project implementation.
- Participate in the sub-awardee solicitation through selection, pre-award assessments, negotiation, monitoring/compliance visits, and closeout.
- Support and review partners capacity to oversee budget management of projects' sub-award pools
- To support partners to ensure that office systems for grants and contracts administration are developed and maintained and can provide regular reports
- Support partners capacity to develop and/or update their Sub-awards Manual in



Some members of Daikin Industries Ltd's top management come together with dealers from the East Africa region in sharing a light moment at a conference held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Dealers who excelled in their business over the past year were rewarded. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

JET holds biodiversity conservation debate for journalists, stakeholders

By Guardian Reporter

A total of 20 participants including journalist experts and conservation stakeholders are set to benefit with the breakfast debate scheduled for tomorrow as part of strategies to increase quality and quantity of biodiversity conservation stories and influence mind-set change amongst Tanzanians on conservations.

Organised by the Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) in collaboration with the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity, a five-year conservation project aimed to address the dynamics that threaten wildlife movement and the long-term preservation of biodiversity in Tanzania, the discussion will

involve four panellists who will discuss key areas of biodiversity conservation.

John Chikomo, JET Executive Director said that Tanzania is among the world's most biodiverse countries, with over 55,000 confirmed species, but in the last few decades, it has lost at least one-third of its important ecosystems and experienced downward trends in both the number of species and their individual population sizes.

"The country is also home to one-third of the total plant species and 20 percent of the large mammal species in Africa," said Chikomo, adding in the last decade alone, the number of threatened species in Tanzania has tripled.

He said the objective of the discussion is to increase journalist's

knowledge on biodiversity conservation issues for better reporting, inform the public on biodiversity conservation trends and link journalists with relevant biodiversity resource persons, experts and stakeholders.

He added: "We are expecting journalists to increase biodiversity conservation knowledge; quality and quantity of biodiversity conservation stories as well as the increased biodiversity conservation knowledge among Tanzanians."

According to him, one of the challenges in biodiversity conservation is lack of data, knowledge, and systematic information flow on matters related to biodiversity loss and economic value of biodiversity.

Other challenges include invasive

species and climate change in the wildlife corridors and protected areas that require dedicated efforts of conservation stakeholders to address.

The meeting will provide a platform for journalists to interact with resource persons on different subject matters in relation to biodiversity conservation and get accurate information for reporting.

The discussion will involve panellists who will discuss key areas of biodiversity conservation. Among them are John Noronha, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, RTI, a USAID contractor, implementing the Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity, Prof Dos Santos Silayo - Conservation Commissioner, Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS).

Others are Joseph Olila, Landscape Planning and Biodiversity Specialists and Dr Elikana Kalumanga, Private Sector Engagement Manager, both from RTI.

Prof Mdoe urges Tanzanians to keep pace with development in science and technology spheres

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

PROF James Mdoe, deputy permanent secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has underscored the need for Tanzanians to keep pace with the progress in science and technology.

He said the role of science and technology in society is of paramount importance, hence the need to embrace it as an essential tool in solving enormous society problems.

The statement was issued recently during the 2nd international conference on science and technology organised by the faculty of science at the Mkwawa University College of Education (MUCE).

"We all agree that human development is attributed to the advancement in science and technology. In the modern age, we must remember to keep pace with progress in science and technology," he said.

He said the government, through its Tanzania Development Vision 2025, emphasizes the role of integrating science and technology to generate a resilient and competitive economy.

The government emphasizes promoting science and technology education at all levels of education, he urged. "I want to assure you and the public that the government will continue to ensure that the required skilled labour force in science and technology is available for national economic advancement," he added, calling upon participants to discuss and expose the potential of scientists and technologists in contributing to sustainable national development.

He said: "We are here today because researchers have done their work and they want to disseminate the results. The government supports research projects through different ways including to encourage institutions to allocate enough funds to support research

and provision of grants through the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH)."

Prof Mdoe said that development partners provide research grants as a result of the existing good international reputation and setting national research agenda and priorities.

The government is trusted and has a good international reputation with other countries and their development partners from which the funds for research and other economic activities are secured, he said.

Some of the development partners that support research activities are the World Bank, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development (NORHED), UK Department for International Development (UK AID) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

"As the government we believe these institutions will continue providing financial support to different research projects that address societal problems and contribute to the socio-economic development of our country," said Prof Mdoe.

In recent years, the ministry has been implementing various initiatives and programmes to build the capacity of universities and research institutions to conduct high-quality research that addresses real-world problems and promotes innovation.

One of the initiatives is the Higher Education Economic Transformation (HEET) project, which is aimed at building the capacity of universities to conduct applied research that addresses real-world problems and promotes innovation in various sectors.

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- compliance with USG Regulations
- Support partners capacity to manage closeout of awards, including preparation of final inventories, property disposition, etc.
- Support partners capacity to Comply with federal, state, and local legal requirements by studying existing and new legislation; enforcing adherence to requirements; advising management on needed actions.
- Support partners capacity to Reviews, analyzes, and drafts contract language to ensure they comply to all applicable donor, prime as stipulated in the contract, organization's own policies and host government regulations
- Perform other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Minimum requirement is a bachelor's degree in finance and accounting
- MA/MSc/master's in business administration degree or equivalent relevant qualification not a must
- At least 5 years of relevant experience in the NGO sector within Tanzania in managing the award and administration of sub-grants funded by USAID, PEPFAR Grants or international donors.
- Experience managing sub-award design and administration
- Experience in donor funds administration
- Understanding of local contract and procurement law
- Excellent communication skills both verbal and written Kiswahili and English
- Strong knowledge of donor auditing requirements and demonstrated ability to exercise financial oversight of Agreements programs.
- Demonstrated solid knowledge of USAID and other donor regulations applicable to Agreements administration.

Skills and Abilities:

- Strong interpersonal and team building skills
- Ability of planning and time management skills
- Strong written and oral communication skills, including the ability to make a presentation
- Ability to problem-solve difficult issues
- Good negotiating and conflict resolution skills
- Strong understanding of budgets
- Strong analytical skills to successfully perform financial reviews and other forms of quantitative analyses.
- Effective written and oral communications skills that are essential to building relationships with donors, host country counterparts, and partner organizations.
- Ability to exercise sound business judgment to wisely prioritize and successfully perform multiple and complex tasks.
- Highly organized and able to develop and streamline systems for efficient conduct of day-to-day tasks.
- Excellent computer skills and proficient in excel, word, outlook, and graphic/web design. Knowledge of QuickBooks, Sun System and Navision a big plus

- Travel arrangement both local and international
- Manage vehicle fueling
- Manage vehicle repairs
- Manage the car tracking system
- Supervise and mentor project drivers
- Procurement and logistics arrangement
- Answering incoming calls; taking messages and re-directing calls as required
- Dealing with email enquiries
- Taking minutes
- Diary management and arranging appointments, booking meeting rooms and conference facilities
- General office management such as ordering stationary
- Organizing travel and accommodation for staff and customers
- Arranging both internal and external events
- Possibly maintaining the company social media accounts
- Providing administration support of the project inventory.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Maximum requirement is a bachelor's degree in administration related courses
- Minimum of diploma in business administration
- Experience of at least 5 years in providing administrative services to donor funded programs.
- Experience in donor funds administration of the USAID, PEPFAR Grants
- Understanding of local contract and procurement law
- Excellent communication skills both verbal and written Kiswahili and English

Skills and Abilities:

- Strong interpersonal and team building skills
- Ability of planning and time management skills
- Strong written and oral communication skills, including the ability to make a presentation
- Ability to problem-solve difficult issues
- Ability to multitask with ease, adapting to frequently changing priorities
- Good negotiating and conflict resolution skills
- Effective written and oral communications skills that are essential to building relationships with donors, host country counterparts, and partner organizations.
- Ability to exercise sound business judgment to wisely prioritize and successfully perform multiple and complex tasks.
- Highly organized and able to develop and streamline systems for efficient conduct of day-to-day tasks.
- Excellent computer skills and proficient in excel, word, outlook, and graphic/web design.

Drivers (4) Posts

Position Details

Job title : Drivers
Direct Supervisor : Assistant Project officer
Location : Morogoro, Arusha

Position Purpose:

This position is responsible for carrying out duties as a driver, effectively and efficiently, observing all current CSSC vehicle policy and procedures. The driver will also be responsible for ensuring safety of the passengers, vehicle and the tools assigned to him/her and devising ways and maintaining high fuel efficiency and low maintenance costs.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Carry out preventive maintenance checks of assigned vehicle(s) as per CSSC's prescribed checklist.
- Ensure that the assigned vehicle(s) is road-ready and has sufficient fuel and levels of oil for daily use.
- Carry out all driving tasks as needed by the office and as assigned by the supervisor and as per vehicle request approved form.
- Observe the specified speed limits at all times
- Bring to the immediate attention of the supervisor any and all minor/major defects that have happened or been notice during the day or accidents that have happened

- that day. Present to the supervisor in writing the details of any accident by checking and filling vehicle report form in every Monday of each week.
- Record daily trips, fuel consumption, mileage, and timings in the "log book" provided for the assigned vehicle.
- Record all servicing and repairs both KM for service, next service and total cost of that service received in the log book provided for the assigned vehicle.
- Under any circumstance when the drivers are out of the office either after working hours or within the working hours the driver is supposed to place the car keys to the supervisor.
- Ensure the safe parking; whenever possible when the vehicle is on duty, vehicle is on the way at night, during breakdowns and when it is not in use.
- In collaboration with the Assistant Administrative Officer carry out the monthly check-ups.
- Drive staff on short and long trips as per daily C4S-Project requests.
- Maintain and adhere to road traffic policies and procedures as per Tanzania Government laws.
- Immediately notify his/her superior as well as the local authorities in case of any accident in which he/she is involved.
- At all times, implement established safety and security measures/procedures.
- Assure the confidentiality of dispatches delivered or received and that all such dispatches are recorded correctly
- Carry out work responsibilities in such a way so as to promote the image and work of CSSC
- Ensure all necessary vehicle documents (e.g. insurance, registration documents, etc.) are present in the vehicle and up to date.
- Keep track of the scheduled service time of the vehicle, in order to make sure that servicing is performed in time.
- Accurately fill in the vehicle log book with details of each journey
- Take care of vehicles tools and cleanliness.
- Ensure that assigned vehicle is completely equipped with a First Aid Kit, spare tire, working flashlight and batteries, vehicle jack, wheel brace and a tool kit (spanner, wrench, tyre, removers, patch kit, etc). Collect and deliver mail, documents, and other items;
- Optimize use of the vehicle; assist in the registration of new vehicles, renewal of insurance, road licenses, etc
- Ensure that all passengers use seat belts and secure any loose load.
- Ensure vehicle is clean
- Undertake any other duty as will be assigned by the supervisor

Qualifications; Experience and Skills

Education

- Secondary School Education Certificate
- Class C Driving License
- Certificate from National Institute of Transport or any other recognized Institute of driving and Motor Vehicle Maintenance.

Experience and Skills

- Minimum of 3 years' experience working as a driver in the NGO/FBO, Government sectors etc.
- Mechanic skills
- Firm belief in teamwork, gender equality
- Good command of English language
- High levels of creativity
- Sense of/awareness to security

Mode of Application

All applications should be made online through the following link career.cssc.or.tz: before [26th May 2023 at 16.00hrs].

Note that;

- Only short-listed candidates will be contacted; if you are not contacted within two weeks after the deadline of this advert, consider yourself unsuccessful.
- Any application sent later than the mentioned date and time will not be considered
- Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Project Assistant (1) Post
Position Details
Job title : Project Assistant
Direct Supervisor : Finance and Administration Officer
Location : Dar es Salaam

Position Purpose:

The Assistant Project officer will directly be reporting to and supervised by the Finance and Administration Officer. The Assistant project officer will provide high-level administrative management to attain the goal of C4S project, working with consortium members and COE's, government institutions, vendors, customers and service providers. S/he assist in providing capacity building to staff for all aspects related to project management of the project that enhances provision of good administrative services to the organization.

Key Responsibilities'

Assistants project Administration tasks

- Properly maintaining of project management files

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BRT needs private sector inputs to really change city commuting

WORK on infrastructure meant to expand the reach of the Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit (DART) services is nearing completion, according to the Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads).

The agency has reported that implementation of the road network for the second phase has reached 93 per cent and will be completed within four or five months at most. Obviously, that is good news.

BRT Phase II spans 20.3 kilometres of infrastructure of exclusive lanes and bus stops, along with additional facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

The latter isn't always followed as motorcyclists habitually beat road snarls by riding on pathways, now that they are tiled, along major roads.

The main beneficiary of the second BRT phase is Kilwa Road corridor and part of Kawawa Road, from the sprawling Mbagala suburb on the southern reaches of the city to the central business district, as BRT is anchored in the CBD zone.

While even within the current mode of its operations the BRT system improves the traffic flow by reducing commuter buses on the road by a substantial part, it needs plenty of rethinking to also alter commuting habits generally.

There needs to be more breathing space in buses and less pushing during both boarding and alighting, which is scarcely likely to be accommodated by the current business model. The reason is that it is two-tier, basically running as a cooperative mode.

BRT authorities are said to be studying current initiatives at the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) where reworking the business model has been contemplated for most of the past decade.

Earlier, it looked like a fairy tale to some and misguided intrusion

into operations of public agencies to others. However, with more recent initiatives, it is beginning to sink into business culture as more or less necessary - as the government just can't borrow for everything.

A key expectation of the DART system was that people would in fairly big numbers put aside their private saloon cars and transit to work and back home with improved, faster public transport.

The speed element has been attained in the seven years that DART has been operating, but it isn't sufficiently user-friendly. Whatever the bus aggregate numbers may be, it just doesn't have sufficient buses on particular routes, especially the Kimara-Kariakoo or Kimara-Posta route. With cooperative or city council buses, individuals get a cut when a bus is broken down, some servicing is done or procuring of spares is a must.

Meanwhile, as the right spares are scarce for such buses, the resulting cannibalisation of parts from non-working vehicles can be needlessly high. If individuals put aside their buses and just pay for using the route, it would work better.

Trouble with all this planning is that most state economists and parastatal executives have been trained on the background of a socialist vision of economy and individual parastatals as the society's hope in a sector or an aspect of economy.

These extol the benefits of that system and are reluctant or unwilling to admit its microeconomic faults, like the longevity of a privately owned bus and one being run by a cooperative society.

Were the Treasury to do more work on this aspect, it would roll back some of the resistance to operational reforms in parastatals, often standing as patriotism, etc. Appropriate remedial action is needed here - and the sooner, the better.

Funding of poverty alleviation projects calls for gender focus

IT is reported that upwards of 5,000 people living with HIV/Aids in Coast Region are set to gain from an empowerment project. This is a humanitarian initiative similar to several before it, as HIV/Aids erodes a families' ability to and fend for themselves.

The three-year project will have the benefit of experience with such projects, usually incorporated into project designs at least to avoid mistakes identified in the past. That is what is generally expected.

Yet there are some bottlenecks in the project design, as the sums devoted are fairly minimal, with only 26m/- said to cover the entire project, meaning less than 9m/- per year.

There is however a way of making such amounts of money do better in improving the lives of those targeted - for instance, in spreading the funds in savings and credit societies with a good track record of delivery and recovery of loan funds. With the funds being relatively minimal and the setting completely rural, such associations are both suitable and beneficial.

The other benefit of a rural spread of credit is that it enables members (usually, women and youths) to form groups for certain specific activities, which in Coast Region many are beginning to take up blue economy openings.

This way, the funding organisation/s could even elicit other stakeholders interested in the novel environmental conservation initiatives, distinct from a personalised approach that can't build synergies. There would still be room for additional design or if the project is to be reworked and improved at some future time.

A report on the issue says that an MoU was signed between an NGO

known as Pastoral Activities and Services for People with AIDS in the Dar es Salaam Archdiocese (PASADA) and Mkuranga District.

It is apparent that the district was making it clear that facilitating support would be done when needed, as they comprehend that the project benefits people in the area, while not being directed to the council for custody of funds, etc.

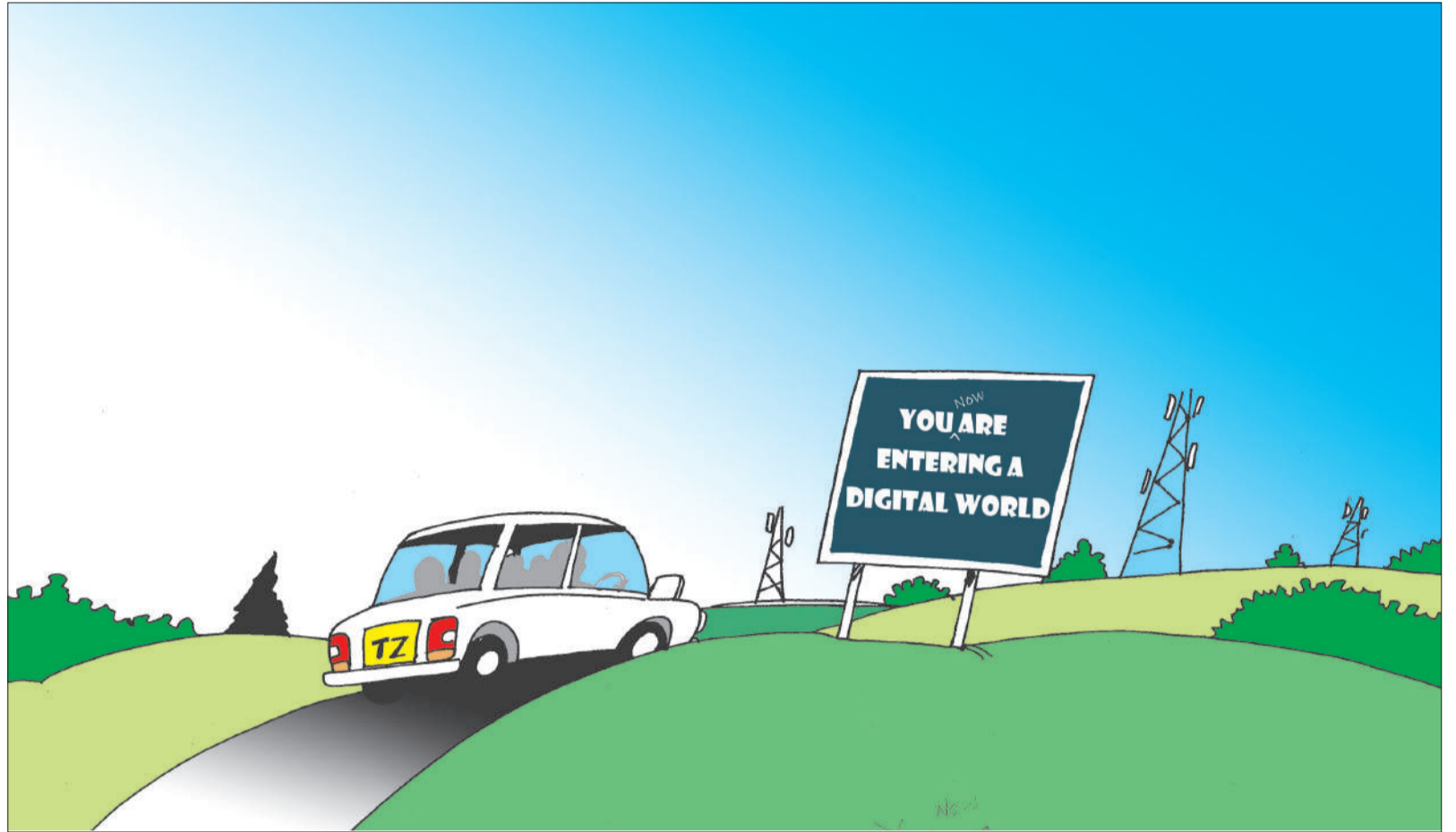
Seeking to help people living with the disease in Kibaha and Chalinze districts, the project is indeed in safe hands as it seeks to financially empower girls and young women living with HIV/Aids.

Usually, signalling that a young woman is infected by the time she is pregnant or while the pregnancy is developing implies an automatic cessation of concern or association with the male person "responsible for the pregnancy". There is no appeal mechanism on the negligence, just sadness.

The targeted group of girls and young women aged between 13 and 35 years has a large percentage of child-bearing women, especially those suckling or likely to be in such situation in the near future.

This is also an extended group where a lot of physical assistance is observed by human solidarity tied to gender proximity.

While young men may commonly abandon consorts or conjugal partners in the event of HIV/Aids striking, it is fellow women who take up the task of reassurance. That is the context in which it may be necessary to consider projects meant to bail out the "victims", ensuring that the funds and other forms extended indeed land in the hands of those really targeted. Too bad, experience shows that this is not always the case.



New pandemic threats inevitable but pandemics a political choice

By Ellen Johnson Sirleaf & Helen Clark

THE massive damage Covid-19 has wrought on societies, economies and human development exposes an unassailable truth: the community of nations must never let this happen again.

What provides hope is that in this age of unparalleled scientific tools, instant communication, and fresh lessons to apply from this pandemic, the world has a real opportunity to make Covid-19 the last pandemic of such devastation.

However, what is dangerous is the loss of political attention to the reforms needed to achieve this goal. No country was spared the impact of Covid-19.

Within a matter of weeks, an existential pandemic threat became a catastrophic reality, now contributing to the deaths of some 20 million people worldwide.

Only international, multilateral, and multi-sectoral collaboration can safeguard the world from the next pandemic threat.

This year presents an unprecedented opportunity for focus and transformative change. Work will be advanced on a new pandemic legal instrument and on amending the International Health Regulations.

The UNGA (United Nations General Assembly) High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response, is scheduled for September 20, 2023.

It should provide much-needed direction to implement the overall package of reforms required for a cohesive, fully transformed and functional system through a concise and action-oriented political declaration.

According to The Economist (UK newspaper), it was estimated that the Covid-19 pandemic had led to 22 million excess deaths as of April 24, 2023.

The (US) Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation meanwhile projected that a total of 18.57 million deaths would have been attributable to Covid-19 by April 1, 2023.

Since the H1N1 influenza pandemic of 2009 and up until the outbreak of Covid-19, a series of high-level panels and commissions had conducted 16 reviews of pandemic and health emergency preparedness and response.

These were followed by a patchy and limited implementation of recommendations - a pick and mix approach that continued to leave gaps and contributed directly to the Covid-19 outbreak becoming a pandemic.

In 2021, the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response and other Covid-19 reviews came to similar findings and conclusions: the systems and rules in place were wholly insufficient to protect the world, and

transformational change is essential.

The Independent Panel called for a package of reforms, focused on sustained high-level political attention to pandemic preparedness and response, a modern surveillance and alert system, new and additional financing, equitable access to medical countermeasures, a strengthened and well-functioning WHO, and a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach to national preparedness.

Reform efforts now under way are to be applauded but, without the highest-level political attention, they are in danger of losing steam and the focus required for transformative change which will ensure that the world is prepared to prevent, identify and contain pandemic threats.

With renewed focus and political will, Covid-19 can be the last pandemic of such devastating consequences. While new pandemic threats are certain, there is a choice now to put measures in place to identify them rapidly, respond at speed, and stop them from spreading - thus ensuring that the social and economic costs of the last three years are never repeated. This is our common responsibility, and it can be a generational legacy of today's leaders.

"Somehow - after all we have endured - we have not learned the global public health lessons of the pandemic. We are nowhere near ready for pandemics to come," UN Secretary General António Guterres told the World Economic Forum in January 2023.

What is critical now is to ensure that the world is safeguarded throughout the entire cycle of pandemic readiness, alert and response by applying lessons nationally, regionally and globally.

Nations shoulder the most responsibility for pandemic preparedness and response, and they should prepare for a new pandemic threat as though it could happen tomorrow.

The Independent Panel has stressed that applying Covid-19 lessons now is "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get preparedness right to prevent a catastrophic pandemic from arising again".

Our message is that all governments in countries of every income level need to apply these lessons by investing in prevention and preparedness now to be ready across all sectors to respond to the next crisis.

With the right reforms in place, there will be no need to panic and scramble when the next health threat emerges.

Regions, including regional groupings of countries, banks and health and other relevant institutions are increasingly strong political platforms, having expanded collaboration and strengthened technical capacities.

Lessons from Covid-19 demonstrate that regional resilience is a necessity. Every effort is required to ensure that

tools are available to stop outbreaks when and where they occur.

These include the ability to research, manufacture, and distribute global common goods such as personal protective equipment (PPE), oxygen, diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics that make the difference between life and death, and are essential in containing an infectious disease outbreak with pandemic potential.

Based on the Independent Panels' recommendations and taking into account the present state of reform efforts, the following global road map presents the essential functions that must be covered for an effective system.

The global functions for pandemic preparedness and response are to support and strengthen the work and capacities at the national and regional levels.

With increasing emphasis on the need to support national and regional resilience, the global functions in place earlier in this pandemic need to be reformed and adjusted.

Of most importance is to have a system for pandemic preparedness and response that is fit for purpose: equipped to identify and contain pandemic threats and, if that is not possible, to give maximal protection to societies and economies.

The system must have defined roles and responsibilities for appropriate organisations - and clear distinctions between the political and operational work.

There are many calls to ensure that the current reform processes under way that are meant to reform pandemic preparedness and response are coherent and will, taken together, add up to transformational change.

Until now, this is not the case. The important, but lengthy, pandemic agreement negotiations may or may not deliver what is needed. There has been an abnegation or rejection of responsibility to commit the relatively few billions required now and every year to avoid the loss of trillions when the world is once again overwhelmed by a pandemic threat.

Consensus has yet to be found around an equitable approach on countermeasures. While there is broad agreement that a leader-level body is needed to maintain political momentum for pandemic preparedness and response, there is no agreement on who should mandate it.

Based on the Independent Panel's recommendations, and the present state of reform efforts, the road map needed would involve a raft of issues, demands and expectations.

For instance, there is the issue of international rules and agreements as relates to international health regulations. To address future health threats effectively, we need a set of principles, rules, rights, and obligations for the pandemic prevention, preparedness and response system.

To do this, two legal instruments are envisaged: revised international health regulations and a new pandemic agreement.

These two instruments should not be duplicative but, taken together, should define roles and responsibilities as well as goals and indicators for countries and relevant institutions. A process is under way for each of these instruments, and texts are scheduled to be agreed at the World Health Assembly in May 2024.

Revised International Health Regulations (IHRs) should focus on surveillance and alert systems. This involves setting the rules for what kind of pathogens need to be reported and when, and for the WHO's authority to investigate and respond to potential outbreaks immediately in order to alert the world quickly to threats, be able to declare an emergency expeditiously, and provide assistance to countries.

The IHRs must also continue to grant the WHO the authority and obligation to provide temporary recommendations. The multiple breaches of the IHRs during the Covid-19 pandemic and in past outbreaks also point to the urgent need for strengthened monitoring and compliance mechanisms.

A new pandemic agreement can set principles beyond the IHRs, addressing the whole prevention, preparedness and response cycle. It should define goals and targets, specify required competencies, rights, and obligations, and establish compliance, accountability and governance arrangements.

The agreement could present agreed roles and responsibilities for key building blocks of pandemic preparedness and response - such as for coordinating the health response to pandemic threats and facilitating access to medical countermeasures.

What the pandemic agreement should probably not do is establish detailed operational arrangements of facilities and functions.

This is part of the essence of the road map for a world protected from pandemic threats as appears in the report: 'Covid-19: Make it the Last Pandemic, The Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response'.

* The Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response was co-chaired by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Helen Clark. The Independent Panel began its work in September 2020, and submitted its main report, Covid-19: Make it the Last Pandemic, to the World Health Assembly in May 2021. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf served as President of Liberia from 2006 to 2018. She was the first elected female head of state in Africa. Meanwhile, Helen Clark was Prime Minister of New Zealand for three successive terms from 1999 to 2008.

Worlds apart? The complex dynamics of Africa-EU migration

By Adeoye O Akinola

BETWEEN January and March this year, about 441 African migrants died in the Mediterranean Sea while attempting to cross into Europe. Around the same period in 2017, 750 migrants lost their lives in similar incidents. Since 2014, more than 20,700 Africans have either died or gone missing in their bid to make it to Europe.

Despite the “efforts” of both African and European actors to address the push factors of migration, thousands of Africans continue to flee the continent for several reasons, including to escape from violent conflict. Many risk their lives while trying to flee through illegal routes.

The Sahel region has become a theatre of violence, insurgency and terrorism. The current Sudanese conflict, driven by two antagonistic and power-hungry army generals, has led to the deaths of 528 people, with 4,500 wounded. Thousands of people have been displaced.

In Nigeria, Boko Haram’s reign of terror and the farmers-herders conflict have displaced more than 3.1 million people as of June 2022.

In Libya, many migrants have accepted so-called assisted returns to their countries of origin – not voluntarily, but by compulsion – due to dehumanising detention conditions, including threats of torture, extortion and sexual violence. Others are commonly at the mercy of sex and labour traffickers.

Hardship and uncertainty

They are confronted with hardships in African transit countries and uncertainties about what awaits them in Europe.

Those who make it to Europe have testified to further ill-treatment. Anti-migration sentiments (promoted by right-wing political parties) are being integrated into the policy space of several countries in Europe, further worsening the conditions of undocumented migrants and exposing them to institutional discrimination.

Since the 2015 European migration crisis, migration has been a dominant theme in domestic politics in most European countries. While the European Union (EU) and Africa celebrate their close relations, policymakers from both continents have divergent perspectives on the issue of migration.

While African actors see migration as natural, developmental and mutually beneficial, EU policymakers conceive it from the standpoints of politicking, security and control.

A lively discussion took place at the recent launch of the edited volume titled, *Worlds Apart? Perspectives of Africa-EU Migration*, by this writer and Jesper Bjarnesen.

As the Swedish EU Presidency winds up next month, the Swedish Ministry of Justice and Ministry for Foreign Affairs invited policymakers on migration from the 27 EU member states to the launch of the book in Brussels, Belgium, on 2 May, at the offices of the Swedish Permanent Representation to the EU.

Both Swedish departments are co-chairing a working group of the European Council, the “Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration”,

in charge of deliberations on external aspects of EU migration policy.

The launch was co-hosted by the Swedish government and the Sweden-based Nordic Africa Institute (NAI), in collaboration with the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa. The meeting was chaired by the Director of NAI, Therese Sjömander Magnusson. Both editors of the book, Anna Knoll and Amanda Bisong of the European Centre for Development Policy Management in Maastricht, the Netherlands, were speakers.

Myths

As highlighted in the book, the meeting contended with some of the myths about Africa-EU migration. Indeed, more Africans travel through legal channels than illegal routes such as the Mediterranean Sea, and intra-African migration exceeds Africa’s movement to other regions.

Data released by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation and Africa-Europe Foundation revealed that intra-African migrations since 2010 have increased by around 43.6% compared with 26% for Africa-Europe migrations. The speakers engaged the notion that African and European perspectives on migration governance are “worlds apart”, as reflected in the title of the book. Clearly, discourse on Africa-EU migration is dominated by EU narratives and driven by the asymmetrical power relations between Africa and Europe.

As reinforced during the meeting, migration is the means to achieve a goal. Panelists interrogat-



A Libyan coast guard stands on a boat during the rescue of 147 illegal immigrants attempting to reach Europe off the coastal town of Zawiyah, 45km west of the capital Tripoli, on 27 June 2017. (Photo: Taha Jawashi / AFP)

ed the weakness of the European emphasis on addressing the root causes of African migration and interrogated the EU’s attempt to drastically reduce irregular migration through the EU’s investments in African socioeconomic development and peacebuilding.

Many of these interventions do not reduce migration, but enhance movements. People migrate for several reasons. Migration, which is sometimes forced in Africa, is a significant characteristic of changes in population. It is natural and has nothing to do with social and economic status.

Discussions reflected on the role and perspectives of European civil society and noted that European debates about immigration are increasingly state-centric, critical and sometimes racial.

The meeting reinforced the reasons why African migrants con-

tinued to move to Europe through illegal routes, such as the central Mediterranean Sea, and argued for the expansion of legal pathways to provide more opportunities for people on the move to use legal routes.

Remittance, migration and development

Remittances, which have dominated the conversation on international migration, were located in proper contexts. Remittances sent from the EU accounted for 11% of the total flows received by low and middle-income countries and benefited about 105 million people in the origin countries.

Remittance is the most obvious link between migration and development. It enhances Africa’s quest for economic development and should also be seen as an urgent save-our-soul intervention from

the African diaspora.

Remittances should not be conflated with capital flight, but are funds that are earned through hard labour. Migrants have supported their societies and home governments by constructing schools, hospitals and stadiums. African migrants send remittances, not from a standpoint of affluence, but mostly through pain and resilience; thus, a further downward review of charges on money transfers and removal of several gridlocks that impede remittances are desirable.

It is also imperative for Africa to explore the use of remittances not only for family consumption, but for the creation of productive opportunities for national and regional economic development.

The meeting offered a platform for rethinking migration governance in Europe and argued for

the depoliticisation and desecuritisation of migration, and the implementation of sustainable policy templates that would address the voices of African migrants.

Realistically, border policing does not necessarily reduce migration.

It is important to humanise migration policy and partner to build a more developed Africa through support in human capacity-building and other needs as determined by Africans.

The meeting advocated for the establishment of an Africa-EU taskforce to implement and promote a mutually beneficial Africa-EU migration governance. **DM**

Ethiopia faces tough black market decision on where the forex bucks stop

By Remadji Hoinathy and Yamingué Béтинboye

ETHIOPIA’S foreign currency deficit has led to a thriving black market exchange, fuelling already-problematic illicit financial flows in the country. The black market limits the inflow and facilitates the outflow of legitimate foreign currency.

Ethiopia has many unregulated foreign currency exchange bureaus. Profiteers use small shops, usually set up for lawful businesses like boutiques, from where they ask passers-by for foreign exchange. A US dollar is worth double the official bank rate on the black market.

Foreign currency is also diverted through illegal hawala – an informal money transfer outside the banking system. Ethiopians in the diaspora remit foreign currency to middlemen, who pay beneficiaries in Ethiopia in local currency at the black market rate.

Outflows are facilitated by vendors who either smuggle foreign currency collected in Addis Ababa through Bole International Airport, or transport it to Moyale and Togochole, towns on the border with Kenya and Somalia, a researcher told the Enact project. Some foreign currency smuggled through



Ethiopia has many unregulated foreign currency exchange bureaus and foreign currency is also diverted through illegal hawala – an informal money transfer outside the banking system. (Photo: EPA-EFE / Shahzaib Akber)

these towns re-enters Ethiopia, only to be sent out again. Illicit traders approach bank officers in border towns with an offer to sell, or vice versa, according to a former federal prosecutor.

Banks in Moyale and Togochole process the foreign currency and disguise it as legitimately earned income from Ethiopian export businesses. A researcher said banks in border towns collaborate with their head offices in Addis Ababa, where someone buys the re-entered foreign currency at a higher price.

The role of banks on the black market isn’t limited to border areas, says National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) former governor Yinager Dessie. In Addis Ababa, banks pay black marketeers 30

ETB commission for a US dollar, and then sell the foreign currency at a rate above even the black market. Finding a higher bidder is easy – corrupt individuals launder ETB by paying more for hard currency. Importers’ demand for forex is also significantly higher than the supply.

Ethiopia’s foreign currency shortage is exacerbated by ongoing instability. Massive government spending on the war resulted in a foreign exchange reserve outflow of \$307-million during the 2020/21 fiscal year. The conflict obstructed foreign currency inflow by limiting tourism and foreign direct investment. It also affected Ethiopia’s access to hard currencies by triggering economic sanctions and the suspen-

sion of aid and international loans.

The need to restore peace and stability, along with severe drought and skyrocketing inflation, has occupied government resources and attention, enabling the black market to thrive.

The NBE has tried to manage the shortage of foreign currency through several rules and regulations. Ethiopians travelling abroad can take no more than \$4,000 from their foreign currency account, for which proof of travel is required. International traders can spend only 20% of the foreign currency they bring to Ethiopia – 70% goes to the NBE and 10% to commercial banks.

In April 2022, the NBE tried to mitigate inflation by introducing Franco-Valuta, which al-

lows importing of essential foodstuffs without using the banking system to buy or spend foreign currency. This turned the black market into a significant source of forex for Franco-Valuta importers. The ETB lost ground fast – a US dollar overshot from under 65 ETB to over 80 ETB in less than a week. The NBE revised the scheme to require importers to prove they use legally acquired foreign currency.

In May 2022, the NBE suspended commercial banks from providing forex-related services in Moyale and Togochole. In August, the Ethiopian National Intelligence and Security Service (Niss) reported the arrest of several Ethiopian and foreign nationals allegedly involved in illicit financial flows and illegal hawala.

In October that year, the NBE and Niss froze 1,054 bank accounts over black market exchange and illegal hawala. That same month, Ethiopia banned the import of goods deemed non-essential and stopped issuing Letters of Credit for 38 products, from cigarettes and whiskey to non-electric cars imported by private individuals.

Ethiopia may need to rethink its current approach, which focuses on controlling the black market. Rather than intermittent efforts to put out fires, a consistent strategy of controls is required. Last October’s creation of a dedicated task force was useful, as it involves both regulatory bodies and law enforcement agencies. This should be complemented by a holistic government approach that establishes robust inter-agency coordination and cross-border cooperation.

A major difficulty though, is that many Ethiopians believe the black market exchange rate reflects the true state of the economy, not the official exchange rate, say anonymous sources. Government could consider legalising black market exchange and transforming it into a parallel market that the NBE can regulate. If legalised, such transactions could be recorded, taxed and used to support international trade.

However, legalisation might presuppose adopting a floating exchange rate, which can work best with a system that maintains a sustainable source of foreign currency, according to an expert who requested anonymity. This would probably result in considerable devaluation of the currency, which the government is unlikely to accept.

Ethiopia’s government faces difficult choices – but a decision must be made in order to limit the damaging effects of the black market exchange and improve foreign currency reserves.

Social media mobile phone data in disaster management and the implications that it has on vulnerable populations

By Hannah Tuckman

THIS week sees the review of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It will bring governments, partners and communities together to reduce disaster risk and losses and to ensure a safer, sustainable future.

Since its conception in 2015 there have been advancements in the availability of tools such as the use of social media and mobile data which will allow citizens to be at the forefront of disaster management decision-making.

As social media has cemented its permanent spot in society, it is integral that emergency management sees social media and mobile phone data as an asset that can aid in all phases of the disaster cycle.

The widespread adoption of mobile phones and social media platforms has made it possible for people to share information about disasters in real-time, which can help emergency responders to better understand the situation on the ground and respond more effectively. There is a tendency for the public to turn to social media to share information or seek information during a disaster, including sharing posts, requesting help, and sharing the status on critical infrastructure.

Social media can also be used to push out messages from emergency officials to quickly communicate with a large audience and coordinate relief efforts.

There are some mobile applications that are used to identify areas of need and direct resources. With the increasing use of social media, it is important to consider the ethical and practical considerations on using these tools, particularly for vulnerable populations. Access to social media and mobile data is not universal, leaving out some of the most vulnerable communities. There are also concerns about privacy and misinformation in a time where communication channels are already strained.

Hurricane Dorian, South Carolina

First, we will look at an example of Hurricane Dorian and how it hit South Carolina. Hurricane Dorian was a very powerful category 5 hurricane which had hit the Bahamas and was for them the most intense one on record. It also went on to be the most powerful Atlantic

hurricane on record with winds as high as 185 mph. It impacted also on the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico before landing in the United States.

A number of US states Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Virginia prepared for its arrival by declaring a state of emergency.

The South Carolina Emergency Management utilized their Twitter and Facebook to spread messaging both before the hurricane and during it about weather and related updates. This worked well because news outlets knew which social media messaging to follow, and they knew the credibility of that information.

Where South Carolina Emergency Management ran into some issues was when it came to private citizens also utilizing social media tools such as twitter who would then tweet at the emergency managers calling for help.

The local first responders didn't know who had received that information and if telecommunications had already received a call, creating a sense of confusion. Additionally, South Carolina Emergency Management didn't have the capacity to help with the influx of volume that they had through this new social media messaging capabilities.

There is an interesting opportunity here for improved Disaster Response because of three factors.

Firstly, there are new ways of collecting data. Data mining techniques have been revolutionizing every sector of society, and Emergency Management is not an exception to this. We live in an age of big data and there's an opportunity for transformative change in disaster management because better decisions can be made due to this influx of data.

As a society, we are transitioning from an era of data scarcity to an era of data abundance, and you can even see this in lower- and middle-income countries where we're now able to gather data in areas that were otherwise relatively data scarce. This is coupled with climate change which is increasing both the frequency and intensity of natural disasters.

Currently, the annual number of people killed from natural disasters is around 60,000 and that is expected to increasingly rise due to climate change - in many cases these are the most vulnerable in society. To help address this, there is a grow-



Destruction from hurricane Dorian showing debris and structural damage to buildings and trees in MARSH HARBOR, ABACO ISLAND, THE BAHAMAS. Credit: Shutterstock.

ing focus on a shift to a social perspective to disaster management. This can be best expressed as how and with which tools do we support the most vulnerable when a disaster occurs.

There are three types of data relevant to the discussion.

The first type of data is directed data and that's operator focused data capturing technology on a person or place. When you think of directed data, you are likely to think of traditional surveillance data cameras and remote sensing.

Automated data is collectively or possibly collected through the normal operations of a system. You can think of mobile phone use like call records, web searches and credit card use.

Lastly you have volunteered data, and that's data that's actively or passively produced by citizens. That is looking at crowdsourcing data and social media data which are very rich because it can tell you a lot of information beyond just an individual level.

Looking at a couple different uses of social media and mobile phone data in disasters.

During Hurricane Harvey (2017), a picture of many elderly individuals in a flooded nursing home was tweeted by a man named Timothy McIntosh that lived in Florida. This is the first time that we're able to see social media being used due to an overrun 9-1-1 system. Citizens turned to Twitter to reach out for help because they couldn't get in contact with traditional telecommunications.

This picture was tweeted and then after about 2,000 likes and many retweets, Emergency Management officials began evacuating these 18 people in this nursing home, and after every 30 minutes the emergency officials were tweeting at Timothy McIntosh or privately messaging him letting him know about the status updates with this nursing home. However, there is concern of who's using Twitter to reach out in emergencies. In some studies, there is concern that the Twitter users are typically white male, more educated and living in urban areas.

This began a broader conversation of who's getting left out through using this means of emergency response messaging.

A different approach - SMS data

Looking at open-source two-way SMS data and there's two different platforms that will be discussed.

Frontline SMS is interesting because you don't need a lot to get started. All one needs is power, the internet, a computer that can be used for a hub, a SIM card and then free software and it's able to turn a laptop into a central communication hub to facilitate messaging. This relies on a text messaging service which is useful because it is easier and more accessible.

In a pilot, Frontline SMS partnered with Strengthening Participatory Organizations in Pakistan following monsoon flooding. They use Frontline to both receive and send messages about complaints or requests for help.

They were also able to receive responses and requests for help. To enable this to be a proactive effort, volunteers had to go out before the disaster to the communities and explain how they wanted them to use this number to text.

What they would receive was information from the individuals including their names, contact information and their addresses so when these individuals message this number it would pop up information about them and better help the response when they would send responders out to those areas. The messages were converted from Arabic into a numbering system, so it was easier to categorize.

Rapid Pro SMS is another program that was developed by the UN Childrens Fund (UNICEF). It was originally used for faster delivery of blood sample testing, but it's turned into flexible and customizable software that can be used, with the most common application being in education systems.

However, there is broad applicability for disaster response. Rapid Pro SMS was used for early flood warning systems to send audio messages in Cambodia. They decided to use audio messages because of literacy challenges in the area. The program currently covers over 200,000 households.

Crowdsourcing Data

These are two different projects that are interrelated. The first one is Mission 4636 which is a number that people could use where they would report something that they saw requiring urgent attention. It was used during a

2010 earthquake in Haiti. People would text this number, and that information would then be translated, categorized, and geo-located. Then you could extract this missing person information, so responders knew where to respond.

However, an issue that they had with it was that it was a one-way system. People would say that they needed help, but there was no way of knowing when this aid would actually come or how the message was being received. If the responders needed more information, they couldn't text back that number and get that extra information they needed.

The Ushahidi project originally began because of violent incidents following a Kenyan presidential election, but now it's been applied to natural disaster responses. Volunteers will put SMS data, emails and web-based submissions onto a map for the general public to actually see what incidents are happening in their area and they can click there for more information. It would be used to coordinate with responders to go to those specific areas.

Which subsequently ran into a problem with citizens sending the information, it would be translated and posted in English. The populations that they were trying to serve didn't speak English, so there was a big gap in who could actually use it, and the people that were sending out the messages couldn't even understand their own messages they put onto this platform. There are many implications that these different platforms have for vulnerable populations. First, it is

foundational to understand the US Federal Emergency Management Agency - FEMA's definition of vulnerable populations because there's so many different definitions. FEMA defines vulnerable populations as:

"a population whose members may have additional needs before, during, and after an incident in functional areas including, but not limited to, maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision and medical care. Individuals in need of additional response assistance include those who have disabilities who are from diverse cultures who had limited English proficiency, who are non-English speaking and who are transportation disadvantaged."

This is a very broad definition, but it is a useful one to use here because all of these populations that are listed would be affected by the use of the different platforms noted here.

Also, in the USA there's also the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) toolkit which can be helpful in accessibility during disaster management.

Chapter seven of their toolkit is about emergencies and disasters, and under that there's a requirement that officials make notification systems accessible to people with disabilities. There is an opportunity to incorporate these platforms of open communication, not just notification systems to be under that guidance.

Problems with Social Media and Disaster Management for Vulnerable Communities

The lack of trust that exists in some of these populations that are considered vulnerable is very important to understand. There are historical incidents where their trust has been violated. A lot of vulnerable populations do have a lack of trust in emergency officials, and that could be exacerbated by using social media without their involvement and consultation in its approach and implementation. This is because there's a lot of misinformation on these platforms.

There's also the question of who is using these platforms and who has access, which leads to literacy and access challenges which could also lead to an underrepresentation of vulnerable communities in emergency communications.

IPS

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Burundi commits to double solar power capacity

BUJUMBURA

BURUNDI has officially inaugurated the country's first utility-scale solar field, as part of push to leverage renewable energy for improved access to electricity for homes and businesses.

The grid-connected 75MW solar power plant, located in Mubuga, became operational in 2021. It has since then provided more than 10% of Burundi's electricity.

During the official inauguration, President Évariste Ndayishimiye pledged, with support of development partners, to double the generating capacity at the plant.

"We celebrate economic and climate progress in Burundi, which is open to direct foreign investment to catalyse economic growth for our people," President Ndayishimiye said in a statement released by Gigawatt Global, the renewable energy company that developed the field. "Thanks to this solar field, and my agreement to double the size of it, we have increased energy security that can reli-

ably run agro-businesses."

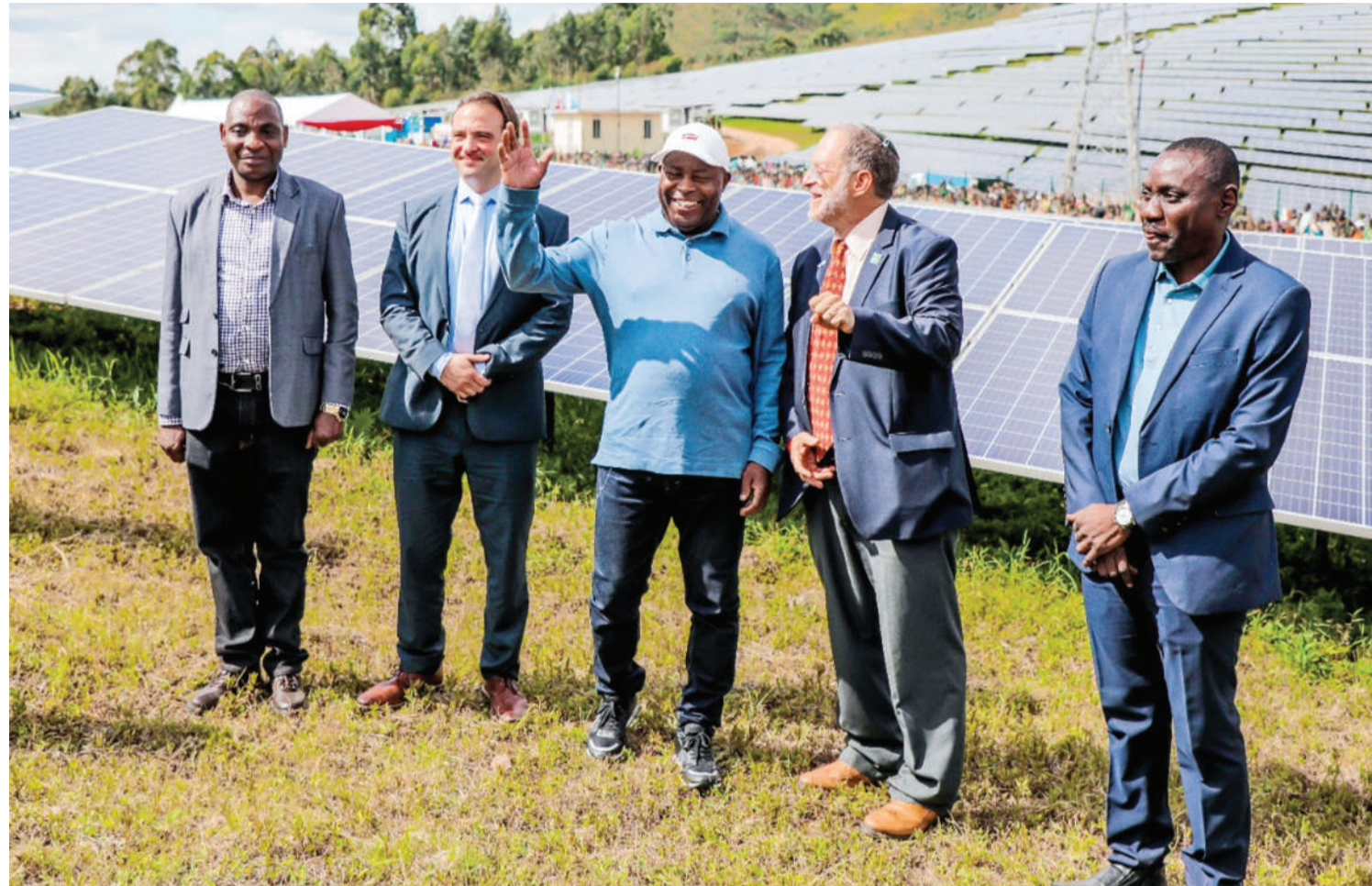
Burundi ranks poorly as one of the least electrified countries in the world, with only about 11% of the country's 11 million people (or roughly 1.2 million people) having access to electricity.

The country's electricity supply comes largely from hydropower, but the energy gap has forced many to rely on costly and polluting diesel fuel. Thanks to the project in Mubuga, the electricity generated by the solar field has been able to replace significant power coming from diesel, expanding output to new users.

Partnering for clean energy development

Developing and building Burundi's first solar plant took a six-year process led by Gigawatt Global, a multinational green energy developer and independent power producer for Africa.

Gigawatt broke ground on the Solar field in 2017, but full construction began in January 2020. Commercial operations took off (<https://apo-opa.info/30bXEXM>) in October 2021.



President Ndayishimiye of Burundi visited Gigawatt Global's solar power plant in Mubuga, Burundi, near the capital Gitega, the nation's first utility-scale solar field.

But before the project came online, it received financial support through a grant from the Energy and Environment Partnership (a joint Finland, UK and Austria fund) and the Belgian Investment Company for Developing

Countries, to cover the studies relevant to constructing the field. The field also got support of the African-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Program, engaging in the project with due diligence.

Financing for the construction of the project was provided via a consortium including pan-African private equity investor Inspired Evolution via its Evolution II Fund, the UK government-funded Renewable Energy Per-

formance Platform, and Gigawatt Global. The US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has been leading in the area of Political Risk Insurance and refinancing of construction debt.

The project, Burundi's first grid-connected solar development by an independent power producer, is expected to pave the way for further foreign investment into the country's renewable energy sector.

"This project demonstrates how the world community can realize shared development goals by utilizing international financing facilities best suited for frontier and emerging markets," Gigawatt Global Burundi SA Managing Director Michael Fichtenberg said.

Moving forward with 'Energy Hub'

Gigawatt Global says a small business and community center powered by solar energy, providing access to productive use of electricity locally, is also moving forward.

This 'Energy Hub' for which land and funding are being secured, will promote community development through women and youth empowerment programmes, along with various educational components developed in conjunction with local and international NGOs.

African Development Bank ready to roll out green finance facilities in Benin and Cote d'Ivoire as part of its initiative in the energy sector

ABIDJAN

THE African Development Bank is set to roll out the first green finance facilities in two public financial institutions in Benin and Côte d'Ivoire as part of its ground-breaking African Green Bank initiative. The host institutions are La Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations du Bénin (CDC Benin) and the Ivorian National Investment Bank (BNI).

As Africa's premier development finance institution, the African Development Bank does not only provide fiscal resources to its regional member countries; it also galvanizes global support in promoting resilient, green, and sustainable growth.

It launched the African Green Bank Initiative in November last year to support the implementation of African countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

African countries still face significant challenges in financing their climate transition. While investment needs resulting from NDCs are estimated at \$2.8 trillion by 2030, funds invested on the continent still represent a limited share of global green finance flows, and the share covered by the private sector remains limited.

The African Green Bank initiative was conceived as part of measures to facilitate access to global finance from the current 3% to 10% annually by 2030.

The Initiative followed an assessment by the African Development Bank and the Climate Investment Funds in six African countries; Benin, Ghana, Mozambique, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia.

The assessment revealed that green banks have significant potential for attracting new sources of catalytic funds when supporting low-carbon, climate-resilient development through blending capital and mobilizing local private investment for green investments in Africa.

Bank vice president for Energy, Power, Climate and Green Growth, Kevin Kariuki, noted: "The African Green Bank Initiative is a powerful tool for reducing financing costs and mobilizing private sector investments in climate action in Africa."

The Initiative would bolster the capacity of local financial institutions to build a robust pipeline of bankable green projects while de-risking investments and entrenching long-term investor confidence toward climate-resilient and low-carbon projects in Africa.

According to African Development Bank Vice President for Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization, Solomon Quaynor, "this technical assistance will enhance local financial institutions' climate governance, green projects' origination and monitoring which is therefore key to attract private capital by entrenching long-term investor confidence."

Audrey-Cynthia Yamadjako, the Initiative's coordinator, said some \$1.6 million had already been secured to create the first two facilities. She said green finance facilities, newly created or hosted in existing financial institutions, are "the solution to bring private finance at scale in climate action."

Climate Investment Funds, a major global climate finance mechanism, Canada Climate Action Africa, the Green Bank Network, and the European asset management firm, Amundi support the initiative.

Amundi backs the Initiative through technical assistance activities, including training green facilities' management and investment teams. Amundi will also mobilize its investment vehicles dedicated to sustainable development in emerging markets and developing economies to support green facilities' capitalization and thus participate in developing green investments across the continent.



'New AI system can help conserve wildlife, prevent poaching in Africa'

By Peter Aitken

AFRICAN conservationists are hoping that artificial intelligence (AI) powered cameras could help aid in the protection of endangered species, such as the forest and savannah elephants.

"We must urgently put an end to poaching and ensure that sufficient suitable habitat for both forest and savannah elephants is conserved," Dr. Bruno Oberle, Director-General of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), said when discussing the potential new technology.

The cameras, developed in collaboration between Dutch tech start-up Hack the Planet and British scientists at Stirling University, will be able to detect different animal

species and humans in real time and provide live alerts to local villages and rangers, Stirling wrote in a press release.

A pilot test of the tech, which works with satellites and a range of networks including Wi-Fi, long-range radio and cellular coverage, immediately labeled images and sent out warnings calling for help.

The cameras also were able to help deter elephants from wandering into a village in search of food, preventing a potential conflict from occurring.

"Real-time data from smart cameras and other sensors could revolutionize how we monitor and protect the world's most threatened ecosystems," Dr. Robin Whytock, Post-doctoral Researcher at the University of Stirling, said of the

study. "The advances made in this study show that real-time data could be used to make better decisions during time-critical situations."

The pilot program involved five camera systems that took over 800 photos over 72 days, only 217 of which were of elephants. Researchers determined that the AI system had achieved an 82% accuracy in recognizing elephants and had an average alert time of seven minutes.

The system will be able to also help catch poachers and ensure the safety of endangered animals. Researchers tested the system in Gabon, which home to 60-70% of Africa's forest elephants, around 95,000 overall, according to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

The WCS referenced a 2019 study that argued for the protection of elephants as a means of improving the planet's ability to fight climate change, as researchers determined that elephant foraging removed smaller trees and promoted the growth of larger trees that could store more carbon.

But elephants have moved onto the IUCN's "red list" of threatened species, which makes them "critically endangered" and possibly extinct in some areas previously identified as their natural habitat.

The population continues to decline due to deforestation and ivory poaching, with ivory selling at around \$3,300 per pound in an industry worth around \$23 billion per year, according to Wild Aid.

Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is a fait accompli, so it's time to get real

By Peter Fabricius

WITH the fourth annual filling looming in June and construction about 90% complete, the contentious Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (Gerd) and hydroelectric power plant on the Blue Nile seems to have become a fait accompli, despite Egypt's misgivings.

So it's surely time for Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan to turn from threats, bluster and high-handed nationalism towards cooperating to help make this huge reservoir work for the greater good of all.

Gerd has slid off the regional and international radar screen for the past few years, because of distractions such as Covid-19, the war in Ethiopia and the turbulent transition in Sudan, which recently flared into vicious fighting between two military generals. Abdel-Fattah al-Burhan, head of the Sudanese Armed Forces, and Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti), head of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, are also the head and deputy of the Sovereignty Council running Sudan.

It's been a while since any serious negotiations between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan have taken place - at least visibly.

Meanwhile Sudan, initially on Ethiopia's side in the dispute, before switching to Egypt, now seems to have returned much closer to Ethiopia. This is apparently partly because of progress by Ethiopia and Sudan in resolving their rival claims to the fertile border region of Al Fushqa. Sudan, it's also been suggested, has begun to appreciate the value the

Gerd could have in mitigating the annual flooding along its section of the Nile.

It's not quite clear, though, how the outcome of the current fighting in Sudan might affect its Gerd position. Jemima Oakey, Azure Strategy water specialist, says we don't know if a triumphant Hemedti might try to claim Al Fushqa, thereby derailing any understanding with Ethiopia on Gerd.

Meanwhile, though, it's clear that Egypt has grown more isolated in its fierce opposition to the dam, which it still presents as an existential threat because of its almost total dependence on the Nile's waters. Around 97% of Egypt's population of 106 million people live along the Nile and depend on it as a source of fresh water.

Contentious construction

During over a decade of construction, Egypt has intimated that it will do whatever it takes to stop completion - hinting even at military action. As recently as March 2023 Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry told Cairo Talk that, "All options are open, and all alternatives remain available," for dealing with the dispute. This was widely interpreted as meaning the military option was still there.

Most analysts dismiss this possibility. William Davison, Ethiopia specialist at the International Crisis Group, told ISS Today a military attack "was never likely and now it would be highly unlikely". Such an attack would result in massive flooding of Sudan's Blue Nile River, an eventuality Egypt would not contemplate.



The Blue Nile river as it passes through the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (Gerd), near Guba in Ethiopia, on 26 December, 2019. (Photo: Eduardo Soteras/AFP/Getty Images)

Yet no substantial negotiations seem underway. Over the years various countries and institutions such as the United States, World Bank and African Union (AU) have tried to break the impasse, without success. Not much seems to have happened for a while.

The AU is probably still the official mediator but doesn't seem to be active on the file. Egypt has accused Ethiopia of automatically referring to the AU whenever any issue arises. But only, Cairo suggests, because it knows the AU will do nothing, thus preserving the status quo and allowing Ethiopia to continue building and filling the dam unimpeded.

Davison notes, however, that the United Arab Emirates has hosted some rather covert meetings over the past year or so, complemen-

tary to the AU effort, the last apparently in December. "Apparently there were some quite constructive, more technical discussions. But no signs of a breakthrough in the form of negotiating any form of a tripartite agreement."

Davison said with the imminent fourth annual filling, the dam was becoming a fait accompli. "And so it becomes less and less likely Ethiopia will make the concessions Egypt requires." Cairo's demands have mainly been for a legally binding agreement on water flows, particularly in drought years, and assurances that Cairo and Khartoum will be consulted before Ethiopia embarks on any other dams on the Nile. Davison believes the possibility of a pause or downsizing of Gerd, which Egypt has wanted, seems to have

passed.

The fact that Egypt had managed to keep its own Aswan High Dam mostly full over this period also seems to have defused tensions over Gerd, though this might have been largely good luck due to relatively healthy rainfall during the Gerd filling period so far, he says.

The massive instability in Ethiopia and now Sudan over the past two years has clearly been a distraction from negotiation efforts, allowing Ethiopia to continue unhindered to establish Gerd as an ever more immovable fact on the ground. This rather unsettled situation suggests the three parties need to kickstart negotiations with a new mandate, or at least a new attitude, based on the reality that the Gerd isn't going away.

Egypt should stop making

threats and start thinking about the positives Gerd could offer. Conversely, Ethiopia should be less fiercely independent in its management of the dam and more responsive to Egypt's and Sudan's need for assurances about their vital water supply.

This could be the basis for a more scientific and less political and confrontational approach.

Hagen Koch, a Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research senior scientist, told Deutsche Welle that, "Great benefits could be derived if Egypt's Aswan High Dam and Ethiopia's Gerd were operated together".

He said because the Aswan High Dam's reservoir, Lake Nasser, lay at a much lower altitude than Gerd, where temperatures were higher and covered four times its surface area, evaporation from Lake Nasser was much higher. So it made sense to store more water in Gerd than in Lake Nasser, making more water available to both countries.

Oakey likewise suggested to Arab News that Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia set up a data-sharing agreement to manage water flows from Gerd. This agreement could include guaranteed water releases during droughts. That would be a way of obliquely approaching Egypt's demand for greater certainty about its water supply. Ethiopia though has consistently rejected being bound in any way.

Clearly the Blue Nile, though a vital Ethiopian resource that could potentially supply electricity to the 60% of Ethiopians who now lack it, is a common and vital resource for all three countries. So its management demands collaboration, not confrontation, however such cooperation is framed.

DM

PESHAWAR

THE arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan on alleged corruption charges has led to the deterioration of law and order with attacks on army offices for the first time since the country came into being in 1947.

The 70-year-old former cricket star was taken into custody by paramilitary Rangers while appearing in Islamabad High Court for bail in multiple cases on May 9, 2023. His arrest triggered a spontaneous response from the activists of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (Movement for Justice) party, who took to the streets in protest, during which buildings were burnt, vandalized and ransacked.

Imran Khan (pictured) was released two days later by the Supreme Court of Pakistan on May 12, but only after the deaths of 40 PTI activists and several government and army offices were reduced to ashes. Not only were protests held across Pakistan, but PTI's supporters also marched in New York, Washington DC, France, the UK, Germany, Australia and other European countries to show their anger over his arrest.

"The protesters set on fire a radio station in Peshawar and ransacked army installations in Lahore, Mianwali District and other districts of the country, which is unprecedented in Pakistan's 75-year history," political analyst Abdul Jabbar Shah told IPS.

Abdul Jabbar Shah, a political science professor at a private university, said that violent protests by PTI activists were unprecedented because no one had ever dared to touch the army's offices or the replicas of former soldiers on display in garrison cities.

Writing in The Conversation, Aysha Jalal, Professor of History at Tufts University, says Khan has a strong support base, "but the country is very fragmented politically. So it is a dangerous situation."

"My fear is that the arrest will only pour more fuel on a combustible situation. Pakistan has been simmering since Khan's ouster in 2022, with the very real threat of political tensions giving way to widespread violence."

"What was needed was for all involved to try to lower the temperature, but the circumstances of Khan's arrest have



only served to heighten tensions."

Imran Khan took to social media because the TV channels didn't air his speech after his release demanding an independent probe into vandalism and violence during protests.

"I want an independent and complete investigation on the burning of state buildings and firing at unarmed youth protesters," he said. "But I want the chief justice of Pakistan to make a panel under him for this probe."

More than 1,400 PTI supporters, including male and female leaders, have been arrested.

Khan has alleged that the army chief was behind the

end of his government, and his supporters targeted the military's offices after his arrest.

Muhammad Suhail, an International Relations lecturer at an Islamabad-based university, told IPS that the storming of the General Headquarters and other sensitive installations was regarded as unimaginable before this.

"PTI seemed to be the first political party in the country to have directly challenged the powerful army," he said. Suhail added that there could be political repercussions for the party in future, too.

For the time being, the PTI has emerged victorious, he said.

Jalal says this "may be a

precursor for an attempt to disqualify Khan from public office - which I believe would be a very dangerous move in an election year."

"And this all comes while the incumbent government is facing severe challenges, having been unable to control soaring inflation or make progress on a crucial International Monetary Fund loan to dig the country out of its economic woes."

Pakistan's Army on May 13 warned that the armed forces "will not tolerate any further attempt of violating the sanctity and security of its installations or vandalism" as it resolved to bring to justice all the "planners, abettors, instigators and executors of vandalism on the Black Day of the 9th of May".

The media reported that Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir visited the Corps Headquarters in Peshawar and emphasized the evolving threats to national security. He condemned the PTI leaders for inciting its supporters against the armed forces.

Though Khan's supporters consider this a victory, for many, taking the law into their

hands had set a bad precedent in the country.

Analyst Muhammad Javid says that targeting government and army offices is undemocratic, and the PTI should have adopted a peaceful path to release their leader.

"It has sent out a message that PTI believes in violence, which isn't a good omen for its political future. Opponents will exploit this against the PTI in the election, which is around the corner," Javid says. Setting ablaze the army's offices also suggests people were sick of their army, which isn't correct as most people regard the army as the defender of the country's frontiers against the enemy, especially neighbouring India.

PTI activists say that Imran Khan is their "red line", and those crossing that line will result in protests.

"Because of our aggressive protests, the government released Imran Khan; otherwise, he could have been killed in custody," said Naveed Shah, 31, in Peshawar. "Imran Khan is an honest leader, and his arrest on corruption charges isn't acceptable."

He claimed that PTI's gov-

ernment was dismissed due to a no-confidence motion in the National Assembly in April 2022, that they had been asking for an election. "Since then, we have been holding agitations for a general election," Naveed Shah said.

However, he claimed that PTI supporters aren't involved in violence because they had been struggling for democracy for the past 27 years to establish the rule of law in the country. "How can a party (which is) demanding an election resort to violence," he asked.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah told the media that those involved in acts of terrorism in the garb of democracy would be tried as per the law of the land.

Sanaullah said that Imran Khan had been holding protests to placate enemies of Pakistan.

"If PTI does not change its attitude, the government will be forced to ban it," he told a press conference on May 13 in Islamabad.

Pakistan suspended internet services to disrupt PTI's communication network for at least 72 hours. PTI has the largest social media network in the country .IPS

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



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'Shortage of specialised doctors frustrates low-income earners'

By Francis Kajubi

THE shortage of specialised medical doctors in Regional Referral Hospitals is frustrating most of the low-income earning families, Smart Money has learnt.

People suffering from non-communicable diseases have no other choice but to travel long journeys from different parts of the country to seek specialised treatments at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) and its Mloganzila branch, Benjamin Mkapa Hospital, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) and at the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI).

In doing so, they are forced to cede aside special budgets for accommodating family caregivers left behind with their beloved ones admitted in the said hospitals believed to have good numbers of specialised doctors.

The unanswered question is how many low-income earning villagers can afford spiraling accommodation costs while in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Moshi to look after their relatives undergoing routinely clinics and treatments normally scheduled two times a week.

"The family had no option but to make arrangements for a temporary settlement in the city. We decided to rent a house at Tangi Bovu in February after having spent a lot of money on accommodation and food for only 15 days," says a 21-year-old girl Latifah Aziz, who is taking care for her mother aged 50, who was admitted at Mloganzila hospital with problems related to breasts and reproductive system.

Thanks to the head of the family Aziz Aboud who opted to subscribe to the National Health Insurance Fund's (NHIF) Wekeza Afya package for over a year now that covers the treatment costs. Latifah and her family live in Singida town.

She said immediately after her mother was admitted to

the hospital, the plan was to get a member of the family who will be visiting the sick mother and she was the one chosen.

After arriving in Dar es Salaam in January this year, her father used to pay 25,000/- a day for her to stay in a lodge at Ilala. She had stayed for 15 days and 375,000/- was paid for lodging when she spoke to this paper.

"We have finally realized that I had spent 220,000/- for food, water, laundry and transport fare to and from Mloganzila to see my mother in the morning and evening. We have opted to rent a room at 300,000/- for four months lasting May 2023," she said.

The family had paid another 75,000/- to a room broker who had access to landlords with rented houses.

Tanzania has 28 regional referral hospitals which are required to offer 14 different specialized treatments each. In other words, each hospital must have 14 different specialized doctors as per the nation's health policy 2007.

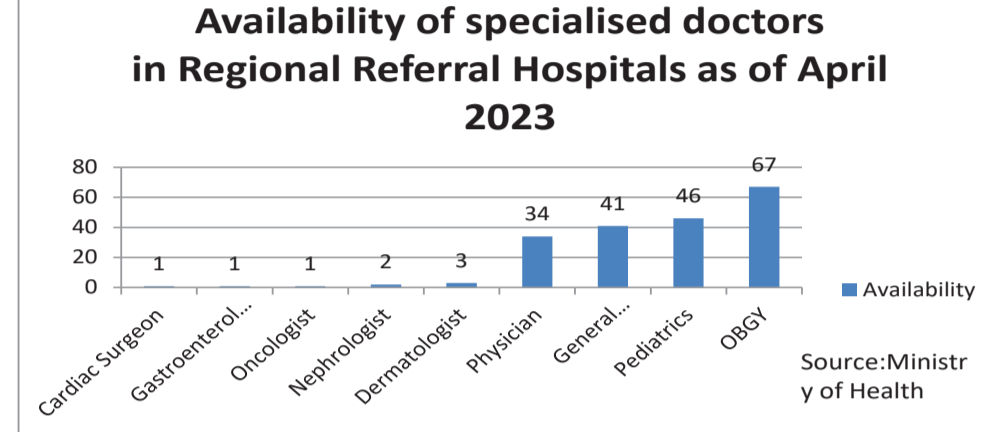
Unfortunately, the situation on the ground is the opposite with the majority having a maximum of five doctors as the extreme deficit is on Oncologists, Gastroenterologists, Cardiac Surgeons, Gynecologists, Psychiatric and Nephrologists.

Mrisho Mchata (36) was referred to the Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) for specialized eyes treatment for his three year old daughter.

He was in Dar es Salaam for two weeks from Nanyumbu district in Mtwara region when he spoke to this paper late March this year.

"There isn't a single Ophthalmologist at Ligula referral hospital. I'm in Dar es Salaam for my daughter's eyes' treatment but life is costly. Seeking treatments far from home attracts reasonable costs," he said.

According to him, he stays at his elder brother's house in



Graph showing the availability of specialised doctors in regional referral hospitals as of April 2023.

Mbagala suburb. He doesn't pay rent but he is subjected to basic needs costs and city transport.

A hardware businessman had spent 260,000/- in the space of two weeks when he spoke to this paper far from treatment costs covered by NHIF under the Najali Afya package.

"I wouldn't have spent this amount if specialized treatments were offered at Ligula hospital," he said.

Data from the Ministry of Health shows that as of April 2023 there was one Oncologist across the 28 regional referral hospitals only at Temeke hospital in Dar es Salaam city. Oncologists are specialized in diagnosis and treating cancer.

Only one regional referral hospital has a Gastroenterologist. This is Tumbi hospital in Pwani region. Gastroenterologists treat diseases that affect the digestive system.

Only Katavi regional referral hospital has a Cardiac Surgeon. Mount Meru in Arusha has two Nephrologists while the other 27 hospitals have none. Nephrologists are specialized in diagnosis and treatment of kidneys.

"The deficit of specialized doctors at regional referral hospitals is the main reason why hospitals such as Muhimbili and the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) are flooded with patients from all over the country," said Salome Makamba, Special Seats legislator.

Data shows the total number of patients attended at

the 28 regional referral hospitals declined to 2,529,971 in 2022/23 from 3,985,169 patients in 2021/22. In other words, every regional referral hospital attended an average of 90,356 patients in 2022/23.

Muhimbili National Hospital attended 375,057 patients in 2022/23 compared to 367,213 patients in 2021/22. Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) attended 171,711 patients up from 154,260 of the corresponding periods.

JKCI attended 93,017 patients in 2022/23 compared to 87,332 in 2021/22; KCMC attended 339,945 patients in 2022/23 up from 297,810 patients in 2021/22. Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI) attended 43,922 patients from 37,882 patients of the periods under review.

The National Health Policy 2007 among other provisions emphasizes on availability of required specialized doctors at all regional referral hospitals. Provision 7.1.4 (vii) reads: "Every regional hospital shall have all kinds of specialized doctors."

According to the policy it is not necessary for public owned district hospitals, health centers and dispensaries to have specialized doctors.

Data further shows that only one regional referral hospital in the country has a Gastroenterologist, medical doctors specialized in the disorders and diseases that affect the digestive system.

Regina Ndege, Special Seats legislator Manyara re-

gion said that at Manyara hospital there are 250 nurses and doctors altogether while the requirement is 468.

"At Kitete region hospital we want the health ministry to deploy one pediatric, one orthopedic specialist, an ophthalmologist, a sleep specialist and a radiologist. There is none of them," she said adding:

"The shortage of specialized medical doctors is frustrating low-income earners."

But data shows that Kitete-Manyara regional referral hospitals have five specialists: Three Pediatricians, an Obstetrician-Gynecologist (OBGY) and a general surgeon.

There are only four Psychiatrists deployed in two regional referral hospitals namely Amana (2) and Temeke (2) of Dar es Salaam city.

This happens when the ministry of health has declared to upgrade the Dodoma based Mirembe National Mental Hospital (MNMH) status to a National Specialized Institute for Mental Health Diseases in its 2023/24 financial year's priorities as victims of mental health related diseases surge.

2bn/- has been allocated in the next budget to facilitate this transformation plan that covers grooming mental health professionals in the areas of physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy.

Dodoma Region Referral Hospital has none of the experts while data shows that between July 2022 and March

2023 Mirembe hospital had treated 212,065 patients of which 138,625 an equivalent of 65.3 percent suffered from mental health disorders.

Mirembe waived medical expenses worth 77,93m/- that covered 10,867 patients who were unable to pay for the received treatments.

During 2020/21 the hospital had attended 131,711 patients of which 79,619 an equivalent 60.4 percent were mental health victims.

Dr. Christina Mzava, Special Seats legislator, argued that in the sake of helping low-income earners, it is high time the health ministry finalizes the arrangement of the Universal Health Insurance Bill 2022 that has stalled for almost a year.

She blamed shortage of medical doctors and nurses at dispensaries across the country. Dr. Mzava referred to the Ministry of Health Medical Doctors Availability current report saying it shows that the requirement for primary care doctors is pegged at 100,646 doctors while the availability is 30,625 as of April 2023. The shortage is 70 percent.

"In health centers the requirement stands at 68,204 while the availability is 25,354 making a shortage of 63 percent. At district hospitals the requirement is 123,424 while the availability is 29,409, a shortage of 76 percent," said Dr. Mzava.

She asserted that at Kahama district hospital for instance, there were between 450 and 717 outpatients.

The hospital attends patients from other districts namely Geita, Urambo, Kaliua, Msalala and Nzega with 280 nurses and 16 medical doctors while the requirement of the experts is two-fold.

Only Mount Meru regional referral hospital is allocated with Nephrologists of the 28 hospitals.

It has two Nephrologists implying that all patients with kidney serious cases across the country must be admitted to the hospital if they are in a situation not to afford treatment

cost at private hospitals.

Data shows there are only three Dermatologists in three different referral hospitals, three Urologists and four Haematologists deployed in four different hospitals.

Data further reveals that there are 67 Obstetrician-Gynecologist (OBGYs) deployed in the 28 hospitals with each having at least two. There are 46 Pediatrics with an average of two per hospital, 41 General Surgeon and 34 Physicians.

There are 28 Orthopaedic Surgeon, 20 Radiologists, 19 Ophthalmologists, 18 ENT Surgeon, 10 EMD Specialist, seven Anaesthesiologists and seven Dental Specialists.

Stanslaus Nyongo, Chairman Health Parliamentary Permanent Committee argued that on 27 April 2001, African governments made an historic pledge to allocate at least 15 percent of their annual budgets to the health sector. This vow became known as the Abuja Declaration.

"As of April 2023 only 2.8 percent of the total annual budget is allocated to the health ministry. The first human man's capital in his life is good health," said Nyongo.

He argued that the majority of rural residents can't afford treatment costs due to poverty thus the government is responsible for investing in affordable and accessible health services.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) states as of June 2021, 26.4 percent of Tanzanians live below the one dollar poverty line, with 31.3 percent of the population living in the rural areas and falling below the poverty line.

Tabling the 2023/24 budget estimates pegged at 1.24trn/- in the National Assembly recently, Health Minister Umy Mwalimu said in addressing the shortage of specialized doctors, the ministry will in 2023/24 continue investing in the new programme dubbed 'Samia Health Super Specialization' intended at grooming specialized doctors through scholarships in universities at home and abroad.

CAIRO

VODAFONE Egypt contributed \$420 million to Vodacom Group's service revenue for the period of consolidation from 8 December 2022 to 31 March 2023.

The South African-headquartered Vodacom Group rang in convincing performance for the year ended March.

The pan-African telco, with presence in seven countries, reported its annual performance today, applauding its newest addition to the group, Vodafone Egypt, for a convincing performance.

Vodafone Egypt ended the financial year with 45.5 million customers, average revenue per user grew by 19.3 percent, while financial services revenue for Egyptian telco was \$20 million (R398 million) for the period of consolidation, accounting for 5.0 percent of service revenue.

Vodacom Group took control of Vodafone Egypt in a R43.6 billion deal sealed in November, after it received regulatory approval to acquire a 55% controlling stake in Egypt's telecoms market leader.

Vodafone Egypt holds a 43 percent market share, and has 43 million consumer and enterprise customers.

Top performance

Today, Vodacom revealed that since consolidating Vodafone Egypt on 8 December 2022, it has contributed \$420

Vodafone Egypt remarkable in Vodacom Group contribution

million (R8 billion) to group service revenues, prompting an upgrade in the group's medium-term service revenue and EBITDA growth targets.

Shameel Joosub, Vodacom Group CEO, comments:

"Vodafone Egypt contributed R2.9 billion to EBITDA for the period of consolidation. The reported EBITDA margin of 34.6 percent was impacted by foreign exchange losses on working capital balances as the Egyptian pound depreciated against major currencies.

"On a normalised basis, the EBITDA margin for the period of consolidation was 42.1 percent on a full year proforma basis, Vodafone Egypt generated EBITDA of EGP16 billion (R12.5 billion), representing an EBITDA margin of 39.7 percent. Excluding foreign exchange losses, the full year proforma EBITDA margin was 43.7 percent.



Vodacom Group CEO Shameel Joosub

"Capital investment for the period of consolidation was R1.2 billion. On a full year proforma basis, Vodafone Egypt's capital investment was EGP6.0 billion (R4.6 billion), represent-

ing a capital intensity ratio of 14.8 percent, as we continued to deploy 2 600 MHz spectrum and roll out new sites."

Further, he says: "The Vodafone Egypt acquisition, which

completed in December 2022, presents a unique opportunity to advance our strategic connectivity and financial services ambitions through one of Africa's premier telecom operators.

"Vodafone Egypt is a clear market leader, as we showcased to investors in March 2023, and is strategically positioned to capture growth in a fast-growing information and communications technology market."

Good Growth

Turning to other group operations outside its home market of South Africa, Vodacom says it produced good growth in DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique and Tanzania, underpinned by a 31.1% increase in M-Pesa revenue and a 33.2 percent rise in

data revenue.

However, Joosub says "as expected, start-up costs associated with Safaricom Ethiopia has curbed Safaricom's contribution to Group operating profit to R2.8 billion, 9.8 percent lower than last year."

"Pleasingly, Safaricom Ethiopia was recently awarded a mobile financial services licence, representing another important milestone in our ambition to transform lives in the country."

In other metrics reported in the period, Vodacom Group revenue of R119.2 billion was up 16% (4.9%), positively impacted by the acquisition of Vodafone Egypt and rand depreciation against the basket of international currencies.

Financial services revenue increased 29.2 percent to R9.9 billion, contributing 10.5 percent to Group service revenue. Group EBITDA grew by 13.2 percent.

Vodacom is now serv-

ing a combined 185.8 million customers across the group, including Safaricom on a 100 percent basis.

The telco declared full year dividend of 670 cents per share and declared a final dividend of 330 cents per share, which it says is consistent with its new policy.

Commenting on the overall group performance, Joosub says: "In a year defined by the global economic slowdown and financial market uncertainty, Vodacom Group has delivered a satisfactory set of results, showcasing the resilience of our strategy and our track record in adapting quickly to changes across operating environments.

"Given the numerous external pressures, it is particularly pleasing to have delivered a 17.2 percent increase in group service revenue (up 7.2 percent excluding Vodafone Egypt) with net profit up 2.1 percent."

Digital marketing and transition to the use of Web 3

LET us first define what Web 3 is and how it transitioned from 1 to 3. We are currently utilizing Web3 but in the process of moving to Web 4. Well in short, Web 1, is the first-generation web (aka www), which was portrayed by static web pages that had limited interaction with users. Web 1 primarily focused on delivering information to users, instead of engaging or creating ways to interact with it.

Web 2 was the second-generation web, which had dynamic web pages that allowed for greater interaction and collaboration with users. It came with new technologies such as social networking, blogging, content sharing etc. Which has transformed the web into a more engaging or participatory social platform.

Web 3 is the stage we are at, at the moment and it refers to the third-generation web, which is characterized by intelligent applications or software that is capable of understanding and interpreting user data (Artificial Intelligence - AI). It can also be referred to as, the "Semantic Web," as it targets to create a more meaningful web experience by enabling machines to understand the meaning of data and information on the web.

As for the next generation web (to come) - Web 4, which might be characterized by a greater

level of personalization, automation, and artificial intelligence - well I can't wait for this. This is largely speculative, with no clear consensus on what it will look like or how it will function.

We as digital media geeks tend to eagerly wait or even scramble to experiment on each new digital technological advancement that comes out. It is time for experimentation (Web 3), well there are some negative aspects to Web 3. We have the ability to influence Web 3 and not just reactively but also proactively by making sure that this space is portrayed from all sides. Let us be honest, we shouldn't shy away from the fact that on the social media aspect there are a lot of developments that developers have not designed for but have been created artificially. If we do not act appropriately safety will not be considered into Web 3. Which will make it much harder later on to secure it down the line.

As the Webs develop there is a need to consider the highest form of ethics and transparency. There is a saying that the currency of Web 3 is Crypto but actually, it is "Trust". From a Marketers standpoint, how are (we) to focus from a Tech perspective? It is everything to do with sustainability and innovation. Applied AI is really at a tipping point at this moment. Recently in the news, China has moved to



Alley Mtatya (pictured) is the founder of Eyeland Advertising and Analytics based in Dar es Salaam

create regulations that will differentiate what work has been done through your sweat and what has been done through AI. In other parts of the world people (writers exactly) have been demonstrating as their jobs are now being done by AI rendering them NO work/income.

As a user, there are several things you can do to maintain ethics and transparency while using web 3. Here are some best practices to keep in mind: be mindful of your personal data, use decentralized platforms, educate yourself about this technology and support open-source projects. If you look at the positive aspect of this technology. One can look at the predictive analytics the system generates. One will be able to see or compare trends much quicker, basically, the need to use it as a more creative tool without compromising the reputation of the brand. However, ask yourself, how can artificial intelligence create value through-out a brands value chain.

If we want to create an ecosystem that is safe for us to be in and also be a part of. It also needs to be trusted by consumers. We need to raise questions on established standards. How is it harm-

ful for advertising? How can we improve and create a common brand safety? How do we keep each other's (brands) to account? There should be verification and oversight happening. For example, in Web 3 one can ask is there privacy and is there security? What are the ethics around it? Basically, the need to champion the use of ethical consumer data, because in the end we have a responsibility to inspire trust in our brands and in our industries. People should also feel safe with hindsight when they engage with these platforms.

Web 3 is a whole topic on it's on, if you get the time, I would advise you to read about it because as a marketer it influences your everyday usage.

SAfrican insurtech Root broadens reach into UK

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH African born insurtech Root has expanded into the UK as the company seeks to broaden its reach.

The expansion into the UK was a 'logical next move' says the insurtech, which has over one million active policies on its platform, with 55 products live and a team of almost 50.

Root is an end-to-end insurance platform that helps companies build, sell and manage digital insurance products in Africa, the UK and Europe.

"There is a real appetite across the UK insurance market for a platform like ours, which offers both the technical flexibility to support a myriad product edge-cases and access to modern, accessible and embedded distribution possibilities - and at pace," says

Charlotte Koep, Root chief operations officer.

She adds: "We're establishing the business in the UK and building strong distribution partnerships. We find big organisations and we help them add value and create value - and use that to push ourselves into the market. We want to build long-term partnerships

with the big players."

According to Koep, with the move, Root has been 'lucky' in terms of timing as there's been an 'insurtech wave' in the UK for the past six years, which bolstered the company's position.

"We've been experiencing a strong pull from the market because this is something they're trying to achieve and we can help them achieve it," she says.

Koep adds: "Market players know what they want even if they need support to achieve it. Insurance companies there have invested a lot in their technology, burnt their fingers experimenting, and they know where the gaps are, what they want and what they don't want.

"They're ready for a mature, established solution like ours, with the flexibility to build products exactly for their customers. In many emerging markets, it's all so new that people don't yet know what they want. They're still focused on solving the first step of going digital."

Koep says Root's top focus for 2023 is on doubling down across the UK market and growing the team to support expansion.



Charlotte Koep, Root chief operations officer.

CURRENT NEWS

Coastal communities see benefits of blue economy incubation programme

By Beatrice Philemon

THE blue economy Incubation programme (BEI) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has sensitized coastal communities on entrepreneurship skills to enable them fully take part in the blue economy and benefit from its opportunities.

The incubation programme 2021/2022 implemented in Tanga-Pemba Seascape saw coastal communities were trained on best crab farming, salt production and harvesting, dam preservation for salt production and treating the dams to prevent harm from invading pests.

The programme has enabled coastal communities to boost production, create more jobs for youth, raise household incomes and conserve marine resources and coastal ecosystems.

Fatuma Zarali, Kibaridi - Pujini village resident of Mkoani district in Pemba Island is one of the beneficiaries.

With the fundings by the IUCN, coastal communities in Pemba are better off with assured income and food security.

The beneficiaries were also trained on sea cucumber farming, mangrove conservation, vegetable farming, seaweed farming, how to utilize marine resources to improve their livelihoods, and conserve marine and coastal ecosystems.

They were facilitated with 29m/- by the IUCN to run salt and vegetable farming projects.

The main goal was just to help them improve their economic status, conserve marine and coastal ecosystems in Pemba which is on distinction due to illegal practices such as cutting of mangroves, over-fishing, pollution, mining and climate change.



Fatma Zarali, Mkoani district resident in Pemba clarifies a point on blue economy during the launch of the BEI programme held last week in Tanga.

"We are glad for what has been achieved so far because the training has brought positive changes to women and youth in Pemba Island," she said.

Through the knowledge and skills gained from IUCN, beneficiaries have formed the Uvumbuzi Cooperative Society Group with a total of 24 members and are now engaged in salt farming and vegetable farming.

"So far we have been able to establish five vegetable farms, four salt dams for salt farming at Kibaridi - Pujini village, creating employment for 20 youth and managed to improve their livelihoods something that was not the case in the past," he said.

Salt production has increased from 50 bags to 1500 bags per day that in turn has helped members of the association to transform their livelihoods.

The obtained money from selling salt and vegetable has been used to purchase one vehicle to transport salt and vegetable

for sale at the market, carry patients to the hospital, buy water pumping machine for salt production connected from sea to the salt dams, water pipes, hoe, pay money to people built salt dams and other things.

Aziza Jumbe, another beneficiary from the Jifute Group in Pangani lauded IUCN for funding the programme.

Right now crab production has increased from 50 crabs to 1500 crabs per month and they expect to increase to one tons per month, she said, noting that they have markets in both Pangani and Zanzibar.

"We have decided to engage in this farming after realizing that crabs are food in many countries and used for treating allergies and other diseases," she said.

The training has helped people to shift from traditional farming to advanced practices. She said "Before IUCN intervention we are able to harvest 50 crabs per month, thanks IUCN for your support,"

Charles Oluchina, IUCN's Regional Programme Coordinator Eastern and Southern Africa said that "We strive to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable."

He said the blue economy is linked to growing technology, change of attitude on economic opportunities and the fact that the two-third of the planet is blue and therefore forms the world's largest ecosystem.

He said Tanzania is one of the world's richest areas in -terms of marine resources and that it provides huge potential for the blue economy.

According to him, the most valuable assets in the country are fisheries, mangroves, seagrass beds, coral reefs and sandy beaches. These assets contribute 1.7% and 30% of GDP of Mainland Tanzania and

Zanzibar respectively.

He said the marine and coastal ecosystems sustainability in Tanzania is threatened by natural and human sources.

He asserted that coastal tourism is currently a key potential blue economy sector for Tanzania. The sectors are the services of marine and coastal ecosystems.

Tanzania has potential to accelerate and upscale its blue economy agenda through enhancing conservation of its marine ecosystems.

The ongoing effort of the country in developing blue economy strategy is commendable.

"This provides a unique opportunity for the country to integrate economic and conservation aspects in its blue economy agenda for sustainability of blue economy activities in the country for the current and future generations," he said.

The richness of marine and coastal resources also provide a huge opportunity for Tanzania to deliver its national, regional and global conservation and development commitments such as vision 2025 and 2050 for Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar respectively, SDGs, CBD 30x30 target and NDC of the Paris Agreement.

In collaboration with other Western Indian Ocean Countries, Tanzania has a potential to champion the Great Blue Wall (GBW) Initiative. The GBW is a WIO-led, Africa driven roadmap to achieve a nature positive world by 2030.

The goal of the GBW is to dramatically accelerate and upscale ocean conservation actions while enhancing socio-ecological resilience and the development of a regenerative blue economy by catalysing political leadership and financial support while enhancing regional collaboration and partnerships.

Apac workers quizzed over unspent Shs2.32b

KAMPALA

LEADERS from Apac District local government have been grilled for failing to detail what the district intended to use Shs2.3b that was returned to the Treasury.

In the Financial Year 2021/2022, the district received Shs18.8 billion from the Ministry of Finance but spent only Shs16.539 billion, representing 88 per cent of the budget, while the rest was swept back to the Treasury.

The technical leaders led by Mr Geoffrey Okaka, the chief administrative officer, on Friday laboured explaining why they failed to utilise the funds while appearing before the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament.

The committee led by its chairperson, Mr Martin Ojara Mpenduzi, had asked the leaders to give reasons on why they could not utilise the funds in time.

"What caused this under-performance and what steps are being taken to see that

the unspent balances that were swept back are reprogrammed and recovered?" Mr Ojara asked.

Mr Okaka, however, explained that the failure to absorb the funds resulted from the failure by the Public Service Ministry to authorise them to recruit staff in new seed schools, upgraded health centres and newly created lower local government administrative units.

"We have secondary schools in Apac where we failed to recruit teachers. We also asked for authority to recruit from Public Service, unfortunately, we were not given [a way forward]. We also had health centre IIs under the Uganda Intergovernmental Programme upgraded to Health Centre IIIs, meaning an increase in staffing, but we could not recruit," Mr Okaka said.

While he said it was until a few months ago when the system was activated to allow them to recruit staff at the upgraded health centres, they failed to recruit staff in the new town councils of Ijuje,



Akokoro and Teboke.

"We were unable to recruit staff to fill those gaps. In the case of the new seed schools, we don't have any control over the deployment done by the Education Ministry. Once they deploy, we will work with these employees," he added.

While the district allocated Shs221 million to pay additional staff that was to be added to the health centres upgraded from health centre II to III, it also allocated another Shs161 million for salaries of staff to be employed in the newly created town councils and sub-

counties.

The explanations by the district technical team, however, were quickly trashed by the committee after they failed to share copies of budget documents.

"From your explanation, when you tally the figures and compare them to the Shs2.32 billion, it does not add up, we need documents of proof of what you are saying, you are not able to explain about the additional Shs1.2 billion," Mr George Didi Bhoka, a committee member, stated.

The committee ordered Mr

Okaka to submit documents in a fortnight so that they follow up on the matter with the Public Service and Education ministries.

The committee arrived in Gulu City early last week to jointly investigate selected districts of Acholi, Langi and West Nile sub-regions following the report of the Auditor General on cross-cutting audit queries largely on the performance of salaries, gratuity and pensions by the entities for FY 2022/2023.

Last month the Treasury increased expenditure needs

have forced the government to spend Shs391.35 billion higher than it had planned to spend in the March of 2023.

Speaking during the release of quarter four (final) expenditure for the Financial Year 2022/2023 on April 20 at the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development headquarters in Kampala, the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Ramathan Ggoobi said government spending was much higher than planned.

"Government operations in March 2023 resulted in a fiscal deficit of Shs822.88 billion. This was higher than the programmed deficit of Shs431.53 billion due to a combination of shortfalls in revenues and higher than planned expenditure for the month," he said.

Adding: "Domestic revenue and grants were short of their target for the month by Shs251.90 billion while total expenditure was above plan by Shs139.44 billion."

Statistics in the performance of the economy report for

March, indicate that the government spending amounted to Shs2.847 trillion which was higher than the plan of Shs2.707 trillion.

The higher spending was mainly registered under the recurrent category which was above its plan for the month by 23.5 per cent (Shs 394.30 billion).

"Expenditure on non-wage recurrent items explained this performance as most MDAs exhausted their funds for quarter three while completing their quarterly work plans for this period," said the Ministry of Finance.

Development expenditure performed below the plan for the month mainly due to externally financed development projects which were less than the plan by 33.8 per cent.

Performance of this category is hinged on the disbursement of funds by development partners and does not reflect the physical progress of the projects. The domestically financed development projects performed at 99.3 per cent of the plan for the month.

New agritech competition to offer Rwf20 million to young innovators

KAMPALA

YOUNG agritech innovators have a chance to win an investment of over Rwf20 million (\$20,000) for their start-ups, which aims to enhance the income and productivity of smallholder farmers.

Heifer International has organized the 'AYuTe Africa Challenge,' a competition specifically targeting youth-operated local startups that have introduced agritech businesses in the past three years and exhibit strong potential for scaling.

Adesuwa Ifedi, Senior Vice President of Africa Programs at Heifer International, expressed that the competition offers a vital opportunity for young innovators in Rwanda to secure funding and gain visibility. This support will enable them to expand their agritech solutions and reach millions of farmers throughout Africa.

"If we are to realize the immense economic growth and employment opportunities in the agricultural sector across Africa, we need fresh ideas and urgent technological advancements. Africa's tech-savvy youth must utilize their innovative skills to transform the sector," Ifedi emphasized.

Betty Tushabe, Heifer International Rwanda Country Director, highlighted the competition's objective of translating the passion and ideas of young innovators into sustainable benefits for the communities served by the organization in Rwanda and beyond.

"Our aim through this challenge is to foster the growth of youth-led agri-tech



Felix Ngogoza holding a chicken

initiatives by providing a cash incentive and accompanying business development support services," Tushabe added.

The AYuTe Africa Challenge will take place from May to July 2023, and applications will be accepted from May 3rd to 26th.

The competition will provide assistance to companies, individuals, and groups that are driving innovation in agriculture across two categories: Start-Up Stage and Minimum Viable Product Stage.

Since 2021, the competition has been awarding cash grants annually to the most promising young agritech innovators from across Africa. It also offers mentorship to help these young entrepreneurs translate their ideas into meaningful impact for smallholder farmers in

the region. Furthermore, the winners receive ongoing support to expand their businesses and enhance their profiles.

Heifer International targets to lift four million rural farmers across the world out of poverty by 2020.

This was disclosed yesterday by Pierre Ferrari, the chief executive officer and president of Heifer International, at a one-week retreat in Kigali.

Ferrari said the aim of the retreat was to lay strategies on how to lift farmers out of poverty.

Since every country has its unique context, sharing experiences will generate the best strategies possible, he said.

The retreat attracted top managers of the NGO.

"This cross practice of learning from the Rwanda, Tanzania and Cambodia

will help the participants to learn a lot about the operations of Heifer International," Ferrari added.

He stressed that experiences from elsewhere would help Heifer International Rwandan office to implement its projects more effectively.

"I am sure that Heifer International has contributed much to help farmers in Rwanda beat the poverty trap, especially in Kayonza, Nyagatare and Rwamagana districts," Ferrari said.

Heifer International Rwanda interventions are in livestock and poultry farming in rural areas.

The East African Dairy Development Project (EADDP), with the support of Heifer International Rwanda, has been instrumental in carrying out artificial insemination in Eastern Province.

Dr Charles Kayumba, the Heifer International country director, said they helped livestock farmers in the Eastern Province to adopt cross-breeds.

Kayumba said the organisation does not only give livestock to poor rural farmers, but also offers training in breeding, maintaining milk quality, record-keeping and business skills.

"The training has offered our members new knowledge and skills and has been an opportunity to reflect on our service delivery," Kayumba said.

As a result of the interventions, milk production has increased from two litres per cow to between 15 and 20 litres, Kayumba said.

The NGO has been operational in Rwanda for the last 15 years assisting more than 45,000 families to enhance food security and improve their livelihoods.

Govts tasked on provision of adequate electricity, telecomms infrastructure

LAGOS

An economist, Dr Chiwuika Uba, has urged Federal and state governments to invest in the provision of stable electricity and telecommunication infrastructure for Nigerians to maximize the gains of a cashless economy.

"Without the provision of these infrastructures, Nigerians and indeed the country will find it hard to reap enormous benefits from the cashless economy as observed in developed countries," Uba, Board Chairman of Amaka Chiwuika-Uba Foundation (ACUF), said.

He spoke to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Enugu on Sunday on the sidelines of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) redesign of the naira, limiting cash withdrawal and encouraging electronic/cashless payment systems.

Uba, who is the Lead Researcher of AfriHeritage, an economic-political research and analytic institution, said that the infrastructures necessary to effectively implement the policy, "are not currently in place in an adequate manner".

The economist noted that in most cases, it takes months for banks to solve and reverse failed transactions due to very poor banking networks and inter-bank connectivity issues.

According to him, the redesign of the naira and cash withdrawal limits are, without any doubt, good policies geared towards the migration of transactions from physical money to electronic money.

He noted that the short transitional period for the redesigning of the currency, while not the best strategy, could help prevent asset bubbles by slowing the flow of black money into the sector.

He said: "If well managed, digital and electronic transactions will create a better audit trail for tax, accounting and security. "The infrastructures and platform necessary to effectively and efficiently implement the policy are not currently in place in an adequate manner."

"Market frictions and distortions and disruptions to electronic banking services (poor banking networks, unreliable electricity and telecommunications services) have not been addressed."

The economist called on the CBN, banks and their agents to get involved in an immediate, aggressive and wide-spread awareness and education on the cashless policy and its enormous gains in rural localities in the country.

M-Pesa hits \$365 billion milestone

NAIROBI

THE M-Pesa platform processed US\$364.8 billion of transaction value over the last twelve months, up 13%, cementing its top position in the African fintech space.

M-Pesa, jointly owned by Vodacom Group and Safaricom, is Africa's most successful mobile money platform and has become a key revenue stream for both telcos.

Vodacom Group today reported its annual performance for the year ended March, saying in the 12 months international M-Pesa revenue was up 31.1% to R6.5 billion, contributing 24.6% of service revenue.

Shameel Joosub, Vodacom Group CEO, says growth was supported by a strong performance in the DRC, with Tanzania's performance re-



covering as levies on mobile money were reduced during the year.

"The underlying momentum of M-Pesa reflects our ongoing product enhancements in both the consumer and merchant segments, supported by M-

Pesa Africa. In the consumer segment we launched new insurance, term-loan and group-savings products, scaled international money transfer and enhanced our M-Pesa app during the year," says Joosub. In Tanzania, he says: "Loans granted

via our lending product 'Soggesha' more than doubled to R8.2 billion in the year. To grow and diversify the M-Pesa ecosystem, we also accelerated our merchant strategy more than doubling the number of active merchants to 196 000."

Commenting on the operating licence granted to M-Pesa last week in Ethiopia, Joosub says it is an important milestone for the group as it accelerates its "ambition to transform lives in the country as we seek to connect every Ethiopian to the global digital economy."

M-Pesa is Africa's most successful mobile payment service. Launched in Kenya in 2007, it has since evolved to become a major driver of financial inclusion with more than 50 million customers across seven countries.

M-Pesa processes more than 61 million transactions a day, making it Africa's largest fintech provider, and it has attracted 42 000 external developers to create additional services for the platform.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

Khartoum under bombardment as Sudan's rivals talk

KHARTOUM

SHELLING and air strikes pounded parts of Sudan's capital on Sunday with little sign that warring military factions were ready to back down in a month-long conflict that has killed hundreds despite ceasefire talks in Saudi Arabia.

Khartoum and the adjoining cities of Bahri and Omdurman across the Nile's two branches have been the main theatre of conflict along with western Darfur province since the army and the Rapid Support Forces paramilitary started fighting on April 15.

Shelling struck Bahri and air strikes hit Omdurman early on Sunday, according to a Reuters reporter and witnesses. "There were heavy air strikes near us in Salaha that shook the doors of the house," said Salma Yassin, a teacher in Omdur-

man.

A resident near Khartoum airport, which has been closed since the start of the conflict, said there had been intermittent fighting throughout the day.

The unrest has killed at least 676 people and injured 5,576, the United Nations said on Sunday, though with many reports of people missing and bodies left unburied, the real toll is expected to be much higher.

About 200,000 have fled into neighboring countries and more than 700,000 have been displaced inside Sudan, triggering a humanitarian crisis that threatens to draw in outside powers and destabilize the region.

The conflict has also enveloped the economy. On Sunday army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan issued a decree freezing the bank accounts of the RSF and affil-



People board a mini-bus as they evacuate southern Khartoum, on Sunday. (PHOTO / AFP)

ated firms, and replaced the central bank governor. Those who have remained in Khartoum have been struggling to survive as health services have collapsed, power and water supplies have been cut, and food stocks have dwindled.

On Saturday night, RSF gunmen seeking money attacked a church in Omdurman, injuring five people including a priest, a Coptic Christian activist said. The army also blamed the RSF for the attack, while the RSF said in a statement that an "extremist" group affiliated with the army was responsible.

The head of a government unit for combating sexual violence said it had received five reports of rape linked to the conflict, while the Civilian Front to Stop the War, a Sudanese campaign group, said it had recorded other unverified reports of sexual violence.

Unrest in Darfur

Fighting reportedly intensified in Geneina, capital of West Darfur. The number of people killed there on Friday and Saturday reached more than 100, including the imam of the city's old mosque, the Darfur Bar Association said in a statement.

The local rights group blamed the killings, looting and arson in Geneina, where hundreds

died in violence last month, on attacks by armed groups on motorbikes and the RSF. The RSF has denied responsibility for the unrest.

Army chief Burhan and RSF leader Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemedti, had shared power after a 2021 coup that itself followed a 2019 uprising that ousted veteran Islamist autocrat Omar al-Bashir.

But they fell out over the terms and timing of a planned transition to civilian rule and neither man has shown he is ready for concessions, with the army controlling air power and the RSF dug deep into city districts.

Truce deals have been repeatedly broken but the United States and Saudi Arabia are mediating talks in Jeddah aimed at securing a lasting ceasefire.

"You don't know how long this war will continue ... The house became unsafe and we don't have enough money to travel out of Khartoum. Why are we paying the price of Burhan and Hemedti's war?" said Yassin, the teacher.

On Thursday the sides agreed a "declaration of principles" to protect civilians and secure humanitarian access, but with Sunday's discussions due to address monitoring and enforcement mechanisms for that deal, the fighting has not let up.

Agencies

CFE Treaty runs counter to Russia's security interests, says senior diplomat

MOSCOW

THOSE who expect to have Moscow return to the CFE Treaty should awaken from their illusions, and the West will have to recognize that the document runs counter to Russia's security interests, a senior Russian diplomat said in an interview with Parla-



mentskaya Gezeta, published yesterday.

"The CFE Treaty has malfunctioned for years, so our withdrawal from it cannot make the situation any worse," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said.

"At the same time, those who still hoped to get Russia back into the treaty, need to abandon their illusions, as the CFE Treaty runs counter to our security interests amid the current developments. And the West will have to recognize this obvious fact," he added.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday appointed Ryabkov as his official representative when the CFE treaty denunciation was being considered in parliament.

The CFE Treaty was signed in 1990 and adapted in 1999. However, NATO countries did not ratify the adapted version of the CFE and have continued to adhere to the 1990 provisions, based on the conventional arms balance between NATO and the Warsaw Pact. As a result, Russia was compelled to declare a moratorium on implementing the terms of the treaty in 2007.

On March 11, 2015, Russia suspended its participation in meetings of the Joint Consultative Group on the CFE Treaty, completing the process of suspending its membership in the CFE while remaining a purely de jure party to the treaty. Since then, Belarus has represented Russia's interests in the Joint Consultative Group.

Agencies

Zhao vows to deepen cooperation with Morocco

RABAT

VISITING top Chinese legislator Zhao Leji has vowed to deepen China's cooperation with Morocco and promote parliamentary exchanges between the two countries.

At the invitation of Speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives Rachid Talbi Alami, Zhao, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, paid an official friendly visit to the country from Thursday to Sunday, and held talks with Alami, Moroccan Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch, and Mohamed Azine, the first vice speaker of the Moroccan House of Councillors.

When meeting with Akhannouch, Zhao said that, under the strategic guidance of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Moro-

can King Mohammed VI, China-Morocco relations have developed by leaps and bounds and are in its best shape ever.

Zhao called for further implementation of the important consensus reached by the two heads of state and lift the China-Morocco strategic partnership to a higher level.

China thanks Morocco for abiding by the one-China principle and providing China with valuable support on issues covering Taiwan, Xinjiang, Tibet, and human rights, he said.

China is willing to deepen cooperation with Morocco within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), actively implementing the outcomes of the first China-Arab States Summit and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), tap the potential for



cooperation, expand people-to-people exchanges, and promote mutual learning between the two civilizations and people-to-people connectivity, Zhao said.

China stands ready to work with Arab states, including Morocco, to build a China-Arab community with a shared future in the new era so as to create a better future for the China-Arab strategic partner-

ship, he added.

Akhannouch said the establishment of strategic partnership between Morocco and China, which was announced by the two heads of state in 2016, opens up a new era for bilateral relations.

Morocco adheres to the one-China principle and firmly supports China in safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity, he added.

The Moroccan prime minister voiced willingness to strengthen cooperation with China in various fields, such as Belt and Road cooperation, trade and investment, and people-to-people exchanges, in order to promote the development of bilateral ties.

During his respective talks with Alami and Azine, Zhao said that Morocco was one of the first Arab and African countries to establish

diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China, and the two countries have stayed true to their original aspirations to help each other and make progress together.

As this year marks the 65th anniversary of the establishment of China-Morocco diplomatic ties, Zhao called on the two countries to unwaveringly support each other, deepen practical cooperation, strengthen multilateral coordination, and promote further development of the China-Morocco strategic partnership.

President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI), and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), providing China's solutions to development and security problems and promoting the progress of human civilization, Zhao said.

Xinhua

Türkiye faces runoff election with Erdogan leading

ISTANBUL

TÜRKIYE headed for a runoff vote after President Tayyip Erdogan led over his opposition rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu in Sunday's election but fell short of an outright majority to extend his 20-year rule of the NATO-member country.

Neither Erdogan nor Kilicdaroglu cleared the 50 percent threshold needed to avoid a second round, to be held on May 28.

Erdogan performed better than pre-election polls had predicted, and he appeared in a confident and combative mood as he addressed his supporters.

"We are already ahead of our closest rival by 2.6 million votes. We expect this figure to increase with official results," Erdogan said.

With almost 97 percent of ballot boxes counted, Erdogan led with

49.39 percent of votes and Kilicdaroglu had 44.92 percent, according to state-owned news agency Anadolu. Turkey's High Election Board gave Erdogan 49.49 percent with 91.93 percent of ballot boxes counted.

Thousands of Erdogan voters converged on the party's headquarters in Ankara, blasting party songs from loudspeakers and waving flags. Some danced in the street.

"We know it is not exactly a celebration yet but we hope we will soon celebrate his victory. Erdogan is the best leader we had for this country and we love him," said Yalcin Yildirim, 39, who owns a textile factory.

Erdogan has edge

The results reflected deep polarization in a country at a political crossroads. The vote was set



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan gives a speech at the party headquarters, in Ankara, Türkiye, May 15, 2023. Erdogan, who has ruled his country for 20 years, was locked in a tight election race Sunday, with a make-or-break runoff against his chief challenger possible as the final votes were counted. (PHOTO / AP)

to hand Erdogan's ruling alliance a majority in parliament, giving him a potential edge heading into the runoff.

Opinion polls before the election had pointed to a very tight race but gave Kilicdaroglu, who

heads a six-party alliance, a slight lead. Two polls on Friday showed him above the 50 percent threshold. A third nationalist presidential candidate, Sinan Ogan, stood at 5.3 percent of the vote. He could be a "kingmaker" in the runoff depend-

ing on which candidate he endorses, analysts said.

The choice of Türkiye's next president is one of the most consequential political decisions in the country's 100-year history and will reverberate well beyond Türkiye's borders.

Türkiye's longest-serving leader has turned the NATO member and Europe's second-largest country into a global player, modernized it through megaprojects such as new bridges and airports and built an arms industry sought by foreign states.

Parliamentary majority

In the parliamentary vote, the People's Alliance of Erdogan's Islamist-rooted AKP, the nationalist MHP and others fared better than expected and were headed for a majority.

Agencies

Asylum-seekers hope for US entry after Title 42 end

TIJUANA, MEXICO

Lupita, a 36-year-old Mexican woman from the state of Michoacan, has spent three months in a shelter, waiting to apply for asylum in the United States. She wears some of the evidence for her case: bullet wounds about her arms, shoulder and abdomen.

Since March 2020, when broad COVID-era restrictions went into effect at the southwest border, Mexicans like Lupita were largely barred from seeking US refuge and instead were quickly expelled back to Mexico.

On Friday, that changed when the administration of President Joe Biden

ended Title 42, a COVID-inspired provision that allowed the US government to turn away asylum-seekers for public health reasons.

Immigration attorneys at the Tijuana shelter, across the border from San Diego, California, were advising migrants they should sign up for an appointment to approach a port of entry on a new government app known as CBP One if they wanted to have a chance at winning asylum.

At the same time Title 42 expired, the Biden administration implemented a new regulation that presumes most migrants will be ineligible for asylum if

they failed to use legal pathways for US entry like CBP One.

Lupita, now attempting to get an appointment through CBP One, said she fled her home after her husband was killed by cartel gunfire last year, during which she said she was wounded. Pointing her elbows toward the ceiling, she revealed the suture scars where she was patched up. The outline of a colostomy bag - which she said was the result of a gut shot - is visible through her clothes.

Lupita, who asked not to publish her last name or be photographed for fear of reprisals, said prosecutors told her

the attack was a case of mistaken identity, but she fears that being a witness to her husband's murder endangers her and her children. Reuters was not able to independently confirm her account.

"This is mostly for my children," Lupita said. "I can't go back home."

Mexicans have made up about a third of all the migrants caught by US Border Patrol in recent years but in 2021 and 2022 they were expelled under Title 42 more than 90 percent of the time.

Place of safety

Also at the shelter, where children played on bicycles and scooters

around tents pitched on the floor, were families from Honduras, Ecuador, El Salvador and Nicaragua in addition to Mexico. It was at capacity with nearly 60 people on Friday.

Many migrant families are fleeing political violence or domestic abuse at home, trauma that is often made worse during the overland journey through Central America and Mexico, where they are preyed on by all manner of security forces and criminal groups, said Judith Cabrera de la Rocha, co-director of the Tijuana shelter.

"They arrive here malnourished, dehydrated, including pregnant wom-

en, and with severe consequences for their mental health. And that's in addition to the reason why they left was traumatizing," Cabrera said.

"I like to think of this as a place to get healthy," she said of the shelter. "We provide a place that's a little safer."

The new regulation also bars most migrants from asylum if they passed through other countries without first seeking protection elsewhere, which would apply to most people who are not from Mexico but who traveled through there to get to the border.

Agencies

Unraveling significance of China-Central Asia Summit

BEIJING

THE China-Central Asia Summit is set to take place in Xi'an, the capital city of China's Shaanxi province, on May 18 and 19. On the occasion, the heads of state of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan will gather in China for the first time since the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics.

The event is the first summit held offline by the heads of state of the six countries since establishing diplomatic ties 31 years ago. The development of relations between China and Central Asian countries marks a significant milestone, paving the way for a new era of cooperation and creating a fresh blueprint for their partnership.

Meeting new demand

The upcoming summit was born out of the China + Central Asia (C+C5) cooperation mechanism, established in 2020 to meet a growing demand for deeper cooperation between China and Central Asia.

Three of the five Central Asian countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan - share borders with China, extending as long as 3,000 km. The stability in Central Asia is crucial to maintaining the stability of China, especially in its northwest region.

The friendly exchanges between the two sides trace back to ancient times. More than 2,100 years ago, Zhang Qian set off from what is now Xi'an as an envoy of the Han Dynasty. He started his mission to the western regions via Central Asia, which eventually led to the opening of the Silk Road.

After the five Central Asian states declared independence in 1991, China was among the first countries to recognize their sovereignty and establish diplomatic relations with them. Since then,

China and the five Central Asian countries have successively formed strategic partnerships. Among them, China has elevated its ties with Kazakhstan to a permanent comprehensive strategic partnership and established comprehensive strategic partnerships with Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Economic and trade cooperation between China and the five countries has achieved tangible results since establishing diplomatic ties. China's trade with the five reached \$70 billion in 2022 and recorded a year-on-year expansion of 22 percent in the first quarter of this year. As of the end of March, China's direct investment stock in Central Asia stood at over \$15 billion.

Central Asia is an important energy supplier to China. China once received 30 percent of its natural gas imports through the China-Central Asia pipeline. Residents in Beijing, Shanghai and other cities already use natural gas from Turkmenistan.

At the multilateral level, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has long been the leading platform for cooperation between China and Central Asia. With the exception of Turkmenistan, which adheres to the policy of permanent neutrality, the other four Central Asian countries are all founding members of the SCO. Within the framework, China has conducted fruitful security cooperation with Central Asian countries and made remarkable achievements in combating the "three forces" of terrorism, separatism and extremism, and promoting the peace process in Afghanistan.

As the SCO membership expands, its agenda has become more diverse. In addition to continuing their cooperation within the SCO framework, China and Central Asian countries also need a new



In this file photo dated Sept 16, 2022, President Xi Jinping (fourth left) and other leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member countries pose for a group photo before attending the 22nd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

specialized multilateral cooperation mechanism. In 2020, the C+C5 cooperation mechanism was introduced.

Highly anticipated summit

Central Asia, located in the heart of Eurasia, has served as a bridge connecting the East and the West. Regional countries have always pursued balanced diplomacy. To promote the collective interests of the region, efforts have been made to present a unified position on both regional and international matters.

Central Asia is increasingly inclined to coordinate diplomatically in the global arena. It has established the C5+1 mechanism with various parties such as China, the United States, Russia, Japan and the European Union.

Working with regions as a whole is

not uncommon for China. For example, China has established the "10+1" mechanism with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The C+C5 cooperation mechanism has developed rapidly. During the four C+C5 foreign ministers' meetings, several projects were planned for the betterment of the people. These projects include establishing the China-Central Asia Agricultural Cooperation Center, a traditional medicine center, and the Luban Workshop, a Chinese vocational training program training talents overseas.

On Jan 25, 2022, China and the five Central Asian countries jointly announced building a China-Central Asia community with a shared future. On June 8, 2022, the third C+C5 foreign ministers' meeting established a China-

Central Asia heads of state meeting mechanism.

It is worth noting that when interacting with Central Asian countries, China respects their development paths and considers their interests.

Meanwhile, China first proposed the Belt and Road Initiative in Kazakhstan in 2013. Since its inception, the initiative has been widely welcomed in the region, helping regional countries access broader markets and promoting building complete industrial systems in these resource-rich nations.

With the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative approaching, experts anticipate the China-Central Asia Summit will provide a much-needed boost to the relationship between China and Central Asia and Belt and Road cooperation. *Xinhua*

Somalia endorses Vision 2060 to guide development plan

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA'S economic council on Sunday endorsed the Centennial Vision 2060 as the national blueprint, which provides a clear anchor for the country's development plans.

The National Economic Council (NEC), which convened in the Somali capital of Mogadishu and was chaired by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, noted that the development blueprint ushers in an era of stability, prosperity, and high living standards for its citizens. "The council unanimously agreed that the Centennial Vision 2060 should be adopted by the government with a commitment to implementing recommendations outlined in phase 1 of its formulation," the NEC said in a statement issued on Sunday evening.

It said the Centennial Vision 2060 is a significant step forward for Somalia's development strategy and serves as proof of the government's commitment to long-term planning and progress.

In its April meeting, Mohamud emphasized the importance of having a long-term vision to ensure consistency and continuity in Somalia's development.

He said the Centennial Vision 2060 has the potential to serve as a transformative blueprint for Somalia's future development.

The council on Sunday agreed that the Centennial Vision 2060 should serve as an overarching blueprint guiding all development initiatives in the country, according to the statement.

Xinhua

Shipwreck of Blythe Star found off Australian coast after 50 years

CANNBERRA

A team from Australia's national science agency has found the shipwreck of a freighter 50 years after it sank, solving one of the country's greatest maritime mysteries.

The motor vessel Blythe Star, a 44-meter coastal freighter, suddenly capsized off the southwest coast of Tasmania on October 13, 1973. All 10 crew on board escaped but three died before the survivors were res-

cued 12 days later.

The incident prompted the largest maritime search operation in Australian history to that point, but no sign of the vessel was found until the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) on Monday announced it had found the Blythe Star's resting place.

The discovery was made by a CSIRO team during a 38-day voyage on board the research vessel Investigator to study a submarine landslide

off the Tasmanian coast.

A side project to investigate an unidentified wreck found the ship intact and sitting upright at a depth of approximately 150 meters.

The team used multibeam echosounders to map the shipwreck before deploying underwater camera systems to the site.

They found the wreck matched the dimensions and profile of the Blythe Star. Vision from the cameras was then compared with historical pho-

tos of the ship to identify distinctive features, including the word "star" written on its bow, to confirm the wreck. The team is hopeful that video imagery could provide insight into what caused it to sink.

The findings were shared with the families and sole surviving crew member of the ship and the Blythe Star Memorial Group, which is planning an event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the sinking in October. *Agencies*



Past austerity haunts Greek voters facing soaring prices

ATHENS

FOURTEEN years after a debt crisis that saw Greece nearly crash out of the euro, single parent Niki Kloudatou says she worries more about money now than she did during the worst years of the country's economic meltdown.

Ahead of an election on May 21, a cost-of-living crisis that is eroding earnings is foremost in voters' minds. For Kloudatou it means voting for anyone but the incumbent conservative New Democracy or the opposition leftist Syriza.

"I'm going to vote for a small party, more to show that I am not happy with the bigger parties," she said, echoing opinion polls that suggest the outcome will be a hung parliament.

Three international bailouts saved Greece from toppling out of the euro zone during a decade-long debt crisis that peaked in 2015. But austerity imposed in return for financial aid meant millions of Greeks saw their livelihoods hit as taxes soared and wages and pensions were recalibrated.

It was a painful adjustment to get the country's finances back on track. Since its bailout programme ended in 2018, Greece has regained market access, wrestled down its record debt and growth is set to outpace the euro zone's average.

For many, however, that turnaround is only on paper.

Now aged 40 and a telephone company employee, Kloudatou is earning the same money - 850 euros a month - she did as a 20-year-old supermarket worker in 2004.

With a mortgage, two young children and spiralling food bills, she says can't afford the basics.

"Even during the crisis - and this is the joke - I didn't think so much before spending a single extra euro," Kloudatou told Reuters.

Double whammy

While millions across Europe are struggling with rising prices, especially for energy and food, the financial turmoil of



Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis visits party's main campaign kiosk at Syntagma square in front of the Greek parliament in Athens on Saturday. *AFP*

the last decade has amplified the impact in Greece.

"The past 10 years has been static for workers and pensioners. Any improvement in growth hasn't been passed on to them yet," said Vlassis Missos, fellow researcher for the Greek Centre of Planning and Economic Research.

A GPO poll on May 6 showed the ruling conservative New Democracy was set to get 36.9 percent of the vote on May 21, compared with 30.4 percent for leftist Syriza, its main rival. However, smaller parties including the once-dominant Socialist PASOK, were also gaining ground.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis has raised the minimum wage and pensions, and promised to do more if re-elected.

His main rival, leftist Alexis Tsipras who governed over the 2015-2019 period, has also pledged to raise pensions and the minimum wage, and to index wages to inflation.

Greece may formally be out of fiscal surveillance by the European Union, but its heavy debt burden continues to make lenders wary.

That means any administration must undertake a perilous balancing act of placating an electorate worn down by austerity and now inflation with keeping markets happy.

There is little wiggle room.

"From a fiscal point of view, we're still a way from a primary (budget) surplus which

is necessary for the long-term debt sustainability," Greek central banker Yannis Stournaras told media outlet Imerisia.gr on May 10.

Paycheck barely gets to paycheck

One in two Greek households could barely get by on their monthly income last year.

Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, says 36.4 percent of Greeks had overdue bills in 2021, the highest proportion in the 27-member bloc. The share of people whose housing costs represent more than 40 percent of their disposable income was also the biggest in the EU, at 32.4 percent of Greek households compared to an EU average of 10.4 percent.

And in the past year, those bills have been getting higher as the European Central Bank raises interest rates at a record pace to rein in runaway inflation.

Kloudatou, who shares a small apartment in the Athens suburb of Alimos with her two children and her mother, has seen her mortgage rise to 450 euros a month, 100 euros more than a year ago.

She shares expenses with her mother, who receives a monthly pension of around 850 euros. But still the family cannot make ends meet.

Kloudatou only uses her car when strictly necessary, and recently had to tell her 12-year-old he couldn't go out with his friends because she couldn't afford the food. "I felt bad. Really, really bad," she said. "I would never have done that before." *Agencies*

Powerful cyclone hits Bangladesh, Myanmar coastlines

DHAKA

EXTREMELY dangerous Cyclone Mocha began crossing the Bangladesh and Myanmar coasts Sunday, a senior official of Bangladesh Meteorological Department told Xinhua.

Mocha has a diameter of more than 500 km and its impact will be felt in many areas of Bangladesh, the BMD Director Md Azizur Rahman said.

According to a special bulletin of the BMD, the cyclone, packing winds of up to 215 mph, brought destructive winds and a potentially devastating storm surge.

The severe cyclone will take several hours to weaken into a cyclone and then into a depression.

Parts of Bangladesh are experiencing drizzle and gusty wind as an impact of the advancing cy-

clone. TV footage showed widespread flooding in coastal Cox's Bazar this morning, where hundreds of thousands have reportedly been evacuated.

Bangladeshi State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Enamur Rahman told journalists that they have taken adequate measures to support the affected people.

Officials said there were no report of casualty so far of the cyclone in the affected areas.

"Saving lives is our main priority," said disaster relief official Mijanur Rahman. Bangladesh has moved about 300,000 people before the storm hit land around noon. Aid workers are worrying about the risk to more than a million Rohingya refugees, half-a-million children among them, living in camps in the beach town

of Cox's Bazar near the cyclone's path.

"People at risk are in the process of being transferred to safe shelters and we are also arranging relief packages," said Farah Kabir of ActionAid Bangladesh.

Most refugees live in makeshift dwellings in the densely-packed camps after having fled Myanmar in 2017.

At least 100,000 people in Myanmar's impoverished Rakhine state have moved to safer areas since last week, said the UN humanitarian office (OCHA).

About 6 million people are already in need of humanitarian assistance and 1.2 million are displaced in Rakhine and the northwest, OCHA said. *Agencies*

CIIE 2023 draws more new companies, startups

MORE new companies and start-ups are expected to participate in this year's China International Import Expo compared to the fifth one, with an initial planning of 500 start-ups and projects, said a spokesperson during its media briefing on Sunday.

The exhibition area for those startups is planned to be 5,000 square meters, tripled from 1,500 square meters for the 5th CIIE, said Fang Hui, general manager of the CIIE department of the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai) Co Ltd.

Preparations for the event are underway and the planned business exhibition area remains at 360,000 square meters, Fang said at the briefing, ThePaper.cn reported.

Over 260,000 square meters of the business exhibition area have already been contracted so far, an increase of more than two percentage points year-on-year.

This year's CIIE, set to be held offline from Nov 5 to 10, will increase its focus on the special section of innovation incubation, in addition to continuing the major exhibition areas for food, automobiles, technological equipment, consumer goods, medical products and trade in services.

The expo, as a preferred platform for global new products and cutting-edge technologies regarded by exhibitors, has helped achieve a cumulative transaction volume of over \$340 billion over the past five years.

New tailored measures have been adopted in this year's CIIE for each enterprise as a service guarantee to solve the problems of participating exhibitors.

Among those services providers, the Bonded Logistics Center (Type B) in Hongqiao Business District has provided convenient guarantee services for exhibitors for four consecutive years since 2019.

The bonded logistics center, with two bonded warehouses and a total construction area of nearly 50,000 square meters, has managed the exhibition goods worth nearly \$57.37 million for exhibitors from more than 30 countries and regions.

Since August 2022, it has been offering a new business model for cross-border e-commerce retail import. By the end of April 2023, nearly \$3.93 million worth of goods from countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative have entered the Chinese market through the model. *Xinhua*



Namungo FC's players, center-back Frank Magingi (L), and midfielder Shiza Kichuya (C) challenge Azam FC winger Kipre Junior as the clubs locked horns in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League game that took place at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. Namungo FC commanded 2-1 victory over Azam FC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

With this year's performance in CAF inter-club tourneys, league ranking now plausible

By Correspondent John Kimbuta

THE idea that the Tanzania Premier League is among the best in Africa has been around for a while, as Simba SC, the perennial representatives in the CAF Champions League, has, for several years, been cited among the top 10 best clubs.

For that reason, it was included in the preliminary list of clubs that could participate in the CAF-organized Africa Super League, the sort that fans and most top clubs rejected concerning the UEFA circuit. They detested the money slant.

When the matter came up again in the past week, no soul was searching among pundits whether the Tanzania Premier League deserves to be cited among the five best leagues in the CAF circuit.

While it is still astonishingly high, it had a look of credibility as counting leagues with two representatives in the CAF quarterfinals for both tournaments, one would have Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, and South Africa, in which case Tanzania at best comes sixth. Few other rivals appear.

The more surprising element in this year's performance of the two top clubs was chiefly in surpassing their expectations, especially for the relative newcomers to middle-stage continental competitions, Young Africans SC, also known as Yanga.

Their next-street rivals, Simba SC, were in the Group Stage of the CAF Champions League several times, while the Jangwani Street-based Yanga used to come back after the preliminaries.

Reaching the semi-finals of the second-tier of continental competitions was admittedly above their expectations.

Surprisingly, when hiring new coach Roberto Oliveira the leadership at Msimbazi Street outfit is said to have extracted a promise from him to take the side to the semi-finals of the top-tier of continental club tournaments.

This was not achieved but the leadership would not have far to seek to look for the reasons, and they would appreciate the sort of play put up in the Group Stage and the quarterfinals.

It was admittedly the highest level the club side as it stands could be expected to attain, more or less reasonably.

The semi-finals in large measure are reserved for sides that would scarcely recruit a player from either of our leading clubs, for instance, the best player in Simba SC was registered at a top-five Moroccan side RS Berkane and, after a year, he came back.

Only Louis Miquissone of Mozambique, also in the line-up in a past quarterfinals encounter pitting Simba SC against Kaizer Chiefs of South Africa, registered at Al Ahly, seemed to stand the pressure.

He reportedly clashed with the then Al Ahly's head coach Pitso Masomane, a while back.

That means the two leading city sides are still in the middle ranks of African soccer, and are nowhere near the top five, six, or even top 10 sides, but with an effort on their part, or an extraordinary effort, they can rival them on the pitch.

It is not something surprising, as the perennial losers in the continental competition were for close to four years dominant in local football, defeating either the Group Stage or quarterfinal participants in CAF tournaments repeatedly.

Only in a recent derby did the Msimbazi Street side overturn the table with a stinging 2-0 win to rest the case.

On a continental prism, the result was to be expected as Simba SC scaled not only the preliminaries but the group stage successfully - to exit in a hardy manner at the quarterfinals level, without being humiliated at any stage.

Loose talk among their archrivals, even officiously before the return quarterfinal clash, strained them to predict a five-nil result, hiding behind the borrowed Arabic of 'hamsa'.

That means the Jangwani Street squad, which anticipated the worst, was equally surprised at the way their rivals negotiated the return away match, where the hosts narrowly won.

It was this clash, well above Simba SC's earlier triumphs of 7-0 against Horoya AC at Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, nicknamed 'Estadio Lupaso', that brought to light that the local league is indeed out of the woods.

The CAF Champions League defending champions, Wydad Athletic Club, put everything they had to book but failed to equal the 3-0 their rivals Raja Casablanca had earlier obtained against Simba SC at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, a result that may have put them to some indifference as they prepared to meet Simba SC at the same venue.

They had not billed for the level of play that Simba SC put up, settled for a 1-0 defeat, and re-programmed for the home tie.

That demonstrates how the final tie was a demonstration of team strength in a fundamental way, as the home side needed a clear 2-0 win to avoid penalties and avoid away goals count, as they did not have any.

Yanga gamely trying to remain on a roll

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

AS the present season enters the home stretch, it must be gratifying for Yanga's armies of devoted supporters to see the brilliant feats that the club has already achieved even before the season's finale.

For instance, last weekend was a momentous one for the Jangwani Street outfit as the club clinched this season's NBC Premier League trophy which marks the second league title that Yanga has won on the trot.

Meanwhile, as Yanga continues to relish the side's back-to-back league triumphs, the side's age-old foes Simba SC must be green with envy over the archrival's glorious success.

Indeed, Simba SC's tale of woes this season is compounded by the annoying fact that they will finish the season without claiming even a single trophy following their loss to Azam FC in the Azam Sports Federation Cup semi-final.

However, let us return to Yanga which is unquestionably going great guns at the moment.

It has been heartening to note that Yanga's top form has also extended to the hard-fought continental football stage where no quarters are asked and none given.

Despite facing the leading lights of continental football in



Tanzania's Yanga midfielder, Stephane Aziz Ki (R), negotiates his way past South Africa's Marumo Gallants defender, Matome Kgoetyane, when the clubs took on each other in the first leg of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup semi-final that took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on May 10. Yanga hammered Marumo Gallants 2-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

this season's CAF Confederation Cup, Yanga have more than held their own against the continent's most praise-worthy teams and the club has even reached the semi-finals of the competition in what is an unprecedented achievement for the club.

And, in the first leg of that semi-final against the South African side Marumo Gallants, Yanga simply picked up from where they had left off in the earlier round by securing a satisfying 2-0 victory.

Naturally, this state of affairs could markedly change in the

second leg, which is why Yanga must not rest on their laurels and go all-out to seek victory in the return leg which will likely be an epic duel.

Let us now switch gears to ponder on a matter of great import which I feel needs to be revisited in this commentary today.

Indeed, with the multi-sports Paris Olympic Games set to commence on July 26, next year, the countdown to this unfailingly exciting and unique sporting event has well and truly begun.

Worryingly, there have

been precious few signs of anything resembling earnest preparations for the Paris Olympics on the home front, which is uncomfortably disturbing.

Given our below par track-record at the Olympics when we have grossly underprepared for the showpiece event, you would think that our sports officials would be trying their damndest to ensure that our athletes' preparations for the Games can begin on time.

At this point, it should be highlighted that major sporting powers on the world stage like the USA, China, and Jamaica among others perpetually claim a heavy haul of medals at the Olympics thanks to lengthy, thorough, and meticulous preparations.

Granted, it should also be noted here that as a country we have done a much better job of readying ourselves for gigantic sporting contests in recent years as was evidenced by our overall showing at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, from which we returned home with a few hard-earned medals.

Still, it must be equally pointed out that we are currently dragging our feet where our Olympics preparations are concerned and one hopes that this alarming status quo changes rapidly.



Players making Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's basketball squad take part in training at the center's courts in Dar es Salaam on Friday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Company wins praise for supporting Masala Princess FC's participation in Women's FDL

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadana

MAINLAND Tanzania Women's First Division League side, Masala Princess, says there is a need for more investment and support for the growth and development of the sports sector.

The club's founder Esther Mpanda issued the appeal in Dar es Salaam last week when her team presented awards of appreciation to WinPrincess Casino.

WinPrincess Casino supported the Dar es Salaam-based team

when it competed in the Women's First Division League finals that took place at Alliance Schools in Mwanza last month.

She said, unlike men's football which is well established among the community, women's football needs more support, considering the infancy stage the game is in.

Esther thanked WinPrincess Casino for the support she described as timely.

"We were in Mwanza for the Women's First Division League finals and we faced financial chal-

lenges, we had nowhere to go," the official noted.

"We tried our best and, luckily enough, a good samaritan WinPrincess came to our rescue... we are grateful to them and today (Thursday) we have come here to thank them," she said.

The official said her team's fairytale overall performance in the Women's First Division League finals is worthy of celebrating and she appealed to the corporate world to support them.

"We faced some finan-

cial challenges but our team's polished display was very marvelous to watch, it overshadowed the problems we had, I'm asking the corporate world to support us," she said.

She said the team made up of girls from less privileged backgrounds was formed last year and so far two of its players Happiness Dafa and Joyce Abubakar have earned a call-up for the national U-17 women's team.

WinPrincess' Country Director Hakan Aric said they are delighted to be associated with Masala

Princess FC.

He promised his company's continued support of sports in the country, saying he is happy that such support to the team achieved two major feats, players' happiness and the team's improved performance.

"We are happy to be associated with sports in the country, especially this Masala Princess squad, let me assure you all here that my company will continue supporting Tanzanians in both social and economic activities," he said.

Man City are ruthless killers who stare down their prey before inflicting the final blow

By Jason Burt

MANCHESTER City are the most ruthless killers of the Premier League era. They do not just scent blood they lust upon it. They do not just defeat teams, they demoralise them. And that is why they will be Premier League champions for a fourth time in five seasons.

City do not just score a goal. They go for the second. When they get the second they go for the third. When they get the third? There is often no need or no impetus for a fourth because it is already all over. Especially when there are big games to come in pursuit of that Treble which is now just a maximum of six matches away.

City score in clusters. And they win in clusters. They are like assassins who take down their prey and then stand over them before delivering another fatal blow. It is clinical.

City leave no hope for the opposition. There is no way back. There is so little jeopardy even when, potentially, facing their most difficult remaining league game of the campaign, away at Goodison Park.

The Everton fans did not turn on their team. But they were resigned to their fate. They are not foolish. They always knew this was not a hill to die on.

Everton's league survival will rest on the away game against Wolverhampton Wanderers and a final home fixture facing Bournemouth. The gulf will not be so great against those teams. Here it was simply too much and any hope that a hostile, intimidating atmosphere could be whipped up was wildly optimistic. It was never going to happen with the last few minutes quietly played out like a testimonial, which was extraordinary.

Pep Guardiola knew it. He could even take out four of his most influential starters - Kevin De Bruyne, John Stones, Jack Grealish and Bernardo Silva - ahead of the Champions League semi-final second leg against Real Madrid on Wednesday and was comfortable in the knowledge that City had enough to register a 22nd game without defeat and an 18th win.

For 37 minutes it was about desperate containment for Everton. But did anyone ever really feel there might be an upset? "From the first minute we controlled the game," Guardiola said. There was little dissent on that observation.

That is what City do. They remove the uncertainty and they do not stop as they take the game away. And so there were just 118 seconds separating their first two goals. Then six minutes after half-time they struck a third and any lingering doubt was gone.

They sense vulnerability and there is an awesome inevitability to them even if it took a moment of improvised brilliance from captain Ilkay Gundogan, who always comes up clutch on such occasions, to make the breakthrough. The stunning quality of the finish left Everton reeling and before they could take it all in, City duly added a second.

Inevitably that came from Erling Haaland and he has brought a razor-sharp cutting edge and menace to City as he gorges on goals.

It did not just confirm the result but it forced Everton to retreat. Dominic Calvert-Lewin was feeling tightness in his groin and so Sean Dyche took him off at the half-time. Had it been 1-0 the striker may well have stayed on. Instead Dyche cut his losses ahead of the final two monumental games. That, also, is what City do. They extinguish hope.

The double salvos happen too often to be coincidental. They are the true 'mentality monsters' and they just do not flinch. Against Leeds United last week it was two goals in nine minutes (19th and 27th); against Arsenal it was two again in nine minutes (45th and 54th); against Leicester City it was two in eight minutes (fifth and 13th), against Southampton it was three in 17 minutes, against Liverpool it was two in seven minutes.

"City combine the qualities of some of the Premier League's great teams

It happens time and time again. Their place in history may be open to debate - not least because there is the Premier League investigation to be resolved - but no-one can doubt just how elegantly, brutally deadly they are.

This is a team that rivals Sir Alex Ferguson's Manchester United, in their best incarnations, Arsene Wenger's Arsenal 'Invincibles' and Jose Mourinho's first Chelsea side while probably surpassing them all with that ability to annihilate the opposition.

In a sense they combine the qualities of all those great teams. They can be as thrilling as United in full flow, as technically pleasing and powerful as Arsenal and as formidable as Chelsea under Mourinho when they also had that ability to quickly kill games.

It is now 12 league games in a row that City have won which is an remarkable sequence. They were last beaten in any competition on Feb 5 - away to Tottenham Hotspur in the league and that feels like a lifetime ago in this seemingly never-ending season. Indeed Antonio Conte was still Tottenham head coach back then.

It also feels like a long time ago that Guardiola was publically castigating his players for being "happy flowers" who were guilty of complacency and a little bit of coasting as Arsenal threatened to get away from them in the title race in mid-January. Happy flowers? This team is a Venus Flytrap. It is Deadly Nightshade. It is a killer.

THE TELEGRAPH

Arsenal humiliated as Brighton deliver coup de grace to title hopes

By Sam Dean

ARSENAL'S race is run, and the hope has gone. It is not officially over but even the most optimistic of supporters must now accept the reality of the situation. A title charge against Manchester City demands perfection and here, at home to a Brighton side of remarkable bravery and skill, Mikel Arteta's side fell disastrously short of the standards that were required of them.

In truth, Arsenal also fell some way short of their own usual standards as a club. Worn down by a long season, drained by the emotions of it all and stripped bare by the brilliant tactical mind of Roberto De Zerbi, they looked like ghosts in red and white.

The legs appeared to have run out of energy, and the pool of ideas seemed to have run dry.

By the time Brighton scored their third, through full-back Pervis Estupinan, there were empty seats all over the Emirates Stadium. This has been a campaign of late drama in north London but there was no expectation or belief, as the match approached its conclusion, of another Arsenal comeback. Not this time, and not against this Brighton team.

Few opponents have done to Arsenal what Brighton did to them there. This was a match that was played almost entirely on the visiting side's terms, with De Zerbi's team building from the back with courage, and then attacking with



Brighton's Deniz Undav scores their second goal against Arsenal. (Agencies)

menace. It was Brighton, rather than Arsenal, who played the more adventurous football. It was Brighton, rather than Arsenal, who took the risks.

To watch and listen to Arteta afterwards was to see a man who knew his dream had died. He did not quite say that, as the title remains a mathematical possibility, but his body language said more than his words. Rarely has the Spaniard sounded so defeated.

In time, perhaps even in the space of a few days, the perspective will return and Arteta will remember that his team has produced a campaign that was beyond all expectations. To even be here, challenging City in the final

weeks of the season, will come to be seen as an achievement. But in the moment, the rawness of the emotions clouded that judgement. "It is difficult to see that picture today," Arteta admitted.

Arsenal have won only two of their last seven league games, which is the primary reason why this title race has swung out of their control. This was not the day that cost them, really, although it was clearly the most gruelling afternoon of football that they have experienced at their own stadium in the past year.

Some of the home supporters might grumble about certain refereeing decisions but, overall, there can be no excuses for what took place. The team that played the bet-

ter football on the day was the team that left with three points. De Zerbi knew it, and he revelled in it: The Italian blew kisses to the Arsenal fans in the second half, and then slid to his knees in celebration of Brighton's third.

"I can decide how I can lose, not how I can win," De Zerbi said. "I want to lose playing with this style, with this courage, to try to command the play and to command the ball. Today we showed our values, our passion. We showed we are serious people."

Arsenal, by contrast, offered some markedly unserious defending in the second half. Brighton's first goal was allowed to happen because Jakub Kiwior,

the Arsenal centre-back, stopped playing after his heel had been stepped on. As Julio Enciso headed in, Kiwior was staring at the turf and praying the game would be stopped. A penny for the thoughts of Tony Adams, or any of the more rugged centre-backs in Arsenal's long history.

The second also stemmed from an error, with Leandro Trossard surrendering the ball in midfield against his former club. Brighton were still pushing high - how many other teams would press the Arsenal defence in the 86th minute, when leading 1-0? - and Deniz Undav calmly lobbed Aaron Ramsdale.

All across the pitch,

Arsenal's players lost their individual battles. Moises Caicedo, who was wanted by Arsenal in January and still wanted by them now, produced a monstrous defensive performance at right-back. Kaoru Mitoma dazzled Ben White. And Levi Colwill, the young centre-back on loan from Chelsea, gave a sensational display on and off the ball.

"The best example of courage was Colwill in this game," said De Zerbi, whose players remain on track to qualify for Europe. "We defended man to man, and Colwill's man was [Martin] Odegaard. Colwill went 80 or 90 metres [up the pitch] to defend Odegaard. This is courage."

For Arsenal, it is time now to think of why they have stumbled in the past few weeks. Defensive injuries are the most obvious reason, but has something else been missing? In some matches it has been physical power, in others it has been a more ruthless mentality. Here it was simply technical quality, which is unusual indeed for a team containing the likes of Odegaard, Gabriel Jesus, Jorginho and Bukayo Saka.

Arsenal might argue that the game plan would have worked if Gabriel Martinelli had not limped off, after a strong challenge by Caicedo, but that would be to hide from the reality of the match. When Estupinan converted the third in stoppage time, and De Zerbi fell to the turf in delight, it did not flatter the visitors.

THE TELEGRAPH

Unbreakable defence, Lewandowski's fast start: How Barca won La Liga

BARCELONA

BARCELONA secured the Spanish La Liga title for the first time since 2019 on Sunday.

The Catalan giants invested heavily last summer, sacrificing future income in order to bolster the squad and earn major silverware quickly.

Xavi Hernandez's side beat Real Madrid to win the Spanish Super Cup in January and clinched the league title by thrashing Espanyol 4-2 on Sunday.

AFP Sport looks at the key ways Barcelona were able to earn their 27th domestic championship.

- Rock solid -
Barcelona have been known over the years for their attacking flair, from Ronaldinho to Lionel Messi, but their triumph this season has been based on a mean defence.

The Blaugrana have conceded only 13 goals in 34 games, far fewer than any other side.

Andreas Christensen arrived on a free transfer from Chelsea and has slotted in perfectly, while his centre-back partner Ronald Araujo has staked his claim to be considered one of the best defenders in the world.

Xavi allowed young dynamo Alejandro Bal-

de to phase out veteran left-back Jordi Alba and Jules Kounde has played out of position at right-back to cover for weakness in that area, creating a pacy backline.

It is no coincidence that Barcelona's Champions League elimination happened with many defenders injured, when Xavi was forced to pick now-retired Gerard Pique and Marcos Alonso at the heart of defence.

Goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen has found confidence and form again, with Barcelona yet to concede at home from open play all season, bar an Araujo own goal against Real Madrid.

The Catalans have kept 25 clean sheets so far this season, with the all-time league record 26, set by Deportivo La Coruna in 1993-94.

The Galician side and Atletico Madrid share the record for fewest goals conceded in a 38-game season, 18 - a figure Barcelona could beat.

- Lewandowski blitz -
Barcelona signed Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski as their marquee summer arrival and the Polish forward hit the ground running.

He is La Liga's top goalscorer with 21

goals, many of which came in a superb run of form before the World Cup.

The 34-year-old netted 13 goals in an 11-match spell between August and October to send Barcelona into the break as league leaders.

Lewandowski's double against Espanyol helped Barca seal their title triumph.

- Consistency -

Previous champions Real Madrid still consider themselves one of the very best sides in the world - they are in the Champions League semi-finals and won the Copa del Rey earlier in May after all.

However Carlo Ancelotti's team could not

keep up with Barcelona this season in what is known in Spain as "the competition of consistency".

Madrid smashed Barcelona 4-0 in the Copa del Rey semi-final second leg and on their day remain the country's best side, but Barcelona have proven more reliable more often, and opened up a vast points gap on their rivals.

Karim Benzema's injury-hit season set Madrid back and with ageing greats Luka Modric and Toni Kroos both key figures in their best 11, playing at the same high level in every game is hard to achieve.

Barcelona's Champions League and Europa

League exits stung, but allowed Xavi's side to focus on conquering the top flight.

- Extra midfielder -

Despite Barcelona typically utilising a 4-3-3 system, in January Xavi decided to start deploying Gavi as a left winger.

The youngster would come inside and offer Barca a fourth man in the midfield, giving them a useful advantage to help keep possession.

With that system they waltzed to victory against Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup and went on a seven-match winning streak in La Liga.

It saw fewer chances created for Lewandowski, explaining his lower

output in the second half of the season, but gave Barca far more control in games.

- Big game shift -

Under Barcelona's two prior coaches, Ronald Koeman and Quique Setien, they were unable to beat either of Spain's other two big sides, Real Madrid and Atletico, in La Liga.

Xavi changed that, vanquishing both last season in his first few months in charge, and he managed it again this season.

The Catalans earned two wins over Atletico in the league and one against Real Madrid, as well as one loss.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Arsenal humiliated as Brighton deliver coup de grace to title hopes

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Simba SC's right-back, Shomari Kapombe (R), attempts to get the better of Ruvu Shooting left-back, Mpoki Mwakinyuke, during this season's NBC Premier League match which took place in Dar es Salaam last week. Simba SC defeated Ruvu Shooting 3-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Kapombe confirms imminent contract renewal with Simba SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SHOMARI Kapombe, a key member of the defensive setup at NBC Premier League giants Simba SC, on Sunday evening, confirmed that he will soon put pen to paper on a new contract with the club.

Kapombe has been among the key players in the Simba SC defense this campaign, forming a solid backline with goalkeeper Aishi Manula, center-backs Joash Onyango and Henock Inonga, and left-back Mohamed Hussein.

The defense has seen Simba SC jointly concede the least goals in the top-flight-15- and also progress to the quarterfinals of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League.

The 31-year-old defender has racked up 22 appearances in the NBC Premier League, scoring two goals and assisting six this season.

He has also played eight matches in this season's CAF Champions League with one assist to his name.

It should come as little surprise to hear word that Kapombe is in line to be imminently rewarded by the powers that be on the 'red half' of Dar es Salaam.

Speaking on the back of his side's 3-0 league victory over Ruvu Shooting, the Simba SC starring right-back was drawn on his future, going on to reveal that he is close to signing a new contract.

"At the moment I am not thinking of going to any club other than to stay at Simba SC, my contract is ending but my representatives are continuing to talk with the management. I believe we will strike a good agreement," the defender pointed out.

The experienced defender, who is also a key member of the senior national soccer squad 'Taifa Stars', joined Simba SC in 2011, coming through the youth ranks after he was roped in from Polisi Morogoro.

After excelling with Simba SC he had a brief spell in France before returning to Tanzania to join Azam FC.

In 2017, he crossed back to Simba SC for his second spell which has seen him win four Premier League titles, two Azam Sports Federation Cup silverware as well as reaching the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League three times and once in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Kapombe will become the second player in the squad to extend his contract with Simba SC. In December, Congolese defender Inonga signed a two-year contract extension.

In a separate interview, Simba SC CEO Imani Kajula revealed that the club is already in negotiation with key players and other new signings as they aim to bounce back from another trophyless season.

Simba SC is bound to finish second in this season's NBC Premier League, the club was bundled out of the Azam Sports Federation Cup semi-finals by Azam FC and also crashed out of the CAF Champions League quarterfinals.

Their campaign has also seen setbacks in the 2023 Mapinduzi Cup tournament, having failed to go past the showdown's group stage.

The Msimbazi Street outfit was also beaten by its age-old rival, Yanga, in the Community Shield at the start of the season.

Azam FC's Ongala expresses disappointment after PL clash defeat to Namungo FC



Azam FC's caretaker coach, Kalimangonga Ongala.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC's caretaker coach Kalimangonga Ongala rued his side's limp display in Sunday's NBC Premier League game against Namungo FC that ended in a disappointing home defeat at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Goals netted by Hassan Kabunda and Shiza Kichuya on both halves of the game canceled an own goal by Namungo FC defender Patenre Counou to give the visiting side a 2-1 victory to send them to fifth place in the standings.

Ongala headed to the Azam Complex Stadium press room to speak to the media and responded to questions about the performance, emotions, and their next assignment against Coastal Union.

The tactician noted: "Namungo FC has given us great competition and they deserve to win the match. We seemed to be tired, we were down. Despite taking the lead, we were very relaxed."

"I don't know why but we will have to analyze ourselves, see where we went wrong. Namungo FC deserved to win the game and we didn't show up at all."

On his emotions following Sunday's defeat, he said: "We made three changes, Pascal Msindo, Yahya Zayd, and Kipre Jr. We thought they would bring energy, they played well but due to the situation we lost the game."

The tactician pointed out: "I am very disappointed, I don't know when was the last time we lost here at Chamazi. So everyone must look at themselves in the mirror. Let's not start pointing fingers at other people, let's look at ourselves in the mirror and see where we went wrong and if the commitment was 100% for everyone."

"There are things that I noticed, we started to panic,

it was like we were forced to play in a certain way which is not our way of playing."

The gaffer noted: "We just want to possess, building on, but today I see the pressure of an early lead got the better of us, it's like we panicked. So we failed to control the match, I think that's where we lost the match."

He added: "We want to win every match, we are not preparing because we are in third place. We just want to maximize our points."

"We have set ourselves goals regardless of who is the champion, we were supposed to win the match and we failed to deliver on that. It hurts, we have to regroup, let's now focus on what is ahead, the Coastal Union match will be tough as well," the gaffer stated.

With two games to go, Azam FC is still in the third-place finish race with fourth-placed Singida Big Stars.

Ongala's side is two points ahead of Singida Big Stars with both teams taking the pitch next week against Coastal Union and Ruvu Shooting respectively.

Remax Strikers clobber Ateme SKLPSC in 2023 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup opener

By Guardian Reporter

REMAX Strikers have opened their campaign in the 2023 Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament impressively, thrashing Ateme SKLPSC by 33 runs in the showdown's opening clash that took place on Saturday.

The duel's eventual winners, the semi-finalists in last season's Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament, won the toss and elected to bat first in the encounter held at Leaders Club ground.

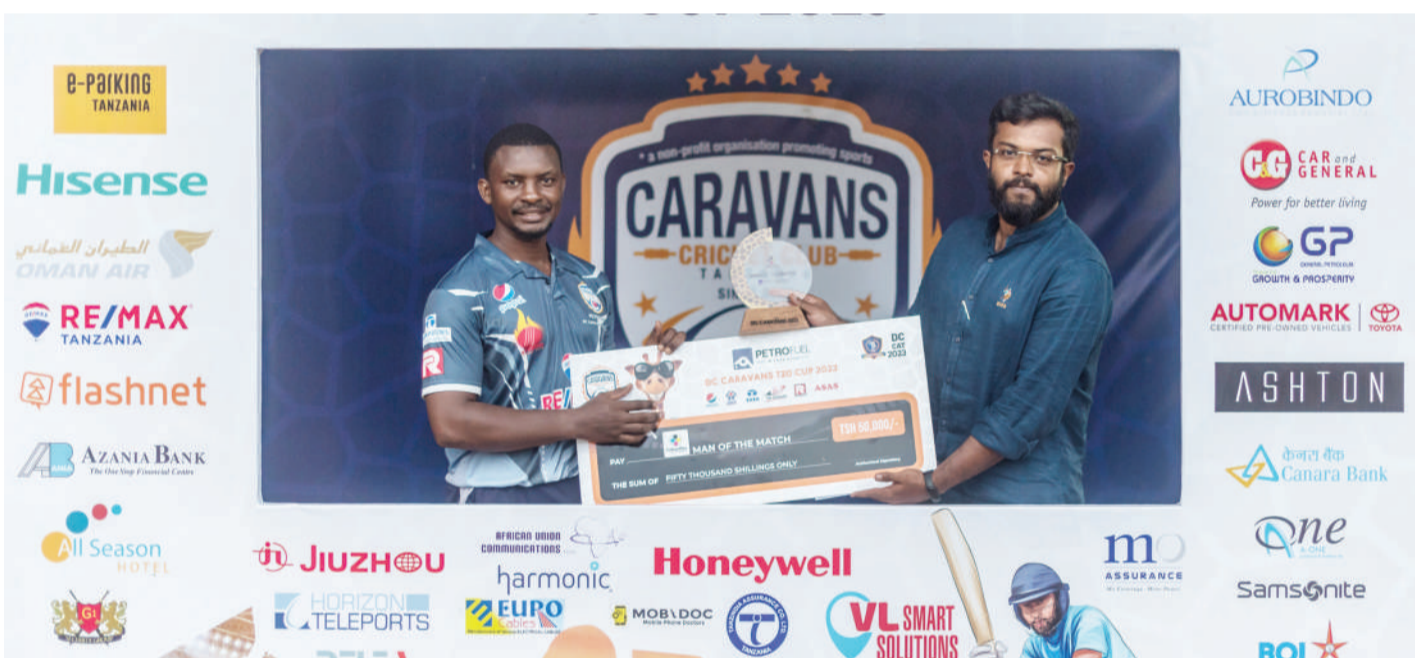
Opener Shafi Muharram's 40 runs (41) and Issa Kikasi's 36 runs (27 deliveries, five fours) ensured that the batting team finished with 143/6 in a match that witnessed the overs reduced to 18 due to the downpour.

Muharram's fellow opener, Mausif Khan, had as well executed a series of impressive shots early on in the innings and made his way back with 24 runs.

Khan left Remax Strikers with 31 runs once the opener was dismissed in the third over having been trapped leg before wicket (lbw) by Ateme SKLPSC's pacer, Arun Dagar.

Even though experienced all-rounder, Athumani Siwa, had an unbeaten stint having ended with two runs not out, his presence at the crease did not have much impact.

Experienced cricketer Vineshkumar Kerai's figures of 3-11 in four overs stood out



Remax Strikers cricket outfit's all-rounder, Issa Kikasi (L), receives the Colourflex Man of the Match prize from Petrofuel Ltd's CEO, Anoop S. Kumar, once the cricketer's team faced Ateme SKLPSC in this season's Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup competition's match that took place last Saturday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

for the bowling outfit.

Youthful all-rounder Augustine Mwamele and Dagar chipped in with one wicket apiece for Ateme SKLPSC, with Mwamele notching a 7.00 economy rate and the latter making his way back with one maiden over and a 5.50 economy rate.

In return, Ateme SKLPSC fell short by 33 runs, only managing to score 110/6 in the scheduled 18 overs after some strong bowling performance by Remax Strikers.

Alishihab Bukhari's spirited 49 runs (37) and Arun Dagar's late innings of 30 runs (17) did give the batting team some glimmer of hope.

However, regular dismissals

ensured that the chase was restricted, and points went Remax Strikers' way.

For his all-around performance with the bat and behind the stumps, the experienced Kikasi laid his hands on the Colourflex Man of the Match prize.

The innings by youthful Muharram earned him the Rickshaw Game Changer of the Match prize.

With the victory, Remax Strikers have two points in the bag whilst boasting a net run rate of 1.83.

The Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup is an annual T20-formatted cricket competition organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of this tournament. Other sponsors include Alliance Insurance, Colourflex, TATA Africa Holdings, ASAS, Rickshaw Travels, Ras Logistics, Pepsi, e-Parking, Remax, Flashnet, and Aurobindo.

Others are Azania Bank, Jiuzhou, All Season Hotel, General Petroleum, Honeywell, Autotark, Hisense, Oman Air, Ashton Media, Mo Assurance, Aucom & Harmonic, and Car & General.

Horizon Teleports, Aone Bottlers, Samsonite, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Euro Cables, VL Smart Solutions, Mobidoc, GI Logistics, Delta

Africa, Samaki Samaki, and Tanzania Assurance wind up the sponsors' list.

Alliance Caravans lifted the 2022 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament's trophy following the outfit's four-wicket drubbing of Aurobindo Aga Khan SC in the final.

The showdown's eventual winners had earlier made it to the final in style, garnering a comprehensive 100-run drubbing of DTB Gymkhana in the semi-final, known as the second qualifier.

In the first semi-final, termed the first qualifier, Aurobindo Aga Khan SC hammered Alliance Caravans by 28 runs to book a place in the final.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

