



National Pg 4 Contractors reminded to adhere to standards



National Pg 5 Citizens should become main drivers of economy



National Pg 6 Govt hails development partners' support



SMART MONEY

PROFILER: Market's primary focus is a job seeker to an employer
EMPOWERMENT: How Foreign Reserves affect to boost economic growth
PAYMENTS: CB's first experiment of 'E-Cash' to 'Pre' with Airtel Money

UAE overtakes India as second largest source of goods Tanzania imports

TANZANIA IMPORTS VALUES FROM UAE AND INDIA 2016-2021 (IN TRILLION SHILLINGS)

Year	UAE	India
2016	0.8	0.7
2017	0.9	0.8
2018	1.0	0.9
2019	1.1	1.0
2020	1.2	1.1
2021	1.3	1.2

INVESTMENTS: Africa is the place to invest, US congressional delegation acknowledges

DIGITAL CURRENCIES: Top ten cryptocurrencies with best growth potential in March

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CTI: Electronic tax stamp duty costs too high

By Guardian Reporter

MANUFACTURERS of excisable goods have raised concern over the use of electronic tax stamps (ETS), saying it costs firms nearly half of what they pay in excise duty.

This is one of the high points during deliberations at a media seminar on ETS organised by the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI). It was held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend.

Most of those who spoke at the event said that ETS charges were a burden and had added to their production costs, eating into their ability to employ, invest in infrastructure and sell their goods at low end prices in the market.

Salum Nassor, a director at Coca-Cola Kwanza Ltd, appealed to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to institute a 75 per cent reduction on the ETS rate, "as the rates hold back local manufacturers' competitiveness in the regional market".

"Since the introduction of ETS, the annual stamp costs paid directly to the supplier (SICPA) have risen by 253.1 per cent on average - with no added value to producers," he said, noting that the beverage company pays 40 per cent of the total excise tax paid entirely in the form of the costs of electronic stamps.

Nassor further explained that in 2019, when only as few as 15 firms were subjected to electronic stamps, manufacturers paid over 54bn/- directly to the supplier, he stated.

He said that this rose to more than

“The money we pay to the foreign supplier would have been used by the (Tanzanian) companies to implement their corporate social responsibility policies, with the cuts in ETS costs easing the financial pressure on the local companies

67bn/- in 2020 while the following year saw manufacturers of alcoholic beverages, soft drinks and tobacco pay around 78bn/- to a foreign company - and not the government.

"The money we pay to the foreign supplier would have been used by the (Tanzanian) companies to implement their corporate social responsibility policies, with the cuts in ETS costs easing the fi-

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Govt scraps levy on fuel

Zanzibar reviews sugar VAT rates to stop price hikes

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has scrapped 100/- levy per litre on petrol, diesel and kerosene for the next three months, as a remedy to the continued rise of fuel prices in the world market lately fueled by the Russia-Ukraine war.

A ministerial statement said yesterday that Energy minister January Makamba has signed amendments to regulations applicable on the levy in order to comply with the cabinet decision, noting that the risky environment has pushed up global oil prices, affecting local market prices.

The levy scrapping takes effect to-

day up to the end of May as the government continues to assess oil price trends in the world market, the statement indicated, affirming that while the measure will reduce revenues by 30bn/- per month, forsaking the revenue is better than unleashing the full effect of global oil price changes.

With the government pressures

on fuel prices during March will be cooled off, making things easier for traders and consumers, it said, highlighting the fact that the decision is part of implementing instructions by President Samia Suluhu Hassan last October 5 in a meeting with ministers and heads of various public agencies.

She directed the various authorities to work to reduce the various levies put at 102bn/- to shield fuel consumers, thus the fuel cap prices are expected from the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWU-

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan leads a high-powered Tanzanian delegation (L) in talks in Dubai at the weekend with Airtel Africa managing director Olusegun Ogunsony (3rd-R), Airtel East Africa managing director Ian Ferrao (2nd-R) and Airtel Tanzania regulatory and corporate communications director Beatrice Singano (R). Photo: State House

Dubai logistics firm, TPA sign \$500m deal for credit financing

By Guardian Reporter

THE DP World, a Dubai port multinational logistics company, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for \$500m investments with the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) for various projects aimed at improving efficiency in the country's ports.

The company specialising in cargo logistics, port terminal operations, maritime services and free trade zones signed the pact over the weekend at the on-going Dubai Expo 2020 with TPA Director General Eric Hamissi, with the firm being represented by its chief executive officer, Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem.

The MoU signing event witnessed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan was part of Tanzania events at the expo, with the previous day to the signing dedicated to Tanzania, where President Samia officiated.

Funds tied to the agreement will be spent on developing various ports, targeting key areas of information and communications technology systems, training for capacity building among TPA staff and improvements in port infrastructures, the TPA director stated, noting that the venture will enable the country's ports to enhance competitiveness and improve services.

The expo, attracting over 190 participating countries, started last October 1 and will conclude on March 31, with scores of public institutions participating, including the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade), the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA), the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA), the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) and the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS).

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Z'bar gives 900 Ukrainian tourists accommodation

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has granted 900 Ukrainian citizens stranded in the Isles due to the war in their country temporary refuge following a request for continued stay

President Mwinyi made the re-

marks here yesterday when briefing reporters, another event in which the president personally appears for a month-end press briefing.

He said the Ukrainians have asked for continued stay for the time being, mostly arriving to the Isles as tourists and housed in ho-

tels. They have spent up the holiday cash they disposed and cannot meet hotel expenses, he said.

The president said the government, upon receiving the request, liaised with tourist hotel operators where they are housed to allow them to remain without paying up their bills.

"We have been receiving many tourists from Ukraine and at present we have 900 of them who cannot go back home and have asked for assistance," he said, elaborating that some hotels agreed to keep

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SADC states to harmonise counter-terrorism strategies

By Felister Peter

MEMBER States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) who have not yet harmonised their national counter terrorism strategy with the regional strategy have been urged to do so and start implementation to strengthen unity and fight terror acts.

Dr Stergomona Lawrence

Tax, the minister for Defence and National Service said at the launch of the SADC regional counter terrorism centre (RCTC) in Dar es Salaam yesterday that cooperation between countries is important because terrorism is not an ordinary war where the enemy is visible.

"Some supporters of terrorism groups are part of our society and terrorism acts in a bor-

derless way, receiving support from within and outside the country," the minister affirmed. The centre is designed to enable member states to strengthen cooperation in confronting threats and fighting terrorist attacks, where exchanging experience through collection, analysis, information exchange and capacity building training is

vital to this ability. Terrorism needs to be addressed vigorously through cooperation without hesitation, she said, underlying the need for SADC members to tackle the challenge fully. The centre will enable countries to enhance effectiveness and efficiency in fighting terrorism, with its setting up being part of goals of the 2015 SADC Counter Terror-

ism Strategy amended last year, an extension of the regional early warning system. The early warning system facilitates access to information on various threats including terrorism and helps national counter terrorism centres and the regional centre to take appropriate actions, she said.

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Govt scraps levy on fuel

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RA tomorrow, March 2.

Meanwhile in Zanzibar, President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has tasked inspection agencies to check the rising food prices as the Isles approach the fasting month of Ramadhan.

The government has reviewed tax imposed on food items and opted to reduce tax rates on sugar items, with sugar earlier being levied at 15 per cent Value Added Tax (VAT) and 25 per cent import duty, and the rates are now reduced to 12.5 per cent.

"My call to traders selling food items is to take up the government's good intentions in reducing tax rates to enable many people access essential goods," he said, noting that the government set sugar indicative prices at not more than 2,000/- per kg in Pemba and not more than 1,900/- per kg in Unguja.

The Fair Competition Commission needs to take up its responsibilities by visiting shops to enforce those indicative prices, as the government must take stern measures to ensure compliance, he declared.

Boats purchased to transport people to outer islands, especially those in Pemba were not being operated as required, while private boat owners complain that the government boats were affecting their business prospects, he affirmed.

Dr Mwinyi also said the government announced the sale of ships owned by Zanzibar Shipping Corporation, but so far no takers have come forward, pointing out that MV Mkombozi I is not fit for use and it only offers spares or scrap metal needs.

The government continues to build modern hospitals in each district with modern technology, abandoning using exercise books when recording patients' details, he added.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (2nd-R) has a quick word with his Nigerian counterpart, Prof Yemi Osinbajo (in black cap) in Arusha city yesterday. Photo courtesy of VPO

Z'bar gives 900 Ukrainian tourists accommodation

FROM PAGE 1

the Ukrainians without demanding payment and the government will look into tax dues demanded from the hotels.

In another development, the government called upon Tanzanian stu-

dents currently in Ukraine to be calm as the government is consulting countries with embassies in Ukraine on a safe way to evacuate them.

Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, the minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that talks were being held with South Africa's foreign

minister, the ambassador of Poland in Tanzania and diplomatic officials in Romania on how to rescue over 300 Tanzanian students still in Ukraine.

The students should remain calm, she said, citing the challenging environment where around 80 per cent of Tanzanian students in Ukraine are enrolled with universities near the

Ukraine-Russia border, making logistics difficult as it is a war zone.

Some of the students were ready to remain in Ukraine if they have assurances about their safety, the minister affirmed, noting that not all students want to come back; some want to continue staying but in safer locations.

On February 27, the government

directed that Tanzanians living in Ukraine leave immediately via Poland and Romania to return home.

Such a move will help us bring back our citizens safely," ministry said in a public notice, with available estimates putting the number of Tanzanians there at around 300, it added.



Tanzania Traffic Police commander Wilbroad Mutafungwa (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a certificate to Saimon Kalolo, director of an NGO known as Amend Tanzania. This was in appreciation of the cooperation the agency has been extending to police in enhancing road safety in the country. The occasion was the launch of a road safety project for government-run primary schools in the city dubbed Children's Court. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

CTI: Electronic tax stamp duty costs just too high

FROM PAGE 1

financial pressure on the local companies," he added.

This January the government made a slight review on ETS prices, lowering it by only 4 per cent, while earlier last month TRA announced the expansion of the ETS regime to three more product categories - bringing the total number of products subjected to ETS to ten. The new products are cement, sugar and cooking oil.

Mesiya Mwangoka, Tanzania Breweries Limited Corporate Affairs Director, meanwhile suggested that "the huge ETS cost manufacturers are made to pay amounts to penalty meant force them to pay tax".

She said although ETS was introduced to discourage the entry of counterfeiters into the Tanzanian market and help the government to raise revenue collection, there are still fake liquors in the market.

She expressed the view that well-designed tax stamps or marking regimes could easily remove the com-

petitive disadvantage that compliant producers face.

According to the manufacturers, the cost of ETS in Tanzania is higher than in a number of other countries, coming to an average of 21.4 per cent compared to Mauritius' 10.1 per cent.

In Rwanda the cost is 11.8 per cent lower than in Tanzania, while in Kenya it is 30.1 per cent higher and in Uganda it is 50.3 per cent higher than in Tanzania. The two countries latter are also supplied by SICPA.

The use of ETS, first rolled out in Tanzania in January 2019 and installed in 19 factories (producing cigarettes, alcohol, wine and spirits), has been expanding with the current number of registered companies being over 270.

ETS contains a tracking and tracing system that enables both the tax authorities and consumers to easily and effectively tell whether the tax stamp fixed on a product is original or fake. It is believed to discourage the entry of counterfeiters into the Tanzanian market.

Following the fragile situation in Eswatini and Mozambique, SADC deployed military teams to examine the reality of terrorism and violent extremism in some districts of Cabo Delgado Province in the northern part of Mozambique, she added.

SADC states to harmonise counter-terrorism strategies

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"Terrorism has serious social, economic and security implications on innocent civilians," she stated, citing data from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) indicating that between 2007 and 2016 African countries lost \$119bn in the fight against terrorism, funds that would have been channeled to profitable development efforts.

She urged SADC member states to pursue African Union agreements and protocols on terrorism and United Nations Security Council resolutions on counter terrorism which calls on UN member states to engage in implementing UN guidelines and mechanisms on the issue.

In his address, SADC Executive Secretary Elias Magosi underscored the need for the adoption of counter terrorism measures including

comprehensive legislation and policies, accelerated formulation of national counter-terrorism strategies and plans of action, strengthening of national counter-terrorism centres (NCTCs) and especially financial intelligence units.

Strengthening criminal justice systems through capacity building and training to effectively detect, prevent, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism-related offences was equally

vital, he affirmed, insisting on the need for SADC countries to enhance the capacity to curb the spread of radicalism through social media and the internet.

"While the advent of internet and social media has enabled swift and real time information sharing and exchanges, it has also become world's major driver and feeder of radicalism, terror planting and harvesting," he stated.

Setting up the centre was

a measure taken in accordance with provisions of the SADC Treaty, namely the protocol on politics, defence and security co-operation of 2001. There is also the SADC Mutual Defence Pact of 2003 also geared towards the preservation of peace, security and stability in the SADC region.

The centre is intended to ensure enhanced coordination, strengthened partnerships and fostering timely response to terrorism or vi-

olent extremism within the region, he specified.

Machana Shamukuni, Botswana's Minister for Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development said the offer by Tanzania to house the centre confirms the country's long standing commitment to regional cooperation on peace, security and development, championed by the late father of the nation Mwalimu Nyerere.

"The centre is the first of

its kind by regional economic communities (RECs) in Africa, to serve as a coordinating hub to advance regional counter-terrorism capacity-building efforts and advise SADC member states on effective counter-terrorism policies and programmes on the prevention of violent extremism and radicalization," he said.

Mashego Dlamini, the deputy minister for International Relations and Co-operation in South Africa,

Bashungwa directs RCs to establish one-stop centres for customer care services

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

MINISTER of State in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) Innocent Bashungwa has directed regional commissioners to establish one stop centres for customer care services to ease service delivery.

Bashungwa made the remarks yesterday when he toured the Coast Region and inspected development projects namely construction of classrooms at Tumbi Primary School and Kibaha Secondary school under the Kibaha Education Centre (KEC).

The minister hailed the Coast RC Abubakar Kunenge for implementing the directive which the government issued recently to establish the centres to facilitate service delivery.

"I call upon other regional commissioners to embrace what Coast RC has done which will go a long way to ease service delivery among our people," he said.

After inspecting the projects, the minister commended the Coast Region for the job well done which he said has considered value for money.

Bashungwa said the government will in the next budget work on other challenges affecting education such as construction of teacher's houses and facilitating better working environments.

In implementing this, the minister said the government will work together with the Tanzania Teachers' Union to ensure a safe teaching and learning environment.

The minister called upon the pupils to work hard in their studies to work for their country in various sectors.

He called upon the KEC to find other areas of focus on as well as find

other ways of generating revenues to develop the area.

Earlier, KEC Director Robert Shilingi said they were facing various challenges including inadequate budget and poor infrastructure.

KEC hosts Kibaha girls secondary school, Tumbi Secondary school, Science College and the development institute.



I call upon other regional commissioners to embrace what Coast RC has done which will go a long way to ease service delivery among our people,



Feleki Amdi (gesturing), a consulting engineer with Kigoma Region's Nduta-Kabingo tarmac road project, makes an on-site briefing yesterday to Works and Transport deputy minister Godfrey Kasekenya (L) on the headway made in the work. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Elderly people over 70 soon to start drawing monthly salaries

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AS the number of old people living in urban precincts such as cities increase, Tanzania is among the four African countries working on special policies to accommodate elderly persons in the country.

That was stated here by Arusha district commissioner, Said Mtanda during the opening of the special meeting on 'Accountability and Fulfillment for Older People,' in the initiative to 'Raise their Dignity,' organized in Arusha by HelpAge International. "I was among the legislators that worked on a new policy of elderly persons in the parliament whose execution will see all older people aged 60 years and above

receive monthly payments in order to improve their living standards," said Mtanda.

The District Commissioner had in the past served as Member of Parliament for Mchinga constituency for ten years from 2010 and during that time he participated in formulating the policy for taking care of elderly persons.

"It all awaits execution, we envisage that once in operation older people aged from 60 years and above will start getting monthly allowances in form of pensions," added DC Mtanda, who boasts to have championed old people rights during his time as legislator.

"Already Zanzibar is doing very well and since 2016 the Islands have been paying elderly persons

their monthly allowances. We anticipate that the mainland will soon follow suit. Still, old people on the mainland have also been benefitting from the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) scheme," he pointed out.

The Country Director for HelpAge International in Tanzania, Smart Daniel stated that they were working with the government to ensure that the proposed income security for old people goes into effect.

"In Zanzibar, people aged 70 years and above, draw monthly pensions amounting to 20,000/- . On the mainland the initial proposal was for elderly persons from 60 years who will be paid at least 28,000/- but the figure is subject for

review," said Daniel. Tanzania, through HelpAge International, is among the four African countries undertaking special projects to guarantee sustainable incomes for elderly persons, others being Malawi, Ethiopia and Mozambique whose delegates are also attending the Arusha Meeting.

They are undertaking the project on cue from a similar successful program being executed in Ireland and the latter is supporting similar initiatives on the African continent.

Tanzania is already issuing special identity cards for old people to allow them get free medical services in public hospitals and health centers as well as getting special priority when it comes to being first in the line, in case of queues.

Horticulture sector reels from Russia invasion of lucrative export market

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

RIPPLE effects in global trade due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine are starting to be felt locally, with stakeholders brooding over its impact on the multi-million-dollar horticulture industry, starting to recover after a prolonged hold out in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Horticulture, a rising foreign exchange earner, had started to recover from cessation of exports for most of 2020 up to mid last year, which brought the \$800m industry into the doldrums.

Prospects were high that farmers would raise their glasses to toast for substantial earnings, after the industry's flamboyant driver, TAHA unlocked promising outlets in the Ukraine market.

TAHA Group CEO, Dr. Jacqueline Mkindi said that the agency is watching with great concern the development of the war in Ukraine "as its consequences will travel to some villages in Tanzania and affect our small-scale horticultural farmers. Their crops had just started being exported to Ukraine," she said.

Through a project named 'enhancing market access for horticultural products (EMAH) funded by Trade-mark East Africa (TMEA), the agency sought out outlets in Ukraine, expecting to deliver upwards of 109 metric tons of ginger, green beans, chilies and bitter melon, via a sales and marketing firm, Akida Group Ltd.

The Libyan originating company expects to leverage on experiences from its existing business activities in Latin America, Europe

and West Africa, while it has contact with a similar firm based in Dnipro in Ukraine.

Chroniclers say the Ukraine firm is a leading retail and commodity brokers concern, operating with over 1,500 supermarket chains. Its chief executive, Dr Promise Isaac, is described online as a medical doctor, global speaker, entrepreneur and agripreneurs based at Dne-

propetrovsk Pediatrics City Hospital.

The CEO is on record that the firm requires two shipping containers loaded with 29 metric tons of ginger for export to Ukraine every week, equivalent to eight containers per month, so as to fill its supermarket chains' empty shelves in the central Europe breadbasket state.

Jubilee
LIFE INSURANCE
Jubilee Life Insurance Corporation of Tanzania Limited
HEAD OFFICE: P.O. Box 20524 DAR ES SALAAM

LOSS OF LIFE POLICY NO
T12016000341951
MOHAMED M HAZALI

Application has been made to this company for the issue of duplicate of the above numbered policy, the original having been reported as lost or misplaced. Notice is hereby given that unless objections is lodged to the contrary at the office of the company within thirty days from the date of this notice, duplicate policy will be issued, which will be sole evidence of the contract.

UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

1. Background:
The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Regional Bureau in Nairobi, Kenya, provides operational support to 13 UNHCR country operations within the East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region.

This, therefore, serves to invite registered, reputable and qualified manufacturers and suppliers to submit offers for below mentioned goods.

2. Requirement:

TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER	TENDER DESCRIPTION	CLOSING DATE
RFP/HCR/RB/NBI/22/003	PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR A BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES(NCD) OF REFUGEE AND HOST COMMUNITY IN THE EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND GREAT LAKES REGION CONTEXTS; TANZANIA, BURUNDI, SUDAN	18th March 2022

3. Eligibility:
Consultancy Firms, authorized service providers, registered with the relevant government authorities, with sound financial basis, relevant experience, reputed clientele and with knowledge of how to meet UNHCR's needs (UNHCR being a humanitarian emergency response agency operating under demanding conditions), are invited to participate in the bidding process.

Complete set of tender documents can be received by sending an email to KENRBSMS@unhcr.org

To request for the documents, please insert the Tender reference number on the subject line of your email.

UNHCR tenders are free of charge. Please do not pay for the same.

CHINA DASHENG BANK
中華大盛銀行

Extelecoms House, Ground Floor 32, Samora Avenue
TEL: +255 222 127 586

P.O. BOX 388, Dar es Salaam

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF CHINA DASHENG BANK LTD KARIAKOO BRANCH	
PROCUREMENT PROCESS	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
OFFICE	CHINA DASHENG BANK LTD-TANZANIA
ADVERTISED ON	01/03/2022
DEAD LINE	15/03/2022 AT 5:00 PM
WORK	CONSTRUCTION OF GROUND FLOOR SPACE

China Dasheng Bank Limited located at Mezzanine floor of Extelecom House-Samora avenue/Bridge Street junction in Dar es Salaam has set aside funds in 2022 to set up a new branch by re-constructing a ground floor space of a low rise building in kariakoo area (approx. .290 sqm).

China Dasheng Bank Ltd now invites eligible contractors registered with the contractors Registration Board in classes I, II & III to express interest in carrying out construction works. Interested firms should provide information demonstrating they have the required qualification and specific experience in undertaking this work.

The shortlisting criteria are;

- i. The firm should have at least 10 years general experience in construction of building and civil works.
- ii. The firm must have completed at least two (2) projects of similar nature for the last 10 years with relevant evidence.
- iii. The firm must have evidence of having managerial and technical capability to undertake such work.
- iv. The firm must have evidence of having a valid Business license, Tax clearance and Annual subscription.

Applications should be addressed to:

The Chief Executive Officer,
China Dasheng Bank Ltd,
P.O. Box 388,
Dar es Salaam.

Physical Address:
Mezzanine Floor, Extelecoms House,
Samora Avenue, Dar es Salaam.

Mwanza Women: Albinism giving us a rough time

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

SOME women with albinism in Mwanza Region have appealed to the government to educate men so that they can change their mindsets and be willing to marry them, saying they find it hard to get men for them to marry.

They also called on the community to abandon misleading beliefs that once a man sleeps with a woman with albinism, he can be cured of HIV/Aids.

Speaking to reporters here yesterday at the meeting convened by the region's peace committee comprising of religious leaders, a member of Association of People With Albinism for Mwanza region - Under the Same Sun, Monica Yusuph said they find it difficult to get men to marry them.

She said for a long time men have been avoiding marrying women with albinism without any basic reasons.

"We, people with albinism do not get men to woo us and ultimately marry us, hence we ask the government to concentrate in educating the society that women with albinism have no difference to other ordinary women," she said.

Regarding the issue of a man making love to a woman with albinism to get cured of HIV/Aids, Monica said there was no such thing as the practice will only spread the disease further.

Speaking on the subject, the

Secretary of Under the Same Sun for Mwanza Region, Angelina Chuma admitted the existence of stigma in her life.

She said she once had a fiancée but the community used to laugh at him asking why he decided to have relationship with a woman with albinism.

She added that because of that he decided to leave her even though they had a child together.

For his part, a member of the Mwanza Region Peace Committee, Bishop Charles Sekewa said they will continue to preach for love in the entire community.

He added that it is time for people to stop stigma of any kind, and instead they should give the opportunity to people with disabilities in religious duties.



We, people with albinism do not get men to woo us and ultimately marry us, hence we ask the government to concentrate in educating the society that women with albinism have no difference to other ordinary women



Nsolo Monzi (C), NMB Bank Plc's Central zonal manager, pictured in Dodoma city yesterday showing various cards issued by the bank and meant for use by its customers to make payments and win cash prizes in the monthly 'MastaBata' campaign raffles. He is with NMB customer care officer Susan Manga (R) and Gaming Board of Tanzania representative Ibrahim Shikana. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt reminds road contractors to adhere to standards

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

CONTRACTORS of the 260.5km Manyovu-Kasulu-Kibondo-Mibindo road at tarmac level have been called to complete work in the required quality standards to make it last long.

The contractors are - CHICO building the 62.5km Nduta-Kabindo road stretch, Sinohydro Corporation building the 25.9km Nduta-Kibondo Town road stretch and Stecol Corporation building the 59.35km Mvugwe-Nduta Junction

stretch.

The remarks were made here at the weekend by the Works and Transport Deputy Minister (Works division) Eng Godfrey Kasekenya during his inspection visit of the project.

"We expect this project to be completed so that repairs thereto, if any, should come after 20 years, hence TANROADS, on behalf of the government should make sure you supervise the contractors closely for high quality work," he stressed.

He also instructed them to increase working time as well as equipment to make sure the project is completed as early as possible in order to open Kigoma Region with tarmac roads.

"The government will continue paying money for the project, and it is your responsibility to increase working time," he added.

Eng Kasekenya explained the importance of the road that connects to the East Africa's road network from Nyakanazi to Kigoma through Kibondo

and Kasulu districts to Manyovu at tarmac level.

The implementation of the 260km Manyovu - Kasulu - Kibondo -Kibingo road at tarmac level has been split into four stretches - Kasulu-Manyovu and its feeder roads from Kasulu Town (68.25km), Kanyani-Kidyama-Mvugwe (70.5km), Mvugwe-Nduta Junction (59.35km) and Nduta Junction-Kibingo (62.5km).



Dodoma district commissioner Jabir Shekimweri (C) cuts the ribbon yesterday to launch a residential postcode address at Swaswa Ng'ambo Street in the district's Ipaga ward. To his right is Agriculture deputy minister and Dodoma Urban legislator Anthony Mavunde while in all-blue is Dodoma city mayor Prof Davis Mwamfufe. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Dodoma's 7.9bn/- worth machinga market expected to be presented to Samia March 17

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA City Council has allocated 7.9bn/- for the construction of a modern market for small traders dubbed "Machinga Open Market" that will be operating 24 hours a day.

Addressing reporters here at the weekend, Dodoma City Executive Director, Joseph Mafuru said after it is completed, the market, to be built at Bahi Road area will be presented to President Samia Suluhu Hassan on March 17 this year as present to her since she became President.

Mafuru said apart from presenting the market to the President, but for the City Council, it is part of its implementation of its strategic development plans to have friendly infrastructures for petty traders to operate safely.

He added that so far the construction of the market that will incorporate various kinds of businesses in 70 per cent complete.

He said the project is and will incorporate various services a modern one including roast meat sale for 24 hours a day, drinks, shoemakers, painters and saloon services for women.

He added that after presenting the market to the President, beginning March 18 all petty traders will have been removed from the streets including other unauthorized areas and added that the funds for the project will come from the Council's internal revenues.

He said so far the project has cost 4.9bn/- and have already paid the contractor 3bn/-.

Mafuru added that the market will be able to house 5,000 traders, but statistics available show that there are only about 3,000 petty traders.

He added that the traders were involved in every stage in the implementation of the project and so far there haven't been any problem as the money for construction work is available.

Primary school needs 51 pit latrines to cater for 1,383 students

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

MSEKI Primary School in Bulungwa Ward, Ushetu District, Shinyanga Region needs 51 pit latrines, as the current situation is challenging to students due to limited facilities.

The school, with 1,383 students has only 11 pit latrines,

the situation that has seen students help themselves in fields, especially in rainy seasons posing hazards of waterborne diseases.

This was revealed by the school's board chairman, Robert Nteba at the weekend during fund raising event for the construction of two classrooms

for the school.

Nteba said during rainy seasons students help themselves in nearby fields as the available pit latrines overflow with sewage and the situation becomes serious due to the big number of students.

He told the gathering of officials at the event including

vice chairman of Ushetu District Council Emmanuel Makashi, Nteba said in general the school's situation was not good and that is why they mobilised business people in the area to see what can be done.

For his part, Ushetu District Primary Education Officer Valena Ntulo said they are pleased by

the decision of some business people in the area to assist in the construction of classrooms due to the big number of students.

The chairman of Bulungwa Ward Traders, Michael Mbowe said they want to build three classrooms at the school after seeing the situation.

He said upon completion, the

classrooms will give room even to students who live in nearby villages to attend classes, and added that they will reduce truancy at the school.

For his part, vice chairman of Ushetu district council, Emmanuel Majashi who was an official guest at the fund raising event said the council will chip

in the classrooms construction work during the coming budget, adding that as for now the council budget estimates have already been submitted to the government.

During the fund raising event, 2.3m/- was raised, including nine bags of cement and pledges for 21 more bags.

Over 11,000 Dar pupils set to benefit from rcity's road safety training programme

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 11,000 pupils in 10 public primary schools in Dar es Salaam Region are set to benefit from training on road safety aimed at reducing accidents near schools.

The three-week training under the road safety programme for primary schools will be run by an international road safety non-governmental organisation—AMEND in collaboration with the traffic police department in Dar es Salaam Region.

The road safety programme for primary schools started in 2019 and every year the programme reaches out to pupils in over 10 schools.

Speaking at the launch of the training programme yesterday, Traffic Police Commander, Wilbrod Mutafungwa said the programme dubbed 'Mahakama ya Watoto' (juvenile court) would greatly reduce road crashes near schools.

Mutafungwa recalled that the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that nearly 3,700 people die in road crashes every day globally.

In Africa, the number of injuries from road accidents has kept on increasing due to development growth.

In Tanzania, statistics indicate that in 2021 a total of 1,245 people lost their lives and 2,023 others were injured in road accidents. The reports had it that

out of them, 56 students died and 65 others were injured during that period.

"Of recent, the Traffic Police division has taken serious measures to control road accidents, including provision of road safety education to different groups of road users including pupils who have been major victims," the traffic police boss stated.

In continuing with public education, the traffic police, in collaboration with the AMEND, intends to implement the training programme, with target being pupils with special needs.

"Among other things, the training would involve face to face interviews between pupils and drivers found to have broken the traffic laws while using roads near schools," he explained.

He further said the programme is expected also to spread education to parents through educated pupils.

AMEND country manager, Simon Kalolo said the training programme will cover all the five councils in Dar es Salaam and will also focus on schools in needy of infrastructures for road safety, particularly those allocated near roads.

"Apart from training, we will look at schools in need of road safety infrastructures such as road signs," he elaborated. He said after the training, they will issue certificates to trained pupils.



'Vodacom Shangwe' promotion raffle winners Miraji Zubery (2nd-L) and Faustine Boay (2nd-R), both residents of Babati in Manyara Region, show off their smart TV awards at the weekend only moments after receiving them from Vodacom senior sales manager Nathan George (R) and sales manager Nanyaro Kaanankira (3rd-L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

IAE sends 97 students back to school

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Institute of Adult Education (IAE) has sent back to school 97 students who stopped lessons for various reasons including pregnancies.

IAE's resident instructor for Arusha Region, Nicolaus Mlawa said the students were formerly in secondary schools and stopped classes due to pregnancies.

Mlawa said Arusha Region has four special teaching centres including Levulosi in Arusha City with 53

students, Mto wa Mbu FDC in Monduli District with 15 students, Welio in Karatu District with 15 students and Lake Eyasi at Mang'ola, also in Karatu District with 11 students.

He added that the institute is implementing the Five Year Development Plan sponsored by the World Bank that aims to return to schools all students who had abandoned classes due to pregnancies.

He said the students will study for a period of two years, and in the initial one-year period they will cover

two classes and the second one-year period they will also cover two classes to enable them sit the Form IV General Knowledge examination.

He said the students will study 19 subjects including one on life studies, after which they will sit for the Form IV General Knowledge examination and if they pass they will qualify to do Form IV examinations as independent candidates.

He added that in the plan, school fees and all books including text books are covered and parents meet only pay

for their uniforms.

He added that the plan came into effect last year and is being implemented in every district that should have learning centres for the students.

"In 2023 the plan will incorporate Ngorongoro, Longido, Arumeru and Monduli districts, and those students who cannot make to the centres due to long distances from their residences they will learn online, the aim is to reach as many students as possible," he added.

Govt salutes development partners for support given in implementing reforms in managing public funds

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has hailed the development partners' support in the public finance management reforms at the district councils, saying a lot of successes have been realised.

Under the Public Finance Management Reform Programme (PFMRP V, 2017 - 2022) have improved revenue management, increasing local government authorities (LGAs) own source contribution to total domestic revenue from eight percent to 16 percent.

It has helped improve financial flow from central government to the LGAs from 60-80 percent with some councils reducing dependence on central government funding by 15 percent.

Addressing the public financial management stakeholders during the programme implementation committee meeting, the Permanent Secretary in President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), Prof Riziki Shemdoe said that some councils can now sustain themselves without central government assistance by 25 percent.

"The developments are due to the successful implementation of the programme which has been implemented by the government in collaboration with development partners," he said, adding that the programme is expected to end in June this year.

The PFMRP programme is supported by the United Kingdom through the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) with a comprehensive set of public finance

reform activities.

He said that revenue collections in councils have increased thus reducing dependence on central government from 8 per cent in 2016/2017 to an average of 15 per cent.

He further noted that, out of budget expenditure in councils has dropped from 10 per cent in 2016/2017 to two per cent in 2020/2021.

Prof Shemdoe further said that, the transfer of budgeted funds from the central government to the Local Government Authority has increased from 60 per cent in 2016/17 to 85 per cent in 2020/21. He further noted that queries from the Controller and Auditor General have decreased while transparency in procurement has improved.

"The programme has helped the councils to boost their revenue in various ways including identifying new sources of income and good management of the collected funds," he said urging the councils across the country to identify new sources of income to boost revenue," he said.

Also, Prof Shemdoe pledged that the government will continue to address the challenges identified during the implementation of the programme across 26 regions of Tanzania.

However, the PS commended the role played by stakeholders including the UK Government for their commitment to ensuring the public finance management is in good shape for sustainable development.

On his part, the Head of Political Governance Team for the British Consulate in Tanzania, Laurance Wilkes said the UK via FCDO has spent at least 52bn/- most of that used to accomplish the PFMRP's strategic objectives.

"We are so grateful to be part of this partnership because we absolutely see the value that we can play for you, and it fits the spirit of proper work as a donor partner working with the government to increase the revenue" he expressed.

PFMRP phase V operates through seven strategic objectives that focus on improving macroeconomic management, efficient resources allocation, timely and accurate budget execution, strengthening and effective oversight of PFM institutions, and improving PFM systems and outcomes in local government.



Selemani Bishagazi, director of Dar es Salaam's Kipunguni Information and Knowledge Centre director, airs his views at a seminar organised by Tanzania Gender Networking Programme in the city at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Rungwe District mobilises people to grow vanilla

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

RUNGWE District authorities in collaboration with agriculture stakeholders have embarked on special strategies to mobilise people to cultivate vanilla to make it among big cash crops to increase their incomes.

The remarks were made here by district's agriculture officer, Juma Mzara during the inspection visit by HELVETAS, a Non-governmental organisation (NGO) at the crop's demonstration farm at Sogea Village in the district.

Mzara said they continue to mobilise people to grow the crop due to the

district's good climate that is fit to cultivate vanilla crop.

He said people in Rungwe District have been cultivating various crops including bananas, tea, potatoes, avocado and cocoa in some areas, but vanilla is a new crop to them.

He said currently the crop is among highly priced crops at the world market hence if people in the district grow it well, they can get big harvests that will earn them more incomes.

"The people's response is still minimal due to the crop being new but we hope after huge harvests many people will be drawn into it," Mzara added.

Vanilla farming expert in Mbeya Region, Daud Mwalusesa said it was now three years since they started mobilising people to grow the crop and so far only 800 people have shown interest to grow the crop.

He said the farmers were being provided with 50 to 150 seedlings of the crop and those who show more interest have been given more seedlings.

He added that so far some farmers who have been growing the crop for long time have shown the capacity to increase the number of seedlings without depending the government's hand out as they can grow the seedlings for

themselves from the stalks.

He added that managing the crop is difficult as it requires a farmer to spend a lot of time to oversee it using his/her hands.

For his part, HELVETAS Director, Daniel Kalimaya said the organisation is among implementers of the programme for the improvement of the value chain for coffee, tea and other horticultural crops under AGRICONNECT and that it will continue working together with Rungwe District Council for the improvement of the vanilla crop.

“The developments are due to the successful implementation of the programme which has been implemented by the government in collaboration with development partners.”



TANZANIA PORTS AUTHORITY (TPA) PARTICIPATION AT THE DUBAI EXPO 2020

...SEVERAL AGREEMENTS SIGNED, TPA BAGS USD 500 MILLION



The Director General of the Tanzania Ports Authority TPA Mr Eric Hamissi and the Chief Executive Officer of the United Arab Emirates DPW Company, signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development of Tanzania Ports

THE DP World multinational logistics company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), worth USD 500 million, with the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to finance various projects aimed at improving efficiency of the country's ports.

The DP World is an Emirati multinational logistics company based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The company specialises in cargo logistics, port terminal operations, maritime services and free

trade zones.

The agreement for the grant was signed over the weekend at the ongoing Dubai Expo 2020 between the TPA's Director General Eric Hamissi and Chief Executive Officer of the DP World, Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem.

The signing of the agreement before President Samia Suluhu Hassan on Sunday, February 27, was part of events for Tanzania at the expo.

Prior to the signing ceremony, the previous day

was dedicated for Tanzania and President Samia officiated the day.

The funds from the agreement will be spent on developing Tanzania's ports, targeting key areas of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) systems, training for capacity building among TPA staff and improvements in port infrastructures.

The funds are also expected to enable the country's ports to increase their competitiveness at the global level and improve services.



A section of events involving visitors and exhibitors who visited the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA)'s Pavilion at the 2020 Dubai Expo

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What of Dar City Council's dream on collection of vehicle parking revenue?

SOMETIME in late December 2016, it was reported that motor vehicle parking revenue collection in Dar es Salaam would become automated beginning January 2, 2017.

The apparently good tidings were ascribed to none other than the then mayor of the sprawling city of a reported population of over four million.

Visibly delighted, the mayor told journalists that the new era would dawn with the deployment of precision-guaranteed electronic gadgets expected to put an end to cases of pilferage of car parking revenue inherent in or made easier by the manual system in use until then.

Elaborating on how the technological wizardry would work, the mayor said the city council had already acquired hundreds of computerised point of sales machines and distributed them to agents.

Should the magic work, it would be understandable for the mayor to be an even happier civic leader, what with suggestions that the machines were so made as to record and track customers' orders alongside managing inventories.

That would stand except maybe in the unlikely event of interruption due mischief, and it would have meant the end of complaints by vehicle owners about tricksters swindling them out of money for wrong parking and related offences not actually committed.

We wondered at that time whether City Hall had done enough homework to expect juicy financial and other rewards from the initiative it was setting out to implement, including ways to handle hiccups that could happen in case technology failed.

We also wondered whether the authorities concerned had sought advice from veterans in the use of technological data, arguably among the most relevant examples being the Tanzania Revenue Authority, Tanzania Ports Authority and the aviation and marine transport agencies.

We further thought that it would

been even better if the mayor and his team of colleagues and "aides" had seen reason in planning to borrow a leaf from urban authorities in parts of the world known acknowledged as veterans in the kind of business Dar es Salaam was due to begin.

Unfortunately, history had little to show that our country's commercial capital was serious enough in really learning from other parts of the world.

Yes, it was understood to have dispatched emissaries upon emissaries to various countries with long and rich experience in urban landscaping, environmental hygiene, public transport, etc., etc., but usually heading back home with little to show or offer in terms of practical knowledge gathered during such high-profile and usually costly "business missions".

It used to be especially common practice in Dar es Salaam for officially commissioned agencies to collect vehicle parking and other fees for the city council or the city's then three municipalities.

However, fraudsters would also often move similarly, minting money at the expense of the city and vehicle owners alike only to disappear without trace soon after.

Strangely, some agents would demand the said fees even if one had parked one's vehicle for only a short five minutes, which the mayor describe as wrong and unfair.

But now, going by the mayor's pronouncements, the new modalities would smarten, smoothen and expedite the collection of vehicle parking fees, thereby making the whole process more user-friendly and impenetrable to fraudsters.

It all sounded a cause Dar es Salaam motorists and other residents in their millions would be wise to throw their full weight behind in helping to end a deeply entrenched nuisance.

It would make interesting reading seeing the headway the city council has made in implementing this grand but rather fragile experiment - and whether the idea has impressed similar councils elsewhere in the country.

Dubai accords on investment a wake-up call for parastatals

VISIBLE achievements continue to straddle foreign visits by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who is proving practically the country's top economic diplomat.

Indeed, she has been tirelessly fighting woo foreign investors in various zones and hotspots to take an interest in Tanzania.

That should help ease efforts by the country's diplomatic missions to put the finishing touches to interest already created, concerning opportunities that they already appreciate.

When the leadership hasn't actually conducted ground-breaking work, it isn't easy for foreign missions to make inroads into fixed mindsets outside.

One area where the president's visits are changing the picture of investment pursuits from what was traditionally the case is that it isn't just a matter of inviting foreign firms to start new projects by allocating them land, supported by the existence of the right infrastructure.

It is also not just an issue of promising the speeding up of the issuance of business and other licences or simply laying out investment incentives in the sense of tax holidays.

It is now more a matter of joint venture projects involving public firms and private companies than obtained previously.

Our country needs considerable

opening up of its economy so that funds resulting from such ventures can enter the financial system and be loaned out usefully.

That is precisely the kind of environment that the president has laid the basis for actual realisation with the just-endorsed Dubai Forum accords, as major projects involving public companies have prequalified government guarantee.

This contrasts with traditional investment in a private capacity and in several areas starting to compete with prerogatives of this or that parastatal.

For instance, a firm starting an electrical appliances venture but the energy parastatal isn't involved is bound to fail as it would then have to do business with a rival. Drawbacks of this sort will likely be dealt with conclusively with the current approach.

We may not have crossed the horizon yet, but it must be admitted that it makes much economic sense thinking of joint venture projects where a win-win situation is assured.

That would replace failures where parastatals engaged with foreign firms on the basis of pseudo-privatisation. Hopefully, we have since learnt the right lessons to enable present-day agreements to travel a wiser and more rewarding path into success and profits, not litigations.



Is journalism now inadvertently contributing to climate inaction?

By Luba Kassova

NEW research underlines the struggle to interest audiences in the climate crisis story. What can be done to close the gaps between what audiences may need and want from climate change news and what newsrooms are producing?

As the tree branches outside the window bend violently under the weight of Storm Eunice, the worst storm to hit the UK in decades, the climate crisis has never felt more real and imposing.

In the background, the melancholic tones of Richard Ashcroft's "Ain't the Future so Bright" sarcastically project the despondency that the climate change story evokes in many audiences globally; at least in those who are engaged with it, which - we have learned - is a minority.

There is a great need to engage global audiences in the undeniably relevant climate crisis story that is soon to seep into every aspect of our lives. Yet, ever since the story first emerged decades ago, engaging audiences, let alone prompting them to act, has proved a challenge for news providers worldwide.

What can be done to change this? First of all, we have to close the significant gaps between what audiences may need from climate change news coverage if they were to get more engaged in the story and what news providers cover.

The relevance gap

To engage with the climate change story, audiences need to perceive it as relevant to them personally. Unfortunately, however, audiences globally perceive the story to be less relevant to themselves than to others.

When AKAS questioned members of the public about their personal worries recently, through a series of surveys in a range of countries, only a fraction of respondents - 3 per cent in the US, 8 per cent in Canada, 10 per cent in the UK and 12 per cent in Australia - spontaneously singled out climate change as a personal worry.

This low-perceived relevance of the story is partly caused by the climate news coverage failing to infuse the story with enough of the angles which are most relevant to audiences.

For example, AKAS' analysis of GDELT news stories between January 2021 and February 2022 revealed that news coverage of unemployment, jobs, Covid-19 and corruption, all of which

are of high audience relevance, rarely mentions the impact of climate change on these issues.

Conversely, climate news coverage does not zone in sufficiently on angles such as poverty, inequality and political or business corruption, that audiences do find relevant.

The news coverage volume gap

To engage audiences with a story which is important but is often perceived as lacking relevance, audiences need to stumble across it frequently in the news.

However, AKAS' analysis of the GDELT database of more than 750 million news stories worldwide since 2017 reveals that coverage of the climate news story is a drop in the ocean of news.

Over the last five years, news referencing climate change constituted less than 2 per cent of the overall news coverage. Interestingly, seven of the ten countries with the highest news coverage of climate change in the last year are island states - those most acutely battered by the problem.

Last year climate change was mentioned in 9 per cent of the news coverage in the Seychelles, followed by Jersey (7 per cent) and the Solomon Islands (6 per cent). Perhaps this is the level of coverage we should expect when the story is perceived by all to be relevant.

The emotions gap

Journalists rarely think explicitly about what specific emotions their news reports evoke. The climate change story demands that this changes so that emotions become a lens through which journalists assess their reporting.

Why? Because if audiences continually experience deactivating emotions on reading stories, they are more likely to disengage completely from the coverage.

Google surveys commissioned by AKAS in the UK, US, Canada, Australia and Nigeria between October 2021 and January 2022 revealed that sadness - a deactivating emotion - is universally the most frequently felt emotion in relation to climate change and climate change news coverage. It is more prevalent than fear, anger or hope.

In the UK, as many as 29 per cent of respondents spontaneously mentioned feeling sadness when questioned about the emotions they experienced when consuming climate change news reports (as opposed to 14

per cent who felt sad when thinking of climate change per se).

In the US the proportion was 19 per cent versus 15 per cent. In both cases, the news coverage seems to have overlaid an additional layer of negativity onto the audience's general despondence.

Alarmingly, an Ipsos survey undertaken in November 2021 in 27 countries revealed that one-fifth of young people (versus 12 per cent of 50+-year-olds) believe that it is too late to fix climate change.

Bipasha van der Zijde, a communications consultant at Words for Everything, based in the Netherlands, believes that there are two factors contributing to young people's higher levels of fatalism.

Firstly, their certainty that they will bear the brunt of the changing climate. "With the goal to evoke some action or outrage, some media and non-profits document the horrors that await them by instilling fear without providing any concrete solutions. There is much debate about solutions journalism, but simply instilling fear for a future that is doomed will unsurprisingly result in fatalism."

Secondly, van der Zijde believes that their fears are then often dismissed by the media, "by patronisingly referring to millennials (born between 1981 and 1996) as snowflakes, or Generation Z (born between 1997 and 2012) as the 'woke' generation" - which leaves them feeling disempowered.

Headlines such as "Global climate crisis: inevitable, unprecedented and irreversible" directly fuel the deactivating feelings of despondence, disempowerment, or apathy.

In recent decades, journalism's emphasis in climate change coverage has shifted from an era of "it's real" to "it's bad".

If journalism is to engage audiences and usher in progress, it needs to move forward to an era where coverage highlights that "it's bad but we can act to contain this".

The solutions gap

To be able to act on the behavioural-change demand that climate change places on us all, audiences need to be clear about what they can - and should - do. However, at present, solutions-based news reports are a few soft voices lost in a gigantic choir of hundreds of thousands of voices amplifying the challenges posed by climate change.

A recent analysis of the cumulative mentions of climate change terms

in Google news article headlines uncovered 336,000 stories that contained the term "climate change". Out of these, only 0.2 per cent contained the term "climate change solutions" and 0.5 per cent contained the terms "climate change" and "solution(s)".

According to Ipsos' November 2021 survey, a majority of the 20,000+ respondents (62 per cent) agreed that they hear much more about the negative impacts of climate change than they do about progress towards reducing its impacts.

Storm Eunice in the UK provided an opportunity for news providers to ramp up their climate change news coverage, establishing a more explicit link between events such as this storm and the longstanding climate crisis.

Yet, there was no change in the pattern of climate change coverage in the UK either during the storm or afterwards, with only 2 per cent of stories that referenced the storm also referencing "climate change". It felt like yet another missed opportunity to engage news audiences with the topic of the climate crisis.

In the aftermath of Storm Eunice, what does emerge is a degree of clarity in relation to what can be done to close the significant gaps impeding audience engagement.

Three ideas stand out among the dozens of opportunities, one being that news providers should avoid the solely apocalyptic "the end of the world is inevitable" news narratives that leave audiences feeling defeated and overwhelmed with sadness, fear, or both.

Two: In addition to stating the problem, they should ramp up the coverage and story narratives that relate to progress made to date, thereby combating the overwhelming negative bias. Their content should be centred around helping audiences to empower themselves.

Three: To increase the volume and relevance of the news coverage at the same time, news providers need to look for links to other high relevancy topics within their climate stories, alongside searching for the climate connection in all their high-profile stories.

• *A dispatch by the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA). This article is based on research conducted by journalist and researcher Luba Kassova and Richard Addy of AKAS, an international audience strategy consultancy, for the Journalism and the Climate Crisis Global eSummit.*

Investment in radio is key to Africa's connectivity

By John OMO

IN Africa, a continent grappling with limited ICT infrastructure and access to internet and digital technologies, radio remains the leading communication medium.

The medium boasts the highest audience and the widest geographical coverage, serving roughly 800 million people who remain offline - as outlined in a 2021 report by the International Telecommunication Union.

While modern technologies that complement radio broadcast such as internet have been received with skepticism, radio has over the years predominantly emerged as a trusted and influential source of information in Africa.

But if radio is indeed not competing with, but is instead complementing, these modern technologies, how can this powerful medium be used as a catalyst in Africa's digital transformation?

The incorporation of technology into radio broadcasts such as online/livestreaming services and the increased interaction between radio stations and their listeners through the use of mobile phones is a clear indication of the complementary roles of the technologies.

The role played by modern and emerging technologies in enhancing service delivery in the radio industry is just but one of the many benefits such technologies can offer not only to the industry but also to Africa as a continent.

Radio can also be used to advocate the uptake and adoption of these technologies.

Throughout history, radio has done tremendously well in influencing positive behaviour change among communities in Africa, sparking off socio-



economic development.

For instance, the rise of community radios has played a key role in conveying vital information and raising the awareness and understanding of these communities on important issues such as health, peace, civil rights, human rights, education, best agricultural practices as well as financial growth and empowerment.

Arguably, it can be said that Africa's digital transformation is not dependent on the attitude of some Africans towards ICTs but on the availability of ICT resources and infrastructure.

It is to be acknowledged that invest-

ment in ICT, which currently stands at US\$100 billion, is one of the key solutions in dealing with the digital divide on the continent. However, it is also important for Africa to prepare its population for the digital transformation.

Radio can play a key role in educating the masses on the importance of ICTs and technologies and advocating the increased use and uptake of ICTs.

Internet safety and cyber security is one of the key areas where radio can play a role in promoting ICT adoption and usage.

Online security threats can discour-

age individuals, including children, from fully exploiting the benefits of the internet. Radio can play a key role in educating the society on online safety by drawing messages from existing laws.

Through the radio, the community can be educated on how to identify and report online and ICT-facilitated crimes, including those committed against women and children. The internet can be used for personal and, consequently, societal development.

New opportunities for education, career development and endless commercial activities are daily availed

across the internet. However, a majority of mobile device users in sub-Saharan Africa still mainly use their devices mainly for social and entertainment purposes than for information-seeking or career- and commerce-related activities.

This is according to the Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey conducted by the PEW Research Centre.

Radio can also be used to encourage the masses to fully exploit ICTs, including their mobile phones, to access such opportunities and develop knowledge and skills that can positively impact themselves and the society.

Additionally, radio can also be used to encourage and challenge small business and farmers to explore on-line markets and resources.

Many new and innovative digital platforms and services are now available for small businesses and farmers to use.

Technology can help these very important groups in our community improve their growth and productivity and increase their market share by accessing new customers.

With these tools being introduced at a rapid pace, there is a dire need for these people to be educated on how to take advantage of such opportunities and thrive in an ever-changing digital environment.

When it comes to ICTs and digital technologies, content is the driver for the demand side of infrastructure.

Accordingly, Africa as a continent should promote the production of local content and applications - and radio can be used to encourage local content development as well as promote the digital content sector.

With the world having recently celebrated 2022 World Radio Day (February 13) under the theme "Radio and Trust", stakeholders should challenge themselves on how they can use this powerful medium to influence Africa's digital transformation.

The sooner our population appreciates the benefits of digital technologies, the faster the adoption will be even as the continent works towards closing the digital divide.

• John OMO is Secretary General of the Geneva-based African Telecommunications Union, a specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for all matters related to information and communication technologies.

New report shows how publishers are banking on AI to drive their business

A WAN-IFRA dispatch

MORE than 75 per cent of news executives surveyed in a just-published report by the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) say they believe that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is critical for the success of their businesses by year 2024.

But, as editors warm to the idea of using AI to help grow their subscription business and improve workflows, there is still a long way to go to reach true adoption.

About a year and a half ago, the Germany-based consulting group Schickler approached WAN-IFRA about possibly collaborating on a research report to examine how AI is being adopted and implemented by news publishers. Schickler itself had recently invested in data and AI expertise to meet the growing demands of their clients.

We were keen to pursue the cooperation, but the timing came on the heels of a similarly themed report (and cooperation with the University of Finland) about News Automation.

That report covered many of the basics of automation for news operations, but more specifically on news creation. Therefore, we thought that it made more sense to pursue this report with Schickler with a slightly different and more focused angle around the role AI is playing with reader revenue and edit-

ing, and hence the title: "AI's rising role with editing and reader revenue".

The basis of the report is built around a global survey of data specialists at news media operations, commercial executives and editors.

The survey features the most common use cases today for news publishers - again, restricted to reader revenue and editing - as we tried to gauge the current state of adoption, and the importance they place on AI within the next three years.

In the second part of the report, we present five case studies of news publishers who have implemented AI use cases such as dynamic paywall control, churn prediction modelling, automatic surfacing of archive content, and automatic creation of soccer game reports.

These cases, some curated and updated from our events, highlight not only the effectiveness of AI adoption but also its potential - as most are looking at "What's next" possibilities and developing projects and tools.

Naturally, these also show some of the challenges with experiments or usage as well as some of the uncertainties surrounding automation.

Some key takeaways

But what is absolutely certain is that AI and automation are clearly on the minds of publishers today. Our survey, as well as other studies from our World Press Trends project and

events, bear that out.

In general, more than 75 per cent of publishers say that AI will play a crucial role in the success of their businesses within the next three years.

Among the few other takeaways is that publishers are banking on AI for its business: Despite a slow rate of adoption, nearly 77 per cent of publishing executives responding to our global survey said that AI will be important for the success of their businesses come year 2024. Of that, 35 per cent said it would be very important.

Two: It can be expensive, but... AI innovation and investment is not just for the marquee publishers around the world as small publishers (across the globe) have already adopted AI in many facets of their activities.

Whether it is through in-house development or partnering with startups, universities/labs or other publishers, there are ways to get on board.

Now the reality on the ground... Actual adoption and implementation appears to tell a different story, at least when we conducted our survey nearly a year ago.

That indicates that, while there is enthusiasm to invest in AI in the near future, nearly 50 per cent of respondents said they have not adopted AI usage thus far; 19 per cent have implemented multiple cases, with only 11 per cent fully implementing one case.

Internal struggles: Any adoption of a new technol-

ogy brings its own set of obstacles and challenges, and AI is certainly no exception.

While there are a number of cases globally of small publishers implementing AI, publishers told us (in our survey) that their biggest challenge is a lack of funding in the budget and time compared with other projects.

Not far behind this is the difficulty in developing actual production-ready AI use cases.

Not ready to hand over the keys to AI

The near-taboo that was once associated with AI as it pertains to journalism is clearly fading, or even a moot point, as newsrooms and their editors lean into the clear benefits of automation.

It sounds like a cliché, but it is true: when done right, the advantages of automating mundane processes allow journalists to focus more on their core principles of creating quality content. But increasingly, as the survey showed, the intelligence side of AI is also winning over editors and journalists as it pertains to reader revenue strategies.

A lot of tools do a great job in informing the newsroom about what stories are trending and when. However, many of the AI tools already on the market and in practice today help us to predict more accurately which stories will be read, and more importantly, which stories will convert and retain based on historical data around subscrip-



tions and engagement.

"I think that the reluctance to use AI has completely changed, at least in our newsroom," said Adrian Basson, Editor-in-Chief of South Africa's News24, in a session dedicated to AI during WAN-IFRA's World News Media Congress in early December 2021.

He elaborated: "Analytics are much smarter now than purely page views. Analytics and specifically AI tools help us to convert casual readers into subscribers and actually build a reader revenue business that tacitly has helped to increase the size of our newsroom so

we can create better journalism.

"That is a beautiful cycle that The New York Times has championed for all of us to see: the more you invest in your journalism through more subscriptions, the bigger your newsroom is, and the better your journalism becomes."

News24 launched a free-mium paywall in August 2020, putting about 20 per cent of its content behind the subscription wall. The site had already worked with AI and machine learning to help moderate its comments section.

However, it then took

a new step by working with The Globe and Mail's technology to get directly involved in ranking news stories, prioritizing times to publish, and conversion predictions.

Proceed with caution

Bassons went on to say that, of course, he and his newsroom are acutely aware of the precautions that need to be taken with any technology like AI.

He said: "We have had great success so far, but our editors and staff still have control over the crucial editorial decisions we make and will continue to do so."

He elaborated: "It would be foolhardy of us to ignore the risks that we have seen around the world in the past five to six years, in terms of manipulation, misinformation, and echo chambers existing in publications.

"So I think we will have to be quite cautious as we move into a more automated future, in terms of content ranking and placement ... to really manage and mitigate the risks around sentiment analysis, around political analysis. ... All that said, I don't view AI tools or technology as a particular threat to that."

Pacific Islanders: Failure to commit to 1.5 degrees at COP27 will imperil the world's oceans



Pacific Islanders depend on coastal fisheries for food and commercial livelihoods. Photo: Catherine Wilson/IPS

CANBERRA

OCEANS play a pivotal role in regulating the world's climate and maintaining the conditions for human life on earth. And they are a crucial source of sustenance and economic wellbeing in many developing countries, including small island developing states. But Pacific Islanders are deeply concerned about the fate of the oceans if world leaders fail to secure the pledges needed to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 Degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels at the next COP27 climate change summit in November.

"We all need to do more. The target has been set. In the coming year, in the lead-up to the next climate change conference, there is a huge emissions gap. We are not translating that into tangible commitments on the ground that enable us, as humanity, to say we are on the right trajectory," Cameron Diver, Head of the Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Programme at the regional development organisation, Pacific Community (SPC), in Noumea, New Caledonia, told IPS.

The Pacific Ocean is the world's largest and covers one-third of the planet's surface. It's a major carbon sink. Oceans absorb nearly one-quarter of all carbon emissions associated with human activities every year. But, after mid-century, continu-

ing high emissions will generate a decline in the capacity of oceans to capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, reports the IPCC. And this will compromise their role in regulating climate and weather extremes.

The socioeconomic impacts of climate change in this scenario "could be catastrophic. It will have a massive impact on people who ultimately live their lives with the ocean," Diver emphasised. He elaborated that sea-level rise would diminish arable land and lead to population displacement, while higher levels of ocean acidification will threaten coral reefs and coastal fisheries. Food insecurity is a very real risk, given that 70 percent of Pacific Islanders derive their protein from inshore fisheries.

In the Polynesian atoll nation of Tuvalu in the Central Pacific Ocean, "all communities in Tuvalu live around the coast. We are surrounded by the sea, and coastal erosion is a great issue impacting on our food, especially inundating our pulaka pits," Teuleala Manuella-Morris, Country Manager for the Live and Learn environmental non-governmental organisation, told IPS. "Pulaka is a root crop and is grown in pits dug down to reach the rainwater trapped in the water pan. However, these can become salty during droughts or cyclones when the waves manage to get into the pulaka pits." Sea surges and cyclones are destroying many of these crops, she said.

Pacific Islanders have emerged as some of the world's strongest cam-

paigners for the conservation and sustainable development of the sea, a role that is driven by their dependence on the 'Blue Continent'.

"All Pacific Islands have a reli-

ance on tuna and other marine resources for government income, food security, livelihoods, and ecosystem services. In terms of income, this is particularly notable for many Pacific small is-

land developing states and territories where there are limited resources to provide alternative revenue streams, such as in Tokelau and Kiribati," Dr Graham Pilling, Deputy Director of the Pacific Community's Oceanic Fisheries Programme told IPS.

It's not just the Pacific but the world's oceans that will be threatened if carbon emissions continue to rise. And this would have serious consequences for the more than 260 million people across the globe with livelihoods that rely on marine fisheries and developing countries which benefit from the US\$80 billion which the sector generates in export revenues.

Over time, rising greenhouse gases lead to greater acidification and depletion of oxygen in the seas and changes in the circulation of sea currents. Rising temperatures are boosting thermal stress on coral reefs. Mass coral bleaching would lead to the deterioration and mortality of corals and the marine life they support.

The breakdown of reef and coastal marine ecosystems will have repercussions for coastal populations which depend on coastal fisheries and tourism for food and incomes. By 2050, only an estimated 15 percent of coral reefs worldwide will be capable of sustainable coral growth, according to the sustainable development organisation, Pacific Environment (SPREP).

Meanwhile, offshore fisheries, especially the tuna industry, provide essential government revenues and tens of thousands of jobs across the Pacific Islands. The tuna market is a global one, and the western and

central Pacific Ocean is the source of 60 percent of the world's tuna catch. Two-thirds of all tuna caught is acquired by foreign fishing vessels, with 90 percent taken by other countries for processing, reports the Pacific Islands Forum. The main nations that ply Pacific waters include Japan, the United States, Korea, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

Fishing access fees, for example, amount to US\$128.3 million or 70.6 percent of government revenue per year in Kiribati and US\$31 million or 47.8 percent of government revenue in the Marshall Islands.

However, a recent study by a group of international scientists, including several such as Steven R. Hare, Dr Graham Pilling, Dr Simon Nicol and Coral Pasisi, from the Pacific Community, highlights the serious consequences of global warming for the future of the region's tuna fisheries. Changes in the ocean are projected to drive tuna populations away from tropical waters.

"Modelling results suggest that overall, climate change may lead to reduced abundance of tuna in the waters of many Pacific Island countries and territories, and key tuna resources are likely to move further east into the high seas outside the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of Pacific Islands," Dr Simon Nicol, Principal Fisheries Scientist in the Pacific Community's Fisheries Division told IPS. "Given the contribution of tuna to annual GDPs of Pacific nations, reduced abundances and greater variability in annual catches will enforce 'Global Financial Crisis' type stressors on government services

provided by the Pacific Islands on a regular basis."

The study, published in the Nature Sustainability journal, concludes that, by 2050, the purse-seine catch of tuna in 10 Pacific Island nations could decline by an average of 20 percent, leading to a loss of US\$90 million in foreign fishing fees per year. The broader effects on islanders' lives could be more precarious economies, food insecurity and higher unemployment.

The repercussions of climate change on the oceans will be experienced not only in the Pacific but also in nations dependent on the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. This could affect the lives of more than 775 million people worldwide who rely on marine resources for socioeconomic survival and jeopardise the global market for marine and coastal resources and industries, which is currently valued at about US\$3 trillion every year.

Last year, Pacific Island Forum countries' leaders issued a statement calling for meaningful global action. We "note with significant concern that based on current trends, we will exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius as early as 2030 unless urgent action is taken, with significant adverse impacts on the ocean."

Diver also emphasised that climate pledges had to be embraced not only by world leaders but by everyone. "We need a whole of society approach. We need the whole of society to meet their obligations. We can't just rely on the public sector to do this; it has to go right across every sector. An integrated approach is needed," he said.



The Pacific is the world's largest ocean and plays a vital role in regulating the earth's climate. Photo: Catherine Wilson/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 KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAWYO 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 MATUKO 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

GGML winner of Global Safety Award for the third year running



GGML employees at work while adhering to safety conditions at the workplace, a procedure that enabled the company to win the World Safety Award for the third year in a row.

By Guardian Reporter, Geita

GEITA Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has received the 2021 Global Safety Award for the third consecutive year on account of ardent pursuit of occupational safety rules.

The company's outstanding performances include occupational fatalities for the last nine years, elimination of lost time injuries for four consecutive years, along with lack of workplace injuries in 2020 and 2021, officials said.

It was the best-ever performance

registered, in tandem with the 97.6 percent compliance to safety management systems and practicing a self-assessment protocol.

GGML also gained praise for taking proactive and innovative measures to eliminate or control safety hazards, receiving the Zero Harm Award for the fueling point relocation project, the IOT dynamic test machine installation and the safe powering of electrical cable system.

Simon Shayo, the company's vice president for Ghana and Tanzania said the recognition is testimony for the vigilance

and professionalism of GGML employees, contractors and management in maintaining a culture of safety and accountability.

The company's approach to safety consists in engaging people in the work of creating a safe environment, constructing robust systems that support safe work, and effectively managing risks through appropriate controls at all levels, he explained.

Improving safety performance is a key objective and continues to be a primary concern, while the health and well-being of

employees count a great deal as people are the mainstay of the business, and their well-being comes first, he stated.

"GGML realizes that it cannot rest on its laurels and will constantly strive to ensure that all persons entering any of the sites return home safely at the end of their shift," he declared.

The company will continue to work toward AngloGold Ashanti's 2030 goal of providing injury and harm-free workplaces, the company executive added.

Avocado farmers gear up for new harvest methods

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

SMALL avocado farmers in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region harvest using traditional ways to harvest their crop are beginning to feel that the practice lowers the quality of the crop, thus fetching lower prices.

Daniel Kalimbiya, the director of Helvetas-Kibwayi, a Swiss-funded non-governmental organisation said that farmers store their fruits in traditional ways like stuffing them in bags, which impairs and fail to gain adhesion of customers.

He made remarks at the weekend when donating 800 crates for harvesting avocado, valued at 14.4m/- to the Rungwe Association of Avocado Farmers (Uwamaru AMCOS).

Traditional ways to harvest avocado cramps the fruit and make it hard for customers to buy, or buy at lower prices, he said.

In order to reduce such losses, the Amcos is implementing the Agri-Connect initiative that works to improve the value chain for coffee, tea and horticultural crops, assisting avocado farmers with modern harvesting equipment.

Apart from the 800 crates, the NGO also provided them with a more usable tool for harvesting avocado, he specified, noting that Agri-Connect, sponsored by the European Union (EU) will enable farmers to avoid losses arising from bad harvesting methods.

The Amcos, in collaboration with the Uyolet Centre of the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Uyolet) expects to conduct research on a better tool for harvesting avocado for farmers.

For his part, Uwamaru AMCOS manager Cosmas Kidiga said the association, set up in 2012 and registered in 2018, was working on avocado farming, having 316 members working on the crop within the district.

Dr Vincent Anney, the district commissioner, received the equipment and urged Uwamaru leaders to use the equipment for the task intended to add value to the key horticultural crop.



Africa rising as investment destination, US leaders say

By Guardian Reporter

UNITED States Congressman Gregory Meeks has appealed to the United States to take up investment in Africa as part of shaping up its own future.

The New York Congressman is chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the US House of Representatives, issued this appeal during a visit to the African Development Bank Group over the weekend with a team of congressional colleagues who concluded a tour of three West African countries.

They held conversations with AfDB Group President Dr Akinwumi Adesina and senior bank officials at the AfDB headquarters in Abidjan on US-AfDB ties, as the US is a key shareholder in the continental institution.

He said that the Africa's youth population is larger than America's entire population, and thus unavoidably part of the future of the United States.

"My singular focus had been to make sure Africa moves from the back to the front. There's a lot of work to do. Governments can't do it alone," he said, citing the AfDB as having a big role to play. "When Prosper Africa needs guidance, I will point them to the African Development Bank," the Congress leader declared.

Meeks was accompanied by Congressman Ami Bera of California, Congresswoman Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Congresswoman Joyce Beatty of Ohio, Congressman G.K. Butterfield of North Carolina, Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence of Michigan, and Congressman Troy Carter of Louisiana.

The group had visited Sierra Leone and Liberia before their arrival in Côte d'Ivoire, saying they were inspired by immense opportunities the African continent offers to American investors.

Adesina thanked the US authorities for continued support, including support for the

bank's general capital increase in 2019, which saw its capital base rise from \$93bn to \$208bn.

Adesina said the United States, the second-largest shareholder of the bank, was working with the right institution.

"We are African, we understand the needs of Africa, and we are driving change in Africa," he said, while

Adesina and the visiting members of Congress agreed on the need for closer cooperation between the AfDB and US investors.

The bank would open an office in the US capital once board approval was secured, he stated, noting expectations to provide guidance about how to structure substantive US private sector investment in Africa.

"We'd like to see a lot more US direct investment in infrastructure," he said, promising to work with the US Trade and Development Agency and others on these prospects.

Adesina said African economies were rebounding, but the continent faces mounting commercial debt, the adverse impacts of climate change, lack of opportunities for youth, and poor access to Covid-19 vaccines.

The AfDB is leading calls for the reallocation of \$100 billion in International Monetary Fund special drawing rights (SDRs) to African countries, that these funds be channeled through the bank as a prescribed holder of SDRs, and as an institution which has a AAA credit rating. "SDRs offer African countries a tremendous opportunity to deal with debt," the bank chief said.

Adesina asked for the United States' support in tackling climate change, explaining AfDB interest in climate adaptation, where US special climate envoy John Kerry and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen were in liaison with AfDB on climate finance.

Last April, AfDB with the Global Center on Adaptation, launched the Africa Adaptation

Acceleration Program to mobilize \$25bn to support climate adaptation on the continent.

Africa's youth featured prominently in the discussion at Abidjan, with the visiting delegation learning that the AfDB aids entrepreneurship and skills development, especially digital skills, and has been working to develop youth entrepreneurship investment banks to support the businesses of young people.

On health, an equally important subject given the realities of the last two years especially, the Bank president explained that as part of its plans for quality health care infrastructure, the institution would invest \$3 billion in building Africa's pharmaceutical industries and vaccine manufacturing capacities.

Adesina also looked ahead to the 16th replenishment of the African Development Fund, the African Development Bank Group's concessional lending arm. He is promoting reform of the Fund to enable it to leverage its equity and tap into capital markets in support of Africa's low-income countries.

The US Congressional members and the Bank's senior leadership shared consensus on the transformative roles of women. According to Adesina, the Bank, through its Affirmative Finance Action for Women initiative, would disburse \$500 million to women businesses across the continent.

Delegation members expressed strong support for the African Development Bank's priorities and appreciation of its development impact.

According to Congressman Butterfield, a constant refrain during the Africa visit was: "Congressman, we appreciate your aid but what we really want is trade and investment."

Congresswoman Omar underscored the need for partnerships. She said: "We know Africa is resource-rich. Resources can only be well

utilized if they are developed. Africa needs partners to prosper."

Congressman Bera stressed the need to address Africa's governance issues and the importance of keeping revenue from its resources within African countries.

Discussions also covered the role of the African diaspora and the need to stem the brain drain of African professionals from the continent.

Accompanying the African Development Bank president at the meeting were several senior officials of the institution, notably Senior Vice President Swazi Bajabulile Tshabalala, Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate Change and Green Growth Kevin Kariuki, Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development Beth Dunford, Acting Chief Economist and Vice President for Economic Governance and Knowledge Management Kevin Urama. Others were Acting Vice President for Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery Yacine Fal, Acting Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer Hassatou N'Sele, and Acting Director-General, Office of the Bank President Alex Mubiru.

Joining virtually were the Bank's Vice President for Private Sector, Infrastructure, and Industrialization Solomon Quaynor, and Senior Director of the Africa Investment Forum, Chinelo Anohu. The Africa Investment Forum, Africa's premier investment platform, has played a key role recently in driving closer ties between the Bank and the US investment community as well as with certain business-related arms of the US government like the United States Trade and Development Agency.

In late 2021, the Africa Investment Forum signed a memorandum of understanding with the US Trade and Development Agency to support high-quality infrastructure solutions for Sub-Saharan Africa.



"We'd like to see a lot more US direct investment in infrastructure," he said, promising to work with the US Trade and Development Agency and others on these prospects.

Not really as per Sun Tzu: Russian military blunderings & the global democratic deficit

NEW YORK

Russian President and former intelligence officer Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin has been at the helm of power since 1999, promoting jingoistic nationalism to keep his hold on power and creating a democratic deficit on the home front.

In a long list of extrajudicial crimes under the aegis of Mr. Putin, it is alleged that critics and potential rivals generally meet an untimely demise - ranging from helicopter crashes (e.g., LTG Alexander Lebed), murdered in elevators (e.g., in the high profile case of investigative journalist Anna Politkovskaya), falling out of windows (e.g., former third secretary of Russia's delegation to the United Nations in Vienna found at the bottom of the Russian Embassy in Berlin) to Polonium poisoning (e.g., Alexander Litvinenko) or getting incarcerated on trumped up charges like Russian opposition leader Alexie Navalny.

A throwback to Soviet totalitarian times Mr. Putin is a vocal proponent of ongoing hybrid militarized 'foreign policy' aggressions that aim to reclaim Russia's sphere of influence in former Soviet Republics, as well as further afield, primarily in the continent of Africa.

Kremlin-controlled Spetsnaz mercenaries from the Wagner Group, who it is alleged hold Russian diplomatic passports, conduct military spearhead operations on behalf of the Kremlin and maintain bureaus in all 55 member states of the African Union.

The antecedents of this hybrid militarized 'foreign policy' stratagem follow a trajectory that begins in Chechnya with the Second Battle of Grozny from 25 December 1999 to 6 February 2000 during the premiership of Mr. Putin - where the world's democratic powers were silent witnesses to the devastation of a city of almost 400,000, which led to a practically halving of the population through an exodus of internally displaced persons.

In 2003, the United Nations called Grozny "the most destroyed city on earth". It could be speculat-



Security Council votes on draft resolution on Ukraine, 25 February 2022. Credit: UN Photo/Mark Garten

ed that at the time democratic Western powers were largely silent given that the Chechens were perceived as Islamist terrorists.

After 'success' in Chechnya, in November 2007 Mr. Putin next withdrew Russia's participation in the 1990 Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty, which limited the deployment of heavy military equipment across Europe. It enabled Mr. Putin and the Kremlin to thereafter experiment with a hybrid militarized 'foreign policy' adventure in the 5-day, 2008 August War in Georgia.

Russian troops invaded and established control over the occupied Tskhinvali region (now called South Ossetia) and Abkhazia constituting over 20% of Georgian territory.

Once again, the world's democratic powers were little more than passive bystanders.

While the world's leading democratic powers stayed silent, a timeline of notable hybrid militarized 'foreign policy' aggressions orchestrated by Mr. Putin and the Kremlin, demonstrating their global reach in Europe and Africa, includes:

- Invasion and annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in southern Ukraine (February-March 2014) - successful.
- Invasion and occupation of Donetsk and Luhansk in the

Donbas region in eastern Ukraine (March-November 2014) - successful.

(NB: Russia's Wagner Group mercenaries made their first overseas combat appearance in the Donbas region in 2014).

- Military intervention in Syria to support President Assad and winning the civil war for the regime (in September 2015-2019) - successful.
- Military intervention in the Libyan civil war in support of renegade eastern Libyan warlord Khalifa Haftar by Kremlin-controlled Russian mercenaries from the Wagner group (April 2019-October 2020) - failure.
- (NB: followed by smaller, inconclusive Wagner Group interventions in Mozambique, Sudan, and the Central African Republic).
- Invasion of Ukraine (February 24, 2022) - ongoing - with Mr. Putin and the Kremlin looking at long-term occupation and subjugation of the Ukrainian people in a carefully orchestrated military campaign that was planned for at least 8-10 years.

(NB: in the case of Ukraine, Mr. Putin and the Kremlin orchestrated a non-

stop war of attrition in the Donbas and Crimea since February 2014, and the Wagner Group has been redeployed in Ukraine in February 2022 after withdrawing mercenaries from Africa).

Since November 2007 the slippery slope towards a global democratic deficit - attempting to prove that might is right - was taking shape and gathering momentum, harbingers of the return of authoritarianism, imperialism, and possibly totalitarianism.

A democratic deficit occurs when seemingly democratic governments fail to fulfill the principles of democratic governance for the benefit of their citizenry. When that happens in many countries worldwide it becomes a global democratic deficit with the rise to power of authoritarian and antidemocratic political leaders as in the case of Russia, North Korea, China, Hong Kong, The Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan under the Taliban, and most recently in West Africa - Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea.

All countries are susceptible, including countries like Brazil, and the United States of America, as was the case during the Trump presidency from 2016-2020.

The biggest fear of authoritarians of the ilk of Mr. Putin is that the common people will be able to exercise their democratic rights through free and fair elections, and popular protests to

repudiate the egregious corruption and misgovernance of political leaders, as was the case in Ukraine when pro-Kremlin president Viktor Yanukovich abandoned his country and fled in the aftermath of the 2014 Ukrainian revolution.

A similar fate was reversed in Belarus with the illegitimate reinstatement of Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, and its tacit occupation in plain sight by the Russian military in January-February 2022.

To the thus-far silent democratic powers it must strongly be pointed out that parallels can be drawn to Mr. Putin's extrajudicial hybrid military 'foreign policy' actions to what Pastor Martin Niemöller said about crimes against humanity during the Nazi reign of terror under Adolf Hitler:

First, they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out-

Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did

not speak out- Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out-

Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me- and there was no one left to speak for me.

- Martin Niemöller

Having noted the above in all its gory detail, it must be pointed out to Mr. Putin and the Kremlin that their perceived 'successful' hybrid militarized 'foreign policy' blunderings will only further weaken Russia's economic and political standing in the 21 Century - especially once draconian long-term sanctions start to bite with alacrity, and deeply.

It all depends on the sleeping giant of democratic world powers waking up, uniting in common purpose, and responding to an existential threat to peace, security, and democracy. Sun Tzu was right all along Mr. Putin - "The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting".

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
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DANKA 451 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



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PROFILE

Makoye's journey from a job seeker to an employer

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EMPOWERMENT

How Serengeti Breweries strives to boost incomes, empowerment

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PAYMENTS

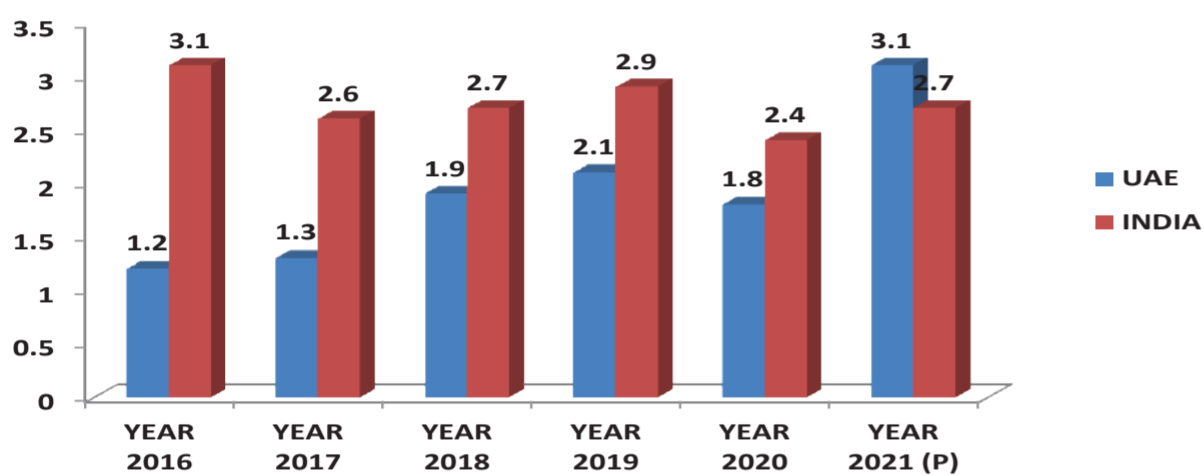
CBK to force connection of 'Lipa na M-Pesa' with Airtel Money

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TRADE

UAE overtakes India as second largest source of goods Tanzania imports

TANZANIA IMPORTS VALUES FROM UAE AND INDIA 2016-2021 (IN TRILLION SHILLINGS)



SOURCE: TRA/BOT

By Guardian Reporter

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) exports to Tanzania rose sharply in 2021, overtaking India as the second largest source of imports, behind China.

Provisional data by Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Bank of Tanzania (BOT) computations shows during last year, UAE exported to Tanzania a total of 3.1trn/-, against revised 1.8trn/- in 2020.

The amount is half of China exports, which is the leading source of Tanzania's imports with 6.2trn/- in 2021 and 4.9trn/- in 2020.

The sharp increase of UAE imports to Tanzania passed India, which was traditionally second source country, according to available data covering 2016-2021.

The main products that United Arab Emirates exported to Tanzania include refined petroleum, cars, ethylene polymer, paints, aluminum wires, vehicle parts, raw sugar and

broadcasting equipment.

Refined petrol accounts for more than half of the value of UAE exports to Tanzania.

During the last 27 years the exports of UAE to Tanzania have increased at an annualized rate of 12%, from \$90.1mn in 1995, according to Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC), an online data visualization and distribution platform.

The TRA/BOT data have shown that India exported to Tanzania a tune of 2.7trn/- last year, from 2.4trn/- in 2020 and 2.9trn/- in 2019.

The amount were higher than 2.1trn/- in 2019 and 1.9trn/- in 2018 and 1.3trn/- recorded by UAE.

Dubai is therefore become a strategic country for Tanzania, of which the recent participation of President Samia Suluhu Hassan in the Dubai Expo 2020, resulted into signing of investments deals valued 17trn/-.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 36 Dubai's investment agreement with Tanzania in various sector of the economy, involv-

ing public and private corporations on energy, tourism, infrastructure, transportation, agriculture, textile and building materials was sealed last weekend in Dubai.

Direct accumulative investment by the UAE in Tanzania rose to \$991.5mn by 2020 while trade balance between UAE and Tanzania stands at around \$2 billion annually.

Tanzania's Foreign Direct Investment (FDIs) especially in the petroleum and gas sector remains strong as several foreign establishments are focusing their attention towards the country that has become a potential investment destination for UAE.

Another sector whereby UAE has invested in Tanzania is transport as various airlines operate from the UAE to Tanzania.

In 2016, the UAE and Tanzania signed an air transport agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for enhanced cooperation in tourism development.

According to the BOT/TRA data, UAE is the third largest receiver of

Tanzania exports as during 2021, the value of exports to Dubai amounted to 1.7trn/- similar number also recorded in 2020.

Top Tanzania's export destinations according to 2021 data were South Africa with 2.6trn/-, followed by Switzerland with 2.0trn/-, with the major export commodity being gold.

Gold also accounted for nearly 87 percent of Tanzania's exports to UAE, followed by Diamonds, dried legume, fish fillet, cashew nuts, raw lead, scrap aluminum and copper as well as raw tobacco.

During the last 22 years, the exports of Tanzania to United Arab Emirates have increased at an annualized rate of 21.9%, from \$4.96mn in 1997 to \$1.73bn in 2021.

However, despite of being among top countries with huge number of live-stock, Tanzania is not among the lists of approved countries for importing live animals to UAE including sheep/goats, Cow, camels, birds, chicks and hatching eggs as of 2022.

United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Tanzania established their diplomatic relations in 1974, and the country opened its embassy in Dar es Salaam in 2007.

The relationship between Tanzania and UAE is based at a larger magnitude on the cultural and mainly economic aspects as far as trade and investment are concerned.

According to data recently released by UAE's Ministry of Foreign Trade, UAE's overall trade with six non-Arab African countries alone (Angola, Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, South Africa and Tanzania) reached over a whopping US\$ 8 billion in 2020.

It is estimated that the UAE's total non-oil trade with Africa is worth US\$ 25 billion - and this figure is expected to further rise in coming years as the UAE authorities make concerted efforts to further diversify their trade and business interests in the African continent.

In particular, the UAE seeks to play a larger role in developing several key sectors in African countries such as tourism, infrastructure, oil, gas, mining, energy, transport, logistics, ports, IT and mobile phones.

Etisalat, UAE's telecom operator, also has stakes in several African telecom companies in countries including Tanzania.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has quoted singled out Africa as one of the most promising business partners for Dubai in the coming years.



DIGITAL CURRENCIES

Top ten cryptocurrencies with best growth potential in March

THE cryptocurrency market is booming with the drastic transformation in the financial sector across the world. Crypto investors in March are looking out for the best cryptocurrencies with the potential to drive profit in crypto wallets efficiently. There are multiple new and emerging cryptocurrencies in the market besides the existing ones such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, and many others. These crypto currencies hold the potential to drive growth in March to yield gain from smart investments. The current global cryptocurrency market capitalization is US\$1.71 trillion with a volume of US\$113.14 billion. Let's look at the top ten cryptocurrencies with potential at their best in March 2022.

Bitcoin

Bitcoin is one of the top cryptocurrencies with the potential to show the best growth in March. It has reached US\$38K at the end of February and is predicted to hit beyond US\$40K in March. It successfully reached US\$60K in 2021 for crypto investors to yield profit in crypto wallets. Thus, it will be beneficial for payment transactions in multiple organizations across different industries.

Ethereum

Ethereum is the second-most cryptocurrency with the potential to drive profit in crypto wallets in the highly volatile cryptocurrency market. It has also launched Ethereum 2.0 to offer a better and more seamless service than the original version to crypto investors. It can significantly increase the cryptocurrency price owing to the mass adoption of digital currency.

Tether

Tether is known as a stablecoin that shows the best growth potential for crypto investors to yield gain. It is a bridge between digital currency and fiat currency while the cryptocurrency price is pegged to the US dollar and Euro. It will maintain the same value to provide stability in crypto wallets with protection against the volatility of the cryptocurrency market.

USD Coin

USD Coin is another stablecoin like Tether pegged to the US dollar on a 1:1 basis in the highly volatile cryptocurrency market. It is reliable and stable for crypto investors to avoid the tension of risky ven-

tures and volatility. It has opened ample opportunities for trading, risk-hedging, lending, and others.

Cardano

Cardano is a popular cryptocurrency set to be the tough competitor to Ethereum. Crypto investors are interested to invest in this cryptocurrency with the potential at its best level. It is leveraging advanced technologies to offer the utmost security to DApps and systems.

Solana

Solana is attracting crypto investors to earn profit in crypto wallets in March. It is known as the fast, secure, and censorship-resistant blockchain infrastructure with a Solana-based dex known as HydraSwap. It will perform more high-speed transactions without losing any decentralization.

Avalanche

Avalanche is at the number ten position in the global cryptocurrency market. Thus, it is showing a great potential to drive profit in crypto wallets efficiently. It is known as the layer one blockchain as a tough competitor to Ethereum. The aim of this cryptocurrency is to offer a higher transaction up to 6,500 transactions per second for crypto investors.

Lucky Block

Lucky Block is an emerging popular cryptocurrency in the lucrative cryptocurrency market in 2022. It is focused on transforming the global lottery sector with blockchain technology and smart contracts. This cryptocurrency with potential will benefit crypto investors who are lottery players as well to operate in a free and anti-fraud ecosystem.

Decentraland

Decentraland helps to create and explore in the first-ever digital world owned by crypto investors as well as other users. It offers a cryptocurrency known as MANA to use for transaction payments for virtual plots as well as other services and products. The current price is going on at US\$2.62 with a market cap of US\$4.78 billion.

Terra

Terra is one of the profitable crypto currencies for crypto investors in March. It is an open-source and public blockchain protocol to provide a decentralized economy and open participation in the new financial sector.

INVESTMENTS

Africa is the place to invest, US congressional delegation acknowledges

ABIDJAN

UNITED STATES Congressman Gregory Meeks (pictured left) has warned that the United States will only be part of the future if it invests in Africa now.

The congressman from New York and Chairman of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee was speaking during a visit to the African Development Bank Group on Saturday, as he and a team of congressional colleagues concluded a tour of three West African countries.

African Development Bank Group President Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina and several senior Bank officials welcomed the group to the Bank's headquarters in Abidjan.

"If the United States is not investing in Africa today - especially when we look at the size of Africa's youth population, which is larger than America's entire population - then we are not going to be a part of the future," Meeks said. He added: "My singular focus had been to make sure Africa moves 'from the back to the front. There's a lot of work to do. Governments can't do it alone. The African Development Bank will play a big role. When Prosper Africa needs guidance, I will point them to the African Development Bank."

Meeks was accompanied by Congressman Ami Bera of California, Congresswoman Ilhan Omar of Minnesota,



Congresswoman Joyce Beatty of Ohio, Congressman G.K. Butterfield of North Carolina, Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence of Michigan, and Congressman Troy Carter of Louisiana.

The group had visited Sierra Leone and Liberia before their arrival in Côte d'Ivoire. Members said they were inspired by the immense opportunities the African continent offers American investors.

Adesina thanked the United States for its continued support, including support for the Bank's general capital increase in 2019, which saw its capital base rise from \$93 billion to \$208 billion. Adesina said the United States, the second-largest shareholder of the Bank, was "working with the right institution." "We are African, we understand the needs of Africa, and we are driving change in Africa," he said.

Adesina and the visiting members of Congress agreed on the need for closer cooperation between the African Development Bank and US investors. Adesina said the Bank would open an office in Washington, D.C., once Board approval was secured. He explained that the office would provide guidance about how to structure substantive US private sector investment in Africa. "We'd like to see a lot more US direct investment in infrastructure," Adesina said. "We look forward to working with the United States Trade and Development Agency and others on this."

Adesina said African economies were rebounding, but the continent faced mounting commercial debt, the adverse impacts of climate change, lack of opportunities for youth, and poor access to Covid-19 vaccines. The African Development Bank is leading calls for the real-

location of \$100 billion in International Monetary Fund special drawing rights (SDRs) to African countries.

It is advocating that these funds be channeled through the Bank as a prescribed holder of SDRs, and as an institution which has a AAA credit rating. "SDRs offer African countries a tremendous opportunity to deal with debt," the Bank chief said.

Adesina asked for the United States' support in tackling climate change. He explained that the Bank was investing heavily in climate adaptation and was working closely with US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry and US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on climate finance.

In April 2021, the African Development Bank, together with the Global Center on Adaptation, launched the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program to mobilize \$25 billion to support climate adaptation on the African continent.

Africa's youth featured prominently in the discussion. The visiting delegation learned that the African Development Bank is supporting entrepreneurship and skills development, especially digital skills, and has been working to develop youth entrepreneurship investment banks, which will support the businesses of young people.

PROFILE

Makoye's journey from a job seeker to an employer

By Beatrice Philemon

IT wasn't an easy road for start-ups like Patrick Makoye to transform his life from being a job seeker to a job creator. But, Makoye did it.

A 29-year-old is one of 41 young men who have benefited from a one-year project—Tanzania Renewable Energy Business Incubator (TAREBI) Phase II incubation programme, implemented by IMED Foundation and SELCO Foundation of India with funding from US-based organization—Charles Mott Foundation.

The journey started in April 2020 when Makoye joined TAREBI incubation program in Dar es Salaam where he acquired a number of skills—developing business plans, marketing skills, and ways to, use social media to market products and financial record keeping.

Apart from attending classroom training, Makoye and his colleagues also attended online training on solar water pumping installation systems.

Through the knowledge and skills acquired from IMED Foundation and Don Bosco Centre in Dodoma, Makoye has been able to formalize his business by registering with the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) by establishing his own company—Don Energy Solution and Designing Company. This has formalized his business undertakings and now has employed two staff in a small office located at Nkuhundu area few kilometers from Dodoma Central Business District (CBD).

Makoye's company received its first solar energy tool kits of 1.8m/- as a seed grant from IMED Foundation to create a solar energy enterprise serving the poor especially

rural communities.

Makoye's firm now provides a wide range of services such as electrical installation and maintenance, solar panels installation, wiring designing, electrical fence, and CCTV camera installation and surge protection, electrical/ solar water pumping system installation, and gas stove maintenance and repairs.

One of the achievements, Makoye created a website worth 720,000/- to market his business, keeping records particularly on income and expenditure, something which was not there before.

He's able to install solar home systems in 30 houses in Dodoma Region and install solar water pumping systems in Mnadani ward for agricultural activities and water supply to communities.

He also managed to install a solar water pumping system worth 14.7m/- at Hombolo ward for farming activities and selling water to rural communities that have no water.

Makoye's income has gone up 40 to 85 percent annually. He is now getting different tenders from different companies within and outside Dodoma Region.

A Form Four graduate thanks the IMED Foundation for introducing the programme, which he described as an eye-opener to him as it completely changed his life.

He has been able to meet with different businessmen engaged in this sector to learn and gain experience on what they offer, the main challenges they encounter in business and how they solve it.

"Right now my business is doing well, I can supervise my own business and the money I get from my business, I used for office improvement, pay wages to my staff, purchase

equipments for renewable energy installation, support my parents and other activities," Says Makoye

Makoye commends programme incubator coordinator, Haika Donath, mentors, trainers, chief executive officer at the Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship Development (IMED), Selcon Foundation to introduce an incubation programme.

"Thank you for taking time to teach me and my colleagues on various issues relating to entrepreneurship, you have always been very kind, instrumental in my career, I really appreciate your mentorship and guidance on me, I thank you for changing my life, be like my parents as well as seeing the potential in me and for giving me the opportunity to work," he says.

Before joining the Incubation programme at IMED Foundation, he worked with Don Bosco Technical Institute in Dodoma region as a part-time teacher.

Currently, he holds a Certificate in Electrical Installation (Level 3) and Solar Installation Certificate and continues teaching other youth to help them meet their dreams and improve their livelihood.

IMED Foundation Programme Manager, Junior Ndesanjo noted that through the knowledge and mentorship programme gained from IMED Foundation incubation programme, Patrick Makoye, and other incubatees were managed to registering with Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) to shift from the informal to the formal sector. Develop marketing tools such as business cards, brochure, website, social media pages, Keeping financial records for their



business in -terms of income and expenditure and establishing business premises.

IMED Foundation Trainer, Richard Jackson says under the programme, the incubatees were trained on various issues relating to the business of solar energy management and deployment, technical skills on solar technology.

"We train them on how to write business proposals, marketing issues, selling process, how to use social media to market their products and record-keeping so that can monitor the progress of their businesses," he says.

He also recounts that incubatees were trained to know their products before taking to market, and ways to market their products.

According to the trainer, others issues include financial management skills, ways to formalize their businesses, as well as ways to write business plans that outline the main goals they have for their business and how they can achieve them.

"Under the programme, we also provided them with mentorship and coaching on various aspects relating to the business of solar system management and deployment. The programme has helped them to set up their own solar energy enterprises in their localities and formalize it."

"As IMED Foundation, we're very happy for what has been achieved so far because we have managed to support youth who are living in remote areas that are very difficult to reach and help them to set up their own solar energy enterprises," he says.

IMED Foundation's Chief Executive officer, Khalid Swabiri says before Makoye received solar tool kits, IMED Foundation organized a 'Seed Fund Challenge Competition' that attracted 24 incubatees from Don Bosco Centers in Dodoma, Iringa, Dar Es Salaam, and Ruvuma.

Among those, 12 incubatees emerged winners and Patrick Makoye was among them who are benefiting from the competition and receive grants in the form of working tools and other solar equipment.

BETWEEN THE LINES

By Geoffrey Nangai



Time is well ripe for strategic facility for petroleum reserves

GLOBAL oil prices surged last week, with Brent rising above \$105 (approximately 243,180/-) a barrel for the first time since 2014, after Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine, immediately putting at risk up to 1-million bpd (barrels per day) of Russian crude oil exports transitioning through Ukraine and the Black Sea.

This escalation will cause large supply disruptions as Russia is the third-largest oil producer and second-largest oil exporter. Supply constraints will go beyond the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its partners.

The petroleum market has already been under pressure, as oil supplies around the world fail to keep pace with the vigorous recovery in demand from the pandemic.

The OPEC+ coalition led by Saudi Arabia is struggling to restore production quickly enough, prompting some of the biggest market players to warn of an increasingly tight market.

In many countries in Africa including Tanzania, fuel prices have already hit record highs with a litre of petrol trading above 2,480/- in many regions.

The high fuel prices have already jeopardized the economy with the prices of most commodity goods increasing day by day in recent years.

According to data from the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), in December last year, the twelve-month headline inflation rose slightly to 4.2 per cent from 4.1 per cent recorded in the preceding month on account of increase in food and energy prices.

The Central Bank said for the whole of 2021, headline inflation averaged 3.7 per cent compared with 3.3 per cent in 2020.

Twelve-month food (food and non-alcoholic beverages) inflation also increased to 4.9 per cent in December 2021 from 4.4 per cent in the preceding month, following increase in price of cooking oil, fish, banana, fruits, wheat flour, goat meat, beef, potatoes, soft drinks, sorghum flour and rice.

Inflation of energy, fuel, and utilities sub-group rose to 4.4 per cent compared with 3.4 per cent, on account of increase in prices of domestic pump of petroleum products consistent with world market prices.

Suffice to note is that In Tanzania, domestic pump prices of petroleum products have been rising since June 2020, mainly associated with the increase of oil prices in the world market, owing to recovery of the global economy amidst tight oil supplies by OPEC+.

In 2021, diesel, petrol, and kerosene prices registered an annual increase of 39.1 per cent, 34.3 per cent and 27.8 per cent respectively, when compared to the same period in 2020 while on month to month, the prices of diesel, petrol and kerosene increased by; 6.3 per cent, 2.7 per cent and 1.7 per cent respectively.

The Russia - Ukraine tension is only igniting the fire in the escalating fuel prices and the common 'wananchi' will have to dig deeper into their pockets both directly or indirectly.

As the world market continues to

dictate the price of fuel prices, oil importing countries like ours need to devise means to ensure there is enough reserve for petroleum products to address escalating pump prices. This may not be a long term solution but it is inevitable.

Tanzania needs to establish a Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility to guarantee Importation of big consignments to minimize shortages and ever increasing prices as the demand for fuel is always constant.

As you may recall, Tanzania earlier this year suspended new petroleum product prices that had been announced by the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (Ewura) and the government opted to retain the old prices, since all indications were that prices would continue to rise anyway.

The Government thus formed a team comprising officials from the ministry of finance and planning, ministry of Energy and Minerals, the Tanzania Revenue Authority, Ewura and other institutions involved probe economic indicators driving fuel prices up.

Economic analysts however attribute the high fuel prices in Tanzania to taxes, levies and charges imposed on the commodity that account for 40 per cent.

The levies include Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) charges, Railway Development Levy, Customs processing fees, Weights and Measures fee, Fuel Levy, Excise Duty, Petroleum fee, among other charges.

Subsidizing fuel products especially at this time will provide some relief to citizens as the increasing fuel prices directly affects most of the basic commodity prices including food.

The status quo is that Tanzania a few years back took a bold move to procure its petroleum products using the Bulk Procurement System (BPS) as part of efforts to address oil and gas shortages and regulate oil prices in Tanzania. Just last year, the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) secured a tender to directly procure oil from top producing countries.

Apparently the Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Limited (TIPER) currently has capacity to reserve 254 million litres, up from 140 million litres capacity reached by the year 2000.

As a backup plan, Tanzania also needs to diversify its transport networks like rail and reduce the overreliance of roads to transport fuel across the country which will ultimately reduce the market prices.

Tanzania has already invested in the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) that has attracted landlocked countries like Burundi so increasing the standard gauge's reach to various regions and neighboring countries will ensure cheap transportation of fuel products thus ultimately reducing the price of the precious commodity.

The author of this article is a PR and Corporate Communications Consultant based in Dar es Salaam. For feedback contact him via email: geoffnangai@gmail.com / Mob: +255758897538

CURRENT NEWS

EMPOWERMENT

Serengeti Breweries strives to boost incomes, empowerment

By Guardian Reporter

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) is capitalizing on its strengths as champion of inclusion and diversity policy to provide more opportunities, income, and wealth to Tanzanians.

SBL's ambition is parallel to the global fight that emerged in 2015 when the United Nations member states committed to the Sustainable Development Goals to end all prejudice and inequality (SDGs).

Furthermore, the UN recently reported that inequality is increasing for more than 70 per cent of the world's population, exacerbating the risk of division and impeding economic and social development.

However, SBL is working alongside the Tanzanian government to eliminate inequality and discrimination in all of its forms in poverty alleviation, agricultural transformation, women empowerment, quality education, and a variety of other important responsibilities in the country.

For instance, through its Kilimo Vivanda scholarship program, SBL has established itself as a leader in promoting 'inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.'

The scholarship aims to strengthen Tanzania's existing pool of agricultural experts, which is essential for assisting



SBL's Brand Change Manager, Saraphina Mwamasa, addresses young females (not in picture) in a workshop to commemorate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

farmers in increasing productivity and, ultimately, income. Since its inception in 2020, it has sponsored over 200 agriculture college students, with a 50-50 gender split - yet another brilliant move to promote gender equality.

Additionally, SBL is moving mountains to onboard more young females in science subjects through STEM Apprenticeship Program, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. It encourages women to pursue careers in these fields and to advance in them. The goal is to bridge the societal gap that exists as a result of males outnumbering young females in

science fields.

The program has already employed ten young females with a Bachelor's degree or higher diploma or equivalent in electrical engineering, electronics engineering, mechanical engineering, mechanic engineering, food science and technology to work for the company for a year.

Another critical area where SBL substantially invested to provide clean and safe water in needy areas through its

Water of Life program. Many of these beneficiaries are women who had to travel miles to fetch water. SBL has already built 18 boreholes across eight regions from 2010, feeding over two million rural dwellers by partnering with local water committees carrying again their inclusive agenda by having equal representation in both males and females.

The success of this program has triggered other areas to improvement such as Agriculture - an indispensable sector where the beer maker relies to source local materials.

In the same coin, SBL has established

substantial investments to support local farmers whereby it has helped grow 400 local farmers' incomes who grow maize, sorghum, and barley. They supply up to 80 per cent of the company's raw materials requirement a year. As such, SBL provides direct support to their network through free seeds, field technical services and linking them to financial institutions to access credit facilities.

SBL's agenda is aligned with the global sustainable goal of achieving zero hunger and inclusively promoting inclusive sustainable economic growth, employment, and decent work for all. Its success is heavily reliant on ensuring there is food security and providing more strategic agriculture sector interventions.

SBL through DIAGEO, its mother company, has set its eyes to continue champion inclusion and diversity with an ambition to achieve 50 per cent representation of women in leadership roles by 2030 from ethnically diverse backgrounds to 45 per cent by 2030.

Lessons from SBL are that in order to support SDGs, it is imperative to start addressing discrimination and inequality in strategic investment areas and programs. Each success will go hand-in-hand with other areas to improve education, water and sanitation, agriculture and decent work to spur growth.



CURRENCY

Africa needs single currency to boost trade –Ukaoha says



The President of the National Association of Nigerian Traders, Ken Ukaoha, speaks on the importance of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement to boosting intra-African trade, the need for a single currency to facilitate seamless trade operations across African borders, and measures the Federal Government must take to boost exports, among other critical issues:

Since January 1, 2021, when the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement began, Nigeria has been lagging behind in making the trade agreement operational. Why is this so?

Okay, let me correct one impression. I'm not sure that Nigeria has lagged behind in making the trade agreement operational. For instance, Nigeria has put in place some of the instruments for the implementation, and some of the analysis has been done. And then, we cannot say Nigeria has not put in place anything. But we should remember also that at the level of African Union, the key instrument, the key tool for the implementation, is still undergoing negotiations, namely, the rules of origin-it is still undergoing negotiations. No country out of the 54 member countries that have signed on to the AfCFTA would say that it has begun full implementation of the agreement. So I think it's important for us to get this narrative clear.

Research findings show that Africa countries trade more with international countries than they do within nations within the continent. How can intra-African trade be encouraged in Nigeria?

One of the ways to encourage intra-African trade is to first of all invest in our local environment. If we can invest here, it means we are boosting the attraction for exports. We can also identify what other countries around us (likeminded countries, and countries in the region) are doing in terms of what they are importing from other countries, maybe from

Europe or Asia, or the Americas. If we identify that, the next step is how to build the capacity of our local firms to meet up with those demands, so as to reduce importation from outside. And in so doing, we will begin to trade among ourselves. The fourth is to make policies that will look inwards, most of these policies are designed to look at what the WTO is doing, and then we will look away from what we need. So I think that we should design our policies in a way that they will also begin to look at the regional peculiarities. However, there are always serious impediments created by officials of government-bottlenecks here and there. So the best thing is to identify these bottlenecks, and when they are identified, the government can mobilise the political will to ensure those impediments are removed. For instance, bribery at the ports, what are you going to do about it? Think about the unnecessary delays of perishable items at the port. Also think about the closure of borders. So, we need to really mobilise the political will, by the time you do that, and these impediments are removed, it will increase productivity, and enhance the free movement of goods and services within the region.

Still on intra-African trade, the single currency initiative proposed by the Economic Community of West African States seems to have been halted, and further pushed to the background by the launch of digital currencies by Nigeria and Ghana. Do you think the initiative is still relevant to boosting trade in the region?

I think it's very relevant. We need to trade among ourselves. So, the point is that we need a single currency. Movements of capital and goods go together. Thus, in improving the movement of goods, you must also make the movement of capital seamless. The importance of a single currency is highlighted in the African Union decision's to consider it for the entire continent. This is because a single currency will aid the realisation of the objectives of AfCFTA.

Over the past six years, growth in the non-oil sector of the economy has remained low. What would you say are the major challenges facing the Nigerian non-oil exporter?

There are many challenges, and they are centred on poor understanding and implementation of the trade facilitation agenda. What I observe with all sense of humility is that, we are the architect of our problems. The exporter is confused. There are a lot of potentials for export from Nigeria. I run an organisation,

and I can tell you that there is no day we don't receive requests for supplies from overseas. But there is an issue in terms of capacity. In terms of standard and quality, there's also an issue in terms of facilitating the export. Even when you have already produced, there is still an issue. The issue will come from either the government or the non-state actors. The non-state actors are the people who cause such impediments and delays along the road. For instance, I'm sure you've noticed that from one local government to another, you see uniformed people who are not known by law using nails on the road and waiting for vehicles carrying goods, and forcing exporters to pay undue levies. Beyond that, you also look at those who are uniformed, recognised by law, the criminally-minded Custom officers and policemen who are looking for bribes from traders going about their lawful business. These impediments are so heavy that they serve as disincentives to these non-oil exporters. But I am happy with what I see from the National Export Promotion Council, if they keep at it, there may come a point where some of these issues will be reduced or minimised. If we have a single agency that will take care of operations from warehouse to export, that would will make things much easier for the exporter and increase the level of non-oil export.

Looking at 2022, what are some of the measures or partnerships that NANT is undertaking to fulfill its mandate to improve trade in the country?

Well, there are things that are not on the table. Firstly, we are partnering with the NEPC, Customs and ECOWAS to ensure that our exporters score some more goals in terms of achieving unhindered movement of goods and services. We are also putting in place some kind of documentation on how to reduce laws and policies regarding trade. We want to demystify the legal jargons. This is because many of these laws and policies are written in legal languages, which make it difficult, if not impossible, for the traders to understand and appropriate effectively. So, we want to rewrite these laws and policies in a way that an average reader will understand. Also, on the table is dispute settlement particularly for Nigerian traders in Ghana. I am sure you are well apprised of the situation in Ghana with regards to Nigerian traders. A lot has been done by the government to get their shops reopened but to no avail. So we are working to improve the level of advocacy there and see a kind of negotiation strategy that can break the chains and then sets our people free.

PAYMENTS

CBK to force linking of 'Lipa na M-Pesa' with Airtel Money

NAIROBI

CENTRAL Bank of Kenya (CBK) will launch a national payment system that will force Safaricom to accept cash from rival firms such as Airtel on its Lipa na M-Pesa, enabling a seamless transfer of money through merchants.

The new system, to be introduced by 2024, will remove the hurdle where Airtel subscribers, for example, cannot pay for goods and services through Safaricom's till and pay-bill numbers.

The move is aimed at curbing the dominance of Safaricom's mobile money service and Lipa na M-Pesa, which handled payments worth Sh970.2 billion in the year to last month.

Airtel's version of merchant payments services is dubbed Lipa na Airtel Money, but it is used much less compared to Safaricom's, a market position that is in line with its stake in the mobile money transfer service.

The CBK said the increased use of mobile money at agents and merchants through platforms like Lipa na M-Pesa had been constrained by lack of interconnection among the telecommunications operators.

"This trend is expected to continue increasing once initiatives such as interoperability are fully rolled out, allowing customers to seamlessly transact across the ecosystem irrespective of their provider," the CBK said.

The value of mobile money transactions through agents as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) has increased from 23 percent in 2010 to 60 percent in 2021, according to the banking regulator.

There were over 2.2 billion transactions worth over Sh6.9 trillion in 2021.

The interoperability – the ability of different IT systems to communicate and exchange data – will offer Airtel a larger share of the mobile money payments made through merchants and deepen financial inclusion.

Through interoperability, the CBK is seeking to replicate the linkage between Airtel Money and M-Pesa that was introduced four years ago.

Users can send money across mobile phone networks, meaning that cash can be sent from M-Pesa and it reflects in an Airtel Money wallet.

Safaricom has been uncomfortable with the push to open its mobile money outlets to rival firms, arguing it would expose its lucrative M-Pesa mobile money platform to stiff competition.

"The emergence of a fully integrated ecosystem that is seamlessly interoperable is critical. A strong foundation has already been laid with the rollout of P2P [peer-to-peer] interoperability in 2018 and the industry engagement that culminated in the proposal for a single integrated solution with multiple functionalities (national switch)," the CBK said.

More than 30 million people in Kenya use M-Pesa, which besides allowing users to send cash and make payments by phone, save and borrow.

Safaricom had 258,000 mobile money agents at the end of September, leaving rivals to control the remaining 31,255 out-



lets.

This dominance plays out in the merchant payment segment.

Safaricom's Lipa na M-Pesa merchants grew by 72.8 percent to 387,000 in the review period, highlighting the impact of increased preference for cashless transactions.

Safaricom's till and pay-bill service has risen to take a 85.8 percent market share of non-cash payment for ordinary goods and services, underlining the entrenchment of the mobile money platform in everyday transactions.

"There is limited competition for merchant acceptance in mobile money space. This is also due to limited acceptance of competitor payment instruments," the CBK said.

"Limited interoperability in the mobile money merchant acceptance space limits payment options available to customers as well."

Lipa na M-Pesa was launched in June 2013 and has aggressively recruited merchants across the country, including large and small businesses such as fuel stations, supermarkets, corner shops and eateries.

This has seen it overtake the card payments – run by banks and their global payments technology partners such as Visa and Mastercard – that have largely focused on serving formal retailers.

Merchants signed up for Lipa na M-Pesa are charged a fee of up to 0.5 percent of the value of the transaction and customers may also incur the same level of fees to use the service.

Banks on the other hand can charge merchants up to two percent to process card-settled transactions which are free to shoppers.

For merchants, use of cashless payments has the benefit of reducing revenue leakages besides eliminating the risks and costs of handling notes and coins. Cashless payments are expected to grow in the coming years, partly due to increased digitisation and the lowering of fees by payment service providers.

Kenya, however, still relies heavily on hard cash with which more than 90 percent of transactions are settled.

Lipa na M-Pesa is part of the expansion of the mobile money platform into an ecosystem offering payments, cash transfers, credit, insurance, savings and investment services.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Should monetary finance remain taboo?

By Itai Agur

IN exceptional times, monetary finance may provide helpful policy support but there are risks.

The severe economic challenges posed by the global financial crisis, and more recently the pandemic, sparked a debate on whether central banks should expand their unconventional monetary policy toolkit to include monetary finance—the financing of government via money creation.

Monetary finance is often associated with Milton Friedman's metaphor of a helicopter dropping money from the sky.

Reflecting on the role of monetary policy during the Great Depression, the Nobel laureate argued that a permanent increase in the monetary base could stimulate aggregate demand even in a severe liquidity trap, that is when interest rates are at zero and prices are stagnant or declining.

This increase could be transferred to households via tax cuts or other forms of government support.

The 1970s struggle to contain inflation, and the many catastrophic episodes during which monetary policy became hostage to a country's fiscal needs,

however, made monetary finance taboo. Central banks' success in lowering inflation was built on asserting their independence from fiscal authorities. The idea of financing fiscal deficits via money creation thus came to be seen as a mortal threat to central bank independence.

Should monetary finance remain taboo? Or are there merits to recent calls for using this tool during times of severe crises? In a recent paper, we review the arguments in favor of and against monetary finance and provide some suggestive empirical evidence about the effects on inflation.

Proponents of monetary finance argue that it has a stronger effect on aggregate demand than a debt-financed fiscal stimulus. Because there is no increase in public debt, monetary finance does not need to be paid for with future tax hikes, making consumers more likely to spend.

Monetary finance may also prevent self-fulfilling runs on government debt. If investors suddenly lose confidence in debt sustainability, the central bank may avert a default by partially monetizing debt. Importantly, if the central bank commits to this strategy—and does not abuse its power to monetize debt outside of self-fulfilling runs—investors



are unlikely to lose confidence in the first place, without requiring the central bank to intervene.

But even advocates of monetary finance will point out that there are very serious risks. The primary concern is that it may pave the way to fiscal dominance whereby monetary policy decisions are made subordinate to the fiscal needs of the government. The resulting loss of confidence in the central bank's ability to keep inflation low and stable could lead to hyperinflation, as happened for example in the well-known case of

Zimbabwe in 2007-08.

We use two empirical approaches to provide a preliminary assessment of the inflationary risks. First, we analyze the association between the monetary base and inflation across several countries back to the 1950s.

We find that a monetary expansion has modest effects on inflation in countries with strong central bank independence, low initial inflation, and small fiscal deficits. But the effects are much stronger if central bank independence is weak, inflation is

high, and fiscal deficits are large. The analysis also detects considerable non-linear effects. While small expansions of the monetary base are associated with modest increases in inflation, large monetary expansions can have much stronger effects on inflation.

Second, we examine whether unconventional monetary policy (UMP) announcements in response to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 led to an increase in inflation expectations. The sample includes 49 advanced economies and emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) during the period between March and December 2020.

Most countries embarked on asset purchases in secondary markets within the framework of quantitative easing (QE) programs. QE increases the monetary base, but unlike monetary finance, it is temporary as the central bank is expected to eventually unwind the assets it purchased.

However, in several EMDEs, UMP programs included components of direct government financing through the purchase of government bonds in primary markets and the extension of loans and grants to the government, often with the explicit goal of providing

fiscal support. These programs resemble forms of monetary finance.

As the chart shows, we do not find evidence of systematic effects of UMP announcements on inflation expectations, even when we focus on direct government financing (DGF) programs in EMDEs. In interpreting these findings, it is important to note that these operations were relatively modest in size and were likely perceived as one-off interventions.

Based on the review of the conceptual arguments in favor of and against monetary finance and considering our empirical findings, we see merit in further exploring the conditions under which monetary finance may or may not be appropriate in exceptional circumstances. However, possible experimentation with this tool should be modest and limited to countries with credible monetary frameworks, low inflation, and sustainable fiscal positions.

Most importantly, possible monetary finance operations should be decided exclusively and independently by central banks with the sole goal of ensuring economic stability. This is admittedly a difficult standard to achieve.

WORLD

Is WHO's aim to vaccinate 70% of world by June still realistic?

LONDON

VACCINATING 70 percent of the population in every country in the world against COVID-19 by mid-2022 has been the World Health Organization's rallying cry to end the pandemic.

But recently, public health experts say that while boosting immunity globally remains essential, the figure is neither achievable nor meaningful.

It has always been ambitious: Currently, just 12 percent of people in low-income nations have had one shot, according to Our World In Data. Earlier targets set by WHO - to reach 10 percent by September 2021, for example - were also missed.

WHO head of immunization Kate O'Brien said 70 percent remained more than just a "rallying cry", even though some well-equipped countries with plenty of vaccines have also struggled to reach it.

"We are calling for countries to be serious about their actions towards achieving that target, while acknowledging that - on a country-by-country basis - there may be a rationale why that target is not specifically suited to that country," she told Reuters.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance - WHO's partner in the COVAX initiative aimed at getting shots to the world's poorest - has pulled back from the "one-size-fits-all" 70 percent focus.

At a virtual briefing last week with WHO Africa, Aurelia Nguyen, managing director of COVAX within Gavi, said it was important to instead "meet the targets that countries have set for themselves, whether it's in line with the 70 percent WHO target or a lower or a higher target."

Reservations about the 70 percent target are a further sign that ending the pandemic globally may be a trickier, and longer, challenge than many had hoped.

Documents from a high-level internal UN meeting held earlier this month, reviewed by Reuters, showed eight countries that were extremely unlikely to reach the target by June 2022, and had been identified for "immediate focus": Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Sudan.

A further 26, including Yemen, Uganda and Haiti, are also in need of "concerted support", the document said.

Never just a magic number

However, there is a bigger issue the WHO is focusing on O'Brien said.

"The question in the here and now, with Omicron ripping through the population around the world and continuing to do that ... does 70 percent still hold?" she said.

The figure was never a "magic number", she



A military personnel inoculate a dose of SinoVac vaccine to a citizen at a mobile clinic in Emganwini township, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe on Aug 3, 2021. File photo

said, but just an assessment of risk, something to aim for that could - optimistically - keep the virus under control.

But new evidence showing that the vaccines only have a limited impact on transmission, alongside the ability of the Omicron variant to infect previously vaccinated or infected people, suggests that achieving that level of population immunity and therefore stopping the spread of the virus is a fading hope.

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Reservations about the 70 percent target are a further sign that ending the pandemic globally of looking at scenarios of how the pandemic might play out", O'Brien said. "Obviously

across the scenarios, the role of the vaccines, the target of the 70 percent, the goal of transmission reduction, would have to be evaluated."

"We are in the process of looking at scenarios of how the pandemic might play out", O'Brien said. "Obviously across the scenarios, the role of the vaccines, the target of the 70 percent, the goal of transmission reduction, would have to be evaluated."

For example, setting higher targets among at-risk groups may be important to prevent hospitalisations and deaths, she added.

But some public health experts said the initial target was now largely symbolic.

Edward Kelley, former director of health services at WHO and now global health officer at Apjject, said the 70 percent had been based on what science said was needed to manage transmission, which had been blown out of the water by Omicron.

Agencies

DPRK says it conducted test to develop reconnaissance satellite

SEOUL

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea said a test conducted on Sunday was for the development of a reconnaissance satellite system, state news agency KCNA reported yesterday, a day after a missile launch was detected from the country.

KCNA's report did not elaborate on what type of rocket had been used in the test, but authorities in the Republic of Korea

and Seoul said it appeared to be a ballistic missile fired from an area near Pyongyang where its international airport is located.

The launch was the eighth test this year, and the first since January when the DPRK fired off a record number of missiles.

Sunday's test helped to confirm the working accuracy of a high definition photographing system, data transmission system and attitude control devices by "conducting verti-

cal and oblique photographing of a specific area on earth" with cameras to be loaded on the reconnaissance satellite, KCNA reported.

"The test is of great significance in developing the reconnaissance satellite," the report reads.

State media released two photos showing the Korean peninsula seen from space.

Similar photos were released after the last missile test, on Jan 30, which featured a Hwa-

song-12 intermediate-range ballistic missile with a camera fitted in its nose cone.

Developing a military reconnaissance satellite is among a number of advancements leader Kim Jong-un called for last year, including recently tested hypersonic weapons.

The DPRK's push to develop such technology comes as the ROK plans to test a solid-fuel space projectile in March as part of a project to deploy its own military surveillance sat-

ellites to monitor the DPRK, according to the ROK's Yonhap news agency.

The DPRK rocket fired on Sunday flew to a maximum altitude of around 620 km and a range of about 300 km, the ROK's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

The DPRK has previously successfully placed at least two satellites in orbit, the last one in 2016.

Agencies

Suspected Islamist militants kill 20 civilians in eastern DRC

BENI

DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo - Suspected Islamist militants killed at least 20 civilians in north-eastern Democratic Republic of Congo overnight, according to a local resident and an activist who criticized the failure of Congolese and Ugandan forces to stop the repeated massacres.

The attack late on Sunday evening in the village of Kikura was blamed by the resident and the activist on the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a Ugandan militia that has killed thousands of civilians in eastern Congo since 2013.

Congolese and Ugandan troops launched joint operations against the ADF in late November but attacks by the group, which has pledged allegiance to Islamic State, have continued to kill dozens of civilians each month.

The assailants struck at around 9 p.m. with machetes and also burned down houses, said Odette Zawadi, the president of a local activist organization. She said 20 bodies had been recovered and that the death toll could rise further.

"We already didn't seem to have confidence in these so-called joint operations. How can you explain that 20 people are killed in the presence of these two forces?," she told Reuters.

Claude Kalinde, a local resident, confirmed that 20 bodies had been recovered.

"We thought that the coalition of the Congolese and Ugandan armies would help us, but look at how sad this is," he said.

Capitaine Antony Mwalushayi, a spokesman for Congo's army, said it had taken a while for soldiers in the area to learn of the attack since it was carried out without firearms.

"We cannot be discouraged because the objective of the enemy is to discourage us, to separate us from the population," he said.

A spokesman for Uganda's army was not immediately available to comment.

The ADF started as an uprising in Uganda but has been based in Congo since the late 1990s. It pledged allegiance to Islamic State in 2019, but United Nations researchers have found no evidence of Islamic State control over its operations.

Agencies



In this file photo dated July 1, 2021, a general view of a burnt house in Rwangoma, Beni, Democratic Republic of Congo after ten people were killed in an attack overnight by suspected members of the Allied Democratic Forces Islamist militia. AP

China accelerates steps to promote green consumption

GREEN consumption is a form of consumption during which consumers fully take environmentally friendly behaviors. At present, a green, low-carbon and environment-friendly consumption philosophy is gradually rising in China.

Zhang Kai from Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan province has just had his new apartment decorated and furnished. According to him, energy conservation was a primary consideration for him when he bought home appliances.

Though energy-saving models were a bit more expensive, they

were more economical in the long run and could contribute more to environmental protection, the man said.

Jiao Duoduo, who is currently studying in a university in Beijing, said green consumption is also important in the transportation sector. She usually takes public transport or shared bikes when she gets around, Jiao told People's Daily.

Green consumption is a profound reform that concerns the green and low-carbon transition in production and daily life.

According to an action plan recently issued by the Chinese gov-

ernment to promote green consumption, by 2025, the philosophy of green consumption will be made popular in the country, and green and low-carbon products will enjoy a larger market share. Besides, green consumption will be a conscious choice of the public and green and low-carbon products mainstreamed by 2030.

Green consumption can drive relevant enterprises to improve their ability in green innovation, spurring them to develop and introduce advanced and appropriate green and low-carbon technologies to expand the supply of green

products.

Wu Jiong from northwest China's Gansu province recently found that plastic bags were more and more replaced by paper sacks and degradable cloth packages, and plastic straws used by bubble tea shops were also disappearing.

As a matter of fact, many Chinese enterprises have already been targeting at green consumption. Some of them focus on material conversion that turns waste into things of value. For instance, Botloop, a sustainable lifestyle brand based in Beijing, is producing T-shirts, hoodies, UV protection jackets and raincoats

out of recycled plastics and cotton fibers. These products are not only fashionable, but also breathable, quick-drying, UV-resistant and waterproof, said Zhang Xiaoxiao, a business manager of the brand.

Besides, some Chinese enterprises are working to make the most of resources through e-commerce platforms. As an online C2C flea market, Xianyu has become sensational in China over the recent years, where consumers can buy, sell and freecycle. It keeps the circulation of unused stuffs.

According to an executive of the platform, Xianyu has gained more

than 300 million users so far, and over a billion products are being put on the shelf on the platform each year. To turn the behavior of wasting into consuming is a consensus of Xianyu users, the executive said.

This year, Xianyu will set up a system that allows users to redeem their credits gained through green consumption, and launch AI authentication for multiple categories of products to lower the threshold for used goods authentication and enhance the circulation efficiency of unused stuffs.

People's Daily

Xinhua

China-Africa trade reaches all-time high in 2021, showing resilience amid pandemic

NAIROBI

CHINA-AFRICA trade has bucked the global economic downward trend, and analysts believe it has contributed to the African economy's resilience in the face of COVID-19 challenges.

China has remained Africa's largest trading partner for 12 consecutive years. According to the latest data released by the General Administration of Customs of China, the total bilateral trade between China and Africa in 2021 reached 254.3 billion U.S. dollars, up 35.3 percent year on year, among which, Africa exported 105.9 billion dollars of goods to China, up 43.7 percent year on year.

China has maintained its position as the largest investor in Africa over the last 10 years, according to a new report by Swiss-African Business Circle released in February.

The United States is the second-largest investor in Africa, followed by France and Turkey, in third and fourth positions, respectively.

Globally, Africa's external trade performance in 2021 was very strong. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) data in November, Africa's import and export of goods increased by 31 percent and 40 percent respectively in the third quarter of 2021.

The UNCTAD believes that the African economy's improvement in 2021 was mainly due to the improvement of the external environment, especially the active support of China and other markets that enhanced Africa's export capacity.

Africa's trade growth has also been supported by higher commodity prices. Over the past 10 years, China created 18,562 jobs a year on average in Africa with yearly increases, said the Swiss-African Business Circle report.

For example, China continued to help Zimbabwe develop its infrastructure, including telecommunications, energy, and agriculture. Major projects include the expansion of Hwange Thermal Power Station, expansion of Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport, and the new parliament building.

South Africa is an important trading partner of China, with bilateral trade accounting for more than one-fifth of the total China-Africa trade. In 2021, the total trade volume between China and South Africa reached 54.35 billion dollars, with a year-on-year growth of 50.7 percent. In the same year, Chinese investment in South Africa reached 280 million dollars, including 130 million dollars in non-financial investment and 150 million dollars in financial investment.

"At present, countries around the world are still faced with the two arduous tasks of epidemic prevention and control and economic recovery.

The high-quality development of China's economy has provided impetus and confidence for global and African economic recovery," said Chen Mingjian, Chinese ambassador to Tanzania.

According to the International Monetary Fund, China's gross domestic product (GDP) accounted for 18 percent of the world economy in 2021, and its contribution to world economic development has been steadily increasing year after year.

At the same time, China's steady economic growth is also bringing more development opportunities to boost African countries' economic recovery. "In 2021, compared with the previous year, Ethiopia's exports to China increased by 8 percent; new foreign direct investment (FDI) from Chinese companies to Ethiopia grew by 346 percent; the value of newly signed contract projects by Chinese companies in Ethiopia were up 25 percent," said Zhao Zhiyuan, Chinese ambassador to Ethiopia.

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have played a key role in China-Africa cooperation.

According to a report by Africa Policy Institute, a pan-African think tank, since the BRI was proposed in 2013, China has supported modern infrastructure projects such as railways, roads, ports, dams, industries, and digital connectivity, injecting vitality into Kenya's growth.

"In less than a decade, Kenya has a brand new 670-kilometer modern Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) connecting the port of Mombasa and the inland (dry) port of Naivasha," said the report titled "Shared Prosperity: Tracking the Belt and Road Initiative in Kenya, 2018-2021."

"The FOCAC, established in 2000, is a continuation and distillation of China-Africa friendship and provides a guarantee for high-level China-Africa relations in the new century," said Humphrey Moshi, director of the Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Dar es Salaam.

"Since 2000, under the guidance of FOCAC, China-Africa cooperation has yielded more fruitful results. In 2019, China's stock of direct investment in Africa reached 49.1 billion U.S. dollars, an increase of nearly 100 times since 2000," said Moshi.

China has helped Africa build the African Union Conference Center, the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway, the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway, and other large-scale infrastructure projects, and conducted close cooperation with Africa in science, education, culture, health, and other fields. China-Africa cooperation has yielded tangible results and contributed greatly to African countries' efforts to reduce poverty, improve the investment environment, upgrade industrialization level and promote economic development.

Wang: Sanctions cannot solve problems

MOSCOW

STATE Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that China disapproves of using sanctions as a means to solve problems and rejects unilateral sanctions that are not based on international law.

Experience has shown that sanctions do not solve problems, but create new ones. They not only result in "lose-lose" or "all-lose" economic situations but also interfere with the process of a political settlement, Wang said on Saturday in a phone conversation with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock.

Wang (pictured) also explained why China prevented the invoking of references to Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter which authorizes the use of force and sanctions in a draft resolution on Ukraine, and vowed China would continue to play a constructive role in seeking and realizing peace.

China abstained from a vote on a draft resolution on Ukraine, proposed by the United States and other countries at the UN Security Council on Friday.

If the Security Council takes action, it should contribute to a political settlement of the current crisis rather than incite new confrontations, Wang said, adding that China supports all efforts that are conducive to de-escalation and a political settlement of the Ukraine issue.

He said China, being a permanent member of the UN Security Council, has always fulfilled its responsibilities of safeguarding international peace and security.

On the issue of European security, the legitimate concerns of all countries should be taken seriously, Wang said, adding that following five consecutive



rounds of NATO's eastward expansion, Russia's legitimate security concerns should be solved in a proper way.

Given that the Cold War has been over for a long time, Wang said it is necessary for NATO to reconsider its position and responsibilities. China believes the Cold War mentality based on bloc confrontation should be completely abandoned.

China supports NATO, the European Union and Russia resuming dialogue and seeking to build a balanced, effective and sustainable European security mechanism so as to achieve lasting peace and stability on the continent, he said.

The phone call over the weekend is China's latest move in a series of intensive diplomatic interactions to facilitate peace talks in its own way, and help defuse the Ukraine situation.

On Friday, President Xi Jinping spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the phone. Wang also held phone talks on the same day with senior diplomats from the United Kingdom, the EU and France, expounding China's basic position on the Ukraine issue.

Xinhua

Russia can mitigate sanctions, Kremlin says

BRUSSELS

THE Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia is capable of taking measures to mitigate economic damage to his country amid the latest rounds of sanctions announced by the United States and Europe and Western countries stepped up military help to Ukraine.

In addition to the sanctions on Russia's financial sector, agreed on by the United States, the European Union and the United Kingdom on Saturday, Britain's foreign minister, Liz Truss, said on Sunday that she would press for further measures against Russia, particularly by cutting off its oil and gas supplies, at a meeting with her counterparts in the G7 group of rich nations.

"Immediate measures are certainly being taken in order to mitigate the damage from sanctions and ensure the unhindered operation of all economic sectors and systems," TASS news agency quoted Peskov as saying.

Russia "has every possibility and potential to do that", he said.

"It was created in advance for such situations. Analysis will be required to determine the retaliatory measures that would best serve our interests."

The Kremlin response came as some Western countries stepped up military help to Ukraine.

On Friday, US President Joe Biden instructed the State Department to release up to an additional \$350 million worth of arms from US stockpiles to Ukraine.

He directed that \$350 million allocated through the Foreign Assistance Act be designated for Ukraine's defense, according to his memorandum to Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

On Saturday Blinken described the third authorization for weapons shipments to Ukraine as unprecedented.

"This package will include further lethal defensive assistance to help Ukraine address the armored, airborne and other threats it is now facing."

On Saturday the German government reversed a policy in place since World War II of not sending arms to conflict zones.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz said his country will send 1,000 anti-tank weapons and 500 Stinger missiles to Ukraine. Germany also lifted its ban on other countries to export German-origin weapons, including authorizing the Netherlands to send 400 rocket-propelled grenade launchers to Ukraine and allowing Estonia to send old German howitzers to Ukraine.

Before the latest decision, Germany had committed to sending 5,000 helmets and a field hospital to Ukraine.

For weeks Germany had said its "historical responsibility" prevented it from sending arms to conflict zones and had earlier blocked other NATO allies from sending German-origin weapons to Ukraine.

The about-face came weeks after criticism from other NATO and European Union member states.

It was now Germany's duty to help Ukraine, Scholz said. "That's why we're supplying 1,000 anti-tank weapons and 500 Stinger missiles to our friends in Ukraine."

A German government representative said the weapons will be delivered "as soon as possible".

The German policy reversal could mean more European military aid to Ukraine because many arms in EU member states are made at least in part in Germany.

Belgium's Prime Minister Alexander De Croo announced on Saturday that his government will support the Ukrainian military with 2,000 machine guns and 3,800 metric tons of fuel.

Belgium will also deploy 300 troops in Romania as part of the NATO efforts to beef up its eastern flank, De Croo said.

"Belgium assumes its responsibility within NATO Rapid Response of which elements were activated yesterday. In the current phase, 3,000 Belgian soldiers will be deployed in Romania."

The Dutch government told the parliament on Saturday that it will supply air defense rockets and antitank systems to Ukraine.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Saturday that the foreign ministers of the 27 EU member states were meeting virtually on Sunday evening to coordinate their assistance to Ukraine.

On Saturday Poland's President Andrzej Duda called for Ukraine to be granted an accelerated path to join the EU, following an appeal by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in the morning in which he said it was "a crucial moment to close the long-standing discussion once and for all and decide on Ukraine's membership".

Replying to Zelensky on his EU membership appeal, European Council President Charles Michel said: "Further concrete support is on its way."

Agencies

Zelensky says next 24 hours crucial for Ukraine

MOSCOW / KIEV / BRUSSELS

THE next 24 hours will be crucial for Ukraine's fight with Russia, said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday during a phone conversation with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the National News Agency of Ukraine (Ukrinform) reported.

Johnson said he would do all he could to help ensure defensive aid from Britain and other allies reached Ukraine.

The city Berdyansk in southern Ukraine was seized by Russian troops yesterday morning, according to the regional government. The Ukrainian army said that the situation in Kiev was still under its control.

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian delegation arrived at the place for talks with the Russian side in the Gomel region in Belarus on Monday, Sputnik reported.

The Ukrainian delegation for talks with Russia is now in Belarus, Sputnik reported on Monday.

The talks are expected to start yesterday morning, it added.

Ukraine agreed to hold talks with Russia at the Belarusian-Ukrainian border near the Pripyat River, Zelensky said Sunday via social media.

The agreement came after a seesaw struggle between the two sides. The Kremlin earlier announced that a Russian delegation had arrived in Belarus for negotiations with Ukraine, while Zelensky rejected Russia's offer to hold talks in Belarus, saying the country is not an option.

The agreement to hold the talks was reached during a phone call between Zelensky and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko. However, Zelensky later said Ukraine would meet with Russia "without prior con-



This handout video grab taken and released by the Ukraine Presidency press service on yesterday shows Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky delivering an address in Kyiv. (UKRAINE PRESIDENCY / AFP)

ditions" at the border.

Earlier Sunday, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the country's deterrence forces to be placed on "a special mode of combat duty" in a meeting with top defense officials, accusing Western countries of imposing "illegitimate sanctions" against Russia's economy.

Senior officials of leading NATO members issued "aggressive statements" against Russia, Putin said at a meeting with Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov.

The decision to put the deterrence forces on combat duty was made as Russia has been conducting "a special military operation" in Ukraine since early Thursday.

Russian forces had destroyed 975 Ukrainian military infrastructure objects, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said on Sunday morning.

Russia has blockaded several cities in eastern and southern Ukraine.

Ukraine has mobilized about 100,000 troops amid the conflict with Russia, Valery Zaluzhny, chief commander of the armed forces of Ukraine, said Sunday on Facebook.

About half of the mobilized forces belong to the Territorial Defense Forces of the armed forces of Ukraine, Zaluzhny said.

EU Airspace Shut

Also on Sunday, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced that the EU would shut its airspace to Russian airlines in response to its "special military operation" in Ukraine since early Thursday.

"We are shutting down the EU airspace for Russians," Von der Leyen said in a statement on Sunday, "We are proposing a prohibition on all Russian-owned, Russian registered or Russian-controlled aircraft."

"These aircraft will no more be able to land in, take off or overfly the territory of the EU," she said, adding that the ban would "apply to any plane owned, chartered or otherwise controlled by a Russian legal or natural person."

"So let me be very clear. Our airspace will be closed to every Russian plane - and that includes the private jets of oligarchs," she stressed.

Xinhua

SWIFT block could hurt global economy

SHANGHAI

THE expulsion of Russia from a major global financial system will cast a shadow over the world economy, which has already been hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic, experts said.

The United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and the European Union said in a joint statement on Saturday that "selected Russian banks" will be removed from the SWIFT messaging system, which stands for the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication.

These affected Russian banks, about which additional details were not disclosed, will be "disconnected from the international financial system", according to the statement.

Belgium-based SWIFT, founded in 1973, is a secure messaging system used to facilitate cross-border money transfers, instead of taking part in payments directly. It connects more than 11,000 banks and financial institutions in more than 200 countries. It processed 42 million financial messages each day in 2021, up 11.4 percent year-on-year.

A comment piece in May last year from the Carnegie Moscow Center think tank described expulsion from SWIFT as a "nuclear option" that would hit Russia particularly hard, primarily because of the country's reliance on energy exports denominated in US dollars.

"The cutoff would terminate all



A sign for the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) is seen outside the company headquarters in Brussels, Feb 20, 2007. File photo

international transactions, trigger currency volatility, and cause massive capital outflows," according to the article's author, Maria Shagina.

Yang Xiyu, a researcher at the China Institute of International Studies, said that excluding Russia from SWIFT will bring harm to all related parties, including in the US and Europe. Such a stalemate, if it lasts longer, would seriously impair the world economy, Yang said.

Tan Yaling, head of the China Forex Investment Re-

search Institute, also agreed that the US and Europe will undergo much pressure by cutting off Russia from SWIFT, as Russia is a major food and energy exporter in the world. The expulsion might be short-term, as trade suspension would result in two-way negative impact in the globalized market.

The EU is the world's largest natural gas importer, with 41 percent of the annual imported volume coming from Russia, according to the energy de-

partment of the European Commission.

The stress on "selected banks", instead of the entire Russian banking system, leaves room for the EU so that it can continue US dollar-denominated natural gas imports from Russia, said Dong Ximiao, chief researcher at Merchants Union Consumer Finance.

More than 95 percent of the world's cross-border US dollar-denominated transactions are processed by combining the services

from SWIFT and the New York-based Clearing House Interbank Payment System, according to experts at Guotai Jun'an Securities.

Hong Hao, managing director of BOCOM International, said that Russia and most of the European economies will have to avoid US dollar payments if they wish to continue natural gas trade after such an expulsion takes effect, which eventually would rattle the US dollar's dominating position in the world.

SWIFT cut its connection with Iran in 2012 and 2018, and a similar step was taken against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 2007.

Tan from the China Forex Investment Research Institute emphasized that the steps taken against Iran and the DPRK were completely different from the expulsion of Russia, given the latter's economic size and global influence. In addition, the world economy was different in the earlier cases, since the measures were taken before the impact of the pandemic, Tan said.

Xinhua

European Union closes airspace to Russia – document

BRUSSELS

THE European Union has closed its airspace to Russia due to the situation in Ukraine, according to a document published in the Official Journal of the European Union yesterday.

"It shall be prohibited for any aircraft operated by Russian air carriers, including as a marketing carrier in code-sharing or blocked-space arrangements, or for any Russian registered aircraft, or for any non-Russian-registered aircraft which is owned or chartered, or otherwise controlled by any Russian natural or legal person, entity or



body, to land in, take off from or overfly the territory of the union," the document reads.

However, "the competent authorities may authorize an aircraft to land in, take off

from, or overfly, the territory of the union if the competent authorities have determined that such landing, take-off or overflight is required for humanitarian purposes or

for any other purpose consistent with the objectives of this regulation."

On February 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a special military

operation based on a request from the heads of the Donbass republics.

The Russian leader stressed that Moscow had no plans to occupy Ukrainian territories and the goal was to demilitarize and denazify the country.

Russia's Defense Ministry reported later that the Russian Armed Forces were not delivering strikes against Ukrainian cities.

The ministry emphasized that the Ukrainian military infrastructure was being destroyed by precision weapons and there was no threat to civilians.

Agencies



Tanzania's Para powerlifter Yohana Mwila at training in Dar es Salaam recently, preparing for the 2022 Commonwealth Games which will take place in Birmingham, England from July 28 until August 8.

National Para Power Lifting Championships postponed

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE National Para Power Lifting Championships, which was slated for last Saturday in Dar es Salaam, has been pushed to next month.

Tanzania Para Power Lifting Association (TPPA) Secretary-General, Yohana Mwila, said the championships will be played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in the city on March 13.

He said the National Sports Council (NSC) advised the TPPA to host the championships alongside National Para Athletics Championships.

"The government through the NSC advised us to postpone the championships to host it alongside the National Para Athletics Championships," he said.

He said Para Power Lifting Championships will involve powerlifters taking part in 65kg, 59kg, and 55kg events for men while women will feature in 70kg, 65kg, and 55kg events.

The National Para Athletics Championships and Para Power Lifting Championships will be used to identify new talents which will represent the country at next year's Africa Games in Ghana and 2024 Paris Paralympics.

More than 50 Para powerlifters and 100 Para athletes are expected to compete at the championships.

The Para Athletics Championships will involve men and women and both will compete in athletics.

The tournament will have the sportsmen and women battling it out in 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, and 1500m, shot put, javelin, discus, long jump, high jump, and wheelchair racing.

In Para powerlifting, male and female athletes assume a supine position on a specially designed bench, and after either taking or receiving the bar at arms-length, the lifter shall wait with locked elbows and the bar under control for the Chief Referee's signal.

After receiving the signal "start", the lifter must lower the bar to the chest, hold it motionless (visible) on the chest and then press it upwards evenly, with an even equal extension of both the arms with locked elbows.

When held motionless and controlled in this position, the audible signal "rack" shall be given and the bar is returned to the rack.

Then an immediate decision shall be given by the three nominated international referees through a system of white and red lights.

Either two or more white lights signify a good lift and either two or more red lights reflect a no lift.

Each athlete has three attempts, and upon the discretion of the jury a fourth attempt may be allowed to achieve a new world record, but this attempt does not count towards the final competition result.

Fundraising event for Twiga Stars a praiseworthy idea

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

IT is an ill-concealed secret in domestic football that the women's game in Tanzania faces serious funding challenges, which admittedly have been mitigated a tad but are still monumental obstacles to progress in national women's football nonetheless.

Indeed, one can easily and vividly recollect a time in the past when it distinctly seemed like a mission impossible for the Tanzania Women's Football Association (TWFA) to secure sponsorship for the long-promised national women's football league.

Thankfully though, the long-awaited Mainland Women's Premier League firmly got off the ground a few years ago courtesy of the funds channeled into the top-tier competition by Serengeti Breweries Limited.

The emergence of Serengeti Breweries Limited as the women's league sponsor was irrefutably a godsend for domestic women's football.

That notwithstanding, funding challenges still pose a formidable and arduous hindrance to women's football on our shores.

Viewed against this rather grim backdrop, then, a report that surfaced last week which indicated that the National Sports Council (NSC) in concert with a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) known as 'Dada Hood' are planning a special fundraising event to ease the funding woes of the Twiga Stars is most surely news that should leave us all positively beaming.

The event will feature mu-



Senior national women's football team 'Twiga Stars' players take part in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for previous season's COSAFA Women's Championship, which took place in Nelson Mandela Bay, South Africa. PHOTO: TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

sical performances and various sporting contests to boot.

Fittingly, the event is set to take place on March 8, which is internationally recognized as International Women's Day.

Indeed, one feels that the NSC and 'Dada Hood' are deserving of a lot of plaudits for seizing the initiative and refusing to stand idly by and wait for others to offer financial support to the Twiga Stars first.

It is also hoped that now that the NSC and Dada Hood have illuminated the way, other individuals and organizations will similarly grasp the nettle where the

issue of funding the Twiga Stars is concerned.

Still, on funding woes, the National Wheelchair Tennis Association (WTA) has revealed that it has failed to raise funds to bankroll the participation of the national wheelchair tennis team at the renowned BNP Paribas World Team Cup in Turkey.

Our country will be represented by six players, who will fly the flag at the spectacle which will also double as a qualifying championship for the Wheelchair Tennis World Cup in Portugal later this year.

With the team expected to head off to Turkey on

March 9, this year, time is of the essence and so one hopes that generous-hearted would-be sponsors will rapidly come to the team's rescue.

Generally speaking, it is also incumbent upon the domestic sporting fraternity to earnestly seek a reliable funding mechanism for sports in the country as cash-flow crises are commonplace in our local sporting arena.

And lastly, it appears that Simba SC's fortunes in the CAF Confederation Cup have suffered a downturn following their 2-0 away loss to RS Berkane of Morocco in a Group D face-off. The defeat comes hot on

the heels of Simba SC's last encounter in the continental football tournament which ended in a 1-1 sharing of the spoils with USGN of Niger.

Hopefully, then, Simba SC will be able to swiftly nip their sudden drop in form in the bud to avert further damage to their prospects of advancing to the CAF Confederation Cup's knockout phase.

Indeed, if the Msimbazi Street outfit needed any reminder that competing in continental club football tournaments is akin to an uphill battle, they have certainly been supplied with one!

Coast Region to host netball coaching, umpiring courses

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

FORTY-six netball coaches and umpires are attending a 10-day course at Filbert Bayi Schools in Kibaha, Coast Region.

Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta)'s Chairperson, Devotha Marwa, said the course is recognized by the International Netball Federation (INF).

She said the course aims to have many qualified local coaches and umpires develop netball in the country.

Devotha mentioned Malawians, Mary Waya and Rebecca Dulanya, as instructors in coaching and umpiring respectively.

Mary is a former Malawi national netball team player and Filbert Bayi Schools' netball team's head coach.

"The course aims to see that netball is growing and developing in the country, we want qualified coaches who can identify and nurture talents, the qualified umpires are vital, we want netball matches to be officiated by qualified people," Devotha said.

Devotha recently disclosed that Chaneta is geared at seeing that the game is growing in the country.

"We have lined up several programs which will see the game grow in the

country. Next year (this year) we will start implementing those programs," she said.

After many years of absence from international events, last year the country's national netball team, Taifa Queens, competed at the Africa Netball Championship which took place in Namibia, the team did not perform well.

In the recent INF ranking, Taifa Queens is placed 40th.

Devotha attributed the poor performance to a lack of experience and exposure.

Devotha said for the country to perform well at the two international events which will be held in South Africa (2022 and 2023), there is a need to start the transition and the national team must play many international friendly matches.

She said currently Chaneta plans to organize several training camps in which selected young players will be playing against the senior national team to learn the ropes.

Chaneta also plans to organize many youth tournaments which will be used to identify new talents as many Taifa Queens players are in the twilight of their careers.



The Absa Bank Head of Marketing and Corporate Relations, Aron Luhanga (in white cap), in a group photo with the bank's staff at their tent during the 20th edition of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon, which took place in Moshi. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Bank employees colour 2022 Kilimanjaro Marathon

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Absa Bank has pledged to continue supporting the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon in terms of sponsorship and ensure that the institution's employees continue to participate fully to make the most of the sponsorship and colour the event.

Speaking during the 20th edition of the prestigious Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon, the Absa Bank Head of Marketing and Corporate Relations Aron Luhanga said the event is a good forum for the bank's staff to not only socialize with other people but also market their bank.

"We want our staff to maintain a

healthy lifestyle throughout so we are encouraging them to participate in such events," he said.

Luhanga noted that Absa Bank has been investing by sponsoring its staff to participate and also noted that the bank also ensures they prepare well.

The official said they are proud to host such a big event that is normally held in Moshi every year and brings together more than 12,000 participants.

Absa Bank is one of the sponsors that were lauded by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, who was the guest of honour, for its remarkable contribution to the huge event.

The institution hosted hundreds of people at its colourful tent at

the Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU) Stadium where other sponsors and exhibitors were also stationed. Staff who took part in the races were busy taking photos and enjoying the good moments together.

"Our staff, family, and friends have had some good time as we hosted them right here. Some took part in the races while others were spectators," he said.

The official noted that they were proud to be part of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager 20th Anniversary.

According to Luhanga they also had a water table along the route and that the spot was a beehive of activities as runners passed by to refresh themselves as some took pho-

tos and enjoyed the good moments with their families and friends.

Other sponsors include the main sponsor, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, Tigo- 21km, and Grand Malt-5km.

The marathon's water table sponsors include Absa Tanzania, Unilever Tanzania, TPC Sugar, Simba Cement, and Kilimanjaro Water.

GardaWorld Security, Keys Hotel, Kibo Palace Hotel, Surveyed Plots Company Ltd, Tanzanian Tourism Board and CMC Automobiles are the showdown's official suppliers.

The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon is organized by the Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and locally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.

Russia facing World Cup exile after 'unacceptable' FIFA plan

LONDON

RUSSIA'S future in the World Cup teetered on a knife-edge Monday after FIFA plans to allow them to play on neutral territory were dismissed as "unacceptable" by rivals, plunging the qualifying process for football's showpiece event into chaos.

Governing body FIFA warned that they were considering the ultimate sanction against Russia as punishment for their bloody invasion of Ukraine.

However, after three days of silence, they stopped short and ordered Russia to play home internationals at neutral venues where their national flag and anthem would be banned.

Russian teams would be known as the Football Union of Russia.

FIFA said dialogue with other sports organisations to determine additional measures "including potential exclusion from competitions" would continue.

However, within minutes of the announcement, the Polish FA insisted they would not play Russia in a scheduled World Cup play-off, regardless of the venue.

"Today's FIFA decision is totally unacceptable," tweeted Polish FA president Cezary Kulesza.

"We are not interested in participating in this game of appearances. Our stance remains intact: Polish National Team will NOT PLAY with Russia, no matter what the name of the team is."

Poland are due to play in Moscow on March 24 with the winners to host either the Czech Republic or Sweden five days later.

The draw for the World Cup finals, to be staged in Qatar in November and December, is on April 1.

Sweden and the Czech Republic followed suit.

"We have previously made it known that we do not want to face Russia under these circumstances (following the invasion) and this remains the case until further notice," said Swedish FA president Karl-Erik Nilsson.

- 'Displeased' with FIFA -

He added he was "displeased" with FIFA's decision.

The Czech FA added: "There will be no change in the Czech national team's standpoint."

In response, FIFA said in a statement that it had "taken good note of the positions expressed via social media by the Polish Football Association, the Football Association of the Czech Republic and the Swedish Football Association."

"FIFA will remain in close contact to seek to find appropriate and acceptable solutions together," it said.

French Football Federation president Noel Le Graet led calls on Sunday for Russia to be kicked out of the World Cup.

"The world of sport, and especially football, cannot remain neutral. I certainly would not oppose the expulsion of Russia," Le Graet told Le Parisien newspaper.

France are the World Cup holders after winning the 2018 tournament which was hosted by Russia.

The English FA said their national teams would not play any games against Russia "out of solidarity with Ukraine and to wholeheartedly condemn the atrocities being committed by the Russian leadership".

The Welsh FA said they too would join a boycott as it "stands in solidarity with Ukraine and feels an extreme amount of sadness and shock to the recent developments in the country".

- 'Football Stands Together' -

European governing body UEFA on Friday stripped the Champions League final from Saint Petersburg's Gazprom Arena on May 28 and switched it to the Stade de France in Paris.

At Wembley on Sunday, Chelsea skipper Cesar Azpilicueta and Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson carried flowers in Ukraine's yellow and blue colours before kick-off in the League Cup final.

Both teams stood for a minute's applause, while a scoreboard message in yellow and blue blazed "Football Stands Together" and Liverpool and Chelsea fans were seen with Ukraine flags.

One banner in blue and yellow read "You'll never walk alone" in reference to Liverpool's terrace anthem.

Chelsea also said they were "praying for peace" after owner Roman Abramovich's decision to hand over control of the Premier League club.

The Russian-Israeli billionaire announced on Saturday that he was handing the "stewardship and care" of Chelsea to the trustees of the club's charitable foundation. But he will remain as owner.

There was no mention in his statement of the crisis in Ukraine.

Chelsea released a 24-word statement on their website Sunday but omitted any reference to Russia or its president, Vladimir Putin.

"The situation in Ukraine is horrific and devastating," the statement said. "Chelsea FC's thoughts are with everyone in Ukraine. Everyone at the club is praying for peace."

It is understood that Abramovich, who allegedly has links to the Kremlin, took the decision to step aside in order to protect Chelsea from reputational damage as the war rages in Ukraine.

Sporting anger wasn't just limited to football.

In Cairo, Ukraine on Sunday withdrew from the world fencing championships to avoid facing Russia, downing their swords and displaying protest signs saying "Stop Russia! Stop the war!" and "Save Ukraine! Save Europe."

Swimming's governing body FINA cancelled the world junior championships in Russia due to take place in August and said no other events will be held in the country "if this grave crisis continues".

Swimming Australia on Monday welcomed the cancellation and said it would be boycotting all competitions in Russia.

AFP

'This is the start': Klopp eyes quadruple after Liverpool win League Cup

LONDON

JURGEN Klopp challenged Liverpool to chase a historic quadruple after the Reds won the League Cup final in a dramatic penalty shoot-out against Chelsea on Sunday.

Klopp's side clinched the first of the four major trophies they are competing for this term when Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga smashed his penalty high over the crossbar.

Kepa was the only player to miss in the shoot-out as Liverpool converted all 11 of their kicks and Chelsea netted 10.

It was a fittingly tense conclusion to a thrilling encounter that finished 0-0 after extra-time despite both sides creating numerous chances.

Liverpool had a Joel Matip goal controversially disallowed for a dubious offside against Virgil van Dijk in the second half.

Chelsea were denied three times by the offside flag, with Blues boss Thomas Tuchel furious that Romelu Lukaku's effort didn't survive a VAR check.

Liverpool's record ninth League Cup triumph was their first domestic knockout tournament triumph since 2012.

Having failed to win a trophy last season, Klopp believes his players can use the momentum from their Wembley success to fuel their bid to become the first English club to enjoy a trophy clean-sweep.

The Reds are six points behind Premier League leaders Manchester City with a game in hand, hold a 2-0 lead heading into their Champions League last-16 second leg



Liverpool players celebrate with the trophy after winning the English League Cup final soccer match between Chelsea and Liverpool at Wembley stadium in London, Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022. Liverpool won a penalty shootout 11-10 after the match ended tied 0-0. (AP Photo)

against Inter Milan and host Norwich in the FA Cup fifth round on Wednesday.

"This is the start. We are not silly. You need luck. We have to survive, work hard and, we have to play on Wednesday again, which I cannot believe at this moment," Klopp said.

"Anfield will be rocking because of this result and hopefully we can deliver a game to enjoy.

"We don't get nervous when things don't go well. We are more experienced now.

"It's a big one for us. The first time for this group.

The atmosphere was outstanding. It was nice to celebrate with the people after the match."

- "Two lions going at each other" -

Liverpool's final kick in the shoot-out was coolly converted by keeper Caoimhin Kelleher, who was again deputising for first-choice Allison Becker after playing all but one game in the competition this season.

"The game he played was absolutely incredible. I can remember two brilliant saves. He showed his full skill set in the penalty

shoot-out," Klopp said.

"It was like two lions going at each other. It was absolutely crazy. It was one of the most spectacular shoot-outs I ever saw."

Tuchel insisted he will not second-guess his decision to send on Kepa to replace Edouard Mendy, who had made a series of superb saves throughout the match.

Kepa has a reputation as a penalty-saving expert and came off the bench to help win the UEFA Super Cup shoot-out against Villarreal earlier this season.

But the Spaniard failed

to repel any of Liverpool's kicks before his own miss.

"We did it before with Kepa, he is slightly better in penalty saving and that is why I made the decision. It is unusual all 11 players need to shoot, he took it a bit too quick," Tuchel said.

"Sometimes these things can turn against you but you make them when they need to be made, not after when people can judge you. "We gave everything and it was a brilliant match. The disallowed goal for Romelu is a very close call, there are bad feelings about this."

It is a difficult period for

Chelsea, whose Russian owner Roman Abramovich on Saturday put the club in care of its trustees in response to claims in the UK Parliament that oligarchs should be stripped of their assets following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Abramovich remains Chelsea's owner and Tuchel is hopeful the European champions' day-to-day routine will not be affected.

"Very confident on a daily basis and how we handle things will not change," he said.

AFP

Fall of the Roman empire leaves Chelsea with an uncertain feeling

LONDON

AS Kepa Arrizabalaga's losing penalty kick soared high into the dark Wembley skies, still rising, some said, as it cleared Wembley Park tube station, the mass of Liverpool fans behind the goal produced a vast barrelling cheer, bodies tumbling, flares turning the night red.

For the Chelsea end, relieved from glorious distraction of an apparently never-ending penalty shootout, the immediate future seems less clear.

Perhaps some will call for change. Sack the charitable foundation! It wasn't like this under Roman. Say what you like, he made the startlingly generous flow of private cash into a winning playing squad work. Either way, a losing Carabao Cup final felt like a suitably low-key day one for the post-Roman era; the alternate, rebooted Roman era, or wherever it is Chelsea FC finds itself heading off into right now.

It was a strange day all round. As Chelsea's players missed chance after chance in the opening hour, as Mason Mount bludgeoned the ball into the advertising boards with all the finesse of man kicking an empty can of baked beans along the hard shoulder of the motorway, Thomas Tuchel could be seen beating the touchline turf with his fists, beseeching the Wembley skies, a tableau of agonised confusion. Yes, get it out Thomas. Because these are certainly fraught and interesting times. On the pitch this was an absorbing, ruminative cup final. Off it, this was football with a side order of European land war, the second-tier domestic cup competition spiced with a

sense of impending mutual assured destruction.

And right now everything about Chelsea FC seems fraught with macro-chaos. Not least the exact status of the club's ownership. The idea that Roman Abramovich has handed over "stewardship and care" of the club, as per Saturday night's weirdly casual official statement, is baffling enough.

Really? Define "stewardship". What about "care"? Can the trustees of the club's charitable foundation decide to sell it? Can they buy a better centre forward or sack the manager? Or refuse to compete in the Champions League until Russian clubs are expelled? If not, why not? The Labour MP Chris Bryant has already suggested the stewardship stuff could be an attempt by Abramovich to avoid being caught up in the process of sanctions. Abramovich vehemently disputes any suggestion of his alleged closeness to Vladimir Putin and Russia or that he has done anything to merit being sanctioned.

"I'm worried that this is a classic Russian ruse," Bryant told the Guardian on Saturday, although his suggestion that Abramovich "could save himself a lot of bother by condemning Putin and his criminal invasion of Ukraine" is at least a chance for a little laughter in the dark. Let's be clear, Abramovich could create a vast amount of bother for himself by saying that, whatever his past loyalties.

And for now nothing has really changed. The club will receive its usual top-ups. The £1.5bn loans have not been called in. The show goes on, sealed within that pool of distracting light. And Wembley was a chilly, crisp, crackly

place at kick-off, the thin afternoon sun creeping down the roof of the far stand. Football tends to do this. The world keeps on ending. Still people keep showing up asking where the party is.

There was an early moment of apparently genuine absurdity as the in-house PA asked the crowd to stand so that Ukraine would know "the whole football family" supports them, even as death rains down on their houses and the bodies pile up in Kyiv.

This is of course nauseating double speak. In reality the football family, led by its governing bodies, has spent the past 12 years legitimising Vladimir Putin's regime, and bolstering his influence. The wretched, fawning Gianni Infantino has dishonoured his sport, and humiliated himself by padding after Putin like a needy puppy. Russian clubs are still in Uefa competitions. Russia are still en route to the World Cup. A club owned and funded

by a Russian oligarch: well they're out there right now dressed in blue.

Meanwhile, the game judgered on towards that apparently inevitable penalty shootout. Edouard Mendy made an incredible double save midway through the first half. Both teams had goals disallowed and so the mind began to wonder. There was once a dream that was Roman. It is 19 years now since Russia's most famous billionaire paid £140m to take control of Chelsea. It was a style setting administration from the start. Two decades on, as he cruises from around the Med, still low key superflash but essentially mute, oddly untouchable, it is easy to forget the glossy, celebified aspect of Abramovich's arrival in west London.

Nobody really stopped to ask why he was here, or why he wanted to own Chelsea. Why would you?

In the summer of 2003 the common response to the appearance of the English football's first overseas

billionaire was a collective gawp, a phwoar, a wa-hey, a vicarious drool at the flash, the show, the trappings of the post communist uber-lad lifestyle. Abramovich owned a yacht with two helipads and its own submarine. He bought a house that looked like an embassy. He was a fun-loving billionaire. Of course this was normal.

And everything was new in this picture. Vladimir Putin had come to power in Russia just three years previously. The fall of the Berlin wall was only nine years before that. Oligarchs: what were they exactly? How did this work, this evolving system of commerce and power? The assumption was that buying Chelsea offered a kind of "insurance policy", a way of making himself known in another country, protected by his visibility. Does that seem right now? Does anything seem right?

At Wembley there were Ukraine flags in both ends, and plenty in the blue end. The Chelsea Supporters' Trust has made its feelings

clear: "We stand with the people of Ukraine". And, this is the strange lot of the football supporter now. Blaming a club's fans for the sins of its owners makes little sense. But it is quite possible to have a voice while still loving the team, the shirt, the players. That connection, that source of joy: none of it attaches to whoever the current owner happens to be.

Within 10 minutes of that final penalty kick the Chelsea end was almost empty. Liverpool's fans stayed to dance and shout and applaud the medals being handed out. This is a vital little notch on the belt for Jürgen Klopp, a first domestic cup in a decade, and another step in the building of an era.

For two hours at Wembley football had shut the doors on the world outside and staged its own show. For Chelsea, day one of the new world felt quite a lot like the old one. But it seems likely change is coming in one form or another.

(The Guardian)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

'This is the start': Klopp eyes quadruple after Liverpool win League Cup

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Coastal Union leaders urged to rescue outfit from squabbles



Coastal Union keeper, Mussa Mbisa, makes a save in front of Azam FC attacker, Iddi Selemani (2nd L), in a recent NBC Premier League clash between the two outfits held in Tanga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF COASTAL UNION

for the outfit. Coastal Union's American-born Egyptian coach Melis Medo has surprised many after quitting his job at the outfit after being fought by what he termed as 'ghosts'.

The team is allegedly under superstitious bondage, meaning certain people at the club are thought to have gone to witch-doctors to hinder the team from earning positive results consistently.

The tactician, therefore, believed that no matter what he does, his efforts are being 'fought' by those who do not wish him the best at the club, and, as a result, he has opted out.

It is not very easy to see a foreign coach talk about superstitious issues but Medo's words bring another dimension into Coastal Union.

Much as the coach might have failed to prove his worth, if indeed there will be more superstitious issues than scientific expertise then the downfall will be even greater.

After losing to Yanga, Coastal Union felt like the defeat to the former was not something acceptable to them.

The outfit hardly admitted it was overwhelmed, the main task was to find who sabotaged it, the main force was directed to finding out who had attacked the team.

Coastal Union failed to either accept or learn that Yanga had a great deal of self-discipline starting with good registration and the latter even have good coaches and many quality footballers.

Mnguto secured the TPLB's Chairman's post via serving as a leader at Coastal Union which now sits ninth in the league standings.

Coastal Union is placed close to the bottom due to a challenging league race, especially this season.

There is an urgent need for Mnguto and possibly Karia to return to the side to put the outfit in order.

As Coastal Union goes down Mnguto loses the reputation of holding the TPLB Chairman's position.

Mnguto should go to Tanga and seek the safety of the Coastal Union especially at this time when he seems to be very much based in Dar es Salaam far away from his club's headquarters.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE state of affairs at NBC Premier League side, Coastal Union, is a pity, the ship is sinking, there are more misunderstandings than calmness every day.

The outfit's head coach Melis Medo has resigned and decided to stay on the sidelines after noticing that the water is too high for him if the team does not register good results but there is also no unity.

Coastal Union last emerged victorious in an NBC Premier League tie against Mbeya City FC in Tanga on December 24, 2021. Coastal Union cruised to a 3-2 victory over Mbeya City FC.

The win was widely criticized especially the penalty which was controversially awarded to Coastal Union by referee Ahmed Arajiga from Manyara who is serving a ban for what was termed as poor officiating.

After the controversial win,

Coastal Union has played a total of five matches and has not won a single tie, starting with the game against Mtibwa Sugar until the last week's fixture against Geita Gold FC.

In those five matches, three of which had Coastal Union entertaining Mtibwa Sugar, Yanga, and Namungo FC and there were two away fixtures against Kagera Sugar and Geita Gold FC.

A football lover finds the interpretation that there is a problem within Coastal Union's squad regarding the quality of the team to know what ails them and matters are run unprofessionally.

Many of the goals that Coastal Union has been conceding have come from crosses, especially high balls.

If there is technical analysis from the outfit's technical director to the club's head coach they had to ask themselves and seek a solution to those challenges.

There is a lot of misunderstanding in Coastal Union leadership to remind a soccer lover

this is the club that is led by the Chairman of the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) Steven Mnguto.

A football follower can also not separate it from the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia who hails from Tanga too.

Recently a group of Coastal Union fans blamed their club leaders for not supporting their team but having a meeting was the first step that needed to be done, then supporters and leaders had to discuss challenges and find a solution.

To make matters worse, Coastal Union has become a hotbed of conflicts and has been plagued by gangs, with some of the sponsors fleeing due to the ill health of the club.

What is left now is for people to simply offer financial support for the side.

Ahmed Nassor, one of the club's great fans, cannot run away, if there is calmness he and other fanatics will come to spon-



Mbeya Kwanza FC

Malwisi disappointed with Mbeya Kwanza FC's results

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MBEYA Kwanza FC head coach Maka Malwisi says his side's 2-1 loss to Mtibwa Sugar in an NBC Premier League tie that took place at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya on Saturday is very painful but promised to rectify his players' problems.

Malwisi said he is disappointed with the results.

He said it was a fair game but his side lost concentration in the second half and the visitors punished them.

The tactician revealed: "I am disappointed of course, very disappointed that we lost."

Malwisi said: "We played well but the results are not good, I will rectify them. It was a very painful loss to our opponent."

Malwisi stated: "We expected to

win especially given how we played against Mtibwa Sugar."

Mtibwa Sugar's goals were scored by the attacker, Mayanja Mululi, and full-back, Omary Sultan, in the 38th and 75th minutes of the match.

Mbeya Kwanza FC's goal was scored by attacker Habib Kyombo in the 41st minute of the game through a spot-kick.

The Mbeya club is sitting 15th in the domestic top-flight standing with 13 points from 16 games.

Mbeya Kwanza FC will be in action on Sunday when the squad hosts city rival Mbeya City FC at Sokoine Stadium.

Mbeya Kwanza FC and Mbeya City FC settled for an exhilarating 2-2 draw in the two outfits' first phase clash that took place at the venue.

African Sports seeks to stun Pan African in Championship

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TANGA's outfit African Sports' leadership revealed that it is now eager to ensure its outfit wins the coming Championship game against Pan African that will be played at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam at the end of this week.

African Sports, popularly known as 'Wana Kimanu Manu', had failed to exploit home ground advantage in Championship tie against Transit Camp FC played at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga last Saturday.

Transit Camp FC held African Sports to 1-1 draw in the encounter.

The away game for African Sports and hosts Pan African has been scheduled to take place on Saturday.

While African Sports to ensure its outfit wins the coming Championship game against Pan African that will be played at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Saturday.

Speaking exclusively, African Sports' secretary-general Hatibu Enzi said they hope to win the coming game, seeking to avoid the relegation zone.

"Our home game against Transit Camp FC ended in 1-1 draw. Out of 16 teams in the Championship, we are placed 12th," Enzi revealed.

The official pointed out: "We are focusing to win next game against Pan Africa at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam to climb up into a better position in the league standing."

Earlier the team's head coach Kessy Abdallah noted that optimism for African Sports to secure promotion to the 2022/23 NBC Premier League has vanished because the side is strapped for cash.

The tactician asked well-wishers and sponsors to support them.

"The team is not stable financially that is why we're not doing well, we need more support from well-wishers and donors," Abdallah said.



African Sports

Flexibles by David Chikoko

