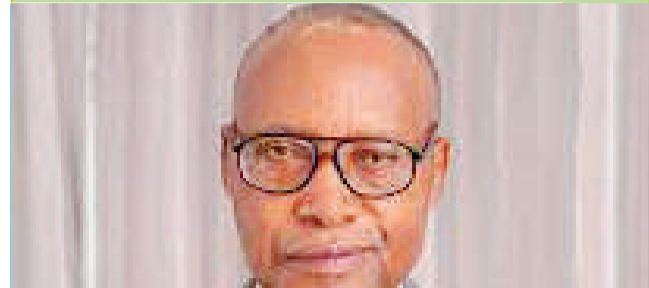




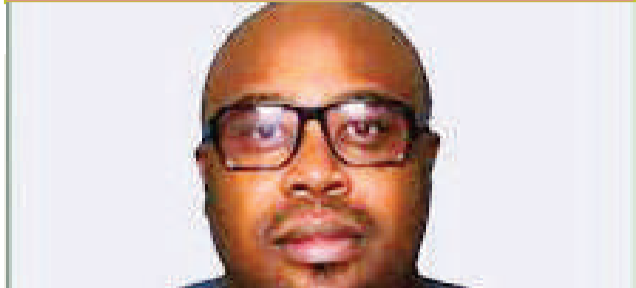
National Pg 3 Curriculum changes to spur development



National Pg 4 Samia: Use well health centres profitably



National Pg 6 AGRAF attracts five African leaders



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Public hails cabinet reshuffle

MP says he urged splitting Works and Transport in parliamentary debate last year

By Guardian Reporter

ANALYSTS, academicians and legislators have commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for a far-reaching cabinet reshuffle, reactivating the position of deputy prime minister, expecting that this will boost government performance.

Dar es Salaam-based commentator Abdulkarim Akiki lauded the move to reactivate the post, saying it will help to increase efficiency in upper level handling of government business.

The new deputy premier will assist the premier in monitoring government engagements as the burden of responsibilities the premier carries is too heavy, he said.

Many recalled the second phase existence of such a post, first with Dr Salim Ahmed Salim who also held the Defence portfolio, and the late Augustine Mrema, who also held the post of Home Affairs minister.

Nassoro Kitunda, an assistant lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam, said that the new position will boost coordination in the cabinet and "stimulate creativity in addressing various challenges" the country faces.

Ludovick Utouh, as former Controller and Auditor General (CAG) who heads an NGO focused on accountability, commended the changes in the conduct of duties at the Prime Minister's office.

The move will greatly increase effectiveness in supervising the carrying out of government duties in various



Jerry Slaa



Anthony Mavunde



Makame Mbarawa



Judith Kapinga



Doto Biteko



Alexander Mnyeti



David Kihenzile



Dunstan Kitandula



Godfrey Kasekenya

“...We commend the president for bringing to us youthful faces who will do great work

departments and agencies, he said, underlining that the president has constitutional power for such innovations.

“President Samia took ample time to think on the new changes and consulted advisors, to bring positive changes in supervising development initiatives,” he said.

Omary Mjenga, the president and CEO of the Centre for International Policy - Africa (CIP) hinted that dissolving the Ministry of Works and Transport to form two dockets was a great decision, to speed up decision making and consultation in fast-tracking implementation of mega projects in the two sectors.

Sengerema MP Hamisi Tabasamu said MPs anticipated the cabinet reshuffle and that it had come late, praising the inclusion of some youthful leaders in key positions.

The MP, who clashed with the government several times in recent sessions, said that changes in the energy docket can bring about substantial innovations given the current fuel scarcity challenges.

He similarly praised the decision to split Works and Transport, noting that he issued such advice in parliamentary debate last year, noting that the number of projects in

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TRA tracks illicit brews plant at border hideout

Caged zombie unsettles onlookers after midnight operation

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AUTHORITIES have tracked down an unlicensed alcohol brewing plant in clandestine operations in a virtual 'no man's land' on the Kenya-Tanzania border at Namanga.

Marko Ng'umbi, the Longido district commissioner, said here yesterday that the stealth establishment was churning out counterfeit alcoholic drinks using faked trademark labels of genuine brands.

The so-called Dalton beverage factory operated in the zone for more than two years, run by Kenyan and Tanzanian citizens bottling their products by recycling discarded bottles of established beverages like gins, beers and whiskeys produced in neighbouring countries, he said.

“As if no need existed to await the results, reports say that some people who consumed the drinks developed kidney and stomach problems

Factory director Dalton Karago Mumo and the manager, Kelvin Philipo Karago were arrested along with four others in the raid, with the others listed as Judith Mwande, Nduku Mutua and Lucy Kanini Mutua, all employees.

Strangely, there was also a scary looking visibly demented person found locked up in a cage-like room, oozing saliva, with police unable to establish identity so far, even as they confirmed the incident.

The racket at the factory was based on hiring young people to collect discarded varieties of liquor and beer bottles from dustbins, landfills and dumpsites. The bottles would then be put to cleaning in large tanks, then filled with the factory's beverages.

Bottles found ranged from those of ordinary beer brands, whiskey and banana wine, to be filled with illicit drinks all brewed under one roof, where the formulas scarcely differed, officials said.

The factory also had a printing wing producing genuine-looking revenue seals and stamps like those issued by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and the Malawi Revenue Authority.

Edwin Changwe, the TRA assistant regional manager, said the seals looked extremely convincing and if the

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Israel ready to import berries from Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

BERRIES from Tanzania would soon be among likely items on Israeli dining tables, following an interest from that country to import the fruits.

Michael Lotem (pictured), the new Israeli ambassador to Tanzania, said during his familiarisation tour at the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) premises here yesterday that there is immense demand for berries in Israel.

He urged TAHA to work together with his office to unlock the potential berries market there, an additional reason to smile for local farmers and exporters.

Available data indicates that berry and other fruit imports in Israel stood at \$282m last year, while overall, total imports show a rising trend since 2019, with import value surging at 16.1 percent on average for three years.

In 2023, approximate wholesale price for berries in



Israel stood at \$2.09 and \$2.79 per kilogram, he said, promising to work with TAHA to bring an Israeli business delegation by November on this agenda and other issues.

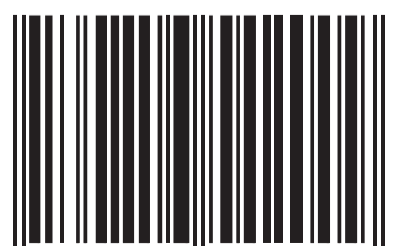
The delegation will explore opportunities for investments, joint ventures and partnerships as part of the quest to set up an Israel-East African Community (EAC) chamber of commerce, he stated.

The embassy would also support TAHA's subsidiary Greencert to secure a partner in Israel to establish a state-of-the-art laboratory for food produce testing in Arusha, he said.

Greencert is an autonomous outfit offering inspection, certification and testing services within the framework of different standards and management systems in the global agri-food sector, officials noted.

Dr. Jacqueline Mkindi, the TAHA CEO, expressed

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Public hails cabinet changes

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the two sectors requires different portfolios to be well supervised.

Stretching his concerns farther, he said that in the Energy portfolio some MPs including himself wanted two separate ministers, one for electricity and another for oil and gas.

He said changes in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development were necessary "as the top level was sleeping and now it has received a youthful minister in Jerry Silaa," thus the belief that he will change plenty of things.

"In regard to the appointment of deputy ministers, a person like Alexander Mnyeti is a great change. We commend the president for bringing to us youthful faces who will do great work," he stated.

Ministries untouched by the reshuffle should remain awake as the president continues to make changes, the legislator intoned.

Mohamed Said Issa (Konde-ACT Wazalendo) said President Samia has reinvigorated the principle that a ministerial portfolio is not for one to take for granted, as changes come up wherever the president sees fit to do so.

Namtumbo MP Victor Kawawa said the president's decision has touched the youth group of MPs and it is likely to bring great changes.

He said that Judith Kapinga had demonstrated before President Samia her proficiency on how she handles youth matters, as well as contributions in parliamentary debates.

Appointing January Makamba, the new Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, was also applauded, with MPs saying he is a young man with great ability in particular at an internal level.

This appreciation comes in the wake of the move by President Samia to make pivotal changes in the cabinet as well as altering the lineup of permanent secretaries, while reactivating the post of deputy prime minister.

Chief Secretary Dr Moses Kusiluka said in a statement that President Samia separated the Works and Transport ministry into Works and Transport ministries.

The Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ministry now has a deputy minister and a permanent secretary for East African Cooperation.

Four ministers, five deputy ministers, three permanent secretaries and deputy permanent

secretaries were appointed.

Dr Doto Biteko becomes deputy premier charged with coordinating government activities while retaining his post as Energy minister.

Jerry Slaa takes over as Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development minister, Anthony Mavunde becomes Minerals minister, while Prof Makame Mbarawa remains as Transport minister, with Innocent Bashungwa taking over at the Works portfolio.

Godfrey Kasekenya is new deputy minister for Transport, Alexander Mnyeti moves to Livestock as deputy minister after a late rectification, while David Kihenzile is deputy minister for Transport.

Judith Kapinga becomes deputy minister for Energy and Dunstan Kitandula is deputy minister for Natural Resources and Tourism.

Ministers and deputy minister changing portfolios are January Makamba (now at Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation), Dr Stergomena Tax (returns to Defence and National Service), Mohamed Mchengerva (moves to Regional Administration and Local Governments in the President's Office), Angellah Kairuki (Natural Resources and Tourism) and Dr Damas Ndumbaro (Culture, Arts and Sports), while Dr Pindi Chana moves to Constitutional and Legal Affairs, with Stephen Byabato taking up as deputy minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation.

Similarly, President Samia appointed Prof Godius Kahyarara permanent secretary for Transport, Cyprian Luhemeja becomes permanent secretary for Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities in the Prime Minister's Office, with Ambassador Prof Kennedy Gastorn taking over as permanent secretary in the East African Cooperation section of the ministry.

Dr Ally Possi takes over as permanent secretary for Transport, Ludovick Nduhiye is deputy permanent secretary (Works), and Mwajuma Juma is deputy permanent secretary for Water.

Those changing ministries are Prof Jamal Katundu, now deputy permanent secretary for Water, Dr Seif Shekalaghe is deputy permanent secretary for Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities in the Prime Minister's Office, while Dr John Jingu goes back to the Health ministry as permanent secretary.

Crop exporters want the govt to introduce single export licence

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

EXPORTERS of agricultural products have appealed to the government to come up with only one export permit, or licence that will plug corruption loopholes at border posts, remove inconveniences that contribute to their crops rotting.

Creating the single permit or licence, they should be involved in the process.

The idea for coming up with a single export permit or licence was given yesterday in Moshi, Kilimanjaro region when contributing to debate at the special training seminar organised by Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA).

Julith John, a trader said the involvement of exporters in the decision will help to preserve the country's market.

For his part, Frank Nicholas, another trader said: "The government never does business, we are the ones who know do it. We are the ones who know what is in the way beginning from farmers up to foreign countries, hence when the government miscalculates it

harms traders and farmers alike, we should collaborate at every step."

Opening the training seminar, acting Regional Administrative officer for Kilimanjaro Region, Dr Vedastus Makota said BRELA and his office are well mobilised to receive their complaints.

"We are here to educate traders, to receive their complaints and assist then in formalizing their businesses in order to simplify trade for the country's benefit," he said.

Dr Makota further said that the government to build the economy to benefit the people, including empowering traders of all types to understand the importance of conducting business within the country's official economic system.

Representative of BRELA's director general, Isdor Nkindi said the training will help to empower traders to understand the laws and regulations in conducting business.

Answering the issue on a single export permit, Nkindi said: "Due to avenues for corruption and inconveniences to exporters, the government is in the process of issuing a single electronic licence for the entire country.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has an audience with an Anglican Church Tanzania delegation led by Archbishop Maimbo William Mndolwa (2nd-L) at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

TRA tracks illicit brews plant at border hideout

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consignment was genuine the tax agency would have earned 100m/- during the period, he said.

Domisian Saasita, the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) officer at the Namanga border post, said they have taken samples from the

drinks brewed at the stealth factory and sent them to the Government Chemist Laboratory to be analysed to set out their actual contents.

As if no need existed to await the results, reports say that some people who consumed the drinks developed kidney and stomach

problems.

Police mounted a night ambush at the 'no man's land' factory, sighting dirty containers of the unknown brews along with their raw materials including rotten peeled bananas, molasses, the bottling machinery and rolls of counterfeit trademark

labels, revenue stamps and seals.

Still the discovery of the scary zombie with long unkempt hair, drooling saliva from his sagging mouth and locked inside a cage shook those present in that operation, and scores of others as word spread around.



Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda (L) and Lindi district commissioner Shaibu Ndemanga (next to him) pictured in Lindi yesterday being shown a sketch map meant for use in putting up buildings for a university planned for the municipality's Ngongo suburb. Right is University of Dar es Salaam lecturer Dr Juma Mohamed. Photo: Correspondent Said Hamdani

Israel ready to import berries from Tanzania

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gratitude to the envoy for the good relationship with TAHA and Tanzania as a whole, citing the need for Israeli firms' technology edge in the horticulture industry.

The visit helped to strengthen those bonds, she stated, noting that avocado, mangoes, pineapples, spices and herbs as well as flowers are priority horticultural produce with high potential for partnership with Israeli firms, she said.

Avocado production stands at

40,000 metric tonnes per year, growing at 20 percent and offers considerable potential for investors, she stated.

Mango production stands at 450,000 MT with two percent growth projection, while pineapple harvests are put at 454,008 MT, with a four percent annual growth rate at present, she said.

Spices and herbs, registering three per cent growth annually, have annual yields of about 31,242 MT, while flowers post a 4.9

percent annual growth projection and 13,240 MT total production at present, she said.

The horticultural industry earned \$779m in 2019, up from \$60m in 2006, she stated, affirming that the sub-sector was still a nascent venture to watch in relation to creating jobs and wealth.

"The government has developed a strategy to spur horticulture to earn \$2bn per year and offer vast opportunities for decent jobs, she added.

Mpox in the DRC: 350,000 euros in EU aid to combat the disease

KINSHASA

THE European Union (EU) has announced that it had granted 350,000 euros in aid to combat the mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) epidemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo, according to a press release.

Congolese health authorities have reported nearly 9,000 cases of mpox in the country, and 500 deaths this year, the EU delegation in the DRC said in a statement, adding that the Maniema province (east) is the worst affected.

The spreading epidemic has reached the capital Kinshasa, where "two patients were confirmed and treated last week", it added.

The situation has prompted the EU to "step up its support and extend it to three new health zones in Maniema, by strengthening response capacities, notably through surveillance, community awareness-raising, diagnostics and treatment."

The 350,000 euros from the European Union will go to ALIMA, a medical humanitarian organization operating in the DRC, for a five-month project.

The funds will help the organization to "address urgent and critical needs related to training and capacity building in disease surveillance, case management and infection prevention through community engagement, health promotion and outbreak response preparedness, as well as capacity building of health personnel, structures and system," said Johan Heffinck, Head of Office of ECHO (European Commission Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations).

The disease - which was first reported in humans in the DRC in 1970 - is characterized by skin rashes, which can appear on the genitals or in the mouth, and can be accompanied by fever outbreaks, sore throats or pain in the lymph nodes.

The spreading epidemic has reached the capital Kinshasa, where "two patients were confirmed and treated last week"



President Samia Suluhu Hassan (C) cuts a ribbon to officially open an examination hall and computer laboratory at Muunyi secondary school in Unguja on Tuesday as part of Kizimkazi Festival celebrations taking place in South Unguja Region yesterday. Azania Bank Limited sponsored construction of the building. Fifth right is the Bank's managing director, Esther Mang'anya. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania beneficiary of AFCAC and ICAO

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE Parliament yesterday ratified the Constitution of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), 2009, making Tanzania a beneficiary of all programmes implemented by the Commission and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

Speaking in Parliament yesterday, Minister for Transport Prof Makame Mbarawa said by ratifying AFCAC constitution, Tanzania will gain more from the Commission and ICAO, given its recent investment in the aviation industry.

According to the minister, by ratifying the AFCAC constitution, Tanzania will now benefit from studies undertaken by the commission on technical regulatory and economic developments in air transport with particular focus on their implications for Africa.

He said Tanzania will also benefit from the AFCAC training programmes, including the commission's support on training and development of personnel in air fields of aviation.

One of the functions of AFCAC is to develop collective arrangements to secure the necessary resources for the promotion of international civil aviation, particularly those provided within the framework of bilateral and multilateral programmes for technical cooperation to Member States.

Other functions of AFCAC include ensuring advocacy and defence of common positions of member States at international fora relating to civil aviation, ensuring seamless and close co-operation with the various Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as those of other African Organisations concerned with civil aviation matters.

The Commission is also

charged with examining specific problems which may hinder the development and operation of the African civil aviation industry and, where possible, take corrective and /or preventive actions in coordinating with Member States as required.

Other functions include developing and harmonizing common rules and regulations for the safety, security, environmental protection, fair competition, dispute settlement and consumer protection, amongst others; and increasing and coordinating synergies in the fields of search and rescue, salvage and accident investigation.

The commission is mandated to coordinate the development and implementation of plans in the field of aviation infrastructure, coordinate the election of African States into the ICAO Council and of African experts into the Air Navigation Commission after receiving the approval of AU; and support and facilitate the appointment of Africans into ICAO, its organs and other international civil aviation bodies.

According to Prof Mbarawa, AFCAC objectives include coordinating civil aviation matters in Africa and cooperating with ICAO and all other relevant organizations and other bodies which are involved in the promotion and development of civil aviation in Africa.

Other objectives are to facilitate, coordinate and ensure the successful implementation of the Yamoussoukro decision by supervising and managing Africa's liberalized air transport industry.

Leonard Chamuriho (Nominated MP), while contributing to the subject, asked the government to be careful with the matter due to the simple reason that Tanzania's aviation industry is still at infancy stage.

TCU urges eligible candidates for 2023/24 academic year to send their applications

By Grtrude Mbago

THE Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) has urged eligible candidates for the 2023/24 academic year to continue sending applications to universities of their choices and reminded those with multiple selections to confirm.

TCU executive secretary, Prof Charles Kihampa made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when addressing a news conference on the progress of the ongoing application window.

According to him, by confirming in one university for those with more multiple enrolment, will provide a chance for others in the line to get an opportunity to send their application in the programmes of their interest.

Prof Kihampa wanted those who have sent applications and enrolled in multiple universities to ensure that they confirm only to one varsity before September 7, this year.

"A total of 43,213 candidates have been enrolled in more than one university and 23,287 candidates

have been confirmed, so we urge others who are yet to so and allow others to benefit," he insisted.

He further warned the applicants and the general public to avoid being misled by some dishonest people (middlemen) who claim to provide services on how to join higher education institutions in Tanzania.

Prof Kihampa: "We have three groups of people who are eligible to apply for higher studies and these are form six leavers, ordinary diploma and those with foundation

courses from the Open University of Tanzania (OUT). All information on how to apply and minimum requirements are found in the TCU website and respective varsities."

He wanted varsities to open the programmes that still have chances for students to apply while ensuring that help desks provide needed assistance to students in application processes. He also warned that the Commission will take stern measures to any university which will be found not providing needed support to the candidates as per regulations.

Prof Kihampa further instructed the higher education institutions to announce programmes that still have vacancies for the candidates to apply.



Deputy minister for Water, Engineer Maryprisca Mahundi, (L) gets a brief about the expansion of Wami water production plant from the manager of the plant, Engineer Emaculata Msilama (R) when she visited Chalinez third phase of the project yesterday. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Prof Bisanda: Curricula changes to spur Tanzania's development

By Guardian Reporter

CHANGES in communities is a daily occurrence and hence changes to the education curricula in the country are essential in order to go in tandem changes taking in the communities worldwide.

The observation was made by Prof Elifas Tozo Bisanda, Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) at the seminar for the preparation and development of curricula for the heads of faculties, directors of quality control and the Institute of Education.

The seminar also involved all heads professional departments from all faculties at OUT held at Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School at Kibaha from August 24-26, this year.

"Our country is currently in the process of making changes to the curricula at primary and secondary education levels and the process has reached a good stage.

"And we from various universities including OUT are also in the

process to boost our own curricula to go in tandem with those changes as well as the market situation and employment requirements in the community.

"That is why today we are here at Kibaha to sharpen all heads of departments so that they also sharpen lecturers in their departments.

"We must make sure we come up with the curricula that will produce professionals who are able to employ themselves and invent projects that can hire others," said Prof Bisanda.

Conveying his thanks to the OUT Vice Chancellor for the good opening speech, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Professions, Research and Consultancy, Prof Deus Ngaruko said: "In the present time we need to have the curricula that aim to provide skills - competence-based curricula so that graduates should come out with knowledge, means to change concepts from waiting to be employed to employing themselves."

"Competence is the basic issue, we are required to make sure our graduates know of new things they can do. Merely knowing and failing to accomplish new things is not acceptable in the present world where education and competence have become cross-cutting issues."

An expert in issues of curricula, Prof Paul Mushi participated in providing training to the heads of departments and faculties in the area of curricula design

Among many good things he trained on include requiring those preparing the curricula to make sure they do adequate research in order to come up with the curricula that satisfy our present and future communities.

He stressed in knowing the government's goals, policies, national foundations, Tanzania culture among the communities, social taboos and moral ethics for Tanzania and the world in general.

The training was coordinated by UNESCO under its Education to Teachers and Curricular Development at OUT under its Chairman Prof Elifas Bisanda, Dr Edefonce Nfuka and Dr Janeth Kigobe who are coordinators.



WWF for a living planet

CALL FOR CONSULTANCY PROPOSAL FOR HYDROLOGICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY FOR PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (PES) IN MARA RIVER CATCHMENT

Background
Mara River Catchment (MRC) is known globally for its unique ecosystems, biodiversity, and protected areas. It also supports majority of the profitable economic activities in Tanzania and Kenya through tourism, agriculture and mining (contributing 10% - 15% to both countries' GDP). However, economic and community growth as well as more extreme and unpredictable changes to the climate are putting pressure on and degrading freshwater resources. MRC project cuts across six districts (i.e., Serengeti, Butiama, Tarime, Rorya, Musoma and Bunda) in Mara Region. The project targets to address the water security and climate resilience challenges faced by the growing communities in the MRC.

Payment for Ecosystem Services involves the establishment of funding mechanisms, financial instruments, and payment systems that incentivize individuals, communities, or organizations to engage in activities that promote the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of ecosystem services. The financing mechanism for ecosystem services aims to address the market failure in recognizing and valuing the benefits provided by ecosystems, such as clean water provision, carbon sequestration, habitat preservation, and biodiversity conservation. It seeks to create economic incentives for landowners, communities, and other stakeholders to actively participate in environmental conservation and ensure the continued provision of ecosystem services.

The Overall Purpose
The overall purpose of the consultancy is to conduct hydro-ecological, and socio-economic study in the identified watershed (Tigithe, Mara wetland and Manchira watershed), to identify appropriate water resource conservation ecosystem services model in Mara catchment that will enhance the catchment conservation.

Application Procedure & Submission of Applications
All interested applicants may get the detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) on WWF website at https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/ and send their full proposal (technical and financial) through procurement email at procurement@wwftz.org

Only soft copy proposals should be submitted and addressed through;

Secretary, Procurement Committee
WWF Tanzania
Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, Mikocheni
P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077 Fax: +255 22 277 5535;

All applications should reach us **by or before 0930Hrs Tanzania local time on Thursday, 14th September 2023.**

WWF has a principle of zero-tolerance to fraud and corruption, if you encounter such incident, report by sending an email to fcci@wwftz.org

Activists urge suspension of Constitutional education

By Getrude Mbago

HUMAN rights activists have urged the government to suspend plans to commence a nationwide campaign to educate citizens on the current Constitution of 1977 citing that the move will delay the process of getting the new constitution.

This comes a few days after the then Minister for Constitution and Legal Affairs announced that the government will soon commence a campaign to educate Tanzanians on the current constitution for three years.

In their joint statement, Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (TDHRC) and Tanzania Constitution Forum (TCF), the activists wanted the government to forget the plan and continue with the current initiatives of getting a new Constitution.

LHRC executive director, Anna Henga said that there was no need of going back to the older document instead of focusing on getting a new Constitution as this will take much time and unnecessary expenses.

"Majority of Tanzanians have a wider understanding of the current Constitution of 1977, so

we do not see the importance of focusing on the document, what we want here is for the country to get the new Constitution," she said.

She said that despite the commitment announced by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to ensure that the country gets a new constitution, the situation shows that the accountability in the area was not pleasing.

TCF executive director, Bob Wangwe said that the activists have high hopes for President Samia and they believe that she will supervise to ensure that the country gets the Constitution within a short period of time.

"To ensure that the Constitution making process gets a boost, it is better to submit to the Parliament a draft of the Bill to facilitate the process which includes public and stakeholders views collection," he said.

Ananilea Nkya, TCF chairperson said that since 1992 when Tanzania adopted a multiparty system, has never had a new Constitution and this calls for increased pace to ensure that the country gets the document to promote democracy, rule of law and stimulate social, political and economic development.



Former Energy minister who now becomes Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, January Makamba (L) and Information, Communication and Information Technology minister Nape Nauye (C) congratulate Doto Biteko (R) who has been appointed Deputy Prime Minister who also will also serve as Energy minister. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Samia calls upon Z'bar women to utilise health centres to reduce maternal deaths

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has said in order to avoid maternal deaths it is essential for pregnant mothers to utilise health centres for safe delivery under the supervision of health experts.

President Samia made the remarks here yesterday as she was being briefed on the implementation of the M - Mama Project and handed over an

ambulance for pregnant mothers for Unguja South Region as part of celebrations to mark Kizimkazi Festival.

She said the M-Mama services are essential against maternal deaths especially in smaller outer islands where residents are faced with transport challenges during emergencies.

She also called on women in Unguja South Region to grab these opportunities that provide hope for

safe delivery.

"This is a good opportunity for you in making sure maternal deaths are prevented through the right delivery services at health centres in both Unguja and Pemba," she said.

M-Mama Vodacom managing director Zuweina Farah said they have started implementing the plan for providing maternal services in Zanzibar after the plan started to be implemented in the Mainland.

She said the project's aim is to mobilise pregnant women to ensure they get health services at health centres in emergency situations.

For his part, Zanzibar Minister for Health Nassor Ahmed Mazrui said the speed for the construction of quality health centres with maternal services will to a great extent reduce maternal deaths and called on the women to visit health centres for examination of their

health statuses when pregnant.

Meanwhile, President Samia handed over two vehicles for patrols in the Unguja south tourist zone and stressed on the importance of conducting regular patrols to ensure the safety of tourists.

Speaking after the vehicles were handed over to the Zanzibar Commissioner of Police Hamad Khamis Hamad, President Samia said the development in the

tourism sector to a great extent is due to the boosting of security at all times for the safety of tourists.

For his part, Zanzibar Police Commissioner Hamad said they are mobilised in boosting security in all tourist areas in the entire areas of Unguja.

He said the task is being carried out in collaboration with the police - tourists' division and its results are discerned from the reduction of criminal incidents.

Stanbic Bank catalyzing MSME growth



Stanbic Bank, through the Stanbic Biashara Incubator has empowered 100 entrepreneurs, capacitating local owned businesses to take advantage of the opportunities available in strategic projects in the country.

In partnership with the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC), the Stanbic Biashara Incubator ran a 9 months Supplier Development Program that up-skilled entrepreneurs in the areas of Tendering, Cash flow management, Taxes, Laws, Contracts, Marketing and Procurement. A number of entrepreneurs have already won tenders worth millions of dollars in big projects as a result of the training.

A graduation ceremony officiated by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Mussa Azan Zungu (MP) was held over the weekend to mark the end of the first program. Additionally the bank hosted a panel discussion themed, Local participation: Benefits and Opportunities for MSMEs, that was attended by the Minister for Planning and Investment, Hon. Prof. Kitila Mkumbo. The panel included Mr. John Ulanga - CEO, Tanzania Private Sector Foundation, Mr. Humphrey Simba - Director, ASNL Advisory Ltd, Mrs. Mercy Sila, Board Chairperson, Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Brendan Maro, Senior Investment Adviser, Tanzania Investment Centre.



Guest of honour, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Mussa Azan Zungu addressing graduates and invited guests.



Guest of honour, Hon. Mussa Azan Zungu (MP) presenting a certificate to one of the graduates of The Supplier Development Program conducted by the Stanbic Biashara Incubator.



Special guest, Minister of Planning and Investment, Hon. Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, contributing to the panel discussion.



Panellists right to left: John Ulanga - CEO, Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), Humphrey Simba - Director, ASNL Advisory Ltd, Mercy Sila - Board Chairperson, Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC), Brendan Maro - Senior Investment Advisor, Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) and Zuweina Farah, Director, Vodacom Foundation as the moderator.



Stanbic Bank Acting Chief Executive Manzi Rwegasira presents a gift to the guest of honour, Hon. Mussa Azan Zungu (MP), looking on is the Chairperson of the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC), Beng'I Issa.



Some of the graduates of the Supplier Development Program run by the Stanbic Biashara Incubator.



Dr Hamoud Ndege Assistant Projects Officer for the improvement of mother and child care services speaks to participants from the Regional Administration and Local government, employees of the Ministry of Health Zanzibar, Non-Governmental Organisations and donors from Italy during the launch in Dodoma yesterday.
Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Dar es Salaam banks vow to participate at AGRAF

By Correspondent James Kandoya

SIX Financial institutions have expressed their redness to support local producers to utilise untapped opportunities in the coming Africa Food System forum.

They expressed their redness in the meeting with editors and journalists in Dar es Salaam ahead of an Africa Food System Forum slated to kick off from September 5th to 8th this year.

Isack Msasu, the Head of Agribusiness - advisory at the Dar es Salaam-based bank said that financial support in the value chain was very important to enable Tanzanians producers to prosper.

“The forum comes with a number of opportunities. We need to ensure that our local producers are supported in terms of technology and financially,” he said, noting that so far, 1.6 trillion financial support has been provided to the farmers, livestock keepers and in the fishery sector.

CRDB Head of Agri Business Maregesi Shaban said the bank was well organized to ensure farmers and other local producers to utilise untapped opportunities from the coming forum.

He said the bank had released 1.3 trn in agriculture, livestock and

fishery.

He said part of the fund was also used in the training and entered into contracts with suppliers of equipment.

Equity Bank Senior Manager, - Agribusiness Teofora Madilu said that the bank targets 25 million Small and Medium Scale Entrepreneurs (SME's).

She said last year, the bank had released 50bn/- to the farmers across the country adding that by June this year it had released 2.5 trn/-.

“There are many opportunities through partnering. As a bank our interest is to show opportunities and support them in investing value-chain,” she said.

She said there are also other opportunities in irrigation systems and insurance companies to open agriculture insurance.

Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB) Director of Policy, Research and Planning Waziri Mkami said that production utilities is one of the big challenges facing farmers and other producers of livestock and fishery products.

He said for instance 2.3 tonnes of paddy is produced from one acres contrary to average productivity of 4.6 tonnes from the same plot of land.

Yohana Kaduma, Managing Director of Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS) said that they offer between 20 to 60 percent of the value chain.

Kaduma said that women and youths are empowered up to 80 percent.

“Despite efforts made by financial institutions in the country, the number of people accessing loans is only 10 percent, noting that more efforts are needed,” he said.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Gerald Mtweli said that the country's first ever forum is an opportunity for the local producers to meet with large producers across the world.

He said so far, a total of 3300 participants have confirmed to participate in the forum that will be held in Dar es Salaam projecting the number to reach 4000 people.

He said the government has set up a “deal room” where local producers can communicate with foreign businessmen to explore areas of interest to invest in.

“Tanzania has set a conducive environment for those who are interested to come and invest through the forum. Our target is to ensure the agriculture sector contributes 25 percent of the forex currency,” he said.

Prof Riziki Shemdoo, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fishery changing people mindset was very important in order to transform the sector.

Schools urged to implement govt guidelines for provision of foods

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

ALL public and private schools have been instructed to implement the government guidelines for the provision of food in schools.

Angellah Kairuki, the then minister in the President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) made the remarks here yesterday as she opened the annual meeting for the seventh assessment of the country's Nutrition Protocol.

She also called on all those given tenders to supply food at schools to enhance nutrients in the flour used while prohibiting use of salt that has no iodine for students.

She said PO-RALG will continue with the supervision of the issue of nutrition in regions as well as in local councils in regard to the implementation of the protocol.

She also called on Regional

Commissioners and District Executive directors to supervise the nutrition requirements and that the funds set aside are provided in time and used as planned.

The Minister explained that in recognition of the importance of better nutrition and the effects from its lack, the government, in collaboration with various stakeholders, has been taking steps against malnourishment in the country since independence.

She said the efforts include having an inclusive plan for the implementation of the nutrition issue nationally. “The government plans to strengthen research on nutrition in the country in order to find out the causes behind poor nutrition so that robust strategies are made to remove them.

“In implementing this, President Samia Suluhu Hassan instructed me in collaboration with Big Win

Philanthropy Organisation from USA to quickly research on the main causes of malnourishment in the country,” she said.

According to her, such research has already been done and is now in the last stages of preparing the report that will be submitted to the President shortly.

She said the research was carried out in six regions including Njombe, Tabora, Geita, Dar es Salaam, Mtwara and Iringa for Tanzania Mainland and two from Zanzibar.

She said in general, the research showed very little understanding in the community in regard to the issue of nutrition from the household to government executives in many areas. For his part, Deputy PO-RALF permanent secretary, Wilson Mahera said one of the problems in the implementation of the nutrition issue, especially regarding their eating habits.



CHRISTIAN SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION (CSSC)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) is an ecumenical body established in 1992 by the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) and Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) to coordinate and strengthen the delivery of health and education services by member churches in Tanzania. CSSC coordinates a network of more than 900 church-owned health facilities, the majority of which are rural-based, contributing nearly 14% of all health facilities in Tanzania, and 1000 Church-based education institutions providing 10% of all education services offered in Tanzania.

For over 30 years, CSSC has managed to position itself as the trusted government partner in implementing innovative solutions that create positive impacts on the community through the delivery of quality health and education services. CSSC supports Church institutions in delivering quality social services to all people regardless of colour, race, and faith; and also promotes the expansion of health, education, and other social services throughout Tanzania.

In view of the above, CSSC is now seeking applications from highly qualified, well-experienced, competent, and motivated persons to fill the position of Director of Education Services:

Position Title: Director of Education Services (DES) -1 Post
Report to: Executive Director
Location: Dar es Salaam

Job Summary:

Head of the Education Department, under the supervision of the Executive Director. Responsible for the overall performance of CSSC Education service areas to ensure that CSSC contributes to the improvement of accessibility and quality education in the churches and public in general by engaging in dialogue with key stakeholders in Education sector. Ensure that appropriate policies, laws and directives are in place and adhered to; initiating and implementing programs, provide leadership and supervise various program/projects operations and reporting, including compliance with donor regulations/procedures, local policies, laws and regulations; monitoring the trends on the provision of education services by CSSC and the member church facilities; establish and maintains excellent working relationships with counterparts within Church member facilities, Ministry of Education,

Development Partners and other local and International partner organizations to ensure effective networking, collaboration, and coordination of CSSC, national and regional programs.

Duties and Responsibilities

Monitoring, evaluation, and learning

- Ensure the department participates effectively or initiates dialogue in formulating national education policies, laws, and directives.
- Monitor and provide report(s) on effectiveness and the adherence of the stakeholders, i.e., Government and church institutions, to the policies, laws, and directives.
- Monitor the trend in providing education services by the churches and the Government and give feedback to the relevant authorities.
- Lead the department to develop programmes for improving financing, coordination, and planning in improving accessibility and quality of education services.
- Ensure that the department provides technical support to the network of Church Education facilities.
- Promote horizontal learning by organizing periodic meetings with Key stakeholders with the churches, Government, Development Partners, and NGOs with similar objectives.
- Interact and form partnerships with the Government, Development partners and NGOs with similar objectives as well as among the churches in improving access and quality of education services in the Country.
- Prepare and implement strategic plans, quarterly, semi and annual plans, budgets, and reports.
- Ensure that staff Appraisal is undertaken in the department and report(s) is/are submitted to the human resource officer as per CSSC Human Resource Manual.
- Ensure that all relevant data on providing education services are in place and updated.
- Carry out such other duties and responsibilities related to the department mandate as the Executive Director may prescribe.

Qualifications

- A Master's degree in Education or a related field is required.

Experience, skills:

- At least five years of working experience in the Education sector from both public and private sectors, including FBO
- Experience in leadership positions, project planning and managerial positions
- The ability to set a vision for education services and inspire others to work towards that vision
- The ability to develop and implement a strategic plan for education services that aligns with the organization's overall goals and objectives.
- The ability to assess the effectiveness of educational programs and services and make data-driven decisions to improve.
- Capacity and experience to manage budgets for education services, identifying funding sources, allocating resources, and monitoring expenses.
- The ability to build and maintain positive relationships with stakeholders, such as church facility owners, relevant ministry, donors, and community
- Project management skills,
- Supervisory skills,
- Good communication skills.

Languages:

- Fluency in Kiswahili and English (spoken and written)

Computer/Other specific Requirements:

- Competency in Microsoft Office, especially Word, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint.
- Ability to Travel: 50-60% of his/her time.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Anticipated starting date: 1st October 2023

Type of position: Full-time

Contract: 1 year renewable

HOW TO APPLY

All applications should be made before **16th September 2023**, at 1600hrs, through the link below: career.cssc.or.tz using the apply now button.

Note that;

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

Rwanda ranks 6th in wildlife conservation in Africa

By Alice Kagina, Kigali

RWANDA has been named 6th in Africa for wildlife conservation, attaining a score of 56.7 percent, according to the Wildlife Economy Investment Index report.

This was announced during the Business of Conservation Conference on Wednesday and the forum, a collaboration between the African Leadership University (ALU) and the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), took place ahead of the 19th edition of the Kwita Izina annual gorilla naming ceremony which will be held on Friday, September 1 in Kinigi, Musanze district.

The discussions at the conference centered on the impact of politics on conservation efforts and the pivotal roles played by the private sector and non-governmental organizations in driving investments towards wildlife preservation.

The Wildlife Economy Investment Index report, yet to be officially launched, serves as an indicator of the investment potential in Africa's wildlife economy. It assesses five significant investment avenues within ecotourism, the carbon market, hunting, wildlife ranching, and forest products.

The report outlines a strategic roadmap for the wildlife economy, emphasizing the need to strengthen policies, legal frameworks, and regulatory provisions for natural resource management, particularly pertaining to property rights over wildlife, forests, and fisheries. Other key recommendations include improving the overall business environment, promoting collaboration and partnerships, enhancing transparency and data

collection, and building the capacity of all stakeholders involved in managing the wildlife economy.

Commenting on Rwanda's ranking, Clare Akamanzi, CEO of RDB, highlighted the pivotal role of nature-based tourism, especially ecotourism, in driving Rwanda's thriving tourism industry.

“Our half-year results show a 56 percent growth in tourism, with gorilla tourism alone experiencing a 70 percent increase. This year, we are optimistic about surpassing pre-pandemic levels,” she remarked. Akamanzi attributed this success to the dedicated conservation efforts focused on mountain gorillas, preserving natural landscapes, and effectively managing national parks.

She expressed eagerness to gain insights from the report on best practices to further enhance their conservation work.

The conference also featured Thierry Inzirayineza, National Coordinator of the Forest of Hope Association, who received the Diane Skinner Award for Unsung Heroes in Conservation.

His organization was singled out for its mission to conserve the Gishwati forest in the Western Province since 2012. Their efforts have included implementing

activities with local communities to demonstrate the direct benefits of forest conservation while curbing unsustainable resource practices. Inzirayineza's work played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Gishwati-Mukura National Park in 2015.

The tourism sector continues to be one of Rwanda's fastest-growing industries, contributing millions of dollars in revenue annually. The 2022 annual report by RDB reveals a remarkable 171.3 percent increase in tourism revenues, rising from \$164 million in 2021 to \$445 million (approximately Rwf496 billion) in 2022.

In 2022, Rwanda achieved significant milestones in conservation, solidifying its commitment to environmental protection, natural resource management, and climate change preparedness as essential economic assets. These milestones include the operationalization of the country's fourth national park, the Gishwati-Mukura National Park, welcoming the World Bank as a new partner for the Volcanoes National Park expansion project, and the inauguration of the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund.

Furthermore, Rwanda initiated a revenue-sharing scheme, allocating 10 percent of annual tourism park revenues to nearby communities to support their development and prosperity.

In the current year, it disbursed Rwf3 billion to communities in various districts, including Musanze, Rubavu, Rutsiro, Ngororero, Burera, Nyaruguru, Nyamagabe, Rusizi, and Nyabihu, providing varying levels of support.



Our half-year results show a 56 percent growth in tourism, with gorilla tourism alone experiencing a 70 percent increase

Tanzania has 51,189 water transport vessels, minister

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

TANZANIA has 51,189 water transport vessels with Lake Victoria leading with 53.6 per cent of all the vessels, the government said yesterday.

Atupele Mwakibete, Deputy minister for Transport made the revelation in the House when responding to a supplementary question by Special Seats legislator Mwantumu Haji.

The MP wanted to know the number of water transport vessels and the kind of punishment which they are given when they overload cargo and passengers.

In response, deputy minister Mwakibete said the recent Census by the Tanzania Shipping Agencies (TASAC) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed that the country had 52,189 vessels.

He said out of the number 53.6 per cent are operating in Lake Victoria while 13.4 per cent are operating in the Indian Ocean.

On the fines, the deputy minister said the vessels are fined 200,000/- on a 24 meter deep vessel for overload and 400,000/- for a vessel beyond the mentioned length.

In her preliminary question, the legislator queried what the government was doing to regulate vessels which overload cargo and passengers.

Responding to the question Mwakibete said TASAC has been carrying out inspections to ensure that ships do not exceed the cargo load as directed by the registrar.

The government established TASAC to enhance Maritime transport services in its regulatory role; to improve Maritime safety, security and protection of marine environment and shipping business services.

He said upon realization that the vessels have overloaded, they are fined and warned to ensure that they do not repeat the same mistake.

"If the ship is found to have carried overload, it is ordered to remain at the port and be threatened to be deregistered and revoking the license," he said.

He said for further steps TASAC fines the owner and the captain as well as administering the reduction of passengers and cargo or all together and begin the journey after satisfaction that the ship was safe.



Kazoba International Herbal Products director, Dr Kazoba John (L), explains to visitors at the booth on the service provided by his institution at the 20th traditional medicine exhibition ongoing at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Relief as REA completes Ifakara substation project

By Guardian Reporter

THE government, through its Rural Energy Agency (REA) has completed the project for the construction of the Ifakara substation that will be a relief to people of Ulanga and Kilombero districts who used to experience frequent low voltage power.

The completion of the MVA 20 with 220KV capacity substation is a result of special government strategies through the Agency aiming to make sure all Tanzanians, including those in rural areas get reliable power.

Speaking on Monday at the event to connect the substation to the national power grid, REA project Manager, Eng. Romanus Lwena explained that the intention for the project's implementation it was after REA had learnt of challenges of frequent low voltage and hence it

moved to rectify the situation. "The completion of the substation project will now open up investment opportunities due to the availability of reliable power, as people can engage in various economic activities without power disruptions," Eng Lwena said.

He said other benefits from the completion of the project is to enable TANESCO transport power from the national grid to other neighbouring areas, including Ulanga District.

The Ifakara substation project was in two parts, the first one was the construction of the substation and the other one involves the distribution of power to the people, both of which have been completed.

The project cost euro 8.75 million (22bn/-) out of which Euro 2.25 million was government's money and Euro 6.5 million was donated by EU.

'Government has initiated the plan to revamp General Tyre'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has initiated a plan to revamp General Tyre with the tender seeking for a competent investor for a joint venture due next month, deputy minister for Industries and Trade, Exaud Kigahe told the National Assembly yesterday.

He said the government is finalising plans for the tender document so that they get investors, either local or foreign with the latest technology and the needed capital for a joint venture.

"The tender will be announced both local and internationally, as we want to get a competent and well-equipped partner with both capital and state of the art technology for the tyre production" he insisted.

He gave the clarification when responding to Abubakar Asenga (Kilombero-CCM) on what plans are in place to revamp the tyre manufacturing firm, General Tyre East Africa

Moreover, he said, revival plans are in line also for other defunct privatized parastatals which have been abandoned by the investors or have changed terms of agreement.

"We are also working on privatised institutions which the investors have not injected capital as agreed while owners have decided to change original functions," he said

"It is vital for the government to revive other companies which are under-performing and those that are about to be declared bankrupt for the sake of the country's economic future."

The government, he said, is encouraging rubber farming so that when the company starts

production, there are available raw materials.

Tanzania needs to have its own manufacturing industries to stimulate the economy and provide for the needs and wants of the local and international market as well.

In the early 1970s to the late 1980s, General Tyre was one of the largest tyre makers in East Africa with a production capacity of about 1,000 tyres a day, supplying to the eastern and central African market.

The company was established in 1969 under a partnership between the Tanzania government and General Tyre USA before it sold its shares to Continental AG of Germany.

Continental AG acquired 38 per cent stake in the company in the mid-1990s leaving the government with a majority shareholding at 62 per cent.

Information shows that productivity at the factory started to decline at the end of the 1990s when imported and second-hand tyres flooded the domestic market. GTEA stopped production in 2007.



We are also working on privatised institutions which the investors have not injected capital as agreed while owners have decided to change original functions

Government explains why it stopped issuing form 2C in all referral hospitals

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government yesterday explained why it stopped issuing form 2C in all referral hospitals which allowed National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) card holders' access drugs in shops outside hospitals.

Key reasons for the decision were to address dishonesty in the NHIF payment system, increase hospital

revenue and not to bother patients.

Deputy minister in the President's Office Regional and President's Office, Regional Administration, and Local Government (PO-RALG), Dr Festo Dugange made the revelation in the National Assembly during a question-and-answer session.

The deputy minister was responding to a question by Nkenge Legislator, Florent Kyombo

who wanted to know the reasons behind the decision to stop offering form 2C.

He said in his response that the decision to stop offering the form in health centres was made considering its benefits.

He said the directive was that all government owned health centres establish pharmacies to increase revenue but also help people access drugs which are not covered

by the NHIF.

He said the move will also help patients not to travel long distances looking for drugs which was making them raise complaints against the government for no reasons.

However, the minister directed health centres to set aside shops for patients to access drugs which are missing in their custody to address challenges that people face.



Chadema Central Committee member, Patrick Ole Sosopi, addresses a public rally for the operation dubbed: +255 #KatibaMpya #KoaBandariZetu in Sanga Intinje Ward, Kisesa Ward in Meatu District, Simiyu Region recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

5 African presidents confirm to take part in African Foods Systems Forum in Dar

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PRESIDENTS from five African countries have confirmed their participation in the African Foods System Forum, while big business corporations are also expected to attend slated for September 5 to 8 in Dar es Salaam

So far 3,000 applications from foreign individuals have already been received and more are being received to reach 4,000 before the closure of the applications.

This was revealed here by the

permanent secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Gerald Mweli as he addressed reporters on the forum preparations to be held at Julius Nyerere Conference Hall in Dar es Salaam.

PS Mweli said initially they anticipated to have 3,000 participants but so far the number has exceeded that figure.

However, he said the big number of participants reflects the government's efforts in investing in agriculture, including seeking various opportunities for

expanding farm markets in Africa and globally.

"This has been proved, in Tanzania we need to be food distributors within and outside the country, and that is why we have invited participants from various areas.

In regard to the meeting, PS Mweli said there will be various activities including the launching of fertiliser manufacturing firms that will be a solution to many farmers in the country.

In that regard, PS Mweli called on

the community to emerge in large numbers to participate in the forum to learn about various things from the visitors.

For her part, Jovina Lekinao praised the government for agreeing to be the host of the gathering because it will also advertise the country agriculturally as well as providing opportunities for Tanzanians from their government.

She said such meetings provide farmers and businessmen to see how they can develop in the farming sector.

The conference will involve stakeholders from various countries, the official guest is expected to be President Samia Suluhu Hassan.



Owen Nelson - valuable chain expert from agricultural non state actors forum conducts a training for the agricultural sector and journalists on monitoring, social responsibility and decision-making held in Mwanza with the support of the Foundation for Civil Society yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

‘Business and commercial studies will be mandatory in secondary schools’

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

BUSINESS and commercial studies will be mandatory in secondary schools when the new education policy becomes operational, the House was told yesterday.

Deputy minister of Education Science and Technology, Omar Kipanga, made the remarks in the National Assembly when responding to a question by special seats legislator Zainab Katimba.

In her preliminary question the MP queried when will the government review the education curriculum to accommodate business and commercial studies in lower classes.

In response, Kipanga said the ministry was in the last stages of the education policy review for primary and secondary schools to make it vocational.

The deputy minister said the government has directed higher learning institutions to harmonise training syllabuses to align with national development plans to facilitate employability skills in a graduate.

“The ministry recognizes the importance of business education, hence it has made the subject mandatory in the proposed reviewed education policy,” he said.

He said in the new proposed curricular, syllabuses have emphasized on financial literacy and entrepreneurship beginning form one to form four in which the latter has been aligned to mathematics and arts respectively.

He said private and public universities through the Higher Education for Economic Transformation Project (HEET) programme have been trained to prepare programmes which facilitates employability.

Through the project, more than

300 education programmes will be harmonized to accommodate business and commercial education to nurture graduate's employability.

Upon completion the new education document will make it obligatory for a school beginner to reach form four and also create two educational streams from form one to four where a student will acquire basic education and vocational certificate upon completion.

The document, if approved, will make students acquire the basic employable skills needed in the job market while equipped with academic knowledge.

The government initiated the process for the review of the current education policy of 2014 by gathering views from stakeholders.

“He said private and public universities through the Higher Education for Economic Transformation Project (HEET) programme have been trained to prepare programmes which facilitates employability”

‘TACTICS \$360m worth project set to commence from September’

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

A GRAND project for the construction of roads network and other vital infrastructures within a total of 45 councils across the country is set to start September this year.

Eng. Victor Seff, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) unveiled this recently during a special audience with the journalists to brief over the agency project's implementation plans for the current fiscal year.

He said that the project is to be executed through the Tanzania Cities Transforming Infrastructure

and Competitiveness (TACTIC), which has been designed for implementation under three different tiers, and will entail construction and facelifting of numerous infrastructure within the beneficiary urban centres, including roads, markets, commuter bus terminals as well as storm water drainage systems, among others.

According to him, implementation of the project's first tier is expected to take off from September this year and is expected to gobble up to USD 228 million.

The robust project's first tier will be implemented in Dodoma, Arusha, Kigoma, Tabora, Mwanza, Ilemela, Geita, Kahama, Morogoro,

Songea, Sumbawanga and Mbeya.

“Process for getting eligible consultant experts for the design of priority infrastructures within 15 towns that fall under the project's second tier has started by announcing a tender on July 16, 2023, and after getting the consultants, the goal is to start designing in November 2023,” he expressed.


He said that identification of the projects to be implemented under the project's third tier was continued in order to prepare terms of reference for the official design.

“This work will be done in tandem with the preparation of an ambitious urban development plan

(Planning scheme),” he expressed.

He further communicated that tender for the implementation of the third tier, to involve at least 18 city councils, is expected to be advertised in January 2024.

Seff mentioned the other councils that have been lined up to benefit from the project's second and third tiers as Tanga, Moshi, Kibaha, Korogwe, Singida, Babati, Iringa, Njombe, Shinyanga, Bariadi and Musoma. Others are Bukoba, Mpanda, Lindi, Mtwara, Kasulu, Mnyamba, Masasi, Tunduma, Makambako, Handeni, Bagamoyo, Tarime, Bunda, Chato, Mbulu, Mbinga, Nzega, Kondoa, Newala, Ifakara, Mafinga and Vwawa.



BARRICK
BULYANHULU

Advertisement

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

BUL-RFQ-23-08-06 – PURCHASE OF MANITOU FORKLIFT MHT-X 790 Mining Specs ST3A S1

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine (“the Company”), a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, requests the submission of Quotes from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

Forklift type and specifications: MHT-X 790 Mining specs ST3A S1

Nominal load at COG	9 t	Standard tyres	445/65 R22.5
Max. Reach horizontal	3.72 m	Capacity at full forward reach	3.5 t
Lifting height	6.84 m	Capacity at full lift height	6 t
Weight	13.16 t	Transport length	5.27 m
Transport width	2.47 m	Transport height	2.47 m
Travel speed	30 km/h	Engine manuf.	John Deere
Engine type	4045PWX	Engine power	102 kW
Displacement	4.5 l	Revolutions at max torque	1500 rpm
Max. torque	545 Nm	No. of cylinders	4
Emission level	Tier 4 f		

Special requirements

- Fuel tank locking cap
- SAHR safety brakes
- Daily brake test system
- 2 External emergencies stop
- 1 Internal emergency stop (in the cab)
- Pack of 3 cameras + Monitor 7"
- Reinforced wiring harness and fuse box
- Lockable battery isolator
- Emergency exit on operator cabin
- Turbo to have heat shielding
- Flammable liquid hoses to be separated from electric wiring
- Parts Manual and Service and Repair Manual come in English
- 2 x fire extinguishers mounted on Manitou (must be Sandvik AFFF)
- Manitou must have a ROPS and FOPS protection
- Braided fuel line

Key documents

- Clear and detailed Quotation.
- Company registration documents, i.e., Certificate of incorporation, business license, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, affiliated registrations, and letter of the dealership as required.

Submission of Quotes

Please submit your quotes via email to bulytender@barrick.com.
The reference “BUL-RFQ-23-08-06 – PURCHASE OF MANITOU FORKLIFT MHT-X 790 Mining Specs ST3A S1” must be quoted in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a quote through this advertisement

Key Dates
Last date to submit quotes: **07th September 2023**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited



BARRICK
BULYANHULU

Advertisement

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below goods/service package at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 55km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast, and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced, and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-23-08-02	Upper West Box Cut, Portal and Initial Decline Geotechnical Assessment and Support Design.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company/Firm profile. High level schedule of similar works indicating all major milestones. Experience in conducting similar projects in large scale mines across the world. More than 10 Years experience in Geotechnical Block Modelling. 10 Years experience in numerical stress modelling by different methods including Finite Element and Finite difference methods by software. Experience in ground support design of weathered (overburden) weak rockmass by empirical and numerical methods. Evidence of completed projects in stability assessment of new open pit mines and underground portal assessments and support design. Resumes of Geotechnical specialists with more than 15 Years experience.

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an “Expression of Interest” on your company's letterhead if your company qualifies as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile.
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration.
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work.
- Time frame to complete the project. (including site mobilization stage).
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner.
- BRELA detailed search certificate i.e statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest **1800hrs** on the **07th September 2023**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

If you do not hear from us in 21days after the deadline date, please consider your EOI unsuccessful.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an “Expression of Interest” shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of **BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**

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PPP strategies suited to raise shilling value

EVEN as the dollar scarcity situation appears to be abating, the government is hard at work to find an optimal solution to the situation, as it has the characteristics of a monetary situation that may keep resurfacing. In classical modeling terms, this can be said to be a milestone or business cycle situation for the Bank of Tanzania, as for upwards of two decades it was not facing dollar shortage issues. Now it is resurfacing, and even if it is a global situation, each country crafts own solutions.

of the shilling has always been the case but on a virtually unnoticed long term periscope. In past decades the shilling lost rapidly against the dollar and in part, the Kenya shilling, stabilizing for most of the past 20 years, at roughly 2,000/- to the dollar and 20/- to the K-shilling, now slightly diminished. Intense dollar scarcity leads to faster depreciation, lower demand; a new normal.

The government is working on how the matter can become part of a new stable normal rather than dollar scarcity in its recurring form becoming a new normal as it has for a short space of time been the case. Admittedly there are many countries which find themselves unable to do anything tangible about that kind of situation, and when that is the case, jostling for limited resources carries risks. It is hence better that the Treasury designs hard currency earnings strategies, not sit and wait.

There were a number of parameters that the Treasury chieftain outlined in the export orientation strategy, like increasing production using locally produced inputs to control excessive need for hard currency. He also pointed at the need for local producers to ensure quality to control importation of similar goods from other countries. Fact is, where we have export advantages, this hurts against interests of local consumers especially for maize and rice; where we don't, we want to export.

What the Finance minister said in the legislature lately has acute parameters of realism on what needs to be done, not to say that it will be at all easy. He cited foremost partnerships with the private sector in various sectors to increase exports, which in turn strengthens the value of the shilling, in situ (vis a vis the dollar) or by wider EAC currency comparisons. Strength vis a vis the dollar is paramount, as the rest is merely consequential, calculated on the basis of hard currency market value.

When the minister refers to implementing section 7(3) and 13 (1) of the Foreign Currency Act, 2022 which directs business people to bank with local financial institutions all money obtained from exports of goods and services within 90 days from the sale of goods or services abroad, that is a different track. Experience shows that the more business is free, the more capital comes from outside, and the more it is constrained, the more capital flows from here to other countries. In that case policy has to focus on some big chunks of local economy which can be delivered to key investors and the stock exchange, for large amounts of direct investments. Mixed grill options help momentarily, not sustainably.

Yet the primary issue here isn't the value of the shilling but its assured availability, as constant depreciation

It is necessary for Africa to transform peasantry to take agriculture as rewarding business

AGRICULTURE is by far the single most important economic activity in Africa. It provides employment for about two-thirds of the continent's working population and for each country contributes an average of 30 to 60 per cent of gross domestic product and about 30 per cent of the value of exports. Nonetheless, arable land and land under permanent crops occupy only about 6 per cent of Africa's total land area.

quagmire was to transform peasants from subsistence farming to take agriculture as a rewarding business.

Africa produces all the principal grains maize, wheat, and rice in that order of importance. Maize has the widest distribution, being grown in virtually all ecological zones. Highest yields per acre are recorded in Egypt and on the Indian Ocean islands of Réunion and Mauritius, areas where production is under irrigation.

Stakeholders believe that subsistence farming is unable to feed Tanzania's present population of 60 million.

The agricultural industry makes a large contribution to the Tanzania's foreign exchange earnings.

There are various ways of helping them to make strides. Because of fears of a looming hunger and food shortages, Tanzania has no option but to go directly to peasants, train them, produce plenty of crops, add value to their crops and ensure they accessed reliable markets for their produce.

Agriculture is the main part of Tanzania's economy. As of 2016, Tanzania had over 44 million hectares of arable land under cultivation. Almost the poor population live in rural areas, and almost all of them are involved in the farming sector. Land is a vital asset in ensuring food security, and among the nine main food crops in Tanzania are maize, sorghum, millet, rice, wheat, beans, cassava, potatoes, and bananas. Two years ago the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) said it will take Tanzania's subsistence agriculture to a higher level in order to feed 70 million mouths in the near future. This follows a field evaluation of farming and livelihoods in southern regions. The way out of the present

In the past 20 years Tanzania's agriculture grew at an annual average rate of 3.7 per cent, which was almost equal to Tanzania's population growth and far below Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Programme's (CAADP) projected farming growth.

The country's farming productivity had to go up because when we are talking of building industries, it means our agriculture will have to produce the largest part of the needed raw materials.

The contribution of the agriculture sector stood a better chance in realising Tanzania's industrialised economy.

The government is committed to support farmers' development and growth. We should open up new opportunities and solve challenges the peasants were currently facing.

We have to make sure that industries were getting enough raw materials.

Funders of Tanzania include UK Aid, USAID, World Bank Group, Norwegian Embassy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and AGRA. We have all the reasons to acknowledge their support who made our agricultural activities possible and visible.



Governors to blame for palliative inequality

By Nasir Aminu

IN the spirit of fairness, imagine a kind-hearted individual giving out N10 to 10 people. If each person is seen as equal, they would all get N1 each, right? Similarly, if that same person had N200 million to give to 200 million people, again, everyone would get N1. That is simple sharing.



However, Nigeria's revenue allocation process is a bit more complex. The constitution requires the government to look at factors like the population of each state, how much money the state itself generates, the size of its land, the nature of its terrain, and the inequality level of the state. This is done to ensure that resources are distributed in a way that meets the unique needs of each region. The idea is to share money with the citizens based on fairness and individual needs. That is why the oil-producing states get 13 per cent of the federation's oil revenue under the same law.

or those with specific challenges related to infrastructure, terrain, or other factors. I do not want to imagine the drama that will happen if all 36 states and the FCT are asked to share oil revenue allocation equally.

The governors were not unaware of this law. They are also not unaware of the existing data on population, poverty rate, unemployment rate and many more. Meaning they are fully aware of the level of inequality in their states.

We cannot deny that the shock of subsidy removal touches every corner of Nigeria, from businesses to the common people. However, certain areas have been affected more than others due to population density and poverty rates. That is why it is important to balance equity based on individual circumstances and equality of uniform distribution to ensure that each state is adequately supported unless some citizens are regarded as more important than others.

However, they sat in the federal executive council to accept the approval of the N5 billion subsidy palliative, five trucks of rice for each state. The unanswered question is how they arrived at this sharing formula. The palliative subsidy is meant to be shared with poor households, and data across senatorial zones exists.

The North has the highest poverty rate, with Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Sokoto, Jigawa, and Bauchi leading the poverty chart ahead of Akwa Ibom in seventh place. Of the 19 states, seven governors are serving their second term. One wonders how they agreed to accept a flat payment of N5 billion. Reports show some governors are already announcing sharing the palliatives while others already broadcast what they shared. None of them is questioning the sharing formula. Rather, they are making it look like it is a favour done to the people. It is not.

Adopting a formula where revenue is shared equally among states simplifies the distribution process. However, this approach has overlooked each state's unique needs and characteristics. It is like giving the same size shoe to every person in a village regardless of the differences in their foot sizes. Even though equality in distribution may seem fair on the surface, it might not address the actual needs of states with larger populations

Given the information they have, it is truly unfair for the governors of the affected states to accept the blanket approach formula. The onus ideally lies with the state governors, who represent their constituents at the National Council of State and National Economic Council, to advocate for a more equitable allocation that aligns with the specific needs of their people.

resource distribution and nation-building principles. Every Nigerian citizen deserves a fair share of the resources, regardless of religion, ethnicity, region or socio-economic status.

Their acceptance of this seemingly skewed sharing formula raises concerns about their commitment to addressing the deep-seated poverty in their states. This is looking like a punishment on our population growth and socioeconomic challenges. If so, it is wrong.

So, it is unjust to penalise people for their systemic poverty, household size, or economic condition, particularly when they are not the architects of the policies that may have inadvertently or directly contributed to their socio-economic predicaments. Some policies disproportionately disadvantage certain regions and groups. Similar policies have undermined social cohesion and perpetuated cycles of poverty and inequality.

With the acceptance of this N5 billion and five trucks of rice, the governors have joined hands with the federal government to take punitive measures on the suffering citizens. It is even more surprising to hear the deafening silence of the six opposition party governors, especially those serving their second term and those with legislative experience. They are expected to support equitable policies centred on uplifting every citizen, not punitive policies.

In many cases, poverty is not merely a result of individual choices but a systemic outcome of poorly conceived and implemented policies. Governors have a critical role in influencing people's socio-economic conditions. So, when governors consent to policies that propagate an unequal distribution of wealth, they inadvertently establish a pattern that can perpetuate disparities for generations. Setting such precedence not only exacerbates the existing inequalities but also undermines the very essence of democracy and the promise of equal opportunity for all.

Let's be clear: federal allocations are not a handout or a benevolent gesture but an inherent right of the citizens, rooted in equitable

International Day for People of African Descent

MORE than 200 million people in the Americas alone identify as being of African descent. Millions more are located worldwide outside the African continent. Whether as descendants of the victims of the transatlantic slave trade, or as more recent migrants, they are among some of the poorest and most marginalized groups. Nonetheless, people of African descent are

holders of a great multicultural richness, resilience and provide substantive contributions to every field of human endeavour, including health.

contributions of people of African descent worldwide, advance social justice and inclusion policies, eradicate racism and intolerance, promote human rights, and assist in creating better, more prosperous communities, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals spearheaded by the United Nations.

can have increased exposure and vulnerability to risk factors for ill-health, lesser access to quality health services, and worse health outcomes.

Last year, the United Nations marked the first-ever International Day for People of African Descent on 31 August 2021. This comes at the midpoint of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024), which aims to celebrate the important

In relation to health equity, people of African descent who face exclusion, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance

This has been evidenced by COVID-19 pandemic, in which across the globe, some of the starkest inequities have been experienced by indigenous peoples as well as people of African descent and other ethnic minorities experiencing discrimination.

Successful teachers have determination and perseverance traits

TEACHING is influencing changes. In our society, there are a number of challenges which impede desired changes due to different ways of thinking and lack of common understanding in certain issues.

Criticisms of teachers come from all corners and sometimes from people who are not eligible to contribute any useful ideas but due to freedom of expression which our constitution guarantees, everybody is entitled to their own opinion, including criticizing teachers.

The presence of learners with different needs and different perspectives makes it necessary for teachers to work hard, have determination and persevere if they are to produce significant results.

Introduction of a new idea or approach in the teaching profession calls for hard work, determination and perseverance. The new idea may demand extension of working hours, change in thinking and readiness to face challenges. All of these demand a teacher to work tirelessly for things to move smoothly.

A teacher should expect to be criticized when they try new approaches in teaching. There are some people who ridicule or discourage teachers by words or actions. The good thing is that when success is attained, all of the mocking and discouragement turn into praise.

For a teacher to receive praise, they must be ready to persevere. The determination which enables a teacher to see the end from the beginning is essential as it energizes them along the way which



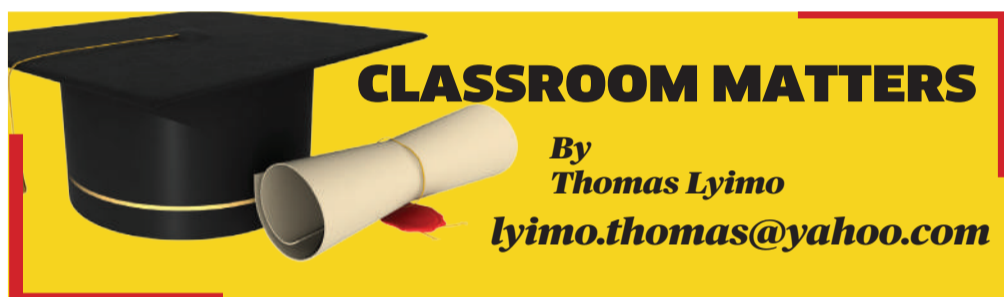
escape being a researcher. The society always looks for someone who can solve problems as emerging problems need new ideas and knowledge.

Thirdly, willingness to conduct duties diligently is developed by hard work, determination and perseverance. Willingness produces results as it enhances self-discipline. Teachers perform their duties without difficulty when they enjoy what they do. Willingness encourages a person to work hard and have determination which makes them persevere so as to register the intended results.

Fourthly, hard work, determination and perseverance create leadership. Leading is influencing others towards achieving a certain objective. If a teacher has achieved a certain goal through hard work, determination and perseverance, they can easily influence the society towards positively. We can easily lead by convincing rather than using force.

The difference between teaching and other professions is that its success is multi-dimensional. It doesn't only consider that learners are able to create material wealth but also developing human capital to spur development at community, national and international level.

It is therefore necessary for a teacher to be patient as there are some ideas which when introduced at the first time, seem impossible but in the long run, they materialize with unexpected success. A teacher is an activist, a researcher and a leader. Teaching is waging endless war.



that can be attained in the following ways:

Firstly, hard work, determination and perseverance build resilience. If a teacher possesses these attributes, they can withstand a number of challenges and eventually registering success. Strength is acquired by working hard in a right way and with courage to face challenges.

Resilience empowers a teacher to teach despite the challenges which the learning environment can pose. Teachers who are not resilient can easily get discouraged and hence failure to reach the intended goals.

Secondly, discovery of new ideas

or knowledge is guaranteed when a teacher embraces hard work, determination and perseverance. To develop new ideas or knowledge is not an easy task as it demands extra work and ability to withstand challenges. There must be a number of trials before something is established as reality or knowledge. For teachers to be able to shape the society, they must embrace new knowledge and ideas every time.

Teachers should not only base on teaching the present skills and ideas but they must try to come up with new ones because the world is rapidly changing and the present knowledge may be irrelevant in the near future. A teacher cannot

is full of challenges.

Resounding success is the one which comes after overcoming challenges. There must be paying of a price before someone can succeed. The price can be in the form of failure or opposition. Opposition is normal in the pursuit of some-

thing and failure is not a failure until there is no any possibility of improving.

For positive individuals, a failure is an opportunity to learn. Hard work, determination and perseverance are essential attributes for turning failure into success and

By Correspondent Deogratias Mushi

QUALITY healthcare calls for delivery of services that are efficient, safe and patient-centred, delivered in a way that is timely, equitable, integrated and affordable so that lives are not lost because high costs.

The Sustainable Development Goal number three speaks about access to quality essential healthcare services and access to essential medicines as well as vaccines for all.

Tanzania has made strides in health sector but more needs to be done to ensure that health systems throughout the country provide high-quality health care services.

Aware of this fact, the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) has been agitating for high-quality healthcare services from ward to national level, to respond to service users' needs and preferences, while minimizing harm and resource waste.

The organization collaborates with the government at ward level, in efforts to fight several problems facing health sector, including inadequate supportive supervision in health facilities by management teams, lack of ownership of quality improvement at the facility level, inadequate implementation of infection prevention and control measures including health care waste management.

Other problems are inadequate implementation of water, sanitation and hygiene standards; breach of ethics and professional conduct by health workers; low motivation of health workers and inadequate compliance to guidelines and standards by health care workers.

To achieve this, TGNP has established Knowledge Centres to look at a variety of existing approaches that enable local populations to get basic health services, especially pregnant women waiting to deliver.

At Saranga Ward in Ubungo District in Dar es Salaam Region for example, a health centre has been constructed with fully fledged key equipment such

Partnerships key for improvement of healthcare at grassroots level



as X-Ray machine, thanks to local government authorities and TGNP's Knowledge Centres which have established joint efforts to make sure that people get health services not very far from where they live.

Issa Mtemvu, the current Kibamba Member of Parliament is out to improve health services in the area and has since promised to donate 50mn/- towards the construction of Saranga Health Centre and some dispensaries in constituency.

On several occasions while contributing in Parliament sessions, Mtemvu

has talked about poor health situation in his constituency, asking the government to establish more dispensaries in the areas where people walk for some kilometers to access health services.

"We also need an ambulance especially for expectant mothers because currently they are forced to board bodabodas which put their lives and those of their unborn children in danger. Some old people have also lost their lives because of lack of ambulance to rush them to hospitals," said Maimuna Hemedi, a resident of

Kibamba.

A Knowledge Centres at Majohe has also played a key role in that ward where there wasn't a dispensary before but now the government is constructing a modern health centre with Out Patient Department (OPD) building and a maternity ward.

"There have also been some programmes run by Knowledge Centres to help women improve family nutrition whereby so far, the number of children suffering from malnutrition has been reduced significantly," said Hubert George, a resident of the area.

At Kivule Ward, there is a newly constructed health centre where surgeries are performed. The building also offers laboratory services and tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment.

For the Knowledge Centres to achieve their vision and ensure equitable access for all communities, they study more about health systems that respond to the unique desires, circumstances and behaviours of the people they serve at ward level.

Knowledge Centres advocate for quality healthcare that reaches all communities by working with local governments to solve healthcare delivery challenges right down to the smallest and hardest-to-reach communities where women, girls and people with disability struggle to access services.

These groups struggle to find people-centered solutions that transform healthcare delivery by building tech-enabled pathways to primary healthcare alongside local government leaders as the one at Saranga Ward.

Infrastructure development and upgrading to support safe surgical services at primary healthcare facilities is an important step in the journey towards achieving better healthcare delivery in wards like Mabwepande and Kivule.

Quality health service provision together with equitable access and service delivery at places like Majohe and Saranga are important components that constitute improved health sector in Kibamba constituency.

Tanzania has been investing in infrastructure development to offer essential safe surgery close to communities at affordable costs while ensuring better outcomes and Knowledge Centres have played a big role of sensitizing local communities and their leaders in this mission.

Knowledge Centres have so far collaborated with ward leaderships to help people understand the public sector's efforts to improve infrastructure of primary health facilities that eventually help women especially those who can't afford services offered at private hospitals.

Guatemala: Democracy at crossroads but voters get their say

By Inés M. Pousadela

ON 20 August, Guatemala witnessed a rare event: despite numerous attempts to stop it, the will of the majority prevailed. Democracy was at a dramatic crossroads, but voters got their say, and said it clearly: the country needs dramatic change and needs it now.

Bernardo Arévalo, leader of the progressive Movimiento Semilla (Seed Movement), born out of 2015 anti-corruption protests, is now Guatemala's president-elect. All-night street celebrations erupted as early results were announced. It was a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence: politics bringing joy rather than disappointment to Guatemalans.

But renewed attempts to prevent change can be expected. What Guatemalans expect from Arévalo is a morally competent government that will bring about genuine democracy - a government looking out for the public rather than self-serving elites. The unprecedented seriousness of Arévalo's promise is reflected in the fear his rise has fuelled among the beneficiaries of the current authoritarian kleptocracy.

A blatant manipulation of judicial institutions after the first round of voting on 25 June failed to prevent Arévalo competing in the runoff - but now the attempt is to stop his inauguration. Following the runoff, the Public Prosecutor made yet another attempt to have Semilla suspended.

The stakes are so high that an attempt to stop change by force can't be ruled out. An assassination plot involving state and non-state forces came to light days before the runoff.

For security reasons, Arévalo couldn't address the crowds celebrating on election night. On 24 August, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights granted precautionary measures to Arévalo and vice-president-elect Karin Herrera, giving the state 15 days to report back on the adoption of additional measures - both already have state-issued security - to protect their physical integrity.

Guatemalans are counting the days to the inauguration of their new government, scheduled for 14 January 2024. But their hope is mingled with uncertainty and fear.

An election surprise and its aftermath

The collective mood on 20 August couldn't have been more different from that on 25 June, when first place in the first round went to invalid votes.

The run-up to the June vote had been marked by further deterioration of civic space and the restriction of the choice on offer through the disqualification of several contenders, including the candidate first in the polls, conservative business leader Carlos Pineda Soa. But Arévalo wasn't on the radar of opinion polls and no one saw him coming. In a very fragmented vote, his 12 per cent put him in the runoff. The frontrunner, with 16 per cent, was a political insider, former first lady Sandra Torres of the National Unity of Hope (UNE).

The establishment rightfully feared Arévalo because he didn't seem the kind



People celebrate after Bernardo Arévalo, leader of the progressive Movimiento Semilla (Seed Movement), was announced winner of Guatemala presidential election held last week. Credit: Luis Acosta/AFP via Getty Images

they could easily bring into the fold. A progressive academic and a member of Congress since 2020, he promised to bring back the numerous justice officials in exile and resume the fight against corruption ended by his predecessors.

The fact that he could become Guatemala's next president made the 25 June election results an instant object of contention. Nine parties, including UNE, submitted complaints about supposed 'irregularities' that had gone undetected by all international observers. Their supporters converged outside the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE).

In what was denounced as an attempted 'electoral coup', the Constitutional Court ordered a recount and instructed the TSE to suspend certification of results. The TSE eventually endorsed the results two weeks later, on 12 July.

But in the meantime, the Attorney General, an official under US corruption sanctions, spearheaded an onslaught of judicial harassment against Arévalo. She launched an investigation of Semilla for alleged registration irregularities and had its offices raided. She twice ordered raids on TSE offices too. And just as the TSE announced Torres and Arévalo as the runoff competitors, she ordered Semilla's suspension. The Constitutional Court however blocked this order.

Citizens defend democracy

The European Union and the Organization of American States, both of which had observation missions, took a strong stance. Domestic condemnation of the attempt to twist the results was also voiced by groups ranging from leading business associations to Indigenous authorities. But the starring role was played by citizens who spent weeks on the alert to ensure that Arévalo

wasn't kicked out of the runoff.

Large-scale peaceful demonstrations were repeatedly held in Guatemala City and departmental capitals, overwhelmingly led by young people. They were vocally nonpartisan, making clear that they were marching not for Arévalo or Semilla, but for the future of democracy.

On election day, this translated into a clear victory for the change candi-

date: Arévalo took 58 per cent of the vote, compared to Torres's 37.2 per cent. The election saw strong participation by young, educated, urban voters, many voting for the first time.

An uncertain future

Once he takes office Arévalo will face a tough time fulfilling his promises, not least because the June election produced a highly fragmented Congress in which Semilla will have only 23 of 160 seats.

But the urgent question now is what lengths deeply entrenched elites will go to to try and stop Arévalo taking office. Torres hasn't conceded defeat. Instead, she's cried foul and accused the five TSE magistrates of 'breach of duties and abuse of authority'.

Meanwhile the Attorney General and her right-hand man, a prosecutor who has made a career of protecting the powerful and persecuting the press, continue the 'investigation' through which they seek to shut Semilla down. People have responded by continuing to demonstrate outside the Attorney General's office demanding her resignation.

Guatemala is living a unique moment, an opportunity that many didn't think they'd ever see. But it's also an uncertain time. Guatemala must walk carefully into the future, one step at a time, resisting the onslaught, judicial or otherwise, to get the president-elect to Inauguration Day.

People have made it clear they're ready to take to the streets in numbers to defend what they've achieved. And they'll need to both support and hold to account the new government for the mission it's been entrusted with: that of restoring the substance of democracy.

Inés M. Pousadela is CIVICUS Senior Research Specialist, co-director and writer for CIVICUS Lens and co-author of the State of Civil Society Report.



Bernardo Arévalo, leader of the progressive Movimiento Semilla (Seed Movement), born out of 2015 anti-corruption protests, is now Guatemala's president-elect. Credit: Getty Images

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 UMJUJUYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MARELE 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 Radio One



Radio One

New Pan African building symbol of digital transformation

By Guardian Correspondent

ASYMBOLIC contribution to the African postal sector's drive towards digital transformation in service delivery has been made in Arusha, in the form of a modern building to house continent's specialized agency for postal matters.

The Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) which is implementing strategies to promote electronic commerce in the continent, will now be housed in a multi-billion shillings architectural marvel, shaped in digital crypto stamp symbol.

The new facility, an office and commercial complex with state-of-the-art operating systems, will be inaugurated on Saturday, 2 September 2023, by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

For Arusha, popularly known as the Geneva of Africa, this is a new jewel to her crown. Tanzania offered to host the Union when it was founded on 18th January 1980 in Arusha.

The PAPU complex was built jointly by the Union and the Government of Tanzania, through the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), with ownership in the ratio of 60 percent to 40 percent for PAPU and TCRA respectively.

TCRA, Tanzania's postal sub-sector regulator is a key stakeholder in the project and acts on behalf of the government to ensure that all hosting requirements are fulfilled.

The building has been completed Com three years after a groundbreaking and foundation stone-laying ceremony on 18th January, 2020 during the celebration of the Union's 40th Anniversary. The ceremony was graced by Ministers in charge of the Post from PAPU member states. The then Tanzanian Minister for Works, Transport and Communication, Eng. Isack Kamwelwe, laid the foundation stone on behalf of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The structure has transformed the landscape of Arusha City. The digital crypto stamp coin catches visitors' attention from different directions and its top floor give a birds-eye of



PAPU complex stands on 22,421 square meters by a dual-carriage way to Moshi and Namanga on the border with Kenya.

Arusha City, with its fresh air, nice green vegetation, and streams flowing from the mountain Meru, Tanzania's second highest mountain, after the neighbouring Kilimanjaro.

The PAPU complex stands on 22,421 square meters by a dual-carriage way to Moshi and Namanga on the border with Kenya. Arusha is the gateway to Tanzania's prime tourist destinations, including the Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Conservation area, the latter a designated World Heritage site.

Most facilities in the towering 17-storey complex are of state-of the art equipment, hence providing top and classic services to users. It is the tallest building in the Northern zone.

The multi-purpose high-rise 17-storey building has a basement, and modern standard offices, commercial spaces for letting and a 167 parking lots (37 in basement and 130 on the exterior area). There are three sets of standby electricity generators (800kVA, 400V, 50Hz); 7,200-litre overhead water storage tanks and 210,000 litre underground tanks.

It has state of the art conference facilities that can accommodate up to 400 participants. The high-capacity conference hall is having modern digital and automated systems.

There are five breakaway meeting rooms that can accommodate up to 30 participants in each room, also with a VVIP room and a VIP room.

The initiative to construct the classic PAPU Complex was taken at the 29th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the then Organization of African Unity (OAU), now AU in July 1977 in Libreville, Gabon. They adopted Resolution CM/Res. 586(XXIX) and recommended the establishment of the Pan African Postal Union to serve as an umbrella body for all postal administrations in Africa.

This resolution was approved by Heads of State and Government during the 14th Session of the OAU Summit that followed the Ministerial meeting in Libreville (Gabon) in July 1977.

On 7 October 1984, PAPU and Tanzanian government entered into an

Agreement that defined the terms and conditions relating to the establishment of the Headquarters of the Union in Arusha, Tanzania. This was subsequent to the Instrument of Full Powers that was issued by President Julius Kambarege Nyerere, on 24th September 1984, thus paving way for the establishment of the seat of the Pan African Postal Union in Arusha.

Historically, Postal Services in Africa have played a unique role, right away before, during colonialism and after the attainment independence.

In his message in this year's Pan African Postal Day on 18 January 2023, TCRA Director General, Dr Jabiri Bakari said cross-border cooperation through Postal Services was becoming an increasingly important factor in establishing a stimulating business environment.

To make this a reality Tanzania has cherished harmonized Postal Services with other African Countries across borders, he added.

"The harmonization of Cross border e-commerce business from one country

to another advocates for challenges, when entering into the cross-border and global markets, especially in an online environment, due to the different in cultures, laws, regulations, habits, languages, technological levels and different customs clearance scenarios," Dr. Jabiri said.

He explained that cross-border logistics also involved more processes than local logistics, such as laws and regulations, technology, cross-border payments, and electronic customs clearance, PAPU Members States should address effectively.

PAPU has expressed its commitment to transform the Post in Africa in to an established promoter of cross-border e-commerce in the content. The Union's Secretary General, Sifundo Chief Moyo said in his 2023 Africa Post Day message on 18 January this year that this will be realized through the digital transformation of the traditional Post into a "Smart Post" built on new technologies for holistic and integrated service delivery.

The Post is on a different trajectory following the decline of letter volumes, increase of e-commerce small packets and the postal industry should redirect its efforts, re-capacitate its resources, and recalibrate its approach in order to re-establish and reposition itself as a logistics giant leveraging its historical capital as a trusted logistics provider, he said.

The Post has also to seize the opportunities offered by the promising e-commerce markets to boost their revenue sources and firm up on its relevance to the communities it serves. The more than 37,000 postal outlets spread across the continent are an ideal launching ramp for the Post to expand its reach through digitalization and pursuit of "smart post office" status.

"It is through the accessibility of postal applications and services through the internet and handheld devices like smart phones, tablets, laptops etc. that the Post can be effective and efficient in service delivery," he added.

By Guardian Reporter Zanzibar

THE US government through its agency for international development (USAID) is supporting the 'Heshimu Bahari' project that aims to strengthen marine ecological resilience and its resources.

The project is implemented in Tanga, Mtwara, Lindi, Dar es Salaam and Coast regions within mainland as well as Unguja and Pemba in Zanzibar. The project will cost \$25 million upon completion.

Marine and coastal ecosystems are home to a wide variety of coral reefs, seagrasses, open-ocean pelagic habitats, and mangroves.

The ecosystems are not only home to species such as the dugong, sea turtles, and sharks and rays, but they are depended upon for a variety of livelihoods including artisan fishing, aquaculture, and marine/coastal-related tourism activities.

Addressing fishermen, seaweed farmers, fishing committees and villagers at Chwaka Village in South Unguja Region on Tuesday, USAID Tanzania Mission Director, Craig Hart said the project is in line with government efforts towards protection of marine resources and ensuring development to the people.

Hart said that he was delighted to meet with community members where USAID works in executing the project. He said through the five-year activity they will also support the health sector, education and other economic activities.

He emphasized the need to ensure sustainable fishing so that more Tanzanians could benefit from marine resources. He said Tanzania like many other countries face challenges including illegal fishing.

According to him, the challenges are associated with lack of a functional marine management area (MMA) framework, underdeveloped governance systems, lack of adequate financing, and an incentivized private sector significantly constrain effective management and measur-

Project to enhance marine ecologies protection in mainland and Zanzibar



USAID Tanzania Mission Director, Craig Hart (2nd L) speaking to fishermen, seaweed farmers and villagers at Chwaka village in South Unguja Region, Zanzibar. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

able impact in marine biodiversity conservation.

To address these challenges, 'Heshimu Bahari' will establish an enabling environment and science-driven framework for sustainable MMA and wild-caught fishery co-management by government, communities, and the private sector," said Hart.

Coordinator of the 'Heshimu

Bahari' project from USAID Tanzania, Sadiki Laiser said they will focus on strengthening policies that will help the government, private sector and the community to strengthen conservation activities and ensure sustainable use marine resources.

Laiser said the project will be for five years whereas they are now getting ready for the

second phase of its implementation.

The project coordinator explained that 'Tuheshimu Bahari' also aims to empower young people and women economically. He said the groups will include seaweed and sea cucumber farmers as well as fishermen.

"We are going to educate farmers on sustainable use of

marine resources and the importance of conserving marine ecosystems," added Laiser.

One of the seaweed farmers, Khadija Juma Ame said they are facing challenges including lack of working tools to enable them to reach their seaweed fields because they are currently cultivating in deep sea waters.

"We don't have reliable trans-

port to take us to our farms within the Ocean. We have been relying on fishermen's boats, although some of them may refuse or request us to pay for the service," she said, adding they also require modern farming tools to be able to continue cultivating the crop despite various challenges associated with negative effects caused by climate change.

Ame raised concerns over low prices of the crop saying a kilo of seaweed is now sold at 1000/-, she called upon stakeholders to review seaweed prices for farmers to benefit.

"We cultivate the crop under difficult and complicated environment but we end up selling it lower prices. Seaweed buyers are the ones benefitting more from the business," complained Ame, asking USAID to also assist them in adding value to the crop and securing foreign markets.

Among others, the 'Tuheshimu Bahari' activity aims to strengthen an enabling framework for a network of MMAs and fishery replenishment zones (FRZs) for resilient biodiversity conservation, climate resilient communities, and enhanced wild-caught fisheries production.

It also aims to enhance communities' co-management of MMAs and climate resilience and to improve private sector investment in MMAs as well as development of standard operating procedures for co-management of MMAs and CFMAs.

Some expected results of the project includes building the capacity of the government to manage MMAs, integrate climate science and research, and enforce regulations to combat illegal fishing.

The project will provide incentives for fishing communities to actively engage, co-manage and enforce MMAs and fisheries activities as well as strengthening women and youth participation in fisheries management.

Zimbabwe opposition leader calls for fresh election to 'exit crisis' after 'flawed' results

By Frank Chikore and Xolisani Ncube

SMARTING from a defeat in controversial general elections last week, Zimbabwe's main opposition Citizens Coalition for Change party Nelson Chamisa has demanded fresh elections "to exit the crisis" created by President Emmerson Mnangagwa's controversial re-election in polls that were condemned by the opposition and international observers.

CCC spokesperson Gift Siziba told a news conference on Tuesday that his party wants fresh polls as the opposition alleged that the country's electoral management body, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), failed to conduct a free and fair poll that resulted in Mnangagwa winning 52.6% of the vote while Chamisa was second with 44%. The remainder of the vote was split between other smaller opposition parties.

"We must have new, fresh and proper elections in this country whose process are scaffolded by SADC, the Africa Union and all the interested parties in Zimbabwe in the democracy of our country," said Siziba.

Last week's elections were riddled with irregularities, according to monitors.

"Any president that must be inaugurated must be born out of a free and fair election. But in this [election] that is missing. This election is flawed in all aspects," said Siziba.

In the run-up to the polls Chamisa's party complained about an upsurge in politically motivated violence, harassment and intimidation of its supporters. Before 23 August, an opposition party member was stoned to death during a campaign rally in Harare's populous Glenview suburb. The Zimbabwean police later claimed that the opposition member was run over by a truck.

"Our issue with this election is not in the election result only, it is in the election process. The pre-election environment and the post-election environment," said Siziba.

'Flawed results'

On voting day, the electoral body was accused of conducting an election that was marred by chaos and sabotage. A number of voters queued for long hours, with some casting their votes at night while others had to do so the following day following an extension of balloting by Mnangagwa.



Zimbabwe's main political opposition leader Nelson Chamisa at a press conference in Harare on 26 August 2022. (Photo: EPA-EFE / Aaron Ufumeli)

International observers, including the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU), noted irregularities in the manner in which the polls were conducted, although the bodies concluded that the plebiscite was generally peaceful.

"We have said these are flawed results and we do not accept them. ZEC failed in all aspects. What we are calling for is for the AU and SADC to mediate so that we return to a democracy. We want a rerun of the election," said Siziba.

Before election day the country witnessed a litigious and violent election campaign period, where citizens and political actors fought in vain to challenge the process.

If the opposition succeeds in ensuring Zimbabwe holds a fresh election, it would mean that all elected local and parliamentary seats become vacant.

The opposition won 73 parliamentary seats in the national assembly as well as control of most urban municipalities, while Mnangagwa's

ruling Zanu-PF party retained control of its parliamentary majority with 136 seats, and control of rural district councils.

The CCC said it was prepared to forgo the parliamentary victories so that Zimbabwe could hold a free and fair election:

"It's not about the CCC but the entire Zimbabwe; the multitudes of oppressed Zimbabweans whose right and vote [were] stolen. We have people who were barred from contesting - all that should be addressed."

The opposition, which claims that the country's judiciary has been captured by Mnangagwa, says it will not approach the courts to overturn Zanu-PF's victory, given their experience in 2018 when their application was rejected owing to a lack of evidence of vote rigging.

"This is not about the CCC; it is about the people of Zimbabwe whose will was stolen. ZEC failed the credibility, transparency and professionalism test, therefore it must be disbanded," added Siziba.

Zimbabwe's elections were also marred by the arrest of activists and local election observers, including the Zimbabwe Election Support Network and the Election Resource Centre.

According to the opposition, many Zimbabweans were forced to vote for Zanu-PF in rural areas by an organisation called Forever Associates Zimbabwe Trust which has links to the ruling party and the country's spy network, the Central Intelligence Organisation.

Observers' findings

Observer missions, including the SADC, the AU, the Commonwealth and the European Union, said the vote fell well short of the requirements of Zimbabwe's constitution and the country's electoral laws, while Mnangagwa said some observers went beyond their mandate and their reports should be set aside.

Head of the SADC's Electoral Observation Mission and former Zambian deputy president, Nevvers Mumba, said the ZEC failed to distribute ballot papers on time, resulting in delayed polls in some parts of the country, especially perceived opposition strongholds. The regional bloc also queried "exit poll survey desks" set up by Forever Associates Zimbabwe outside polling stations that resulted in several voters feeling intimidated.

On Tuesday, Zimbabwe protested to the SADC over its election report and wants the regional body's panel of elders to probe the legitimacy of their claim. The panel is headed by former Tan-

zania president Jakaya Kikwete who at the last minute opted out of the trip to Harare and instead assigned Charles Tibone to undertake the assessment mission.

The joint AU and ComeSA observer mission, led by former Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan, presented its findings, which were similar to the SADC's.

Zimbabwean authorities have also challenged the preliminary findings of the EU on the polls.

The Commonwealth team on Tuesday bade farewell to Mnangagwa and supported their initial report which questioned the credibility of the elections although they said the polls were held in a peaceful environment.

"All in all we are very happy with the peaceful environment (during voting) and we stand by our preliminary report. We are going back now and we will make our final report which the secretary-general will come back to present," said Aminah Mohamed, the head of the Commonwealth mission, after meeting Mnangagwa.

The Commonwealth reported said the delimitation process had been conducted without a final census report, media accreditation had been a challenge, the Maintenance of Peace and Order Act had been used to ban opposition rallies and state media had been biased against the opposition.

Zimbabwe applied to rejoin the Commonwealth in 2018, having pulled out of the group in 2003 during the land reform programme spearheaded

by late strongman Robert Mugabe, who was forced to resign at the height of a military coup in November 2017.

The holding of a free and fair election was one of the key requirements for Harare to rejoin the group made up of former colonies of Britain. However, Mohamed said Zimbabwe's readmission would not only be determined by the way the poll was conducted - "many factors would be considered".

After the announcement of the presidential winner on Saturday night, tension escalated in Harare, with police setting up roadblocks across the city centre in a bid to avert protests. The opposition alleged that state agents prevented Chamisa from holding press conferences at any city hotels.

Zanu-PF spokesperson Chris Mutsvangwa said the opposition should go to court if they feel the elections were rigged and they must provide evidence.

"We know the opposition doesn't want to accept the reality that it is not supported by the masses of Zimbabwe. They will allege rigging without giving evidence to that effect. Let them go to court," Mutsvangwa said.

"Even the SADC report says they must go to court and seek redress over the alleged rigging. It is their democratic right to do so."

Douglas Mwonozora, leader of the MDCT formation which boycotted the polls, saying participation was an act of foolish bravery, called for dialogue between Mnangagwa, the opposition, churches, civil society and other pro-democracy groups to salvage the country's socioeconomic and political fortunes following the disputed polls.

"We need genuine dialogue that would benefit the people of Zimbabwe. That is the only way that this country can go forward. We are not saying we want a unity government, let's get into dialogue without any conditions," said Mwonozora. This comes after Mnangagwa extended an olive branch on Sunday to his election opponents so he could work with them to revive the country's floundering economy following his controversial re-election. **DM**

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 09 -

By Felix Magezin: 0787 00 97 94 // felixmagezi@gmail.com

ACROSS:
 1. the frame and front fork of a bicycle
 8. Togo's Capital
 9. sick
 11. leave out
 12. relating to the present times
 13. edema
 15. Wife of Adam

DOWN:
 1. an overflow of a large amount of water over a dry land
 2. Italy's Capital
 3. in the middle of
 4. falling star
 5. Fish in Kiswahili
 6. the alternate rising and falling of the sea
 7. before the time in question
 10. the imposition of a tax
 14. a member of Aboriginal people of New Zealand
 17. look fixedly at someone
 19. share a boundary with
 20. past participle of do
 21. American Bar Association
 23. a large tuna in Hawaii

In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

SWORN **TRESS** **EVE**
NORAD **MOONSET** **NUT**
OPAL **OPPO** **TREASON**
OPEC **DEAR** **DRAW**
MODERN **ECLAT** **TROE**

Yesterday's solution

SANGOMA D LIVONIAN
 IVY SUPER OMIT D U
 NEARMISS S OPPONENT
 C S I A S A S T Y
 E ANNOY ORE S A E A
 R S A G M O O T E C R U T O O
 E L E G A L I T Y T N O E L
 S O E M I T T
 T O W N Y E O M A N O S S I T E A

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One **Radio One**



Thursday 31 August 2023

Recovery spurs banks' credit to households

By Guardian Reporter

The recovery of economic activities from the pandemic has increased appetite for banks and financial institutions to continue lending to households due to rise of the incomes, the Financial Stability Report for 2022, by Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has shown.

The rise in household income was mainly attributed to the increase in government employees' salaries, payment of arrears, and new employment opportunities in post-pandemic, as revealed in the Household Financial Condition Survey, 2022.

Survey revealed that disbursed and outstanding personal loans increased in to 38.2 percent in mid-2022, following the increase in appetite for banks' lending to households.

Likewise, loan repayments also increased, as borrowers' ability to repay debts improved due to a rise in household income and cash flows.

But, the central bank has cautioned that the increased credit issuance to households may escalate credit risk in the sector as households become indebted, which may affect banks and financial institutions' balance sheets in the event of default.

"The current high cost of living due to increased food and fuel prices may further affect household income and debt servicing capacity," it says.

However, the credit risk may be muted by improved borrowers' creditworthiness through increase in income and stock of financial assets.

The share of outstanding personal loans to total loans remained dominant



as the growth of credit to private sector increased by 22 percent last year.

The increase in share of personal loans is on account of a decrease in risk weight, an increase in income and banks' preference for lending to the household sector.

The respondents' reasons for increased loan disbursement are the recovery of the economic activities from the pandemic, the increase in salary earner's income, and eased loan terms.

The report shows during 2022, the banking sector had adequate liquidity buffer to fund growth of as-

sets and meet maturing obligations.

The liquidity ratio was 26.5 percent in 2022 compared with 29.4 percent in the preceding year, above the minimum regulatory requirement limit of 20.0 percent.

The decline in the liquidity ratio was partly attributable to banks' disbursement of new loans following the pickup of economic and business activities, which stimulated demand for credit.

The strong liquidity position is expected to cushion the sector against any vulnerability to shocks.

According to the report, during last year, the banks' profitability

also increased due to improved recoveries from NPLs and operational efficiency.

Return on assets and equity were at 3.1 percent and 14.6 percent in 2022, compared to 2.8 percent and 11.6 percent recorded in 2021, respectively.

Profitability was partly attributed to increased recoveries from NPLs, improved operational efficiency, and a favourable business environment, thereby enhancing the sector's resilience against potential risks.

"The exposure to credit risk also declined due to intensified credit

recovery efforts, enhanced credit underwriting standards, and pick-up in business activities BoT report notes.

The decrease in credit risk is reflected by a fall in the ratio of non-performing loans to 5.8 percent in 2022 from 8.2 percent in 2021, partly due to enhanced loan recovery efforts.

Other factors include improvement of credit underwriting standards, payment of arrears, business recovery, increased usage of credit reference systems and measures undertaken by the BoT to mitigate the effects of the global shocks as revealed in the lending officers' opinion survey conducted in 2022.

It is worth noting that, the watch loan category level showed an increasing trend, signalling a build-up of potential credit risk, thus calling for closer monitoring.

Banks' lending to private sector recorded a growth of 22.6 percent in 2022 compared to 10.0 percent in the previous year.

The growth was supported by policy and regulatory measures taken by the BoT and government to stimulate growth of credit to the private sector to support economic growth, including the reduction of coupon rates on government securities.

The improvement in business environment coupled with the recovery of economic

activities from the impact of COVID-19 pandemic added impetus to the credit growth.

The growth of credit to private sector is also reflected in the increase of loans to deposits ratio to 84.6 percent at the end of 2022 from 83.9 percent in 2021.

The funding gap (the usage of customers' deposits and retained earnings in funding-earning assets) decreased in 2022.

The decrease was partly contributed by the increase in customer deposits and retained earnings compared to the preceding year.

However, the growth of lending and other assets imposed some pressure for banks to fund growth of earning assets through wholesale funding.

The situation is expected to improve as business and economic situations rebound, further enhancing deposits, profitability and retained earnings.

However, the further increase in wholesale funding may impose pressure on the cost of funding to the sector.

During 2022, the BoT report says, the banking sector was adequately capitalized to support lending to the economy.

Core and total capital adequacy ratios were 18.1 percent and 18.9 percent in 2022, compared with 19.5 percent and 20.2 percent in 2021, respectively.

Euro steadies as markets increase bets of ECB hike after inflation data

LONDON

The euro steadied against the dollar on Wednesday as rising inflation in Germany and Spain led investors to price in a bigger chance of the European Central Bank hike, while US labour market data due later this week is set to give clues on the Federal Reserve rate path.

Spain and Germany inflation releases could give some indication on the bloc's wider numbers due on Thursday.

Inflation in Germany's most populous state, North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), rose by 5.9 percent year-on-year from 5.8 percent in July, supporting expectations that the European Central Bank's tightening cycle might not end soon.

In Spain, consumer prices rose 2.6 percent year-on-year in August from 2.3 percent in July, and in line with the 2.6 percent expected by analysts polled by Reuters.

Money markets raised their bets on a Septem-

ber rate hike from the ECB, pricing in a 60% chance of a 25 basis-point move.

"A September hike at this stage could be more of a coin toss, but more importantly, we sense that the hawks will see it as a last chance to hike one final time," said Benjamin Schroeder, senior rates strategist at ING.

"One key input to arrive at a final assessment is the inflation data this week," he added.

The euro edged 0.1 percent higher to \$1.0887. The dollar index - which measures the currency against six major peers including the yen and euro - slipped 0.1 percent to 103.47.

On Tuesday, the dollar index slumped 0.39 percent for its worst day in a month-and-a-half, after a slide in JOLTS job openings to a 2-1/2-year low spurred traders to pare bets for further U.S. rate hikes. But traders are now looking ahead to the monthly non-farm payroll report due on Friday.

"Focus from here will turn to more key data due this week to shape the sentiment around whether the Fed has achieved the perfect landing or whether there are reasons to start getting concerned about the economy," said Charu Chanana, market strategist at Saxo.

Money markets currently place 86.5 percent odds for the Fed to keep rates steady on Sept. 20, although the odds for a hike at the following meeting in November are close to 50/50.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell said on Friday that further tightening may be needed to cool still-too-high inflation, but also promised to move with care.

INTERVENTION TERRITORY

The dollar rose 0.35 percent to 146.38 yen. On Tuesday, it briefly surged to a 10-month peak at 147.375 leading into the JOLTS report.

Last autumn, levels this high spurred the first yen-buying intervention

by Japanese officials in a generation.

Bank of Japan board member Naoki Tamura reiterated on Wednesday that the central bank was closely watching the effects on the economy of a weak yen when conducting policy.

Meanwhile, Australian inflation slowed to a 17-month low in July, reinforcing the case for the Reserve Bank of Australia to hold rates steady at its policy meeting next week.

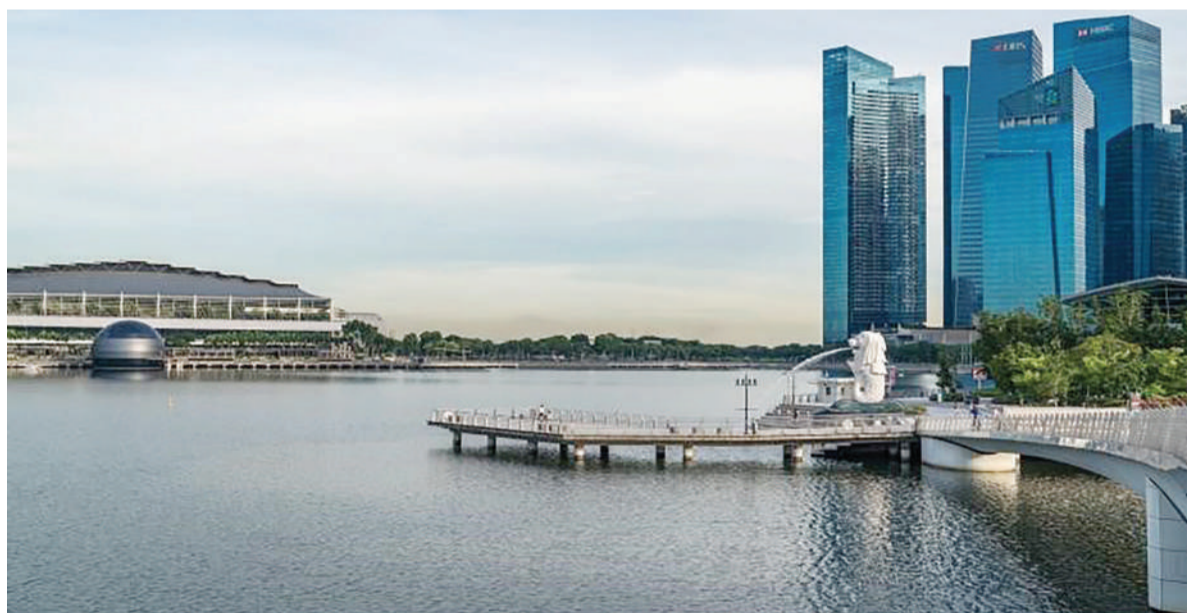
The Aussie dollar dipped as much as 0.46 percent after the data but eventually shook it off to trade 0.12 percent lower at \$0.6472.

The People's Bank of China set the official midpoint for the yuan's onshore trading firmer than the Reuters estimate, something it has done every day since the middle of the month.

The yuan weakened 0.2 percent in offshore trading to 7.2998 per dollar, but remained well above the Aug. 17 low of 7.3490.

Elsewhere, bitcoin eased 1.24 percent to \$27,380, after surging more than \$2,000 on Tuesday to hit a nearly two-week top at \$28,142.

The world's leading cryptocurrency was bought aggressively following a court ruling that could pave the way for a first-of-its-kind spot bitcoin exchange traded fund.



Singapore money laundering case embroils banking giants

SINGAPORE

Some of the biggest local and international banks in Singapore are becoming embroiled in one of the city-state's largest money laundering cases involving over \$1 billion (\$740 million) of assets.

In charge sheets seen by Bloomberg News, some of the individuals who were arrested and charged this month held funds totaling millions from unlicensed moneylending in China and illegal gambling in United Overseas Bank Ltd. and the local units of Citigroup Inc. and RHB Bank Bhd.

They also allegedly tried to cheat banks Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp., Standard Chartered Plc. and CIMB Bank Bhd. using fake documents, the charge sheets show.

The wide roster of banks join property agents, precious metals dealers and golf clubs in the city that have been drawn into this scandal. It has raised questions about guardrails against illicit money flowing into one of the world's most important financial hubs.

The accused allegedly used their

criminal proceeds to buy luxury cars, Tether stablecoins and in one case, an upscale condominium unit near the city's prime shopping belt for \$523 million, the charge sheets show. Some also allegedly had millions in safe deposit boxes held with Certis Cisco Security Pte., a security firm backed by state investor Temasek Holdings Pte.

Most of the 10 people arrested were charged with more offenses on Wednesday in court. Authorities have earlier said they are seeking documents from at least 10 financial institutions in relation to the case, although they were not named.

Before this case, Singapore was rocked by scandals involving huge money flows from Malaysia's state fund IMDB and German firm Wirecard AG. The blow-ups have led to financiers being banned, people jailed and banks slapped with fines for inadequate controls. In May, lawmakers passed a bill that paved the way for banks to share information on potentially risky clients.

Separately, DBS Group Holdings Ltd, the country's largest bank, and Bank of Singapore Ltd., OCBC's pri-

vate-banking arm, are both creditors to investment firms linked to two accused individuals, according to business filings seen by Bloomberg News.

In the filing, DBS registered four charges - generally referring to a form of security interest usually taken by a lender to secure repayment of a loan - on Aug. 18, 2021 to Aiqinhai Investment Pte. The firm's director and sole shareholder Su Haijin is among the 10 individuals who have been indicted in a Singapore court for offenses including money laundering and forgery.

Bank of Singapore registered a charge on Jan. 7, 2022 for Xinbao Investment Holdings Pte. One of the firm's two directors is Su Baolin, who was also among the individuals charged.

Both the investment firms linked to DBS and Bank of Singapore have listed office addresses in Singapore's business district, while the two accused directors have upscale residential addresses. The banks' facilities are secured against "all monies" at the companies, according to the filing, which did not specify the size of the exposure.



Banks half-year profits defy tough times

NAIROBI

Commercial banks' pre-tax profit for the six months ended June grew 30.4 percent to Sh156.1 billion, defying the tough economic environment where the stock of loans defaulted has been rising.

Latest data from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) on bank operations shows the earnings grew from the Sh119.7 billion posted last year.

The half-year earnings, which are higher than the Sh112.8 billion that was booked in the 2020 full-year, mark a monthly average of Sh26 billion, helped by increased interest and non-interest income.

The sectors' half-year earnings are in line with the results reported by top lenders, including Equity, Co-operative Bank, Standard Chartered and Absa Bank in the review period.

The industry's loan book grew for six straight months hitting Sh3.981 trillion in June from the end of December's Sh3.677 trillion.

Analysts put buy rating on listed bank stocks on high profitability

The increased lending helped banks



to earn more interest income, with weighted average interest rates rising over time to hit 13.31 percent in June – the highest since March 2018 when the figure was at 13.49 percent.

The rise in interest rates has been in line with the rising Central Bank

Rate (CBR). The CBK on June 26 raised the CBR from 9.5 percent to 10.5 percent – the highest point in nearly seven years.

Lenders have also seen a rise in non-interest income, partly helped by the reinstatement in January of

charges for money transfers between banks and mobile money wallets. Banks have, however, been hit by a rise in the stock of non-performing loans (NPLs), with the figure rising for five consecutive months to close May at Sh592.6 billion before

easing to close June at Sh576.1 billion.

The June NPLs puts the banks' asset quality, measured by the proportion of loan books that were in default, at 14.5 percent – an improvement from a 16-year high of 14.9 percent in May.

A CBK credit survey on 39 banks showed while 42 percent of the respondents indicated that NPLs are likely to rise in the third quarter, another 24 percent see the levels remaining constant. Some 34 percent expect a fall.

The survey showed that personal and household, trade and transport and communication top the list of sectors where many of the banks expect NPLs to spike.

CBK Governor Kamau Thugge in June said the rising defaults were linked to the prevailing tight economic conditions as well as the many

individuals and businesses awaiting payments from national and county governments.

"One is the business environment and the other is the fact that the national government as well as the county governments have not been paying some of their suppliers," said Dr Thugge.

Banks' profitability, measured by their return on equity or shareholder funds hit a record high last year as lenders continued to defy the impact of interest rate caps and subsequent administrative controls that has stopped them from freely pricing credit as was the case in 2015 and earlier years.

According to data from the Central Bank of Kenya, the industry's return on equity (RoE) hit a record 26.5 percent in 2022, beating 2015's level of 23.9 percent.

Russia is set to launch Islamic banking

MOSCOW

Russia is launching Islamic banking for the first time as part of a two-year pilot programme on September 1.

With a sizeable Muslim population estimated to be up to 25 million, Islamic financial institutions have existed in Russia until now, but this is the first time the country's legislation has officially endorsed its launch.

On August 4, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a law introducing Islamic banking to assess its "feasibility".

The pilot programme will take place in four Muslim-majority republics – Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Chechnya and Dagestan, areas that already have the most experience in Islamic finance.

If the programme proves to be successful, the plan is to introduce the new regulation to the rest of the country.

Islamic banking operates under Shariah, the Islamic legal system that forbids transactions involving usury, or charging of interest as it is considered an unjust exchange.

Whereas conventional finance is debt-based and the client bears all the risk and liability in transactions, Islamic banking is asset-based, with profit and risks shared between the financial institution and the client as part of a partnership.

"No bank can benefit from the client's financial problems and insolvency that often happens in conventional finance," Madina Kalimullina, the executive secretary of the Russian Association of Experts in Islamic Finance, told Al Jazeera.

"Islamic finance promotes partnership-based relations, which is rarely the case in conventional finance," she said.

Islamic banking also does not finance sectors harmful to society such as alcohol, tobacco and gambling.

Another key difference is that Islamic banking does not allow financing speculation, financial derivatives, or "deals with no real asset", Kalimullina said, which had previously triggered the global financial crisis.

Why is Russia introducing Islamic banking?

According to the senior vice president, Oleg Ganeev, of Sberbank, Russia's largest lender, the Islamic banking sector has an annual growth rate of 40 percent and is reportedly expected to reach a value of \$7.7 trillion by 2025.

Kalimullina said that "the growing market needs regulation and investors and clients protection", but the Islamic finance market could not use the benefits of state support programmes for mortgage financing and for small and medium enterprises as they are all based on interest-bearing loans, contrary to Shariah.

"These obstacles are partly solved for mortgage finance in the adopted law. It's expected that the experiment will allow to develop further conditions for Islamic finance development," Kalimullina said.

Did Western sanctions influence Russia's decision to launch Islamic banking?

Islamic banking is "a long-awaited initiative", having been discussed in Russia since the financial crisis of 2008, "when banks faced a shortage of liquidity and began to look for alternative sources of cash", according to Diana Galeeva, an academic visitor at Oxford University in the United Kingdom.

Following the annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, with Russian banks feeling the squeeze

of Western sanctions, the "Association of Russian Banks proposed allowing Islamic banking in the Russian Federation and establishing a committee within the Central Bank to regulate the activities of Sharia banks", Galeeva told Al Jazeera.

The war in Ukraine and Western pressure on Russia's economic sector are just the latest developments that have sped up the process of turning to Islamic banking.

"Every new wave crisis in recent years has prompted Russia to turn further away from the West and toward the East, which in many cases means greater links with economies of Muslim-majority countries," Galeeva said.

How will the move help the Russian economy or economic relations?

The key explanation as to why Russia's economy has remained resistant to Western sanctions is due to its energy revenues and "Islamic banking will, by comparison, have a very small direct impact", Galeeva said.

But with the new two-year experiment, the "Russian economy will be increasingly East-facing, since the main aim is to make Russia, and these regions in particular, more attractive to foreign investment from the Middle East and other countries with Shariah finance frameworks".

Kalimullina said she hopes the new programme will develop "assets-based financing and risk-sharing partnership relations".

"The first group to benefit from the new market are the small and mid-sized enterprises, which are very often under-financed. Islamic finance, as it is well known, is more oriented at financing the real economy with real economic products," said Kalimullina.



UK money supply stops growing in possible of recession warning

LONDON

Britain's broad money supply has stopped growing for the first time in at least 13 years, a reading that will deepen concerns among monetarists urging the Bank of England to show restraint in its battle against inflation.

Economists who predicted the surge in inflation during the pandemic after seeing money-supply growth rocket are now worried that the UK is in danger of recession and deflation.

Bank of England data on Wednesday showed that M4 excluding intermediate other financial corporations – a closely watched measure of money supply – was no higher in July than a year earlier.

Monetarists argue that the surge in money supply in 2020 and 2021, fueled by interest-rate cuts and quantitative easing to support the economy, helped to cause the jump in

inflation – claims disputed by the BOE.

The pace of money growth has since tumbled, a warning sign to some economists such as Simon Ward, economic adviser to Janus Henderson, and Tim Congdon, founder of the Institute of International Monetary Research and a former adviser to Margaret Thatcher.

King warning
Former BOE Governor Mervyn King has also warned rate-setters against ignoring money-supply signals.

July marked the first time there has been no growth in the monthly money supply data since at least 2010. Money supply has also always been positive in quarterly data going back to 1998. In addition, the headline M4 measure for July signaled the biggest contraction in money supply since 2015.

The BOE has been attacked over its handling of inflation in the UK, with critics claim-

ing it was too slow to respond to price pressures. Earlier this year, BOE Deputy Governor Ben Broadbent contested the monetarist claim that bond purchases under QE drove inflation higher.

The central bank has continued to raise borrowing costs in response to sticky price and wage data, though markets are betting on the BOE nearing an end to its rate rises.

King warned in an interview with Bloomberg last month that the central bank's rate-setters were ignoring warning signs in money data.

"The risk is that having ignored money when inflation was rising, they're now ignoring money when inflation is actually about to fall," he said. "If they carry on for the next six months or so, tightening monetary policy, it could well be that they generate both a recession as well as a sharp fall in inflation."



Russian President Vladimir Putin

Bahrain banks' customer deposits make \$86 billion

BAHRAIN

Banks in Bahrain reported the GCC region's biggest quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) increase of 5.4 per cent in customer deposits to \$86 billion as of end Q2 2023, shows a new report.

According to the 'GCC Banking Sector Report - Q2 2023' by Kuwait-based Kamco Invest, total customer deposits reported by listed GCC banks continued to show growth for the ninth consecutive quar-

ter during Q2 2023 to reach a new record high of \$2.3 trillion as compared to \$2.28trn at the end of Q1 2023.

The report that analyses financials reported by 58 listed banks in the GCC for the quarter notes that the GCC banking sector saw continued growth in lending during the quarter, indicating strong economic activity and business confidence in the region.

This was despite interest rates reaching decades-high levels following rate hikes in

the US.

Aggregate outstanding credit facilities in almost all the countries in the GCC showed sequential growth during Q2 mainly led by a robust projects market pipeline as well as government efforts to reduce the impact of higher interest rates.

Moreover, several new big-ticket projects and reform initiatives were announced in the GCC giving further boost to corporate lending.

China moves to stabilise finances of troubled shadow bank industry

BEIJING

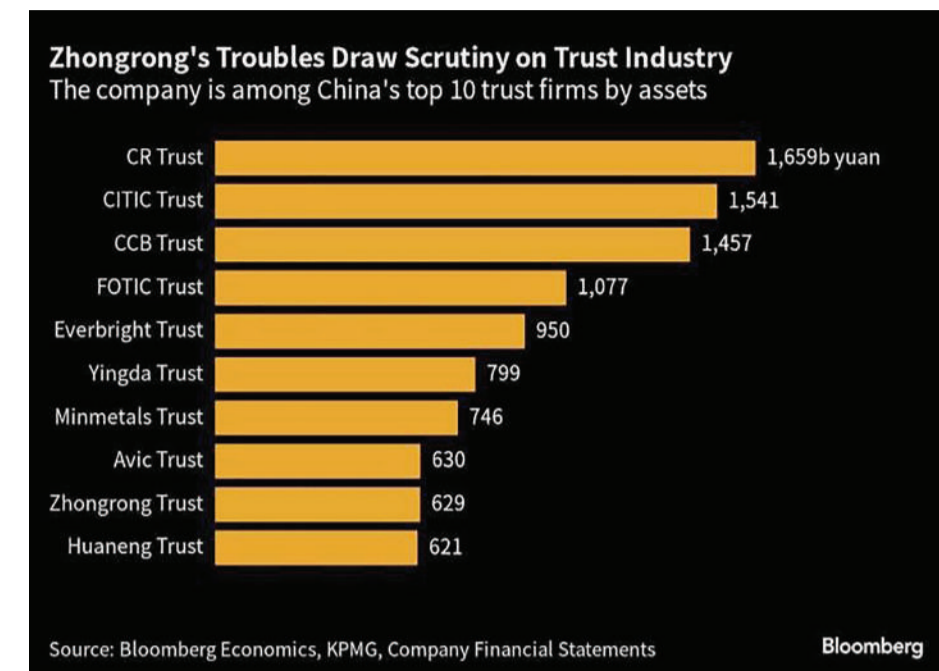
China has asked two of the nation's biggest financial firms to examine the books of Zhongrong International Trust Co., potentially paving the way for a state-led rescue of the troubled shadow lender, according to people familiar with the matter.

Citic Trust Co., a unit of conglomerate Citic Group Corp., and CCB Trust Co., backed by China Construction Bank Corp., will lead the effort to stabilize operations at Zhongrong, said the people, who asked not to be identified discussing a private matter. It couldn't immediately be determined what might result from their involvement, though a similar examination by Citic of Huarong Asset Management Co. led to a \$6.6 billion bailout of the bad-debt manager in 2021.

The plan underscores growing concern among policymakers about the \$2.9 trillion trust sector's impact on financial stability amid disappointing economic growth and a worsening property slump.

It's also another sign of how Beijing is leaning on stronger state-owned companies to shore up the economy and keep risks in check. Shares of government-run banks slumped on Wednesday after Bloomberg reported they will cut rates on existing mortgages as part of official efforts to boost consumer spending.

Zhongrong and closely linked wealth firm Zhongzhi Enterprise



Group Co. roiled markets earlier this month after halting payments on scores of investment products sold to wealthy individuals and companies, even sparking rare protests in Beijing.

Prior to their troubles becoming public, the National Administration of Financial Regulation established a working group in July to examine risks at Zhongrong, people familiar with the matter said earlier. Almost half of the funds raised by Zhongrong were funneled to its parent or affiliated units, one of the people said.

Citic Trust declined to comment. Representatives of the NAFR, Zhongrong and CCB Trust didn't respond to requests seeking comment.

While losses have been building in the trust industry for years, Zhongzhi may pose the biggest challenge yet. The private firm manages more than 1 trillion yuan (\$137 billion) and its interconnectedness with wealthy investors, struggling developers and other financial institutions has spurred concern that troubles are beginning to cascade across the financial

industry.

China's trust industry is a key alternative funding source for weaker borrowers unable to get regular bank loans such as real estate developers and local government financing vehicles. Trusts pool money from clients and invest them into a variety of instruments and projects.

The sector could face losses of the equivalent of \$38 billion, according to a Goldman Sachs Group Inc. estimate.

Property-linked products have accounted for more than 70% of the defaults in

recent quarters. Property developers are mired in a slump with former giants such as China Evergrande Group defaulting on their debt and others such as Country Garden Holdings Co. struggling to pay their debts as home sales and prices decline.

The trust sector has already seen several state rescues. In 2020, the government was involved in Shanghai-listed Anxin Trust Co.'s restructuring plan to avoid triggering "systemic financial risks." The banking regulator also assumed control of New Times Trust Co. and New China Trust Co., along with seven other financial firms linked to Tomorrow Group.

Late that year, authorities took over Sichuan Trust Co. to maintain social and financial stability after the Chengdu-based company failed to pay at least 40 million yuan of products and hundreds of investors gathered at its headquarters to demand their money back.

New China Trust was declared bankrupt this year after three years of rescue efforts failed, becoming the first player in the industry to go under since the Trust Law was enacted in 2001.

Trust firms have billions of payments due to investors. Zhongrong alone has 270 products totaling 39.5 billion yuan due this year, according to data provider Use Trust.

Citic Trust had 1.5 trillion yuan of assets under management while CCB Trust oversaw about 1.4 trillion yuan.

Pesapal continued to promote online payment in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

Digital payment system in Tanzania has scored another milestone, after Pesapal Tanzania's platform added Airtel Money as additional payment option to all its merchants, on Point of Sale (PoS) machines.

Pesapal Tanzania currently provides payment services to several merchants including hotels, restaurants, hospitals, pharmacies other services.

This innovation will allow the mobile money customers to make payments conveniently, secured at any merchant using mobile money account, while all merchants can now receive payments directly from the partnered mobile telecom users.

Pesapal has also extended the mobile money payment option to the online payments gateway, enabling more than 300 merchants supported to accept payments via Airtel Money, thus providing a convenient payment option to all customers.

Under the partnership, all businesses that use Pesapal payment machines will receive payments with Airtel Money, in addition to Visa and Mastercard payments.

Speaking at the launch at Wood Berry Café, Dar es Salaam yesterday, Pesapal country Manager Bupe Mwakalunda said that "the breadth and size of the partnership will bring convenient, affordable and secure payment solutions, better service delivery to all partnered mobile telecom customers to experience a simple payment solution".

"Tanzania is rapidly changing towards a cashless economy, and we look forward to working with Airtel Money to support merchants in this transition period by enabling them to serve their customers better at all times be it online merchant payments, home delivery services, or at their favorite retail store," she said.

"We are determined to provide our customers with the best and most innovative solutions in receiving payments. This partnership is one step forward towards achieving digital lifestyle, bringing innovative financial services closer to our customers in Tanzania."

Airtel Money director, Andrew Rugamba said that "we pleased to partner with Pesapal to launch yet another innovative service that will increase convenience to its customers by enabling seamless, affordable payments for goods and services for all customers. The service will be available in several merchant locations throughout Tanzania expanding their touch points. The service is robust and has gone further to provide customers with a receipt for each payment".

"Businesses and online merchants will now serve all their customers conveniently through our mobile money services. All money collected through Pesapal merchants on behalf of the merchant will be settled at the merchant's bank account, we encourage all merchants that want a secure, affordable, and convenient payment method to use option," said Rugamba.

The partnership is another step in enhancing digital payments supporting the GoT financial inclusion agenda.

According to the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), in 2021, Africa accounted for 70 percent of the USD 1 trillion in mobile phone transactions.

It increased 39 percent to US\$701.4 billion in 2021 from US\$495 billion in 2020, indicating the future of African banking is mobile phones.

US unveils plan to hit more banks with long-term debt

NEW YORK

US officials unveiled their latest response to this year's bank turmoil with proposals to boost oversight of midsize lenders and require them to prepare better for potential failures.

The plans from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the Federal Reserve aren't a sign of new stresses in the sector, but are instead an attempt to ensure that lenders can be dissolved smoothly and quickly following any collapse.

Both regulators homed in on hypothetical resolution plans, known as living wills. The Fed's proposal would bolster such plans for bank holding companies and foreign banking firms with more than \$250 billion in assets. The FDIC's would mandate living wills for banks with \$100 billion or more in assets.

The regulators also proposed Tuesday that banks with as little as \$100 billion in assets be required to issue enough long-term debt to cover capital losses in times of severe stress.

The long-term debt mandates would be phased in over three years. But there was some relief: The new plan wouldn't result in total loss-absorbing capacity requirements, known as TLAC, for large banks that aren't the biggest and most complex.

The draft rules appear "less onerous" than anticipated for affected banks such as U.S. Bancorp and PNC Bank, Bloomberg Intelligence analysts Herman Chan and Sergio Ferreira wrote.

But Greg Baer, head of the Washington-based Bank Policy Institute, said the FDIC must survey "the full picture" of costs and benefits when it comes to midsize lenders' compliance.

"These proposals attempt to fit regional and midsize banks into a regulatory mold designed for the largest globally active banks, a weakening of the bipartisan tailoring framework enacted by Congress," Baer said.

Bank Collapses

The rapid failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank in March spotlighted hurdles in oversight for midsize lenders. The plans would bring oversight more in line with the scrutiny of Wall Street's largest lenders.

Since March, regulators have proposed a suite of plans to increase scrutiny. The issue of who should shoulder the costs for bank failures has become particularly contentious.

US officials' decision to declare a "systemic-risk exception" and cover all deposits at SVB and Signature cost the government's bedrock Deposit Insurance Fund billions of dollars. The fund is typically used to cover as much as \$250,000 in an account, but the decision to backstop uninsured deposits means that big banks will now have to pay back much of that in fresh fees.

A buffer of long-term debt like the one proposed Tuesday would help protect the fund by avoiding the need for a systemic-risk exception, FDIC Chairman Martin Gruenberg said earlier this month.



Airtel Money's Director, Andrew Rugamba (right), and Bupe Mwakalunda, Pesapal Country Manager, exchange documents that symbolize their newfound partnership during a brief yet impactful meeting held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

BANKING & FINANCE

WORLD

Gabonese military declare coup, put president under house arrest

LIBREVILLE

THE Gabonese military have canceled presidential election results and dissolved state institutions, officers said yesterday, claiming that they have taken power and put President Ali Bongo under house arrest.

In a televised statement, a group of senior Gabonese officers said that they seized power after Bongo, the incumbent president, was announced to be re-elected in a contested election. The election results were cancelled, state institutions dissolved, and all borders

closed until further notice, they said.

Gabon's national electoral body said earlier in the day that Bongo from the ruling Gabonese Democratic Party was re-elected for a third term in Saturday's election. However, the officers said that the election was not credible.

According to local media, gunfire was heard in the capital Libreville.

"In the name of the Gabonese people ... we have decided to defend the peace by putting an end to the current regime," the officers said on national television. They read a statement on behalf of the Committee for the Transition and



This video grab taken from Gabon 24 shows Gabonese soldiers appearing on television yesterday announcing they were "putting an end to the current regime" and the cancellation of an election that, according to official results, President Ali Bongo Ondimba won. AFP

Restoration of Institutions.

"All the institutions of the republic are dissolved, in particular the government, the Senate, the National Assembly, the Constitutional Court, the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, the Gabonese Center for Elections," read the statement.

The Gabonese presidency and the government have not yet responded to the statement.

Ali Bongo, 64, once served as minis-

ter of defense and other posts in the government. He was elected president of the Gabonese Republic in 2009 and was re-elected in 2016.

In another statement released Wednesday, the military said "President Ali Bongo is kept under house arrest, surrounded by his family and his doctors." The officers said the son of the president, Noureddin Bongo Valentin, and several other senior officials close to Bongo were arrested.

Moscow appreciates Pope's efforts on settlement, rejected by Kiev – diplomat

ROME



DIALOGUE between Moscow and the Vatican on Ukraine continues, relations between Russia and the Holy See are characterized as mutually respectful and constructive, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told the Italian news agency ANSA.

She emphasized that Moscow "highly appreciates the Vatican's balanced line on the Ukrainian conflict and the efforts of the Holy See and Pope Francis personally aimed at a peaceful settlement, which unfortunately are openly rejected by the Kiev regime."

Zakharova (pictured) pointed out that the Russian economy is growing despite the sanctions imposed by the West. "This reality frightens the entire NATO axis of evil," the diplomat said.

According to her, bilateral relations between Russia and Italy are currently broken. "Sooner or later, economic reasons, cultural and historical proximity of the two peoples, objective needs of global development will lead to the fact that the Italian leadership will realize the need to restore these ties," Zakharova added.

Earlier, Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, the papal envoy for the Ukrainian settlement and the president of the Italian Bishops' Conference, visited Moscow as part of the Vatican mission. He has also visited Kiev and Washington and is planning to visit Beijing. His mission is focused on humanitarian aspects.

Kiev has rejected the Vatican's mediating role in the peace settlement, but has asked the Holy See for help in returning prisoners of war and Ukrainian children who were allegedly captured in the war zone and taken to Russia. As Dzuippi said earlier, mechanisms for exchanging lists are being worked out.

He discussed these issues first in Kiev and then in Moscow, where he met at the end of June with Kremlin aide Yury Ushakov, Russian Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights Maria Lvova-Belova, and Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia.

Agencies

Zimbabwe opposition party calls for fresh election

HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S Citizens' Coalition for Change party on Tuesday rejected President-elect Emmerson Mnangagwa's win in the Aug 23-24 election and called for a fresh election.

"We believe without doubt that the election on the 23rd of August 2023 does not reflect the true will of the Zimbabwean people. The election was flawed," Gift Siziba, deputy spokesperson of the CCC, told the media in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, on Tuesday.

According to results announced by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission on Saturday, Mnangagwa garnered 52.6



Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa addresses a press conference at State House in Harare, Aug 27, 2023. (PHOTO / AP)

percent of the total votes cast, beating his main challenger CCC leader Nelson Chamisa, who got

44 percent of the votes. Siziba said the electoral process was marred by irregularities,

and the country should prepare for fresh elections supervised by international bodies including the Southern African Development Community and the African Union.

"This election failed by all standards to meet the requirements of the law of the country, which is the electoral act, and the Zimbabwean Constitution read together," he said.

Siziba, however, did not indicate if CCC will take the legal route to challenge the election in courts. Speaking to the media on Sunday at state house in his first public address after the election, Mnangagwa said the election was transparent.

"I think those who feel the race

was not run properly should know where to go to complain. I am so happy that the race was run peacefully, transparently and fairly, in broad daylight," said Mnangagwa.

In addition, he said there was a huge turnout by Zimbabweans. "I am sure that very few people in this country will say that the elections were marred by any violence because there was no violence at all, and I think this is what we should as Zimbabweans cherish and continue to maintain. This shows how mature our democracy is," he added.

Mnangagwa commended Zimbabweans for maintaining peace during the election period.

Xinhua

Chandrayaan-3 mission's success shows resilience of Indian scientists - report

LONDON

THE Chandrayaan-3 mission's success shows the resilience of Indian scientists and the determination of its people to shake the dust off their problems and rise again, writes freelance journalist Hannah Abraham for The Guardian newspaper.

Abraham wrote that millions of children across the country watched live as their own scientists - people who grew up in the same land as them - did what no other country's scientists had managed to do before.

The missions' success means that Indians everywhere are a giant leap closer to being, as the great Indian writer Rabindranath Tagore said, "where the mind is without fear and the head is held high". And that in itself could be the most valuable and lasting thing to come out of this remarkable scientific feat.

Millions of Indians all over the world celebrated the successful landing of the Chandrayaan-3 lunar exploration mission. The country even broke YouTube's record for livestreams, with more than eight million people staying glued to their screens last Wednesday, as the spacecraft edged close to the lunar surface. The excitement is understandable, especially considering the fact that just four years ago, the preceding Chandrayaan-2 mission ended in tragedy as the lander crashed into the moon after a software glitch.

Some authors also questioned the BBC for an old viral video where a BBC presenter at the time questioned whether India, a country that "lacks a lot of infrastructure" and where "700 million people don't have access to a toilet", should be spending money on a space programme.

As per Abraham, wheeling out the poverty trope was a poor choice, especially considering that the BBC is based in a country that shoulders much of the blame for the poverty faced by many Indians today. (It is estimated that Britain drained almost USD 45tn (Euro 36tn) from India during the colonial period between 1765 and 1938.)

"The fact that India is now the first country to land a module near the lunar south pole proves that its space programme was more than a vanity project. For the first time, the world will have images from the moon's south pole, which will have tremendous impacts on lunar research," she writes for The Guardian.

The Chandrayaan-3 mission's success is a testament to the dedication and perseverance of the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation, Sreedhara Somanath, and the hundreds of others who worked on the project. Professor Jayant Narlikar, celebrated physicist and co-author of the Hoyle-Narlikar theory, remembers the early days. "I was with [the physicist] Vikram Sarabhai when the space programme had just launched," he tells me. "People called it a white elephant but Vikram was quietly confident."

India's success in space was surprisingly cost-effective. In fact, the Chandrayaan-3 mission was successfully executed at a cost of USD 75m (Euro 60m) - roughly the same budget as the recent Bollywood film Adipurush. The landing now means potentially more resources for large parts of India's economy: investment in space programmes, international research collaboration and innovation, and in encouragement for the country's scientific community, as per The Guardian article.

Indian billionaire Anand Mahindra in response to the viral BBC video said the most insidious impact of colonialism was to "convince its victims of their inferiority". And yet, across India last week, people in streets, offices and schools were ecstatic. "All of us stopped our work midway and went outside to celebrate," recalls Kashika, a marketing executive in New Delhi. "Everyone was chanting, 'Vande Mataram [I bow to thee, mother] and 'Bharat mata ki jai' [victory to the motherland]. I've never been able to celebrate something like

this in my lifetime."

Abraham writes that as an Indian living in the UK, "Mahindra's statement hit me in the very pit of my stomach. Since I've been here, I've had to smile and nod at a plethora of uninformed comments. People are constantly surprised by the fact that I don't speak like Apu from The Simpsons. Just recently, a local councillor told me he "never would have guessed" I was Indian because my diction was impressive. It felt as if he wanted me to be proud of myself, but all that said to me was that if I spoke in a more "typically Indian" way, I'd have been considered of lesser value."

ANI



The fact that India is now the first country to land a module near the lunar south pole proves that its space programme was more than a vanity project

ANI

IN many Chinese cities, more and more people are heading out by bicycle. This cycling fever is exactly indicated by data on mid- and high-end bicycle sales recently released by multiple agencies.

According to China Bicycle Association, total revenues from Chinese bicycle enterprises above the designated size, or those with annual turnover of at least 20 million yuan (\$2.75 million), increased 3 percent year-on-year to reach 210 billion yuan in 2022. Their profits exceeded 10 billion yuan, up more than 20 percent from a year ago.

Road bikes are the bestselling type as indicated by statistics released by Chinese e-commerce giant JD.com. The sales of road bikes priced between 1,000 and 2,000 yuan jumped by 180 percent year-

Cycling fever grips China as bike sales surge

on-year on the platform of JD.com, and the figure stood at 530 percent for road bikes above 5,000 yuan. Besides, transactions of cycling apparel priced over 2,000 yuan surged 11-fold.

Why is cycling appealing to consumers? Especially with shared bikes readily available everywhere in China, why are Chinese consumers still opting to purchase pricey bikes?

Some value bikes for convenient commute. Zhu Yifan who works in Shanghai recently bought a 2,000-yuan bike for daily commute. Her office is only 10 kilometers away from home. For her, the subway is usually unbearably-crowded and

the taxi costs too much. Instead, the lightweight folding bike could offer convenience for work travel.

Some buy mid- and high-end bikes for fitness exercise. For "cycling buddy" Li Zhi in his fifties, biking is a great way to stay fit. "Cycling is a full-body workout and is helpful for vulnerable joints like knees. It also helps improve cardio and overall body function," Li said.

Taking fitness as the main aim, Li has high requirements for bike frames. As he often cycles across hilly terrain, the man needs lightweight, rigid frames with outstanding climbing performance. "They offer greater comfort dur-

ing rides though they are more expensive," he said.

Hu Muquan from Changsha, central China's Hunan province rides every week, logging over 100,000 km in the past decade. His high-intensity cycling requires high standards for bike quality. Hu says quality bikes could provide better performance and avoid breakdowns or delays from repairs.

Meanwhile, many see cycling as a novel social activity. Cao Yu, who runs a cycling club in Beijing, said the club currently has 300 to 400 active members and boasts monthly revenue of hundreds of thousands of yuan. Beijing has nearly 10 similar cycling clubs mixing social

and retail aspects, he said.

"Many people born in the 1970s and 1980s have become cycling enthusiasts, who often ride in groups to explore the nature or cruise in cities at night, immersing in the urban energy and crafting their own scenery," Cao told People's Daily.

The swing in demand toward more costly and advanced bike models comes from the improved supply capability, in particular, better materials, manufacturing, quality and after-sales support.

Xu Qiang, manager of a store in Beijing's Tongzhou district under Chinese bike manufacturer XDS, noted that most mid- and high-end road bikes now use disc brakes over

rim brakes for better feel and brake force, and they also look better with internal cable routing.

He said these bikes come with carbon fiber frames, which are both rigid and lightweight, and they also boast better after-sales services and technical support.

According to him, his store has an inventory of relevant products that triples that from a year ago.

Zhang Wenzhong, researcher at the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, believes mid- and high-end bikes can satisfy people's diverse mobility and fitness needs, providing new opportunities for the bike industry's transformation and high-quality development.

People's Daily

West cannot afford to integrate Ukraine into NATO – Hungary's Orban

NEW YORK

WESTERN countries can no longer afford to integrate Ukraine into NATO, Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban said in an interview with Tucker Carlson.

In the interview, which was published on X, formerly known as Twitter, on Tuesday, the Hungarian premier told the former Fox News host that there was a real chance to integrate Ukraine into the North Atlantic Alliance at the NATO summit in Bucharest in 2008.

But "there was no agreement among the big Western countries to do so," so the idea was rejected, Orban said. "We missed the historical opportunity to do so (to integrate the Ukrainians into NATO - TASS).

And this window of opportunity is not open any more, so we can't do that. So, we can't afford to have that long borderline between Russia and Ukraine which belongs to NATO - that would mean immediate war danger to all of us, even in Washington," Orban warned.

According to the Hungarian premier, the North Atlantic Alliance should "forget about" Ukraine's integration into NATO and agree on a new security architecture with Moscow. "We should make a deal with the Russians on the new security architecture to provide security and sovereignty for Ukraine, but not membership in NATO," Orban maintained.

Ukraine first decided to join the alliance under President Leonid Kuchma in 2002. In 2008, when President Viktor Yushchenko came to power, Kiev applied to join a NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP). However, the application was shelved over the position of Germany and France at the military bloc's summit in 2008.

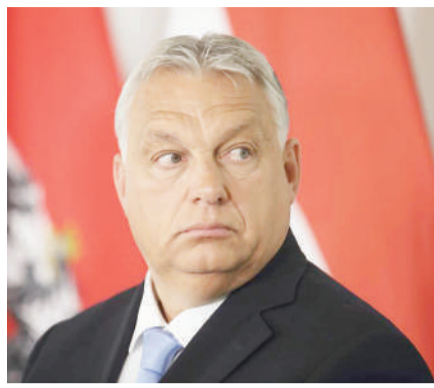
In 2010, the then President Viktor Yanukovich vowed to drop Ukraine's NATO integration bid.

The country reversed course in 2014, when Pyotr Poroshenko was elected president and vowed to seek rapprochement with NATO. In 2017, Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada (parliament) passed a bill making accession to NATO the country's foreign policy priority.

Following NATO's summit in Vilnius on July 11-12, the alliance's chief Jens Stoltenberg announced that the allies had adopted a package of three elements bringing Ukraine closer to NATO.

Leaders decided to remove the requirement for a Membership Action Plan, they also committed to offering multi-year military assistance to Kiev and agreed to establish the NATO-Ukraine Council. NATO said in the concluding statement that the alliance would issue an invitation for Ukraine to join it "when allies agree and conditions are met."

Agencies



UN: Fighting in Ethiopia's Amhara kills at least 183

GENEVA

FIGHTING between Ethiopia's military and militiamen in the Amhara region has killed at least 183 people, the UN human rights office said on Tuesday, providing the most comprehensive independent death toll to date of the month-long conflict.

More than 1,000 people have been arrested nationwide, many of them reported to be young people of ethnic Amhara origin, under a state of emergency the government decreed to respond to the violence, the UN added in a statement.

Ethiopia's government spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Government forces reclaimed major towns and cities across the region earlier this month after initially being chased out by the militiamen, but the conflict has ground on.

"With federal forces reasserting their presence in certain towns and Fano militias reportedly retreating into rural areas, we call on all actors to stop killings, other violations and abuses," the UN statement said.



An unidentified armed militia fighter walks down a path as villagers flee with their belongings in the other direction, near the village of Chenna Teklehaymanot, in the Amhara region of northern Ethiopia, Sept 9, 2021. AP

At least four people were killed in fresh fighting that erupted in the town of Debre Tabor on Sunday, two doctors said.

The clashes broke out about a week after Ethiopia's military entered the

town, one of the doctors said. Both spoke on condition of anonymity for safety reasons.

One of the doctors said he had seen the bodies of four people killed in the clashes and many wounded, including his father-in-law, who he said was shot in the chest by an unknown gunman

near his house.

The other doctor said at least seven people had died - three civilians and four police officers, who were fighting in support of the military.

Agencies

Japan's credibility deficit will only be further expanded

By Chen Xiaodong

Recently, the Japanese government forcibly started discharging the nuclear-contaminated water from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the ocean, in total disregard of the opposition from the international community and turning a blind eye to the rights to health, development and environment of the Japanese people and people in the rest of the world. This has set a dangerous precedent in human history.

No matter how Japan tries to defend itself, it cannot evade responsibility for damaging the ecological environment and polluting the ocean.

For over two years, the legitimacy, legality and safety of Japan's ocean discharge plan has been strongly questioned by the international community. Yet the Japanese side has constantly tried to create the false impression that discharging the nuclear-contaminated water is safe and harmless for the world.

On the very day Japan unilaterally commenced the discharge, Japanese media revealed that the Japanese government had planned to spend 70 billion yen (about \$480 million) in dealing with negative information about the nuclear-contaminated water discharge, which further indicated Japan's duplicity.

If the nuclear-contaminated water was truly "safe to drink" as proclaimed by Japan, there would be no need for the Japanese government to discharge it into the ocean against strong opposition. Outwardly, Japan touts the safety of ocean discharge, but secretly it conceals accidents, falsifies data, reneges on promises, and more. Such duplicity will only exacerbate Japan's credibility deficit.

When forcibly pushing ahead with the discharge plan, Japan deliberately concealed the fact that it lacks the capability to ensure safety. According to recent Japanese media reports, highly radioactive substances failing to meet standards were detected in June this year in water pooled inside the bank surrounding the contaminated water tanks of the plant. However, it was not until recently that Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), the plant's operator, disclosed investigation results showing that cracks in a hose used to transfer nuclear-contaminated water caused leaks.

This once again confirmed doubts about Japan's ability to handle the nuclear-contaminated water. If Japan keeps having problems storing the water, how can it guarantee safety over the decades-long discharge of over 1.3 million tons into the ocean?

TEPCO has a history of concealment and data falsification. Reports show that TEPCO admitted in 2007 to have falsified data in 199 inspections at the Fukushima No.1 and No.2 plants since 1977, even concealing serious reactor accidents. After June 2011, TEPCO long claimed that no new nuclear-contaminated water was flowing into the ocean. But following revelations of a series of leaks in 2013, TEPCO admitted in July that year that highly concentrated

radioactive water had been leaking into the sea. In February 2015, TEPCO was again exposed for hiding the facts when it was revealed that the company knew that high-concentration radioactive water had been continuously flowing from a drainage ditch into the sea since April 2014 but did not announce it or take any remedial action.

A Japanese journalist said that TEPCO routinely conceals facts and even releases false information regarding the nuclear accident and nuclear-contaminated water discharge.

Japan's government also has a trust deficit regarding oversight and inspection of reactor safety. A 2011 UN report already revealed flaws like lax oversight and insufficient preparedness in Japan's nuclear safety practices. With such irresponsible behaviors, how can Japan ensure the nuclear-contaminated water is handled in a science-based, safe and transparent manner?

The nuclear-contaminated water from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant contains dozens of radionuclides, many of which cannot be treated effectively with existing technologies. Some long-lived radionuclides may spread with ocean currents and form a bioconcentration effect, which will cause potential hazards to the marine environment and human health.

Since trial operations began in 2013, problems have continuously occurred with Japan's Advanced Liquid Processing System for treating the nuclear-con-

taminated water. The facility's effectiveness and long-term reliability have not been verified by any third-party, and it cannot be guaranteed that treated water meets discharge standards.

A South Korean civic group survey showed 79 percent of respondents considered the claimed safety of Japan's so-called "treated" nuclear-contaminated water "unreliable". Concerns from all parties have factual basis.

In 2015, the Japanese government gave a written pledge to the Fukushima Prefectural Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations, solemnly promising no disposal measures would be taken regarding the nuclear-contaminated water without the understanding of stakeholders. Japan did not adequately consult with stakeholders including neighboring countries and still unilaterally commenced ocean discharge despite strong opposition. This practice of saying one thing and doing another completely lacks credibility.

A Japanese proverb says trust is the foundation of all things. But regarding the nuclear-contaminated water issue, Japan's credibility is completely bankrupt.

The international community must urge Japan to correct its erroneous decision, halt the ocean discharge, communicate in good faith with neighboring countries, handle the nuclear-contaminated water responsibly, and accept strict international supervision.

People's Daily



People gather to protest the Japanese government and Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO) decision on releasing nuclear-contaminated wastewater into the Pacific Ocean in front of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan in Tokyo, Japan, Aug. 25, 2023. File photo

WHO announces second round of polio vaccination campaign in six provinces

KABUL

AS polio remains a persistent issue in Afghanistan, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that the second round of the polio vaccination campaign has begun in six provinces of Afghanistan, reported Khaama Press.

According to their statement, this campaign has been initiated in five provinces in the northern region and one in the southern region.

Moreover, the organization has urged the public to cooperate with vaccinators to ensure that children are getting vaccination.

The provinces included in the second round of the polio vaccine campaign are Jawzjan, Sar-e

Pol, Balkh, Faryab, Uruzgan, and Samangan, according to Khaama Press.

Last Tuesday, the first round of the polio vaccine campaign started across all provinces except for the six Northern provinces.

Afghanistan remains one of only two countries where the disease is still endemic. The another is Pakistan where children are still affected by the polio virus.

According to Khaama Press, these two nations are dealing with significant challenges in eliminating polio completely despite global efforts to eradicate this highly contagious disease.

Moreover, the continued suffering due to polio in Afghanistan and Pakistan can be attributed to

geographical barriers, political instability, and difficulties in reaching remote and conflict-affected areas.

The current epidemic situation in the country requires the need for sustained collaboration and comprehensive measures to protect children in these regions from the weakening effects of polio, reported Khaama Press.

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday said that 32 positive environmental polio samples had been found in Afghanistan so far this year.

According to a recent announcement from the World Health Organisation (WHO), Afghanistan has reported five new instances of wild poliovirus, all of which are

believed to have originated in the province of Nangarhar.

In the meantime, the nation has discovered 32 positive environmental samples this year, mostly grouped in the east. Notably, two samples were discovered, one in Balkh in the north and one in Kandahar in the south, demonstrating how far spread the problem is.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared a public health emergency in response to a recent environmental polio finding in Kandahar. The absence of authorised house-to-house vaccination efforts in the southern region is cited as the main factor in the situation's high probability of a large outbreak.

ANI

Politicians' visit highlights US escalation of Syria crisis

HONG KONG

THE political stalemate in Syria is back under the spotlight following a rare high-profile visit by a US delegation and demonstrations in the war-torn country.

Three members of the US Congress - Ben Cline, Scott Fitzgerald, and French Hill - visited opposition-controlled areas in Syria's northwest on Aug 27, while the south of the country saw protests against Syrian President Bashar Al Assad's government.

Analysts pointed to Washington's broader interests in the Middle East, which they said are military rather than economic, as the reason for the visit, and expressed doubt that the US lawmakers were there to address the humanitarian situation on the ground.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Nasser Kanaani on Aug 28 reiterated the necessity of the withdrawal of illegal US forces from Syria, stressing that the presence of these forces "contradicts peace, security and international laws", Syrian Arab News Agency reported.

He said it causes instability and insecurity in Syria and the region and pointed out that the crisis in Syria was a result of interference from foreign forces and their support for terrorist organizations.

The continuation of harsh and unjust US sanctions causes the suffering of the Syrian people, Kanaani also said.

Abdul Wahed Jalal Nori, author of the book State-building under Foreign Occupation: The Case of Iraq 2003-2008, told China Daily that the US might have broader strategic interests in the region beyond just countering ISIS.

"This could include geopolitical considerations, regional alliances, and safeguarding access to resources," said Abdul Wahed.

Mhd Nor Shahr, an international relations scholar at Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, said that the US has two main goals, which are to prevent the re-emergence of ISIS, and to avoid leaving a vacuum in Syria.

He also said Washington believes that its presence in Syria is to back Israel and to deter Iran from expanding, though the US troops are deemed by many as problematic.

Geir Pedersen, the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria, told a Security Council meeting on Aug 23 that the only path out of the war in Syria is a political process, which would also help to address the many crises affecting the country. He said Syrians "are entitled to chart their own destiny".

Pedersen said Syrians both inside and outside of the country continue to suffer severely from the conflict, which is now in its 12th year.

Arhama Siddiqi, research fellow at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad in Pakistan, told China Daily that the US is connected to the country's humanitarian crisis.

She said countries in the region are now focused on economic sustainability and "the US does not really have anything left to offer in that respect for now, at least".

Syrian President Bashar Al Assad's government was readmitted into the Arab League in May, ending Damascus' isolation since the Arab Spring in 2011, which saw protests breaking out in Syria before they escalated into a civil war.

Since May, Arab leaders have been engaging in dialogues with various parties to end the Syrian crisis.

On Aug 15, the United Arab Emirates' National News reported that members of an Arab five-nation committee, which was set up to oversee the regional normalization with Syria, said they are keen to end the civil war, hinting at the need for cooperation from Damascus.

The foreign ministers of committee members Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Jordan met Syrian minister Faisal Mekdad in Cairo. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, secretary-general of the Arab League, also took part in the meeting.

The US has been vocal in its opposition to the Arab states' normalization of ties with the Assad government. In recent days, there were also reports that demonstrations had broken out in Syria due to frustration toward Assad's government.

"It is noteworthy that despite Assad's reintegration into the Arab community, opposition to his leadership persists. This opposition is firmly linked to the ongoing humanitarian crisis which has exacerbated the economic situation that has plagued the nation since 2011," said Siddiqi. Agencies



Gael Bigirimana

Yanga slapped with player transfer ban by FIFA

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THIS season's NBC Premier League defending champion, Yanga, has been slapped with a player transfer ban by the world soccer body (FIFA) after failing to clear with the club's player, Gael Bigirimana.

The former Newcastle United midfielder was offloaded by the Tanzanian football giant after the conclusion of the previous season.

According to the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), Yanga was found guilty of breaching its contract with Bigirimana by FIFA's Disputes Resolution Chamber.

The federation clarified that Bigirimana sought FIFA's help in getting an unspecified amount of the sign-on fees the Burundian midfielder had agreed with Yanga as per the contract.

Once he had failed to get his money he reported the club to the world soccer governing body and won the case against his former employer.

The Jangwani Street squad will not be able to sign and register local and foreign players until the club pays

the Burundian star.

Bigirimana joined Yanga on a two-year long deal on July 9, 2022, on a free transfer from North Ireland side Glentoran.

Despite the highly publicized move to Yanga, the midfielder struggled for game time and was expected to leave the club in January this year apparently after agreeing on termination terms with the club.

The transfer ban comes at a time when Yanga had already made decent signings and tested the new footballers in the pre-season friendly matches, the 2023/24 CAF Champions League First Preliminary Round, and even in the Premier League.

Meanwhile, the Jangwani Street squad club thrashed JKT Tanzania 5-0 in a Premier League match played at the Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday evening.

Goals scored by Stephane Aziz Ki, Kennedy Musonda, Kouassi Attohula Yao, and a brace by Max Mpia Nzengeli secured the massive win for Yanga which is consequently topping the top-flight standings with six points.

'Kwa Lulenge' theatrics, of saving Innocent just on time



Choir singers of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, located at Mbezi Luis in Dar es Salaam, sing in a special service for guests organized by the church's Kimamba Kwa Mangi Branch recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

CITY residents - which usually connotes Dar es Salaam - who must take to be dearly are skipping a novel phenomenon making an imprint in city life and indeed well beyond, as callers are heard from inland regions far from the city.

Such is the case of a certain Innocent, who called from a healer's waiting place or a sort of guest wing to Pastor Dominic, who relishes first and foremost in witch busting.

That there is no audible public appreciation speaks a lot on inclinations, but the service is making headway, if only as an amazing nightlife broadcast auxiliary.

For one thing, it is comparable to alternative services or alter egos like either the Kawe grounds 'Bulldozer' or Kimara Temboni who often fields witches failing their work after some of their targets, family members, report at the priest's place for help.

The situation is different because those who come to Kimara Temboni are there to be assisted in abandoning the habit, and the priest poses validation questions for the record, as well as for information on those who attend the services.

To listeners it may look repetitive but it is helpful for those unfamiliar with the steps.

For one thing, it is the pastor's in the outstretched location at Buza Kwa Lulenge that has done the most in bringing to clarity the extent of evil in various households.

There are people helped to walk again or be animated before the start of burial arrangements, which illustrates the distance at which delivery services have come.

From 'positive thinking' at Kawe to the destruction of witches on one part, but more so, a certain axiomatic ability to turn around situations that is tantalizing.

The case of Innocent was particularly as-

tonishing, not just for what happened but also its circumstances, of someone who phones the pastor not from his home or household, but while admitted at a healer's place, the pastor's avowed adversaries.

It was almost audible from the body language or tone of speech that the pastor was hesitating to take the phone of someone calling from a witch doctor's place.

In this instance, he was not helping the one admitted but rather, responsible for his miseries.

The pastor neither had second thoughts about nor received the phone as he could see the caller was a victim, and condemned one at that.

He told him that the witch doctor was in the course of preparing some concoction to drink and to wash himself with, and if the concoction reached his stomach, he would die. The time frame- three days!

That is how the matter of Innocent's phone being received ahead of hundreds of others was the testimonial of divine favour as it would require impossible research to figure out how many of those who were calling could have been in as much or massive danger as Innocent.

In part, he was indeed innocent in his misfortunes and suffering, as earlier he was doing well in business, and out of what Mwalimu Nyerere would say is drunkenness, sheer drunkenness, he decided to see a supposed healer, or witchdoctor in the traditional rendering, to seek charms for the protection of his household and businesses.

As is the case with many others falling into the trap of dishonest healers out to fleece unsuspecting victims, he was set on the road to his undoing in life, an assured premature exiting of life.

That is why the decision to call Pastor Dominic from a witchdoctor's parlour was surprising in the first place, but judging

from what transpired in his conversation with the pastor, it was clear that fate had ruled him innocent in that travail, as he did not set out to harm anyone but protect his businesses and household.

His error was to fail to trust in prayers and do what is right and thus landed himself in the spider's web of malicious fortune hunters, destroying their victims in that process.

Good sense prevailed with Pastor Dominic as those working with him from a different dimension of existence rapidly showed him the man's circumstances and impending fate, precisely from those he trusted were there to assist him.

Enraged by the dismal and inhuman show the witch doctor was performing at his citadel, well beyond the reach of the law.

No evidence can be tendered after someone vomits red and black threads he drank seven years earlier from a teaspoon, meant to be fatal.

This was what the witch doctor had given to him as a protective charm and then it grew to a swelling in the stomach and one the legs, one leg in particular.

Instead of just receiving protective charms he now became a regular patient, and perfectly unaware he was being treated by his witch, to his death.

And as a sick person, his business would inevitably collapse in due course. That stage had already passed.

The pastor reminded him that a few months earlier they had visited a plot in Dar es Salaam which the follower sold to pay his medical fees, a grotesque term in the circumstances, and was now a liability to the witch-cum-healer.

Fate pushed Innocent to call the pastor, and the line was connected. The twin threads were vomited, the leg thinned up, and the healer's huts caught fire, to the relief and praise of listeners.

Simba SC to take on Power Dynamos in 2023/24 CAF CL Second Preliminary Round

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S Simba SC will open its quest for a tremendous outing in this season's CAF Champions League with Second Preliminary Round clashes against Zambia's Power Dynamos.

The two clubs' first leg tie has been slated to take place at Levy Mwanawasa in Zambia on September 15 before the reverse fixture takes place in Dar es Salaam between September 29- October 1.

The teams previously

locked horns on the climax of the Simba Day festival at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on August 6, with the Msimbazi Street outfit recording a 2-0 win over the Zambian Super League defending champions.

Simba SC was excluded from the continental showpiece's First Preliminary Round after acquiring the top 10 position in CAF club rankings due to the outfit's extraordinary results and performance in the latter stages of the competition.

The Msimbazi Street side will be aiming to go further than the quarterfinal stage of the competition having failed to overcome the hurdle in the last six years in a row.

Last season's CAF Champions League finalist- Wydad Casablanca- ended Simba SC's hopes of booking a place in the semi-finals after having been locked to a 1-1 aggregate scoreline when the two teams met in the last eight, leading to a spot kicks victory for the Moroccan side.

Power Dynamos managed to scrape through to the Second Preliminary Round via a 2-2 aggregate victory over Namibia's African Stars in the First Preliminary Round.

Congolese striker Andy Boyeli scored from the spot to give the Zambian Super League champions a 1-0 win over the Namibian side in the rematch.

Despite the two sides having been tied 2-2 on aggregate, the Kitwe giants booked a date against Simba SC thanks to the away goal.

With the reverse fixture

scheduled for September 29 in Dar es Salaam, Simba SC will be all out to qualify for the Group Stage before heading to the African Football League showdown's opener slated to take place in the city.

Simba SC has maintained a 100-percent start to the new season, buoyed by the 2023/24 NBC Premier League campaign start that followed the club's 2023/24 Community Shield showdown triumph.

The side's head coach, Roberto Oliveira, alias 'Rober-

tinho', is happy with the way his charges understand the game at the beginning of the season, despite conceding that a lot must be done.

The Brazilian noted: "I am satisfied with the way my team is playing because we have many good players who are determined to help the team win matches all the time, although we still have a lot of work to do."

"I like playing offensive football and for me, football is not a fight but rather a talent and an art...I am happy to see that my players un-

derstand well my philosophy because we play well and win games," the gaffer stated.

This season, Simba SC has the most experienced squad in the CAF Champions League out of Tanzania's two envoys in the continental competition.

The Msimbazi Street squad boasts of reaching the showdown's quarterfinals four times in the last six years, no other Tanzanian side has managed to do the same in the continental showpiece in recent years.

SPORT

Details of slimmed-down African Football League revealed

PAGE 19



Dutch tactician, Hans van der Pluijm.

Singida Fountain Gate FC eyes new coach after Pluijm's resignation

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Fountain Gate FC has parted ways with the club's head coach Hans van Pluijm following a one-year stint at the club.

According to the side, the Dutch tactician threw in the towel citing personal reasons that led to his decision to resign from his post.

In Pluijm's coaching career in Tanzania, the Dutch had, apart from taking charge of Singida Fountain Gate FC, led Azam FC and Yanga.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, management, sponsors, stakeholders, and members of Singida Fountain Gate FC, I wish to announce the resignation of head coach Hans who has been with the club for some time now helping the team achieve big milestones," a statement from the club revealed.

His assistant, Ugandan Mathias Lule, will assume the caretaker coach role until the club makes further announcements.

"However, as per this announcement, Hans has decided to resign on reasons attached to availing more time for his undertaking," the club noted in the statement.

Hans guided Singida Fountain Gate FC to a top-four finish last season and, consequently, the club qualified for the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup.

Singida Fountain Gate FC finished fourth behind Azam FC (third), Simba SC (second), and Yanga successfully defended the NBC Premier League crown.

He helped the club reach the Second Preliminary Round of the continental tournament, defeating Zanzibar's JKU SC 4-3 on aggregate in the First Preliminary Round. Singida Fountain Gate FC beat JKU SC 4-1 in the first leg and, in the rematch, the Singida outfit suffered a 2-0 defeat to JKU SC last weekend.

"Hans will forever be part of the club's history having recorded a historic achievement for the club last season - finishing in the top four and guiding the club to qualifying for the current CAF Confederation Cup in which recently he has helped the team advance to the Second Preliminary Round of the competition," the club disclosed.

Amrouche announces Taifa Stars' players for 2023 AFCON Qualifiers' fixture against Algeria



Footballers making Tanzania's senior national football team are pictured participating in drills in Egypt recently to shape up for qualifiers for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations slated for January 13-February 11, 2024, in Ivory Coast.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA's senior national football team 'Taifa Stars' head coach Adel Amrouche has unveiled a 25-man squad ahead of the Group F tie of the 2023 AFCON Qualifiers against Algeria set to be played at 19 May 1956 Stadium in Algiers on September 7.

Amrouche has given the first senior national team call-up to Young Africans SC's youthful forward, Clement Mzize, Geita Gold FC shot stopper Eric Johora and Lamack Lawi of Coastal Union among other players for assignment against former AFCON champions.

Veteran goal-getter John Bocco is back in the senior national team after a year of absence, with senior players Shomari Kapombe and Mo-

hamed Hussein left out of the fullback positions.

Taifa Stars went to Tunisia yesterday for their training camp ahead of their must-win encounter against Algeria.

The game is a must-win for Tanzania's envoys so they can increase their chances of qualifying for the 2023 AFCON finals - a championship Tanzania participated in for the last time in 2019 in the show-down hosted by Egypt.

Tanzania is currently

sitting second in Group F with seven points, trailing already-qualified Algeria which has collected 15 points.

Uganda, also in contention for a place in the AFCON finals, is in third place with four points while bottom-placed Niger has collected two points after five ties.

The coming game is a must-win for Tanzania which had two losses in its campaign, which came in fixtures against Algeria and

Uganda.

Taifa Stars full squad:
Goalkeepers: Beno Kolanya (Singida Fountain Gate FC), Metacha Mnata (Yanga), and Erick Johora (Geita Gold FC).

Defenders: Dickson Job (Yanga), Abdi Banda (Richards Bay-South Africa), Bakari Mwamnyeto (Yanga), Ibrahim Bacca (Yanga), Kennedy Juma (Simba SC), Lamack Lawi (Coastal Union), Haji Mnoga (Aldershot Town, England), Abdulmalick Zakaria (Namungo FC).

Midfielders: Himid Mao (El-Mahalla- Egypt), Mzamiru Yassin (Simba SC), Novatus Dismas (Zulte Waregem- Belgium), Jonas Mkude (Yanga), Ben Starkie (Basford United-England), Mudathir Yahya (Yanga), Sospeter Bajana (Azam FC), Morris Abraham (FK Spartak Subotica- Serbia).

Strikers: Simon Msvu (JS Kabylie- Algeria), Abdulhamis Suleiman (Azam FC), Kibu Dennis (Simba SC), Mbwana Samatta (PAOK Salonika- Greece).

Gamondi hails dominant Yanga after victory over JKT Tanzania

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC head coach Miguel Gamondi poured praise on his dominant side as they maintained their 100 percent start to the season with a 5-0 win over JKT Tanzania in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League tie which took place at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday.

Continuing his strong goalscoring start to the campaign, midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki set up the tone with a first-half stoppage-time goal to break the deadlock for Young Africans SC, popularly known as Yanga.

After winning a free-kick on the edge of the box, the Burkina Faso international stepped up and powered a strike into the back of the net.

Going into the second half, Yanga continued to push forward in search of further goals and added a second 10 minutes after the restart through forward Kennedy Musonda who connected home a low pass from left full-back, Nickson Kibabage.

In the 65th minute, Aziz Ki turned provider to right-back, Kouassi Attohoul, laying down a straight pass that was curled in by the Ivorian full-back past keeper John Mwanda in the goal posts for JKT Tanzania to make it 3-0.

Midfielder Max Nzegeli added to the scoresheet, reacting quickly to his initial shot that was punched out by Mwanda to tap home his third goal in



Yanga's midfielder, Mudathir Yahya (L), races past JKT Tanzania's midfielder, Najim Magulu, as the outfits took on each other in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League match which took place at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Yanga clobbered JKT Tanzania 5-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

the last two games for Yanga.

He grabbed his second consecutive brace two minutes later to make it five

for the top-flight defending champion.

Gamondi was delighted with their victorious performance which took

them to the top of the standings courtesy of a superior goal difference over rivals Simba SC and Azam FC.

The Argentine revealed: "I think it was a little bit difficult in the first half, JKT Tanzania came to make a low block. They tried to cut the rhythm of the game, make fouls, and tried to play by keeping the ball."

"We needed to be patient while defending very well, far from our goal post," the gaffer noted.

Gamondi stated: "We were lucky we scored a goal in the last minute of the first half. We got more confident and the other team opened up a little bit. In the second half, we played great football."

"We completely dominated the other team. We created chances and scored," the gaffer noted.

"I am really happy with the performance of the players, big congratulations to them. I am very happy for Wananchi, they are more than happy," the Argentine stated.

After maintaining their good start to the new season, Yanga will be aiming to continue their fine run of form when they take on Sudan's Al Merreikh in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round after the international break.

The reigning NBC Premier League champions will resume their league campaign with their first game on the road against Ifehu SC on October 4.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

