



National Pg 3 TRA urged to do more research



National Pg 4 Govt to use drones against pests



National Pg 6 KINAPA to be part of REGROW



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CRDB Bank Foundation managing director Tully Esther Mwambapa (L) briefs President Samia Suluhu Hassan at Kizimkazi in Zanzibar yesterday on how the 2bn/- Kizimkazi Dimbani Communal Market which the foundation has said it is determined to build will look. To the president's right is CRDB Bank group CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Recall of IGA on port deal still possible'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE National Assembly can recall the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Tanzania and Dubai should the need arise to add key public views because the House finished its task when it approved the IGA.

Dr Tulia Ackson, the speaker, made this remark after the question-and-answer session here yesterday, noting that the National Assembly is listening to, and analysing, views by the public on ways to better advise the government on what should be done.

Noting that the legislature finalised its task when it approved the pact or memorandum of understanding between the two governments, she sought to assure the

general public that the door is not closed as far as parliamentary input is concerned.

"When we want to know the contents of various agreements with the government, we will recall them because the law allows us to do so," she affirmed, focusing on the need to listen to various stakeholders including MPs who have been issuing comments on the matter.

The legislature will advise the government on the matter as public views are issued on a wide scope so MPs need to listen to various views on the matter as it is their job to oversee the government, she emphasised.

A decision on not pursuing extended discussion on the matter was reached to ensure that the legislature was not unduly

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Great Lakes forum is all for DRC peace

By Getrude Mbago

THE parliamentary forum of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region has urged governments in the zone to strongly focus on finding durable solutions enabling peace in areas that face conflicts and insecurity.

Ambassador Onyango Kakoba (pictured), the forum secretary general, made this appeal on in Dar es Salaam yesterday as the MPs convened for two days to deliberate on the current political, security and humanitarian situation in the zone.

He said it is high time now for major political stakeholders in the region to work on bringing peace in Eastern Congo and the Sudan as the situation poses huge economic, social and political impacts.

The MPs are pursuing obligations outlined in the inter-parliamentary agreement setting up the forum, to bring significant parliamentary contributions to push the pact on security,

stability and development in the Great Lakes Region signed by the heads of state in December 2006, he said.

The heads of state saw it fit to incorporate parliaments in the pact as the legislature is an important stakeholder for representation, enacting laws and overseeing the implementation of various policies in each member states, he explained.

Mussa Azzan Zungu, the deputy speaker of the National Assembly, said in his opening remarks that conflicts and insecurity come with a serious economic costs to nations, like damage to infrastructure, decline in the working population, inflation and disrupting normal economic activities.

He cited founder president Julius Nyerere who once said that "violence is unnecessary and costly, so peace is the only way," underlining that Tanzania under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan "takes peace as the bedrock of development."

The basic idea is that peace, security and development cannot be separated, he stated, elaborating that people can only prosper if the country is peaceful. "It is self-evident that economic, social and environmental prosperity requires a large amount of cooperation and trust within and between societies," he stated.

Without peace and security there can be no sustainable development, he further asserted, urging the parliamentarians to

PPP strategies to raise exports, shilling value

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has lined up a number of strategies including partnerships with the private sector to increase exports, strengthening the value of the Tanzanian shilling vis a vis other currency in the East African Community (EAC) zone.

Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba aired this intention in remarks to the National Assembly when responding to a question by Nicodemus Mganga (Mbogwe) during the question-and-answer session.

He said that the government was working to increase production and using locally produced inputs to control excessive need for hard currency, chiefly the US dollar.

In his response, the minister said the government was pushing local producers to ensure quality to control importation of similar goods from other countries.

"The government is doing this as part of implementing section 7(3) and 13 (1)

Monetary policies pursued by developed nations grappling with high inflation had adversely impacted Tanzania

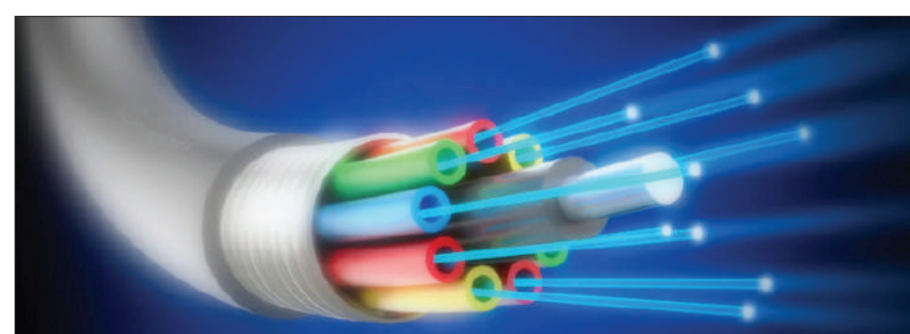
of the Foreign Currency Act, 2022 which directs business people to bank with local financial institutions all money obtained from exports of goods and services within 90 days from the sale of goods or services abroad," he stated.

The MP wanted to know what the government was doing to increase the value of the shilling compared to other countries in the region, where the minister noted that the government was looking at other sources of forex.

One way is to purchase locally produced gold, plus improving the environment for doing business, thus facilitating foreign direct investments, for which the government was implementing monetary policy to control inflation, and wanton rises in the price of goods, he explained.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) recently said that Tanzania is seeing a positive turn from the dollar scarcity that kindled various

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Tanzania mulls fibre optic cable exports

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

FIBRE optic cable manufacturers in the proximity of the city of Dar es Salaam are exploring exportation since the

rate and quality of producing modern connectivity equipment is well advanced at the Mkuranga plant.

Kundo Mathew, the Information, Communication and Information

Technology deputy minister, made this observation here yesterday, officiating at the opening of the 41st ordinary session of the Pan-African Postal Union administrative council.

He said that the factory has the capacity to produce up to 24,000 kilometers of optic fibre per year, while the country needs 15,000 kilometers of the digital communication cable.

The country is in a position to feed outside markets with fibre optic equipment as long as the products meet international standards, he specified.

"We are currently rolling out a fibre network to all regions, districts, wards and up to street level, envisaging more than ten million households being connected by 2027," he said.

Access to internet services is now regarded as a basic need for each household, in like manner as water and electricity connection, he said, noting that the Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi cuts the ribbon late last week at the handover by Amref Health Africa of a mobile clinic van for use in areas in need of the service. He is with Amref Health Africa group CEO Dr Githinji Gitahi (2nd-L) and Amref Tanzania Country director Dr Florence Temu (C). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Manyara Region receives 600m/- for constructing Kwaraa Ground

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

THE government in Manyara Region has received 600m/- for the construction of Kwaraa Ground in Babati town that will be used for the event to mark the apex of the national Uhuru Torch race.

Manyara Region Uhuru Torch race coordinator, Samuel Pastory said in his statement regarding the event to be held in the region.

He said the government has already provided the funds for the construction of essential infrastructure at the ground and

added that already the ground's condition was good and artificial grass had been grown and construction work had reached 60 per cent complete.

He said electrical installation has been completed and work on the drainage system including 16 pit

latrines continues.

He explained that 1,200 children are being trained to colour the event and all have gone medical check-up.

According to Pastory, the region had prepared 1,664 rooms for visitors located in Babati town and Hanang.

For her part, the Minister of State in the PM Office (Employment, Youth and People with Disabilities) Prof Joyce Ndalichako commended the region for the work so far done.



Works and Transport ministry permanent secretary (Transport Sector) Gabriel Migire (2nd-L) signs a 2023/2024 financial year performance agreement with Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority director general Hamza Johari in Dodoma city on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Number of pensioners on payment scheme has increased from 50 percent to 67 percent'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE number of pensioners on monthly payment scheme has increased from 50 percent to 67 percent, thanks to amendment of Section 25A of the Social Security Benefit Schemes Regulations that came into force in July, 2022.

Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth and Employment), Patrobas Katambi made the statement in the National Assembly yesterday, adding that pensioners are now getting better amount of money than before.

He said the social security funds have become stronger than they were before the merger, explaining that some of the challenges that faced them have been solved.

The deputy minister was

responding to supplementary questions from several lawmakers who argued that the pensioners are not comfortable with the new schemes' arrangements.

In her question, Bunda Urban MP, Esther Bulaya (CHADEMA) had wanted if the government had intentions of reverting to the old system whereby upon retirement, workers would be paid in lump sum 50 percent instead of the current 33 percent of their savings.

She said the born of contention between the government and the workers is the low amount of lump sum amount. "When shall the government change the ongoing new trend?", she said.

In response, the deputy minister said the actuarial assessment conducted by the government showed that the pensioners are

happy with what they get since the government has improved services.

He said: "The schemes have transformed from loss making trend to profit making ventures."

Katambi explained that prior to July 2022, the retired workers used to get a lump sum 25 percent, which the government has increased to 33 percent.

Special Seats MP, Maria Kisangi (CCM) also expressed concerns of pensioners, saying most of them are not happy with the new scheme arrangements.

She argued many retired workers, especially teachers are struggling to get their rightful payments, attributing the problem to confusion caused by the new trend.

Earlier in his main question, Moshi Urban MP, Priscus

Tarimo (CCM), had wanted to know what the government was doing in effort to solve complains raised by workers over the current system.

Katambi, in response told the lawmakers that the government would continue providing education on the new system since it appears that many workers do not understand it.

He said by 30th June 2023, the government in collaboration with other stakeholders had provided education to some 5580 employers out of the targeted 6200 employers and also reached out to some 131,494 members.

In line with new regulation amendments, workers are now paid 33 percent of their total savings in lump sum upon retiring, with the remaining 67 being reserved for the monthly pension.

Tanzania for fibre optic cable export

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is tasked with ensuring that most homesteads are connected.

The Raddy Fibre Co., the fibre optic Factory based in the Mwanambaya area of Mkuranga District of Coast Region, is a private firm opened by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The plant is so far the only one in East and Central Africa and also the third-largest on the continent, creating upwards of 670 job

opportunities. It is touted to be manufacturing high-quality fibre optic cables and accessories for industrial, telecommunication, security and commercial outlays in the region.

Dr Sifundo Moyo, the PAPU secretary general, said the organisation was working to empower member states to digitize their respective postal and communication services in the same manner as in the developed countries.

'Recall of IGA on port accord is still possible'

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weighing into the matter repeatedly after approving the IGA.

"Because we have already finalised our task, we do not need to enter into another debate but listen to views by the general public and advise on what should be done," she explained.

Views currently being issued by

the general public will be picked up by MPs and be analysed on how they can be included as part of advice to the government, she stated.

"We will not use this platform to answer views by the general public. Our role is to listen and analyse to see how best to advise the government about the matter," she added.

Parliamentary forum is all for peace in the DRC

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come up with workable, amicable and long-term solutions to conflicts affecting the region.

Despite that ipriorities keep changing as new challenges emerge MPs must keep the agenda of peace as the main priority, he stated, pointing at the founding document of the forum and the vision of the founding heads of states.

"As parliamentarians, we must find the root cause of conflicts and insecurities in our region while focusing on the main objective for which the forum was established," he declared.

Ezra John Chiwelesa (Biharamulo) said the meeting will delve deep into the political, security and humanitarian situation in the Great Lakes zone and come up with recommendations to be presented to the heads of state for them to consider measures to be taken.

"We are calling for national

leaders in the region to join forces and ensure that these conflicts come to an end so as to enable our nations to be at peace and reduce social and economic burdens that countries and people are carrying due to conflicts," he stated.

Simon Bizimungu, an opposition leader in the Burundi legislature and acting chairperson of the forum, hinted on the note that without peace the region's resources will be depleted in vain.

Recommendations that will be reached have a chance of facilitating the heads of state to accelerate steps to be taken in resolving the various conflicts, he said.

The forum brings together 12 national parliaments of the Great Lakes member states, namely Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia.

PPP strategies to raise exports, shilling value

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other woes, as economic trends are now shifting.

The dollar supply was starting to stabilise amid a positive global economic outlook, forecast to close at three percent for this year, from the previously projected 2.8 percent noticed at the beginning of the year.

There will be more supply of

foreign currency, BoT affirmed, stating that currency instability arose from the war in Ukraine, the Covid-19 aftermath, climate change and tight money supply due to high interest rates in major economies.

Monetary policies pursued by developed nations grappling with high inflation had adversely impacted Tanzania, it said in a policy advisory note.

DRC's Zero Polémik comedy festival for enhancing peace

BUKAVU

COMEDY festival 'Zéro Polémik' or Zero controversy returned to Bukavu for a 6th edition.

The 3-day event taking place in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo brought together fans of stand-up, improv' and farcical comedy among other genres.

The event's organizer, Joyeux Bin Kabojdo says it aims to promote and consolidate peace and social cohesion within local communities in the DRC and the Great Lakes region at large.

"The festival exists for greater social cohesion that advocates education through entertainment, in other words, we think it's possible to educate through laughter and that's why every year for the past 6 years, we've been getting together

around laughter with the public here in Bukavu. Humour remains today one of the components to development itself, and above all a foundation of social cohesion.

DR Congo's east has been for decades the battlefield of rebel groups and regional armies.

Bukavu is located near the border with Rwanda

Evelyne Mulashe, a young comedian at the school of humour, share how her art contributes to fostering peaceful coexistence.

"Humour allows us to tackle some of life's most pertinent subjects, to get a message across. Of course, when delivering and hearing the message we laugh at first, but it still people then need to stop to think about it. I believe that somewhere a show, depending on its message, really helps to raise people awareness on certain issues."



NMB Bank CEO Ruth Zaipuna pictured yesterday briefing President Samia Suluhu Hassan at Kizimkazi in Zanzibar, where the president later laid the foundation stone for the construction of Tasani Pre-Primary School. The bank will bear the full costs of putting up and furnishing of the school. Fourth left is South Unga regional commissioner Rashid Hadid Rashid and second left is NMB Bank's chief of retail banking, Filbert Mponzi. Photo: State House

VP Mpango urges for continued investment in taxation research

By Getrude Mbagu

VICE President Dr Phillip Mpango has called for continued investment in the area of taxation research so as to facilitate effective solutions that will address challenges and boost revenue collections in Africa.

According to him, there is a great need for governments and experts in the continent to focus on coming up with more innovative measures to increase tax base for sustainable development.

In a speech read on his behalf by the Minister for Education of Education, Science and Technology Prof Adolf Mkenda during the opening of a three-day African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF)'s 8th African Tax Research Network (ATRN) Annual Congress in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Dr Mpango urged experts and researchers to continue working for durable solutions to fight illicit financial outflow which is one of the challenges affecting revenue growth.

Hosted by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), the event has brought together over 300 experts and stakeholders from various countries in Africa, the congress focuses on contemporary issues in taxation aimed at addressing the macroeconomic challenges facing Africa.

These include the need for African tax administrations to be agile in the face of changes in the global taxation landscape; taxation of High-Net-Worth-Individuals (HNWI); taxation of the extractives; environmental taxes and technology and revenue mobilisation, to mention a few.

Dr Mpango noted that despite efforts and progress reports show that Africa is still characterised by low revenue collections, with an average tax-to-GDP ratio of only 14.55 percent in 2021 which is mainly due to a shrinker tax base owing to a number of factors including low levels of tax compliance, aggressive tax planning and a relatively large informal sector.

He said for the continent to fully realise the potential of these resources, it is crucial to implement effective taxation policies that promote transparency, accountability, and fair revenue distribution by levying appropriate taxes on extractive industries.

"Governments can generate substantial revenues that can be invested in vital sectors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and social welfare programmes. The

collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners is essential to bridge the gap between theory and practice, and to ensure that evidence-based policies shape our tax systems for the better."

He said the government of Tanzania has invested in initiatives and it will continue strengthening domestic revenue collection and administration by emphasizing proper use of ICT systems.

He added: "Taxation plays a pivotal role in advancing our development agenda, from financing public services and infrastructure to promoting social equity and inclusive growth. Through this congress, I am sure you will seek to explore new avenues for harnessing the potential of taxation to overcome emerging challenges and capitalize on the vast opportunities that lie ahead for Africa."

Minister for Finance, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said in his speech that the congress was a testament to the growing importance of tax research in Africa, and that Tanzania recognize that effective tax policies and systems are vital for sustainable economic growth and development.

He said the Ministry of Finance is committed to fostering an enabling environment for research and innovation in the crucial field.

"As Africa experiences rapid economic growth and an increasing number of high-net-worth individuals, it becomes crucial to examine the unique complexities that arise in taxing this specific segment of society. High-net-worth individuals possess substantial assets, engage in diverse investment strategies, and often have a global presence, leading to intricate tax considerations," the minister said.

He said the rapid advancement of technology in Africa has brought about significant opportunities for revenue mobilization and economic growth. This calls for collective effort to explore the intersection of technology and revenue generation in Africa.

Executive Secretary of ATAF, Logan Wort said the Forum was taking efforts to improve the performance of tax administration through various capacity building programs and initiatives, the endeavour which will eventually enable tax administrations in Africa perform better in terms of revenue collection and improve their economies and people's lives.

Speaker urges govt to review higher education loans criteria

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

SPEAKER of the National Assembly, Dr Tulia Ackson has urged the government to critically review the higher education loans criteria, saying many of the needy students are locked out of the Higher Education Loans Board (HESLB) support.

She argued that under the current system, students from poor families, who deserve the financial assistance to continue with their education, do not get the loan, let alone the low percentage.

Dr Tulia said: "It is good the ministry plans to review the system and improve on the weaknesses but it is important to ensure the needy students are not locked out".

The speaker noted that under the current system, some information filled out in the application forms are quite misleading, citing a situation whereby a student whose parents earn as low as 100,000/- are forced to simply state that the parents are working.

Her call came during the question and answers session after the Deputy Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Omar Kipanga, admitted in the House that there are several challenges in the current system, but maintained that they will soon be ironed out.

The deputy minister made the explanations in response to a supplementary question asked by the Special Seats MP, Sophia Mwakigenda (CHADEMA) who had wondered why the system lock out many needy students.

The lawmaker had also wanted to state why the government does not provide flat rate amount of money to higher learning students in loans, saying there are a lot of manipulations in the system.

Earlier, in the in the main question, the MP had wanted to know why many students who went through private secondary schools do not get the loan completely or are awarded low percentage compared to those who studied in public schools.

"Why is it very difficult for students who studied in private schools to get loan upon reaching universities or other higher learning institutions?" she asked.

In response, the deputy minister refuted the claims refuted the claims that students who study in private secondary schools get less consideration for education loans upon reaching higher learning institutions.

He explained that the set criteria for eligibility for loan are not discriminatory, adding that the government was working on how to increase funding to HESLB in order to expand the loan base.

Kiganga said several stakeholders have come in support to the government towards the plan, expressing hope that the situation will improve. "I have to admit that there are several challenges but the government is working to solve them" he said.

The deputy minister told the lawmakers that the board's budget has increased from 464 bn/- in 2021/22 to 738bn/- in 2023/24.



Residents of Ruyaya village in Kilwa District in jovial mood yesterday as Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir bin Ally launched a dispensary built with joint funding from Alata'a Charitable Foundation Tanzania and Qatar Charity and expected to provide services to at least 144,000 people. Photo: Correspondent Said Hamdani

Lands ministry and PO-RALG sign agreement for utilisation of a farm

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINISTRY of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Developments and President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) have signed an agreement for the development and implementation of the plan for the utilisation of 6,176.5 farm in Arusha and Arumeru districts in Arusha Region.

The signing of the agreement for the Shambarai Burka and Bwawani farm that was formerly owned by Tanganyika Planting company Limited took place on Monday this week in Dodoma by the Permanent Secretary in the Lands ministry, Eng. Anthony Sanga and Deputy PS in PO-RALG, Wilson Charles and witnessed by district executive directors

Speaking before signing the agreement, PS Sanga said the farm was involved in land conflict between the Lands ministry and Tanzania Plantations and this agreement was reached after the the court endorsed the request by the Lands ministry to settle the dispute outside the court.

Eng Sanga further said that after the government paid compensation as agreed by the former land owner, it had in place a plan for the development and supervision of the farm whereby 3,076.5 acres was set aside for sisal cultivation.

For his part, Deputy PS in PO-RALG, Wilson Charles called on the country Sisal Board and the farm's management to look into how it can enhance people's lives, especially the youth, on the importance in the development of the country's economic growth.

Meanwhile, Arusha Regional Administrative

Secretary, Misaile Musa called on officials from both district councils to make sure they mete out justice during the allocation of areas for settlements and farms to avoid complaints and conflicts pitting the people and the government.

For his part, the Chairman of Arusha district Council, Ojugu Salekwa called on the Ministry of Lands to have in place a good plan for the land that has been placed as reserve to avoid people invading it.

The farm, formerly owned by Tanzania Plantation was officially handed over to the government on April 29, 2022 after the government and the company finalised legal procedures.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA (DAR ES SALAAM DISTRICT REGISTRY) AT DAR ES SALAAM MISCELLANEOUS CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 188 OF 2023 (Originating from Civil Case no. 157 of 2022 before Hon. Nkwabi, J.) LONGINO LAZARO @ KASONTA...APPLICANT VERSUS MOHAMED SUMAR.....RESPONDENT SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION TO: Mohamed Sumar, DAR ES SALAAM - Tanzania

WHEREAS, the above mentioned case has been fixed for mention 3rd day of October, 2023 at 10:00 AM before Hon. J. F. Nkwabi - Judge you are required to appear in this court without fail and must produce on that day all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your case. TAKE NOTICE that in default of your appearance on that day aforementioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence. GIVEN under my HAND and SEAL, of Court this 17th day of July 2023

DEPUTY REGISTRAR HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA DAR ES SALAAM

IN THE HIGH COURT OF UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ONE STOP JUDICIAL CENTER OF TENKEKE AT TENKEKE PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION CAUSE NO. 255 OF 2022 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE DAVID JOHN GATRELL JOHN GATRELL FORM NO. 84 NOTICE TO CREDITORS Made under Rule 111 of the probate Rules, G.N No. 369 of 1963 NOTICE is hereby given that all persons claiming debts or liabilities affecting the estate of the above-named DAVID JOHN GATRELL deceased who died at the United Kingdom on the 02nd day of August, 2021 and letters of administration was granted to me by the High Court of United Republic of Tanzania One Stop Judicial Center of Tenkeke at Tenkeke on the 10th June, 2023, are hereby required to send in their claims to me at the following address within which I shall proceed to hand over the assets to the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims of which I shall then have had notice. JONATHAN BEDDOE TAYLOR, Safe Waste Incinerator Company Limited, Msasani Peninsula Chole Road, House No. 76, P.O.Box 1411, Kihondoni, Dar es salaam.

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'17,000 health workers employed by government in last two years'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LEAST 17,000 health workers have been employed by the government in the last two years, being part of the plan to improve provision of health services in the country, it has been revealed.

Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), Dr Festo Dugange made the revelation in the National Assembly yesterday while responding to a question from Special Seats MP, Josephine Genzabuke (CCM).

The lawmaker had wanted to know what the government was doing to provide more health workers to health facilities in Kigoma and other regions.

"The government has employed and posted some 17, 000 health workers in different parts of the country in the past two years and will continue doing so as the budget allows," said the deputy minister.

The government in 2021 announced plans to employ 10,467 employees in the health sector who would be distributed in various councils in the 2021/22 Financial Year in order to address the shortage of experts including pharmacists and medical technicians.

He explained that the government has dished out 58.25bn/- to facilitate construction of 207 new health centres in the divisions and strategic wards, which do not have the facilities.

The move aims at improving and bringing closer to the people quality health services in the country, saying that the government's zeal was to see its people accessing quality and affordable health services.

According to him, the government is well committed to ensure that health services are improved and it will continue investing in improving services for the country's development.

He further added the construction of the new health centres will also contribute to the growth of the local economy by keeping people healthy enough to engage in various economic activities.

"The government will also continue issuing funds to councils so as to facilitate implementation of various promises issued by national leaders which include construction and rehabilitation of dispensaries, health centres and hospitals," he asserted.



The government has employed and posted some 17, 000 health workers in different parts of the country in the past two years and will continue doing so as the budget allows

'Govt using drones against crop pests'

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has officially started using drones against crop pests while stressing to farmers to engage in modern profitable farming practices.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture has met with stakeholders of the World Food Programme (WFP) to discuss the creation of one centre for receiving reports, and following up in the control of crop pests in farms.

The remarks were made by Agriculture Minister Hussein Bashe at the event to receive large drones capable of spraying pesticides to 20 hectares of farm area per hour, including 370 tablets valued at 364m/-.

Bashe said the devices are essential in the farming sector because the drone is bigger than the others possessed by the government and it will be a solution for the extermination of farm pests.

"I express my thanks to WFP for providing us with these devices, and the tablets will be distributed to extension officers for collection

of various farming data," Bashe said. However, he said for starters they will use the devices to survey farms for the youth in the BBT Programme to find out whether they have crop pests to enable their control before they begin farming.

Regarding sitting together with WFP for the creation of one centre for monitoring and control of crop pests in farms, Bashe said the discussions have reached a good stage.

"Since we now have many drones, we have planned to create a centre for the management and monitoring of reports on crop pests," he said.

For her part, WFP Tanzania Country director, Sarah Gibson expressed her pleasure by the cooperation extended by the ministry while pledging to continue cooperating with the government to make sure they develop farming activities in the country.

Prof Joseph Ndunguru, Acting Director of Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) said the gadgets have come at the right time as we approach the farming season.

German eye specialists establish camps to screen prison inmates

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

EYE specialists from Germany who have established camps at Mbeya regional referral hospital have visited Ruanda Main Prison here for conducting eye screening and treatment to inmates.

The eye camp has been created under the coordination of Water deputy minister Maryprisca Mahundi in collaboration with the hospital's management and more than 200 people are expected to undergo cataract surgery.

On Monday, the eye specialists visited inmates at the prison and conducted eye screening and those found with cataracts were required to undergo surgery.

Mahundi, who is also Special Seats Member of Parliament from Mbeya Region, said she decided for the prisoners to undergo eye screening so that they also benefit from the eye camp.

She said inmates are also ordinary citizens as once they finish their jail sentences they come back to the community to continue with their

production activities, hence they are also supposed to be in good health.

She said at Ruanda Prison they plan to conduct eye screening to 150 inmates and that those found to have problems they will undergo surgery.

She said the camp is special for cataract surgery only and not for other eye complications including provision of eye glasses.

Doctor in charge of Ruanda Prison, SP Dr Alex Buhini said inmates have been affected by eye problems that force them to visit Mbeya Region referral hospital for treatment.

He added that after getting information in regard to the coming of eye specialists, they decided to prepare 150 inmates with frequent eye problems for screening and surgery.

For his part, SP Sebastian Maganga thanked the hospital's management and deputy minister Maryprisca Mahundi for coordinating eye treatment to inmates at the prison.



Protocol observed as National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson enters the legislative body's debating chamber in Dodoma city yesterday ready to preside over business in the House, as it resumed for one of its ordinary meetings. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

200bn/- set aside for construction of 101.5 km of drainage across Dar

By Henry Mwangonde

A total of 200bn/- has been set aside for construction of 101.5 kilometer drainage systems to remove stagnant rain water on roads across Dar es Salaam Region.

Deputy minister of state in the 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 Same East Member of Parliament

Anne Kilango Malecela who asked the government about plans to remove stagnant rain water that settle along roads in Dar es Salaam region.

The deputy minister said the government was taking various steps to control the trend which is caused by rains through the construction of drains, and huge water channels which are 30.7 kilometers to cost 60bn/- through the Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP).

"Through the DMDP second phase, the government is conducting surveys and feasibility

studies to see where exactly the drainage systems will be done in all the districts of Dar es Salaam," he said.

Responding further, the deputy minister said in collaboration with the Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) was in the procurement stage for the development of Msimbazi river basin to address flooding in Dar es Salaam.

The Msimbazi Basin Development Project will provide an integrated long-term solution on flood control infrastructure through river channeling, river-

bank protection works, sediment control, erosion control; widening and raising the Jangwani Bridge to accommodate flash flood events; and developing Msimbazi wetland into Msimbazi City Park.

He said this will include construction of a raised up to 7 meters and widened multi-span bridge and raised embankments as well as excavation of the riverbed during the construction phase.

The plan also seeks to control floods and storm water along Msimbazi basin through extension of Msimbazi drainage system and construction of a bridge.



Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda (R) speaks at yesterday's launch in Dar es Salaam of the board of directors of DIT Co. Ltd, a subsidiary of the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Govt welcomes UK stakeholders to invest in tourism, other sectors

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has invited stakeholders in the private sector from the UK to invest in the country to supplement its efforts to attain its economic development goals.

This was revealed by Hamad

Hassan Chande, Deputy Finance Minister when he met and held discussions with UK Government Commissioner of Trade for Africa Zone, John Humphrey.

Chande said the government has finalised agreement signing with UK Export Finance for the

expansion of Pemba Airport and extending the 28km Tunguu - Makunduchi, the 13km Fumba-Kisauni-Mazizini-kilomita and the 43.5km Mkoani-Chake Chake and Pemba Airport roads.

During the discussions, the deputy minister welcomed

various investors to invest in the production sector, and tourism.

"I welcome you, businessmen and investors from the UK, to bring your capital to Tanzania," he said.

For his part, UK Government Commissioner of Trade for Africa Zone, John Humphrey said they will work together with the government to make sure all projects are completed and directed investments in business priorities in Tanzania.



Bee product processors, traders and beekeepers under the Beekeeping Value Chain Support (BEVAC) project attend a recent interactive empowerment workshop in Dar es Salaam facilitated by the International Trade Centre, one of the implementing partners. Photo: Correspondent

Parliament passes bill for amending five laws

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE Parliament yesterday passed the bill that seeks to amend five laws including the Atomic Energy Cap. 188 aimed at improving safety in handling of radioactive materials.

The Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2023 seeks to amend the Dar es Salaam Maritime Institute Act, Cap. 253, the Natural Wealth and Resources (Permanent Sovereignty) Act, Cap. 449, the Natural Wealth and Resources (Review and Re-Negotiation of Unconscionable Terms) Act, Cap. 450, and the Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organization Act, Cap. 159.

On amending Section 4 of the Atomic Energy Bill, Cap 188, the Bill seeks to lower the exemption levels of radioactive content for the objective of enhancing the safety and protecting workers, public and environment from exposure resulting from radioactive minerals and Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORMs), including ensuring compliance with globally accepted safety standards.

Tabling the Bill in the National Assembly, Attorney General Dr Eliezer Feleshi said Bill also seeks to amend Section II of the Act to provide for prohibition of handling radioactive minerals unless with a license or until upon being registered for that purpose. The objective of the amendment is to ensure safe and secure handling of radiation sources.

According to Dr Feleshi, Sections 20 and 24 of the Act are amended with a view to govern all forms of devices other than just mobile devices. The objective of the amendment is to widen the scope of devices regulated under the Act.

The Bill also seeks to add Section 20A into the Atomic Energy Act to regulate service providers who shall be required to apply for approval before rendering such services that involve radioactive materials. The purpose of the amendment is to regulate those services to enhance safety.

Section 30 of the Act was proposed to be amended by removing the mandatory requirement for obtaining radioactivity analysis certificate for export of food chain and related commodities. The amendment aims at promoting export trade of food chain

and related commodities.

Furthermore, the Bill passed also seeks to lower the exemption level so as to increase safety and protection of workers, public and the environment from exposure to radiation.

Under the amendment carried out on Section 39 of the Act, the government introduces provisions relating to protection of nuclear and radioactive materials against theft or other related offences. The amendment seeks to increase security of nuclear and radioactive materials and to prevent and protect them against malicious acts.

The Bill passed wanted Section 45 of the Act to be amended with a view to introduce provisions to regulate the naturally occurring radioactive materials which are not regulated currently.

Section 58 was proposed to be amended by relieving the Board from undertaking operational duties relating to inspection of radiations by inspectors which shall be under the control and supervision of the Director-General.

Section 72 was proposed to be amended by deleting provisions governing the imposition of fines by the Board. The objective of the amendment is to relieve the Board from imposing fines to any person who contravenes the provisions of the Act.

Section 72A was proposed to be added so as to provide for compounding of offences by the Director General with a view to promote alternative dispute resolution and ensure effective compliance.

The Bill also sought to provide additional powers to the Board in relation to policy formulation, managerial oversight and approval of operational instrument.

Under the proposed amendments to the Natural Wealth and Resources (Permanent Sovereignty) Act, Cap. 449 and the Natural Wealth and Resources (Review and Re-Negotiation of Unconscionable Terms) Act, Cap. 450, the Bill aimed at ensuring that the implementation of those laws do not prejudice the performance of sea, dry and lake ports in the country.

According to Dr Feleshi, the objective the amendments is to enable ports in the United Republic to operate at international level and to attract more ships and large cargo to be served by ports.

Tanzania vows to engage CSOs to raise voices at AU

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has reaffirmed its commitment to engage Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) to ensure voices of Africans are well reflected in the work of the African Union.

Ambassador Dr Samwel Shelukindo, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation made the reaffirmation yesterday in Dar es Salaam during the launch of the popularisation and awareness raising workshop on ECOSOCC, National Chapter.

He said the continent is confronted with a number of challenges that cannot be addressed by the government alone and therefore, the CSO and private sector play a key role.

Among the numerous functions of the council is to bridge the gap between CSO, AU and member states so as to contribute to the effective translation of the objective principles policy of the AU into a complete programme while promoting popular participation.

"This workshop is very important

to provide an opportunity for CSO in Tanzania to familiarize with framework, discuss its potential and chart road map that arise national priority with broader aspiration of AU," he said

"I would like to reaffirm of unflagging commitment to fostering vibrant and robust engagement with CSO across our nation; our support to ECOSOCC in many areas of engagements; as well as to the operationalization of the ECOSOCC National chapter," he said

According to him, formalisation and operation of the ECOSOCC national chapter is a significant step in amplifying the voices of CSO across the African continent.

He said the new adopted national chapter framework provides strategic structure to CSO to work closely with AU and contribute to the growth of development of the continent and provide opportunity for CSO to engage directly with African governance architecture secretariats.

The envoy added that the approach ensures that efforts don't remain pragmatic but rather interweave to create purposely shared goals and collective achievement.

"As we embark in the journey of knowledge exchanging and sharing, empowerment and collaboration. Let us remember that the strength for our continent lies in its people and it is the voice of CSO that can do that," he said.

Permanent representative of Tanzania government to the AU Ambassador Innocent Shio said that so far, the council recorded tremendous achievement, especially with respect to promotion of Africa's integration and development.

"We are witnessing an increase involvement of CSO in form of social, private sector, professional groups as well as the African diaspora in the work of the AU," he said

William Carew, ECOSOCC head of secretariat noted that a great stride has been recorded in promoting the participation of CSOs in the development of Africa by covering platforms for engagement between AU and CSO.

Representative of Tanzania CSO's in ECOSOCC, Stanley Magessa promised to increase awareness to the other CSO to ensure the Africa agenda 2063 is well known.

The Guardian Limited

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JOB VACANCY

SOUTHERN KENYA - NORTHERN TANZANIA TRANSBOUNDARY PROGRAMME LEADER

Want to make a positive difference to the future of people and our one shared home, the Earth? Working at WWF could be your opportunity of a lifetime. WWF Tanzania is seeking to hire a highly experienced, competent and motivated Leader for its Southern Kenya - Northern Tanzania Transboundary Programme to be based in Arusha, Tanzania.

Background

The post holder will provide leadership, strategic direction, coordination, collaboration and support fundraising for the effective management and implementation of the Southern Kenya - Northern Tanzania (SOKNOT) Transboundary Programme, in line with the current SOKNOT strategy and relevant WWF Country Office and Regional Strategic Plans. The broad vision for this programme is securing priority transboundary corridors for wildlife, local community well-being and the contribution to sustainable economic development for the countries of Kenya and Tanzania. The SOKNOT landscape runs from the Mau-Mara-Serengeti sub-landscape through Amboseli-Kilimanjaro to the Tsavo-Mkomazi sub-landscape and thus comprises a connected network of areas key for wildlife including community conservancies, Wildlife Management Areas, core wildlife dispersal areas and functional wildlife corridors. Conservation efforts are underpinned by enhancing and diversifying sustainable livelihoods and improving the well-being of local communities. This position is also responsible for overall programme development, including high level Government engagement in both countries, coordination of donors, monitoring, performance, reporting and administration of WWF's activities under the SOKNOT Programme.

I. Major Functions:

- Responsible for coordinating, finalizing, disseminating, and promoting an updated strategy for the SOKNOT programme. This will be achieved by working with WWF colleagues, partners, other stakeholders and external experts to finalize the existing draft SOKNOT strategy as needed.
- Ensure effective coordination, collaboration, and delivery of the SOKNOT Programme through a wide variety of partners, and which include multiple conservation projects delivering within the landscape, advocacy and policy engagement at the national level and transboundary engagement with the respective governments, East Africa Community (EAC) and others, to deliver the agreed Goals, Objectives/Outcomes and Outputs for SOKNOT with technical support from WWF-Kenya, WWF-Tanzania, WWF partner offices, WWF Practices and other technical experts.
- Maintain an oversight of all projects being delivered within SOKNOT, providing support and leadership for individual project where needed and nurturing coordination, collaboration, sharing and learning across those teams implementing conservation actions. Field projects will typically focus on strengthening the governance and effective management of Protected Areas and the connecting wildlife movement corridors and dispersal areas while enhancing and diversifying livelihood opportunities and increasing community well-being.

II. Required Qualification

A postgraduate qualification (MSc or PhD) in a relevant discipline (e.g. natural sciences, social sciences, conservation biology, landscape ecology, economics, conservation planning or related field). At least 10 years working experience in wildlife/nature conservation and socio-economic development in Africa, with a proven track record in the design and implementation of large-scale programmes, preferably transboundary and within the wider East Africa region. At least 5 years' experience of working on complex programmes with multiple and diverse implementation partners and stakeholders - including high level political engagement, community livelihood initiatives - with cross-cutting themes and multiple objectives. At least 5 years' experience in programme development and management, including preparing and managing sizeable and complex budgets, technical and financial reporting, matrix working, programme monitoring and evaluation, and ensuring compliance with donor requirements for implementation.

Additional information, Interested applicants may get the detailed Job Description (JD) through the following website: https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/ Applications must include a complete Cover Letter & CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the Head of People & Culture, via email to: hresources@wwftz.org copying ympagama@wwftz.org by **Wednesday, 13th September 2023 at 1700Hrs.** Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Female applicants are encouraged to apply. WWF is an equal opportunity employer and committed to having a diverse workforce.

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

'Maswa still facing acute shortage of petrol, diesel'

By Guardian Correspondent, Maswa

PETROL and diesel availability in Maswa District, Simiyu Region is becoming problematic daily, the situation that is affecting fuel dealers and users while the US dollar scarcity is cited as the main cause of the acute shortage.

This paper had the opportunity to interview both fuel dealers and consumers who said the situation has become a big problem to them that is affecting their economic activities.

Benjamin John, fuel supervisor from one of fuel dealers in the district said that according to fuel wholesalers the US dollar scarcity is the main cause.

He explained that the situation

been forcing fuel wholesalers to delay selling their stocks in fear of the changes to the value of the US dollar that can cause losses for them.

John said as retailers they are also forced to take the cue from wholesalers, saying that fuel business in the country is controlled by wholesalers.

"The situation is close to four months now, we order two to three fuel tankers, but only one comes and many fuel station do not receive fuel at all, due to the same reason," said John.

For his part, the chairman of Motorcycle Drivers Association in the district, Emmanuel Makaranga said that fuel scarcity and changes to fuel prices has

been a nagging issue in their business with some motorcycle owners abandoning the business altogether.

Shaff Mwendu, a tricycle (bajaj) driver told this paper that fuel scarcity continues to affect their business while they are forced to overload passengers so as not to incur loss.

"For us in villages, we buy the fuel from middlemen at 4,000/- to 4,500/- a litre, it is really unprofitable," Jilaa Jagadi, a farmer, lamented.

According to Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) the price of the essential commodity for Simiyu Region is between 3,346/- and 3,358/- per litre since August 2, 2023.



Tanga regional CCM chairman Rajabu Abdalla (4th-L, gesturing) makes remarks when Water minister Jumaa Aweso (to his left) and Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (in yellow shirt) made an inspection tour of progress in the implementation of the River Pangani bridge construction project on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

5,580 employers get trained on pension fund regulations

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

A TOTAL of 5,580 employers have been trained on new pension fund regulations by the government in collaboration with the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) aimed at addressing complaints by retired servants on the criteria used to calculate pension.

Deputy minister, Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability) Patrobas Katambi told the National Assembly here during the question and answer session when responding to a question by Moshi Rural legislator Jacob

Tarimo.

The MP wanted to know what the government was doing to address complaints by pensioners on the criteria used to calculate pension.

In response, the deputy minister said the government through trade unions was conducting training to employers on the new regulations whereby the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSF) trained 362 employers and National Social Security Fund (NSSF) trained 5,218 out of the 6,200 which were targeted.

During the period, 131,497 members were reached out by PSSF and 96,364 were reached

out by NSSF as part of the daily operations by the funds.

The government announced the coming into operation of the pension fund regulations from July, 2022 through government gazette No 357 issue of 20, May.

The minister said the regulations were prepared to improve the performance of the pension funds to make them sustainable.

"The government will continue offering such training, especially employers including pensioners, on the advantages of the new regulations, therefore the government will continue doing so," he said.



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NORTH MARA

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North Mara Gold Mine, 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 Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

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Qualification Criteria

No.	Reference no.	Description of work	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	NM027/2023	Upgrading Fleet Management Dash Cam_DMS_ADAS	<p>i. Applicants to submit company profile with proven experience in earthworks.</p> <p>ii. Applicant must have at least mining experience in providing fleet management and submit any proof of service.</p> <p>iii. Applicant must provide proof of ability and equipment to provide Service to Light Vehicles, Open Pit and Underground Mobile Equipment for:</p> <p>i. Driver Monitoring System (DMS)</p> <p>i. This includes a Dash Camera (D1) that monitors events of driver in the cabin.</p> <p>ii. Dash Camera (D2) for fatigue monitoring and fatigue alarm.</p> <p>ii. Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS)</p> <p>i. Front Dash Camera (D3) that records front events of mobile equipment.</p> <p>ii. Rear Dash Camera (D4) that assist on reversing.</p> <p>iii. Rear Dash Camera (D5) that records events on back of mobile equipment.</p> <p>iv. Proximity detection alarm OR collision avoidance alarms.</p> <p>iv. Applicant must show ability to provide features and specifications: Up to 8ch 1080p AHD video input H.265/H.264 video format 6-axis G-sensor, support HA/HB/HC detection, UP to 4 servers linked at the same. Support MS, Face Recognition, ADAS AI detections, etc. Compatible with Howen VSS and various FMS platforms. Special Camera for Underground Mine Environment (water resistant and night vision).</p> <p>v. Applicant must show ability to provide desired functions as follows: DMS: (Fatigue detection (Eye-close detection, Yawing detection), Distracted detection, Phone call detection, Smoke, detection, Infrared Sunglasses and Camera cover. Face Recognition: Driver Registration, Driver Leave Duty, Driver back to duty, Driver Changed and No driver detected. ADAS: Lane Departure Warning, Forward collision warning, headway monitoring warning, pedestrian collision warning.</p> <p>vi. Applicant must show ability to provide onsite control room technical and maintenance repair team.</p> <p>vii. Information required to include a list of relevant projects undertaken in last 5 years. For each project provide: description and relevance to the tendered project; project cost; and duration of project.</p> <p>viii. Completion certificates of previous projects with reference list of clients, applicant agrees - without reservation-upon the submission of EOI, that the company has the full right to contact any of the references provided.</p> <p>ix. Applicant to submit list and specifications of Equipment, including proof of facilities equipment.</p> <p>x. Applicant to submit organizational structure, list of experienced personnel.</p> <p>xi. Local content compliance and a valid CRB registration, Class 5 and above contractor.</p> <p>xii. Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary regarding its financial stability engineering capabilities, documents complying with Tanzanian laws and regulations.,</p>

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

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of NMG.

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

Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI **4 September 2023**

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

Govt to Dawasa: Supply water on loan to Chalinze residents under 3rd phase

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) has been tasked to connect the beneficiaries of Chalinze water project third phase, with water services on loan after the completion of the project.

Water deputy minister Maryprisca Mahundi made the call yesterday when speaking to the people of Kihangaiko village, Msata Ward, Chalinze Council, Bagamoyo District at a public meeting after a visit to inspect the expansion of the Wami Water Plant.

"First of all, I thank the President Samia Suluhu Hassan for continuing the efforts to ensure that water services are available in many parts of the country, I also congratulate the DAWASA executives for implementation of the project," said Eng Mahundi

Mahundi gave instructions to DAWASA to connect the beneficiaries of the project

with a loan based on favourable conditions and friendly criteria so that every one can get water services near their homes.

Bagamoyo District Commissioner, Halima Okashi congratulated the Ministry of Water for managing well the implementation of water projects in Bagamoyo District, especially the Chalinze water project phase three.

She said the project is important because it is going to remove the challenge of water availability that existed for a long time.

"We will be unthankful to our president who had greatly helped the women of Bagamoyo District now water access is guaranteed, we also congratulate DAWASA for continuing to cooperate with my office with whom we have traveled to all 26 wards to listen and solve the challenges of the citizens in Bagamoyo District," said Okashi

Eng. Shabani Mkwanywe, DAWASA acting chief executive officer said the Chalinze water project is one of the exemplary rural projects due to the good

design that had been done and will benefit approximately 59 villages in Coast Region, Morogoro Rural and Handeni in Tanga District.

"The third phase of the Chalinze water project had involved the expansion of the Wami water plant, the laying of 12- and 16-inch pipes for a distance of 24 kilometers, the construction of about 19 lower and upper water storage tanks and the construction of extraction cages water approximately 351 and it has cost more than 44bn/ and we expect that it will benefit more than 200,000 residents," said Eng. Mkwanywe

Msata Ward Councillor, Celestin Mcholo, thanked the government through DAWASA for bringing them a big water project that had brought great changes.

He also thanked the deputy minister for working on their demand for water connections to be done on credit, asking people of Msata to take care of the infrastructure and water sources in order to continue to get water services regardless of any challenge.

Government concluding talks on linking of Kitulo, REGROW

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government is concluding talks to include Kitulo National Park in the second phase of the Resilient Natural resource management for tourism and growth (REGROW) project aimed to improve management of natural resources and tourism assets in southern Tanzania.

Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Mary Masanja, made the revelation in the National Assembly during the question and answer session adding that the project is aimed at increasing access to alternative livelihood activities for targeted communities.

The deputy minister was responding to Makete Member of Parliament Festo Sanga who asked what the government was doing to market Kitulo National Park.

"Apart from these initiatives, we are in negotiations to include Kitulo in the second phase of the Regrow project," she said.

The deputy minister further said the government was also marketing the national park through various national and international exhibitions namely 'Karibu Kusini' Kilifair, Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) and Nanenane.

She said the government was also marketing the national park through digital platforms and magazines including television

programmes such as Safari Channel to attract tourists and investors.

Deputy minister Masanja said the ministry has also started improving infrastructure within the national park including construction of three houses, a camp, and two other houses in the 2023/24 financial year and renovation of roads.

Kitulo National Park is a protected area of montane grassland and montane forest on the Kitulo plateau in the southern highlands of Tanzania.

Also known as the "Garden of God", the National Park is one of the leading nature reserves in Africa and consists of mountain meadows and forests.



Tiba Asili KMJ director Dr Gideon Mafuru (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday briefing visitors at his booth at the traditional medicine exhibition now in progress at the city's Mnazi Mmoja grounds. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Forty people held in Mbeya over theft of local councils' revenues

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

AUTHORITIES in Mbeya Region have nabbed 40 people suspected to have been involved in the theft of revenue using a fake revenue collection system in various local councils in the region.

This comes a few days after President Samia Suluhu Hassan spoke about government revenue theft in the region's local councils.

The government said in following up the use of the fake revenue collection system, it discovered that it has been in use in five southern highlands regions including Mbeya, Ruvuma, Rukwa, Njombe and

Songwe.

Mbarali District Commissioner, Col. Denis Mwila told reporters here on Monday that the system was created in Dar es Salaam Region.

DC Mwila said those arrested include various government officers including councillors, local council employees, revenue collectors and ICT experts, one of those arrested was the inventor of the system who was nabbed in Dar es Salaam.

"The money stolen through this system totals nearly 450m/- all stolen from the five southern highlands regions. I like to ally fears among the people that Mbeya Region is not a farm to be harvested

as many have come to believe," he said.

He explained that the arrested come from Mbeya local councils including Ileje and Tunduma towns.

Mwila stressed that they continue to follow up in the areas in order to arrest more people who are involved in the theft of public funds.

Varysada Mkalimoto, acting PCCB head for Mbeya Region said that already 20 suspects had appeared in regard to the theft of funds.

He said they started taking the suspects to court on August 25, this year, saying after further investigations they discovered that

they had stolen over 380m/- and the bureau is still investigating other suspects.

Mkalimoto said the system was discovered by Mbarali District Executive Director, Misana Kwangula to be applied in his district and who immediately (July 12) informed the PCCB for investigations.

"In our investigations we discovered that the fake system was being used in two ways - first was the "Blue Tooth" in which revenue collectors used their cellphones to produce fake receipts the money of which they stole," he said.

He added: "others were using the website, they created a website which they connected to various POS machines, and the "owner" of the website is an ordinary individual who had hired ICT experts from the local councils."

Committee urges UDART to increase PPP participation

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Parliamentary Committee on Regional Administration and Local Government has instructed the Dar Rapid Transit DART to increase the participation of the private sector (PPP) in the operation of Bus Rapid Transit BRT and increase the number of buses to facilitate rapid transportation.

Justine Lazaro, committee deputy chairman made the instruction over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when winding up the visit of the members of the committee who visited the third phase of the BRT project.

The BRT third phase which will start from the city centre towards Gongo la Mboto is expected to be completed in March next year.

"We have seen the development of construction, but this speed should go hand in hand with increasing the number of buses that will provide services and involve the private sector. You DART own the infrastructure but the operation of the buses should be with the private sector so that we get enough buses," he said

He said that it is the right time to ensure that smart card technology starts to be used so that passengers do not have trouble when booking their tickets. "When infrastructure is like this, there is an urgency to set up a modern revenue collection system and we are happy to see that you are using local experts to manage your system, but make sure our modern systems are not damaged. I believe that you are well organised and those who work on these systems will continue to do it with great patriotism," he said

He congratulated the Chief Executive of DART, Dr Edwin Mhede and the agency staff in the way they manage the projects with great professionalism.

He urged DART to have alternative revenue collection systems instead of relying on one system which when it breaks down can cause panic and people will not be able to

use the transport.

"If one system does not work, then there should be another way to make operations continue as usual. We have experience in some areas where people are creating a single system and when it stops and services stop so if your system stops you will cause a lot of trouble," he cautioned.

Dr Mhede also said the contractor building the third phase of the BRT project has reached 17.5 percent of construction although according to the contract he should have reached 29.5 percent by now.

He said that DART in cooperation with the stakeholders in the project which are the consultant contractor, Tanzania Road Agency, the consultant engineer, have agreed that despite all the project must complete by March 2024.

"In order to complete the project on time, we have agreed that we are increasing the workforce and working hours, that is, instead of working eight hours, they will now work day and night, so we believe that the project will be completed on time and there will be no extension of time," he said.

He said the members of parliament have instructed DART to recognize the contribution of the natives participating in the construction of the project and give them certificates when they complete the project so that it will be easier for them to find work in various construction companies.

"The MPs have advised us that our people who participated in designing the BRT system, the electronic fare collection system and in the construction of the road infrastructure itself should be identified, so we are preparing to identify them in an official way," said Dr Mhede

Regarding involving the private sector as the legislators advised, Dr Mhede said that they are currently at various stages of purchasing the buses by involving the private sector PPP.



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Advertisement

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

250T Mobile Crane Wet Hiring - BUL-RFQ-23-08-05

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:

Specification:

- Mobile Crane Wet Hiring
- Capacity: 250T
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- Period: 14 days.

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- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business license, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- BRELA detailed search document indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, written statement showing 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 dealership as required;
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner.

Submission of Quotes:

Please submit your quotes via email to bulytender@barrick.com.

The reference "250T Mobile Crane Wet Hiring - BUL-RFQ-23-08-05" as listed above 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.

If you do not hear from us within 21 days after the deadline date, please consider your bid/quote unsuccessful.

Key Dates:

- Last date to submit quotes: **05th September 2023.**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited

217576301



BARRICK
NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER

North Mara Gold Mine, 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 Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following service:

Construction of Bridge

Pre-qualification Criteria

No.	Reference no.	Description of work	Pre-qualification Criteria
1	NM028/2023	Construction of Bridge, Gena Site, at North Mara Gold Mine	i. Applicants to submit Company profile with proven experience in civil construction works. ii. Information required to include a list of relevant projects undertaken in last 3 years. For each project provide: description and relevance to the tendered project; cost & duration of project. iii. Applicant to submit list and specifications of equipment. iv. Applicant to submit organizational structure, list of experienced personnel. v. Method statement for key construction works. vi. Construction management strategy vii. Local Content Regulations compliance. viii. HSE policy document. ix. CRB registration, Class 2 contractor and above. x. Applicant should provide proof to its statements as necessary regarding its financial stability, engineering capabilities, documents complying with Tanzanian laws and Regulations.

Expression of interest

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.

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

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of NMGM.

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

Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI

4 September 2023

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

217576301

Regional rice breeders' agenda shows food-poverty-land links

EFFORTS are being widened to ease the situation for access and at low prices for the crucial domestic staple, rice, which for reasons of culture and make believe has often received scant strategic treatment. In agro-sector officialdom there is nothing like maize but food, used as if it was a single staple on which the country's food needs depend. Yet everyone knows that it is a common staple for day to day needs as it is cheaper, but the cultural preference is always rice.

At another epoch, with that kind of appeal having diminished in the past two decades, people all over the country were being told not to choose foods, meaning not exercising particularity as to what staple they want. This was intended to push tuber crops to the same platform as maize, by some traditional reference that most Tanzanians were raised with yams, cassava, sweet potatoes and others, so the penchant for maize (and rice) is somewhat snobbish. Now there is a vast number of people who never lived in villages, or went out early.

Thus the meeting of over 100 top rice breeders and stakeholders from 11 countries in East and Southern Africa (ESA) in Dar es Salaam for a detailed discussion on innovative ways to boost rice production in the region was symptomatic of the change that is taking place. There were two parameters underlining the work before the delegates, the overly scientific aspect where the effort is to enhance rice production as rice a strategic crop in its own right. The key issue here is research on available varieties, costing and distribution.

It isn't entirely clear what will be

the building blocks for partnerships with farmers, research institutions and global organisations, with a top ministerial official saying the government is fronting for significant changes in the use of agricultural technology to enable an increase in rice production from less than 2.5 tonnes per hectare to five tons or more by 2030. Rapid impressions did not indicate if it is the usual hybrid research work that is involved, or it goes further than that, as anti-biotech militants will scarcely leave a stone unturned to stop it.

Similarly it isn't easy to see how in the space of half a decade Tanzania could arrive at producing sufficient rice to meet national demand, even before other issues are put across. We have learned to think of ourselves as a food basket for the region, meanwhile as we can hardly combine produce for the local market and for export. The maize open market has failed, as maize prices increase for the farmer, making them happier, but an urban backlash of higher prices arises.

That is why the rice breeding and distribution policy aspect needs to be more circumspect, not just seek a public-private partnership for developing and deploying improved rice varieties for smallholder farmers. An International Rice Research Institute regional coordinator was highlighting the pressing need for stimulate improvements in rice production to combat hunger. He said the crop would increase income and help to eliminate poverty for millions of smallholder farmers. That is right, but how does one raise rural prices and keep urban prices low, as both aspects are needed to end poverty and afford...rice?

Squaring a circle? It is the policy bottleneck to solve.

Marine protection matters for our people and nature

MARINE protection in the country is important for its own sake. We are only passing through this world and must leave behind a thriving planet - at least as healthy as when we arrived - for those who follow.

Equally, an effectively protected ocean is essential for people and prosperity in the here and now - and to have hope for a better, healthier and more resilient future for coastal communities around the world.

Coastal resilience, job security, sustainable fishing, equitable tourism, pollution-free beaches, renewable energy and so much more - these tributes of a healthy ocean promise boundless dividends for people everywhere, for generations to come. The sustainable and equitable use of effectively managed ocean resources is best ensured through the establishment and maintenance of marine protected areas. These safeguard the health of life below and above the ocean surface.

In 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals - including SDG14 for the ocean - were established by all UN member states to serve as a 'shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet now and into the future.' Under SDG14, there is a specific target to 'sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve a healthy and productive ocean' - as well as pledges to tackle marine pollution and overfishing in all its forms. Increasing MPAs feeds into all of these.

At COP15, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity conference in December 2022, countries came

together in signing off on the Global Biodiversity Framework. They committed to protecting at least 30 per cent of land and ocean by 2030, a long-called-for benchmark of planetary protection known as '30x30'.

In January, the World Economic Forum's Ocean Action Agenda and Friends of Ocean Action released the statement Ocean Action in 2023, calling for continued ambitious progress to achieve ocean health through the suite of opportunities ahead.

The first of these opportunities was the Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) that took place in Vancouver, Canada, on 3-9 February 2023, highlighted as a major stepping stone towards achieving the 30x30 goal.

Many diverse bursts of commitment for ocean protection were announced during IMPAC5, building on the growing momentum of ocean action. These range from defining minimum required standards for effective MPAs, to pledges for ocean conservation. The Canadian government also joined a growing swell of voices calling for a precautionary approach to the potential exploitation of resources in the deep ocean, by declaring an effective moratorium on deep seabed mining under its jurisdiction.

Indigenous peoples and first nations, as well as young people from around the world, were front and centre at IMPAC5, with wide applause for the diversity and inclusion of the broadest range of stakeholders at this congress. Diverse voices were valued for their critically important perspectives, knowledge, ideas, solutions, care and ecological stewardship of our ocean. The climate, nature, biodiversity and ocean crises cannot be solved unless we bring everyone to the table.

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We are short-changing women with budget cuts, corruption and underspending in health

By Matshidiso Lencooa

IT is often said that when you educate a girl, you educate a nation. The same rings true for investing in women's health, which ultimately benefits our entire country. The World Economic Forum has described women's health as the cornerstone of economies and societies worldwide. While some progress has been made in ensuring access to quality healthcare for women in this country, gender inequality continues to negatively impact health outcomes. A public healthcare system that is both adequately funded and capable of ensuring that resources reach the intended beneficiaries is critical to advancing gender equity in the country.

This Women's Month is an opportune moment to reflect on how much we spend on healthcare and the quality of that spending as these can be powerful measures in creating a public healthcare system that narrows the gender gap.

Short-changing women with budget cuts

Since 1994, transformative health frameworks, strategies, and policies have contributed to progress in some indicators of women's quality of life. Adequate funding is imperative for these interventions to protect effectively the health of women and our right to access healthcare.

The aggressive fiscal consolidation path that South Africa's government has undertaken over the past decade in response to increasing debt service costs as well as weakening economic growth has only compounded the under-resourcing of the public health system. In 2018, United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) experts expressed concern that the austerity in our budget could further exacerbate inequality and restrain the redistributive capacity of our fiscal policy.

Though budget cuts impact the health system's ability to provide quality services to the 85% of people in South Africa estimated to rely on public healthcare, women are doubly burdened by these cuts owing to our unequal reliance on public health services.

In the current fiscal year (2023/24), the National Treasury cut the health budget by 4.9% in real terms. Even during the pandemic, the 2021/22 health budget was slashed by 2.2% in real terms. It is unlikely that this trend will improve. National Treasury has

warned South Africans that there would be cuts across the board in the 2024/25 budget, including healthcare funding.

Though budget cuts impact the health system's ability to provide quality services to the 85% of people in South Africa estimated to rely on public healthcare, women are doubly burdened by these cuts owing to our unequal reliance on public health services. Unequal gender norms have resulted in a disproportionate risk and prevalence of HIV/AIDS that is gendered. Furthermore, we have higher and differentiated health needs, including those for reproductive and maternal health. Moreover, gender-based violence survivors require immediate medical attention, life-saving care, and specialised mental health and psychosocial support.

Women are further impacted by a poor healthcare system through employment. Over 90% of nurses in South Africa's public health system are women and, as the first line of the healthcare response, bear the hardship of trying to make an under-funded healthcare system work on the ground. All of this occurs in a global social order where gendered norms have resulted in women carrying the unpaid care work burden. As such, we require more support through public services and reducing the size of investment in these services entrenches gender inequality.

Poor health budget spending

Not only do budget cuts constrain the ability of the health system to provide quality healthcare, but they also reduce capacity to bolster the quality of spending. South Africa has a chronic underspending problem, where billions of rands that were allocated to funding the implementation of social programmes are returned to the national departments and National Treasury annually. The healthcare budget is no exception. For the 2022/23 fiscal year, the Gauteng health department, for example, underspent R1.6 billion of its district health services budget, which includes HIV/AIDS treatment services. In the same year, underspending of the health budget by the Eastern Cape resulted in the department losing out on conditional grant funding.

Although underspending disadvantages all South Africans as our access to good quality public services is hindered, the gendered reliance on public healthcare means that each million that is not used to implement healthcare

interventions also worsens gender inequality in the country. South Africa needs more robust public health capacity to use this funding and to effect meaningful consequence management for under-utilised budgets. Government departments need to work together to achieve this. While the mandate for gender-responsive budgeting rests with the National Treasury, attracting and retaining excellent public servants in local and provincial health governments is crucial in bolstering the capacity to spend budgets efficiently, thereby ensuring that intended beneficiaries receive better quality healthcare. Training and capacity-building initiatives should be prioritised to equip the departments to utilise this funding.

Although underspending disadvantages all South Africans as our access to good quality public services is hindered, the gendered reliance on public healthcare means that each million that is not used to implement healthcare interventions also worsens gender inequality in the country.

Corruption entrenches gender inequality

Added to waste and underspending of health budgets, corruption is the other ever-present risk to good quality health services in South Africa. According to The Health Policy and Planning Journal, the majority of print media reports on corruption are those in the healthcare sector. Corruption in this sector is prevalent owing to a multitude of factors, including its complex structure, the large amounts of procurement funding, and inadequate health information data that is not yet uniformly accessible across health facilities.

Healthcare funding eroded by corruption can further entrench gender inequities. An information sheet of the Anti-Corruption Resource Centre states that women "become the 'shock-absorbers' of health systems plagued by corruption, which takes a toll not only on their short and long-term health but also reduces their capacity to participate in education and employment". When a health system is not trusted to provide adequate healthcare, women are expected to provide more unpaid care work to family members. The caretaker role that women play also means that we are at the frontlines, absorbing the detriment caused by healthcare corruption. Moreover, Transparency International cites the persistence of gender inequality and exclusion partly due to

embedded corruption.

Strengthening fiscal policy accountability has been found to be a powerful measure to combat corruption in the healthcare sector, as has open access and transparency of budget information. Vulekamali is an example of an intervention that can strengthen budget transparency and accessibility and is a collaboration between the South African National Treasury and Imali Yethu. Other effective interventions to overcome the corruption that worsens gender equity include overcoming overall impunity through investing in effective law enforcement, protecting and strengthening the roles of auditors, and capacitating financial management systems in the sector.

Gender-responsive budgeting

Meanwhile, South Africa's government has recognised the socio-economic disparities that hinder the realisation of gender equity in the country and has responded with a Cabinet-approved Gender-Responsive Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring, Evaluation and Auditing Framework. It has defined Gender-Responsive Budgeting as an intervention that ensures that gender biases are not entrenched by fiscal policy formulation and implementation. While gender-responsive budgeting dates back to 1996 in South Africa, implementation has lost momentum. With the National Treasury - mandated to lead its implementation - announcing the work shopping of the Gender-Responsive Budgeting Framework (GRB) in the current fiscal year (2023/24), this could mark a crucial step in ensuring that the healthcare budget advances gender equity.

A powerful intervention to shaping a truly gender-responsive budget is women's participation in shaping this process. Without a deliberate attempt to involve the intended beneficiaries in creating a budget process that reflects our lived experiences, gender biases and inequalities in public healthcare delivery will likely persist. As such, the work shopping of the GRB Framework must be a public process that will strengthen fiscal policy transparency and accountability by bringing health service delivery closer to the beneficiaries.

Although the country has a way to go, may this Women's Month not be a missed opportunity to reflect on budgeting and policy-making processes that centre us, the cornerstone of our society.

Tanzania makes progress in closing gender gap, new report shows

By Telesphor Magobe

THE appointment of more and more women into key decision-making positions in various sectors by President Samia Suluhu Hassan has seen Tanzania climb 16 positions in the latest Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI 2023) report from last year's.

Tanzania is ranked the 48th country among the 146 countries across the world in this year's GGGI, according to the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s report released in June this year. Tanzania is also among just a handful of countries whose current Heads of State are women.

Judging from the current state and evolution of gender parity across the four key dimensions, Tanzania has scored more in the political empowerment dimension, followed by economic participation and opportunity, health and survival and the last one being educational attainment.

WEF report shows that in the economic participation and opportunity dimension, the highest scoring countries include Liberia, followed by Zimbabwe (97.6 percent), Tanzania (90.3 percent), Burundi (88.3 percent), Barbados (88.1 percent) and Norway (85.1 percent), which all stand at above 85 percent parity.

The lowest scoring countries include Iran (17.1 percent), Algeria (19.2 percent) and Egypt (19.7 percent) display some of the largest inequalities between the incomes of men and women, scoring less than 20 percent parity.

The report groups the world's countries into eight regions, namely: (1) Eurasia and Central Asia, (2) East Asia and the Pacific, (3) Europe, (4) Latin America and the Caribbean, (5) Middle East and North Africa, (6) North America, (7) Southern Asia, and (8) Sub-Saharan Africa.

In sub-Saharan Africa, Tanzania is ranked the 10th in the GGGI 2023 among the 36 surveyed countries. It is preceded by Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Mozambique, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Liberia, Zimbabwe and Eswatini. In the East African Community (EAC) bloc, Tanzania ranks third among the six member states. South Sudan is not included in this year's rankings.

According to WEF, the GGGI annually benchmarks the current state and evolution of gender parity across four key dimensions, namely: (1) economic participation and opportunity, (2) educational attainment, (3) health and survival, and (4) political empowerment.

"It is the longest-standing index tracking the progress of numerous countries' efforts towards closing these gaps over time, since its inception in 2006."

"Sub-Saharan Africa has closed 67.2 percent of the gender gap on the economic participation and oppor-



President Samia Suluhu Hassan swears in Fatma Mwasa (R) as Morogoro regional commissioner in August last year. Appointments of more and more women into key decision-making positions has seen Tanzania climb 16 positions in the GGGI 2023 report. File photo

tunity subindex. Liberia, Eswatini and Burundi are at the top of the ranking table, while Benin, Mali and Senegal have attained the least parity," reads part of the report.

Yet, there has been an improvement of 0.5 percentage points or more in parity in estimated earned income in 20 out of 36 countries. A share of technical positions assumed by women has increased by more than 1 percentage point in six countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Ethiopia. But seven countries - including the DRC, Tanzania and Rwanda - have seen greater than 1 percentage-point rise in the share of senior officer positions held by women, according to the report.

The WEF report shows that generally,

progress has been made towards gender parity at an overall 4.1 percentage point gain since 2006.

"Hence, on average, over the past 17 years, the gap has been reduced by only 0.24 percentage points per year." It suggests that if progress towards gender parity proceeds at the same average speed observed between the 2006 and 2023 editions, the overall global gender gap is projected to close in 131 years, compared to a projection of 132 years in 2022. This means that "the year in which the gender gap is expected to close remains 2154, as progress is moving at the same rate as last year".

Furthermore, the WEF report shows that as of December 31, 2022, about 27.9 per cent of the global population, equivalent to 2.12 billion people, live in

countries with a female Head of State. "While this indicator experienced stagnation between 2013 and 2021, 2022 witnessed a significant increase." According to WEF, since January 2022, nine women have come into power, with eight of them still holding their positions as of March 2023. "Depending on the political system of the country, these Heads of State positions have varying powers in terms of national agenda setting and representation of the state."

Also, Tanzania is one of the three countries with a high number of females in the workforce in the world, according to a 2023 report based on 2022 World Bank (WB) data. Rwanda (83 per cent), Madagascar (82 per cent) and Tanzania (80 per cent) are sub-Saharan countries whose female labour force participation is ranked higher than comparable countries in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and South America, the report shows.

Good policies create equal opportunities for all people to prosper provided those entrusted to lead have

the capability to lead the country in which no person is left behind as far as socioeconomic development is concerned. Tanzania has the potential to develop and become not only an upper-middle income economy, but also a high-income economy if natural resources are well managed and utilised.

The author comments on legal and human rights issues. He can be reached at "mailto:t22magobe@gmail.com" t22magobe@gmail.com

Africa Climate Summit: Time is now for tangible, impactful and accountable action

By Arjun Amin

AFRICAN leaders, public officials, and private-sector executives will converge in Nairobi from September 4 to 6, at the Africa Climate Summit (ACS) - coinciding with the UN Africa Climate Week (ACW). In recent years, Africa has been the poster child for climate solutions, with carbon credit and offset projects gaining popularity among the public and private sectors alike.

These schemes allow companies, primarily from the Global North, to "offset" their carbon emissions by funding forestry and land management efforts across Africa. Despite the hype around these solutions to climate crisis, serious concerns remain about their efficacy and negative consequences.

And yet, carbon credit and offset schemes will be at the center stage of the Summit, pedaling false climate solutions. With a lot on the line in the coming week, it is imperative to examine closely what some of these carbon credit and offset "solutions" entail - both for the consumers and the communities involved.

For several years, the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), a wildlife conservation NGO, has managed a multitude of "community" conservancies in Kenya and operated the Northern Kenya Grasslands Carbon Project (NKGCP), which they describe as "the world's largest soil carbon removal project."

Build on the premise that grazing practices of the Indigenous communities in Northern Kenya are unsustainable and that NRT's model of "planned grazing" will allow for substantially more carbon to be sequestered, it offers an option for companies including British Airways, Meta, Netflix, and Salesforce to "offset" their emissions.

NRT also claims to promote community livelihood, aid endangered wildlife, and usher in a new wave of environmental sustainability, making it worth looking at whether their actions live up to what they state.

For one, it is extremely difficult to prove whether the NKGCP actually removes as much carbon as claimed. The Project's credits are verified through DC-based company Verra - specializing in setting standards and verifications for carbon projects - that have been called out numerous times for exaggerated claims.

An investigation by The Guardian, Die Zeit, and SourceMaterial, revealed that only a handful of Verra's rainforest projects showed evidence of deforestation reductions, 94% of the credits had no benefit to the climate, and that the threats to the forests claimed in its projects were overstated by about 400%. Outside of discredited Verra, it is near impossible to prove if NRT is making a difference.

According to Survival International, an Indigenous rights group, NRT's "grazing strategy" is disruptive to the natural grazing patterns of the pastoralists as well as the relationships, traditions, and structures that hold the communities together.

NRT has allegedly displaced the local communities in the region, taken control of their agricultural and herd



Community Protest against Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), a wildlife conservation NGO. Credit: Pastoralist Media Initiative

management practices, and imposed their own standards of what "sustainability" should achieve with little care for traditional methods that have stewarded this land for thousands of years.

Additionally, breakdown of the traditional grazing systems is endangering food security of the locals - who lack information about the project, let alone having provided their Free, Prior, and Informed Consent.

There are several reports of human rights abuses involving NRT against the Indigenous communities in Northern Kenya. The gravest allegations concern the rangers who patrol NRT's conservancies - accused of intimidation and violence against the very communities NRT claims to support.

And, it is worth learning where the money NRT takes in is actually going. Theoretically, large sums of cash are promised to the communities, but the truth is far from what NRT claims. Up to 30% of project revenues are distributed directly to Native Energy, an American consultancy firm responsi-

ble for marketing the credits to corporate partners.

The remainder of project revenues are managed by NRT - of which 40% is retained for a variety of costs including land management and "conflict resolution." When looking at the language NRT uses in its financial reports, it is not "communities" who are entitled to the NKGCP's profits, but rather "community conservancies" with pastoralists not in control of how the funds are used. 30% of total project revenues are split up between these conservancies - with each conservancy receiving just over 2% of the funds.

But, anywhere between 20-40% of this already small slice is required to be spent on tasks like "grazing management" and other tasks which NRT directly oversees. With all the entanglements of NRT's carbon scheme one thing is clear: communities in Northern Kenya are not benefitting and are instead losing control and access over the natural resources.

Schemes purportedly managed by the public sector appear to carry their

own array of problems. A prime example is the Uganda Carbon Bureau, which manages a series of credit and offset schemes with private-sector partners, through the intermediary, Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (ECOTRUST).

For several years now, they have partnered with Plan Vivo through its Trees for Global Benefits (TGB) program to sequester carbon by "encouraging sustainable land use."

As part of the program, farmers plant swaths of new trees in return for direct payment and a litany of purported benefits including inducing "No Poverty" in the regions where TGB operates. Despite these bold claims, Plan Vivo's 2021 report revealed that nearly a quarter of farmers did not meet their "performance targets."

Those who fail to meet the targets are cut off from any financial compensation with little notice. Much like with NRT, there is no way to prove if the program actually sequesters more carbon, and Plan Vivo offers little more than assurances of "in-

creased biodiversity" in their official material.

TGB's effects on communities in Uganda have reportedly been profoundly negative. A report by the Global Forest Coalition revealed that Plan Vivo and ECOTRUST have been notoriously difficult in working with the farmers, often neglecting to inform them about payment schedules and amounts, shifting target requirements, and cutting off compensation at their will.

Many participants were not adequately informed about the 25-year-spanning contracts they signed - only offered in English - with scarce opportunities to provide feedback.

Though Plan Vivo claims to alleviate food insecurity through its scheme, it is accused of doing just the opposite. The trees planted through TGB are on the land that farmers previously used for growing crops for their families and sell for a somewhat-steady income.

After the trees are planted, the land is no longer usable for agriculture, and TGB's contracts stipulate that they have the final say over land use. Cash payments through the program are reportedly rarely enough to compensate for income lost, and many families have been left worse off than before.

Despite clear warning signs, the government of Uganda, has continued to promote Plan Vivo, even though carbon sales come nowhere near meeting the operational costs, as disclosed in its Annual Report. In order to recoup losses, TGB relies on funding from a slew of donors including the United Nations Development Programme, the United States Forestry Service, and the Dutch Government. The scheme is inherently unsustainable - it is only a matter of time before the farmers are abandoned with growing uncertainty over their futures.

False climate solutions like Trees for Global Benefits and the Northern Kenya Grasslands Carbon Project are not up to the task, but will be showcased at the Africa Climate Summit as the way forward. The claims they make are significantly overstated and end up causing far more harm to the communities who are being duped into signing shifty contracts, dispossessed of their land and authority, and made vulnerable to continued, persistent abuse. Corporations are choosing to offload their "climate guilt" onto the Global South, while shoring up revenues by slapping "net zero" on their products.

Carbon credit and offset projects obviate real, substantive measures needed to tackle climate change; they are a diversion of time and money away from solutions that matter. It is essential that African leaders challenge these false solutions and demand tangible, impactful, and accountable climate action - more than just greenwashing the corporate guilt of the global North at the expense of Indigenous communities across the continent.

Arjun Amin, a Junior at The College Preparatory School in Oakland, CA, did a summer internship at the Oakland Institute, examining carbon credits schemes as a solution to climate crisis.

Biodiversity credits: Solution or empty promise for Latin America?

By Emilio Godoy

LOCATED in northwestern Colombia, the Bosque de Niebla is home to 154 species of plants, 120 bird species, 21 species of mammals, 16 water springs and five hectares of wetlands.

Forming part of the Cuchilla Jardín-Támesis Integrated Management District in the department of Antioquia, the ecosystem provides water and climate regulation to the entire northwestern region of the country.

For this reason, an innovative financing scheme, biodiversity bonds, seeks to strengthen the protection of this area for 30 years, in the face of threats such as deforestation, drought and rising temperatures due to the climate crisis.

Private Colombian investor Terraso and Spanish carbon offset seller ClimateTrade, a climate solutions company that utilizes blockchain technology to facilitate large-scale decarbonization efforts through innovation, created voluntary biodiversity bonds for the Bosque de Niebla in May 2022.

The aim is to care for 340 hectares registered as a habitat bank by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, one of the 10 most biologically diverse countries in the world.

Habitat banks are areas where conservation initiatives are aggregated and ecosystem preservation, enhancement or restoration actions are implemented to generate quantifiable biodiversity gains.

Each biodiversity credit represents 10 square meters of threatened, conserved or restored land. Technical, financial and legal guarantees will sustain the project for at least 30 years. Each bond, worth 30 dollars, corresponds to 30 years of conservation and/or restoration.

But the scheme raises concerns about the commercialization of wildlife and the pursuit of profit over ecological benefits.

Patricia Balvanera, an academic at the Institute for Research on Ecosystems and Sustainability of the public National Autonomous University of Mexico, said the financial market approach does not address the full spectrum of environmental, cultural and social issues, which can cloud the vision of the integral importance of nature.

"Other non-integrated values have to do with social, ethical principles that have developed around nature. We have bought ourselves an image as a factory of resources at the service of people and we have discarded the role of nature and society through a relationship of care and reciprocity," she told IPS from the northern Mexican city of San Luis Potosí.



Mangroves, such as these in the municipality of Paraíso in the southeastern Mexican state of Tabasco, are candidates for biodiversity bonds because of the services they provide and the need to protect them, like other ecosystems. But these credits still need international standards, verification and monitoring guidelines, as well as tangible results. CREDIT: Emilio Godoy / IPS

The expert is co-author of the study "Diverse values of nature for sustainability", published on Aug. 9, which addresses a more holistic view of care.

Unlike offsets for environmental damage due to infrastructure projects, biodiversity credits are an economic instrument that can be used to finance actions that result in measurable positive outcomes through the issuance and sale of biodiversity units.

The buyers of biodiversity

bonds gain in reputational aspects, by promoting the restoration and protection of ecosystems, and obtain funds by reselling the bonds, as it is a voluntary market.

These are different from carbon credits, where companies and individuals can buy the reduced emissions credits in what is known as the voluntary carbon market, to offset their polluting emissions: each one represents the elimination of one metric ton of carbon from the atmosphere.

For the carbon dioxide equivalent trapped and stored in ecosystems such as forests, project owners can issue certificates for sale in national and international markets to national and international corporations and individuals who want to reduce their polluting emissions.

On hold

In Honduras, a project similar to the Colombian one is advancing in Cusco National Park, in the northwestern department of Cortés.

In the 22,200-hectare forest, decreed in 1987, the international alliance of environmental organizations rePlanet seeks the conservation of 1,883 hectares in 25 years in the face of threats such as deforestation and the risk to 24 species.

The project could issue bonds this year.

Lia González, director for Latin America of the Belgian social impact investment firm Incofin, said the instrument involves several challenges, such as monetization, assigning value to the blocks of land, the creation of standards for measurement, verification, monitoring and issuance, as well as the involvement of the communities.

"Not all ecosystem services are the same, it has to be a very judicious system. And there have to be local regula-

tions, from green taxonomies (classification of activities) to regulations. Therein lies the dilemma of where the sector has to go," she told IPS from Bogotá.

The executive stressed that the scheme should avoid the carbon credits model and learn from its mistakes, such as inaccurate calculation of carbon sequestration and violations of community rights.

In 2022, Incofin's portfolio covered III clients in 14 Latin American countries for a total of 400 million dollars in segments such as sustainable agriculture and microfinance. In Colombia, it supported eight clients and totaled 44.3 million dollars.

The company focuses on medium-term investments, so that beneficiaries have an additional source of income within the area being protected or restored.

So far, so-called green bonds have fallen short in financing for the conservation of natural wealth and sustainable land use, according to a 2020 report by the Luxembourg Green Exchange and the Global Landscapes Forum, entitled: "How can Green Bonds catalyse investments in biodiversity and sustainable land-use projects?"

Colombia and Honduras are the countries that have moved forward with these instruments, because they have regulations and several financial instruments related to biodiversity, although bonds are still a rarity.

In this regard, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which groups the world's 38 most developed economies, noted in its 2021 report "Tracking Economic Instruments and Finance for Biodiversity" that, despite the progress made, the substantial potential depends on increasing the use and ambition of biodiversity-relevant economic instruments. In its Sixth National Biodiversity Report 2020, Honduras recognized the need to improve the monetary and non-monetary valuation of environmental services.

Financing schemes are essential to the development of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 2019, which seeks to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, to eradicate poverty, combat climate change

and prevent the mass extinction of species.

Moving towards a take-off?

In order for it to be successful, the mechanism requires integrity of the projects and the inclusion of all stakeholders, according to the World Economic Forum, dedicated to multinational business lobbying.

The Colombian Bosque de Niebla initiative has already placed 62,063 credits and has 61,773 available.

The investor Terraso has seven other habitat banks in various areas of Colombia that could generate more bonds.

Balvanera warned of perverse incentives that could undermine protection.

"If we think about financial schemes, the link should not only be transactional. There must be involvement of different stakeholders who collectively identify the mechanism that promotes conservation, respects the vision of care and maintains the livelihoods of the inhabitants of these areas," she said.

The academic argued that "this generates a circular system that connects forest protection, water care, food production and sustainable consumption."

For her part, González was open to analyzing these investments.

"Water could be a viable focus for climate resilience and its impact on the region's climate. We are interested in learning about monetization and that additional sources of income can benefit protection processes, so that it is complementary to what we do," she said.

Last December, the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which includes cumulative biodiversity funding of at least 200 billion dollars by 2030 from public and private sources.

One of its goals is to encourage innovative schemes such as payment for environmental services, green bonds, offsets, biodiversity credits and benefit-sharing mechanisms that include environmental and social safeguards.

To meet these objectives, the 196 States Parties to the CBD created the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, which is managed by the Global Environment Facility and whose governing council was approved in June in Brazil.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dear Valued Customers,

We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of security and compliance at Exim Bank. In line with regulatory requirements, we want to remind you that the deadline for completing your KYC (Know Your Customer) verification is the **31st of August 2023**.

KYC verification is an essential step in ensuring the security and authenticity of your account. By confirming your identity and details, you help us prevent unauthorized access and protect both your finances and our banking community.

How to Complete KYC:

1. Visit your nearest Exim Bank branch with the required documents (ID, proof of address, renewed documents, permits, etc.) or
2. Contact our Customer Care at **0800 780 111** or e-mail customer@eximbank.co.tz for guidance and support.

Protect your account and ensure uninterrupted access to your banking services. Accounts that remain non-KYC verified after the deadline will unfortunately be subject to closure.

Thank you for banking with us.



Bank of Baroda (Tanzania) Limited

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Bank of Baroda Tanzania Limited invites applications for the following positions.

Position and number of vacancies:

- 1) Clerk (Internal Audit- IT) - 01
- 2) Clerk cum Teller- 01
- 3) Bancassurance Principal Officer - 01

For all other details of recruitment for above positions like Eligibility criteria, mode of application, last date for application etc.,

Please visit our bank's website

<https://www.bankofbaroda.co.tz/careers>

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 UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

TAMFI, NGO raise uptake for water, sanitation financing

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Association of Microfinance Institutions (TAMFI) has extended high praise to microfinance institutions committed to extending financial resources to households and small-to-medium enterprises to acquire essential water and sanitation equipment.

Winnie Terry, TAMFI chief executive officer said this yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking during a capacity-building meeting for stakeholders of the organization.

The initiative encompasses a range of amenities such as water storage facilities, connection facilities, modern toilet facilities, and handwashing stations aimed at improving community health.

"Over five thousand citizens have benefited from a water and sanitation loan project, alleviating the long-standing issue of having to travel long distances to access water services," Winnie said.

She also noted: "Financial inclusion is more than just numbers and interest rates; it's about creating an ecosystem where access to clean water and sanitation isn't a privilege but a basic human right."

Operating under the Water Credit Adoption Program (WCAD) banner, the initiative is a tripartite partnership comprising TAMFI, global nonprofit Water.org, and various Tanzanian financial institutions that offer microfinance services. These entities have formalized their cooperation through a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

The overarching goal of WCAD is to broaden the scope of access to affordable financing mechanisms tailored explicitly for water and sanitation solutions within the Tanzanian context. In addition to providing financial resources, the program

serves to equip participating financial institutions with the requisite training and technical assistance. This holistic approach ensures that these institutions are adequately prepared to create and offer specialized lending products centred around water and sanitation.

Together with Zanzibar, some of the regions that have benefited from access to clean water and sanitation loans include Mwanza, Kilimanjaro, Coast, Sumbawanga in Rukwa, Mufindi in Iringa, Arusha, and Dar es Salaam. The CEO stated that the water loan requirements for the citizens are the costs of connecting water from the government pipelines into their residences and that of drilling deep water wells near their homes.

Winnie noted: "The tremendous progress we've made through this project underscores the transformative power of cross-sectoral collaborations among the public sector, private enterprises, and nonprofit organizations in addressing critical issues such as water and sanitation."

Pendo Massawe, Water.org representative, said that investment in clean water supply and sanitation, including the construction of modern toilets, is important for the health of citizens.

She said: "At Water.org, we believe that the solution to the global water crisis lies in empowering local communities and institutions through water credit financing. Our work with TAMFI shows what can be achieved when we pool our resources, knowledge, and dedication."

Pendo expressed: "The investments made by the government in water systems and sanitation infrastructure are commendable and set a significant foundation for achieving universal access to clean water. However, we must recognize that



Tanzania Association of Microfinance Institutions CEO Winnie Terry speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

there remains a significant gap in direct household financing for these essential services."

She stressed: "Government initiatives are undeniably crucial, but they often focus on larger infrastructural frameworks—like dams, treatment facilities, and main pipelines. While these investments lay the groundwork, they don't necessarily translate into piped water in individual households or ensure every home has a toilet."

She stated: "We are talking about millions of households here. The number isn't just a statistic; it represents millions of lives that could be transformed with better water and sanitation access. We need financial institutions to extend their services to directly finance these households for taking piped water into their homes and for constructing sanitary toilet facilities.

Through such targeted investment, we can make the dream of universal access a tangible reality."

She underscored her point with a compelling economic rationale, explaining that the benefits of such investments would ripple across sectors.

"Let's remember the multiplier effect of water and sanitation financing. Every dollar invested in these areas leads to a fourfold return: sustainability, reduced healthcare costs, enhanced productivity, and economic growth. Financial institutions have the opportunity to change lives and participate in an initiative that makes economic sense. This is not just a corporate social responsibility; it's an intelligent investment."

Geraldine Mashele of the company MMCL Financial Limited said: "Through the program,

we have benefitted 103 households by lending to customers. This has helped to uplift lives both economically and socially."

Victor Alfayo from the Tanzania Microfinance Bank stated: "I am thankful for the program for enabling our institution to give out loans totalling 90m/-to 165 households. This has allowed families to get water at home, build toilets, and have the capability of storing water and drilling wells."

According to the World Bank, only 61% of households in Tanzania currently have access to a basic water-supply, 32% have access to basic sanitation, and 48% have access to basic hygiene. This means that millions of Tanzanians need access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation facilities, and basic hygiene practices.

FIRST HOUSING FINANCE (TANZANIA) LIMITED

Housing

FIRST HOUSING FINANCE (TANZANIA) LIMITED commenced its operations in October 2017 as a fully-fledged financial institution specializing in the provision of residential mortgages. The company was licensed by Bank of Tanzania in July 2017 to commerce housing finance business under the provisions of The Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 (Cap. 342, R.E. 2002).

We are looking to hire a talented Risk and Compliance Manager to join our team. If you're hard-working and dedicated, First Housing Finance is a great place to grow your career. We are looking for an experienced Risk and Compliance Manager to review our existing and develop and implement new risk management policies. In this role, you will work to identify risks that could impair our reputation, information security, or general operations and suggest ways to mitigate or eliminate them entirely. You will ensure that our company remains fully compliant with relevant policies and Bank of Tanzania regulations. As a Risk and Compliance Manager, you'll be expected to show strong leadership and organizational skills and have expert-level knowledge of applicable compliance practices. You also need to have prior experience working in Risk Management or a compliance-related role.

As Risk and compliance manager, you shall be able to support in the identification and effective management of risks to the mortgage loan origination, processing, sanction, disbursement, portfolio & document management and customer service, and ensuring that effective control environment exists and actively managed in order to reduce operational losses and improve Business-Operating Effectiveness.

Job Title: Risk and Compliance Manager
Reporting to: Chief Executive Officer
Location: Dar Es Salaam

Duties & Responsibilities – Risk and Compliance Manager

- To assume overall responsibility for the mortgage loan portfolio with minimal risk and ensure highest quality of the process standards and compliances at all times, including critical oversight of all aspects of credit & operations management.
- To track, monitor, escalate and report deficiencies at any time that may cause loss to the company.
- To submit prescribed reports at monthly, quarterly or at any such periodicity as may be called upon to the management, Board committees, as per the mortgage policy or whenever called upon by the management and Board Committees to do so.
- To develop structures/framework for the population of losses/loss events.
- Presentation of risk based reports on various products, processes, activities, systems and external events to management.
- Development of structures for establishment of the risk appetite for the company, setting of risk tolerance limits and key risk indicators.
- Develop & maintain an effective relationship at the appropriate level with the Business with a view to embedding effective risk management processes.
- Ensure regular dialogue with senior management to review the current risk profile for their business area.
- Provide guidance and support to the Business in raising awareness and understanding of operational risk and governance. This may involve making presentations/training sessions to staff, as well as coaching and informal training as required.
- Provide guidance and support to the Business in advance of internal (and occasional external) audits.
- Any other duties as may be assigned by your supervisor.

Work Experience and Skills

- University Degree (Bachelor's) in Finance; Banking, Accounting, Business Administration/Commerce, Economics or related discipline, preferably with other related professional qualifications.
- Formal qualification such as, CPA, CIA, CRMP, is an added advantage.
- Risk management and control techniques (e.g. Risk assessment, auditing, control design)
- Communication and influencing skills, involving staff at all levels of seniority
- Facilitation skills
- Analytical and problem solving skills
- Service excellence
- Good time management and organizational skills
- Team player

Applications: Qualified candidates to Send CV and application letter to: info@firsthousing.co.tz

Deadline: Monday - 04th September 2023 at 05:00pm.

FIRST HOUSING FINANCE (TANZANIA) LIMITED

Housing

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We are looking to hire a talented ICT Manager to join our team. ICT manager shall assist the company employees on day to day running and support of the ICT systems. Leveraging optimal computer technology to the company needs and champion optimal Information Communication Technology systems and projects.

Generally, ICT Manager shall be required to plan, coordinate, and direct computer-related activities in the company. Responsible in determining the information technology goals of the company and responsible for implementing computer software and hardware systems to meet the short and long term goals.

Job Title: ICT Manager
Reporting to: Chief Executive Officer
Location: Dar Es Salaam

Duties & Responsibilities – ICT Manager

- Assume management responsibility for Business Contingency planning efforts with a major focus on assuring the adequacy of business unit contingency plans for critical business areas, functions and applications;
- To maintain continued operations, asset protection and loss mitigation in the event of a disruption, coordinating activities of technology resources with the company's business units and development groups, as required;
- Work with business unit management to enhance contingency plans, mitigating the effect of a technology system or application failure or problem. Key objectives are that business units can continue to manage the firm's assets, satisfy our regulatory obligations and maintain our presence in the market place;
- Provide direct communications between the BCP Project Office, Information technology Operations, Technology architecture and Engineering Systems and Systems Application Program Management;
- Assist the department in enhancing, formalizing and standardizing the business planning process, including forecasting and tracking mechanisms, across all business units, to facilitate timely accommodation of future company recovery requirements and opportunities;
- Assume leadership role in developing, coordinating and maintaining comprehensive business contingency plans and validation methodology, to ensure the firm's ability to recovery, in the event of an unforeseen disruption to facilities, technology systems, or applications;
- Perform risk analysis for corporate functional areas to identify points of vulnerability and recommends disaster avoidance and reduction strategies;
- Analyze environmental and equipment configurations for critical corporate resources; recommends disaster avoidance measures and improved backup capabilities;
- Conduct business impact analyses and assist company units to determine critical business processes, identify acceptable recovery time periods and establishes resources required for the successful resumption of business operations in the event of a disaster;
- Assure records required for recovery are identified and properly maintained in the Vital Records Program;
- Coordinate the efforts of staff members in different functional areas in the development of procedures for the continuity of business processes in a disaster situation;
- Establish disaster recovery testing methodologies; plans and coordinate the testing of recovery support and business resumption procedures in different functional areas;
- Assure that recovery procedures are effective for the restoration of key corporate resources and for the resumption of critical business processes;
- Conduct disaster recovery training for staff members in all functional areas. Provide instructional and informational materials on how staffs are expected to respond during an emergency.
- Assist divisions in the assignment and training of staff. Develops and maintains standards and procedures for disaster recovery documentation. Maintain a library of recovery support and business resumption procedures;
- Develop corporate emergency response procedures; distributes and update emergency procedures to reflect changes in staff size, location, organization and home office facilities.
- Monitor the effectiveness of procedures during evacuation drills and revise the procedures as necessary. Maintain a library of emergency response procedures;
- Assist recovery support and business resumption staff during a disaster in the implementation of response and alternate operating strategies;
- Act as a coordinator during an emergency situation;
- Work with vendors of disaster recovery services and facilities; studies and recommend outside services for use during a disaster situation;
- Work with management to ensure that as new equipment, facilities, services and systems are installed that the disaster recovery issues are addressed;
- Work with senior management, Information Technology personnel and outside resources to design and develop effective disaster recovery and business continuity plans;
- Maintain contact with outside contingency planning professional organizations and local/regional emergency response groups;
- Define and manage an effective data backup and retention policy consistent with company recovery needs and manage all system back-up and restore protocol;
- Maintain an updated knowledge of company's board policy, administrative regulations and legal requirements that relate to DR strategy, security of data and copyright laws.

Work Experience and Skills

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, or a related field
- At least 5 years working experience in ICT management. Similar time being part of a business management team will be an advantage.
- Professional qualifications in systems administration, implementation, and development will be added advantage.
- Project Management skills

Applications: Qualified candidates to Send CV and application letter to: info@firsthousing.co.tz

Deadline: Monday - 04th September 2023 at 05:00pm

Kenya's population growth decreases as more women embrace modern family planning

By Wilson Odhiambo

ACCORDING to a family planning brief, more than 370 million women in middle and low-income countries were finally embracing modern contraception to help curb unintended pregnancies.

This statistic suggests that one in every three women from middle and low-income countries use contraceptives today.

Africa, which had the lowest number of family planning users in 2012, had registered a 66 percent increase, from 40 million to 66 million girls and women by 2022. Eastern and Southern Africa recorded the highest increase in family planning users at 70 percent.

Kenya was ranked among the sub-Saharan nations that had effectively managed to tame the population growth rate by educating and empowering women and young girls through family planning initiatives.

According to Kenya's Ministry of Health, by September last year, at least 54 percent of women in the country had access to contraceptives, and the use of modern methods of family planning had increased from 18 percent in 1989 to 57 percent in 2022. This went a long way in helping it meet its FP2030 commitment plan.

The Kenya Demographic and Health Survey last year reported that there was a decrease in the fertility rate in women from 3.9 children per woman in 2014 to 3.4 children per woman in 2022. This decrease resulted in a slowed population growth rate from 3.4 percent in 2014 to 2.2 percent in 2022.

The report stated that amongst married couples, 47 percent of women wanted to have more children, while the case was 57 percent for men. Another 30 percent of women and 37 percent of men wanted to wait a while longer before having children. This showed that more women preferred to wait and decide when and how many children they wanted to have through family planning.

From the report, more women in rural areas were also opting to limit the number of children they were having as opposed to the past, where the decision was not easy for them to make due to factors like lack of education, traditions, and limited access to health facilities.

Among the educated group, 84 percent of married women with primary school education and 94 percent of married women with secondary school education did not want more children. This showed how big a role the level of education played in the use of contraceptives.

A look at the counties showed that urbanised areas, where more people had access to education, had a low fertility rate in comparison to the marginalised counties with limited access to proper education.

For instance, the counties with the lowest fertility rates included Nairobi, Nyamira, Machakos, Kirinyaga, Mombasa and Kiambu, which recorded 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.8, 2.9 and 2.9 children per woman. The opposite was true for the marginalised counties like Mandera, West Pokot, Wajir and Marsabit, which recorded high fertility rates of 7.7, 6.9, 6.8, and 6.3 children per woman.

Some of the common family planning methods being used today include sterilization, condoms use, implants, injectable drugs, and pills. The use of these modern contraceptives, however, varies by region.

Christine Atieno, a pharmacist technician at a local clinic, agrees that there has been a significant rise in the number of contraceptive users amongst married people over the years.

"Married women, mostly aged between 25 years and above, form the majority of our patients at Medway Healthcare," Atieno told IPS.

"We receive at least five patients, on a daily basis, who come to seek professional assistance on what sort of contraceptives to use. Many of them prefer taking the oral pills, which we restock two to three times a week," she said. We offer all forms of modern family planning services at our facility apart from sterilisation.

Research work published in the National Library of Medicine agrees that community pharmacies and clinics have also played a big role in ensuring the delivery and easy access to family planning services in both rural and urban areas.



Pharmacists like Christine Atieno (pictured) from Mediway Healthcare and doctors say women and men in Kenya are more open to contraceptive use now. CREDIT: Wilson Odhiambo/IPS

According to the findings, the public health system accounts for 60 percent of patients, while the private sector, made up of pharmacies and clinics, takes up 34 percent.

These private facilities have been authorised to conduct family planning services such as providing oral contraceptives, male and female condoms, injectable intramuscular and subcutaneous depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA), and emergency contraceptives.

"Being a developing country, Kenya stills lags behind in terms of adequate facilities in its public health system, which makes pharmacies and clinics very important in providing medical assistance, especially to young people between the ages of 10 and 24 years," says Wilson Opudo, a public health specialist.

"While it is true that there is an increase in usage of contraceptives amongst women, there is still the matter of teenage girls between the ages of 14 and 18 years who are increasingly becoming sexually active but cannot afford or are unwilling to visit

public health facilities for various reasons," Opudo explained to IPS.

According to Opudo, these teenage girls usually avoid going to public health facilities, most of whom will expect them to be accompanied by their parents or guardians because of their young age. Due to this, they prefer community pharmacies and clinics where they can get help on their own.

"Being young, these girls are usually embarrassed by their parents finding out that they are sexually active, and most will therefore avoid visiting hospitals," Opudo said. For this reason, it is important to also have professional counsellors in these community clinics and pharmacies.

During the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kenya recorded one of the highest cases of teenage pregnancies, which experts linked to the fact that many children were left unattended at home with little to occupy their free time. Easy access to uncontrolled and uncensored social media has also been a contribut-

ing factor to the increased sexual activity among teenagers.

"Teenage girls mostly visit our facility during the weekends, and they usually come looking for emergency contraceptive (plan B) pills, unlike the case for the older married women," said Atieno. "My colleagues and I are also qualified counsellors, and we always insist on offering advice to these teenagers before letting them make any big decisions on their own."

The DHS data also showed that, while still low, more men were also taking part in the family planning process as the number of married men getting sterilised had doubled in comparison to the previous years.

Initially, women mostly did family planning, most of whom preferred hiding it from their spouses to avoid conflict or backlash from society, as having many children was considered a blessing in many African households.

Today, however, many men understand the importance of family planning, espe-

cially on women's health and are even accompanying their spouses for the services.

The DHS data indicated an increase in the number of men getting a vasectomy from 248 in 2021 to 557 in 2022.

Dr Alex Owino, Medical Superintendent, Katulani Sub-County Hospital, Kitui, advises that while family planning has become accessible to many, it is also necessary to understand the importance of having a medical specialist to help you decide on the best type of contraceptives.

"I have seen cases of women reacting negatively to injections and implants, which makes it necessary for one to be able to know what works for them. Some have complained of side effects such as headaches and uneven menstrual flow, which makes it hard for them to go about their daily business," Owino told IPS.

"Pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and those using ARVs, for example, have different needs in terms of the kind of contraceptives that is best for them," he added.

From the data gathered in the FP2030 report, the following were some of the key findings:

Injectables were the most favoured method of contraception in sub-Saharan Africa, followed by oral pills and implants, respectively.

Pills and male condoms were predominantly used in Europe and Northern America.

Female sterilisation and male condoms remain the most used family planning methods worldwide.

Most family planning users across the globe also prefer short-term methods as opposed to long-term. In summary, the increased use of contraceptives had helped avert 141 million unintended pregnancies, 150 000 maternal deaths and 30 million unsafe abortions worldwide.

IPS UN Bureau Report



Injectables were the most favoured method of contraception in sub-Saharan Africa, followed by oral pills and implants, respectively.



RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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



Radio One

President Samia lays foundation stone for Kizimkazi market

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday laid the foundation stone for the construction of 2bn/- Kizimkazi Dimbani modern market financed by CRDB Bank.

This part of the bank's corporate social responsibility to the people of Zanzibar, through its foundation.

Speaking during the foundation stone laying, President Samia thanked CRDB Bank for accepting the request by Unguja south regional authority to construct the modern market, which she said is expected to stimulate social-economic development.

"Last year, as you remember, you requested for this market. I then passed it to the regional authority, which requested CRDB Bank and today, they are here ready

to lay the foundation stone and construction is ongoing. I thank CRDB Bank for supporting us and these are real developments we have been talking about and the real meaning of Kazimkazi festival," the President said.

Abdulmajid Nsekela, managing director, CRDB Bank, said as part of recognizing the Unguja south regional economy, which depends on fishing, the bank, through its foundation has decided to invest in a modern market which is expected to increase the value of trading activities in Kizimkazi.

During the first phase of its construction, CRDB Bank has set aside 157.8mn/- and the construction work has already started, he said.

"For a long time, CRDB Bank has been a stakeholder in Kizimkazi development through the festival and until the start of



this year's event, our bank has already invested approximately 1bn/- and this modern market will cost 2bn/- upon completion and the first phase of construction work will complete in October this year," Nsekela further said.

Apart from providing banking services to both sides of the union, CRDB Bank has also been implementing its policies of investing in communities it serves in both sides of the country, he said.

He said the corporate social responsibility policy directs the allocation of 1 percent of the profit to be invested in CSR, in the areas of education, health, environment as well as women and youths empowerment.

"Apart from construction of this modern market, CRDB Bank, through CRDB Foundation has continuing to implement its objective of bringing in reforms in sports, specifically dhow and we have invested 119.5mn/- in this dhow race as part of Kizimkazi festival," he said.

Nsekela said in 2021, CRDB Bank has been sponsoring Kizimkazi festival with 100 percent funding, include entrepreneurship training, sports, business exhibition until its climax.

He further said, apart from financing the festival, the bank has also financed the construction of the doctors houses and local government office.

In 2022, the bank financed the construction of school laboratory and its equipment at Kizimkazi School.

SINGAPORE

OIL price has increased as equity markets ticked higher and traders waited for the next set of clues on the outlook for crude demand in the US and China.

West Texas Intermediate traded near \$80 a barrel after gaining 1.5 percent over the past three days, the longest

Oil price nears \$80 on demand outlook

winning run since late July. The climb puts the US benchmark back close to the level at which it started the year. In broader markets, Asian stocks tracked US equities higher.

China's biggest refiner, Sinopec, said that the country's

product demand in the second half would expand at a slower pace than in the first.

In the US, meanwhile, there are expectations that the Federal Reserve isn't yet done with its campaign of monetary tightening to quell too-hot inflation.

Crude is headed for a small monthly loss after jumping in July as supply curbs from OPEC+ producers Saudi Arabia and Russia tightened the market. Still, there's speculation the US could ease sanctions against Venezuela and Iran, potentially increasing global

flows. In addition, Turkey said it was about to conclude technical work on a key Iraqi pipeline, aiming to make it operational again as soon as possible, Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar said. Widely-watched time spreads, however, continue to signal

strength as Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC+) keeps supply curtailed, with scope for Riyadh to prolong a reduction into October.

The gaps between the nearest two contracts for WTI and Brent are firmly backwardated, with

nearby contracts at a premium to longer-dated ones.

"The anticipation that the producers' cartel might extend the announced production cuts to October has extended further support," said Priyanka Sachdeva, senior market analyst at Philip Nova Pte. "But growing macroeconomic fears amid higher borrowing costs is keeping a lid on any upside."

Koreans equip TRC staff on safety management system

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

RAIL Experts from Korea Railroad Corporation (KORAIL) last week conducted a five day capacity building for Tanzania Railways Corporation staff, to equip them with safety and investigation techniques.

Baek Hag-Sun, head of KORAIL's International Railway Training Center told the Guardian in an interview that the focus was placed on the types of railway accidents, accident cases and investigation techniques, accident cause analysis and prevention measures, and the establishment of railway accident investigation manual guidelines.

This program, which is implemented under Korea International Corporation Agency (KOICA) financing, designed to be of practical help in establishing a safety management system for Tanzania Railways ahead of SGR operation, he said.

"The program is expected to contribute to the safe and efficient operation of Tanzania's railways in the future by strengthening the safety management capabilities," he said.

He said KORAIL will actively support the efficient and safe operation of the TRC based on the excellent technology and abundant operating know-how accumulated by operation of high speed line KTX, conventional lines, and metro over 129 years.

"Although this program lasted for a short period of five days, it was a valuable time for both countries to understand each other's railroads and discuss various cooperative projects," he said.

Currently, the railways of the two countries are cooperating in various fields including Tanzania SGR construction supervision project and operation maintenance consulting project.

"I hope that this training will serve as an opportunity to further expand bilateral railway cooperation," he explained.

KORAIL recently invited 14 TRC employees from each field to Korea and implemented a fellowship program to share operational know-how of Korea Railroad.

For about 5 months from December of last year to April of this year, TRC employees

were able to learn the cutting-edge technology and operation know-how of Korea Railroad while working jointly with KORAIL employees in each field, such as track maintenance, vehicle, and control.

KOICA's country director Manshik Shin said that South Korean government has been providing capacity building for TRC on operation and maintenance of the Electrified, Standard Gauge Railway Track, train systems and Rolling Stock from 2020 implemented by the KORAIL.

The training program has been implemented in three Phases and has been designed to build the capacity for Tanzania's railway development strategy and equip total 62 Tanzanian TRC's officials with abilities in operation and maintenance on electric railway system including rolling stocks while strengthening railway cooperation between Tanzania and South Korea from 2021-2023.

Speaking on behalf of TRC's staff participated in the program, Chisondi Maingu, TRC's engineer lauded KORAIL and KOICA for introducing the train-



Lee Jae-Yup (gesturing), Assistant Manager, International Cooperation Department, at Trans Korean Railway and Overseas Business Division (standing) trains TRC's staff on railway accident and investigation.

ing to TRC's staff.

He said under the program, they were trained on railway safety, investigation and prevention of accidents, accidents sources, Act, principles and procedure for railway safety operation.

"Through the knowledge and skills

gained from KORAIL, we will take all necessary precautions relating to railway safety - in terms of electricity, rolling stock and supplying infrastructure," he said.

Also, he noted, the training will help them to improve safety management

system of SGR operation and identify problems that can cause accident.

He added that, despite of the training, TRC employees still need more training on rolling stock, power supply, signaling, catenary system and GSM-R infrastructure management.

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

Volume of Tanzania's exports of forest products up 16pc

FORESTS products exports have increased by 16.5 percent to 426,805 metric tons during the financial year 2022/23, from 356,593 metric tons (MT) in 2021/22 to.

The exported items include the Engineered Wood Products (EWPs), such as plywood, marine boards and laminated boards, among others.

Professor Dos Santos Silayo, TFS's Conservation Commissioner, said the development in the country's wood sector was a result of a positive move by the factories to embark on a fresh chapter of manufacturing diverse products instead of exporting the relevant raw materials.

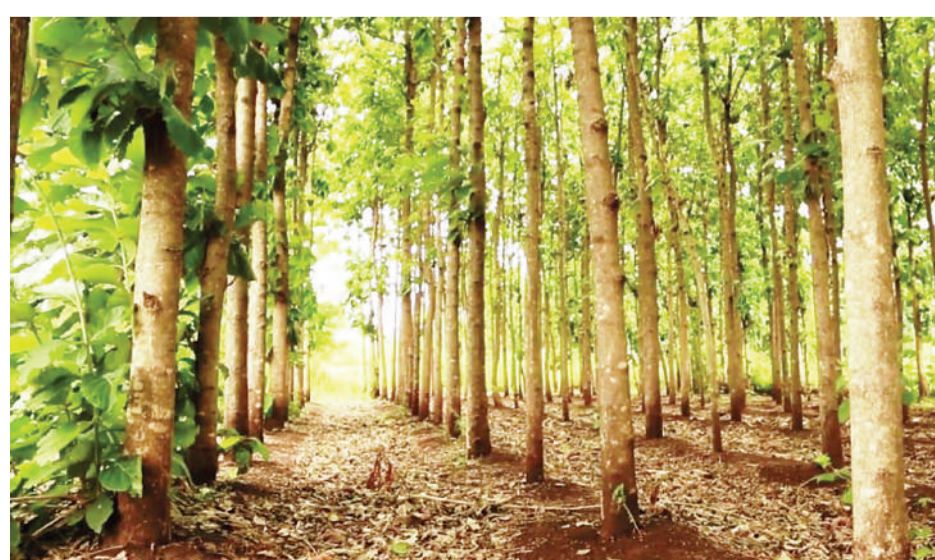
He expressed that, during 2022/2023, a total of 1,940,000MT of timber was harvested at different healthier forests across the country,

especially at the tree estates.

"Available statistics reads that, during a period from 2022 and 2023, a total of 47,491MT of the engineered wood products were exported to numerous countries, which is equivalent to 66.6 percent increase in comparison to the 15,876MT that was exported during 2021/2022," he detailed.

The commissioner added that the government was continuing to implement a strategic plan to assist the local forest factories to perform well on the side of processing and additional value with an eye to export semi-processed and finished products.

"The factories under the strategy's vision include the small-scale ones that deal with sawmilling, production of engineered wood products like marine boards and veneer,



and the other factories that engage into production of briquettes," he revealed. Together with that, the Don added that the other factories under the strategy's

focus are those based in the manufacturing of papers and pillars.

"As of now, the country has a total of 4,300 factories that deal with manufactur-

ing of forests related products, whereby most of the sector's involved stakeholders are getting the raw materials from the state-established forests and from the private-owned tree estates," he informed.

And currently, according to him, TFS is serving a total of 11,670 stakeholders.

Moreover, he informed that as part to cement performance of the sector during the 2022/23 fiscal year, TFS had managed to establish one major tree

farm in Makere area of Kasulu-Kigoma, occupying at least 65,000 hectare.

"Apart from establishing the tree estate, we also managed to expand two farms, including Mtibwa (12,000 hectare) and Pagale range and Longuza at 400 hectares extent," he expressed.

He disclosed that during the past fiscal year, TFS also managed to produce a total of 25.9 tons of tree seeds and planted a total of 32,735,653 seedlings of numerous tree varieties at different areas of the 24 public tree farms available across the country.

Tanzania holds at least 48.1million hectares of forests, equivalent to 54 percent of the country's area, whereby the government reserved forests area is 465 hectares, including 24 tree plantations, 23 natural environmental conservation areas, and 20 bee-keeping reserves.

Ewura keeping oversight for EACOP project implementation

By Guardian Reporter

THE Energy and Water Utilities Authority (EWURA) board has said will continue keeping its eye on oversight the implementation of the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), on behalf of the government.

This was said by board chairman Professor Mark Mwandosya recently when the EWURA board members and officials conducted a visit to see the progress of specialized trailers designed by Superdoll for the transportation of crucial pipes destined for the project.

During the visit, Prof Mwandosya expressed his better feelings of the progress made by the contrac-

tor's innovative transport solutions.

Haruna Masebu, on behalf of other members of the board, expressed the satisfaction, stating that, "We are impressed with the work and standards upheld by the contractor in the making and designing of these long specialized trailers."

He further remarked, "As Ewura, a key stakeholder in the government's oversight of this project, we are pleased with the work and the quality of these trailers, which are equipped with special features to ensure road safety".

"Additionally, we are delighted to see this local company actively involved in this project, in line with the



Specialized trailers designed by Superdoll for transporting EACOP pipes

country's Local Content policy, which promotes the active participation of locals in national development projects," he added.

Gevald Maganga, the Petroleum Manager at Ewura, explained that their visit to the contractor was to assess the progress of the project, which has largely been executed efficiently and in accordance with international standards, as required by the EACOP project.

The trailers, with an impressive length of 18 meters, have

been meticulously designed to meet the unique requirements of transporting the EACOP pipes safely and efficiently.

Fulgence Bube, director, Superdoll, emphasized the company's commitment to upholding safety standards and collaborating with government agencies, such as the Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads), to ensure that the trailers meet all road safety requirements.

Bube explained that the specialized trailers are set to

travel at a controlled speed of 50 kilometers per hour and are equipped with cameras for real-time monitoring of their journeys.

"Our focus is not only on the successful transportation of the pipes, but also on ensuring the safety of all road users", he said.

He noted that out of the 300 trailers, 217 have already been manufactured, and the remaining ones are in the final stages of completion.

According to Ezra Kavana, EACOP's Compliance Manager, they anticipate the pipes' arrival in the country before the end of the year to commence the pipeline trenching work. Once the pipes are buried, other project activities will continue as planned.

The crude oil pipeline will traverse eight regions in mainland Tanzania, including Shinyanga, Geita, Kagera, Tabora, Manyara, Dodoma, and Tanga, covering a total of 24 districts, 134 wards, and over 180 villages.

The EACOP project, which spans from Hoima in Uganda to the coastal town of Chongoleani in the Tanga region of Tanzania, covering a total distance of 1,443 kilometers, is a pivotal endeavor aimed at facilitating the transportation of crude oil from Uganda to Tanzania and eventually to the international markets.

Diamond producers adapting to rapidly changing landscape

JOHANNESBURG

THE diamond industry has faced multiple challenges leading to a notable shifting of the industry landscape over the last few years, says personal liability company BDO South Africa.

Natural resources partner at the firm, Jacques Barradas, says the industry is in the midst of transformation that demands careful analysis and strategic foresight, following a 15 percent to 18 percent fall in diamond prices over the last year and lower volumes at market tenders.

BDO natural resources head Servaas Kranhold adds that the diamond market has experienced a notable downturn of late, largely owing to a confluence of macroeconomic factors.

The US market, for example, is a historically robust consumer of diamonds that has been grappling with recessionary concerns, which is impacting on the demand for gem-quality diamonds.

Additionally, China's economy has not rebounded as swiftly as anticipated, following various Covid-19 lockdown measures implemented last year, which has led to subdued demand. These factors have combined to create a complex environment for diamond traders, causing prices to stagnate and volume declines.

Adding to this dilemma is an

increase in diamond supply, coinciding with a contracting market. Notably, synthetic diamonds have contributed significantly to the volumes posing a considerable challenge.

The inability of current mining technology to consistently differentiate between synthetic and natural diamonds has led to further price suppression, Kranhold and Barradas explain.

This scenario has been compounded by the emergence of new mining operations, such as De Deers' Venetia Underground mine and the return of Russian diamond sources. With softer demand and increased supply, the industry faces a formidable challenge.

In the face of these challenges, the diamond industry is undergoing a fundamental transformation. Mining companies are re-evaluating their operational strategies to remain competitive in a low-price environment.

Many have shifted from opencast mining to underground operations locally, embracing technological advancements such as remote mining to reduce costs. This shift in approach signifies the industry's resilience and willingness to adapt to changing circumstances.

While the immediate future of the diamond industry remains uncertain, a glimmer of hope exists for recovery. The transition from open-



cast to underground mining operations presents a potential catalyst for improved selling prices as costs increase and volumes decrease.

As more mines delve underground, the scarcity of resources and increased operational complexities could drive prices upward. However, this prospect hinges on the behaviour of diamond resources as mining goes deeper, BDO states.

The viability of underground operations relies on the ability of re-

sources to maintain their size and footprint at greater depths.

Some mines face the challenge of diminishing resources as they go deeper, potentially rendering underground mining unfeasible. This poses significant considerations for larger listed diamond mines, which may need to weigh the feasibility of continuation against the backdrop of current prices and available resources.

In cases where ongoing mining proves unviable, the spectre of large

traditional mines closing looms, potentially leading to substantial impacts on local communities and economies. As the industry navigates these challenges, the importance of environmental, social and governance considerations cannot be understated.

Diamond mines are often integral to the economies of the communities in which they operate.

The potential closure of mining operations owing to macroeconomic factors could have far-reaching

consequences, including a mass exodus of inhabitants leading to further urbanisation and the transformation of thriving communities into ghost towns.

"Balancing the economic imperatives of the industry with its broader societal responsibilities is a delicate yet necessary endeavour," Barradas and Kranhold note.

The experts aver that the diamond industry finds itself at a crossroads, grappling with a complex web of market dynamics and external pressures.

The current state of reduced prices and increased supply poses challenges, yet the industry's history of resilience and adaptation offers hope for the future.

As the industry shifts its focus towards underground operations and embraces innovative technologies, it remains to be seen whether these measures will spark a recovery in diamond prices.

While the short-term forecast may be uncertain, the diamond industry's intrinsic value, both as a source of exquisite adornments and as a driver of economic growth, ensures that it will continue to shine, even in the face of adversity.

"As we navigate these uncharted waters, one thing is certain: the allure of diamonds, both natural and lab-grown, will persist, capturing the hearts and imaginations of generations to come."



Board Members of Tanzania Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) are shown around modern slaughterhouse at Nguru Hills Ranch in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region yesterday. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

China banks further deposit rate cuts to boost growth

BEIJING

CHINA'S biggest state-owned banks are considering lowering deposit rates for at least the third time in a year, according to people familiar with the matter, as they ramp up efforts to boost the economy and protect margins.

Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd., China Construction Bank Corp. and other lenders may cut rates on local currency deposits across key tenors by between 5 and 20 basis points, said the people, asking not to be identified discussing a private matter. Regulators have signed off on the plan, the people added. The cut may come as soon as Friday, one of the people said.

The move, following similar rate reductions in June and last September, would be the latest piecemeal step rolled out by Beijing as authorities try to spur consumer spending, drive more funds into the stock market and alleviate pressure on lenders. China's state-owned banks are attempting to protect their profit margins while at the same time heeding government directives to shore up support to the world's second-largest economy. The People's Bank of China, the nation's central bank, called for the maintenance of "reasonable" interest margins for banks in its most recent monetary policy report.

The central bank this month lowered the rate on its one-year loans by the steepest amount in three years. But even with that interest rate cut – the second this year – Beijing has refrained from unleashing massive stimulus implemented in past downturns. The PBOC didn't immediately respond to a request seeking comment. Representatives of ICBC and CCB declined to comment.

Earlier this month, Chinese banks kept a key interest rate that guides mortgages on hold and made a smaller-than-expected cut to another rate, seen as a move to protect interest margins. Lowering deposit rates may give banks more room to provide better terms on corporate and home loans.

Deposit rate cuts could also encourage households to shift away from bank deposits toward other investments and consumption. Chinese households increased the share of their income that they save during the pandemic, and shifted their financial assets toward bank deposits, hitting the performance of funds that buy stocks and bonds on behalf of households.

The measures come as China's real estate sector is unraveling and risks are spreading to the country's \$60 trillion financial system. China's existing policies have failed to sustain a rebound in the property market as price declines extend across the nation.

Saudi foreign reserves plunge to 2009 low



RIYADH

SAUDI Arabia's foreign reserves dropped by over \$16 billion last month, in the sharpest decline since oil prices turned negative during the depths of the pandemic and the kingdom used its savings to invest in US stocks.

Net foreign assets fell to 1.53 trillion riyals (\$407 billion) after increases in May and June, according to the central bank's monthly report published on Monday. That's taken them to the lowest since late 2009, and came as the kingdom slashed oil production in a bid to prop up prices.

"The net foreign asset position should improve in September, especially when the first performance-linked dividend distribution" arrives from Aramco, said Monica Malik, chief economist at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank PJSC.

The kingdom's effort this year to support crude prices with output curbs has left it with far smaller receipts from oil sales abroad. After earning a windfall of nearly \$326 billion in 2022, Saudi Arabia is at risk of running a budget deficit again following its first surplus in almost a decade.

The country has been shifting its investment strategy over the past few years away from keeping most

of its foreign assets with the central bank as it builds up hundreds of billions of dollars in sovereign funds including the Public Investment Fund and the National Development Fund.

The decline in July was the biggest since the government transferred \$40 billion to its wealth fund from the central bank to invest abroad as the global pandemic wreaked havoc across glob-

al markets. The stockpile is now down nearly 45 percent down since peaking in August 2014.

Earlier this year, the world's largest crude exporter said it would curb oil supply and pump about 9 million barrels a day. The output cut has since been prolonged until the end of September, raising the risk of an economic contraction this year. Officials said last year that the kingdom planned to

hold on to excess oil revenues and won't spend the money until rebuilding reserves depleted during years of subdued oil prices.

Reserves are key to maintaining confidence in the kingdom's dollar peg. The rial's 12-month forward outright rate was little changed on Monday, remaining slightly weaker than the 3.75 peg but suggesting traders see the currency link as solid.

Maruti Suzuki to spend \$5.4bn to double output

MUMBAI

MARUTI Suzuki India Ltd. is planning to invest 450 billion rupees (\$5.4 billion) to double its annual production capacity to 4 million vehicles by 2031.

India's biggest car manufacturer is expecting its revenue will double following the output ramp up. Chairman R.C. Bhargava said at the company's annual general meeting Tuesday. Maruti is building a factory in the northern Indian state of Haryana to produce 1 million cars a year and selecting a second site for another plant, Bhargava said in a report published earlier this month.

Many shareholders voiced concerns about Maruti being a latecomer to the electric car market, as it has no battery-powered models for sale. The company is working to change that, Bhargava said.

While Maruti is "behind in launching EVs, it doesn't damage our ability to acquire adequate market share," he said.

Maruti's first electric car will debut in 2024-25 and it intends to have a lineup of six EV models by 2030-31. The EVs will be manufactured at the Gujarat facility, which Maruti is buying from its Japanese parent, Suzuki Motor Corp. The deal will lead to Suzuki's stake in Maruti increasing to 58.28 percent from the current 56.48 percent.

The carmaker also will focus on bolstering its position in the SUV market to boost earnings, he said. It reported a profit for the quarter ended June 30, in line with the average analyst forecast.

Maruti's board will discuss the shareholders' demand for a stock split, Bhargava said.

West African Resources closes first half strong

PERTH

GOLD miner West African Resources has reported a solid first half of 2023, despite a 12 percent fall in gold sales.

The miner on Tuesday reported revenues of A\$309.6-million for the six months to June, down 4 percent from the previous corresponding period, as gold ounces sold declined from 123 561 oz to 198 173 oz.

Profits after tax decreased by 23 percent, to A\$82.4-million, down from the A\$106.5-million in the first half of 2022, with cost of sales tracking 25 percent higher than the comparative period, reflecting higher cost per ounce of gold production.

"West African Resources delivered a strong result in the first half of 2023 producing 113 009 oz of gold at \$1 169/oz all-in sustaining cost, generating A\$110-million cashflow from operations, while also investing A\$72-million in growth at our 7.7-million-ounce Kiaka gold project.

Production and cost guidance for 2023 is maintained at 210 000 oz to 230 000 oz of gold at an all-in sustaining cost of less than \$1 175/oz," said executive chairperson and CEO Richard Hyde.

"West African's mineral resources and ore reserves were updated in the first half and now stand at 12.6-million ounces and 6.4-million ounces of gold, respectively, following successful exploration drilling and feasibility programmes in 2022.

"West African is on track to become a 400 000 oz/y gold producer with the development of our second gold mine at Kiaka. Our unhedged 10-year production outlook estimates production of more than 200 000 oz of gold per annum in 2023 and 2024, and more than 400 000 oz of gold per annum from 2025 to 2032."



West African Resources delivered a strong result in the first half of 2023 producing 113 009 oz of gold at \$1 169/oz all-in sustaining cost, generating A\$110-million cashflow from operations, while also investing A\$72-million in growth at our 7.7-million-ounce Kiaka gold project



ITV PGM SCHEDULE				
MONDAY 28 August	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 ITV Top Ten 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 AI Jazeera 12:30 Jungu Kuu 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjazi Zaidi 13:40 Art and Lifestyle 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Art and Lifestyle 14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 Music: The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizungwe 18:30 DW: Afimax 19:00 Aya ya Jamii 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Bundesliga na DW 22:15 Mapishi 22:30 Soap: Uzalo 23:00 Habari 23:30 Music: The Base 00:30 AI Jazeera	12:30 Aya ya jamii 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Ripoti maalum 13:40 Shikabamba 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Shikabamba 14:15 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 Music: The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Masha ni Nyumba 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSFF 21:45 Chetu ni chetu 22:30 Soap: Uzalo 23:00 Habari 23:30 Music: The Base 00:30 AI Jazeera	00:30 AI Jazeera THURSDAY 31 August 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Shamba Lulu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Ripoti maalum rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 AI Jazeera 12:30 Jenda la wawazike rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT 13:30 Our Earth 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Shamsam za pwanji rpt 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Ustafiri Wako 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon 20:00 Habari 21:05 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 Habari 23:30 Music: The Base 00:30 AI Jazeera	21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Kipima Joto 00:00 AI Jazeera Tues 29 Aug 06:00 AI JAZERA 09:00 DW 11:00 AI Jazeera 11:30 Monday agenda rpt 12:15 Sports gazette 12:45 Filer doc 13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt 14:00 Business Edition Rpt 14:30 Ingood Shape 15:00 Shamba Lulu 15:30 Bundesliga 16:00 Culinary Delights Rpt 16:30 Capchat rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Out Ramp: About Rpt 19:30 Eco@Africa 20:00 Our Earth Rpt 20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Capchat rpt 23:00 AI Jazeera Frid 01 Sept 06:00 AI Jazeera 09:00 DW 11:00 AI Jazeera 11:30 Capchat 12:30 Decor 13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana 14:00 Culinary rpt 14:30 Ripoti Maalum 15:00 Dk 45 rpt 16:00 DW News Africa rpt 16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Rev 19:00 Out & About Rpt 20:00 Abuu Yako 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition 20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt 00:00 AI Jazeera Sat 02 Sept 06:00 AI Jazeera 09:00 Rev rpt 09:30 Jagina rpt 10:00 Culinary delight rpt 10:30 Innovation rpt 11:00 Out about rpt 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt 12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt 12:30 Our Earth rpt 13:00 Business edition rpt 13:30 AJazeera 14:30 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana 17:15 Eco@Africa 17:45 Bundesliga kick off 18:15 Capchat rpt 19:15 Mizungwe 19:30 The Decor 20:00 Ripoti Maalum 20:30 Tomorrow Today
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WORLD

Global efforts needed to fight climate change, save planet

WHEN Alicia Wang traveled to the northern part of Italy, she never expected to encounter a horrible hail.

"The northern part of Italy has a Mediterranean climate and it seldom rains in summer, let alone hail," she said.

"However, when we arrived there, suddenly, there was strong wind, and then it started to hail and rain. The hail was as big as a plum, which shocked even local people who had never seen things like that happening in the region before."

Wang, having worked in Rome, Italy, for four years, notably observed a rise in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events in the country.

In the southern part of Italy, wildfires are getting more frequent in summer and are beginning to spread to the central parts, she said.

Ma Jun, director of the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs, an environmental group in Beijing, said this year has again witnessed a significant increase in extreme weather events around the world.

From blistering heat waves and severe droughts to devastating hurricanes and rampant wildfires, the impact of climate change is becoming more evident.

Under the influence of global warming, extreme weather events such as heat waves and floods may become Europe's "new normal" in summer and have increasingly affected the European population, economy and nature, the European Environment Agency said in a recent report.

Between 1980 and 2021, weather- and climate-related extremes caused economic losses estimated at \$606 billion in the European Union, while nearly 195,000 fatalities have been caused by floods, storms, heat and cold waves, forest fires, and landslides, the agency said.

More than 600 firefighters, including reinforcements from several European countries and backed by a fleet of water-dropping planes and helicopters, were tackling three major wildfires in Greece on Sunday, two of which had been raging for days.

In the past week, Greece has been continuously troubled by numerous fires as

strong winds and dry summer weather have fueled the flames and made firefighting efforts more difficult.

On Sunday, there were a total of 105 wildfires being fought across the country, with 46 of them starting within a 24-hour period between Saturday evening and Sunday evening, the fire department said.

Italy also experienced its third major heat wave this summer, with 17 of its 27 largest cities on "red alert" for heat.

Europe's soaring temperatures are also hitting the region's highest peak. Mont Blanc, heightening the risk of rockfall and new crevasses opening on its glaciers, rescuers and climbers said on Wednesday.

In the United States, the Maui wildfires in Hawaii on Aug 8 have killed at least 115 and left hundreds of others missing, making them the deadliest in the US in more than a century. The fires also destroyed forests, wildlife habitats, and cultural sites.

Many other regions across the world have also experienced record-breaking temperatures and precipitation patterns, leading to disruptions in agriculture, infrastructure damage, and threats to human health and safety.

Qu Sixiao, senior project manager of the global consultancy Roland Berger, said extreme weather events are caused by the overall climate change, and the core reason for climate change is excessive greenhouse gas emissions from human activities since the industrial era, which surpassed the capacity of the environment.

Rising sea levels

Climate change has two main impacts, he said. On the one hand, it contributes to the rise in global temperatures, which, in turn, leads to increased sea levels, melting of polar ice, and so on.

On the other hand, because of global warming, certain areas are experiencing a significant increase in extreme weather events, including intensifying temperature variations, enhanced precipitation, and a rise in severe storms or hurricanes.

Extreme weather events can have a significant impact on the comfort, efficiency, and safety of individuals in their personal lives and work, Qu said.



A man walks away as a forest burns during wildfires in the village of Sykkorahi, near Alexandroupolis town, in northeastern Greece, on Wednesday. AP

"They also possess strong physical destructive properties, which can result in significant property damage caused by accidents such as floods and landslides. In the longer term and on a larger scale, extreme weather events have the potential to reshape global geopolitical relations, because some countries may be submerged by the rising sea levels."

Monika Tothova, an economist at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, said extreme weather events and changing weather patterns have implications on agricultural production as well as the processing and transportation of food.

Some geographic areas might become more hostile to agricultural production, while weather conditions in others might make them more suitable, she said.

Transportation links might also be affected if, for example, rivers used to transport goods become seasonally too shallow to allow navigation.

"Overall, the keyword remains 'uncertainty': Uncertainty of changing temperatures, rainfall, and weather patterns," she said. "Thus, the food systems' transformation is also aimed at making them more resilient to the effects of climate change. There is much ongoing work in the area to increase the resilience of the agricultural sector by enhancing adaptation and mitigation measures." Precise and comprehensive estimates of damages caused by extreme weather events – for example, recurrent drought in East Africa and floods in Pakistan – are usually not immediately available, Tothova said.

However, they impact not only total production and thus the availability of the food, but also the livelihoods of farmers, with particularly detrimental effects on small-scale farmers who often lack sufficient resilience capacity, she said.

Analysis done by the FAO shows that climate change will have an increasingly adverse impact on many regions of the world. Those in low latitudes are likely to be hit the hardest. This means that countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America will be disproportionately at risk.

"As many of these countries already suffer from poverty, food insecurity, and various forms of malnutrition, the cumulative impact of climate-related shocks as well as shocks caused by other factors, such as geopolitical changes, can

exacerbate the challenges," she said.

Xu Qinhua, a professor of Renmin University of China and honorary professor of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, said climate change is also "a multiplier of threats" that could exacerbate existing national security challenges.

It may increase regional competition for resources and the demand for military actions, posing a threat to national stability and security, she said. Xu anticipated that the global decarbonization pressures would also intensify geopolitical tensions. According to her research, 11 countries, including India and Pakistan, would be financially vulnerable to climate change, leading to increasing risks of unrest and migration, and demand for foreign aid in the future.

Ma with the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs said the threat posed by climate change is indeed urgent, and it is a positive step that more than 190 parties have signed the Paris Agreement with a goal to combat climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees above preindustrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees. Nearly 150 countries and regions worldwide have made commitments to achieving carbon neutrality.

"But meanwhile, the world is facing the impacts of the pandemic, volatility in the energy market, and increasing geopolitical tensions, leading major economies to pay more attention to energy security, food security, and supply chain security. This makes global efforts to address climate change extremely challenging," he said.

Difficult situation

In the past two years, carbon emissions have been increasing rather than decreasing. Therefore, there is currently no reliable pathway to achieve the 1.5-degree target, and the overall situation is very difficult, he said.

There are also disputes among developed countries and developing countries as to what kind of responsibilities they should shoulder in tackling climate change, Ma said.

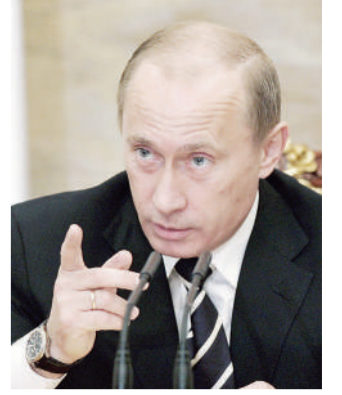
Developing countries, such as those in Africa and small island nations, have very low historical cumulative emissions but are greatly affected by climate change.

Agencies

Putin tells Modi that Lavrov will represent Russia at G20 – Modi's office

NEW DELHI

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin spoke by phone with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said he will not be able to attend the Group of 20 summit in New Delhi from September 9-10, so the Russian delegation will be led by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, the Indian prime minister's office said in a statement.



"President Putin conveyed his inability to attend the G20 Summit in New Delhi on 9-10 September 2023 and informed that Russia would be represented by Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov," the statement said.

While expressing an understanding for Russia's decision, Modi thanked the Russian president for the country's consistent support to all initiatives under India's G20 Presidency.

"The two leaders reviewed progress on number of issues of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual concern, including the recently concluded BRICS Summit in Johannesburg," the statement said.

Putin and Modi agreed to remain in touch, according to the statement.

Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told TASS that, "The format of the participation will be communicated later."

India has held the presidency of the G20 since December 1, 2022.

The summit in New Delhi will be held from September 9-10 in an in-person format. Invitations were sent to all G20 leaders, as well as heads of nine other countries: Bangladesh, Egypt, Spain, Mauritius, Nigeria, the Netherlands, the UAE, Oman and Singapore. Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said that New Delhi was counting on the participation of the leaders from all G20 countries.

ANI

Japanese Ambassador in Kabul calls on Taliban to strengthen internal legitimacy

KABUL

THE Japanese Ambassador in Kabul Takashi Okada has called on the Taliban to strengthen legitimacy within the country to expand international cooperation, TOLO News reported.

TOLO News is an Afghan news channel broadcasting from Kabul.

Okada while speaking at a signing ceremony for "Enhancing Agriculture Production through Community-Led Irrigation between the Embassy of Japan and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)", said: "For the expansion of international cooperation, the Taliban first needs to strengthen... legitimacy within the country by prioritizing people's needs. When it happens, its external relations will be improved."

During the ceremony, a water project worth USD 9.5 million in eastern Kunar province was kicked off. The project was signed between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and Japan.

The Japanese Ambassador said that approximately 12,000 people will benefit from the project.

"With this agreement, the Japanese government will provide approximately USD 9.5 million to FAO for the rehabilitation and expansion of Tetsu Nakamura's legacy project," he said, as per TOLO News.

Richard Trenchard, FAO Representative in Afghanistan, said that the project will begin mid-next year.

"The construction will begin next year. In the middle of next year, involving local Afghan companies and the project will be completed by 2027," he said.

The Japanese ambassador once again reiterated his country's support to the people of Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, Dawn news Pakistan, recently reported that the Afghan Taliban has imposed one more ban, this time on political parties in Afghanistan. The Taliban-appointed interim Minister for Justice of Afghanistan, Shaikh Maulavi Abdul Hakeem Sharaf said there was a complete ban on activities of political parties in Afghanistan, the Dawn reported.

"Political parties' activities have been completely stopped in the country because neither do these parties have any standing in Sharia, any place in Sharia nor are any national interests attached to these parties or the nation liked them," Interim Minister for Justice, Shaikh Maulavi Abdul Hakeem Sharaf said on Wednesday while presenting annual report of his ministry in Kabul, according to a statement issued by the Afghan Taliban's media outlet, according to the Dawn.

ANI

Judge sets March 2024 trial for Trump's federal case

WASHINGTON

DONALD Trump will stand trial in March 2024 for trying to overturn his 2020 presidential election defeat, one day before Republican voters in more than a dozen US states will decide whether to give him a chance to recapture the White House.

US Judge Tanya Chutkan on Monday set a trial date of March 4 for the federal case in Washington, one of four criminal prosecutions the former president faces.

That is one day before "Super Tuesday," a potentially decisive date in the Republican presidential nominating contest, when states from Maine to California will hold their nominating contests. Opinion polls show Trump leading his rivals by a wide margin.

Chutkan's decision means that Trump will likely have to stand trial in at least three separate criminal cases while he is campaigning for the party's nomination to take on Democratic President Joe Biden in the November 2024 election. A trial date in a fourth criminal case has not yet been set.



He is also a defendant in three civil trials scheduled to take place over the coming six months.

Trump's lawyers had pressed for an April 2026 trial date, but Chutkan said they did not need that long to prepare.

"Mr. Trump will have to make the trial date work, regardless of his schedule," Chutkan said.

Trump said he would appeal, but legal experts say scheduling decisions cannot be appealed until a verdict has been reached. Trump's lawyer John Lauro said he would abide by Chutkan's schedule.

Trump is due to stand trial in New York on March 25 on state charges of concealing a hush money payment to a porn star.

Chutkan said she would consult with the judge in that case to work out any potential scheduling conflicts.

A third trial is scheduled for May 20, 2024 on federal charges in Florida, alleging that Trump illegally retained classified records after leaving the White House and tried to obstruct justice.

A trial date for the fourth criminal case in Georgia has not yet been set. Fulton County prosecutor Fani Willis has requested a start of March 4, but Chutkan's decision means that timeline will likely shift.

Trump did not attend Monday's hearing. He has previously lashed out at Chutkan, saying, without evidence, that she is biased against him. Chutkan has warned that Trump should stop posting inflammatory statements online about witnesses or others involved in the case.

Trump has portrayed all four criminal prosecutions as politically motivated attempts to stop him from returning to power.

He has pleaded not guilty in three of those cases, and is due in Georgia on Sept

6 to enter a plea in that case, according to a court filing on Monday. That case also stemming from his efforts to overturn his 2020 defeat.

One of his 18 co-defendants in Georgia, his former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, is pressing to move his trial to federal court, where he might face a more sympathetic jury.

In Washington, Trump's attorneys said they need time to sort through the government's evidence, which totals about 12.8 million pages.

"This man's liberty and life is at stake and he deserves an adequate representation," Lauro said.

Prosecutors say much of the evidence consists of public materials, such as Trump's statements and congressional records. They said on Monday that they have handed most of it over.

Chutkan said Trump's legal team should have already gotten a good start. "Mr. Trump's counsel has known this was coming for some time," she said.

Agencies

HISTORIC moment in BRICS cooperation was witnessed in Johannesburg, South Africa.

At a press conference during the 15th BRICS Summit, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Argentina, Iran and Ethiopia are formally invited to join the BRICS family. The six countries' membership will take effect on Jan. 1, 2024.

This historic expansion reflects the resolution of the BRICS countries to unite and cooperate with other developing nations, marking a new starting point for BRICS cooperation.

Expanding from 5 to 11 members, the BRICS cooperation mechanism has bolstered its

BRICS expansion marks new starting point for cooperation

global influence. With 3 more Asian members, 2 more African members, and 1 more member in Latin America, the mechanism has increased its global representation.

After expansion, the proportion of the combined population of BRICS countries to the world's total will increase from 42 percent to 47 percent, its economic aggregate from 26 percent to 29 percent, and its total trade in goods from 18 percent to 21 percent. The expanded BRICS carries greater significance.

This historic expansion meets

the expectations of the international community and serves the common interests of emerging markets and developing countries.

Right now, changes in the world, in the times and in history are unfolding in ways like never before, bringing human society to a critical juncture.

The rising unilateralism, protectionism, the Cold War mentality, zero-sum game mindset, hegemonism and power politics are threatening world peace and stability. The international community needs positive forces upholding open cooperation,

safeguarding peace and stability, promoting development and prosperity, and strengthening mutual learning and exchanges.

Many emerging markets and developing countries have come to what they are today after shaking off the yoke of colonialism, and have a stronger desire to safeguard peaceful development and pursue fairness and justice.

Emerging markets and developing countries have contributed as high as 80 percent of global growth in the past 20 years, and their share in the global GDP has increased from 24 per-

cent 40 years ago to more than 40 percent. They have greater capabilities to safeguard peaceful development and pursue fairness and justice.

BRICS expansion conforms to the trend of the collective rise of emerging markets and developing countries, and will further strengthen the forces for world peace and development.

This historic expansion fully demonstrates BRICS countries' appeal, injecting fresh vitality into the BRICS cooperation mechanism.

Over the past 17 years, the giant ship of BRICS has sailed for-

ward tenaciously against raging torrents and storms. Riding the wind and cleaving the waves, it has embarked on a righteous course of mutual support and win-win cooperation.

Upholding the spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, BRICS countries have expanded cooperation in various spheres, making important contributions to world peace and development and gaining wide recognition and support from the international community. Ahead of the summit this year, over 40 countries had expressed their interest in

joining the BRICS mechanism, over 20 of which had formally submitted applications. It fully demonstrated the enthusiasm and desire of emerging markets and developing countries for unity and self-improvement.

With more members across a broader geography, the expanded BRICS family has greater space for cooperation, injecting strong positive energy into the BRICS cooperation at this critical historical juncture.

This historic expansion will further pool BRICS strength and increase the Global South members' representation and voice in global governance.

People's Daily

India-Kenya collaboration in trade, economy, education has grown - Rajnath Singh

NEW DELHI

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh yesterday said collaboration between India and Kenya in sectors like trade, economy, education, health and people-to-people contact has grown from strength to strength.

The Defence Minister's remarks came during a bilateral meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Kenya's Ministry of Defence Aden Bare Duale.

"Our collaborations in trade, economy, education, health and people-to-people contacts have grown from strength to strength. I am happy to note that both our countries worked closely in the UN Security Council in 2021-22 as non-permanent members. We thank

Kenya for their support to the Indian candidature for their 2028-29 term also," Singh said. The Defence Minister said India has prioritized engagement with African nations. "Our Prime Minister has written to all G20 member countries to include the African Union in G20 membership in the upcoming Leaders' Summit under India's presidency...."

Singh said India has also extended its support for Kenya's secretary-generalship of IMO (International Maritime Organisation) in July 2023.

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Defence meanwhile congratulated India for the soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 near the lunar south pole. "I am happy that India has become



the fourth country globally to join the nations that have achieved that milestone. Congratulations!" he said.

He further said: "I want to applaud the cordial relations between India and Kenya which dates back to pre-independence and I also want to recognise the huge Indian-Kenyan population that lives in our country. When PM Modi visited our country in 2017, it was a historic visit..." Earlier today Duale laid a wreath at the National War Memorial in the national capital. He also received a Guard of Honour in Delhi.

The Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Defence had arrived in New Delhi on a three-day visit to India.

During his stay in India, the visiting dignitary is expected to visit Indian shipyards and defence industries in Goa and Bengaluru, according to the statement released by the Ministry of Defence.

This is the maiden visit of Cabinet Secretary Duale to India and the highest-level stand-alone political visit from Kenya since the new government assumed office in September 2022.

"The visit is indicative of the importance India attaches to its relations with African nations and the growing cooperation between India and Kenya, in particular. It is expected to open new avenues for further strengthening defence cooperation between the two countries," the statement read.

India and Kenya are maritime neighbours with robust and multi-faceted partnerships, marked by regular high-level visits, increasing trade and investment and extensive people-to-people contacts. **ANI**

Mozambican president calls for more investment in natural resource industries

MAPUTO

PRESIDENT of Mozambique Filipe Nyusi has encouraged foreign investors to plow money into the country's natural resource industries.



President Nyusi (pictured) made the remarks in his address Monday at the inauguration of the 58th Maputo International Fair, the country's most prominent trade exhibition that will end Sunday in Ricatla, Maputo province.

"Unleashing the full potential of our natural wealth stands as a linchpin in our economic resurgence," Nyusi said.

He emphasized the pivotal role of industrialization and economic diversification in extracting value from the nation's abundant natural resources. Nyusi also encouraged domestic entrepreneurs to capitalize on opportunities for exporting raw materials, including coal, graphite, metals and precious stones.

"To mitigate the adverse effects of elevated interest rates and inflation domestically and globally, we must implement effective macroeconomic measures to safeguard our economic stability."

"While acknowledging our substantial achievements to date, we are cognizant of the need to redouble our efforts to enhance Mozambique's economic competitiveness," he added.

The fair, themed "Industrialization, Innovation, and Economic Diversification of the National Economy," has 2,500 exhibitors, comprising 2,050 domestic participants and 400 international delegates representing 24 countries. **Agencies**

TOKYO

TOKYO needs to explain why it deliberately emphasizes the treatment of tritium while remaining evasive about other radioactive nuclides in relation to the discharge of contaminated wastewater from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the sea, China's Ambassador to Japan Wu Jiahao said on Monday.

"Japan claims that these nuclides met national safety standards after treatment, but it is widely known that the Fukushima water contains over 60 types of radioactive nuclides. Many of these nuclides lack effective treatment methods," Wu said during a meeting with Japanese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Masataka Okano, while reiterating China's firm opposition to the release of nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean.

Although the contaminated water stored in tanks underwent purification through the so-called Advanced Liquid Processing System, or ALPS, a representative of Tokyo Electric Power Company, the operator of the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant, has said that 66 percent of the water has not seen effective removal of radioactive substances other than tritium and has exceeded the discharge standards, Japanese commercial TV network TBS reported on Aug 26.

Despite strong domestic and inter-

Stop being evasive on nuke water, Japan told

national doubts and opposition, Japan proceeded with the ocean discharge plan.

This decision poses significant risks and unpredictable hazards to global marine environments and human health, and has caused outrage in the international community. Japan must face the reality, reflect on its actions and immediately halt the discharge, the Chinese ambassador said.

Wu stressed that China's expression of grave concerns and opposition, based on scientific and factual evidence, is entirely reasonable and justifiable.

Speaking of Japan's current monitoring plan, Wu said it is "neither comprehensive nor systematic", as it fails to monitor all discharged nuclides. Moreover, the monitoring method does not cover a wide range of marine species, and thus cannot fulfill the requirements for long-term assessment of marine ecological impacts.

"Relying solely on Japan's released monitoring methods and data lacks scientific basis and is not convincing. Most of the data currently released by Japan are sampled, tested and reported by Tokyo Electric Power Company. Considering TEPCO's history of data manipulation, concealment and falsification, the international community



has valid reasons to doubt the authenticity and credibility of its data," Wu said.

"If Japan is truly confident in the safety, it should actively support the establishment of a long-term international monitoring arrangement that involves full and effective participation from all relevant parties, including independent third-party monitoring conducted by other countries," he said.

Instead, Japan has placed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at the forefront as a shield, claiming that other countries can only participate in monitoring under the framework of IAEA's leadership and after approval by the agency. However, currently, the IAEA monitoring framework does not involve the participation of other countries or international organizations on-site, and lacks transparency, he said.

Takashi Takano, a 72-year-old fisherman in Fukushima Prefecture, told TBS that as the Japanese government and TEPCO continue down the path of releasing nuclear-contaminated water into the sea, his feeling of distrust in them is growing.

"From the beginning, they were set on ocean discharge, progressing without listening to our opinions, leaving us feeling powerless," Takano said.

During the meeting with Okano, Ambassador Wu also strongly protested against disruptions faced by the Chinese embassy and consulates in Japan, stating that the embassy has received a large number of harassing phone calls from within Japan, seriously interfering with the normal operations of the embassy.

China urges Japan to handle this issue in accordance with the law and

effectively ensure the safety of the Chinese embassy and consulates, Chinese institutions, companies, citizens and tourists in Japan.

The vast majority of countries and people, including many citizens within Japan itself, hold critical and opposing views on the ocean disposal approach, and Japan should not turn a blind eye to this reality, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a news conference in Beijing on Aug 29.

"It is particularly important to emphasize that the issue of releasing nuclear-contaminated water into the sea concerns marine environments and human health. It is not solely Japan's affair, and it cannot be treated as a matter that can proceed unhindered simply because a few countries may have given political consent," Wang said.

"Japan's actions further reveal its prioritization of power over international norms and its disregard for the interests of the international community in favor of its own interests," he said.

It is noted that while the United States administration has not openly expressed disapproval of Japan's discharge, Washington has sharply reduced its import of Japanese aquatic and agricultural products so far this year. **Xinhua**

Breathing new life into Beijing Central Axis with digital tools

IN Beijing, there is a north-south axis known as the Beijing Central Axis, or Zhong-zhouxian, running through the city.

First created in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), the 7.8-kilometer central axis serves the function of a "book spine", forming a unique Beijing city pattern of bilateral symmetry and solemnity.

It stretches from the Yongding Gate in the south of the city and the Drum Tower and Bell Tower in the north, crossing the Wanning Bridge, the Jingshan Mountain, the Palace Museum, the Duanmen Gate, Tian'anmen Square and its adjacent areas, the Zhengyang Gate, and the street remains of the southern section of the central axis.

The Imperial Ancestral Temple, the Altar of Land and Grain, the Temple of Heaven, and the Temple of Agriculture sit symmetrically in the west and east wings of the central axis.

As the best preserved core area of the old city of Beijing, it contains the essence of ancient architecture of Beijing, and carries on the memorable moments of the Chinese civilization.

It connects many historical sites, including 3 World Heritage Sites and 11 major historical and cultural sites protected at the national level, which embody the great creativity and outstanding talent of the Chinese nation in urban planning and construction.

Today, with the rapid development of science and technology, the ancient central axis is better protected and inherited, blossoming with dazzling brilliance.

As night fell, in front of the Yongding Gate, a vehicle equipped with a laser mod-



People visit the Temple of Heaven in Beijing. (People's Daily Online/Liu Xianguo)

eling system slowly drove by, meticulously measuring and recording details about the Beijing Central Axis roadway and neighboring structures.

At daybreak, surveying and mapping engineers had already positioned equipment before a hall of the Temple of Agriculture, collecting statistics and portraying each facet.

The greatest feature of the Beijing Central Axis is that it has an undulating layout and maintains mirror symmetry on its east and west sides, said Tao Yingchun, director of the big data center of the Beijing Institute of Surveying and Mapping, adding that it is impossible for a visitor to get an overview of the entire central axis at any one heritage site.

However, digital products can break through the limitations of time and space, allowing people to appreciate the unique charm of the central axis, Tao noted.

In 2020, the Beijing Institute of Surveying and Mapping established a technical team of nearly 200 members to carry out ultra-fine surveying and 3D modeling for heritage elements along the central axis. For the first time, the central axis was digitally duplicated with digital twin technology.

The team has collected over 1TB of data, including information about the main roads within the heritage area, Tian'anmen Square and its adjacent areas, the Yongding Gate, the Drum Tower and Bell Tower, and the Temple of Agriculture.

So far, the first phase of the digital twin

project has been completed. The final digital twin of the central axis will provide a complete spatial database for monitoring, managing, protecting and utilizing the central axis heritage.

"From paper maps to digital maps and real-scene 3D products, our surveying and mapping of the central axis is becoming more and more refined. Overlaying historical and present images through modern technologies, we can see that the central axis has been 'growing' all along," said Tao.

As the sunshade curtains lowered and the lights dimmed, the first-floor central archway of the Drum Tower was turned into an "immersive theater," where visitors could experience the changes of the central axis through shifts in light and shadow.

This was a digital light show that utilized projection distortion correction technology and spatial sound zoning to combine music, drum beats, and images with the majestic architectural space, fully demonstrating the architectural beauty of the Drum Tower and presenting cultural relics and historical sites in a brand new way.

"The history of Drum Tower and Bell Tower is an epitome of Beijing's urban history. It carries warm and intimate memories for urban residents," said He Yan, leader of an exhibition team for the Beijing Central Axis. The team collected over 300 old photos of the Drum Tower and Bell Tower from different periods of time, along with various sounds

related to the central axis, to evoke citizens' cherished memories of old Beijing.

The archway of the Drum Tower once served as a gift shop. After vacating and renovating work, the time-reporting facility of the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties (1271-1911) restored its original appearance.

Along the central axis, a series of historic buildings have been repaired and renovated, adding to the dignified and majestic old-city style of the city.

The Zhengyang Gate is an important heritage site along the central axis. During the restoration process of the gate's Arrow Tower, great efforts were made to retain as much historic authenticity as possible. The restoration kept the same materials, forms, artisanal techniques, and methods that were originally used, in every detail.

"We for the first time applied intelligent construction technologies in ancient building renovation," said Li Wanbo, head of the ancient construction division of Beijing Construction Engineering Group No.6 Construction Engineering Co., Ltd.

Using architectural information modeling, 3D scanning, panoramic imaging and other technologies, engineers can make more science-based renovation plans, Li said.

"For example, if a part of a building's wall is bulged, it is very difficult to determine the cause by the naked eye. A 'CT scan' allows us to clearly see the 'health status' of the cultural relics, and precisely implement 'minimally invasive surgery' on the damaged part, achieving minimum intervention for the ancient building renovation," Li explained. **People's Daily**

Russian diplomat highlights Lavrov's role in admitting Ethiopia to BRICS

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov played a colossal diplomatic role on the issue of Ethiopia's accession to BRICS, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Monday.

"Yes, I can confirm this. This is true indeed. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov played a colossal diplomatic role on the matter of Ethiopia's full-fledged membership in BRICS," she said in an interview with an evening program on the Rossiya-1 television channel.

The 15th BRICS summit was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from August 22 to 24, 2023 and was chaired by South Africa. With the leaders of 54 African nations invited, this was the biggest meeting of the heads of state and government of the Global South in recent years.

Participants in the summit agreed that Ar-



gentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates will join the association from January 1, 2024. A new list of possible members will be compiled by the next BRICS summit. **Agencies**

World Bank praises Zimbabwe's climate proofed conservation agriculture

HARARE

THE World Bank on Monday hailed Zimbabwe's climate-proofed conservation agriculture as a game changer in the country's efforts to boost and consolidate food security.

The Zimbabwean government is promoting climate-proofed conservation agriculture, commonly known in the local Shona language as Pfumvudza, which has significantly boosted yields and ensured surplus maize production and food security over the last two years.

Speaking at a meeting on climate-smart agriculture innovations and technologies in the Zimbabwean capital of Harare, Fadzai Mukonoweshuro, World Bank acting country manager for Zimbabwe, said the need for Zimbabwe to adopt climate-smart agriculture technologies is urgent due to its high vulnerability to climate change. According to Mukonoweshuro, previous Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessments highlight Zimbabwe as a climate change hot spot alongside other southern African countries. **Xinhua**

The Zimbabwean government's commitment to an enhanced agricultural knowledge innovation system to drive adaptation and mitigation measures in the sector is seen through its Pfumvudza program built on conservation agriculture principles," Mukonoweshuro said.

On its part, the World Bank is financing a digital climate information platform in Zimbabwe that delivers real-time, high-resolution agricultural weather information and crop-specific agronomic messages to farmers, as part of efforts to assist small-holder farmers to adapt to climate change.

The acting country manager said the World Bank is working on extending the reach of the platform to small-holder farmers under the Pfumvudza initiative, noting that early anticipatory and preventative measures save more costs in the future.

"Urgent action is required to finance adaptation and ensure food security and resilience."

Financing adaptation is more cost-effective than financing food emergency and crisis response," she said.

SPORT



Zanzibar's President and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Hussein Ali Mwinyi (C), presents a certificate of appreciation to Absa Bank Tanzania's CEO, Obedi Laiser, in recognition of the bank's sponsorship for the Amref Wogging Marathon held in Zanzibar last weekend. The event aimed to raise funds to support the availability of medical equipment for safe delivery, and maternal and child health in the Isles. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Absa Bank backs race for supporting health sector in Zanzibar

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S President and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Hussein Ali Mwinyi, has commended Absa Bank Tanzania for sponsoring a walkathon aimed at contributing medical supplies for safe maternal and child health in the Isles.

The event, known as the '2023 Wogging Marathon', was organized by Amref Health Africa in Tanzania in collaboration with Zanzibar's government under Absa Bank Tanzania's sponsorship.

Mwinyi expressed his recognition and appreciation for the significant support provided by Absa Bank Tanzania and the organizers of the marathon.

"On behalf of the government, I extend gratitude to Absa Bank Tanzania and urge them to continue collaborating with us to ensure the success of our goals in reducing maternal and

child deaths related to childbirth," President Mwinyi revealed.

"I am pleased to hear that this campaign spans three years and started last year to raise 1bn/-. The information I have indicates that total commitments of 792m/- have been made so far, with 557mn/- already collected," the President added.

Mwinyi participated in the marathon consisting of 5km and 10km events, accompanied by his wife Mama Mariam Mwinyi, as well as political and government leaders, public and private institutions, Isles' citizens, and other visitors.

The President stated that the safe maternity campaign supports the government's efforts to reduce and prevent maternal and infant deaths, as statistics still show a high prevalence of such deaths.

"Statistics reveal that there are 134 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births annually and 28 deaths of newborns per 1,000 live births, according to the 2017 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) data," President Mwinyi noted.

The President pointed out these rates are caused by various challenges including shortage of medical supplies, a lack of healthcare providers, and inadequate medication.

Absa Bank Tanzania's Managing Director, Obedi Laiser, remarked that this campaign aligns with the institution's core purpose of 'empowering Africa's tomorrow, together story at a time' fostering a collective effort to ensure a healthy community and a brighter future for all.

Laiser stated: "We recognize the significant efforts made by the Zanzibar government, through the Ministry of Health, and organizations like Amref in bringing about positive change in society, particularly concerning the maternal health and child babies, as the health of a child is the foundation of today's and tomorrow's nation."

"We will continue to collaborate with the Zanzibar government in its development endeavours. We have ambitious business goals in Zanzibar to expand our banking services, and we will also continue to work with Amref in these lifesaving efforts for mothers and children, even though this is our first time," Laiser added.

The Wogging Marathon is an annual event organized by Amref Health Africa in Tanzania in partnership with the government, with support from various institutions, citizens, and stakeholders.

It aims to address challenges contributing to maternal and infant mortality in the country.

Dar athlete falters in World Athletics Championships

By Guardian Correspondent

ARUSHA is set to play host to the SQF Marathon slated for September 3 at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium.

The Arusha Regional Athletics Association (ARAA) secretary-general Rogath John said the showdown will involve various races, from 2km to a half marathon.

He said the money raised from the race will be channelled to helping children born with cleft palate.

John said the showdown's preparations are

going well, adding that various runners have confirmed to participate.

The official requested the region's residents to show up in large numbers in the race.

In another development, John asked the government to consider athletes who are preparing for high-profile races so that they can represent the country well.

The ARAA official pointed out: "I am asking the government to consider the athletes that are preparing for international races by keeping them in the camp for a long time, such a move will help them train more."



SPORTS

Absence of fans, coach, or CEO: Tyre tube syndrome at Azam FC

By Correspondent John Kimbute

PUNDITS and fans reacted at times in desperation at how Azam FC was bundled out of the continental second-tier tournament, by a side which, in value terms, ought to have been an easy pick.

At match level, they lost 2-1 in an away match and then won 2-1, forcing penalty shootouts, which pundits say they did not seem to have been well prepared for that scenario either.

Assuming that the club did whatever it could to prepare at least for the second tie, what was amiss?

That is where plenty of expertise was being put to the table, especially on account of the side failing to display its value on the pitch, at least in terms of obtaining desired results.

A few key observations merit being raised and evaluated, if as an accessory to expert evaluation, the first point being the impression that the side plays well for say 15 minutes, gets a goal, and then slides off the game.

It would imply that the problem is neither match fitness nor playing formula but mental readiness.

There were some technical observations on how the midfield failed upfront attack in compelling those up front to constantly come back to seek the ball, but then it is also reducible to the punctured tube syndrome.

It is premature satisfaction with the game at an early stage, which suggests that the players are not professional enough, an invalid conclusion.

It has to do with an atmosphere of play, what they commonly sense is expected of them, between themselves as players and between the players and the coach, and ipso facto, between the coach and the management.

Pundits explain the puncturing of play motivation at a fairly early stage of the game to the absence of fans, in that with the city rivals there is constant pressure on fans that is felt by players at every step.

The wisdom here is that fans are likely to be more useful than instructions of the coach, and additionally, where the fans are demanding enough the players will do the necessary.

Aside from mentioning the difference between Azam FC and the two archrivals, little else was discussed.

When a formulation based on wisdom (which academics can say is the same as intuition, an ingrained impression one formulates in mind and is utterly convinced is true or valid), the solution is



Tanzania's Azam FC forward, Abdulhamis Suleiman (L), dribbles past Ethiopia's Bahir Dar Kenema left-back, Firal Mengistu, as they took on each other in the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup First Preliminary Round rematch held at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Bahir Dar Kenema defeated Azam FC 4-3 in post-match spot kicks. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

not to analyze that proposition or formulation.

It is a matter of testing it with other examples, and then it may stand its ground or at least reveal its limitations. Scores of clubs have fans and still fail to deliver.

The absence not of fans as such but of ardent and uncompromising supporters of a competing side is said to rob players of a parameter of dread, of negative reactions if a player performs below standard.

That suggestion would thus rule out chances of improper behaviour among players of either Young Africans SC (Yanga) or Simba SC so that they perform at their best throughout the season and in each match.

That similarly runs counter to observations, that players are often carried away by the stipends or emoluments they get, failing to sufficiently work to realize what the club expects.

There is, for instance, a habit at Azam FC where players, outside their salaries, are treated to homely gifts like cartons of flour and water, which some pundits were on the verge of putting into question.

But someone, seemingly a young fellow who can be one-on-one with the players, narrated having been at the residence of a player and a mini-van (Kirikou) parking outside, specifically to deliver such goods.

That can be said to be a point of error, generosity breeds laxity, and dread uplifts sharpness.

That kind of auxiliary treatment would be valid if it was an amateur side like it was the case for the city rivals in the past, receiving post-match allowances to make ends meet.

Auxiliary treatment would at that level raise morale, as it would operate within a matrix of substantial need, not with salaried professionals compelling someone to leave a club where he earned 4m/- per month.

Even at that level auxiliary treatment would be out of place, let alone at a 15m/- pay rate.

Whether these are mistakes arising from the CEO or it is club philosophy it is a different matter, but it explains

a situation where Azam FC may need to replace the coach at the start of the season, after hiring him - at the end of the season.

It has happened even with the city sides, when a Yanga coach audibly intimated that the side had no realistic chance for the derby, and was instantly replaced.

If top club officials are cozy with the players, how can the coach push them to work?

It would thus seem the problem starts with the CEO and the family environment in which the club is immersed, such that they need to separate their ritual alms-giving at festivals, etc. from the business of running Azam FC. Only when players depend on the coach being satisfied with their work to either receive their salaries or renew their registration can the coach be blamed for player laxity.

It appears the coaches are equally hamstrung by family-players confetti and pontificate on formations, period.

Kaze acknowledges hunger in Namungo FC players

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

NAMUNGO FC head coach Cedric Kaze has raised optimism around his squad despite failing to win in the outfit's two ties in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League.

The Lindi-based squad, also known as 'Southern Killers', lost 1-0 to promoted JKT Tanzania in the first tie at Majaliwa Stadium and later drew 1-1 with Kinondoni Municipal Council FC at the same venue.

Namungo FC will likely have friendly games to keep the squad's players fit as it will not have a Premier League fixture following the postponement of the match against Yanga- which had been scheduled for September 16- due to the latter's participation in 2023/24 CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round.

The side will again return to Lindi to come up against newly-promoted club, Kigoma's Mashujaa FC, at Majaliwa Stadium on September 30.

Kaze said despite failing to win in the first two fixtures, Namungo FC has shown a good level of football that makes it easy for the side to garner victory in upcoming fixtures.

The tactician pointed out that there is a lot of competition in the league, which makes them constantly desire to improve themselves.

The Burundian pointed out: "Being better is a process that takes time but we are optimistic from our last two games. We didn't win but we are almost there as our football has not been badly displayed, we need to be determined and show hunger."

The coach revealed: "It is something that we need in the way the situation is, there are changes every day because we are working on mistakes."

"I acknowledge the hunger in my players. In the first game, there were good things we did and bad displays that we failed to encounter. All of that is important for us to take and work to be strong in the coming matches," the gaffer noted.

Kaze added: "When the league resumes (with our team playing) against Mashujaa FC we will have to be fit and ready to get our first good results."

Tanzania's football fans are eager to witness what Kaze will bring to his outfit, having spent the major part of his coaching career in the country at Yanga as head coach and, thereafter, as an assistant to Nasreddine Nabi.

The Burundian will be remembered for bringing the first trophy at Yanga, as the squad clinched the Mapinduzi Cup tournament title after four years of trophy drought at the Jangwani Street outfit.



Namungo FC's head coach, Cedric Kaze.

JKT Queens ready for CBE Women's FC in CAF WCL CECAFA Zonal Qualifiers final

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE 2023 CAF Women's Champions League CECAFA Zonal Qualifiers winners will be known later in the afternoon as Tanzania's JKT Queens FC comes up against Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) Women's FC in the final at FIFA Technical Centre in Njeru, Uganda.

To reach the final, JKT Queens FC brushed aside Burundi's Buja Queens 3-1 in the first semi-final, while CBE Women's FC defeated the 2021 CECAFA Zonal Qualifiers' winners, Kenya's Vihiga Queens, 2-1 on Sunday.

Going into the final, JKT Queens, participating in the tournament for the first time, have maintained a 100% winning run after overcoming AS Kigali Women's FC (Rwanda), New Generation FC (Zanzibar), and Vihiga Queens in the Group Stage and now Buja Queens at the knockout stage.

CBE Women's FC, which reached the 2021 CECAFA Zonal Qualifiers' final and lost to Vihiga Queens, registered three wins against Yei Joint Stars, FAD FC, and Buja Queens and drew 1-1 with Kampala Queens FC in the Group Stage.

The Ethiopians battled from a goal down to stop Vihiga Queens in the knockout stage of this season's showdown. They are also the highest-scoring team with 17 goals and have conceded three.

JKT Queens' coach Esther Fredy Chaburuma was adamant although they have won all four matches in the round-robin phase of the qualifiers, the final is a different stage.

"We are happy to reach the final, but we know facing the Ethiopian team will not be an easy task," Esther revealed.

"We need to prepare well because I trust my players if we play according to plan," JKT Queens' coach, who is also an assistant coach of the senior national women's team, disclosed.

Birhanu Gizaw Heye, CBE Women's FC coach, revealed he is excited to have witnessed the club making it to the second final of the same competition.

The gaffer noted: "It has not been easy getting to the final because all teams in the competition have improved."

He said: "We are though a more experienced side than JKT Queens at this level, and we must show that in the final."

"We shall not take them for granted, but we know what to expect and what to do about it," he added.

The champion, to be decided on August 30, will represent the CECAFA Zone at the CAF Women's Champions League slated to take place later this year in Cote d'Ivoire.

Mancini eyes Asian Cup as he seals lucrative Saudi move

RIYADH

ROBERTO Mancini said he hoped to lead Saudi Arabia to Asian Cup victory within months as he signed a multi-million dollar deal on Monday, just a fortnight after quitting as Italy coach.

The former Inter Milan and Manchester City boss held up a green shirt that read "Mancini 2027" after inking a contract to stay with the Green Falcons beyond the next World Cup.

Mancini (pictured), who has insisted that the oil-rich monarchy had "nothing to do" with his shock Italy exit, was reportedly offered more than \$25 million to join the big-spending Saudis.

"I'm not a magician," said the Italian, when asked what he could promise the Saudi people -- before pledging to go for Asian Cup glory in January-February in Qatar.

"Our target is to try to win the Asian Cup after 27 years," he said.

"We have four months. We have four friendly matches. We have two games for the World Cup (qualifiers) and after we have 20 days to prepare for the Asian Cup.

"We know that there are many top teams like Japan, like Australia, like (South) Korea. But I'm sure that we'll go there and we'll try to win."

Mancini, 58, is the latest high-profile acquisition for the world's top oil exporter which has snapped up some of football's biggest players in a spree costing hundreds of millions of dollars.

He arrived in Riyadh just days after Brazilian superstar Neymar was presented to fans in the capi-

tal, joining Cristiano Ronaldo, Karim Benzema and a host of others in the Saudi Pro League.

Building a credible national team is seen as a major plank of the Saudi football transformation, which is part of ambitious plans to reshape the oil-reliant economy and burnish the ultra-conservative country's image.

The Saudis lie 54th in the world rankings, way below some of their Asian Football Confederation peers. The Saudi women's team, which played its first games only last year, is 172nd out of 186 teams.

The Green Falcons, who upset eventual winners Argentina in the group stage at last year's World Cup, have been without a coach since March, when Herve Renard left to take charge of France's women's team.

Trophy-laden career -

Mancini's resignation from the Italy job came as a major shock, as earlier this month he had been handed responsibility for the country's Under-21 and Under-20 teams.

Mancini, who was replaced by former Napoli coach Luciano Spalletti, had a mixed time in his five years with Italy, despite victory at Euro 2020 which seemed to revitalise a troubled football nation.

But the Azzurri then failed to qualify for last year's World Cup following a disastrous play-off defeat to North Macedonia, the second straight time they missed the world's biggest football tournament.

Mancini won the 1991 Serie A title and four Italian Cups with long-time club Sampdoria, where he starred in attack alongside the recently deceased Gianluca Vialli.

Once becoming a coach he won three more "Scudetti" at Inter Milan -- one assigned to the club in the aftermath of the "Calciopoli" match-fixing scandal -- and then lifted the Premier League trophy with Emirati-owned Manchester City in 2012.

His first match will be a friendly against Costa Rica on September 8 at St James' Park, home of Newcastle United who, like the four top-spending Saudi clubs, are also owned by Saudi sovereign wealth vehicle the Public Investment Fund.

Saudi Arabia will also play a friendly against South Korea will be held in Newcastle on September 12.

TBS netball team defeats ARU in Standards Sports Bonanza opener

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) netball team has launched the 2023 Standards Sports Bonanza impressively, cruising to a 21-17 win over the Ardhi University (ARU) squad in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday.

The one-week bonanza, which brings together six football squads and as many netball teams, will see them take on each other throughout the week and winners will receive various prizes.

Speaking at the bonanza's launch, TBS's Sports Secretary, Nyabuchweza Magongo, said the showdown will be held so that they can get many participants.

She said they have also launched the TBS netball court which has been built by the institution's management for its women's team to practice.

Nyabuchweza said that the facility is modern and has met all national and international criteria, adding teams from other organizations participating in the bonanza have appreciated the court.

She pointed out: "We are, most of the time, at work, so we have seen that when we get such a time like this to socialize and have fun



Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) netball squad's players and their Ardhi University (ARU) team's counterparts take on each other during the launch of the sports week, known as 'Standards Sports Bonanza', which got underway at TBS offices' court in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. TBS squad defeated the ARU squad 21-17. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MWENDAPOLE

through participation in various sports, it improves us physically and mentally."

"I am very grateful to the management for giving us this opportunity," she revealed.

She said the bonanza will involve many disciplines including football, netball, volleyball, playing cards, pool table, and many more.

One of TBS netballers, Johari Hamza, thanked the institution's management for deciding to set aside this week for the bonanza because despite improving their health, it will boost the spirit and solidarity among them.

She said sports have to a large extent been helping to strengthen the health of employees and increase

love and cooperation among them.

"We ask for a bonanza akin to this to be held every year because it has brought all employees together and they are happy to meet in one place for the game," she said.

She asked Tanzanians to build a culture of participating in various sports as part of building solidarity and strengthening their bodies because sports are healthy.

Spain's soccer chief kissed a World Cup winner. What he's done since might be worse

By Mary McNamara

MANY people believe that, to paraphrase computer science pioneer Rear Adm. Grace Hopper, it is better to ask forgiveness than permission. She was addressing the need to push back against rules that can impede progress, but over the years it has become a general mantra of maverick culture.

Even so, there is the expectation that you will do at least one of those two things. A key point Luis Rubiales, the president of Spain's football federation, seems to have missed.

After his country's women's soccer team won its first World Cup ever, Rubiales took the opportunity provided by the celebratory air of the medal ceremony to publicly plant a kiss on the lips of star midfielder Jenni Hermoso.

It was an outrageous image that has upended Spanish soccer and dominated international conversation. Rubiales has claimed it was consensual -- that when Hermoso grabbed him in an enthusiastic hug he asked if he could have "a little kiss" and she agreed. (It was not, by anyone's definition a "little" kiss; photographs show Rubiales' hands on either side of her head as he pressed his mouth against hers.)

Hermoso's immediate reaction was shock and the admission that she "didn't like it."

Rubiales initially dismissed those upset as "idiots." Then, perhaps realizing the anger would not vanish in a single news cycle, he addressed his actions. "I made a mistake, for sure," Rubiales said in a video released to the media last week. "I have to accept it. In a moment of such emotion, without any bad intention or bad faith, what happened happened, in a very spontaneous way. [There was] no bad faith from either side."

As is so often the case, his tepid "I'm sorry you feel this way" acknowledgment of a "mistake" only made the situation worse. To some, Rubiales' behavior was perfectly in keeping with what they considered his long-standing problematic relationship with the women's team. And while she had initially downplayed the kiss as "mutual," Hermoso subsequently claimed she was pressured by Spain's soccer federation to do so and that, in fact, she had neither been asked for nor granted consent for the kiss.

"I felt vulnerable and the victim of an impulse-driven, sexist, out-of-place act without any consent on my part," Hermoso said in a statement Friday.

Now, that is the moment in which a reasonable person would double-down on his apology, acknowledge that conversations with team members have led him to examine his behavior in a different light and vow to



Luis Rubiales, president of the Spanish soccer federation, speaks during an emergency meeting of the group's general assembly in Las Rozas on Friday Aug. 25, 2023. Agencies

do better.

A reasonable person might even offer his resignation to ensure that the glorious moment of the women's victory was not tainted by his own poor judgment.

Then again, a reasonable person would know it is not appropriate for a boss to grab an employee by the head and kiss her on the lips, no matter what the situation. So it is perhaps not surprising that Rubiales, buoyed at least initially by some of his male colleagues and several male commentators, has instead continued to deny he did anything wrong.

Dismissing the idea that Hermoso is in the best position to know what she consented to and experienced, and disparaging those who called for his dismissal, Rubiales has insisted he will not resign and painted himself as the victim of over-reacting "false feminists."

It was an argument only a mother could believe and indeed, Rubiales' mother has reportedly locked herself in a church and gone on a hunger strike until everyone stops being so mean to her boy.

Tempting as it is, let us ignore any Freudian implications of this particular plot twist and keep our eye on the ball. One that will not be touched by any member of Spain's women's soccer team, which has vowed not

to play until Rubiales is fired and Spain's soccer federation (RFEF) cleans house.

Because while FIFA gave him a 90-day suspension pending investigation on Saturday and Spanish prosecutors are looking into the matter as a potential act of sexual aggression, thus far RFEF is standing by its man.

On Friday, RFEF released a statement that accused Hermoso and others of lying about the kiss, threatening legal action and reminding the women's soccer team that they are contractually obligated to play if called upon to do so.

In response, 11 members of the women's soccer coaching staff resigned, leaving only head coach Jorge Vilda -- who, after initially supporting Rubiales, has distanced himself, saying in a statement: "I regret that the victory of women's soccer has been tarnished by the inappropriate behavior shown and acknowledged by our most senior manager up to that point, Luis Rubiales."

As Jennifer Doyle pointed out in a recent Op-Ed for The Times, the kiss was just one of several things Rubiales, long accused of undervaluing women's soccer, had been criticized for during the World Cup. He also grabbed his crotch in a macho gesture moments before the women's victory, and, after the historic win, threw player Athenea del Castillo

over his shoulder.

While physical acts of congratulations and exhilaration are common after big, never mind historic, wins, Rubiales' lack of boundaries is just the latest example of the double standard female athletes continue to face. It is difficult not to think of the welter of criticism U.S. soccer star Brandi Chastain faced after she ripped off her own jersey in the male tradition of victory when Team USA won the 1999 World Cup.

Or, more recently, the condemnation LSU basketball star Angel Reese faced when she made the fairly common gesture of pointing to her ring finger as her team closed in on the NCAA championship.

More significant, however, is Rubiales' belief that no real apology, or genuine examination of what lay behind the incident and the reaction it provoked, is necessary. That because he felt he had done no wrong, no wrong had been done; further apology would simply be capitulating to people who... what? Don't understand the nature of sport? Were trying to condemn a natural male impulse? Were making a big deal out of a single kiss?

Most humans have been on the receiving end of an uninvited kiss, whether it's a relatively benign smooch from a bad-breathed relative, a drunken attempt to "see what happens" from a friend or a full-on predatory act of abuse.

For years, women have been warned of, and often forced to endure, mouth-to-mouth sexual harassment, often in an atmosphere that categorized such acts as just part of life or even the subject of humor. "We call him 'The Tongue,'" Jessica Lange's character says in "Tootsie," warning Dustin Hoffman's Dorothy Michaels of an older member of their soap opera's cast. And when "the Tongue" finally catches Dorothy, the moment is played for laughs.

For most of Hollywood history, male heartthrobs were virtually expected to press kisses on unwelcoming female leads, whose subsequent slaps or angry words were considered part of the courtship ritual rather than real objections to unwanted advances.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



AFP

SPORT

TBS netball team defeats ARU in Standards Sports Bonanza opener

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Tanzania's JKT Queens midfielder, Anastazia Katunzi (L), challenges Kenya's Vihiga Queens player when the teams took on each other in the 2023 CAF Women's Champions League CECAFA Zonal qualifiers' tie that took place in Jinja, Uganda recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF COUNCIL OF EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATIONS

JKT Queens, CBE Women's FC battle for supremacy in CAF WCL CECAFA Zonal Qualifiers final

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S representatives, JKT Queens, will come up against Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) Women's FC in the final of the 2023 CAF Women's Champions League qualifiers for the CECAFA Zone in Uganda in the afternoon.

The two sides will be in action in the final set to be played at the FUFU Technical Centre, Njeru this afternoon. The final is set for a 3 p.m. EAT kick-off.

JKT Queens booked their final spot after coming from behind to edge out Burundi's Buja Queens 3-1 courtesy of goals netted by Stumai Abdallah, Donisia Minja, and Winifrida Gerard.

Going into the final, JKT Queens who are making their first appearance in the regional tournament have maintained a 100% winning run after stopping AS Kigali Women's FC, New Generation FC, and Vihiga Queens in the Group Stage.

However, JKT Queens' coach Esther Chaburuma said the final is a different ball game and the perfect run does not count much.

"We are happy to reach the final, but we know facing the Ethiopian team will not be an easy task," Esther noted.

"We need to prepare well because I believe in my players if we play according to plan," the JKT Queens coach, who is also assistant coach of the national women's team, Twiga Stars, added.

Esther has an array of Twiga Stars to unleash on the Ethiopians. Donisia, Amina Bilal, Eto Mlenzi, Diana, and Winifrida are the Twiga Stars' names that JKT Queens are banking on.

On the flip side, CBE Women's FC which reached the 2021 CECAFA Zonal qualifiers final and lost to Vihiga Queens, battled from a goal down to avenge that loss against the Kenyans to qualify for the final stage for the second time.

They registered three victories against Yei Joint Stars, FAD FC, and Buja Queens, and also drew 1-1 with Kampala Queens in the Group Stage.

The Ethiopians are also the highest-scoring team with 17 goals and have conceded three so far.

Having participated in all three regional editions, head coach Birhanu Gizaw Heye, boosted his side's experience over JKT Queens.

Heye said: "It has not been easy getting to the final because all teams in the competition have improved."

"But we are a more experienced side than JKT Queens at this level and we must show that in the final," he pointed out.

"We shall not take them for granted, but we know what to expect and what to do about it," Heye noted.

The winner will represent the CECAFA Zone at the CAF Women's Champions League to take place later this year in Ivory Coast.

Before the final, Vihiga Queens, 2021 CECAFA Zonal qualifiers champions, will take on Buja Queens in a third-place play-off match.

Simba SC eyes competitive friendlies ahead of CAF Champions League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC is set to play various friendly ties, as noted by the club's head coach Roberto Oliveira, to keep its players fit ahead of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round and African Football League kick-off.

The Msimbazi Street-based club has seen its 2023/24 NBC Premier League tie versus Coastal Union postponed and the former will now resume domestic league duties on October 3 confronting Tanzania Prisons.

The 2023/24 Community Shield showdown champions are plotting for Zambia's Power Dynamos downfall when the two sides take on each other in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round.

The two clubs' first leg clash will be held in Lusaka on September 15 before the reverse fixture takes place in Dar es Salaam on September 29.

The African Football League's first fixture will be played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on October 20 with the showdown's fixtures soon to be revealed.

"Simba SC has played two matches and had a long break. I need to have light and strong training, the goal is to make a competitive team within 90 minutes. It will not be easy if we train without friendly matches," Oliveira disclosed.

With an international break on the corner next month, the Brazilian, alias Robertinho, wants his players to be overlooked, when it comes to selection for senior national team duties, to be busy on friendlies, and to keep all players fit with game time.

The gaffer stated: "We have many important continental fixtures ahead of the CAF Champions League on September 15 away and September 29 at home against Power Dynamos and the African Football League in October, if we don't have enough games we will lose the competitive level."

"I have spoken to the leaders to make sure they find me teams that will challenge my players to build fitness and give them more hunger ahead of the top tier continental showdowns, as we have many competitions ahead," Robertinho said.

Simba SC resumed training camp on Tuesday ready to prepare for the 2023/24 NBC Premier League, CAF Champions League, and African Football League matches, and the coach admitted that he needs a healthy squad.

Robertinho has enjoyed two wins in the Premier League so far, defeating Mtibwa Sugar 4-2 in Morogoro in the first fixture.

Simba SC later on cruised to a 2-0 home win versus Dodoma Jiji FC at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam, as the Brazilian now eyes more silverware after guiding the Msimbazi Street club to beating Yanga to the 2023/24 Community Shield showdown title.

Twiga Stars squad for AWCON Qualifiers fixtures summoned



Senior national women's soccer team's players engage in drills at MTN Omandi Stadium in Kampala, Uganda recently, preparing for an international friendly match against Crested Cranes. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

A squad of 27 players for Tanzania's senior national women's team, Twiga Stars, has been summoned to commence preparations for the 2024 Africa Women Cup of Nations Qualifiers (AWCON) assignment this month.

Twiga Stars, Tanzania's senior women's national football team, will play Ivory Coast in the 2024 Africa Women's Cup of Nations (AWCON) final first-round qualifiers.

Tanzania will travel to Ivory Coast for the first leg before returning to Dar for the reverse fixture. The first round of fixtures will be held between September 18-26 2023.

In the second round, the winner of the two-legged first-round tie will confront the winner of the first-round tie between Djibouti and Togo.

The aggregate winner of the tie between Tanzania and Ivory Coast is set to host the first-leg fixture of the second round.

Twiga Stars made their first and last appearance in the Women's

Africa Cup of Nations finals in 2011 but failed to past the group stage in the tournament held in South Africa.

The squad named by head coach Bakari Shime is dominated by reigning Mainland Women's Premier League champions, JKT Queens.

The army side that has reached the CAF Women's Champions League CECAFA Zonal qualifiers final has fifteen players in the Twiga Squad. Five foreign-based players are also part of the squad.

The team will enter a residential camp at Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Technical Centre, Kigamboni on September 7 and thereafter embark on training.

A total of 12 teams will qualify for the 2024 AWCON final's Group Stage, alongside automatically-qualified hosts Morocco.

Qualification ties take place on a home-and-away two-legged basis. If the aggregate score is tied after the second leg, the away goals rule will be applied, and if still tied, the penalty shoot-out will be held (no extra time).

Winners of Twiga Stars against Ivory Coast fixtures will in the following stage of qualifiers come up against winners of the first round of qualifiers' ties between Togo and Djibouti.

Goalkeepers:

Najath Abbas (JKT Queens), Zulfa Makau (JKT Queens), and Husna Mtunda (Yanga Princess).

Defenders:

Juletha Singano (FC Juárez Femenil-Mexico), Anastazia Katunzi (JKT Queens), Happy Hezron (JKT Queens), Christer Bahera (JKT Queens), Vaileth Nicholas (JKT Queens), Fatuma Issa (Simba Queens), Joyce Lema (JKT Queens), and Diana Lucas (Amed S.F.K - Turkey)

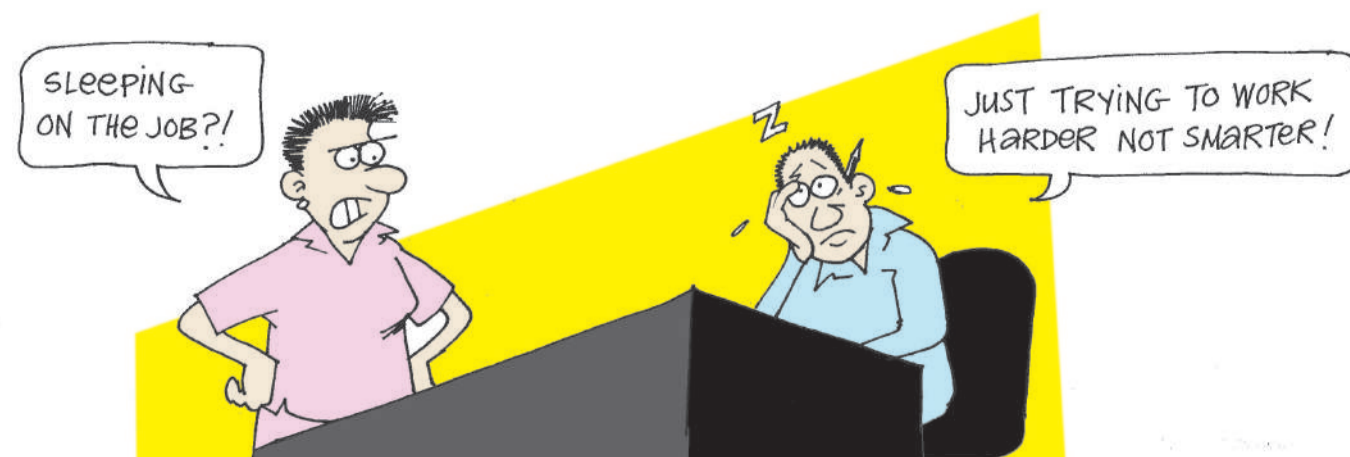
Midfielders:

Noela Luhala (Yanga Princess) Aisha Juma (Simba Queens) Zainabu Mohamed (JKT Queens), Janeth Pangamwene (JKT Queens) Koku Kipanga (Simba Queens) Amina Ally (JKT Queens) Donisia Minja (JKT Queens) and Eneka Kasonga (FC Kryvbas - Ukraine)

Forwards:

Stumai Abdallah (JKT Queens), Diana Mnali (Simba Queens), Sarah Joel (Fountain Gate Princess) Esther Mabanza (JKT Queens), Aisha Masaka (BK Hacken-Sweden), Oppa Clement (Besiktas-Turkey), Jamila Rajabu (JKT Queens), and Winifrida Gerald (JKT Queens)

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV WEDNESDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 MJADALA (r)
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 Mpera Mpera
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kall Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid week Movie
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid Week Movie
23:00 KURASA
23:05 EATV SAA 1

UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

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05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM