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SBL extends support to the govt in accessibility of water



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured yesterday bidding farewell to 117 people from 27 households who were voluntarily moving from Ngorongoro Conservation Area in Arusha Region to live at Msomera village in Handeni District. Behind him is Arusha regional commissioner John Mongella. Photo PMO

PM: Shifting to Msomera won't hinder any activities

By Guardian Reporter

NGORONGORO residents voluntarily shifting to Msomera village in Handeni District, Tanga Region, will not stop any of their endeavours but will continue with their pastoralist activities in better surroundings.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa issued this assurance yesterday while seeing off Ngorongoro residents moving to Msomera to pave the way for the reinforcement of conservation activities in

the area.

Moving to the new location is described as Phase II of the exercise, with the premier stopping for a while at the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) head offices in Arusha, also seeing off 127 residents from 27 wards.

He praised their decision to take up the offer to shift, assuring them of government cooperation after accepting to move to pave the way for conservation activities. It was the right decision

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Zanzibar confers with EU organs, envoys over stability, investments

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has described on-going efforts to promote peace and stability as meant to create a conducive business environment for more investments.

Opening an investment exploration conference organized by the European Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the European Union (EU) and Zanzibar authorities, he said the government has put more emphasis on promoting peace and stability as well as good governance as an important ingredient to spur development activities.

The Office of the President (Labour, Economy and Investment) via the Zanzibar Economic

Development Authority (ZIPA), the Netherlands embassy and the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport Co. were also involved in organizing the conference, officials said.

Peace and stability enhance investor confidence thus attracting more investors to the scenic archipelago, the president noted, citing the formation of the Government of National Unity (GNU) as demonstrating willingness to addressing challenges to unity and solidarity.

The conference comes at a vital moment as the government focuses on promoting investments and strengthening the tourism industry, he declared, expressing satisfaction with the pace of investments, despite some challenges the

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Tubeless tyre initiative high in Superdoll, Michelin memorial

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MORE motor vehicle tyre makers ought to chip in and set up manufacturing plants to utilise opportunities available in Tanzania and in neighbouring countries.

Exaud Kigaha, the Deputy Minister for Industry, Trade and Investment, made this appeal in Dar es Salaam yesterday, officiating at a ceremony to mark 30 years of partnership between trailer manufacturer Superdoll and Michelin, a producer and distributor of tyres worldwide, and local partners.



...noting that local production of tyres will reduce operational costs, enabling the product to be sold at affordable prices

As Tanzania is a gateway to a number of African countries; it is a strategic location to set up investments, for local and regional markets. Investing in Tanzania enables access to most of eastern and southern Africa, an area with over 400m people, he said.

The two companies' partnership signifies the solidity of business relations between Tanzania and France, he said, noting that local production of tyres will reduce operational costs, enabling the product to be sold at affordable prices.

Neighbouring countries will also benefit, he

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Reinforcing vegetation near water sources to cost \$75m

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

A project to restore natural vegetation in key water source areas affected by farming activities in five Southern Highlands regions is expected to cost \$75m.

Faraja Ngalageza, assistant director for environment in the Vice President's Office, made this observation in an address to officials of district councils in which the project will be carried out.

Mbeya, Rukwa, Katavi, Njombe and Iringa regions will host the project, to ensure that water sources for two water basins spread out in those regions are reinforced, to protect Lake Rukwa Basin water sources.

The other targeted water body is the Rufiji

Basin which incorporates the Great Ruaha River, which has a vital role in wildlife ecology and electricity generation, he stated, elaborating that district councils to be involved in the project are those touched by the two basins.

Dr Damas Mapunda, the project coordinator, said \$11.2m from the Global Environment Fund (GEF) has been disbursed for the project, highlighting that it is also expected to use internal funds from public bodies in the districts, bringing the total cost provisions to \$75.5m.

The project will have huge benefits, making the environment friendly for economic activities including farming and tourism, while facilitating power generation projects along the Ruaha and Rufiji rivers, he stated.

Saidi Madito, an official with the regional administration, said popular involvement in the project is essential to ensure its objectives are realized and the environment is preserved.

The project is supposed to be sustainable even with limited financial resources, so it is vital that people are educated on environmental protection, he said.

Maximilian Kempanju, an environment stakeholder, said the project will have immense benefits as environmental preservation boosts chances of reliable rainfall.



Industry, Trade and Investment deputy minister Exaud Kigaha (3rd-L), Superdoll chairman Seif Ali Seif (2nd-L, former Michelin commercial director Fred Stoeffler (L), Michelin president (Africa, India and Middle East) Gaganjot Singh (3rd-R), and the French Ambassador to Tanzania, Nabil Hajlaoui (2nd-R), grace the cutting of a cake at an event to mark the 30th anniversary of the Superdoll-Michelin partnership held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi



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PM: Shifting to Msomera won't hinder any activities

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and none of their activities will cease, he declared.

Urging them to listen to their government led by President Samia Suluhu Hassan and ignores distraction views, he said they are free and should go there and stay in peace.

Dr Christopher Timbuka, the NCAA chief conservator, said the second phase of the exercise started early this week, involving 27 households with 127 people and 488 livestock, noting that members of one household opted to shift to Karatu.

So far 48 households with 233 people, holding 899 livestock, have shifted to Msomera in the first and second phases of the exercise, he said, noting that apart from providing them

with houses, compensation and farms, all households will be given two sacks of maize for use during the three-month transition period to the next farming season.

Emmanuel Saitoti, who was living at Nainokanona village, thanked the government for the consideration granted to them, noting that apart from the new houses at Msomera, they will also get opportunities for various economic activities.

"We must thank the government for all this. We have received title deeds for the houses and farms as well monetary compensation. I suggest that the government continue to encourage other residents in Ngorongoro to shift as the place lacks development opportunities," he added

Africa needs to end food, pharma import dependence - AfDB president Adesina

KIGALI

AFRICA must wean itself off dependence on food and medicine imports, the president of the African Development Bank (AfDB) said, as the institution approved creation of a pharmaceutical tech foundation and began processing requests for food relief.

Africa was hit hard by the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic. Now, as many countries are still struggling to rebound, they are facing rising inflation and food shortages aggravated by the war in Ukraine.

"Africa should not allow itself to be vulnerable in excessively depending on others, whether it is for vaccines or whether it is for food," AfDB president Akinwumi Adesina told Reuters on the sidelines of a meeting of Commonwealth leaders in Kigali.

"The fact is that when you are dependent on others, you are also very highly vulnerable to any shock of any kind."

The bank last month approved a \$1.5 billion financing facility for emergency food production, with the aim of averting a looming food crisis. The funds are meant to help 20 million farmers produce 38 million tonnes of food.

"Once those things come to our board, they are swiftly reviewed and approved, and the money is out at the door," he said.

Meanwhile, the AfDB's board this

week approved the creation of a new Africa Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation.

Adesina said the foundation would allow Africa to leverage intellectual property rights, protected technologies and innovations to expand Africa's pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing sectors.

"Africa imports 80% to 90% of all its medicines for a population of 1.3 billion people. We cannot and we must not outsource the health security of Africa to the benevolence of others," he said.

The World Trade Organization last week agreed on a partial waiver of intellectual property rights to allow developing countries to produce and export COVID-19 vaccines.



Africa imports 80% to 90% of all its medicines for a population of 1.3 billion people. We cannot and we must not outsource the health security of Africa to the benevolence of others

Climate change exacerbates illegal immigration - experts

By Special Correspondent

WITH the world food crisis worsening due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, the focus is now turning to Africa for solutions. However, experts say it is still too early as the continent is not ready.

"It is well known that productivity, particularly among farmers, is very low. The green revolution that dramatically changed productivity and production, particularly in Asia and also in Latin America, has not really had that impact in Africa. I think one of the concerns is that the markets are not working particularly well in Africa," said Jakob Svensson, an expert from Stockholm University.

Climate change is also an important factor. The Horn of Africa, for example, is facing its worst drought in decades. The United Nations warns tens of millions of people on the continent are at the verge of starving.

Many flee in search of a better life as some make their way to Europe.

Between January and May this year, FRONTEX recorded the arrival of some 86,000 illegal migrants.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a slight decrease in the arrival of illegal migrants in Europe, but it was

temporary.

"Right now we are seeing a much more desperate situation. We are seeing whole families leaving West Africa and we are seeing that there are new routes. Typically, the route that had the most deaths was the Central Mediterranean route where people arrive from West Africa, across the Sahara Desert, and had a lot of problems, especially in Libya," said Cátia Batista, a Professor of Economics at the Nova School of Business and Economics.

The food crisis, migration, and economic and political reforms in Africa are some of the topics discussed at the two-day Novafrafrica Conference.



...I think one of the concerns is that the markets are not working particularly well in Africa



Filbert Mponzi (L), NMB Bank Plc's chief of retail banking, briefs the Minister of State in the President's office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), Jenista Mhagama, on the bank's 'Mwalimu Spesho' product during its launch in Dodoma city yesterday. The service is meant to facilitate the issuance of soft-term NMB loans to teachers across Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tubeless tyre initiative high in Superdoll, Michelin memorial

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stated, citing the fact that since President Samia Suluhu Hassan assumed the office, the key priority is to create a conducive environment for business and investments.

The partnership has transformed mobility in the country by introducing tubeless tyres, enhancing road safety

with higher standards for tyres, he stated, while Superdoll chairman Seif Ally Seif expressed satisfaction with cooperation between Superdoll and Michelin.

Beaming, he said the relationship will continue to shine, as the two companies had transformed mobility with tubeless tyres and 'super single tubeless tyres' for heavy transit vehicles.

Over 80 percent of local car owners use tubeless tyres, a higher level that most neighbouring countries, he elaborated, intoning that this had greatly reduced unnecessary accidents.

Michelin Africa president Gaganjot Singh said Superdoll and Michelin think high of the partnership for its transformative role and technological advancement. This will help to bring

about safe mobility, he stated, urging officials in the two firms to work hard to provide quality products for clients.

A 30 years partnership certificate was presented by Michelin to Superdoll, a trailer firm which from 1992 has partnered with the French tyres group to locally manufacture tyres.



CCM Youth Wing secretary general Kenani Kihongosi (C) leads youths in a procession held in Dar es Salaam during the launch of a sensitisation campaign on the national Population and Housing Census scheduled for August 23. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

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government is addressing.

From November 2020 to May 2022 a total of 136 projects estimated to cost \$1.4bn have been approved, expected to provide 9,000 employment openings, he stated, characterizing Zanzibar as historically a trading centre.

It had trade relations with European countries since centuries ago, now blossoming again with more investors establishing projects in the archipelago. A third of investment projects come from Europe, he stated, optimistic that the conference will be a catalyst to a wide range of investments.

The investment atmosphere will be strengthened when ZIPA sets up a

Zanzibar confers with EU organs, envoys over stability, investments

joint service delivery center to bring investment processing services under one roof, cutting out bureaucracy, the president affirmed, laying emphasis on opportunities available in the blue economy, along with agriculture, trade and construction.

Negotiations with interested investors including the government of Oman are continuing to build an integrated port at Mangapwani, he further noted.

ZIPA director general Sharif Ali Sharif commended the EU and related agencies for co-hosting the conference for promoting investment opportunities that Zanzibar offers, underlining that ZIPA is working to meet the needs of prospective investors.

European Union head of delegation Manfredo Fanti said that European countries are pleased with policies and plans of the Zanzibar government,

including investment promotion and uplifting tourism.

Netherlands ambassador Wiebe de Boer applauded President Mwinzi for promoting Zanzibar around the world, noting that his period in office has seen increased investor confidence to sink their capital in Zanzibar.

Ambassadors from the European Union area expect to work with him to ensure that the targeted goals are achieved, he added.



Ruge Mutahaba family representative Rwebu Mutahaba (C) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the launch of the Ruge Mutahaba Foundation expected to be held in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. He is with a member of the foundation's board of trustees, Georgia Mutagahywa (L), and Fursa Project director Suma Mwaitenda. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

Family, media to grace launch of Ruge Mutahaba Foundation

FAMILY of the late Ruge Mutahaba in collaboration with media houses will on Sunday night launch the Ruge Mutahaba Foundation to honour his dedication to youth creativity, investment and entrepreneurship.

The function will be held at Mlimani City in Dar es Salaam and live streamed by ITV, East African Television (EATV) and East Africa Radio, Clouds TV and ETV.

Speaking on behalf of the family, Rwebu Mutahaba said the motive behind the launching is to portray peoples' esteem over his vision to foster entrepreneurship, arts and creativity.

"The launching of this foundation is to respond to people's voices by honouring how he represented and

implemented his positive development vision to youth, women and the country at large through various projects," he said.

"The foundation will prioritise supporting youth by offering education sponsorship and provide professional advice to more than 5,000 youth and networking them with nearly 10,000 economic opportunities," he said.

He said there will be a special session to enable youth to discuss their challenges and connect them with stakeholders who will assist them in finding solution to the challenges.

Speaking on behalf of the board of trustees, Georgia Mutagahywa said the foundation is becoming a reality three years after his death.

She said that it will basically concentrate on improving youth's creativity, innovation, excellence, perseverance and empathy in collaboration with the government stakeholders, private sectors, local and international Non-Governmental Organisations.

"We aim at empowering youth economically; we want them to use creativity to generate income," explained Georgia.

Clouds Media Group Chief Creative and Strategy Officer, Reuben Ndege said that it was an honour for the media to be part of the foundation towards portraying his legacy.

The late Ruge Mutahaba was nicknamed 'Jasiri Muongoza Njia,' being a mastermind in the music industry; he perpetuated the status of Bongo Flewa as he engineered offering platforms like Fiesta concerts that paved artists' prominence in and out of the country.

He passed away on February 26th, 2019 in South Africa of where he went for kidney treatment.

Namibia and Tanzania central banks to head continental financial inclusion experts' team

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Bank of Namibia has been elected to Chair the Expert Group for Financial Inclusion Policy with the Bank of Tanzania being the Expert Group on Financial Inclusion Policy (EGFIP) vice chair, the new line of leadership has been endorsed in Arusha.

Bank of Tanzania and Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) are co-hosting the 2022 meetings of the African Financial Inclusion Policy Initiative (AFPI) and AFPI Leaders' Roundtable in Arusha, where AFPI EGFIP elected new leadership.

The Bank of Namibia is now the new EGFIP Chair, taking over from Bank Al-Maghrib. The Bank Al-Maghrib is the central bank of the Kingdom of Morocco.

The Central Bank of Tanzania (BOT), on the other hand has been elected to serve as the Vice Chair for the Expert Group for Financial Inclusion Policy.

The Leaders of financial institutions also welcomed the new AFPI Chair Caroline Abel, the Governor of the Central Bank of Seychelles

Meetings of AFPI's Expert Group for Financial Inclusion Policy (EGFIP), training on Regulatory and Supervisory Technologies, Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) and Developing-Developed Countries Dialogue (3D) are taking place in Northern Tanzania.

The meetings of AFPI members in Africa focus on how digitization of inclusive finance can ensure stability, growth and sustainability.

Governors and deputy governors have been sharing experiences on supervision of financial technologies (FinTechs), as well as gender inclusive

finance and youth inclusive finance.

"The Central Bank's swift crisis policy responses, enabled the payment systems (digital platforms) to continue to operate efficiently, through stimulus packages and incentives that ensured that financial services providers are able to continue to operate without overly regulatory burden during stressful periods of the pandemic, as well as enable users and consumers of financial services to continue transacting despite of the economic challenges of the pandemic", The Bank of Tanzania Governor, Prof Florens Luoga highlighted.

Speakers at the meetings include leaders from Kenya, Mozambique, Eswatini, BCEAO, Ghana, Nigeria, among others.

Launched in 2013, AFPI is the primary platform for Alliance for Financial Inclusion members in Africa.

AFPI supports and develops financial inclusion policies and regulatory frameworks and coordinates regional peer learning efforts.

From AFPI's regional office in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, AFPI brings together high-level representatives from African financial policymaking and regulatory institutions to enhance the implementation of innovative financial inclusion policies across the continent.

The Arusha Meetings are partially financed through the Alliance for Financial Inclusion's Multi-Donor Financial Inclusion Policy Implementation Facility.

It includes the participation of the French Development Agency (AFD), German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Ministry of Finance of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.



EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: FOR PROVISION OF DIGITAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT AND MEDIA MONITORING & REPORTING SERVICES REFERENCE NO. 0010007748.

East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Limited (COMPANY), is mandated with the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in Hoima District, Uganda, to Chongoleani, Tanga Region, in Tanzania. It shall be 1,443 kilometres (km) long, of which 296 km will be in Uganda occupying a 30metre-wide corridor.

The company plans digital media presence and to conduct media monitoring exercise to enhance its digital media communication as such it requires to contract an experienced specialised company to perform this role in both Uganda and Tanzania.

East African Crude Oil Pipeline Limited invites experienced and reputable service providers to express their interest in providing digital social media management a media intelligence service agency/ies.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF WORK:

- EACOP is seeking, **digital media management** and a **media intelligence service agency/ies** to undertake the following services among others:
 - a) Digital Media Strategy implementation and advise on improvement, Content Management, Target audience profiling, Media planning, Content development, Creative banners, Status updates, Audience engagement, Event promotions, social reputation management to increase visibility.
 - b) Media Intelligence service that can provide in-depth media monitoring (mainstream and digital media) and reporting services which will be used to enhance the Projects understanding and external communications as well as relations.
 - c) Generally, Media monitoring and reporting and advisory on how best these may help EACOP's Strategic Communication Framework for effective external communication with focus on the content management and communication related engagement.
 - d) Realtime daily monitoring of media, including online, newspapers, radio, television and social media and any other relevant platforms in 5 languages, thus English, Swahili, French, Chinese and Maasai.

e) Providing the AI web listening and social network monitoring platform including:

- 24/7 Access to a password protected, online customizable and interactive platform (preferably with a mobile application) for users to access with unlimited search. Access to the Platform is not limited in terms of the number of people to access it.
- Ability to forward media coverage via the platform, email, SMS or what's app or any other digital communication application.

f) Engage and Influence

- Social Media publishing – Provide a social media management tool with platform for social media publications review, approval, and publishing scheduling as well as engagement management and monitoring.
- Ability to perform searches on the database based on keywords, concepts, or using Boolean search terms.

g) Distribute and Alert

- An editable and a multi-format sharable real time newfeed.
- Daily email and App alerts and overview reporting of media mentions related to the Project.
- Daily email and App alerts and overview reporting of global and local current news.
- Ability to customize alerts per user.

h) Analyse and Report

- Create comprehensive daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, biannual and annual reports filled with AI-powered insights, providing real-time monitoring, analysis, and benchmark of media coverage through analytical tools, automated reporting and data extraction possibilities in different formats through queries. Integrate quantitative data with qualitative analysis.
- Ability to select through the platform time-period of analysis: per day, week, month, and selected dates.
- Build-in editable and shareable dashboards to inform key stakeholders.
- Unlimited search and Ability to create unlimited data tracking, statistical breakdown, and graphical analyses on any coverage on an ad-hoc basis.

i) Customer Service

- 24-hour emergency online support; during and off-business hours.
 - Training on how to self-manage, troubleshoot, adjust search/monitoring requirements and access/interpret data, and share data, newfeeds and/or reports.
- NB:** A service provider can apply for one or all services.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Organizations expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:
 - Proof of experience in providing relevant services.
 - Proof of registration as a company or organization in Uganda and / or Tanzania including business licences.
 - Proof of registration with the Uganda and/or Tanzania Revenue Authority and Tax (TRA) Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
 - Registration or approved application with the Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
 - Compliance with Petroleum Local Content Regulations in Tanzania and Uganda.

Interested organizations with the ability, capacity, and resources to provide any of the services listed above should express their interest by sending (together with the documents stated in the above section) and email to procurement.tz@eacop.com (max. email size 10Mb) on or before **30th June 2022** before 1700 hours East African Time (EAT). Email subject should be **0010007748**.

Note: The EACOP Co will review and assess the documents provided by the interested companies to derive a list of prequalified companies. Only prequalified companies will receive, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), an invitation to submit a proposal in furtherance of the Request for Proposal process.

All Expressions of Interest should be submitted in the English Language.

216916002



EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: SUPPLY OF SELF-LOADING SELF-BATCHING CONCRETE VEHICLES REFERENCE NO: 0010007759

EACOP Ltd (Company) Tanzania, an Oil company, invites experienced and reputable supplier/distributor to express their interest in furnishing the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), with self-loading self-batching concrete vehicles for Project Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) implementation.

The EACOP Project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in Hoima District, Uganda, to Chongoleani, Tanga Region, in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 kilometres (km), of which 1147 km will be in Tanzania.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

- EACOP requires the services of experienced and reputable supplier/distributor for the leasing of self-loading self-batching concrete vehicles.
- All proposed self-loading concrete mixer are expected to self-load aggregates, sand cement, weigh the batch, blend concrete, transport, and place it wherever required. It is hence a stand-alone machine that can complete the concrete mixing task by using a single experienced operator for the machine and travel under its own power between sites.
- EACOP Ltd would like to lease approximately nine (9) self-loading self-batching concrete vehicles; primarily of two different sizes (volumes) 3.0 cubic metre and 4.5 cubic metre capacity.
- Supplier/distributor shall have the capacity to furnish all nine (9) self-loading self-batching concrete vehicles within a maximum period of 100 days of receipt of order.
- The self-loading self-batching concrete vehicles will be leased and dispatched along the pipeline project ineight (8) different regions; Kagera, Tabora, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Singida, Manyara and Dodoma.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Due to the size of the scope and to assist companies expressing interest, the Project reserves the right to award to multiple suppliers/distributors of self-loading self-batching concrete vehicles Interested companies MUST meet the requirements outlined below Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request by submitting the following:
 - Experience, performance, and capacity in supplying heavy machinery in Tanzania, in compliance with national and international standards (including International Finance Corporation Standards (IFC), with atleast 10 years of experience / performance of similar services within Tanzania or internationally.
 - Self-loading self-batching concrete vehicles shall comply with the following:
 - Production capacity of 3.0 cubic metre per hour as well as other models having a capacity of 4.5 cubicmetre per hour capacity
 - Capacity to be licensed for on road travel in Tanzania
 - Road light system
 - 4x4 – Four-wheel drive, with crab steering
 - On board water system, self-priming, water pump direct feed drum
 - Double cone drum with double spiral mixing screws
 - Unloading cutes with extensions
 - Closed cab with ROPS and FOPS Level 1 standards
 - Loading device with bucket and lifting arms with ability to weigh all materials.
 - Warranty covering 2000hrs operation hours/ 1 year
 - Supplier/distributor to provide Operator Training package for a minimum of 12 operators
 - Service kit for 1 year including Spare tyres
 - In country (Tanzania) ability to service and maintain self-loading self-batching concrete vehicles complete with spare parts and a mobile service/workshop truck.
 - Suitably qualified and experienced technicians to repair and maintain the vehicles as and when needed.
 - Financial capacity to deliver the services required including submission of financial accounts for the previous financial year.
 - Application for registration with the EWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended
 - Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition and commitment to developing local/national content value. (Provide training details).
 - Evidence of organization QHSE policy, procedure, and process in compliance with applicable Local and Industry standards for similar works.
 - Appropriate licensing from relevant in-country authorities for the provision of the services.
 - Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority and Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year.

Companies which have the ability, capacity, and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending (together with the documents stated in the above section) through an email to procurement.tz@eacop.com (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **15:00** hours East African Time (EAT), or **7th July 2022** Email address should be **0010007759**.

Note:The EACOP project will review and assess the documents provided by the interested companies to derive a list of prequalified companies. Only prequalified companies will receive, subject to signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.

All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English Language.

216916002

UNESCO to launch online sexuality education course to help teachers

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is organizing a regional webinar to launch the newly revamped Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) online course for teachers.

The webinar is organised by UNESCO regional offices for Eastern and Southern Africa and will bring together stakeholders from the region.

The CSE online course for teachers is a self-paced online course that provides teachers with access to comprehensive study material developed by CSE experts.

Teachers are acquiring adequate knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are critical for effective CSE delivery. This is a way to enable teachers to deliver CSE that is age-appropriate, scientifically accurate, and transformative.

UNESCO will promote the course in the region to ensure delivery of good quality comprehensive sexuality education in schools.

The CSE learning platform was developed within the context of a programme being implemented by UNESCO entitled 'Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future - O3'.

The purpose of the platform is to encourage knowledge sharing and learning across countries, connecting different stakeholders, including but not limited to, policy makers, teachers, health workers, opinion leaders, parents, so that they can share experiences, resources, and lessons in promoting the health and well-being of adolescents and young people.

The learning platform, therefore, provides a unique opportunity for countries to exchange and strengthen the delivery of good quality

comprehensive sexuality education.

Comprehensive sexuality education is a curriculum-based process of teaching and learning about the cognitive, emotional, physical, and social aspects of sexuality.

It aims to equip children and young people with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that will empower them to protect their health, wellbeing, and dignity, as well as to develop respectful social relationships and consider the well-being of others affected by their choices.

It also helps them to understand and act upon their rights throughout their lives.

The O3 programme is working toward a sub-Saharan Africa where all adolescents and young people attain positive health, education, and gender equality outcomes.

The vision can only be realized through consistent reduction in new HIV infections, early and unintended pregnancy, gender-based violence, and child marriage.

Eastern and Southern Africa is home to an estimated 1.74 million adolescents living with HIV, representing 60% of the global total.

Across 20 of the ESA commitment countries, nearly 4,000 adolescent girls and women aged 15-24 became infected with HIV every week in 2021.

In 2021, 7 in 10 new HIV infections among young people aged 15-24 in ESA were among adolescent girls and young women.

Eastern and Southern Africa youth have tremendous potential for achieving Africa's development, but they can only do it if sustained investments are made to address the education and health challenges that continue to undermine young people's well-being.



Tanzania's Ambassador to Italy, Mahmoud Thabit Kombo (2nd-L) with CRDB Bank Plc Diaspora Department public relations manager Mercy Nkini (L), senior relations and communications manager Emmanuel Kiondo (R) and mortgage manager Janerose Mwombela in Rome earlier this week. The bank's officials are on a tour of several European countries chiefly to sensitise Tanzanians in diaspora to invest back home. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Lands ministry upgrading land records from analogue to digital

By Guardian Reporter, Tabora

DR Angeline Mabula, the Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister has handed out 50 scanners valued at 880m/- to be used for streamlining the change of lands records from the analogue to digital system.

Dr Mabula who was in a one-day visit to Tabora region, handed out the scanners here on Wednesday this week to the Assistant Lands commissioner for Tabora Region, Jabir Singano who received them on behalf of other regions.

The scanners will be distributed to other regions including Mwanza (9 scanners), Kagera (5 scanners), Tabora (6), Songwe (7), Dodoma (9), Shinyanga (7) and Mbeya (97).

Speaking at the event, Dr Mabula said the decision by her ministry to provide the devices is to speed up the analogue-to-digital change of land records.

Ulega directs TALIRI, PASS to equip more youth with skills on fattening of livestock

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) and the Private Agricultural Sector Support Trust (PASS) have been directed to ensure more young people have access to livestock fattening skills for them to explore more employment opportunities and grow their economy.

Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Abdallah Ulega made the call here on Wednesday at a working session to get information on the implementation of the TALIRI/PASS Youth Empowerment in Goat Fattening and Marketing project.

He said the project must focus on helping more young people gain agribusiness skills and put in place a better system that will enable them to be financially empowered so that they have enough capital to run a livestock business.

"We want to provide employment for young people, so we must create more young people who will have the skills to fatten livestock, right now those who are fattening are there and empowered by our banks, but we want to get more young people who will be made through this project and many of them to be self-employed," he said.

He also added that now the livestock sector is facing a major grazing

challenge so it is important that they focus on producing grazing so that the animals have enough grazing at all times which will lead to the livestock being valuable in the market.

"I have heard you explaining many things you hope to do through the project you are implementing, my advice is important to choose a few things that you can do well in phases rather than carry a lot of things and at the end of the day you cannot achieve goals," said Ulega.

Following the recent spate of livestock deaths in the country, he urged them as experts to ensure that they use their expertise effectively to reduce livestock mortality in the country.

He also called on the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) to assist the livestock sector stakeholders by developing sound business plans and providing affordable loans to pastoralists so that they can practice productive livestock keeping.

Director of Research, Training and Extension from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Dr Angello Mwilawa said: "For some time now many meat processing factories in the country have been working under his control so through the project implemented by TALIRI in collaboration with PASS if managed properly it will become part of the solution to the challenge."

Govt to create friendly environment for blue economy to benefit citizens

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government is eager to create friendly environment to ensure opportunities available in blue economy benefit citizens first and urged them to be ready to take chance.

Suleiman Makame, Zanzibar minister for Blue Economy and Fisheries said this on Wednesday when wrapping up the two-day international blue economy conference that was organised by Dar es Salaam Maritime Institute (DMI).

He said if Tanzanians will work up and tap blue economy opportunities they will utilize the available resources for their economic development to raise their incomes and eventually the money they get will remain circulating in our economy.

"For a very long time we have witnessed many foreign ships conducting fishing activities in our deep sea, they come and take our resources and we remain to be observers. I think this is not good trend we have to reorganise and start fishing in the deep sea because I believe we

are able to do it," he said.

He urged (DMI) management to improve their curriculum to accommodate seafarers fisheries profession because the government expects to receive many ships for fishing which need qualified experts for fishing activities in deep sea.

The minister said three month ago, the government received ship which will be used for fishing in deep sea so there is need to train more fisheries experts who will be used in the sector instead of being too dependent to foreign fishing experts.

"Am not a seafarer but I have been close to many of them for a very long time so I know majority of them are not specialized in fishing because majority are ship engineers and ship captains so I urge DMI management to put curriculum that will accommodate seafarers to specialize in fishing so that we can have our own experts," he said.

The minister said Tanzanian citizens have not used effectively different opportunities available in deep sea and instead they depend much in hand to mouth fishing which does not help

them to increase their incomes and improve their lives.

"We in Zanzibar have started to organise ourselves to go to fish in deep sea and you are supposed to do the same because you have been issuing fishing permit to foreign ships for a very long time so it is high time for you to take chance and go deep sea for fishing. We must change this trend like what we did in minerals," said the minister.

He also urged conference participants to go and implement what they have learnt from the two days conference and educate people who don't know what blue economy means.

"You have been here for two days and you were taught many things concerning blue economy and economic opportunities available in the sea so what next is for you to practice what you have learnt here to make sure our country benefit with resources available in our sea," he said.

He also commended DMI for organising the blue economy conference which he said has helped to a great extent educates the participants

TANAPA all out for fund to chase away invasive elephants from three wards

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

THE challenge faced by residents of Kyaitoke, Luhunga and Kibirizi wards in Bukoba District, Kagera Region regarding frequent invasion of elephants is now being solved following Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) initiative to seek funds to chase away the beasts, numbering 80 to the nearby game reserves.

Addressing a special Councillors Meeting that involved TANAPA officials, Assistant Commissioner for Conversation from Ibanda and Rumanyika Game Reserves, Moronda Moronda said he hopes the funds will be obtained to solve the problem.

"In our long term plan we have decided to build a post for wardens in Kihanga area in Karagwe district that will hold six wardens who will be machining rapid responses to provide assistance, but also the issue of shifting the beasts, if it is possible and already this has been referred to the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism," he said.

He said after shifting them, the elephants will be tied with special devices to the necks that will be connected to a computer and that in case they again flee the reserve signals will be received to the computer for prompt action.

Upendo Massawe, another Senior Conservation Officer from the game reserves said elephants that invades the three wards do not come from the reserves and that is why whenever they are chased away from one ward, they go to another one, and called on the residents to employ traditional measures including the planting of pepper, tobacco and sesame around their farms.

"You can also dig trenches around the farms, but also you can use a long piece of cloth immersed in used oil and pepper and use it by fencing the farm, and no elephant will ever approach the fence," he said.

He also called on the residents of the area not to store food in traditional silos near the houses they sleep in as elephants have high sense of smell, as well as not putting on brightly coloured clothing when chasing away the beasts as they make them easily visible.

One unforgettable incident to the residents of Rugaze Village, Kyaitoke Ward was when one woman, Anajoza Chrisant (43) lost her life after she was attacked by elephants who had invaded the village on August 6 last year.

about the meaning of blue economy and opportunities that are available in the sea.

DMI Acting Principle, Dr Tumaini Gurumo, said for many years the college has been training seafarers who are not fishers adding that they will improve their curriculum to accommodate seafarers who will specialize in fishing.

"We are aware that human resource development in attaining blue economy goals is very crucial so we will take on board the minister's directives and we are going to implement it so that we train local seafarers who will specialize in fishing," she said.

She said it is true that many Tanzanians have been practicing hand to mouth fishing which does not help them to improve their lives adding that through the blue economy theory, government want to see citizens change and fish in a way that will increase their income and transform their lives.

"There are some people who stay close to the sea but for many years they do a small fishing activity which does not change their lives because what they get can only feed their families so with blue economy theory we need our people to go deep sea and do serious fishing which will transform their lives," she said.



Zanzibar's Blue Economy and Fisheries minister, Suleiman Masoud Makame, pictured yesterday closing the two-day international Blue Economy conference held in Dar es Salaam. It was organised by the Dar es Salaam Marine Institute. Photo Correspondent Miraji Msala



Moshi Cooperative University staff spruce up Moshi municipality's Manyema mixed-goods market yesterday in marking Public Service Week. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

Govt called on to provide key infrastructure to serve Kilwa District's modern fishing port

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has been urged to ensure that the implementation of the modern fishing port project in Kilwa District, Lindi Region goes similar with the construction of key infrastructure such as airport, roads and a Fishery College.

Member of Parliament for Kilwa South Ally Kassinge made the call yesterday in the House when contributing to the debate of the central budget for the 2022/23 financial year.

The lawmaker said that in order to ensure that the port produces positive outcomes, the government should ensure that an airport in Kilwa is expanded and rehabilitated at tarmac level but also a fishery college and strong road infrastructures are constructed.

"We should make sure that we also construct a modern fish market in Kilwa Kivinje and a fish centre at Kilwa Masoko, the port will open up a number of opportunities, so having friendly services, infrastructures and institutions is a matter of paramount importance," he said.

Kassinge also wanted the government to ensure that it compensated all residents who have been told to leave the area to pave way for the construction of the port and the airport.

Recently, while briefing reporters on the achievements attained by the ministry in one-year of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's duration, the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Mashimba Ndaki said the construction of the port was expected to commence mid this year.

Ndaki said that construction of the port is part of efforts to promote the fishing sector in the country where the government had set aside 50bn/- to be spent on construction.

He said upon completion, the state-of-art port will handle and oversee the management of the country's coastal and marine resources and modernise the fishing industry in the country.

Also contributing, Stella Manyanya (Nyasa) commended the government's move to take

five percent of loans set by district councils for women, youth and persons with disabilities to construct and improve infrastructures of businesses areas for petty traders.

"This is a very good decision as it is going to facilitate petty traders to conduct their businesses in a conducive environment," she said.

Kasalali Mageni (Sumve) said for the development outcomes to benefit Tanzanians, there should be equality in dividing the national cake complaining that the majority of roads in the constituency were in a devastating state. "Sumve constituency has no tarmac roads, we want equality on this, how are we going to develop if we don't have quality infrastructures to support farming and transportation of people, produce and other products," he said.

Emmanuel Shangai (Ngorongoro) said there were a number of loopholes in revenue collection in district councils calling on the government to look into this and supervise the collection as well as fight misuse of funds.

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

Form executive committee for monitoring public funds, MP implores President Samia

SPECIAL Seats Member of Parliament Lucy Mayenga has called upon President Samia Suluhu Hassan to form a special Executive Bureau which will be monitoring and evaluating the implementation of all development projects in the country so as to strengthen efficiency and proper expenditure of public funds.

According to her, the formation of the presidential bureau will fortify discipline in the utilization of public funds as well as increase efficiency and quality in the implementation of projects.

Contributing to the debate on the central budget estimates for the 2022/23 fiscal year yesterday here, Mayenga said despite having an evaluation and monitoring unit in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, a lot of public funds are misused and lost in projects implementation, with many other projects implemented below standards.

"We have witnessed how the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) has been uncovering gaps and loopholes in various public institutions and projects, so apart from the auditing conducted by the CAG, we should have the presidential bureau to put things in the line, bring high discipline and thus facilitate faithful expenditure of public funds," she said.

Last week, Parliamentary Committee on Budget, when presenting its views on the state of the nation's economy and national development plan as well as national budget estimates

for the 2022/23 financial year, advised the government to formulate a national policy on monitoring and evaluation and later enact law so as to closely control spending and ensure that the public funds are properly used while also producing quality works.

"Monitoring and evaluation is a very good exercise in the public service as it works to ensure the intended goals are achieved as well as value for money but also correct gaps occurred during the implementation of any project or activity, this is why we are pushing for the formulation of the policy and a law," said Sillo Baran, the committee's chairman.

In her contribution, Bonna Kamoli (Segerea) wanted the government to suspend its plan to

cut five percent from the current loans that are set aside by district councils to empower women, youth and persons with disabilities as the move will greatly affect growth of the groups.

She also urged the government to increase budget in construction and rehabilitation of road infrastructures so as to facilitate easy transportation of people and goods as the majority of the roads especially in Segerea were in a devastating state.

Anatropia Theonest (Special Seats) said more efforts are needed to expand the tax base but reduce multi-taxes to low people by strengthening tax systems so as to increase revenues for the country's development.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT, INDUSTRY AND TRADE
BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS AND LICENSING AGENCY

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dar es Salaam-24 June, 2022

The Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) have received a vacancy announcement from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) that invites qualified Tanzanians to apply for the post of AIMS reporting Lead- P4-22130-FT-LT; Enterprise Solutions Division, Department of Program Planning and Finance, Administration, Finance Management Sector.

Interested applicants should visit their career website
https://wipo.taleo.net/careersection/wp_2jobsearch.ft?lang=en

The deadline for submitting applications is **30th June, 2022**

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Ensure people are at centre of every decision, advise CCM NEC members

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

DECISIONS made at every stage of government or the ruling CCM hierarchy must put people at the centre in order to have a pro-people national development.

This call was made here yesterday by a member of the CCM National Executive Committee (NEC), Pemba North Region, Omar Zubeir Mbwana, in a special interview on how to promote the national economy, especially the Zanzibar economy and on how CCM has fared in implementing its 2020 Election Manifesto. NEC is a powerful CCM second supreme organ after the national conference, whose decisions have a weighty bearing on Tanzanian politics.

Mbwana argued that development is about people's welfare; therefore it is only logical that people remain at the centre of every decision made in the party and in the government. He also called for strengthening of CCM from grassroots to national levels so that CCM can remain in power and serve Tanzanians.

On Zanzibar's blue economy, Mbwana called for protection of the ocean's eco-system. He also called on the people to support Zanzibar President Hussein Mwinyi and his government of national unity.

Another CCM NEC member, Ramadhani Shaibu Juma, echoed Mbwana's assertion, saying for CCM to remain a powerful ruling party, party discipline must prevail at every stage of the party hierarchy and said CCM must remain a powerful agent of change and a party that unites all Tanzanians.

"Zanzibar's economy is an economy dependent on the ocean and agriculture. Therefore, Zanzibar must do everything to secure investors to invest in every sector of the economy," he said.

Retired CCM Regional Chairperson Boraafya Sirima Juma, Urban North Region, said retired party leaders must not inflame acrimonious relations within CCM rather they should advise wisely those in power. "Retired leaders must not interfere with the work and decisions of those in office. Every era has its unique peculiarities," he said, adding the government of Dr Salmin Amour focused on building hotels and roads but it was subject of scorn. "Today people see the fruits of those efforts, the nation is earning good revenue because of his investment wise decisions," he reminded.

CCM leadership at every level is reviewing its performance in serving Tanzanians based on 2020 election manifesto pledges in readiness for the 2025 General Elections.

Mbeya Region officials to hold symposium on energy and minerals sectors investment

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Region authorities have organised an investment symposium for the energy and minerals sectors to be held June 26 this year in the city.

Briefing reporters in his office on Wednesday, Mbeya Regional Commissioner Juma Homera said the aim for the gathering is to bring together various energy and minerals stakeholders to jointly discuss many opportunities in the sectors.

"During the symposium, various topics will be tabled and various products relating to the two sectors will be displayed to advertise the existing opportunities," said RC Homera.

He said Mbeya Region decided to hold the symposium since it believes that there are many opportunities in the sectors in the region that have not been tapped fully for the benefit of the people and the nation in general.

He added that Mbeya Region has Niobium minerals used for making aircraft parts which has not yet been mined, and claimed that was only one example.

"Mbeya Region is the fourth in the country in the production of gold, whereby currently it produces between 300 and 400 kgs per month," said Homera.

He said the region has allocated special areas for gold mining that will be given to well-intended investors.

He added that symposium's participants will be able to get in-depth elaboration in regard to investment in minerals and the type of levies charged, as well the entire issue the gold trade and markets.

He added that in recent years the minerals sector in Mbeya Region has been extensively strengthened the situation that has assisted in increased gold production from 28 kgs per month to between 300 and 400kgs per month.

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Digital advancements found to drive masses in financial inclusion among Tanzanians, Kenyans and Ugandans

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

ENTERPRISE surveys conducted in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania are indicating that the use of mobile money by manufacturing and service firms is associated with over 16 percent increase in the likelihood of investing.

That is among the issues coming up at the ongoing meetings of the African Financial Inclusion Policy Initiative and AfPI Leaders' Roundtable taking place in Arusha.

This is the first time that AfPI's largest regional initiative is meeting physically in-person since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bank of Tanzania and AfPI are co-hosting the meetings of AfPI members in Africa, focusing on how digitization of inclusive finance can ensure stability, growth and sustainability.

Central Bank governors and deputy governors share policy solutions that drive digital financial inclusion and remove barriers faced by the region's vulnerable groups such as women, youth, micro, small and medium size enterprises and other inexplicably excluded communities.

"These regional meetings on financial inclusion are critical in sharing ideas on practical policy implementation in advancing financial inclusion," states the Bank of Tanzania Governor Prof Florens Luoga.

According to Prof Luoga, the meetings review progress made in fostering inclusive finance in the countries, and hatch ways for expanding private and public collaboration in ensuring, accessible and affordable digital inclusive financial services.

Africa is experiencing a digital revival, coupled with increasing connectivity and access to mobile phones, which could drive inclusive growth and innovative digital financial services.

With over 40 percent of the country's population transacting digitally, Tanzania is cited to be among the world's leaders in mobile cash

transfers.

Data from the International Statics compilation entity, Statista indicate that by June 2019, the country's mobile money transactions had reached the value of USD 3.6 billion.

That was garnered from more than 23 million mobile money subscriptions. Measured against the total population of approximately 56 million, it is explained that over 40 percent of Tanzanians made use of mobile money technology in 2019.

Only a small minority of Tanzanians, in fact less than 15 percent of the country's population, have access to traditional banking services.

Mobile money dealings clouded off the traditional banking systems in terms of reach, users and transactions.

The Bank of Tanzania reported 22.4 million active customers in 2019, a remarkable increase in less than a decade, compared to 1 million customers listed in 2010).

As of this year 2022 the number according to Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has reached 32 Million.

Even mainstream banks now are going mobile, many have synced their services through mobile applications in order to also cash from the digital development.

Mobile money users in Tanzania record around 257 million transactions in a month, according to data from Statista.

As a regional and global leader in the AfPI network in inclusive FinTech, the government in Tanzania laid the foundational and supportive infrastructure to facilitate inclusive digitization and financial services that apply the digital plan.

"Through AfPI's services that hinge on peer-learning and knowledge exchange, coupled with technical support, partnerships, and capacity building, AfPI members in Africa have reported over 150 policy changes between 2019 and 2021," says the AfPI Executive Director Dr Alfred Hannig.



Children and youths with brain disorders, including autism, take part in a performance in advocating children's rights. It was held at the Moshi Technical Secondary School grounds yesterday and involved Gabriella Children's Rehabilitation Centre and several other institutions. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

MP advises govt to supply sanitary pads to girls for free

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

SPECIAL SEATS MP Zaituni Swai has appealed for the government to exempt tax on sanitary pads or set aside 50bn/- annually to purchase the feminine products and supply them free of charge to the girls in public schools.

She said that the government's failure to regulate the products' prices in the market shouldn't be used as a punishment to young poor young girls who every month struggle to access the products due to high prices.

Zaituni was contributing to the debate of the central budget for the 2022/23 financial year yesterday in the National Assembly.

Instead, the lawmaker wants the government to think on this, if it aims to see Tanzanian girls achieving their education dreams and later be able to contribute to the country's development. "We are requesting to scrap the Value Added Tax (VAT) on sanitary pads or else set aside a special

budget to finance free provision of the products to the girls in schools so as to enable our children to focus on studies and achieve their dreams," she said.

The MP noted that several studies have shown that a good number of school girls as well as women and girls from poor families both rural and urban areas were facing great challenges to access the sanitary towels thus thwarting their development goals.

Activists also, have for many years been sensitizing on gender responsive policy and legal reforms to enhance friendly and sustainable services on menstrual health and hygiene.

Recently, the executive director of Msichana Initiative Rebeca Gyumi said that taxing women and girls on pads is depriving the rights to enjoyment and access to education as menstruation is not a choice but a biological process that every woman and girl faces.

"The sanitary products have to be distributed for free to women and girls through hospitals, public places,

clinics, schools for easy access and this will control the level of dropouts of girls from the schools. Zero tax on pads is right for women and girls, the taxation on pads is perceived to act as payment to the government for one being a girl/woman," she noted.

Gyumi said the pads can be distributed for free in low-income area schools and to vulnerable populations under the supervision of the government, or retailers could cover the tax as a part of their marketing activities. It's the duty of the government to ensure there is tax justice that does not cause the financial burden on women and girls.

"The government should do something about the situation of taxes off such a commodity. "Can you imagine, a girl saying, 'I think I shouldn't have my periods this month. It is ridiculous. It is not possible. In the same way, it is ridiculous for the government to impose taxes on sanitary towels. These products should be affordable so that everyone is able

to purchase them," she lamented.

She said as part of commemoration of the International Menstrual Hygiene Day this year, Msichana Initiative conducted a study to speculate more on the impact of tax on pads and how it affects accessibility of this product on the marginalized girls in Tanzania through this investigative study in primary schools and the community targeting in and out of school girls.

"The findings from the study conducted as well as analysis of the information obtained from various sources and interviews, desk review reveals that sanitary products are not affordable to most of the girls both in school and out of school in rural areas as well as in urban areas," she noted.

According to her, the study found that the minimum price rate for the pads is 2000/- and the maximum 4000/- depending on the brand. Clearly the prices are not affordable to the majority of Tanzanian girls, and with the ongoing economic inflation the prices are likely to go even higher.



Position Announcement

FRESH Country Coordinator - Tanzania

Fruit and Vegetables for Sustainable Healthy Diets (FRESH), Arusha, Tanzania

The World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) is a non-profit, autonomous international agricultural research center with headquarters in Taiwan and five regional offices around the globe. WorldVeg conducts research and development programs that contribute to realize the potential of vegetables for healthier lives and more resilient livelihoods. For more information, please visit our website: <http://avrdc.org/>

Fruit and Vegetables for Sustainable Healthy Diets (FRESH) is an initiative of the One CGIAR that uses an end-to-end approach to address fruit and vegetable demand, food environments and supply issues simultaneously and in a coordinated fashion. The initiative involves research on consumer behavior, food environments, markets, production systems, and genetic diversity and improvement. FRESH is a partnership between the One CGIAR and World Vegetable Center, also involving several other international and local partners. Benin, Tanzania, Sri Lanka and Philippines are FRESH target countries during the first 3-year period of the initiative.

WorldVeg is seeking an experienced individual to coordinate FRESH operations of all project partners in Tanzania and contribute to capacity strengthening of local stakeholders. This is a nationally-recruited Mid-career/Senior position that will be based at the WorldVeg Regional Center for Eastern and Southern Africa, Arusha, Tanzania and report to the Regional Director.

Key job responsibilities:

- Build a strong initiative team by encouraging effective teamwork and team spirit
- Coordinate and stimulate collaboration across work packages in FRESH and create synergies between them
- Facilitate positive, mutually beneficial engagements with a variety of stakeholders, including the FRESH In-country Stakeholder Group
- Organize and facilitate policy and capacity building workshops
- Support in-country FRESH activities (e.g., field visits, evaluations, capacity sharing activities) and organize and support in-country visits of FRESH team members
- Coordinate and stimulate collaborations with other One CGIAR and WorldVeg initiatives operating in Tanzania
- Communicate FRESH research to local stakeholders through various media
- Write scientific background reports to inform FRESH about key issues of relevance
- Contribute to deliverables/outputs as designated per the FRESH annual workplan
- Undertake any other duties as required by FRESH and

needs of the Center and as reviewed from time to time by the Regional Director

The Person:

Required:

- A national of Tanzania or person with permanent residence status in Tanzania
- Minimally a MA, MSc degree
- At least five years of demonstrated experience at a managerial position
- Strong affinity for the mission of WorldVeg and goals of FRESH
- Strong communication skills in English and Swahili

Desired experience:

- A good understanding of policy decision processes in Tanzania, ideally based on practical experience working for or with the government
- Excellent and up-to-date network of contacts of public and private sector actors in the fruit and vegetable sector in Tanzania, including in the area of public health and nutrition.
- Good proficiency and practical experience of research approaches in either nutrition and/or the fruit and vegetable sector
- Ability to communicate across multiple cultural contexts and across scientific disciplines
- Excellent organizational skills
- Skilled in using Microsoft Office tools
- Experience working on large, complex development programs as part of multidisciplinary team

The Reward:

This is a Nationally Recruited Staff position with competitive pay and benefits. The appointment is for three years, renewable conditional on the availability of project funding and priorities set by the project. The expected starting date for the position is **1 October 2022**.

How to Apply

Applicants should submit in English:

- a letter of application explaining their suitability for and interest in the position
- a curriculum vitae including recent passport size photograph
- a copy of the highest academic certificate
- names and addresses (including telephone/e-mail) of three referees, and date of availability

Applications should be submitted as a single Pdf file by email to info-esa@worldveg.org indicating "FRESH Country Coordinator - Tanzania" in the subject line.

The deadline for application is **31 July 2022**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for in-person interviews in **August 2022**.

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Small traders go about their activities along a Mbezi Mwisho commuter bus stand pavement in Dar es Salaam yesterday, making it near impossible for pedestrians to move around the facility. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Sickle cell anaemia screening to start in July among newborns, announces govt

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has planned to scale newborn screening to diagnose sickle cell anaemia in six regions effectively from July 01, this year.

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a common genetic haematological disorder present in most countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr Asteria Mpoto, Sickle Cell Coordinator at the Ministry for Health said the decision to expand services comes after the pilot project conducted in Temeke, Amana and Bugando hospital.

She said in Tanzania, between 50 percent and 75 percent of the children born with disease die before reaching the age of 5 years.

Dr Mpoto said Tanzania currently has 200,000 patients with sickle cell noting that every year 11,000 new cases are diagnosed.

She said the screening of newborns will be conducted in all regional referral's hospitals in Kigoma, Tabora, Mara, Dodoma, Morogoro and Mount

Meru.

She said the government had already installed machines and training to health practitioners to conduct the exercise.

"Our target is to ensure newborn screening for sickle cell becomes successful and all those diagnosed get the right treatment," she said.

The coordinator said the government plan is to ensure that newborn screening services are extended in all regions.

According to her, early intervention to newborn screened and diagnosed with sickle cell will make possible early intervention hence reduce other risks.

Dr Lulu Chirande, National Coordinator, Newborn Screening (NBS) said the project as a pilot was implemented at Amana, Temeke and Bugando hospital.

She said so far, a total of 10,000 newborn were screened and 85 children diagnosed with sickle cell.

"Parents readiness is one of the big challenges that need to be addressed

to change their mindset," she said.

She said early diagnosis of the problem will lead to early intervention hence reducing wastage of time to the parents.

According to her, the government plan was to ensure newborn screening goes downwards up to the health facilities.

Dean of School of Medicine at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), Dr Paschal Lugajo, said all children diagnosed were lucky since they will get treatment on time.

He said the newborn screening project was initially implemented in collaboration with MUHAS and Bugando hospital.

In Tanzania, approximately 11,000 babies are born with Sickle cell Disease (SCD) each year, ranking 5th in the world.

The high prevalence of SCD in SSA is compounded by the disproportionately higher mortality compared to that observed in the high-income countries.

In Tanzania, SCD is a major contributor to under-five mortality and is estimated to account for 7 percent of all-cause mortality in this age group.

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

RC pleads with parents to treat their children better

IRINGA Regional Commissioner Queen Sendiga has called upon parents and guardians to ensure proper care of children especially girls to reduce incidences of gender based violence (GBV).

She made the appeal recently during celebrations to mark the International Day of African Child held at Makalala primary school grounds in Mafinga town, Mufindi District.

The event was jointly organised by the government and stakeholders including World Vision Tanzania (WVT) and SOS Children's Villages Tanzania.

This year's commemoration was themed: 'Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children: Progress on Policy and Practice since 2013'.

Sendiga noted that the number of school drop outs due to teenage pregnancies is increasing urging parents, guardians and teachers to stop collaborating with perpetrators.

"This kind of celebration helps us to identify the magnitude of problems in the community and discuss ways to resolve them. Iringa is one of the leading regions in the country with the highest number of GBV cases and acts

of violence against children," he added. Vincent Kasuga, World Vision Tanzania Manager in Iringa said the organisation is also dealing with issues of child abuse whereas it works to provide information on child protection.

Kasuga said that children all over the country are facing various incidents related to rape, sodomy and teenage pregnancy. He said the organisation, in its strategic plan for 2022/2023 plans to fight teenage pregnancies in Iringa Region.

He said WVT also works to protect children through enhancement of security committees at village and ward levels in collaboration with stakeholders and the government. He said the organisation works closely with community development and social welfare units.

Benson Lwakatara, project officer from SOS Children's Villages Tanzania said that incidents of child abuse were on the rise in Mufindi District.

He said that the organisation continues to take care of children who

have lost parental care and who are at risk of losing care.

In their speech, children stated that despite the various national and international treaties adopted by the world and ratified by the country, the challenge of violating the rights of the child is still high.

They were concerned that such acts hurt children psychologically, physically and emotionally.

Africa is home to 130 million child brides, both girls under the age of 18 who have already married and adult women who were married as children.

According to a new UNICEF continental and regional report, child marriage is present throughout the continent, with the highest levels across the Sahel and in pockets of Central and Eastern Africa.

Nine out of ten countries with the highest levels of child marriage in the world are in sub-Saharan Africa, including respectively Niger, the Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, South Sudan, Guinea and Nigeria.



Tanga regional commissioner Adam Malima (L) has an audience with Muheza District Council officials yesterday shortly before attending a meeting for councillors called to deliberate on the particular sections of the report the Controller and Auditor General tabled recently in the National Assembly. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

By Guardian Reporter

Jafo calls upon development partners to help govt in maintaining the Union

THE Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Dr Selemani Jafo has called on development partners to support the government's efforts to maintain the union by educating the people about its benefits.

He also said that the office in addition to preparing the union history book also, in the next financial year has allocated a budget for educating Tanzanians to get adequate education on union issues.

Dr Jafo made the remarks while opening a Union Coordination Workshop on Strengthening the National Economy in Dodoma which involved participants from various government institutions.

He added that we cannot maintain the union without knowing its principles and that is why both governments have been educating the people to understand the union and its benefits.

"There are some people who do not know the union well and maybe even in our offices there are some who do not know the union, some even retire without understanding the union so we use these workshops to provide education," he said.

Minister Jafo said that the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar is unique in

that it is one of the largest countries in the world despite being united but has broken down and left scars.

Closing the workshop, Deputy Minister in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Khamis Hamza Chilo reminded stakeholders on the importance of strengthening the union by discussing economic opportunities.

He said there are currently many investment and business activities taking place on both sides of the union but they are not known to the people so it is our responsibility to discuss those benefits.

"Our union is an opportunity to boost the economic growth of our nation and these opportunities are only available if the union's coordination activities are conducted efficiently and expeditiously and serve as a catalyst for access to reliable information on various steps taken by both governments in the field - economic, social and political," said Chilo.

The deputy minister recommended that the coordination of the union's activities be further focused on ensuring that all key stakeholders are involved in accessing information on key union issues.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Union) in the Vice President's Office Abdallah Hassan Mitawi said the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar is unique because we have not shed blood in unity.

He said unlike other unions in the world, the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar founded by the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere and the late Sheikh Abeid Aman Karume continues to last until now.

Speaking at the workshop, Mitawi added that the union is unique in that it is based on more fraternal values and thus its stability.

The chairman of the Council of Muhimbili Health University (MUHAS) Dr Harrison Mwakymbe urged Tanzanians to respect the union as it is our identity in the world.

Dr Mwakymbe who led the team in writing the union history book said that the union is a symbol of the African union so we must ensure it remains strong.

He said there had been more successes in various sectors including education and economics soon after the union was formed compared to the previous period before Tanganyika and Zanzibar merged.

Kili challenge to kick off on July 15

else," he said.

Ndoroma added: "The impact of HIV/Aids to the country's population is devastating as many frail elders have to take over the care of young children after the death of their parents as a result of the disease.

"Many of these families do not have the financial means to support these children, and many are left without food, water or medical care," he stated.

Ndoroma said since the humble beginnings of their first Geita Gold Mine Kilimanjaro HIV/Aids challenge expedition in 2002, the number of new infections in Tanzania has more than halved.

"The distribution of funds to various beneficiaries has been critical to our commitment to getting to three zeros by improving infrastructure through the construction of orphanages,

schools, clinics, and counselling centres, as well as the renovation of existing local and regional medical facilities," he remarked.

Through the challenge, the mine has been able to increase access to services for detecting, treating, and counselling infected people and their communities.

In 2002, AngloGold Ashanti - Geita Gold Mine launched in partnership with Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) the Geita Gold Mine Kilimanjaro HIV/Aids challenge at its operations in Geita, Tanzania.

The Geita Gold Mine Kilimanjaro HIV/Aids challenge is an annual fundraising event that supports the Tanzanian government's nationwide initiative towards zero new HIV infections, zero stigma and discrimination and zero deaths related to AIDS.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
PUBLIC SERVICE RECRUITMENT SECRETARIAT

Ref.No.JA.9/259/01/A/116

22nd June, 2022

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT), Public Service Recruitment Secretariat (PSRS), invites dynamic, Innovative, Experienced and Suitable qualified Tanzanians to fill Two (2) vacant posts.

1.0 MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM (MNRT)

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism of United Republic of Tanzania, is the Ministry responsible for management of Natural, Cultural and Tourism resources. Tanzania has a great potential for natural resources, cultural and tourism attractions. In terms of wildlife, the present network of wildlife Protected Areas (PAs) in Tanzania is comprised of 22 National Parks, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, 27 Game Reserves and 27 Game Controlled Areas. The wildlife protected area network covers 307,800 Sq. Km (32.5% of the total Tanzania's land surface area.

1.1 DIRECTOR GENERAL - 1 POST

1.1.2 JOB SUMMARY

Manage and develop the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) to an effective, efficient and credible institution to meet its Vision, Mission and objectives as stipulated in TTB establishment Cap 364 R. E. 2002 and any subsequent amendments.

1.1.3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop Strategic Plans, Annual Plans and Budget taking into account the Board's Vision and Mission as stipulated in Act No. 25 of 1962, Cap 364 R.E.2002 with the aim of developing the institutional capacity with a view to make TTB effective and efficient;
- Develop Board's policies and ensure their implementation;
- Administer all activities related with promotion of Tourism within and outside of the country of Tanzania in collaboration with Tour operators;
- Administer and review operations and the implementation of the operational plans for all functional Directorates and Units;
- To provide with the government and the donor community through the ministry responsible for tourism, the treasury and other state organs;
- To be the chief spokesman of the Board and ensures a conducive public and industrial relations (PR) and a good image for the Board;
- Develop and initiate revision in the Organizational Structure and make it more efficient in compliance with the Tourist Board Act, No. 25 of 1962, Cap. 364 R.E.2002 and other relevant legislations;
- Submit to the Board quarterly and half-year reports in respect to the status of revenue and expenditure;
- Prepare and submit estimate of income and expenditure to the Board for its consideration for the subsequent year not later than three months before the end of each financial year;
- Ensure that the Board's initiatives are consistent with Government policies;
- Submit to the Board at the end of every three months a report containing:-
 - Performance Indicators and other related information;
 - The operations of the Board;
 - Such other information as the Board may deem proper.
- Supervise, coach and mentor subordinates to ensure their performance is aligned with the Board's goals and objectives;
- Monitor the implementation of the budget of the Board;
- Carry out periodic staff performance review of subordinates; and
- Perform any other related duties as may be directed by the Board.

1.1.4 QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCES:

Holder of Master's Degree in Tourism, Marketing, and Business Administration/Commerce in Marketing, Human Resources Management, Public Administration, Economics, Law or equivalent qualification with working experience of at least twelve (12) years of experience of which three (3) years should be in a Managerial position.

Demonstrate extensive administration experience with strong leadership skill, having an emphasis on strategic planning, large capital improvement projects, financial management and knowledge of Tourism will be added advantage.

1.1.5 AGE:

All applicants must be citizen of Tanzania with an age not above 45 years except for those who are in Public Service, likewise Applicants from within Public Service should not exceed 50 years.

1.1.6 REMUNERATION:

Remuneration package in accordance with the Tanzania Tourism Board Salary Scale (TTBSS 13)

1.1.7 TERMS OF SERVICE:

The terms of service will be based on performance contract. Other terms and Conditions of Service as per the Board's staff benefit package and or stipulated by Government.

1.2 DIRECTOR OF MARKETING - 1 POST

1.2.1 JOB SUMMARY

Develop and implement long term corporate business plan and to undertake research studies for the promotion and development of all aspects of the tourist industry including Domestic and Regional Market, Foreign Market, Conventions and Events.

1.2.2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To develop the board's business and marketing strategy;
- To monitor the performance of the Board's marketing initiatives to see if key performance indicators are being achieved;
- To develop marketing programs with quantifiable and objectives to measure results;
- To plan and oversee the design and production of all promotional aids and materials for distribution locally and overseas;
- To decide on the various means of distribution of promotional aids;
- To coordinate the participation in various promotional campaigns and trips, trade fares and educational tours;
- To oversee the compilation and maintenance of up to date tourism data base and to prepare the quarterly and annual reports;
- To initiate and coordinate domestic tourism awareness campaigns;
- To coordinate market and product research;
- To monitor and coordinate the relationship of tourism stakeholders both overseas and locally;
- To prepare and to monitor the overall marketing and business development budget;
- To keep abreast with and maintain the Board's compliance with all public statutes, laws and policies related to intellectual property, copyright and trademarks;
- To establish standards and practices for maintaining confidentiality related to all organization documents, data, policies and records;
- To analyse market trends, recommend changes to marketing business development strategies;
- To supervise staff under the marketing directorate;
- To develop marketing programs with quantifiable and objectives to measure results;
- To plan and oversee the design and production of all promotional aids and materials for distributions locally and overseas;
- To decide on the various means of distribution of production aids;
- To coordinate participation in various promotional campaigns and trips, trade fairs and educational tours;
- To initiate and coordinate domestic tourism awareness campaigns;
- To monitor and coordinate relationship of tourism stakeholders both overseas and locally;
- To prepare and monitor the overall marketing and business development budget; and
- To perform any other duties related to his/her field as assigned by the Director General.

1.2.3 QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCES:

Holder of Master's Degree in Marketing, Business Administration/Commerce in Marketing Tourism, International Business, Economics, Public Relations and Marketing or equivalent qualification with working experience of at least ten (10) years of experience of which two (2) years should be in a Managerial position.

1.2.4 AGE:

All applicants must be citizen of Tanzania with an age not above 45 years except for those who are in Public Service, likewise Applicants from within Public Service should not exceed 50 years.

1.2.5 TERMS OF SERVICE:

The terms of service will be based on performance contract.

1.2.6 REMUNERATION:

Remuneration package in accordance with the Tanzania Tourism Board Salary Scale (TTBSS 12)

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- Applicants must attach an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV) having reliable contacts: postal address/post code, e-mail and telephone numbers;
- Applicants should apply on the strength of the information given in this advertisement;
- Applicants must attach their certified copies of the following certificates :-
 - Postgraduate/Degree/Advanced Diploma/Diploma/Certificates;
 - Postgraduate/Degree/Advanced Diploma/Diploma transcripts;
 - Form IV and Form VI National Examination Certificates;
 - Professional Registration and Training Certificates from respective Registration or Regulatory Bodies, (where applicable);
 - Birth certificate;
- Attaching copies of the following certificates is strictly not accepted :-
 - Form IV and form VI results slips;
 - Testimonials and all Partial transcripts;
- An applicant must upload recent Passport Size Photo in the Recruitment Portal;
- An applicant employed in the Public Service should route his application letter through his respective employer;
- An applicant who is retired from the Public Service for whatever reason should not apply;
- An applicant should indicate three reputable referees with their reliable contacts;
- Certificates from foreign examination bodies for Ordinary or Advanced level education should be verified by The National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA).
- Professional certificates from foreign Universities and other training institutions should be verified by The Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) and National Council for Technical Education (NACTE);
- An applicant with special needs/case (disability) is supposed advised to indicate;
- A signed application letter should be written either in Swahili or English and Addressed to Secretary, Presidents Office, Public Service Recruitment Secretariat, P.O. Box 2320, Utumishi Building at University of Dodoma - Dr. Asha Rose Migiro Buildings - Dodoma.
- Deadline for application is 5th July, 2022;
- Only shortlisted candidates will be informed on a date for interview and;
- Presentation of forged certificates and other information will necessitate to legal action;

NOTE: All applications must be sent through Recruitment Portal by using the following address: <http://portal.ajira.go.tz/> and not otherwise (This address also can be found at PSRS Website, Click 'Recruitment Portal')



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Let's just hope that these initiatives will usher in lasting regional peace

FRANTIC efforts are being made all over the region to bring various actors to the table, with a view to seeing what can be done to end decades of acrimony and intermittent violence in several spots in eastern Africa.

This runs from the Horn of Africa right to eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and way down to northern Mozambique.

In the DRC issue in particular there was an agreement reached by Eastern African Community member states, to which DRC itself was recently admitted, to send a regional intervention unit to boost the presence of the United Nations peace keeping mission alongside strengthening the mission's mandate to be more muscled and more effective.

It is unclear if the diplomatic issues involved can be cleared quickly enough, but it is understood that they are being addressed with deserving seriousness.

There is another initiative, this drawn from outside but definitely with regional encouragement, especially in the wake of Somalia's election of a new president.

There was a sea change in the diplomatic situation, as new leader Hassan Sheikh Muhammad was likely to drop disputes on the sea border with Kenya and was visibly taking a tougher line with insurgency in his own strife-torn country.

Yet another factor in the diplomatic initiative is that the Horn of Africa is in dire straits with drought, collapse of food imports as most wheat needs were being sourced from Russia and Ukraine, while ability to purchase fuel with which to generate electricity is sharply reduced.

Meanwhile, the start of the eastern European hostilities has disrupted regular supply chains for crucial items

like gas and metals, especially for rare metals needed in renewable energy projects across the globe.

The West is now more feverish about where to get the gas to replace Russian supplies that were dominant over the past three decades but are now dwindling, as chances of a negotiated peace in the latest conflict still look remote.

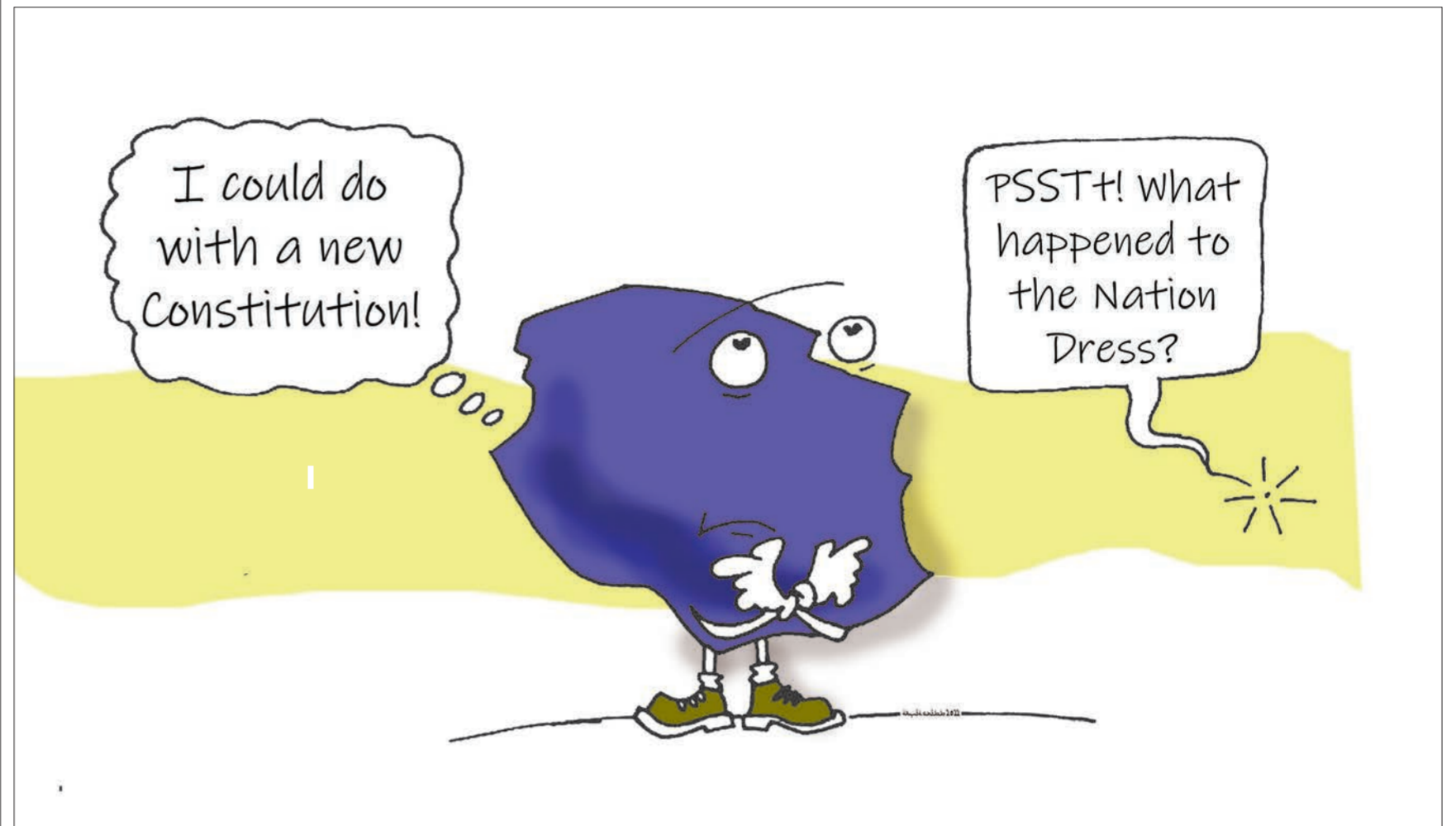
In that regard, African countries rise higher in the economic and investment plans of Western countries, and Somalia just like DRC looks like it lies in the gas belt or oil, metals and whatever, on condition that there is peace.

With the adoption of the Continental African Free Trade Area (CAFTA) arrangement that clicked to life early this year, and many countries are signing up to the pact, the usual interminable negotiations as to the regulatory regime in one way trading with Europe or other African countries are soon being eclipsed.

Thus a combination of natural calamity and trade opportunities brings up greater compulsion on the part of local actors to abandon narrow sectarian causes for pacified federal systems where possible, beefed up by constitutional safeguards for good conduct - or governance - at the top. Experience shows that it isn't all that easy, though.

The point, however, is the need that is being felt in a more pointed manner than earlier as rebel organisations can do little of consequence when people starve, which softens their resolve to war, and listen to initiatives about peace and governance safeguards.

Western interventionist powers have their hands full in a score of regional conflicts and face pressures to de-escalate involvement in African flare-ups, in interminable civil wars. If peace is restored, investments will quickly flow. That should be the focus for now.



By Samson Tinka

Ibumped into Businge Rwabwogo, General Manager (Operations) at Mukwano Group of Companies at Entebbe International airport recently. One area that naturally crowned our discussions was sunseed cooking oil scarcity in Uganda and the region at large.

Sometime in March this year, I had actually approached him to inquire about the availability of that particular type of cooking oil since I had a prospective customer in a neighbouring country who required 2,800 tonnes.

His answer was 'no'. He assured me that whatever is being produced is consumed and that, in fact, it was not enough to serve Uganda's internal market. He also informed me that the little reserved for export was booked upfront for the next two or so years.

Last month, a relative also approached me to inquire about the availability of sunseed cooking oil since she had an agent who needed 100 tonnes to export to the US. Of course, my answer was in the negative as well. My mind was baffled by the many questions as to why there was huge demand of sunseed (sunflower oil) but less production.

I chose to approach the Mukwano Group MD for answers to these lingering questions on the mismatch between sunflower oil need versus availability.

Alykhan Karmali-AK volunteered information on the sunflower-sunseed oil production cycle - from the purchase of seeds right to the bottling/packaging of sunflower oil. By the time we ended our telephone conversation, it was clear that there is a variance between production and demand.

Some history

Sunflower growing in Uganda began around the 1920s with little production, mainly for export. The peak was around the 1960s when the country exported 276 tonnes.

In the 1970s, production dropped drastically owing to Amin's economic war. In fact, between 1973 and 1979 Uganda exported less than ten tonnes.

In the early 1980s, post-Amin Uganda suffered acute shortage of cooking oil owing to the economic meltdown.

At around the same time, a student called Otega returned to Uganda from exile. That was at the time of writing her Master's dissertation, and she chose to resurrect the sunflower growing and sunflower oil production in Gulu.

With assistance from the Canadian High commission and the late Bishop Kihangire Scalabrini of the Gulu Catholic Diocese, Otega installed two machines to process sunflower oil.

The high commission had given her 17 tonnes of sunflower seeds, which she gave the local population to grow. This somehow resurrected sunflower growing and processing.

Uganda could resolve cooking oil crisis by promoting the growing of sunflower



Mukwano industries

In 1991 or so, Mukwano industries through the Lira factory engaged the local population in growing of sunflower. The arrangement was - and has been - that Mukwano procures high-yielding seed varieties, distributes them to the local population who in turn plants, looks after the gardens, harvests and supply to the factory.

Mukwano supports the locals with, inter alia, farm equipment, seeds and provision of extension services.

Additionally, Mukwano has built six village centres (stores) where farmers take the harvests for storage and later sale. These centres have been strategically built and positioned to ease the would-be high costs of transporting seeds.

This has been a most successful strategy to support sunflower growing and to support local farmers' incomes.

In total, through this initiative, Mukwano has collaborated with 107,000 farmers directly in the Lango sub-region alone.

Thus, no one can underestimate the impact of this engagement on the Langis' livelihood. In fact, sunflower cooking oil is now popularly referred to as the golden product of Lira.

Socio-economic importance

The potential social and economic importance of sunflower can be perceived in the light of the crop's ability to satisfy the edible oil needs of Uganda and as a possible source of cash income for the farming population.

It has been estimated that sunflower can satisfy approximately 60 per cent of the country's edible oil needs. The crop has been further heralded as the only hope for the country's edible oil industry in the short run because of its potentially high (20-50 per cent) oil content.

Sunflower production has been observed and its processing offers one of the few rays of hope for revitalising the local economy in northern Uganda

in particular in the long run.

However, if well promoted, the product can also be a decisive source of livelihood to west Nile, Bunyoro and some parts of Buganda region.

Because oils are high in calorie content and contain certain essential fatty acids, experts have suggested that increased edible oil consumption would improve the overall nutritional status of the country's population.

Uganda's demand for edible oil was estimated at an annual 200,000 tonnes by 2017. If sunflower were to supply 60 per cent of this, there would be a need for 120,000 tonnes of sunflower oil.

If expanded, sunflower production would generate agro-based industrial activities alongside creating employment and increasing household incomes.

But before over-estimating the possible contribution of sunflower, it is important to note that the crop will be grown only where the relevant infrastructure can support a cash crop - meaning where there is a mill and an adequate marketing and transportation system.

It is worth noting that sunflower is not a subsistence food crop. If sustained production for cash sale is to take place, the producer must be able to realise an attractive net profit over the full costs of production, including family labour.

Similarly, the demand for sunflower is a derived variable, depending directly on the demand for edible oil in the economy and the ability by local processors to compete effectively with alternative sources of oils and fats on the international market.

What can the government do?

Through the many current economic emancipation initiatives, the government should procure sunflower seeds and distribute them to the population through known agents of the likes of Mukwano Group.

Sunflower takes between 85 and 105

days to mature. If substantial enough amounts of seeds are procured and supplied, grown and processed, the cooking oil scarcity will be addressed to satisfaction in a matter of months.

Mukwano Group and other similar companies have the capacity, experience, knowledge and exposure with respect to the sunflower growing ecosystem. The growing of palm trees, which would be the next option, does not promise a quick intervention.

Sunflower growing has the added advantage of allowing mixed farming. Whereas it is a cash crop, it tolerates mixed cropping with other foods.

Therefore, sunflower growing would solve three issues at ago: incomes from sale of seeds, manufacture of cooking oil as well the growing of food to support home nutrition and food consumption.

Cooking oil is an essential product for home and commercial use. Bakers are crying, with pancake vendors no longer making handsome profits from their businesses. In the Ugandan capital, Kampala, alone and even in other cities and town councils, thousands of youths derive their livelihoods from pancake and related business - and cooking oil is a major ingredient in the processing of the items.

Finally, sunflower oil is higher in unsaturated fats and vitamin E compared to palm oil, which is a combination of saturated fats and vitamin K.

Therefore, the government ought to feel compelled to make a quick intervention here. The war in Ukraine and Russia is not about to end and this would urgently demand quick interventions in some areas like cooking oil.

Ugandans are understandably struggling with items out of our reach, notably fuel. However, sunflower cooking oil can be another 'gold' - and a saviour - for them.

World Day of the Seafarer relevant even as lake shipping predominant

OCEAN-based companies and stevedores handling ships or working with ships on short trips while loading or offloading cargo have their Day in the international calendar.

It is none other than the World Day of the Seafarer. Ordinarily, this is marked out for those who spend most of their time at sea, being crew of long-distance ships though sometimes it is short distance voyages which have involve perils like storms or shipwrecks.

We have had massive shipwreck doomsdays in the past 30 years not only at sea but also on our lakes, with the tragic MV Bukoba sinking in 1996 the worst 'seafaring' occurrence anyone can remember.

A United Nations chronicler says that June 25 of each year is the Day of the Seafarer, recognizing the invaluable contribution seafarers make to international trade and the uplifting of the world economy often at immense personal cost to themselves and their families.

Seafarers are in some remote way like members of the police, the military or all manner of security forces in that they put their lives at risk so that something is routinely accomplished.

This is usually both on account of their personal bravery or love for adventure. Otherwise one would stay clear of the sea as a vast chamber that can close on someone in the event of sinking and from which there is hardly any safe exit route.

The chronicler says that governments, shipping organisations, companies, ship owners and other parties concerned are usually invited to promote seafaring and celebrate the Day in an appropriate and meaningful manner.

The celebrations started in 2011, following a resolution adopted by the conference of parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers (STCW) of 1978.

The conference was held in the Philippines capital, Manila, in June 2010, adopting major revisions to the STCW convention and code, later included in annual UN observances.

A local chronicler meanwhile says the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) has observed since January 1, 2012 that seafarers require the revalidation of Tanzanian certificates of competency, issued in compliance with STCW Regulations.

The International Maritime Organisation championed the marking of the Day in 2011 with an online campaign, asking people to voice and extends their support using social networks.

The idea was to generate worldwide sympathy - even empathy - for the work of seafarers, which in Tanzania is mainly focused on Zanzibar as it has regular ship-based trade activities with a number of neighbouring countries.

With the implementation of the blue economy agenda being taken up keenly in this year's Budget projections both by the Union government and the Zanzibar authorities, we can expect greater use of the sea as a holiday area, for instance with glass-walled ships to view fish at deep sea as it was in a national park.

When one adds the usual artifacts like lounge rooms, swimming pools and sunbathing even out at sea, it is clear the sea is just about to be an extension of the beach. Even if a bit marginally, those involved will be seafarers as well - all for the better.

Stronger healthcare systems critical for Africa's socio-economic transformation

KIGALI

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare systems globally have battled to deal with the repercussions unleashed by the disease. From the outset, Africa was considered particularly vulnerable due to several factors: limited healthcare provision in some areas, high prevalence of HIV and TB in a number of countries, and limited fiscal room to respond to the pandemic's financial impacts.

Yet governments across the continent still managed to come together to respond to the pandemic with unprecedented speed. This was possible due to previous experience handling outbreaks such as Ebola, yellow fever and cholera, with systems put in place to deal with outbreaks. In many respects, Africa responded well.

However, what began as a health crisis soon progressed into an economic crisis too. The pandemic tipped Africa into its first recession in 25 years. It increased extreme poverty on the continent for the first time in decades. Although African economies are slowly rebounding, the recovery is constrained by low vaccination rates, budget constraints, unequal access to external finance, and increasing debt vulnerabilities.

The need for increased investment in healthcare has never been clearer. Prioritizing domestic health is one of the best investments African countries can make in themselves to secure the vision for a prosperous and peaceful continent.

To achieve this, Africa must meet its health commitments as outlined in the



As Africa rebuilds following the pandemic, investment in the fight against malaria and NTDs will make healthcare systems more resilient and support longer-term pandemic preparedness. Credit: UNDP Kenya/James Ochweri

United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. A critical focus is the elimination of malaria and neglected tropical diseases.

On June 23, Rwanda will host the

Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs hosted by President Paul Kagame and co-convened by The RBM Partnership to End Malaria and Uniting to Combat NTDs.

The Summit is a signal moment to renew high-level commitments to end malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and unlock the potential for countries to build a healthier, safer

world. Malaria and NTDs, a group of 20 communicable diseases most commonly affecting the most vulnerable people in areas of poverty, afflicting the lives and livelihoods of billions of people, a large majority in Africa. These diseases are preventable and treatable.

This year, Rwanda was WHO Certified for having eliminated Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT), commonly referred to as sleeping sickness. To date, 45 countries have eliminated at least one NTD and 600 million people no longer require treatment for the group of diseases. Two decades of investments in combatting malaria have saved 10.6 million lives and prevented 1.7 billion cases, significantly reducing burdens on health systems worldwide.

In the last five years, Rwanda made progress in malaria response with a drop in malaria cases from 4.8 Million cases in 2017 to 1.1 Million in 2021, from eighteen thousands severe malaria in 2016 to two thousands in 2021 and from 700 deaths due to malaria to 69 in the same period.

As Africa rebuilds following the pandemic, investment in the fight against malaria and NTDs will make healthcare systems more resilient and support longer-term pandemic preparedness. Ending malaria and NTDs must be a central component of our response to COVID-19. The right combination of investment and innovation will in turn increase our capacity to prevent, detect and respond to future pandemics.

To achieve this, political will and leadership is needed. We know what we need to do. But we must unlock

the potential for a malaria and NTD free world and improve the lives of millions. I have seen the central role that leadership plays. Rwanda is internationally recognized for its success in offering universal access to healthcare, thanks to political focus.

The Kigali Summit is a pivotal moment. With endemic countries at the forefront, civil society, the private sector and non-profit organisations must work together to ensure progress against these preventable diseases, especially as we learn from our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Governments must coordinate efforts from all stakeholders and partners, channelling them into one universal goal: building better healthcare systems across the continent.

What's more, donor countries must meet their commitments in the fight against the disease burden. Prioritizing and mobilizing commitments including a fully resourced Global Fund this year is essential if we are to defeat HIV, TB and malaria, and ensure a healthier, safer and more equitable future for all.

As African countries continue to work to protect their populations against COVID-19, now must be the moment to prioritise investment in the elimination of malaria and NTDs, and to leverage that investment to protect against future threats and build stronger healthcare systems and healthier African populations.

Put simply, the future of Africa depends on its people. A healthy population can unlock stronger economic growth and deliver a better future for all.

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

On Sunday, 19 June 2022, the hopes of millions of Colombians working for a more democratic, safer, ecological, and socially just country came true.

Senator Gustavo Petro, in a duo with his Afro-Colombian vice-presidential candidate, environmental expert Francia Márquez, received approximately 50.44 per cent or 11,281,013 of the votes cast, and has been elected the 42nd President of Colombia.

Both his predecessor Iván Duque and his opponent Rodolfo Hernández publicly congratulated him on his election victory.

Some 22,445,873 people or 57.55 per cent exercised their right to vote in the run-off election on 19 June 2022, about 3.7 per cent more than in the first round three weeks ago. Only in 1998 was the turnout higher.

Getting people to the polls is not always easy in Colombia: Thousands of people in some parts of the country again had to travel for several hours, even days, to reach one of the polling stations. In some regions, heavy rain also prevented people from voting. In addition, threats, violence, and vote-buying continue to restrict voting, especially in remote rural areas.

For the first time in the country's history, neither a conservative nor a member of the Liberal Party will lead the government of Latin America's fifth largest economy.

With Gustavo Petro, the winning streak of leftist movements and parties in Latin America continues and provides further momentum for the upcoming elections in Brazil in October 2022.

Gustavo Petro's opponents

In this historic situation for Colombia, what will matter is how the losers behave. On Sunday, Petro not only relegated his direct challenger, the anti-women and anti-migrant 77-year-old self-made millionaire and populist, Rodolfo Hernández, to second place, but with him also the country's previous political elite.

With 47.31 per cent or 10,580,412 votes, Hernández received much less support than the polls had predicted.

However, significantly more people than in the last elections opted for neither candidate: 490,118 or 2.23 per cent gave a voto blanco.

Colombia votes for social justice



Secretary-General António Guterres talks to villagers in Llano Grande, Colombia, where he witnessed how the peace process was developing in Colombia. November 2021. Credit: UNMVC

This is a Colombian peculiarity that allows voters to express their disagreement with the candidates but, unlike abstention, allows them to exercise their democratic right.

Precisely because this triumph is so unique, President Petro should now reach out to his critics, remind the losers of their responsibility in state politics and call on the opposition to work constructively. At the moment, it is unclear whether the losers will be able to accept their new role.

The military, traditionally strong in Colombia, also remains a key player in this phase of the democratic transition. It is expected that the military leadership will soon send out signals that leave no doubt about Gustavo Petro's election victory.

He will also be their commander-in-chief after his inauguration on 7 August. Should the recognition fail to materialise publicly, Petro's presidency would be tainted from the outset and rumours of an imminent

coup d'état would continue to do the rounds. Both Colombian NGOs and the international community should keep a close eye on this.

Six urgent challenges

In any case, the new president faces enormous challenges. It is already questionable whether Petro will find a majority in the Colombian parliament for a fundamental change of the unequal living conditions, the high unemployment, inflation rate, national debt, and the necessary socio-ecological transformation of the country.

Although quite a few deputies of his left-progressive alliance Pacto Histórico support Petro after the congressional elections in March, he lacks a legislative majority of his own.

Moreover, the newly elected representatives must first prove that they can stick together and also lead a government together, especially now that the ministers are to be appointed. Tensions are already pre-programmed in

the colourful spectrum of the Pacto Histórico.

The government's most urgent tasks include:

Reviving the peace process: In the last four years under Iván Duque's ultraright government, the peace process signed in 2016 with the former guerrilla group FARC was hardly implemented.

President Petro needs to relaunch it, push for its implementation, and ensure that social and local leaders are better protected from displacement, violence, and assassination. This year alone, more than 60 of these líderes sociales have been murdered.

After this process, a dialogue with the guerrilla organisation ELN would be necessary too. It is up to the new government to send out signals define conditions as to whether and how negotiations can take place.

A new economic policy: Petro takes over a country with the highest inflation rate of the last 21 years from

his unpopular predecessor. With a current debt of around 63 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and a budget deficit of over six per cent, the president-elect has announced that he will begin his term with a structural tax reform.

This envisages an increase in the tax burden for the richest 0.01 per cent of the population. This idea is vehemently opposed by the political right. During the election campaign, they left no stone unturned to discredit Petro, accusing him of preparing the country's economic decline.

Commitment to women's rights and greater equality: Petro proposes the creation of a Ministry of Equality led by Francia Márquez, which would be responsible for formulating all policies to empower women, people of all sexual orientations, the different generations, and ethnic and regional diversity in Colombia.

Under Petro, women in particular could expect to gain priority access to public higher education, credit,

and the distribution and formalisation of land ownership.

Petro and Márquez are proposing an energy transition that will rule out new developments of future oil fields.

Land reform and protection of indigenous people, peasants, and Afro-Colombian women: The extremely unequal distribution of land is one of the structural causes of the armed conflict in Colombia. The internal displacement of recent decades has led to the expansion of arable land: the resulting tensions are at the root of conflicts between ethnic communities (indigenous and Afro-Colombian) and peasant women over access to this land.

All these groups have been and continue to be excluded from the development of the country. At the same time, they are among the most affected by the armed conflict's violent dynamics.

Petro's government will need to ensure a more equitable distribution that enables the integration of ethnic and farming communities into the production and development circuits.

Better education for more people: During the social protests last year (and already in 2019 and 2020), the demand for more public and quality education was one of the central messages of the mostly peacefully demonstrating Colombians.

Petro promises to provide them with a higher education system in which public universities and secondary schools in particular are properly funded.

More environmental protection: Under the Duque government, environmental and climate protection in Colombia was largely neglected, deforestation increased, and the first

fracking pilot wells were approved. Petro and Márquez have announced fundamental change.

They are focusing on a more environmentally-friendly production and service model and are proposing an energy transition that will rule out new developments of future oil fields. This process is to be accompanied by a land reform on unproductive lands - mostly resulting from illegal forest clearance.

A Colombia of social justice

Beyond these urgent reform tasks, the president and his government will also have to find answers in other important areas, such as integrated security reform, a diversified new foreign policy, a different drug policy, and on the regulation of narcotics.

At the same time, they must not disregard the necessary coalition with civil society that ultimately lifted them into office.

Gustavo Petro and Francia Márquez achieved something historic on that memorable Sunday in June 2022. The expectations for both are huge, perhaps even unrealistic. On the one hand, the winning couple must stick together and remain capable of compromise.

At the same time, both have raised many hopes and are exemplary for the new Colombia: both want a more social, a more ecological, a more secure, and a more democratic republic.

President Petro will make mistakes and he will hardly be granted the usual 100 days grace period.

The fact that the ultra-conservative and liberal power elites were voted out of office by the majority of Colombians is a political turning point for the country. The losers will hardly accept the new opposition role constructively - and as an important element of a consolidated democracy.

Transgender people gain their place in Argentine society

BUENOS AIRES

“At the age of 35, with a document that says who I really am, I went back to school and finished my studies, which I had left at 14 because I could no longer bear the bullying and mistreatment,” said Florencia Guimaraes, a transgender woman whose life was changed by Argentina’s Gender Identity Law.

The new law passed by Congress in May 2012 was a pioneer in the world, since it allows people to change their gender, name and photo on their identity document, without the need for medical tests, surgeries or hormone treatments.

One of the 12,665 people who did so was Florencia, who today is 42 years old. She was born a boy, but since childhood she felt she was a girl, and for this reason she says that she faced barriers to access education and the labor market, which drove her into sex work for years in order to survive.

“There is nothing special about my story. Exclusion was a direct springboard to prostitution, which most of us started to practice at a very young age. It has to do with the lack of opportunities,” she told IPS.

“The law and our identity documents were tools that empowered us. It’s true that before it was not written down anywhere that we could not study, but we were seen as ‘sick’ and there were mechanisms that expelled us from the educational system,” she added.

Official figures indicate that 62 percent of the 12,665 people who changed their national identity card (DNI) in the last 10 years chose to be female and 35 percent chose to be male. They thus began the slow road to the recovery of their rights in this South American country of 47 million people.

In addition, there are almost three percent (354 people) who recently opted to mark with an “X” the box on their document corresponding to their sex, thanks to a decree signed in July 2021 by President Alberto Fernández recognizing the “non-binary” gender.

Diego Watkins, a 28-year-old trans man who has been the visible face of the Association of Transvestites, Transsexuals and Transgenders of Argentina (ATTTA), says this recognition marked a “before” and “after”.

“I was a person with no identity, no future, no life plan. If I said I had a toothache, they sent me to the psychologist. Knowing and being known who I am gave meaning to my life,” he told IPS.

As a symptom of its current strength, the group has appropriated the term transvestite, traditionally used in Argentina as an insult or in a derogatory fashion. Today, being a transvestite is a political identity and the word is used, precisely, as a banner to vindicate the right to be trans,



Florencia Guimaraes, a transgender woman who two years ago got a job for the first time in her life, in the public sector, takes part in a demonstration in defense of the rights of the LGTBI collective. Lohana Berkins, whose photo she carries on the banner, was the founder of the Association of the Struggle for the Transvestite-Transsexual Identity, who died in 2016. CREDIT: Courtesy of Florencia Guimaraes

say members of the community.

The slow road to change

Florencia Guimaraes, who graduated in Gender and Politics at the National University of General Sarmiento, has headed for the last two years the Access to Rights Program for Transvestites, Transsexuals and/or Transgendered Persons at the Magistrates Council of the City of Buenos Aires, the body that administers the Judiciary of the Argentine capital.

“It’s the first time in my life that

I’ve gotten a job and this, of course, would not have been possible without the law,” she said.

She is also president of the Casa de Lohana y Diana, a self-managed center for the transvestite community in Laferrere, one of the most populous and poorest suburbs of Buenos Aires.

“We offer training workshops with job opportunities, since most of them, despite the law, are still excluded and survive by means of prostitution,” says Florencia.

According to a 2019 study pub-

lished by the Public Defense of Buenos Aires, entitled The Butterfly Revolution, only nine percent of the trans population is inserted in the formal labor market and the vast majority have never even gotten a job interview.

LGTBI rights organizations agree that the total transgender population in the country is between 10 and 15 percent higher than the 12,665 people registered.

“The fact that transgender people have no alternative to sex work is slowly changing since the

passage of the law, which gave visibility to a group that was discriminated against and hidden, but it is still very recent,” activist Esteban Paulón, who heads the Institute for LGTB+ Public Policy, a civil society organization, told IPS from the city of Rosario.

Paulón was undersecretary of Sexual Diversity Policies in the northwestern province of Santa Fe, of which Rosario is the main city. He led a vulnerability survey there in 2019, which reached almost a third of the 1,200 trans people in that province.

The study found that only 46 percent finished high school and only five percent completed tertiary or university studies.

And the results were especially revealing in terms of emotional distress related to gender identity: 75 percent said they had self-harmed with varying frequency and engaged in problematic alcohol consumption; 77 percent had consumed other substances; and 79 percent had eating disorders.

Perhaps the harshest statistic is that, according to estimates by LGTB organizations, the average lifespan is between 35 and 41 years.

Paulón said that of the 1,200 trans people living in Santa Fe, only 30 are over 50 years old.

And he explained: “The chain of exclusion has made it impossible for transvestites to take care of their health. Many go to the hospital for the first time with an advanced infection caused by AIDS, a disease that today can be managed

with medication.”

Valeria Licciardi, a trans woman who became well-known through her participation in the Big Brother reality TV show and now owns a brand of panties designed especially for transvestites, believes that the law is a starting point for social change.

“We were given our place as citizens and our right to identity, to be who we want to be, was recognized,” she told IPS.

But she warned about an undesired effect of the law: “The more we advance in rights, the more hatred and discrimination against us from one sector also grows.”

She cited the example of an arson attack that was reported this month at the so-called Hotel Gondolin, a shelter for the transvestite community that operates in a squat in the Villa Crespo neighborhood of Buenos Aires.

“It was in the early hours of the morning. The police told us that, according to the security camera footage, two men started the fire from the street,” Solange Fabián, a member of the Hotel Gondolin’s board of directors, told IPS.

Overcoming barriers

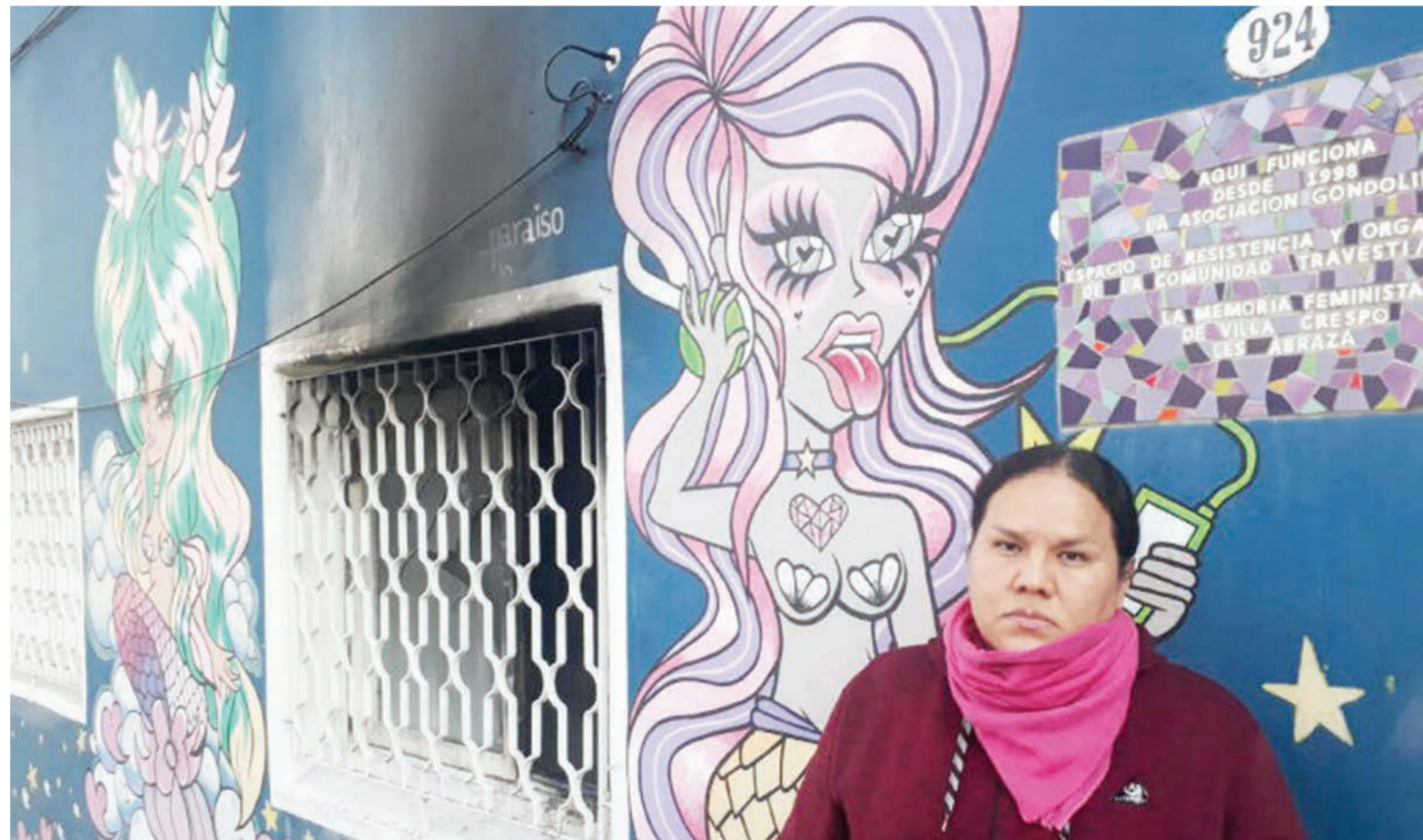
Seeking to improve labor inclusion, a presidential decree issued in 2020 established that one percent of jobs in the national public administration must be filled by trans people, and a registry of applicants was created.

“We are making progress in implementation and there are already 300 trans people working, which we estimate to be 0.2 percent of the total number of public sector positions,” Greta Peña, undersecretary for Diversity Policies at the Ministry of Women, Genders and Diversity, told IPS.

“We also have 6,007 people listed in the registry, which indicates that there is a great desire among the trans community to go out and work,” she added.

This year, the Undersecretariat launched a one-time economic assistance plan for trans people over 50 years of age, consisting of six minimum wages, since this is the group facing the greatest difficulties in entering the labor market.

“Although no regulation resolves structural violence by itself, the gender identity law has been a milestone in the democratic history of this country, which has not only had an impact on trans people but on the entire population,” Peña said.



Solange Fabián is a transgender woman and member of the board of directors of the Hotel Gondolin, which houses more than 40 transvestites, many of them sex workers, in Buenos Aires. At the top of the window you can see the aftermath of a fire that occurred this month and according to the residents of Gondolin was intentional and was a hate attack. CREDIT: Daniel Gutman/IPS

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAYYO 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

Pemba Island spice farmers get items for preservation of harvest

By Guardian Reporter

MORE than 11,000 items for preserving horticultural products and spices have been provided to 666 farmers who are beneficiaries of the Spices, Vegetables and Fruits project in Pemba implemented jointly by People's Development Forums (PDF), Community Forests Pemba (CFP) and Tanzania Media Women association - Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) under EU's AGRI-CONNECT Tanzania.

The provision of the items that opens up the value chain for Zanzibar farmers aims to empower them to deal with the issue of harvest loss of food crops.

Among the items provided included 9,600 special bottles for storing and transporting of vegetables, 500 small bags for storing vegetables and 300 bags for storing spices after harvest.

Pemba North Regional Commissioner, Salama Mbarouk Khatib praised the project's efforts that help to boost farming activities in the Isles and called on farmers to utilise the opportunity provided for their economic wellbeing.



Pemba North regional commissioner Salama Mbarouk Khatib presents a box of shares to one of the group members during the distribution of items to beneficiaries of the European Union-funded spice project in Zanzibar. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

"I laud the project's implementers - PDF, CFP and TAMWA ZNZ by coming up with this strategy in the preservation of harvested crops," she said.

The RC also directed project's implementers to continue providing education to farmers on how to process their crops while abiding by quality standards.

She said: "We have to reach the stage where farmers should to produce quality crops that satisfy the domestic market. We have the ability to cultivate onions, potatoes, carrots and other crops that we import."

CFP director, Mbarouk Mussa Omar said the exercise to distribute the items is the first phase which aims to benefit 1,333 farmers in both Unguja and Pemba.

Recently, Omar said that in the Second Phase of the project, a total of 25,000 horticulture tree seedlings have been distributed to farmers in Pemba.

He informed: "Currently, the project has produced various seedlings for Unguja and Pemba, where we have four blocks from Pemba and four Unguja."

He noted that the project also aims to distribute various seeds such as ginger,

pineapple, bananas and vegetable for more than 1,000 farmers of whom the main target is women for home improvement.

For his part, the project's Nutrition Officer, Mkombozi Nzoya said the distribution of the items has been done after realizing that big amounts of food crops get lost after harvesting, the situation that occasion loss to farmers.

The Spices, vegetables and fruits project focuses in opening up opportunities in the value chain for the products in the Isles by empowering farmers to boost production of high quality crops, and is being implemented jointly by People's Development Forums (PDF), Community Forests Pemba (CFP) and Tanzania Media Women association - Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) under EU's AGRI-CONNECT Tanzania.

The EU-funded project is designed to open up opportunities in the Zanzibar's spice, vegetable and fruits chain. The €5 million project deals with smallholder farmers who are engaged in production of spice, vegetables and fruits and is meant to liberate them from poverty trap.

New cooking stoves reduce households' wood fuel reliance in Mkinga District

By Guardian Correspondent, Mkinga

MORE than 1,800 households in three villages of Mkinga district bordering Nilo Nature Forest Reserve have benefitted from the cooking stoves made by the new technology designed to reduce the dependence of wood fuel that contributes to deforestation.

The villages that benefitted from the project include Boshia Kwemtindi, Boza and Kuze whose villagers received the stoves said they have been big saviour for them because apart from the reduction in the use of wood fuel, but also they have helped women to get time for other development activities instead of spending a lot of time looking for firewood.

Boshia Kwemtindi Village Chairperson, Ramadhani Shembu said the cooking stoves have now become a source of income to the villagers who were trained to construct them and many of them are hired to construct them for residents of neighbouring villages.

"For three years now, I have been using this cooking stove, it has helped me a lot because in the past I used to go to the forest every day to fetch for firewood, but now when I bring in one load of firewood I can stay for more than two weeks before I again

go to the forest," said Mwanaisa Hashim, a Boshia Kwemtindi villager.

The Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) is the facilitator of the project in efforts to control environmental destruction of Nilo Nature Reserve which apart from being home to various tourist attractions including waterfalls, and various species of birds, but also it has been of a great benefit to the nearby residents who use its waters for home use and irrigation.

EAMCEF Northern Zone Projects Officer, Margrethe Victor said apart from the invented cooking stoves they aim to construct for every household, the Fund also has been empowering them to have alternative projects that do not compel them to harvest the existing resources from the forest.

According to her, the projects include beekeeping fruits farming and training the youth as tour guides.

For his part, Nilo Nature Reserve Tourist official, Wema Felix said the EAMCEF project has to a great percentage helped in the restoration of the natural vegetation to the 6,025-hectare Reserve that was established by law in 2007 under Tanzania Forest services Agency (TFA).



Chronic staff shortfalls stifle Africa's health systems, WHO study shows

By Guardian Reporter

A SERIOUS shortage of health workers in Africa is undermining access to and provision of health services even though countries in the region have made efforts to bolster the workforce, a new World Health Organization (WHO) study finds.

The study, titled "The health workforce status in the WHO African Region: findings of a cross-sectional study" published this week in the British Medical Journal Global Health and which surveyed 47 African countries, finds that the region has a ratio of 1.55 health workers (physicians, nurses and midwives) per 1000 people. This is below the WHO threshold density of 4.45 health workers per 1000 people needed to deliver essential health services and achieve universal health coverage.

Only four countries (Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles and South Africa) have surpassed the WHO health worker-to-population ratio.

The region's health workforce is also unevenly distributed by country, ranging from 0.25 health workers per 1000 people in Niger (the region's lowest) to 9.15 health workers per 1000 people in the Seychelles - the highest in the region.

There were approximately 3.6 million health workers in the 47 countries surveyed as of 2018. Thirty-seven per cent of them are nurses and midwives, 9% are medical doctors, 10% laboratory personnel, 14% are community health workers, 14% are other health workers, and 12% are administrative and support staff.

Africa's long-standing health worker shortage stems from several factors, including inadequate training capacity, rapid



population growth, international migration, weak governance of the health workforce, career changes as well as poor retention of health personnel. It is projected that the shortage of health workers in Africa will reach 6.1 million by 2030, a 45% increase from 2013, the last time projections were estimated.

"The severe shortage of health workers in Africa has daunting implications. Without adequate and well-

trained workforce, tackling challenges such as maternal and infant mortality, infectious diseases, noncommunicable illnesses and providing essential basic services like vaccination remains an uphill battle," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

Globally, the Western Pacific region—which includes Australia, China, Japan and Malaysia—had the highest number of doctors at 4.1 million, and 7.6 million nurses in 2020, a report on human

resource for health by the WHO Director-General to the 2022 World Health Assembly showed. The European region had 3.4 million medical doctors and 7.4 million nurses. Comparatively, the African region had around 300 000 doctors and 1.2 million nurses.

To reinforce Africa's health system, it is critical to address the persistent shortages and poor distribution of the health workforce. Countries need to significantly increase investments

for building the health workforce to meet their current and future needs. Strong measures are also needed to boost training and recruitment of health workers as well as to improve their deployment and retention.

Several African countries have made progress to plug the deficit, however, the WHO study published this week acknowledges that resolving the health workforce shortages remains difficult due to the complexity and the scope of the issue.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Missing women in Peru - pain that never ends

LIMA

"They mustn't stop looking for her," said Patricia Acosta, mother of Estéfhanny Díaz, who went missing on Apr. 24, 2016, along with her five-year-old and eight-month-old daughters, after attending a children's birthday party in Mi Perú, a town in the coastal province of Callao, next to the Peruvian capital.

In an interview with IPS in the Plaza Cívica de Ventanilla, another district in Callao, Acosta, along with Jenny Pajuelo, Yamile's aunt, called on the authorities to conduct a thorough investigation to find Díaz and her daughters Tatiana and Yamile, and to stop placing women who disappear under suspicion.

"She was 22 years old, she was a calm girl, at her young age she had learned to be a mother. I feel that my daughter did not leave of her own free will, but that she has been disappeared. That's three lives that are missing!" exclaimed Acosta, while showing photographs of her daughter and granddaughters.

Pajuelo, Yamile's aunt, said "it is a wound that is always open." April marked the sixth anniversary of their disappearance.

The disappearance of women is a serious problem in Peru that is linked to forms of gender-based violence such as femicide, human trafficking and sexual violence.

A report by the Ombudsman's Office revealed that, of the 166 victims of femicide registered in 2019 at the national level, 16 had previously been reported as missing to the national police, that is, one in 10.

Last year, the number of women murdered for gender-related reasons in Peru totaled 146, according to that autonomous public agency.

The Peruvian Penal Code defines femicide "as the action of killing a woman because she is a woman, in any of the following contexts: domestic violence, sexual harassment, abuse of power, among others," which does not limit the crime to sexist crimes committed by the victim's partner or ex-partner, as in other legislations within and outside the Latin American region.

In addition to femicides in this South American country of 32 million people, there is the growing phenomenon of missing women as another expression of gender violence.

The Ombudsman's Office reported that between January and September 2021, 4,463 women, adolescents and girls went missing. This represented a nine percent increase in relation to the same period in 2020, when there were 4,052 cases.

Erika Anchante, commissioner of the Ombudsman's Office's Women's Rights section, told IPS that following its 2019 findings, the following year the Office began issuing the report "What happened to them?" to highlight the figures on disappearances and make the problem visible.

The last of these reports, published



Patricia Acosta, Estéfhanny Díaz's mother, carries a poster with a photo of her daughter and granddaughters Tatiana and Yamile. The three disappeared six years ago and so far the authorities, in her opinion, have done little to find them. Acosta, 50, poses in the Plaza Cívica de Ventanilla, a district of the port city of Callao, next to the Peruvian capital. CREDIT: Mariela Jara/IPS

this June, underscored that in the first five months of 2022, 2,255 alerts on disappearances of women and girls were registered, with the aggravating factor that between March and May the number of cases of girls and adolescents reported missing increased.

"Unfortunately, the numbers are increasing every year, including during the pandemic, despite the restrictive measures that were taken in relation to circulation," Anchante said.

She explained that the Ombudsman's Office has issued several recommendations regarding improving the handling of complaints, training the personnel in charge of this process, and eliminating gender stereotypes faced by families, as well as myths such as waiting 24 or 72 hours.

"No, the complaints must be received immediately and dealt with in the same way, because the search must be launched under the presumption that the victim is alive. And the first few hours are crucial to be able to find them alive," Anchante said.

Improvements in the regulatory framework

In April, the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations published a new regulation that includes the disappearance of women, children and adolescents as

a new form of gender violence.

It thus took up the proposal of the Ombudsman's Office and civil society institutions such as the Flora Tristán Center for Peruvian Women for compliance with General Recommendation No. 2 of the Committee of Experts on Missing Women and Girls in the Americas of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Para Convention (MESECVI).

This committee monitors the States Parties' compliance with the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment

and Eradication of Violence against Women, approved for the countries of the Americas and also known as the Convention of Belém do Pará, after the Brazilian city where it was signed in 1994.

Commissioner Anchante said she hoped the new ministerial norm, which is incorporated into the regulations of the Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women and Family Members, would improve the procedures for dealing with cases of missing women.

Liz Meléndez, director of the non-governmental Flora

Tristán Center for Peruvian Women, said the ministerial norm will contribute to raising awareness about the disappearance of women as a form of violence. It will also promote policies to improve the process of searching for missing women and punishing those responsible.

"The treatment they have been receiving is evidence of how the gender stereotypes that prevail in Peruvian culture have caused the State to fail to comply with its obligations, such as acting with strict due diligence according to international human rights standards," she said.

"This means that it must take effective and immediate measures in the first hours of the disappearance and implement the necessary actions for the search and investigation," she argued.

Meléndez said that behind the cases of missing women there are many stories of violence, some linked to femicides and others to human trafficking and sexual violence.

The activist complained that the victims' relatives suffer humiliation in their search process, especially in police stations, and that they suffer delays in the investigations.

The feminist institution has proposed specific protocols for the search for missing women and argues that the fact that a woman is missing should be considered an aggravating factor in cases of femicide.

This demand arose from the Flora Tristán Center's involvement in the case of Solsiret Rodríguez, a university student, activist and mother of two who disappeared in August 2016, whose remains were found four years later after a tireless struggle by her parents and unceasing demands from feminist groups.

In the end, it came out that she had been killed the very night she disappeared.

Transforming pain into strength



Jenny Pajuelo and Patricia Acosta hold posters of their missing loved ones. Pajuelo is the aunt of Yamile, who was eight months old when she disappeared along with her sister Tatiana and mother Estéfhanny Díaz. Acosta, a mother and grandmother, fights tirelessly for her family members to be found and not to remain on the growing list of missing women and girls in Peru. CREDIT: Mariela Jara/IPS

Rosario Aybar, or Doña Charito as she is known, endured countless sexist comments when she and her husband reported the disappearance of their daughter Solsiret, who in 2016 was 23 years old.

"I was told by the police that, in their experience, women my daughter's age leave because they are hot-headed, not to worry, that she would be back," she told IPS during a meeting at her home.

She faced such comments on the long road she traveled knocking on the doors of the different police stations and the prosecutor's office, fighting so that her daughter's case would not be shelved.

Thanks to this persistence, the two people responsible for Solsiret's femicide were sentenced to 30 and 28 years in prison, on Jun. 3.

The convicted couple were Kevin Villanueva, Solsiret's brother-in-law (the brother of the father of her children), who received the longer sentence, and his girlfriend at the time Andrea Aguirre. During the years that the search went on they claimed they knew nothing about what had happened to Solsiret. But part of the victim's remains were found in Aguirre's home in February 2019, after her arrest.

"Behind a missing woman there is a lot of aggression," said Aybar, with a sad sort of serenity. "And I will explain to you why. Because they try to make them disappear; without a body there is no crime. With my daughter they used a 'combo' (a construction tool, used to beat her), a knife... it's cruel, it's very cruel, there is so much hatred."

Now she has become an activist to bring visibility to the problem of missing women. "I have transformed my pain into strength, that enabled me to move forward, the support of so many young women, otherwise, what would have become of me," she said.

Patricia Acosta, Estéfhanny's mother, has also had to learn to live with something she never imagined: the disappearance of her daughter and granddaughters. "I live with sadness, but I must also have joy, I still have my son who was 13 years old when his sister disappeared. I can't drag him into this grief."

In the case of her daughter and granddaughters, neither she nor the authorities suspect the person who was her partner when they disappeared.

Like Aybar, she participates in the Missing Women Peru collective that supports families who are searching for daughters, sisters, sisters-in-law and other relatives, fighting to keep the authorities, society and the media from forgetting them.

"We do not want them to be invisible to the State, their lives were cut short and we do not know what happened to them, and it is a human right to find them. Now we have to continue searching for truth and justice," said Pajuelo, who keeps alive the memory of her nieces Tatiana and Yamile. "They would have been 11 and six years old by now," she says, looking at their photos.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

Table with 7 columns: MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY. Each column lists a 'TIME PROGRAMME' and a corresponding 'TIME PROGRAMME' with a list of radio programs and their start times.

HOW HARD IT IS FOR A LOW, MIDDLE TANZANIAN TO MORTGAGE A HOUSE

By Guardian Reporter

Despite increasing demand for housing units, it is currently hard for a normal Tanzanian to purchase or mortgage a dream house through commercial banks, The Guardian has learnt.

The mortgage market update for March has openly revealed that major constraints include unavailability of houses while costs of funds for mortgage being extremely high.

The Tanzanian housing demand is estimated at 200,000 houses annually and a total housing shortage of 3 million houses, according to National Housing Corporation report.

"Demand for housing and housing loans remains extremely high as it is constrained by an inadequate supply of equitable houses and high-interest rates charged on housing loans," the update says.

"Most lenders offer loans for home purchase and equity release while a few offer loans for self-construction which continue to be expensive and beyond the reach of the average Tanzanians."

Currently, the mortgage interest rate is ranging from 15 percent to 19 percent, higher than the maximum rate of 24 percent in 2010.

"While interests on mortgage loans improved from 22 - 24 percent in 2010 to 15 - 19 percent offered today, market interest rates are still relatively high hence negatively affecting affordability," the update reads.

"Additionally, cumbersome processes around the issuance of



titles (especially unit titles) continue to pose a challenge by affecting borrowers' eligibility to access mortgage loans."

Various studies have also revealed that the housing prices from developers are so high, for a normal Tanzanian to afford, considering the majority of the population is low and middle income earners.

Studies have suggested that developers should consider providing houses to low income earners to be sold less than 40mn/- as currently most are sold at a minimum of 90mn/-.

However, developers have also complained about the rising costs of construction materials.

Studies have shown in Dar es Salaam, a 3-bedroom residential property located near a beach or in a prime location is priced between \$300,000 and \$500,000. However in other areas, 3-bedroom houses

are priced starting \$50,000.

As of 31 March 2022, 33 different banking institutions were offering mortgage loans.

The mortgage market was dominated by five top lenders, who commanded 66 percent of the market including CRDB Bank Plc was a market leader commanding 38.57 percent followed by Stanbic Bank (8.88pct), Azania Bank (7.07pct), NMB Bank Plc. (6.68pct) and NCBA Bank (4.75pct).

According to the update, the mortgage market in Tanzania registered a 1.41 percent annual growth in the value of mortgage loans as of 31 March 2022 as compared to the 2 percent growth recorded in the previous quarter.

Total mortgage debt outstanding that resulted from lending by the banking sector for the purposes of residential housing was 503.74bn/- equivalent to \$218.07 million as compared to 496.61bn/- equivalent to 215.06 million reported on 31 December 2021.

There was no new entrant into the

mortgage market during the year.

Average mortgage debt size was 81.49mn/- equivalent to \$35,276 marking a slight increase from 80.4mn/- equivalent to \$34,815 reported on 31 December 2021.

The ratio of outstanding mortgage debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) decreased to 0.30 percent compared to 0.35 percent recorded in the previous quarter.

Efforts to develop housing projects by developers continue with a special focus on Dodoma Capital City as the Government has relocated its administrative functions to Dodoma.

Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company (TMRC) continues to play its primary role in extending refinancing and pre-financing facilities to Primary Mortgage Lenders (PMLs).

A key element in the growth of the mortgage market in Tanzania continues to be the provision of long-term funding both in the forms of refinancing and pre-financing by the TMRC to facilitate PMLs

matching their assets (mortgage) and liabilities (funding), the update reads.

As of 31 March 2022, TMRC had extended loans worth 133.20bn/- (\$ 57.66 million) to sixteen (16) primary mortgage lenders through Refinancing and pre-financing mortgage loans.

The loans advanced by TMRC to PMLs were equivalent to 26 percent of the total outstanding mortgage debt hence a significant opportunity exists for TMRC to continue refinancing the remaining 74 percent of the mortgage market portfolio.

In the eleven years that TMRC has been operational, a significant impact has been noted in the mortgage market.

Mortgage repayment period has increased from the maximum of 5-7 years that was previously offered to 25 years that banks offer now.

Another initiative set up under the Housing Finance Project (HFP) was the Housing Microfinance Fund (HMF) which was geared toward providing long-term loans for lower-income earners who currently lack access to housing finance either for the construction of a home or for home improvements.

The Fund officially began its operations in 2015 and on 31 July 2015, the first disbursement of 1bn/- was made under the fund to DCB Commercial Bank Plc with the total credit line to the bank being 3bn/-.

This marked the first step towards significant progress in the microfinance sector including subsequent disbursements by HMF. HMF is currently operated by the Bank of Tanzania.

World's biggest cobalt mines is at stake in Congo fight

KINSHASA

A dispute over one of the biggest copper and cobalt mines is escalating in the Democratic Republic of Congo, threatening to disrupt exports of essential battery materials and raising questions about the project's future.

A top executive from state mining company Gecamines said that partner CMOG Group Ltd. owes \$7.6 billion in overdue payments, and even accused the Chinese metals producer and trader of posing a threat to national security. CMOG said it denies the allegations, "strongly" opposes what it views as unjustified attacks and will defend its rights and interests.

The crux of the dispute is over mineral royalties. Gecamines, which owns 20% of the Tenke Fungurume mine, accuses controlling shareholder CMOG of under-reporting mineral reserves and hiding data to avoid triggering higher payments under their agreement.

Earlier this year, a court ordered that the mine should be run by a temporary administrator while the two sides sort out their differences. However, CMOG says it's still in charge of managing the project and insists it's business as usual.

Now Gecamines is firing up the rhetoric, threatening last week to cancel the partnership altogether and take back the rights to the deposit. The company is owed about \$5 billion in royalties and wants more than \$2.5 billion in interest as well, said deputy chief executive officer Leon Mwine Kabiena.

"If we determine that it's not working, even in marriages, there are always divorces," Mwine said Monday in an interview at Gecamines' headquarters in the mining hub of Lubumbashi. "It's the biggest rip-off of the last twenty years, and Gecamines is not going to continue like this."

The escalating fight is important because of Congo's outsized role in supplying the world's cobalt, a vital part of many electric-vehicle batteries. Tenke was one of the top cobalt producers last year, and is also a large supplier of copper.

The spat also takes place against the backdrop of President Felix Tshisekedi's efforts to increase scrutiny of mining deals made under his predecessor, Joseph Kabila. Its mineral riches make Congo hard to ignore for the global mining industry, but many have steered clear because of the perceived riskiness, so the dispute will be closely watched by other international miners and potential investors.

Gecamines' next step may be to halt Tenke's mineral sales, Mwine said. The state-owned company has not signed its annual commercial agreement with the venture and without that Mwine says any exports are technically illegal.

CMOG says the allegations against it are groundless and that royalty payments are clearly defined in its agreement with Gecamines.

"There are people, who ignore the basic facts and act against the established agreement, trying to sabotage the amicable environment of friendly talks by telling lies, making troubles, and attacking partners," CMOG said in an emailed response. "This is not justified. CMOG opposes it strongly. We will retain all means, including legal means, to defend our legitimate rights and interests."

CMOG bought control of Tenke Fungurume Mining Sarl from Phoenix-based Freeport McMoRan Inc. about five years ago in a deal that ultimately cost the company more than \$3 billion. CMOG announced a \$2.5 billion injection into the mine last year in order to double production, raising questions from Gecamines and the government about whether it was under-reporting its reserves.

According to its 2010 amended mining convention, Tenke Fungurume Mining is supposed to pay Gecamines a royalty of \$12 for every ton of proved and probable recoverable reserves of copper beyond 2.5 million tons.

Last August, Tshisekedi created a special commission coordinated by Mwine to investigate the deal, and Gecamines filed a lawsuit against the company in December. In February, the court decided in Gecamines' favor, ordering that Tenke should be run for at least six months by the administrator, Sage Ngoie Mbayo.

SBL extends support to the govt in accessibility of water

By Guardian Reporter

WATER is necessary for human life and economic excellence. According to the Ministry of water, every Tanzanian needs at least 2,250 cubic meters (CM) of water per day, a slightly higher amount than the international water sufficiency mark of 1,700 CM per day.

As of 2022, nearly 86.5 percent of Tanzania's urban areas had water access. On the other hand, water access in rural areas has reached 74.5 percent. This output is a fruit of 303 water projects executed nationwide, targeting to cater safe and clean water to more than 1.4 million people in rural areas (Ministry of water).

However, the European Union (EU) finds investment in sustainable water infrastructures fosters economic growth with high rates of return. The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) quarterly economic bulletin for March 2022 noted that water sector-related economic activities contributed 4.9 percent to real GDP growth.

As an investor and supporter of government efforts, SBL's Water of Life (WoL) projects in multiple regions across Tanzania complements the government's efforts to improve water access to Tanzanians.

In this case, investment at any level is essential, as President Samia Suluhu Hassan urged.

"Tanzania is fortunate for being bestowed. With numerous natural resources,

public and private sectors should work together to bring development to Tanzanians," said President Samia.

The ambitious and competitive beer maker has seeded its investment in Tanzania's water landscape for decades. SBL's very own strategic water project, Water of Life (WoL), partnering with WaterAid, is setting the stage for millions of Tanzanians to access safe water and improve their lives to execute economic activities well.

While the government of Tanzania is deliberately working to increase water access to Tanzanians via an ambitious water project worth Tshs. 500 m/- for enhancing water access, SBL has also embarked on strategic water investments worth billions.

SBL's Corporate Relations Director, John Wanyancha, found the WoL instrumental in supporting government efforts to supply clean and safe water to Tanzanians nationwide.

"SBL has a policy of supporting the wellbeing of the community with Water of Life being one of our four priority areas that the company financed," SBL's Corporate Relations Director said.

According to SBL's Corporate Relations Director, the strategic water project has served more than 2 million people. SBL is not a newcomer in the water sector development. The strategic beer maker has filled Tan-



Hanang district commissioner Janeth Mayanja (right) inaugurates Nalgonda water treatment plant in Basuto ward, Manyara Region. It has been jointly funded by SBL and Water Aid Tanzania. Looking on are officials from SBL and Water Aid as well as Basuto villagers.

zania with its support to the water sector for a decade now.

Over the past ten years, more than Tshs.1.5 bn/- has been poured into 20 boreholes across the nation by SBL. The WoL project is revitalizing the efforts laid on the ground in villages which struggle to fetch water by walking a long distance to access unsafe water on ponds and perennial rivers.

A good example is the SBL's Tshs. 220m/- project in Machochwe division of Serengeti District of Mara region, whereby over 12,000 residents benefit from the solar-powered water pump, producing 7,500 litres per hour—a swift water technology.

More than 4000 Bassotu



SCIROCCO SEEKS SHAREHOLDER BACKING ON DEAL ON TANZANIA'S GAS DIVESTMENT

PERTH

Scirocco Energy PLC chair Alastair Ferguson has told shareholders it is in their own best interests to approve the sale of the company's Tanzanian assets at an upcoming EGM.

The company earlier this month agreed a deal to sell Scirocco's 25 per cent stake in the Ruvuma asset, which primarily comprises the Ntroya gas field development project, to Wentworth Resources and a shareholder vote is scheduled for Wednesday, 29 June.

Ferguson and the Scirocco board, which own just over 3% of the company's shares, are recommending shareholders approve the deal.

Scirocco's deal has a headline value of US\$16m albeit US\$3m of that is upfront and US\$13m is both deferred and contingent upon the future performance of gas operations (should they be delivered successfully by Wentworth and its new partners Aminex and ARA Petroleum).

Significantly, as highlighted by Ferguson, however, the company's participation in the pending field development would be subject to a cash call, of around US\$6m, to cover Scirocco's share of costs for the planned Chikumbi-1 well later this year.

Further funding requirements would also follow, subject to the Chikumbi results, to develop the field which is targeting commercial gas production before the end of 2024.

Ferguson, in his letter, cautioned



Ntroya gas field in Tanzania

shareholders over the potential risks that Scirocco would face if it were to retain the Tanzanian assets.

"Should the resolution not be passed, the company will be required to fulfil its near-term funding obligations on the Ruvuma asset which can only be achieved by raising further equity, likely in excess of its current market capitalisation, and at a level of issuance and price that would be highly dilutive for existing shareholders," he said in the letter.

"There are no guarantees that the company will be able to raise the capital required to meet near-term obligations which would likely lead to the company defaulting on its financial commitments and potentially relinquish its interest in Ruvuma for zero consideration."

Adding further to the potential uncertainties, he added: "It should also be recognised that success is not guaranteed in the upcoming CH-1 well and the ultimate approval, extent of or timing of a related development is

also uncertain.

"The Ruvuma project involves significant technical and subsurface uncertainties, meaning the company would retain material downside exposure associated with the project, as well as the potential long-term requirement for large capex expenditure, implying further dilutive capital raises in order to maintain our interest.

"Those factors and the significant concentration in a single asset lead the board and man-

agement to conclude that this is not an appropriate risk/reward profile for Scirocco and does not provide a reasonably deliverable path to growth or cashflow."

Chief executive Tom Reynolds, in a recent interview with Proactive, described the Wentworth transaction as "the best deal available to the company".

"The Ruvuma asset, as we've consistently said, is a robust and strong asset but we haven't believed that Scirocco is the right home for it."

Instead, the Scirocco board believes that the US\$3m cash injection and removal of Tanzanian funding requirements will allow it to accelerate its proposed investment and growth plans which target "cash-generative assets within the sustainable energy and circular economy markets".

Ferguson, in his letter, added: "Completion of the divestment will enable the company to accelerate its growth strategy, which we believe will enable the board to build a business with a long-term future capable of generating sustainable returns for its shareholders.

"As such, the board encourages all shareholders to cast their vote and strongly recommend that shareholders vote in favour of passing the proposed acquisition at the upcoming general meeting."

Housing market slowdown takes hold as mortgage rates run higher

NEW YORK

REDUCED competition, fewer sales and even some price drops by sellers are all indications that buyers and homeowners are reacting to higher mortgage rates, high prices and high inflation. Three reports from Redfin real estate brokerage demonstrate the cool-down in the national housing market.

May, traditionally one of the busiest months for home sales, saw a 3 percent decline in sales, compared with April, according to Redfin's report. Sales were down 10.2 percent compared with May 2021.

Median sales prices continue to climb, up 14.8 percent nationally, compared with May 2021. No metro area saw a price decline in May, compared with the previous year, and some saw large price jumps. The median sales price rose 30.5 percent in North Port, Fla.; 28.1 percent in Tampa; 26.8 percent in Las Vegas; 25.9 percent in Knoxville; and 25.8 percent in Orlando.

While demand for homes is declining, which makes competition less fierce, the number of listings is still down, according to Redfin. Active listings were 4.3 percent lower in May, compared with May 2021 and were down 0.7 percent, compared with April 2022.

Fewer buyers faced competing offers in May, when Redfin reported that 57.8 percent of buyers working with a Redfin agent were in a bidding war for a property. That represents the lowest share of offers facing competition since February 2021 and is down from 68.8 percent in May 2021. The percentage of offers facing competition has declined for four consecutive months.

Buyers face the most competition in Worcester, Mass., where 81.8 percent were in a bidding war in May, followed by Las Vegas (74.5 percent), Boston (72.6 percent), Dallas (72.3 percent) and Philadelphia (69.3 percent).

The metro areas with the lowest competition in May were Riverside, Calif. (41 percent); Providence, R.I. (45.3 percent); Olympia, Wash. (47.2 percent); Honolulu (47.8 percent); and Minneapolis (48.7 percent). In the D.C. region, 61.1 percent of buyers faced competition in May, compared with 70.6 percent one year ago.

Slowing demand means that some sellers decided to lower their sales price to get an offer or during negotiations, according to Redfin.

On average, 22.4 percent of homes for sale during the four-week period that ended June 12 had a price drop, a record high for Redfin's data, which dates back to the beginning of 2015.

The prime culprit for the slowing housing market is mortgage rates, which have risen quickly in recent months to rates not seen since 2008

Mwalimu bank launches house financing scheme

By Correspondent Carren Cyprian

Mwalimu Commercial Bank (MCB) has launched a new house financing product, which will enable Tanzanians teachers and entrepreneur to build or improve their houses.

The bank's acting managing director Sabina Mwakasungura said recently during the launching ceremony of the product that the loan will be issued to teachers, entrepreneurs and other education stakeholders across the country in collaboration.

The product is collaboration between MCB and FMJ Hardware Ltd, supplier of construction materials.

"We don't offer cash, we provide construction materials to enable them to build houses or improve standard of their houses through Jenga na Mwalimu product at a reasonable price," she said.

Apart from that, she noted, if damage will be occurred while transporting their construction materials, the bank will provide material damage insurance to cover the risk.

"This is a new package designed



to improve teacher's livelihoods and help them to have best houses as part of supporting President Samia Suluhu Hassan to ensure civil servants improve their livelihood," she noted.

According to her, the bank aimed at bringing closer all teachers and education stakeholders to use their bank and grow together as one community.

She said Mwalimu Commercial Bank is a bank established to provide innovative financial services to the Tanzanian education ecosystem and related sectors target-

ing students from higher learning institutions, teachers, schools, Institutes of Education, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Others include civil servants, President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (TAMISEMI), private sector and other service providers in education sector and entrepreneurship sector.

Currently the bank has been able to introduce Mwalimu Mobile, Mwalimu Wakala and MwalimuCard Visa that provides af-

fordable, easily accessible and convenient banking services to their customers.

"Though Mwalimu Wakala our customers can access all key financial services anywhere, anytime without visiting our branches," she said.

So far the bank has two branches in Dar es Salaam located at Samora and Mlimani city including nine agent banking centres that enable unbanked and banked to access financial services in their localities.

Meanwhile, the FMJ Hardware

Ltd's Managing Director, Fatima Senzota called on the bank to extend its services to reach more workers across the country including teachers from private schools because even them they need loans services similarly to teachers from civil sector.

She lauded the bank to introduce a new loan package that in turn will assist more people to meet their dreams and own good houses at reasonable price.

So far her company has branches in all regions across the country including Congo and Rwanda and it will be easy for her company to reach more people who will utilize their services.

Meanwhile, Abdallah Kirungi, the bank senior official noted currently the bank provide financial services to teachers in 26 regions and they plans to reach more civil and public servants including businessmen.

Apart from that the bank has been able to introduce a school fees loan package for students to assist parents who want to pay school fees for their children on even individuals who want to pursue further studies.

Credit Suisse in trouble over Vatican property deal

LONDON

The fund manager at the centre of an ill-fated investment by the Vatican in the London property market has filed a lawsuit against Credit Suisse over claims the Swiss bank did not disclose that the funds were from donations intended for the needy.

WRM Group, which was founded by former banker Raffaele Mincione, filed a claim in Luxembourg against Credit Suisse and fund administrator Citco this month. The suit alleges that Credit Suisse and Citco did not tell Mincione that investments made in his fund came from a unit of the Vatican that manages charitable donations, known as Peter's Pence.

Mincione is facing criminal

proceedings in the Vatican for his role in a deal in which Peter's Pence assets were used to buy 60 Sloane Avenue, a building in the Knightsbridge district of London.

Credit Suisse said it "will defend itself vigorously against this claim brought by WRM Group, which is unfounded and without merit". The bank added that it "is not involved in the Vatican trial".

Last year, Vatican prosecutors charged Mincione with various crimes including fraud and embezzlement, allegations that he contests.

Companies connected to WRM acquired the London building in 2012 for £129m. Two years later, money the Vatican said was from Peter's Pence was used to buy a stake in the

property via an investment fund founded by Mincione at a far higher valuation.

The Vatican acquired the rest of the building in 2018. Vatican prosecutors say companies founded by Mincione made a large profit from investing in the Knightsbridge building, which was formerly a Harrods warehouse and was earmarked to be developed into luxury apartments.

He and his companies have denied any wrongdoing, saying that the increase in the property's value was justified by independent auditors and third-party consultants. He has also said the Vatican was always advised by its own investment banks, including Credit Suisse.

Senior Holy See officials invested on behalf of the Vatican

a total of €350m of donations in the London building between 2014 and 2018, the Vatican has said.

WRM said the impact of the Vatican's criminal proceedings had resulted in Mincione having to abandon several large projects and having his assets frozen in Switzerland, as well as increasing his funding and financing costs.

"WRM Group alleges that Credit Suisse and Citco failed to divulge crucial information about the origin of the money used by the named defendants to subscribe in the WRM Group Sub-Fund, in order to cover up the exact origin of the said money in the framework of the relationship between the named defendants and the Vatican," WRM said in a statement.



60 Sloane Avenue in London's Knightsbridge was bought using assets from Peter's Pence, a unit of the Vatican that manages charitable donations

CONSTRUCTION

Peter Muliisa (pictured) is the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) chief legal and corporate affairs officer. He spoke to Julius Barigaba on a variety of issues in the oil and gas sector including the on status and viability of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP).



UGANDA NATIONAL OIL COMPANY TO ANNOUNCE PIPELINE FINANCIERS NEXT MONTH

What is the fate of EACOP considering the current financing, environmental and legal pressures?

We have had environmental and climate activists start a hashtag and movement to mobilise people to stop EACOP.

The thrust of their argument is that it is dangerous to the environment, it is going to displace people and wildlife and that it is going to cause major emissions, which would worsen climate change.

We do a Resettlement Action Plan, which looks at the impact of the projects on the people, and comes up with mitigation measures, based on International Finance Corporation standards, accepted by all banks in the world.

The land that EACOP needs is a 30-metre corridor. So, in most places you are not taking people's whole land but a piece.

After construction, the pipeline is buried all the way. When it's laid and everything is done, the land will be restored.

Why was there a delay in

the first place?

It was largely because we had not taken a Final Investment Decision. But we had done everything else - we had prepared the Project Affected Persons, done the valuations, and in addition to the normal values, we have added the disturbance allowance. Now we are at the end of the resettlement action plan. It's a long process.

The project has also been accused of damage to the environment. We know the project has an environmental issue, so we did an environmental and social impact assess-

ment.

An oil spill could happen anytime on a pipeline. How do you mitigate this?

The pipeline is double layered steel. It has insulations that enable us to monitor what is happening at any point, from the control centres. And for every river crossing, we have put a valve on both sides of the river.

We have put in place an oil spill contingency plan, which is a requirement by law, and which is best practice. It lays out steps we would take to ensure

that there is very quick efficient action.

EACOP will produce emissions. Could that derail Paris Agreement targets?

We have done as much as possible to make it a net-zero emitter project. That basically means you look at the carbon it is going to emit and you offset it by creating scenarios that will reduce carbon emission to the amount that you might emit.

Is the call to ditch fossil fuels too early, especially for Uganda?

Fossil fuels are not going to be eliminated; it is about how we use them, and the alternatives we create so that we have a balanced ecosystem so that you emit enough, not to be in danger of climate change effects.

Critics say that by pushing this project, Uganda will miss the transition to green energy. Are we thinking about that transition?

Up to 68 percent of people in sub-Saharan Africa have no access to electricity. That's the energy poverty we are dealing with.

You are not transitioning them from anything; they are at zero. I have read credible reports that say we are not likely to meet the Paris targets by 2050.

Does that mean we will not "develop in a responsible manner"?

Upstream operations contribute 10 percent emissions, but within upstream there are certain elements such as methane leakage. One element that contributes a lot of emissions is flaring. As

a country we made it a criminal act to flare in Uganda.

Are the activists unfairly targeting Uganda?

There is a need for reducing emissions to achieve the Paris targets by all countries.

What we would want to see from activists is not to target a project that is neutral, that is aimed at getting people out of energy poverty.

Why have you struggled with financing for EACOP?

We are confident with financing. Project finance is a standard process. You reach out to financing entities and do market sounding as the project starts. When the project matures, you now issue an information memo-

randum to all these financiers.

Some will tell you we are not going to participate and others will tell you we are going to participate.

Those that say they are going to participate, you give them a term sheet, they return their response to the term sheet. When we got our returns, we were oversubscribed by 20 percent.

By July, we should be able to announce all the financing entities. We have entities from Europe, from Asia and all over the world.

Respected voices in oil and gas have repeatedly said EACOP's financing will come from anywhere but Europe. Is that the case?

It's a general feeling because the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and I think the G7 have all come up and said we don't want to finance fossil fuels.

But the reality is that banks will continue to finance good responsible projects, even in the fossil fuel space.

You must have seen that press statement by UK Energy Secretary, where he said fossil fuels will continue to be here with us for the coming decades. It's the truth.

We negotiated a production sharing agreement

(PSA) for Kasuruban; we bid for two, but we didn't get Omuka. We've negotiated a PSA with the ministry, we have agreed on the terms. It's now before the solicitor general for approval and once he approves, we sign it and start exploration of that block.

EACOP was planned to transport crude for 25 to 30 years. If we don't have new discoveries, we will have the risk of stranded assets in our midst.

Are you confident going into exploration that you will discover oil?

When we were developing the pipeline, these are the questions we were dealing with in the economic model.

The pipeline as it is today is based on the resources we know, otherwise you can't be sure [of future discoveries].

And with the resources that we know, we shall be able to pay debt, get returns on equity. So it's a profitable commercially viable project.

We have the technical capacity. We have probably some of the best trained technical people in geology, geophysics and geoscience.

What we've had challenges with is generally financing and risk appetite especially now because we are getting money from the Treasury.

Egypt's property developers show confidence over market stability

CAIRO

Real estate developers believe Egypt's property market is capable of absorbing any shocks.

Chairperson of Hometown Developments Diaa El-Din Farag has stated that the real estate sector faces some challenges, including increase in prices of building materials, and shortage of some raw materials, due to low production and importation difficulties, therefore the construction works have been declining for more than two

years.

During the 6th edition of Think Commercial roundtable, titled "Egypt's Real Estate Market: Mechanisms to Overcome the Global Economic Crisis", on Tuesday, Farag highlighted that there are some mechanisms that must be completely different from existing ones in order to preserve the real estate sector and its companies in the current period.

He added that the industry is currently facing a new challenge, including a lack of financial liquidity and high costs that threaten the completion of pro-



jects that have been sold to clients.

He further pointed out that the sector needs a new model to deal with the current crisis, starting with the process of offering land to providing a ready-to-move final product to customers.

In addition to, reconsidering land

prices, which currently represent approximately 40% of construction cost, which is a very exaggerated percentage, so it should not exceed the 20% of the total cost, as well as the reconsideration of payment periods.

He added that there are other mod-

els for sale other than the traditional method that we are accustomed to, and there are many models that exist in the rest of the countries.

For example, a bank may be a main partner for a developer and finances the developer directly from the first day after the developer prepares a

feasibility study for his project and provides appropriate required guarantees.

"Real estate companies must devise new real estate tools and products that suit the financial solvency of customers that meet their requirements and needs, as well as find non-traditional financing facilities that are recognized. In addition to, providing initiatives to facilitate the payment process for customers so that they can invest in real estate. Besides, creating non-traditional financing facilities, as well as providing initiatives to facilitate payment processes for customers so that they can invest in real estate. Additionally, banks should also start working on a decision of the Financial Regulatory Authority by financing customers to purchase units under construction, when working with this category the market will be bolstered," Farag explained.

Chairperson and Co-Founder of The Land Developers (TLD) Ahmed El Tayebi stated that controls regulating the local real estate sector enable serious companies to develop new projects, protect consumers and contribute to expansion of the export of Egyptian real estate abroad.

El Tayebi added that serious developers are able to adapt to any developments in the real estate market, and we may witness an increase in real estate prices during the coming period.

Six strategies for increasing the cash flow of your real estate investment

By Xavier Preterit

In real estate investment, cash flow corresponds to the amount of money you have left over after deducting all the expenses from your income each month.

In concrete terms, these different expenses include the monthly payments, the taxes, the insurance costs, the management fees and all the other charges related to your property. The income is mainly made up of rent and rebilled charges. Depending on the case, the cash flow can be negative, zero or positive.

When you are aiming to generate money from your real estate investments beyond the assets that you accumulate, you should aim for a positive cash flow. A positive cash flow will allow you to accumulate liquidity in order to continue investing. Earning money from your real estate properties goes beyond acquisition, but it requires a strategic vision to enable you to optimize your investments. To achieve this, there are several techniques you can use.

1. Buying at a low price

The price of the property is an important variable for determining the profitability of your project. The lower the price, the less

you will pay in credit. It is, therefore, important to negotiate the price of your property as soon as you buy it. Always keep in mind that you earn money at the time of purchase but not when you resell your property. Many investors tell themselves that in 10 years, the property they have acquired will be worth this or that amount, and they do not think about negotiating its price.

However, no one can be sure of what will happen in 10 years in the property market. The negotiation should take place at the time of the purchase, before signing. To determine the correct price of a property, find out the market price, and negotiate below that price. At the very least, you will get your property at the market price. Note that the sellers usually expect a negotiation, and that they leave a margin by announcing a higher price. Saving even \$1,000 on the advertised price can have an impact on the cash flow of your real estate project.

2. Negotiating the terms of the loan

The monthly payments are among the highest expenses. By negotiating the terms of your real estate loan, you can get better loan conditions, and you can also reduce the expenses incurred by the repayments. Some elements, such as the loan rate, the loan insurance rate, the application fees and the



early repayment penalties, can be negotiated with your banker. If the borrowing rates fall, it is also possible to refinance your loan. This technique allows you to obtain a lower rate than your current rate and reduce your monthly payments.

3. Increasing the rent

Increasing the rent allows you to increase your income. However, this increase must be reasonable in order to avoid rental vacancies. Staying within the market prices is essential. There are several strategies which you can use to increase the rent of your property. The first strategy is to improve the comfort of your property through small-

scale renovation work, such as the decoration of some rooms or the installation of equipment, like an intercom or a security system.

There is also the option of investing in furniture and moving to a furnished rental property, taking into account the tax arrangements that apply, depending on the region you are in. A furnished property is generally more expensive than an unfurnished one. In the same way, the seasonal rentals like Airbnb are generally more profitable than the traditional rentals. For better profitability, it is possible to mix these different strategies.

4. Creating other sources of incomes

Apart from renting out your property, you can create other activities in order to increase your income. For example, you can build laundry facilities in your property, a bicycle storage area or a wine cellar. These various amenities offer an additional comfort to the tenants of your property, and at the same time, they allow you to generate more income.

5. Reducing the costs

This technique allows you to reduce your expenses. To do this, it is necessary to identify the highest expenditure items and to reduce them. You can take action on the

rental charges that are not billed back to the tenant. This could be the heating, the electricity or the internet. It is also important to compare the prices when you are choosing a craftsman for repairs, as the expenses caused by the work affect the amount of your cash flow. If you have a condominium, you should also be vigilant about condominium fees, which can increase.

6. Avoiding the turnovers

Rental vacancy has a direct impact on the cash flow of your property, as it considerably reduces your incomes. In addition to that, each time a tenant leaves the property you are renting, you have to plan for some repair and renovation costs, which will put a strain on your cash flow. So, the idea is to retain the quality tenants who occupy your property in order to maintain a constant level of income.

To do this, you should rely on a high-quality service in order to better position yourself in the market. This is manifested in the use of quality and durable materials in order to ensure comfort of the tenants or through the maintenance of a good relationship with those tenants. Always keep in mind that when the tenants feel special and properly welcomed, they are more likely to stay in the property.

WORLD

South Korea reports first confirmed monkeypox case, steps up monitoring

SEOUL

SOUTH Korea on Wednesday confirmed its first case of monkeypox virus and pledged to strengthen monitoring and response systems as it raised the alert level to "caution" for the infectious disease.

A Korean citizen, who is receiving treatment at the Incheon Medical Center after showing symptoms while entering the country from Germany on Tuesday afternoon, has tested positive, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency said. It did not provide details of the individual.

The agency raised the alert level for the infectious disease to "caution", the second of the country's four levels, upon confirmation of the virus case. It said it will step up monitoring by designating areas that require strengthened quarantine management, mainly among people from coun-

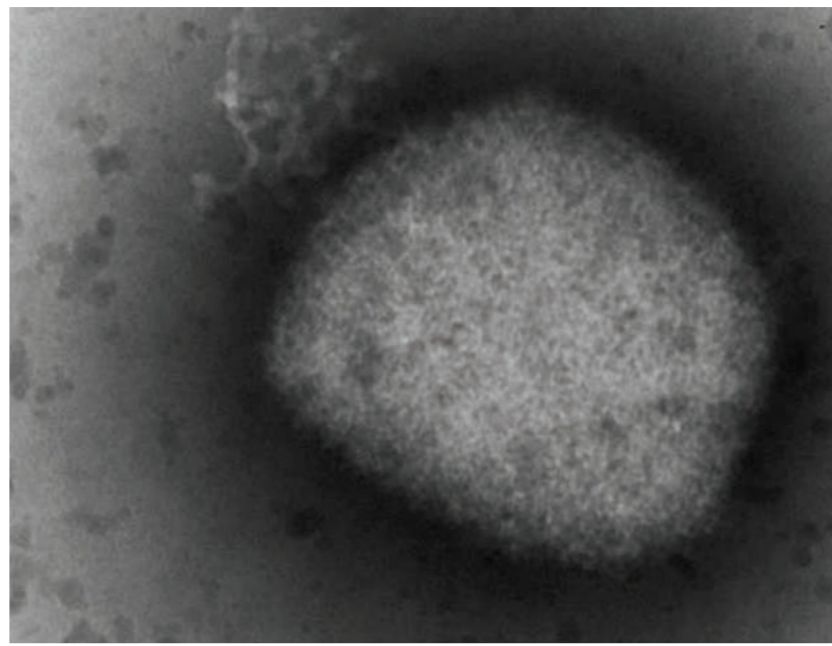
tries where monkeypox occurs frequently.

"The KDCA has been pushing for utilizing secured (monkeypox) vaccines and treatments ... and additional introduction of those, while the agency is continuously expanding its diagnostic testing capabilities," KDCA Commissioner Peck Kyong-ran said.

"Among those who have been exposed (to monkeypox virus) through physical contact with confirmed patients, those with medium or high risks will receive vaccination under their consent," Peck said.

The country, however, is not currently reviewing ring vaccination for monkeypox, she added.

Earlier on Wednesday, KDCA reported two suspected cases of monkeypox virus, but the other case, a foreign national who entered the country on Monday after showing symptoms of blisters and sore throat, tested negative. The agency said



In this photo provided by the Unidad de Microscopia Electrónica del ISCIII in Madrid, on May 26, 2022, an electron microscope image shows the monkeypox virus seen by a team from the Arbovirus Laboratory and the Genomics and Bioinformatics Units of the Carlos III Health Institute (ISCIII) in Madrid. File photo

this patient was diagnosed with another disease without giving details.

Separately on Wednesday, President Yoon Suk-yeol ordered health authority to "step up quarantine management of foreign entrants at airports ... and to be fully prepared to distribute vaccines and treatments to the medical field." Yoon also ordered to swiftly complete the introduction of third-

generation vaccines and antiviral drugs for monkeypox.

Earlier in June, South Korea designated monkeypox as a second-degree infectious disease, according to its four-tier system, with 22 contagious diseases including COVID-19, cholera and chickenpox being included in the same category.

Agencies

'Russian embassy received no requests about US mercenaries'

BUENOS AIRES

EIGHT people who took care of soccer legend Diego Maradona will be tried in Argentina courts for homicide, according to a ruling released on Wednesday following an investigation into his November 2020 death due to cardiac arrest.



In the 236-page document seen by Reuters, the judge in charge of the case questioned "the behaviors - active or by omission - of each of the accused which led to and contributed to the realization of the harmful result."

The ruling said that eight people including doctors, nurses and a psychologist who cared for Maradona at the time of his death are accused of "simple homicide," a serious charge that means taking a life with intent.

A medical board appointed to investigate Maradona's death concluded in 2021 that the soccer star's medical team acted in an "inappropriate, deficient and reckless manner."

Maradona was considered one of the greatest soccer players in history, though the diminutive player nicknamed "Pelusa" for his long mane of hair and "DIOS" as a play on the Spanish word for "God" using his jersey number, battled drug and alcohol abuse for years.

Mario Baudry, a lawyer for one of Maradona's sons, told Reuters that the World Cup winner was "in a situation of helplessness" by the time of his death. Maradona died on November 25, 2020, at the age of 60.

"As soon as I saw the cause, I said it was homicide. I fought for a long time and here we are, with this stage completed," he said.

Argentine prosecutors launched investigations shortly after Maradona's death at a house near Buenos Aires, including ordering searches of properties of his personal doctor and probing others involved in his care.

Mario Baudry, a lawyer for one of Diego Maradona's sons, told Reuters that the World Cup winner was "in a situation of helplessness" by the time of his death. Maradona died on November 25, 2020, at the age of 60.

The defendants named in the ruling were Maradona's neurosurgeon and personal doctor, Leopoldo Luque, psychiatrist Agustina Cosachov, psychologist Carlos Diaz, nurses Gisella Madrid and Ricardo Almiron, their boss Mariano Perroni, and doctors Pedro Di Spagna and Nancy Forlini.

The defendants have denied responsibility for Maradona's death. The judge said that lawyers for some of them had requested the case be dismissed.

Vadim Mischanchuk, an attorney for Cosachov, said they would appeal the decision, adding the psychiatrist's area of care had no relation with Maradona's cause of death.

"A guilty party is being sought at all costs and objectivity is being lost," the lawyer said.

Reuters could not immediately reach the defendants or the other lawyers for comment.

The crime of "simple homicide" in Argentina usually leads to a sentence of 8 to 25 years in prison, according to the country's penal code. There is no set date for the trial yet.

Agencies

Xi urges business leaders to boost BRICS cooperation

Beijing

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday that he hopes business leaders to champion open, innovative and shared development, so as to add new impetus to BRICS cooperation.

He made the remarks while delivering a keynote speech in virtual format at the opening ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum.

The Chinese leader stressed keeping industrial and supply chains safe and unclogged.

He expressed the hope that business leaders will actively participate in building the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution, strengthen cooperation on digital economy, smart manufacturing, clean energy and low-carbon technology, and support the industrial restructuring and upgrading in BRICS countries.

Cooperation should also be advanced in fields of energy, food, infrastructure and skill training to ensure that more benefits of development will reach everyone in a more equitable way, he added.

Joint efforts to seek, uphold peace

Xi said history has shown that hegemony, group politics and bloc confrontations bring neither peace nor stability, but rather war and conflict.

The Ukraine crisis has again sounded the alarm for humanity: Countries will surely end up in security hardships if they place blind faith in their positions of strength, expand military alliances, and seek their own safety at the expense of others, he said.

Global development into new era

Noting that development holds the key to tackle challenges and promote people's well-being, he said the aspirations of the people and the interests of the international community

should be the focus in steering global development into a new era to bring benefits to people of all countries.

Solidarity, win-win cooperation

President Xi called on countries around the world to stick together in the face of difficulties and join hands for win-win cooperation.

Currently, some key industrial and supply chains are intentionally hindered, commodities prices are fluctuating at high levels, inflation is running high around the world, international financial markets remain volatile, and the momentum of the global economic recovery is continuously weakening, he said.

"People are all worried if the world economy will fall into the quagmire of crises," Xi said. "At this crucial moment, only by sticking together in solidarity and cooperation can we overcome economic crises."

Willful sanctioning brings disasters

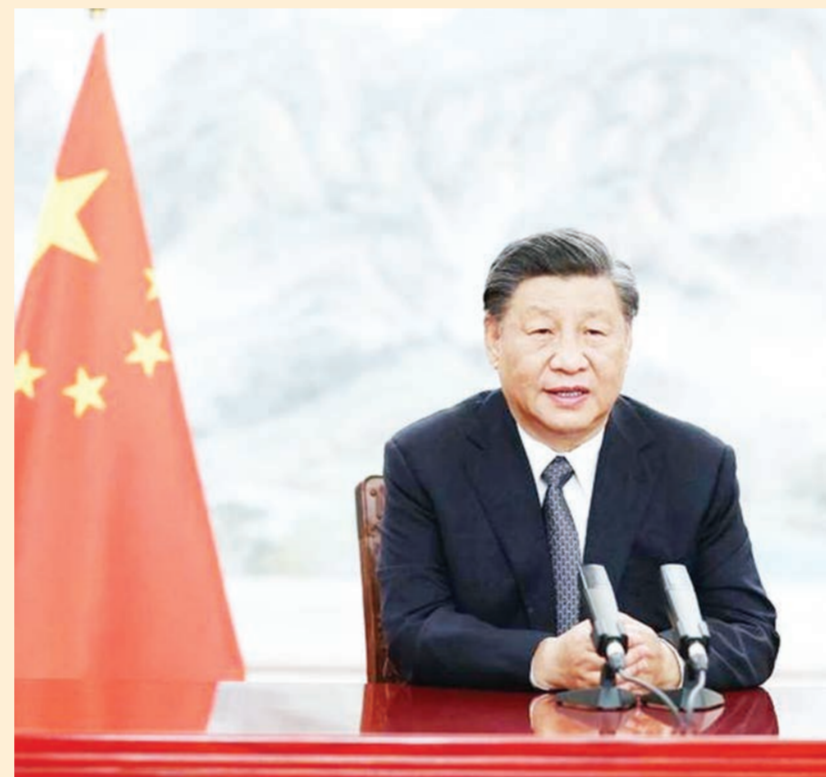
Describing sanctions as boomerangs and double-edged swords, he said those who politicize, leverage and weaponize global economy and willfully impose sanctions by taking advantage of dominance in international financial and monetary systems will eventually harm others and themselves and bring disasters to people around the world.

Responsible economic policies

The Chinese president called on major developed countries to avoid negative spillover effects of their policies and to prevent severe shocks for developing countries.

Macroeconomic policy coordination should be intensified in order to prevent global recovery from slowing down or even halting, he said.

Meeting economic, social tar-



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech in virtual format at the opening ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum on Wednesday. XINHUA

gets

Xi said China will strengthen macro-policy adjustment and adopt more effective measures to strive to meet the social and economic development targets for 2022 and minimize the impacts of COVID-19.

China has adhered to the principle of "people first, life first," built a solid defense against the epidemic, and consolidated the results of epidemic prevention and control, he said. The measures have protected the people's life and health to the utmost and stabilized the fundamentals of economic and social development as much as possible, Xi added.

Economic globalization unstoppable

President Xi said economic globalization has been faced with headwinds over a period of time, as some countries have tried to "decouple and cut off chains," and build "exclusive yards with high walls."

This has raised common concern in the international community that, if the trend goes on, the global economy will be divided into isolated blocs, he said.

Those who attempt to turn back the wheel of history and block others' paths will only reach a dead end themselves, he said.

Sound development of globalization

Xi called for efforts to stay open and inclusive, and clear away all barriers impeding the development of productive forces to promote the sound development of globalization.

"We should encourage the free flow of capital and technology and a continued emergence of innovation and wisdom so as to pool the synergy of global economic growth," he said.

Global economic governance

Xi urged efforts to strengthen global economic governance and increase the representation and voices of emerging markets and developing coun-

tries.

Multilateral trading system

He called for upholding the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization at its core, removing trade, investment and technology barriers, and working to build an open world economy.

CPC 20th national congress

Xi said the Communist Party of China (CPC) is to convene its 20th national congress in the second half of 2022 to draw China's development blueprint in the next stage.

Enhancing opening-up

China will continue to enhance opening-up and foster a business environment that is based on market principles, governed by law and up to international standards, said the Chinese leader.

He encouraged businesses to invest and develop in China, enhance trade and economic cooperation, and share development opportunities.

Historical trend of openness won't change

Despite the changing international landscape, the historical trend of openness and development will not change, nor will the aspiration to meet challenges together, said Xi.

He called on all countries to not flinch away from risks, rise up to challenges and forge ahead toward the goal of building a community with a shared future for humanity.

Xinhua

Online platforms connect intangible cultural heritage and modern life in China

THE burgeoning online platforms in China have brought intangible cultural heritage (ICH) closer to people across the country, especially young people, who watch documentaries about ICH, buy ICH-related products, visit exhibitions of ICH, and enjoy the fun of handicrafts on online platforms.

On June 11, this year's Cultural and Natural Heritage Day, ICH-themed activities were held across the country under the guidance of China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT), during which traditional food, handicrafts, music, among other types of ICH, attracted more people's attention to and enhanced their knowledge about the colorful ICH-related cultures and distinctive practices in the protection of ICH.

Given their popularity among young people, online platforms were utilized extensively at these events to demonstrate and promote ICH.

In celebration of this year's Cultural and Natural Heritage Day, a total of over 6,200 ICH-themed activities were held, among which more than 2,400 took place online, according to an official with the ICH department of the MCT.

This year, Chinese short-video sharing platform Douyin launched a thematic activity named "the adventures of intangible cultural heritage". The online activity attracted many participants, including ICH inheritors, Internet influencers and representatives of ICH associations, who shared stories about ICH, unique ICH techniques, and ICH-related

traditional cultures.

During a livestreaming show on Douyin, an inheritor of Kouji (oral stunts), a type of performing art and national-level ICH in China, imitated various sounds with his mouth and received widespread applause from netizens. Some commented that the inheritor himself can function as a dubbing team.

An inheritor of the craft of making wooden combs showed netizens his outstanding skills via online platforms and rose to fame on the Internet.

Video platforms in the country also created a special section for public-benefit resources of ICH-related works, gathering more than 2,300 images and videos of the inheritance of ICH and documentaries about ICH.

Besides getting a better knowledge about the wisdom and skills of ICH inheritors through livestreaming and other online activities, people can also buy ICH-related products via e-commerce platforms to share the fruits of ICH protection.

In an effort to promote the protection of ICH and help ICH inheritors and companies engaged in ICH-related businesses overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for the purpose of winning the battle against poverty, relevant departments and bureaus of China's MCT, Ministry of Commerce, and the National Rural Revitalization Administration have supported e-commerce platforms in holding an ICH-themed shopping festival on the Cultural and Natural Heritage Day since 2020.

During this year's online ICH shopping festival, an inheritor of a city-level ICH item, traditional beef cooking techniques of Yilong county, Nanichong city, southwest China's Sichuan province, introduced special homemade products to Internet users via livestreaming. The livestreaming show attracted nearly 22.47 million viewers and helped sell 8.36 million yuan (about \$1.24 million) worth of products within one day.

Tapping into the influence of the ICH shopping festival, the local governments have ramped up efforts to promote the development of beef-related industries. Four beef processing companies, four beef cattle production bases, and a Sichuan pepper production base have been set up in the locality, helping 375 people

from 137 families shake off poverty and enjoy prosperity.

Other provinces have also taken measures to stimulate the consumption of ICH-related products during the online ICH shopping festival. Focusing efforts on Internet-famous ICH inheritors, Zhejiang province in eastern China has encouraged ICH-related businesses to increase their online popularity by inviting netizens to virtual tours of their stores through livestreaming. In north China's Hebei province, citizens were offered high discounts, more than 100 types of goods, and offline experience activities and were encouraged to go shopping for ICH-related products and take part in ICH-themed activities near their homes.

People's Daily

NATO summit unlikely to lead to breakthrough in Swedish-Finnish NATO bids – diplomat

MOSCOW

THE odds of a breakthrough on Finland and Sweden's accession to NATO at the alliance's upcoming summit are minimal, Russia's Permanent Representative to the EU Vladimir Chizhov said on Wednesday.

"It is absolutely obvious now, and it has been confirmed publicly, that the chances of a breakthrough regarding Finland and Sweden joining NATO at the upcoming summit of the North Atlantic Alliance on June 28-30 are minimal," he said on the Rossiya-24 news channel.

On May 18, the Finnish and Swedish ambassadors to NATO handed their countries' applications for NATO membership to the alliance's Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said then that Ankara would not back the admission of those two Nordic countries to NATO until they clarify their attitude to terrorist organizations, particularly the Kurdistan Workers' Party, which Turkey regards as a terrorist organization. Since then, Ankara has



reiterated this position, including at talks with its counterparts and representatives of international organizations.

On Monday, at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, the Turkish, Swedish and Finnish delegations touched upon the security issues brought up by Ankara.

According to Stoltenberg, the meeting was constructive and Turkey's concerns about terrorism are legitimate. However, Finnish President Sauli Niinisto acknowledged that the meeting "has made little progress", adding that his country was unlikely to join NATO before September.

Climate laws face new EU Parliament vote after failed first try

BRUSSELS

THE European Parliament will on Wednesday try again to agree on more ambitious climate change policies, after rejecting them in a divisive first vote that threatened to delay the EU's green agenda.

Lawmakers rejected reforms to the European Union's carbon market this month over disputes over how ambitious Europe's emissions-cutting policies should be amid soaring energy costs and inflation.

That threatened to delay the EU's overall package of climate laws to clean up Europe's energy, industry and transport sectors and by 2030 cut net EU greenhouse gas emissions by 55%, from 1990 levels.

EU lawmakers vote on Wednesday on the carbon market, a new border tariff on imports of CO2-heavy goods like steel and cement, and a fund to support low-income households affected by CO2 costs.

If successful, the vote will confirm Parliament's position for negotiations with EU countries on the final laws. EU countries plan to agree on their own position next week.

Europe's carbon market, or "emissions trading system", is the bloc's main emissions-cutting tool. It forces power plants and factories to buy CO2 permits when they pollute, and caps the number of permits available to buy.

"You can't overestimate the impact the ETS file will have on the climate," Swedish socialist lawmaker Jytte Guteland said.

A parliamentary deal appears likely, after groups representing a majority of lawmakers - the European People's Party, Socialists and Renew lawmakers - agreed on a compromise ahead of the vote.

EPP lawmaker Esther de Lange said the compromise maintains climate ambition while providing "breathing space for EU industry".

Their compromise would phase out the free CO2 permits industries currently receive by 2032. This issue thwarted the first vote, when Socialists and Green lawmakers rejected the entire law over a 2034 phase-out they deemed too weak. The European Commission, which drafts EU laws, had proposed 2035.

The new law will also expand the carbon market to shipping, launch a secondary market for buildings and transport, and could restrict financial investors' access to the market under some amendments up for a vote.

Under the lawmakers' compromise, the scheme's cap on CO2 permits will fall by 4.4% from 2024, 2.5% from 2026 and 4.6% from 2029, while an extra 70 million permits will be removed in 2024 and 50 million in 2026, to drive faster CO2 cuts.

Agencies



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen (fourth left) and European Commission Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans (second left) attend a press conference with commissioners in Brussels, Belgium, on July 14, 2021. File photo

Russian and Turkish Defense Ministries discuss grain exports from Ukrainian ports

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S and Turkey's Defense Ministries' delegations at a meeting in Moscow on Tuesday discussed the safe exit of Turkish merchant vessels and grain export from Ukrainian ports, the Russian Defense Ministry told reporters on Wednesday.

"On June 21 in Moscow talks between the delegations of the Russian Ministry of Defense and the Turkish National Defense Ministry took place.

The parties discussed issues of the safe exit of Turkish merchant vessels and grain exports from Ukrainian ports, as well as approaches to ensuring safe navigation in the waters of the Black Sea," the ministry said.

As the Russian Defense Ministry pointed out, the parties also stressed the importance of bilateral cooperation, which allowed the Turkish cargo vessel Azov Concord to leave the port of Mariupol. "As a result, an agreement

was reached to continue consultations," they added.

Ukraine, the UN, the EU and mediators have been discussing for more than two months the problem of grain export, which has been blocked in the country due to the ongoing conflict.

A total of seven ways to export grain from Ukraine have been proposed by different parties: through the ports of Berdyansk and Mariupol, via Odessa, by rail via Romania, Hungary and Poland, as well as to Lithuania via Belarus or Poland.

But the final decision on how to export 20 to 25 million tons of wheat, according to various estimates, has not yet been made.

Another attempt to reach an agreement could be made as early as next week in Istanbul, where, according to Turkish media, a meeting of representatives of the UN, Ukraine, Russia and Turkey, which has assumed the role of mediator, is planned.

How BRICS could inject new life into fragile global economy

BEIJING

SHABBY infrastructure has troubled the Padre Leo Schneider School in northern Brazil for long enough. The road outside its gate -- muddy in winter and dusty in summer -- has scared off quality teachers and reduced student attendance.

Things will change in a few months. Thanks to funding from the New Development Bank (NDB), the road will be paved with asphalt and built with a drainage system, part of an urban development project covering nine cities in Brazil's Para state.

The project, together with many other BRICS-funded or initiated programs, has illustrated the importance of the group -- an acronym for the emerging markets of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa -- for developing countries and the world. The BRICS itself is home to over 40 percent of the world's population and about a quarter of the global economy.

Facing headwinds like the COVID-19 pandemic and major changes rarely seen in a century, the world, particularly the developing south, has high expectations for this week's BRICS summit.

FIVE FINGERS OF A FIST

Like five fingers of a fist, the BRICS countries have closely cooperated since the group's inception in 2006. Infrastructure, green finance, the digital economy and global governance reform have been firm areas of collaboration.

Since 2006, the BRICS countries have proven a constructive force in modernizing economies and real-locating aid resources to more deserving countries, said Cavince Adhere, a Kenya-based international relations scholar.

During the past 16 years, the BRICS has set up a series of cooperation mechanisms including the NDB, the Contingent Reserve Arrangement, the BRICS Business Council and the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution Innovation Center.

To fight the COVID-19 pandemic, the group launched the BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Center in March. In May, BRICS health ministers agreed to establish an early warning system for large-scale pandemics.

Earlier this month, the group's economic and trade ministers pledged to deepen cooperation in trade, sustainable development,



Photo taken on Sept. 8, 2021 shows models of jets during an exhibition on BRICS New Industrial Revolution held in Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian Province. Xinhua

supply chains and multilateral trade mechanisms.

Intensified collaboration has also been nailed down in aerospace, information and communications, the environment, new energy and biotechnology.

BRICS mechanism is based on creating a spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation. Common ground is sought while differences are preserved, Wang Lei, director of the Center for BRICS Cooperation Studies at Beijing Normal University, told Xinhua.

Since assuming the BRICS chairmanship this year, China has held more than 70 conferences and activities, covering politics, security, trade and finance, people-to-people exchanges, sustainable development and public health.

China has made practical contributions to BRICS regarding financial security, technology, human resources, agriculture and infectious diseases, said Wang.

As the rotating chair, China has prioritized promoting poverty alleviation and food security, which is "a welcome step," said B. R. Deepak, chairperson of the Center of Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies at the New Delhi-based Jawaharlal Nehru University. "China's experience in poverty reduction and increasing the income of the peasantry would come in handy and be beneficial for poverty eradication."

ECONOMIC BALLAST

The BRICS mechanism provides a stage for the voices of developing countries to be heard, said Zhu Xufeng, executive director of the Institute for Sustainable Development

Goals, Tsinghua University.

Amid a shifting international landscape and global pandemic, the five countries have become a ballast for global economic development, added Zhu.

"The BRICS countries in the year 2022 become all the more important," said Herman Tiu Laurel, founder of Philippine BRICS Strategic Studies, stressing that the mechanism allows the BRICS countries to push the global community to focus attention on development again.

Speaking of China's chairmanship, Kin Phea, director-general of the International Relations Institute at the Royal Academy of Cambodia, said he believes China will tap the occasion to promote the BRICS spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation.

Under the theme of "Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development," the 14th summit offers BRICS countries an opportunity to increase people-to-people exchanges, intensify coordination on major international and regional issues and broaden South-South cooperation.

The summit aims to build consensus on achieving stronger, greener and healthier global development.

"The BRICS will be able to play a more important role in preventing the fragmentation of the world," as developing and underdeveloped countries have suffered "the worst consequences" of the pandemic, climate change and geopolitical conflicts, Luis Antonio Paulino, a professor in the Faculty of Philosophy and Sciences at Sao Paulo State University, told Xinhua.

BRICS EXPANSION DISCUSSED

When China was the BRICS chair back in 2017, it proposed the "BRICS Plus" cooperation model, which aims to forge the most influential platform of South-South cooperation and build a broader mutually beneficial partnership with more emerging markets and developing countries. Several rounds of dialogue have been held since.

The latest one in May was the "BRICS Plus"

dialogue at the foreign minister level. It was attended by participants from the BRICS countries and Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Egypt, Indonesia, Nigeria, Senegal, United Arab Emirates and Thailand.

"BRICS Plus" reflects the true spirit of multilateralism and multiculturalism and can consequently guarantee the survival of emerging markets and developing countries," said Phea. "It would also enhance global security governance and safeguard world peace and tranquility."

The start of a possible BRICS expansion is also being discussed, with many countries expressing readiness to join the group. In an online meeting in May, BRICS foreign ministers supported advancing the process of BRICS expansion and indicated that further discussions would be held on this issue.

By acknowledging developing countries as a potent force for global economic growth, BRICS has earned the international community's respect, said Adhere.

The "BRICS Plus" mechanism will "enable more developing countries and emerging markets to participate in BRICS cooperation, thus strengthening solidarity among developing countries and encouraging them to work together for the reform of the international governance system," said Wang Lei. "Otherwise, it will be very difficult to change."

"BRICS cooperation enjoys bright prospects and boundless potential," said Zhang Rui, Chinese director of the Confucius Institute of the Russian State University for the Humanities. The "BRICS Plus" mechanism will raise the voice of developing countries in the international arena, encouraging them to actively meet challenges and achieve peace and development.

Xinhua

Xi facing challenges against mankind, seeking solutions from global perspective - former Mexican Ambassador to China

"PRESIDENT Xi Jinping has left a deep impression on me for his vision and wisdom."

That's how Sergio Ley Lopez, former Mexican Ambassador to China, described the Chinese President in a recent interview with People's Daily.

In February 2009, Xi, as then Chinese Vice President, visited Mexico at the invitation of the Mexican government. The visit came a year after the outbreak of the global financial crisis, which had brought severe impacts on the economy and people's livelihoods globally.

"Through the visit, China hoped to learn the measures of the Mexican government to cope with the crisis, as well as enhance bilateral business communication and drive economic growth of both sides," recalled Ley Lopez, who now serves as the president of the Business Section for Asia and Oceania of the Mexican Business Council for Foreign Trade, Investment and Technology.

"President Xi delivered a speech at a luncheon hosted by Mexican and Chinese entrepreneurs, which was simple, clear, and inspiring. He was determined and aware of what he wanted to accomplish, and he knew how he should fulfill his responsibility for his country and people," Ley Lopez said, recalling his first meeting with the Chinese President.

"Besides, he was open, frank, and broadminded. We saw a leader that was studying other countries' experiences and full of personal charisma," Ley Lopez added.



Chinese Ambassador to Mexico Zhu Qingqiao, upon invitation, attends a ceremony marking the packaging of the first batch of Chinese COVID-19 vaccines held at a plant of Drugmex in Querétaro, March 22, 2021. (Photo courtesy of the Chinese Embassy in Mexico)

In April 2013, then Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto paid a state visit to China and attended the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2013. Ley Lopez, as a business representative, accompanied him on the trip.

"At the opening ceremony of the conference, President Xi stressed that as members of the same global village, we should foster a sense of community of common destiny, follow the trend of the times, keep to the right direction, stick together in a time of difficulty and ensure that development in Asia and the rest of the world reaches new highs," Ley Lopez said.

As the first Mexican president attending the annual conference of the BFA, Peña Nieto emphasized that emerging economies in Latin America and Asia needed to cooperate with

each other. He wanted to learn from China's experience and seek common development through his visit, Ley Lopez said.

Peña Nieto invited President Xi to visit Mexico during their meeting, and the latter accepted the invitation, Ley Lopez told People's Daily, adding that to accelerate the development of bilateral relations, it needed to strike while the iron is hot.

In June 2013, President Xi paid a state visit to Mexico. The mutual visits, which were paid in just two months, indicated the importance attached by the two countries on the development of their relations. It was during this visit, China and Mexico lifted their relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

"President Xi said friendship is like wine, the older, the better. The friend-

ship between Mexico and China is like old tequila that gets better with age. The two countries share many common interests and responsibilities on major global issues, such as improving global economic governance and improving the reform of the global governance system," Ley Lopez said.

Shortly after President Xi's visit to Mexico, the two countries reached a number of framework and cooperation agreements. Though they are separated by the Pacific Ocean, they have further tightened their bond.

In November 2014, Peña Nieto paid another state visit to China upon invitation and attended the 22nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting. This time, Ley Lopez was still in the president's delegation.

When they were posing for pictures by the Yanqi Lake, where the venue for the meeting was, Peña Nieto introduced his delegation to Xi. "When President Xi neared me, he said he remembered and appreciated me. He called me a good friend of China," Ley Lopez recalled.

"I still remember his friendly eye contact and firm handshake. I'm proud of myself because my efforts to promote Mexico-China friendship and cooperation were recognized," Ley Lopez said.

The former Mexican Ambassador to China is closely following the development of the Belt and Road Initiative. He believes it has built a bridge of peace, stability, and common development between countries and continents through infrastructure, trade, and investment cooperation.

"The interests to be considered should be the interests of all, which is a brilliant quote once cited by President Xi. In Latin America, there's also a similar saying that only by benefiting the whole world can an individual country benefit itself. When a head of state is facing the challenges against mankind and seeking solutions from a global perspective, the world will see his broad vision and mind," Ley Lopez noted.

People's Daily

Joash Onyango signs new contract at Simba SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

SIMBA SC defender Joash Onyango has finally put pen to paper on a new deal at the club following months of negotiations.

Onyango, aged 29, was due to become a free agent at the end of the month, but The Nation reported that he has signed fresh terms at the club.

The development put to an end all speculation about a possible move away from the 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinalists who are looking to rebuild their squad after a disappointing campaign.

Simba SC Media and Communication Manager Ahmed Ally said of Onyango's new deal: "On Onyango, Kenyans should not be worried because we have finalized and finished everything concerning his contract. He will be a



Joash Onyango

Simba SC player for the next two seasons."

"Some of the finer details entailed in the contract are personal and it is not ethical to discuss them publicly, but even if

all the demands were not met, his contract has been improved at Simba," Ally disclosed.

"Since he joined the team, Onyango has played an integral part of our team

and we hope his stay will see us still win more trophies," he added.

The Kenyan international confirmed that he had extended his stay at Simba SC.

"I can confirm I have extended my contract with Simba but the clubs will provide more details on this," the footballer noted.

Onyango joined the Msimbazi Reds from Kenyan outfit Gor Mahia in 2020 and has been a regular since then.

In 2020/21 he played alongside the recently released Pascal Wawa while in this campaign he has mostly been partnered with Henock Inonga in central defense.

Simba could be busy in the transfer market, with decisions to be made on who to release, keep and sign.

John Bocco, Aishi Manula, Mzamiru Yassin, Chris Mugalu, Taddeo Lwanga, and Meddie Kagere are among the players whose contracts will expire before the start of the new campaign.

Officials at Simba are now reportedly looking to secure the long-term future of number one goalkeeper Manula, with his current deal also set to run out this season.

So far, Simba has made one signing. Zambian striker Moses Phiri arrived from Zanaco FC, while three exits have been confirmed with Bernard Morrison, Rally Bwalya, and Wawa all leaving.

Wawa is said to be heading to Singida Big Stars, Bwalya has been sold to South African outfit AmaZulu while Morrison is reportedly rejoining Yanga.



Bernard Morrison

Simba SC sheds light on refusal to hand Morrison release letter

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC management has said it has no information about the decision by Ghanaian midfielder Bernard Morrison to request a release letter from the team to continue his career elsewhere.

Last month Morrison was granted leave by Simba SC management until the end of this season, travelling to Ghana to take care of his family problems.

Simba SC Chairman Murtaza Magungu said they had no information about the player submitting a request for a release letter, and they were surprised to see the information spreading so fast on social media.

Mangungu said Simba SC is aware that Morrison is still the team's legitimate player, it has not confirmed that it has parted ways with him.

"Morrison is still a Simba SC player, we are surprised to see reports of the footballer asking for a release letter, we gave him permission to go to his home for family problems," the official revealed.

The official pointed out: "The contract between Morrison and Simba SC has not expired, he continues to earn his dues as an employee of this club, we have never reported anywhere that we will not continue with him."

"We have no information of him being in the process of signing for another club," the official maintained.

In another development, Namungu FC's assistant coach, Jamhuri Kihwelo has admitted that their chances of finishing in the top four of the 2021/22 NBC

Premier League are fading after losing two games in a row on the outfit's home turf.

Namungu FC had on Monday lost 1-0 to Coastal Union in a league match held at Ilulu Stadium, Lindi, and before that the former went down 2-1 to Polisi Tanzania.

Kihwelo said his players lacked composure in the match against Coastal Union despite getting a lot of chances.

The tactician revealed the results were part of football, considering that no team is expected to win every match.

"Let's face it - it's football because sometimes we score three goals but sometimes we do not, there are times a club wins and there is the time it succumbs to a loss," the trainer pointed out.

"Our goal is to finish in either third or fourth spot in the league but with these results, I think now the chances are slim."

Kihwelo pointed out: "We will nevertheless keep on working hard in the remaining two matches and, in the end, we will know what position we are in."

Namungu FC has two remaining away matches against Mtwara Sugar at Manungu Complex venue on June 26 and a clash against Mbeya City FC at Sokoine Stadium on June 29.

The Lindi outfit has collected 37 points to sit fifth, staying level with sixth-placed Coastal Union on points.

Azam FC occupies the fourth spot having collected 40 points, a place below third-placed Geita Gold FC boasting 42 points.



Coastal Union's players attend training in Tanga recently to shape up for this season's NBC Premier League and Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF COASTAL UNION

Coastal Union all out to edge Kagera Sugar in Premier League

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TANGA's Coastal Union has assured its fanatics that it will win the remaining two matches in this season's NBC Premier League.

Coastal Union is set to lock horns with Kagera Sugar and Geita Gold FC in the two matches.

According to NBC Premier League fixtures, the two games will be played at Coastal Union's backyard, Mkwakwani Stadium.

The first match will be the 29th round clash in which Coastal Union will confront Kagera Sugar

on Friday.

In the second match, the 30th round tie, Coastal Union will come up against Geita Gold FC to wind up its participation in NBC Premier League, with the clash set to be held on June 29.

Coastal Union spokesman, Miraji Wandi, disclosed to The Guardian that the outfit terms the remaining matches as the potential to the quest for ending the season on a high.

Wandi revealed that his club is determined to ensure it notches wins in both ties and thereby mak-

ing the most of the home ground advantage.

"For sure, let's pray to Almighty God, our objective is to get the victory," the official stated.

He further stated: "Our target is to stay in one of the four top places in the NBC Premier League."

If Coastal Union will win the remaining matches, the outfit should pray fourth-placed Azam FC loses either one or both of the side's remaining ties to hand the former the fourth place.

Currently, Coastal Union is sitting sixth in the NBC Premier

League's standings after collecting 37 points, whereas Kagera Sugar is sitting seventh with 36 points.

Coastal Union moved to the sixth spot after notching a victory over Namungu FC at Ilulu Stadium in Lindi last Monday.

Kagera Sugar managed to cling on to the seventh place following its 1-1 draw with Biashara United in the previous tie played in Mwanza.

Geita Gold FC is occupying the third spot with 42 points having taken part in 28 matches.

Dar primary school wins 2022 Fukuoka U-12 Baseball Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM'S Mgulani Primary School's team has clinched the 2022 Fukuoka U-12 Baseball Championships' top honour in the showdown which was held at Koshien baseball field in the city recently.

To emerge the champions, Mgulani beat Bonyokwa Primary School 6-5 in the final, and winners were awarded

a trophy and baseball equipment.

The two-day championships brought together 11 teams which were divided into groups.

Group A was made up of Chanika Primary School, Kibwegere Primary School, Pugu Kajiungeni Primary School, and Bokorani Primary School.

Champion Primary School, Bonyokwa Primary School, and Segerea Primary School made Group B.

Teams in Group C were Diamond Primary School, Mgulani Primary School, and Kinyongo Primary School.

In the first games on Saturday, Chanika beat Kibwegere 6-0, Bonyokwa won 8-4 against Champion, and Mgulani beat Diamond 20-0. Segerea beat Bonyokwa 6-0, Bokorani won 4-2 against Pugu.

On Sunday, Champion lost 7-0 to Segerea, Pugu beat Kibwegere 12-1,

Bokorani won 8-0 against Kibwegere, Chanika lost 4-0 to Pugu, Diamond beat Kinyongo 5-1 while Bokorani lost 1-0 to Chanika.

In the semi-finals, Chanika lost 10-0 to Bonyokwa, whereas Mgulani beat Pugu 12-11.

Tanzania Baseball and Softball Association (TaBSA) Secretary-General, Alpherio Nchimbi, said the tournament aims to prepare young players for the 2024 Youth

Commonwealth Games which will be held in Senegal.

Mgulani will soon present the trophy to the Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Amos Makalla.

He thanked Japan's Embassy in Tanzania and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the support.

He called upon other companies and organizations to support baseball and softball in the country.

"The tournament was very good, the aim is to prepare our young players for Youth Olympics which will be held in Senegal, we have good and talented players who can do the country proud," he said.

The final was attended by Saori Tonomura, Japan's Embassy in Tanzania's Third Secretary, and Hideki Watanabe, a senior JICA representative.

Maradona doctors, nurses to be tried for homicide

BUENOS AIRES

EIGHT people who took care of soccer legend Diego Maradona will be tried in Argentina courts for homicide, according to a ruling released on Wednesday following an investigation into his November 2020 death due to cardiac arrest.

In the 236-page document seen by Reuters, the judge in charge of the case questioned "the behaviors -- active or by omission -- of each of the accused which led to and contributed to the realization of the harmful result."

The ruling said that eight people, including doctors, nurses and a psychologist who cared for Maradona at the time of his death, are accused of "simple homicide," a serious charge that means taking a life with intent.

A medical board appointed to investigate Maradona's death concluded in 2021 that the soccer star's medical team acted in an "inappropriate, deficient and reckless manner."

Maradona was considered one of the greatest soccer players in history, though the diminutive player nicknamed "Pelusa" for his long mane of hair and "Dios" as a play on the Spanish word for "God" using his jersey number, battled drug and alcohol abuse for years.

Mario Baudry, a lawyer for one of Maradona's sons, told Reuters that the World Cup winner was "in a situation of helplessness" by the time of his death. Maradona died on Nov. 25, 2020, at the age of 60.

"As soon as I saw the cause, I said it was homicide. I fought for a long time and here we are, with this stage completed," Baudry said.

Argentine prosecutors launched investigations shortly after Maradona's death at a house near Buenos Aires, including ordering searches of properties of his personal doctor and probing others involved in his care.

The defendants named in the ruling were Maradona's neurosurgeon and personal doctor, Leopoldo Luque, psychiatrist Agustina Cosachov, psychologist Carlos Diaz, nurses Gisella Madrid and Ricardo Almiron, their boss Mariano Perroni and doctors Pedro Di Spagna and Nancy Forlini.

The defendants have denied responsibility for Maradona's death. The judge said that lawyers for some of them had requested the case be dismissed.

Vadim Mischanuk, an attorney for Cosachov, said they would appeal the decision, adding the psychiatrist's area of care had no relation with Maradona's cause of death.

(Agencies)

La Liga boss Tebas hits back at 'arrogant' Al-Khelaifi

MADRID

La Liga president Javier Tebas accused Nasser Al-Khelaifi of lying and arrogance on Wednesday after Paris-Saint Germain's president defended his club's lavish spending to keep Kylian Mbappe.

La Liga have filed complaints to UEFA about PSG and Manchester City "continuously breaching the current regulations of financial fair play", the Spanish league confirmed last week.

In an interview with Madrid daily newspaper, Marca, Al-Khelaifi said: "We do what we do because we know we can. It's not our style to talk about other leagues, clubs or federations. We're not preaching and we're not going to allow anybody to preach to us. Every year it is the same. We are going to continue building our project."

Quoting Al-Khelaifi's comments on Twitter, Tebas wrote on Wednesday: "Al-Khelaifi is another level. He takes us all for fools (not even he believes his lies) and shows up in @marca preaching with pride and arrogance about the 'nouveau riche'."

"The rules do not exist for @PSG inside. We will continue to fight for a football that is sustainable and without cheating."

Tebas has long-rallied against the financial wealth of state-backed clubs like PSG and City, who he insists are constantly breaking UEFA's financial fair play rules and disturbing the economic balance of the game.

As well as its complaint filed to UEFA against the two clubs, La Liga has hired legal firms in France and Switzerland "with the aim of undertaking administrative and judicial actions before the relevant French bodies and the European Union as soon as possible," La Liga said last week.

The league is also considering taking action against Al-Khelaifi regarding a "conflict of interest". Al-Khelaifi is PSG president, in charge of Qatar-owned BeIN Sports, leads the European Club Association and also sits on UEFA's executive committee.

Mbappe rejected Real Madrid last month to sign a new three-year contract with PSG, who will pay the striker a salary of between 40 and 50 million euros.

PSG suffered a 224.3-million-euro (\$240m) loss in 2020/21, an increase of 80 percent on the previous year, the annual report from French football's financial authority (DNCG) said earlier this month.

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez said last week Mbappe was left "confused" after being put under intense "political and economic pressure".

Al-Khelaifi said PSG rejected an 180-million-euro bid from Real Madrid last summer because he knew Mbappe wanted to stay.

"I rejected 180 million last summer from Real Madrid because I knew that Kylian wanted to stay at PSG. I know him very well, I know what he and his family want, and they don't move for money," he said.

"He has chosen to play here for his city, his club and his country, and for the sporting project. He only thinks about playing and winning."

AFP

'Right moment' for Mane to leave Liverpool for Bayern Munich

MUNICH

SADIO Mane said it was the "right moment" to join Bayern Munich from Liverpool after he completed his move to the Bundesliga champions on Wednesday.

Bayern have reportedly paid a fee which could rise to 41 million euros (\$43 million) for Mane, who scored 120 goals in his trophy-laden six years with Liverpool.

The Senegal star has signed a three-year deal and his arrival is seen as a coup for Julian Nagelsmann's men and the Bundesliga.

"I chose Bayern Munich because although I had other offers, it is the right moment to move on and come here," he told a press conference.

"I met the coach (Nagelsmann) and for me it was really important to know the project. I could see myself playing in the team straight away and I didn't think twice."

His signing will ease the pain for Bayern if want-away striker Robert Lewandowski leaves the club, while Germany winger Serge Gnabry is also stalling over a contract extension.

Mane played anywhere across a front three during his time at Liverpool.

"I can play in three or four different positions and am happy playing anywhere, he said.

"I am here to help my team -- that is the most important thing."

The 30-year-old won the Champions League,



(Left-right) Kahn, Mane, Hainer and Salihamidzic were all smiles at the Allianz Arena.

Premier League, FA Cup, League Cup and Club World Cup titles on Merseyside.

"One of Liverpool's greatest ever players is leaving and we must acknowledge how significant this is," said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp.

"The goals he scored, the trophies he won... a legend, for sure, but also a modern-day Liverpool icon."

Bayern CEO Oliver Kahn hinted that he hopes Mane's arrival can convince Lewandowski, who has a year left on his contract, to stay.

"The players look closely at who the club brings in," said Kahn. "That also radiates inwards."

"Not much has changed with Robert. He has a contract until 2023 and we will be happy when he shows up on the first day of training with us."

- 'Global star' -

Mane, Senegal's record goalscorer, was part of the team which won the Africa Cup of Nations in February, converting the winning penalty in the final shoot-out against Egypt.

He has previous form at the Allianz Arena, where he scored a fantastic double as Liverpool beat Bayern in the Champions League last 16 three years ago before going on to win the trophy.

"Sadio Mane is a global star, who underlines the appeal of Bayern and will increase the attractiveness of the Bundesliga as a whole," said Bayern president Herbert Hainer, adding that he hopes Mane's signing boosts shirt sales.

"Fans come to the stadiums to see unique players like this."

Mane left Senegal at the age of 19 to join Metz and spent a season in France before joining RB Salzburg, where he learned German.

"I will need still three months to speak good German again," Mane said in English.

He switched to the Premier League when he joined Southampton in 2014 and moved to Liverpool two years later.

Mane played leading roles as Liverpool won the Champions League and ended their 30-year wait for the English league title

in 2020.

"It is really strange to no longer be a Liverpool player but I had an unbelievable time," he told Liverpool's website. "I am going to be Liverpool's number one fan forever."

Liverpool have already signed Uruguayan forward Darwin Nunez from Benfica to fill the vacant spot left in their front three.

Meanwhile, Sadio Mane's transfer from Liverpool to Bayern Munich is a coup for the Bundesliga champions, who have signed a ready-made replacement for either wantaway striker Robert Lewandowski or winger Serge Gnabry.

"Often it's the other way around, but this time a Bundesliga club has signed a top Premier League player," German magazine Kicker commented last week.

Crucially for Bayern, Mane can replace either Lewandowski, who insists his Munich "story has come to an end" as he eyes a move to Barcelona, or Gnabry, who is stalling over signing a contract extension.

In six years on Mersey-

side, Mane led Liverpool's transformation under Jurgen Klopp from Premier League also-rans into serious contenders for major trophies.

One of Klopp's first major signings, Mane won a clean sweep of Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup, League Cup and Club World Cup titles in his time at Anfield.

- 'Low maintenance' -

Liverpool legend Jamie Carragher sees Mane as a great signing for Bayern.

"My favourite @LFC player of this era - low maintenance, high performance & never injured," Carragher said on Twitter this week.

"Trophies & goals galore, a true Liverpool Legend. Thank you, Sadio."

Another former Reds player, Dean Saunders, has claimed his talent will be wasted in the Bundesliga, where Bayern have just capped a decade of dominance by winning a 10th straight league title.

"The league is nowhere near a challenge for Mane. He'll get goals. They win 5-0 every week, only one team can win the league," Sanders told TalkSport.

"It's not a challenge. He will get in his armchair, light a cigar up, he'll play for Bayern in third gear and he'll coast for two years and ruin the best two years of his life as a footballer."

Mane scored 120 goals in 269 games for Liverpool. That pales into comparison with the phenomenal tally of 238 Bundesliga goals in eight years which Lewandowski, twice voted FIFA's best male player,

managed in 252 appearances games for Bayern.

However, it is his all-round, high-energy game that made Mane a favourite at Liverpool.

He can also perform just as well playing off both wings as through the middle.

Mane's career began far from the spotlight of the Allianz Arena.

"In the village you're going to be a farmer, there's no other job to do. My dream as a kid was to make history and win all the trophies," he said in the documentary Sadio Mane: Made in Senegal.

Spotted by French club Metz while playing in Dakar, around 400km from his native village, he moved to France in early 2011.

Three years later, he left for RB Salzburg, where he learnt German and impressed with 31 goals in 63 games.

He helped them win the Austrian league and cup double in 2014, then graduated to England's Premier League when he was snapped up by Southampton.

After two years on England's south coast, Liverpool swooped for Mane, who became the second highest transfer in the club's history at the time when the Reds paid £37 million for him.

After scoring the winning penalty to claim Senegal a first ever African Cup of Nations title and qualifying his country for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, Mane faces a new challenge with Bayern.

AFP

PGA Tour in 'arms race' of dollars and leaning on loyalty

CROMWELL, Conn.

COMMISSIONER Jay Monahan says the PGA Tour can't win an "arms race" against Saudi-funded LIV Golf when the weapon is money. His response Wednesday was to boost prize money in eight elite events and rely on loyalty and legacy among his players.

Monahan delivered another round of stinging criticism against Greg Norman and his rival league, LIV Golf has snagged players who have combined to win nine majors in the last five years, including Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka and Bryson DeChambeau.

The latest to sign was Koepka, whose deal with LIV Golf was announced just as Monahan began his first press conference in three months at the Travelers Championship.

"I am not naive," Monahan said. "If this is an arms race and if the only weapons here are dollar bills, the PGA Tour can't compete. The PGA Tour, an American institution, can't compete with a foreign monarchy that is spending billions of dollars in attempt to buy the game of golf."

"We welcome good, healthy competition. The LIV Saudi golf league is not that," he said. "It's an irrational threat, one not concerned with the return on investment or true growth of the game."

The tour, however, appears to be trying to keep up. Monahan said an increase in prize money was in the works from its latest media rights deal it signed in 2020, noting the threat of LIV Golf accelerated



PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan speaks during a news conference before the start of the Travelers Championship golf tournament at TPC River Highlands, Wednesday, June 22, 2022, in Cromwell, Conn. (AP Photo)

some of those plans.

He announced a streamlined schedule - January to August starting in 2024 - with seven tournaments worth \$20 million or more and fewer spots available for its postseason. The top 125 qualify for the FedEx Cup playoffs. Next year, only the top 70 will be eligible.

The fall would be for the players who finished outside the top 70 to secure cards for the following year, and to give them a chance to move into the top 50 - or try to stay there - to secure spots in some of the elite \$20 million tournaments.

Also planned are three international events in the fall for only the top 50 in FedEx Cup points from the previous season.

Monahan cited Masters champion Scottie Scheffler, who earlier Wednesday was unusually vocal in his support of the PGA

"If you're good enough, you will rise to the top," Monahan said. "And if you don't continue to earn that top spot, someone else as hungry and as talented is right there to take your place. Again, that's the unique beauty of what the tour has and always will offer to fans."

"It's damn good and it's worth fighting for."

Koepka was among the LIV newcomers announced for the field in Oregon next week, and he was as big of a surprise as Johnson was for the inaugural London event.

Monahan was at Koepka's wedding June 5 in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Koepka was part of a group of a Rolex outing a week ago in which he joined top players - Scheffler, Jordan Spieth, Justin Thomas among them - in discussing in strong terms support for the tour.

A week later, he was signed and headed to LIV Golf.

"That was definitely

a surprise for me," said Scheffler, who has the same manager as Koepka. "I was at a function with him last week and definitely wasn't what he had in mind. We were focused on building the PGA Tour and getting the guys that are staying here together and kind of just having talks and figuring out what how we can help benefit the Tour. So to see Brooks leave was definitely a surprise for us."

The tour will nearly double the prize money for the winner-only Sentry Tournament of Champions at Kapalua to \$15 million. The invitation events at Riviera, Bay Hill and Muirfield Village increase by \$8 million to \$20 million. The two FedEx Cup playoff events increase by \$5 million to \$20 million. And The Players Championship goes up \$5 million to \$25 million.

That's an increase of just over \$50 million in prize money, or roughly what Johnson reportedly received annually as a signing fee for the LIV Golf se-

ries, and that's before he and others compete for \$25 million prize funds at each event.

That's the arms race Monahan and the PGA Tour is facing, though it still has the top 15 players in the world ranking on its side, a core group who are speaking out more forcefully.

Still, some may have a price.

Koepka apparently did, and McIlroy cited him as another player who went back on his word. Two years ago, Koepka was second to McIlroy in denouncing the concept of a 48-man league.

"Am I surprised? Yes, because of what he said previously," McIlroy said. "I think that's why I'm surprised at a lot of these guys because they say one thing and then they do another. I don't know if that's for legal reasons or if they can't ... I have no idea. But it's pretty duplicitous on their part to say one thing and then do another thing."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

'Right moment' for Mane to leave Liverpool for Bayern Munich

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5 **EATV** **MONDAY**

TONIGHT @ 9:00

5Sports

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Bongo Hit
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS LIVE
22:00 Zote kuntu
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

5Sports

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The week's local and international sporting events as well as indepth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5Sports.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Taifa Stars suffer drop in FIFA rankings

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Taifa Stars' inconsistent performance has continued to reflect on its up and down movement in the FIFA World Rankings, a model that measures the performance of national teams based on results obtained in international friendlies and competitive matches.

The latest rankings released on Thursday have seen Taifa Stars drop by one place to 131st.

The team was positioned 130th the last time these rankings were compiled in March and were in the 133rd spot in February.

The latest slip was inevitable after Taifa Stars' not-so-impressive start in the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers.

Under the guidance of head coach Kim Poulsen, Tanzania, now ranked 38th on the continent, lost 2-0 at home to Algeria and played out a 1-1 draw with Niger in Benin to earn a meager one point in two games.

The CHAN Qualifiers are expected to start next month, and the next rankings will be released on August 25, 2022.

Tanzania will have to overcome Somalia to set a final qualification round two-leg affair with Uganda.

Tanzania will also be in action in AFCON Qualifiers against Uganda in back-to-back games in September as the hunt for a ticket to Ivory Coast resumes.

Meanwhile, Uganda is still the top-ranked East African region despite dropping to the 88th position.

They are followed by Kenya in 102nd place while Djibouti, Somalia, and Eritrea make up the bottom three members.

At the continental level, 2021 Africa Cup of Nations winners, Senegal, remain the No. 1 team on the African continent.

The Senegalese will be carrying the hopes of every African come the global showpiece in November and December, where they will take on the Netherlands, host nation Qatar, and Ecuador in Group A.

Only four of the nations in Africa's top 10 will be making their way to the Gulf at the end of the year, with Algeria, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Mali, and Egypt all failing to book their ticket to the World Cup.

Despite qualifying for a fourth World Cup, Ghana has been deemed the 11th best footballing nation in Africa, as per FIFA.

The West Africans are two places ahead of South Africa, which remains in the 13th position among the teams on the continent.

In the world rankings, Brazil remains number one followed by Belgium. Argentina has leapfrogged France to the third position, whereas England, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Netherlands, and Denmark complete the top 10.

Simba SC not interested in Yanga target Aziz Ki



Simba SC Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Gonzalez.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC has 'no interest' in signing Ivory Coast's ASEC Mimosas attacking midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki despite recent reports that they were after his signature.

Simba was tentatively linked with a possible move for Aziz Ki after he produced an eye-catching performance against

them in February.

The 26-year-old netted four goals including two against Simba SC in the CAF Confederation Cup this year.

He has been widely reported as a target of the Msimbazi Reds, by different media outlets that went as far as saying an offer had been

put on the table before Simba SC came out to clarify that the contract letter doing rounds on social media is fake.

Azizi Ki is heading into the final weeks of his ASEC Mimosas contract and he looks certain to move on.

Young Africans SC, popularly

known as 'Yanga', is believed to be the frontrunner to sign him ahead of the 2022/23 campaign.

Simba SC Chief Executive Officer Barbara Gonzalez has denied reports that they are interested in signing Aziz Ki insisting the Ivorian-born was never one of their transfer targets this season.

She disclosed: "We are not interested in the player, we only praised his performance. If you follow coach Pablo's interviews, he singled him out as a dangerous player."

"When Simba SC mentions a player as dangerous, he is automatically linked with the club."

"You have never heard our officials coming out recently to say Simba SC wants Aziz Ki."

"In the case of Victorien Adebayor, Salim Abdallah 'Try Again' came out publicly to express our interest in the striker though unfortunately,

we lost out to RS Berkane in that race."

"Aziz was not in our plan, we have already signed players that play his role."

Simba SC has been working under a caretaker coach since the start of this month when Selemani Matola succeeded Pablo Franco.

Barbara provided updates on the search for Franco's success as well as revealing pre-season plans.

She stated: "We will start pre-season in July and it will be abroad, we cannot say where. At the moment, we have not received an invitation from South Africa as reported on social media."

"We have found a coach and we will announce him soon, there are areas where he has advised us to strengthen, so far we have done 50% of the registration work, and we intend to sign more than five players."



Magereza Boxing Club's Issa Athuman (R) trades blows with JKT Club's Boniface Mlingwa in one of the 2021 National Boxing Championship's fights, which took place at Tanganyika Packer's venue in Dar es Salaam recently. Mlingwa won by points. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

OBFT unfazed by scholarship snub by Olympic Solidarity

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Open Boxing Federation (OBFT) has said the decision by Olympic Solidarity (OS) to opt-out of awarding the country's boxers scholarships to prepare for the 2024 Paris Olympics will motivate the pugilists to work hard.

Recently Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) announced that the OS has awarded five Tanzanian athletes the opportunity to prepare for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, but despite sending the names of six local boxers, they were not offered the scholarship.

Lukelo Wililo, OBFT secretary-general, confirmed that they sent the names to OS through TOC but said the snub will make local boxers step up their preparations ahead of the Paris Games.

"Yes, we sent six names of our local boxers to be considered for the OS scholarships but they were not considered. This will just make us work hard and probably win medals at the Paris Olympics, for now, our focus is on the coming Commonwealth Games that will have the country field three boxers," he said.

OBFT applied for scholarships for Alex Isendi, Mussa Maregesi, Justine Chota, Alex Sulwa, and

Yusuf Chungalawe.

Filbert Bayi, TOC secretary-general, recently said his committee applied for scholarships for 16 athletes featuring in athletics, boxing, judo, and swimming, but OS has granted the scholarships to five athletes.

The official said the OS scholarships which are worth \$1,500 a month are handed to young promising athletes to prepare them to be future champions and begin once the athletes sign the contract and end in August 2024.

The TOC official said boxing did not meet the required conditions which include competing at World Boxing Championships.

He asked the beneficiaries to make use of the opportunity to prepare well for the Paris Olympics.

The first beneficiaries of the OS scholarships were Micheal Sarwatt and Marko Hhawa who went to the United States of America.

Hawa Hussein that went to Kip Keino High Attitude Training Center in Kenya to prepare for Sydney 2000 Olympics was the other beneficiary.

In preparations for the 2016 Rio Olympics, athlete Fabian Joseph was the beneficiary while ahead of Tokyo 2020 Olympics swimmer Collins Saliboko was the beneficiary.

Simba SC out to introduce new coach

By Isack Yohana, TUDARCO

SIMBA SC is expected to introduce a new head coach as the outfit prepares for the 2022/23 season.

Ahmed Ally, Simba SC Information and Communication Manager, revealed the squad was set to do so before its NBC Premier League tie against Mtibwa Sugar that was expected to be played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Thursday.

According to Ally, his outfit has moreover started roping in players for the coming season.

The leader revealed: "We have three games left, one of them will be the last home fixture and the remaining two matches will be played away, so in the remaining home game we will use it to introduce a new coach who will join our team."

Simba SC has already introduced its first signing, Zambian forward Moses Phiri while parting ways with the attacker's compatriot, midfielder Rally Bwalya.

Ivorian center-back, Sergi Wawa, is another player to have been released by Simba SC. The footballer joined the club from El Merreikh of Sudan.

Simba had parted ways with its head coach Pablo Franco Martin who had replaced French gaffer, Didier Gomez.

Aishi Salum Manula, Hassan Dilunga, and Mzamiru Yasin are among the players whose contracts with Simba are about to come to an end.

Manula has extended his contract with the side. Midfielder Mzamiru is also reported to have extended his contract with the side, the footballer signed another two-year contract worth 120m/-.

Mzamiru's salary has been increased as he is expected to receive 7m/- every month.

It should be noted that before the extension of the contract, the midfielder had two big offers, with Simba's age-old rival, Yanga, having tabled 120m/- for the player.

Newly promoted top-flight club, Singida Big Stars, had also offered Mzamiru 130m/- for a two-year contract.

Before joining Simba, Mzamiru turned out for Mtibwa Sugar for almost one season in the then Vodacom Premier League in the 2016/17 season.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

