



INFRASTRUCTURE



CONSTRUCTION OF KAJUNGUTI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PAGE 3

TRANSPORT



UBER SUSPENDS OPERATIONS IN TANZANIA PAGES

DISEASES



GOVT IN FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO CURB NCDS PAGES

ANNIVERSARY



MWL JK NYERERE AS A STATESMAN, THINKER AND HUMANIST PAGE 10

MPs say district councils' 10 pct enabling funds 'drain into sea'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

SOME of the money meant for special groups goes to the wrong people, with politicians and civil servants benefiting from the ten per cent special funds from district council revenues, some members of Parliament have said.

Debating the 2022/2023 budget estimates for the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) (PO-RALG), some legislators proposed a special audit of the funds

since inception in fiscal 2017/18 to the past year.

Loans provided by the Local Government Authorities (LGAs) by allocating 10 per cent of their revenues to loan to women, youth and people with disabilities are not spent on the intended groups and purposes, and instead the beneficiaries divert the funds for other projects.

Most beneficiaries are politicians, public servants and other groups despite that the funds are aimed at helping women, youths and

TURN TO PAGE 2



President Samia Suluhu Hassan engages in a hearty exchange of greetings with officials from Tanzania's Embassy in Washington, DC, and representatives of some Southern African Development Community countries who turned up in the US capital yesterday to welcome her upon her arrival there for an official visit. Photo: State House



Dr Mwinyi wants steps to stop theft of public funds

By Guardian Reporter

STEPS must be taken against elements that retard Zanzibar economic growth including theft and embezzlement of public funds or property, President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (pictured) has declared.

He made the remarks at a meeting with ruling party elders in the northern island of Pemba at the Tibirinzi Hall of the Zanzibar Social Security Fund (ZSSF) in Chake Chake, Pemba South Region.

He raised the problem that ordinarily when such steps are taken, certain levels of the public and leadership would not be ready to accept the situation, but this will not deter him from implementing pledges made during the 2020 election campaign.

A pledge was given in regard to every area for infrastructure development, he said, noting that steps must be taken against the

few who work to delay the attainment of laid out objectives.

President Mwinyi affirmed that changes are hard to be accepted, insisting that anything involving the work of the government is for all popular benefit and not for individuals, thus waging war against embezzlement is a necessity.

While the economic situation is difficult, the Zanzibar government is implementing development projects in areas like electricity, water, major highways and secondary roads, apart from education and health infrastructures, he stated.

He similarly explained the need for the elders council to carry out its duties appropriately, taking up the wisdom of its veteran members, pledging with it in recognition of its importance.

Expressing satisfaction with the work of the council in fighting for the party, he urged CCM members to contest for leadership positions in the party's elections this year and mobilise people for the census exercise in August.

Challenges facing the party elders in Pemba were explained and the president pledged to work on them, expressing awareness of the fact that they are working in a difficult environment.

He highlighted measures being taken by the government to tackle the price rise wave touching basic goods due to the

TURN TO PAGE 2

'TANESCO lost 105.5bn/- after tariffs, charges cut'

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

CHARGING lower power tariffs made the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. (TANESCO) suffer a loss amounting to 105.49 billion/-, the latest report of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) has shown.

The CAG's annual report for fiscal 2020/21 tabled in the National Assembly on Tuesday indicated that the institution incurred the loss by lowering of tariffs and connection charges.

CAG Charles Kichere said 88.39bn/- was not collected from 300,697 customers after lowering power connection charges during the year, cut from 320,960/- lower charges to 27,000 in broad urban areas, while it earlier applied for rural areas.

About 17.1bn/- was not collected from



I recommend to TANESCO to strengthen the management of its meter seals by frequently counting its numbers, similarly asking the management to investigate the thefts of meter seals and take stern measures against the culprits

208,319 customers due to changing of power consumption brackets from the upper tariff to the lower for the same period, he stated.

Laying the premise for the subsequent review of connection charges in particular, the report said TANESCO needs to make a correct assessment of profit and loss, via feasibility studies before any decision to lower its tariffs is made, to avoid diminution of services due to financial constraints, he further noted.

He recommended to the government and the power utility to make sure a feasibility study is conducted before making any price changes and tariff brackets to customers in order to make sure TANESCO services remain sustainable.

TANESCO meter seals were found in a private shop following an inspection exercise, the report noted, pointing out that 5,000 such seals were found in that shop, with legal measures instituted on the shop operator, he stated.

"This discovery shows that there is laxity in the management of meter seals in the company," he said, underlining that the

TURN TO PAGE 2

Pinda roots for holding Nyerere in high esteem



By Guardian Correspondent, Butiama

FORMER Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda (pictured) has praised the Ministry of Natural

Resources and Tourism for adopting a conservation motto as it enabled the country to honour the memory of the Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere.

The slogan says the nation has inherited resources and should inherit them to the next generation, which underlined the need for ardent conservation efforts, a theme relevant for commemorating 100 year of the birth of founder president Nyerere.

Need exists for the current generation of political leadership to work to bequeath the youth all that is good which they inherited from the earlier generation, especially from Mwalimu, in regard to ethics, thus working to clear out all forms of corruption in governance.

He made the remarks at the apex of the centenary celebrations for Mwalimu's birth here on Wednesday, with the ministry putting up a pavilion fronting the message, that the country should hold Nyerere in high esteem, by maintaining peace, unity, freedom and the work ethic.

Bringing up a new generation of leaders has excellent prospects in the current situation, raising a leader right from being nurtured by the family to public leadership, as it was in the case of the founder president, he stated.

Cautioning that the Covid-19 pandemic is still around, he rallied people to come out for vaccination, stressing that people emerge for enumeration in the coming Population and Housing Census in a few months time.

Meanwhile, deputy minister Mary Masanja said the ministry brainstormed on ways to

TURN TO PAGE 2



MPs say district councils' 10 pct enabling funds 'drain into sea'

FROM PAGE 1

disabilities to access loan for them to build their economic capabilities through agriculture in particular.

Tabling the views of the standing committee on Administration and Local Government Affairs on the estimates, committee deputy chairman Denis Londo said if the fund is not well regulated, the targeted goals may not be realized.

"Currently reports on disbursements and refund of the interest free loans show a large variation of performance across the country," he stated, noting that lack of appropriate information and communication technology (ICT) tools in managing the fund is a loophole for misappropriation.

Festo Sanga (Makete) cited reports that district councils disbursed a total of 300bn/- from 2018 to 2021 but a staggering 222bn/- has not been refunded.

He named several regions with the amount disbursed and amount refunded as Tabora having spent 5bn/- with only 2bn/- refunded, Coast 11bn/- against 4.9 bn/-, and Mwanza having spent 8.9bn/- with only 3.9bn/- refunded.

Other regions are Dar es Salaam having disbursed 52.2bn/- and only 14bn/- returned as Mbeya also issued 12bn/- with only 7bn/- as return. Simiyu paid 4bn/- and only 1bn/- refunded and Geita paid 9bn/- and only 3bn/- refunded.

"A lot of this money goes to the hands of some rogue politicians and public servants who get money through fake organizations" he declared.

Edward ole Lekaita (Kiteto) echoed that view, asserting that several group in his constituency have benefited from the fund but there are a lot of challenges in the empowerment programme.

Tabling the ministry's estimates, minister Innocent Bashungwa said

some priority areas targeted include increased funding for empowerment programmes, asking the House to approve 8.7bn for the next financial year.

About 4.99bn/- allocation was added to constituency development catalyst funds, from 11bn/- in 2016/17-2021.22 to 15.99bn/- in 2022/2023, being 45.36 percent increase for smooth implementation of projects.

In the next financial year, the government has allocated 607.57bn/- for the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) for ward councilors serving the local authorities, he stated.

In an effort to strengthen the performance of regional secretariats, funding has been increased from 416bn/- to 780bn/- with 12 border regions allocated 730bn/- to beef up security.

The Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) has been allocated 802.29 bn/- for upgrading and improving 411.80 kilometers to tarmac level, with 10,666.1km roads being raised to murrum.

The PO-RALG estimates are in line with the third five-year development plan that ends in fiscal 2025/26, to build a competitive and industrial economy.

MPs applauded the government for increasing funding for TARURA and budget gains in health, education and agriculture, saying this shall speed up development.



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Pinda roots for holding Nyerere in high esteem

FROM PAGE 1

honour Mwalimu, who strengthened the country's tourism sector and was keen on national heritage museums.

One such step is setting up the Mwalimu Nyerere Museum, she said, while Chief Japhet Wanzagi, leader of the Burito family that includes 13 families including Mwalimu's household, advised that a statue of the founder president be erected at a

major road junction in Musoma town.

Joseph Butiku, veteran personal assistant to Nyerere and chairman of the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation, called on Tanzanians to participate in coming elections and elect leaders without engaging in corruption.

The Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) installed a pavilion at the commemoration site for the birth centenary, led by Sylvester Mushi, a top conservation official.

'TANESCO lost 105.5bn/- after tariffs, charges cut'

FROM PAGE 1

situation can deny the firm huge sums of revenue as the seals can be used to steal electricity.

"I recommend to TANESCO to

strengthen the management of its meter seals by frequently counting its numbers, similarly asking the management to investigate the thefts of meter seals and take stern measures against the culprits.

Dr Mwinyi wants steps to stop theft of public funds

FROM PAGE 1

global economic situation, including the removal of levies on various types of goods.

"There are issues within our capability but others are beyond like the one I have stated, but we are trying....", he told the gathering.

Members of Pemba Elders Council

praised Dr Mwinyi for his efforts since coming to office, pledging to continue supporting him in his work to hasten development in Zanzibar.

They were similarly happy with the provision of fishing equipment for Pemba fishermen including the use of engine boats at a function held at Shumba Mjini port early in the week.



Ardhi University vice chancellor Prof Evaristo Liwa (L) and Belgium's Ambassador to Tanzania, Peter Van Acker, inaugurate the university's African Centre for Sustainable Cities Studies at the university's Dar es Salaam premises yesterday. The centre will be funded by the Belgian government for the next ten years. Story on Page 4. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Embassy of Angola donates food items to Dar orphanage

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE wife of the Angola's ambassador to Tanzania, SILVIA de Oliveira, has donated food and various items to children at the Kurasini national children's home in Dar es Salaam.

Some of the donated items include maize flour, soap, rice, wheat flour, clothes, shoes, edible oil, sugar and

salt.

Speaking soon after handing over the donation yesterday, Silvia urged the community to visit and support vulnerable groups including orphans so that they feel part of the society.

She noted that the holy month is a time to come together with loved ones and remember the less privileged people including orphans and those

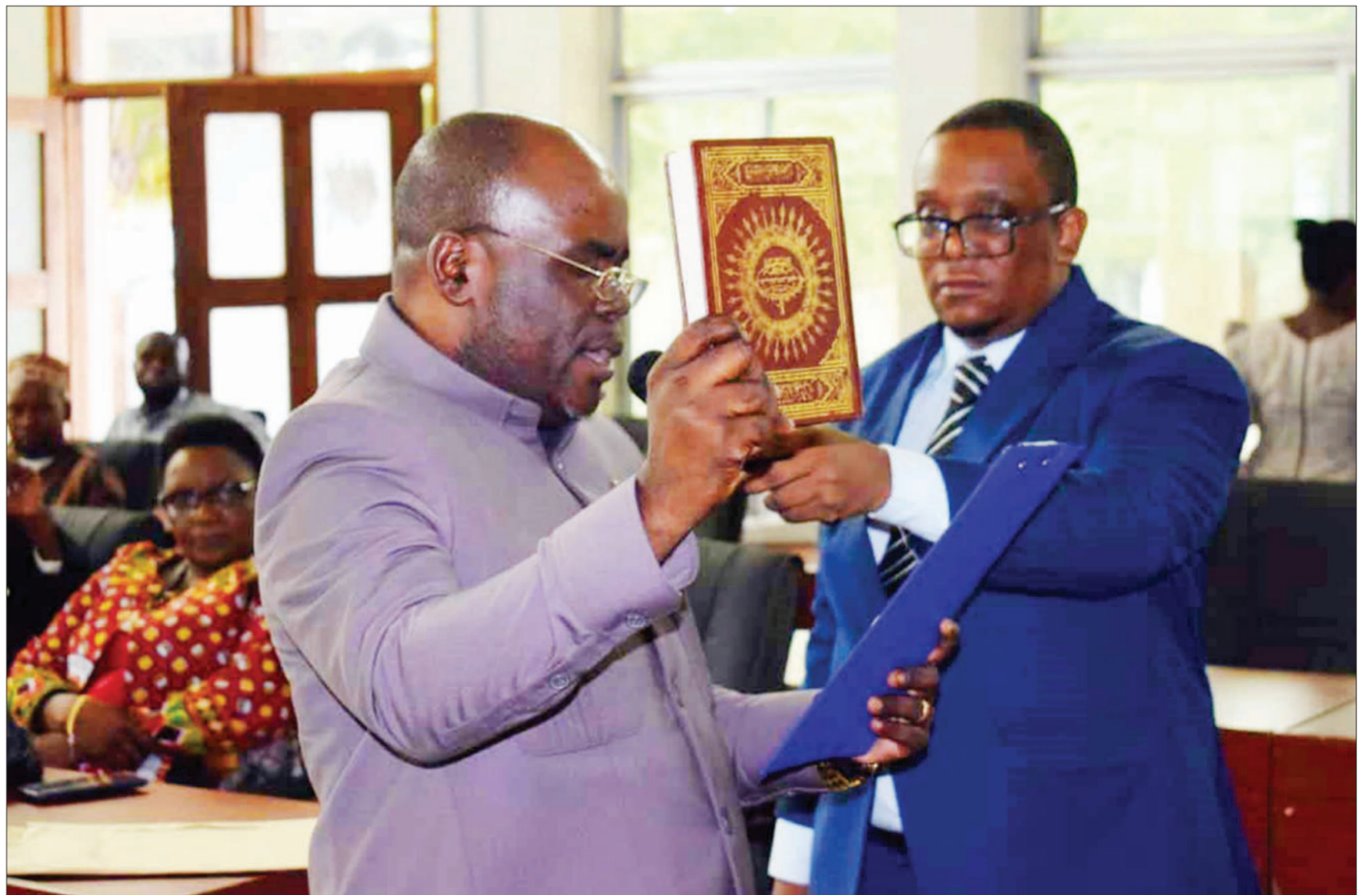
living in difficult environments.

Centre's home Officer Josephine Mbiro, thanked the embassy of Angola for the support saying that it has come at the right time and will help reduce various challenges at the centre.

She said that when children get an opportunity to meet with different people and show affection it has a great impact in their lives.

She appealed to the community and other well-wishers to continue extending their support by helping needy children and orphans in various parts of the country, enabling them realize their dreams and live a relieved life like other people.

The orphanage which is located in Kurasini houses and looks after more than 200 children.



Ibrahim Gama (L), a member of Bagamoyo District Lands and Housing Council, takes the oath of office before Coast regional commissioner Abubakari Kunenge earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AfDB, AU sign pact for capacity building project

By Special Correspondent

THE African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) have signed the protocol of agreement for the African Union Institutional Capacity Building Project in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

AUC deputy chairperson, Monique Nsanabaganwa and AfDB Group's Acting Vice President for Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery Yacine Fal signed on behalf of their organizations.

The project is expected to bolster the AU's efforts to implement Agenda 2063. Adopted in 2015, Agenda 2063 is the African Union's vision for an

integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.

The project cost, amounting to \$11.48 million, is being supported with a grant from the Bank Group's concessional financing window. It was approved by the Board of Directors in February 2022. The signing of the protocol of agreement signals the start of the implementation phase of the project.

Deputy Chair Nsanabaganwa alluded to the process of consultation that led to the signing of the agreement.

"As you know, this ceremony and the signing of the protocol of agreement represent the culmination of a series

of interactions and consultations that have occurred between the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, and several stakeholders starting last year," she said.

The project will upgrade and automate several AU systems, including those for information management, procurement and financial management, human resources and results management. It will also address gaps in the AU's continental early warning system, a critical instrument in the prevention and management of conflicts and fragility across the continent.

Bank Acting Vice President Fal said:

"Today is a milestone. Reaching it would not have been possible without the mutual trust and collaboration that our respective institutions have shown historically and throughout the process."

Among key priorities the two institutions share are to drive regional integration and build the capacity of African institutions and businesses.

"Not only are Bank investments plugging regional infrastructure gaps, they are also strengthening the institutional capabilities of the AU, regional economic communities, the African Continental Free Trade Agreement Secretariat, and other regional mechanisms," Fal said.



East African Community secretary general Dr Peter Mathuki updates journalists in Arusha city earlier this week on developments in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which became the seventh - and newest - member of the regional economic bloc two weeks ago. Photo: Correspondent Asraji Mvungi

Committee concerned on ministry's annual returns

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Parliamentary Committee on Administration and Local Government Affairs has called on the government to ensure availability of development funds as planned.

Tabling the committee's recommendations on the 2022/2023 ministerial budget estimates for the ministry of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, deputy chairperson, Dennis Londo, said disbursement of the funds was not as planned, expressing doubt if the increased budget will be adequately implemented.

He noted that the approximated annual collection returns for the 2022/2023 has increased by 14.48 percent compared to revenues for the year 2021/2022.

However, he observed that while the approximated collection annual returns for 2021/2022 were only reached by 56.16 percent by the third quarter of the financial year, the targeted revenue for the 2022/2023 might not be realized, basing on the last years' experience.

Moving the ministerial budget estimates for the 2022/2023, Minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Innocent Bashungwa told the lawmakers that the ministry intends to collect a total of 1,071,730,886,508.50/- in collaboration with teachers' commission and the 26 regional secretariats in the 2022/2013, being an increase of 14 percent from the 2021/2022 target.

He asked the parliament to approve 8,778,607,763,200/- for the ministry budget estimates for the 2022/23 financial year.

"Committee analysis proved that release of development funds was not as planned, affecting many projects" he said, adding that the trends is not healthy for the nation.

He cited availability for funds teachers' service commission that was

not rightfully released, noting that up to February, 2022, the commission had received only 56 percent of the allocated budget, and being in the third quarter of the financial.

While acknowledging that some projects at the local authorities were well undertaken, the deputy, Londo noted that some of the projects were implemented using the COVID-19 fund released by President Suluhu Hassan.

"Analysis show that there are some district councils did not undertake projects as were budgeted and instead use the COVID-19 fund, something that is not acceptable" added the deputy chairperson.

In his speech minister Bashungwa noted that the 2022/2023 budget is in line with the 3rd Tanzania Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III) 2021/22 - 2025/26, which aims at "Building a Competitive and Industrial Economy for Human Development".

He said 4.99bn/- more has been allocated to the constituency development catalyst fund from 11bn/- in 2016/17-2021.22 to 15.99bn/- in 2022/2023, being 45.36 percent for implementation of projects.

Bashungwa added that in the 2023 financial year, the government has allocated 607.57bn/- for National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) for councilors at the LGA.

In effort to strengthen performance of the government regional secretariat budget has been increased from 416bn/- to 780bn/- with 12 regions bordering other countries have been allocated 730bn/- to beef up security.

The Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) has been allocated 802.29bn/- for the upgrading and improving 411.80 kilometers to tarmac roads, 10,666.11 others to murrum.

"Committee analysis proved that release of development funds was not as planned, affecting many projects"

Construction of Kajunguti International Airport in Missenyi District to start soon

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

CONSTRUCTION of an international airport at Omukajunguti area in Missenyi District, Kagera Region is set to begin after completion of feasibility study and detailed architectural design, the National Assembly was told yesterday.

Construction of the airport follows the increased number of passengers at the Bukoba airport, according to the Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Godfrey Kasekenya.

He said that initial evaluation for payment of compensation to people who will be affected by implementation of the project has been conducted, adding plans are to conduct another evaluation to get real cost as the

previous 9bn/- compensation budget might not be enough.

He was responding to a question posed by Muleba South Member of Parliament, Dr Oscar Kikoyo who claimed that the Bukoba airport has been receiving a good number of passengers in the past two years, hence the need to have an international airport at the Omukajunguti area.

The MP said that Bukoba airport received over 44,000 passengers in 2020 and over 45,000 passengers in 2021.

Responding to a supplementary question from Vwawa legislator, Japhet Hasunga, the Deputy Minister informed the House that plans are underway for construction of storage

facilities including cold rooms at Songwe International Airport in Mbeya Region.

Hasunga wanted to know the government plans to construct cold rooms at the Songwe airport to enable farmers engaging in cultivation horticultural products.

He said apart from storage facilities, plans are to further expand the airport to enable it to handle big planes. He said construction of cold rooms at the airport would facilitate transportation of fruits and vegetables to local and international markets.

"We want to construct storage facilities at the airport; the government is planning to purchase cargo planes to ensure smooth transportation of various goods," he added.

Kasekenya noted that efforts are on-going to improve other airports including the ones in Mtwara, Tabora, Shinyanga, Mbeya, Msalato and Songwe to make sure they operate 24hours. He said the government is working to install the required lights to ensure they function during day and night.

On November 6, 2017 the late President John Magufuli shelved the envisaged construction of Omukajunguti Airport in Missenyi district and instead ordered that the 9bn/- compensation budget be used to extend the Bukoba Airport runway.

It was argued that it was important to extend the airport's runway from 1.5kms to two kilometres to enable larger aircraft to land.



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Job Description - Logistic Specialist Objectives/ Purpose of the role

The logistics specialist is responsible for managing all documents, which are related to the importation and exportation of goods (by sea, air and land), related to EACOP project (www.eacop.com).

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Qualifications / Experience / Technical Skills / Knowledge

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- English and Swahili proficiency mandatory
- Strong analytical thinking and attention to details
- Well-structured workplace
- Able to define and understand time-sensitive issues
- Working knowledge of Microsoft products, MS Excel, MS Outlook, MS Word
- SAP tool experience

Personal Traits & Characteristics

- Excellent problem solving and communication skills
- Strong attention to details
- Self-motivated and proactive
- Transparent and passionate to succeed
- Ability to communicate effectively with all levels of the organization

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Job Description - Senior Buyer Objectives/ Purpose of the role

The Senior Buyer is responsible for managing the procurement process in SAP, related to EACOP project, (www.eacop.com) for direct material and services related to Isoaf Italy/Tanzania, warehouses and site, plus the Purchase Orders and Contracts.

Job Scope

- Ensure that team executes procurement transactions and data maintenance in SAP
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- Work with Finance on payments (bank guarantees/letter of credit) issues resolution with suppliers
- Identify opportunities for improvements
- Prioritize work, and support other departments
- Make a professional decision in a fast pace environment
- Reports creation
- Ensure activities are carried out in an actively timely manner

Qualifications / Experience / Technical Skills / Knowledge

- SAP tool experience
- 5+ years Procurement experience in mining, oil and gas, construction or something similar is mandatory
- English and Swahili proficiency is mandatory
- Strong analytical thinking and attention to details
- Bachelor's/Master's degree
- Member of a professional board will be an added advantage

Personal Traits & Characteristics

- Excellent problem solving and communication skills
- Strong analytical thinking and attention to details
- Self-motivated and proactive
- Transparent and passionate to succeed
- Good negotiator

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Uber suspends operations in Tanzania after six years

By Guardian Reporter

RIDE hailing company, Uber has suspended its operation in Tanzania after six years of offering services in the country.

With effect from yesterday the US based company will not provide services in the country until further notice.

Uber said in a statement to its customers yesterday that it will not operate until an agreement with relevant authorities was reached.

"Current regulations on the transportation sector have created an environment that is not friendly and has been a challenge in our business," Uber said in a statement sent via emails.

The company provides transportation services in the country through UberX, UberX Saver and UberXL services.

The company however noted that the suspension was temporary and they are ready to work with the authorities to reach agreement that will impact the sector. But it did not clarify how unfriendly was the environment.

"This is a difficult time for all of us, but this does not mean that it is the end of everything. We are ready to co-

operate with the relevant authorities and reach agreement that will create stable environment for our business," reads part of statement.

Furthermore, the company noted that will come back and continue to provide reliable transportation for their customers when everything is done.

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely - for choosing our app to make your trips within Dar es Salaam where we have been providing our services for the past six years," the statement noted.

The Uber application is already operating in 80 countries of the world - 11 of them in Africa.

The suspension of services by Uber is a blow to the online Car and motorcycle hire industry which involved four operators namely Uber, Taxify (which recently rebranded as Bolt), and new entrants Ping and Little which made a debut in Tanzania recently.



The Uber application is already operating in 80 countries of the world – 11 of them in Africa



Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki (2nd-L, foreground) pictured yesterday viewing modern plants installed at the Shinyanga municipality abattoir. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

CAG: DAWASA collected 755.67m/- without caring to check consumers' water meters

By Guardian Reporter

THE Controller and Auditor General (CAG) has discovered irregularities by the country's water and sanitation authorities in regard to consumers inflated water bills due to various reasons.

In his latest audit report for FY 2020/21 tabled in Parliament Tuesday this week, CAG Charles Kichere said he has identified irregularities in the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) that it charged its 1,207 water consumers and collected 755.67m/- without even conducting monthly water meter reading.

He explained that out of those customers, 371 had defective meters, hence the charges were raised by estimates while 836 customers were charged sewage water services by estimates even though they had no water services in their premises.

The CAG said that clean water service could have been used to estimate sanitary service charges as that was against Section 1(8)(2) of DAWASA Guidelines to Customers Services.

The Guidelines, he added, also say that in case there are meters that have not been read, the

readings should be estimated by referring to past readings, and these estimates must be corrected soon after actual readings are made.

"I have suspicions in regard to the amount of bills collected because customers could have paid more or less of the right amount thereby occasioning revenue loss.

"I recommend that DAWASA should verify the amount and to install water meters to all its customers as well as to make sure meters are read and bills collected accordingly," cautions CAG.

In regard to Higher Education Students Loans Board (HESLB), the CAG discovered irregularities that in the issuing process that includes denying loans to students from poor families.

Kichere said he had gone through the list of loans beneficiaries for needier students in order to verify whether the loans are given according to the actual needs, he discovered irregularities in regard to 12,660 loan applicants.

He explained that he discovered applicants who received smaller loans had actually qualified for larger loans while those who received bigger loans had not qualified for such loans.

"Also, as I went through the list of students

whose were verified to qualify for the loans in the 2020/21 academic year, I discovered 71 students from poor household and who were in the TASAF programme, and enrolled in various higher learning institutions did not receive loans.

"I also have suspicions that the delay in students' enrolment can contribute to their missing loans to those qualified or vice versa. Also it can contribute to qualified loans applicants to miss the loans due to budgetary constraints.

In his recommendations, the CAG said HESLB officials should make investigations in order to control the loans provision procedures and take appropriate steps to make the entire process more successful.

He also said he discovered the lack of adequate information from the employers and loanees, saying that during audit, asked HESLB for the list of employers.

He said HESLB provided a list of 6,840 employers, but after going through it he discovered to have many deficiencies including lack of TIN numbers in regard to all the employers while 50 of them had no addresses or telephone numbers.

ARU launches centre for sustainable cities studies

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

ARDHI University (ARU) has launched

the Centre for Sustainable Cities Studies (ACS) which, among others, aims to investigate challenges associated with

rapid growth of cities in Africa.

The centre will be funded by the Belgium government for ten years at a tune of euro 6 million (15bn/-).

Speaking during the inauguration ceremony, ARU Vice Chancellor, Prof Evaristo Liwa commended the Belgian government for funding the centre saying that the facility will help the university to meet various goals.

"We are happy that some Belgian universities will participate in this programme which means that ARU network will increase and this is good for the development of our university," said Prof Liwa

He said that 27 masters' students and 19 PhD students will be trained in different programs at the centre to build their capacity in different areas of the field, something which will increase the number of local experts.

Prof Liwa added that the ARU management will make sure that the intended outcomes of the centre are met while benefiting the majority of Tanzanians and East Africa Community at large.

"We know that this is 10 years project so the ARU management will work to ensure its sustainability even after the ten years, we thank Belgium government for this big support," he said

ARU's Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Prof Gabriel Kassenga said the main purpose of the centre is to investigate and come up with solutions for smart settlements, noting that the focus will be made on Dar es Salaam city which is one of the fastest growing cities in Africa whereby its population is expected to increase from the current five million to 10 million by the year 2030.

"Unfortunately, the city is growing without proper planning and control of every development as a result we have many challenges which is associated with position of physical infrastructure that is water supply, waste management and decent housing," he said

Belgium ambassador to Tanzania, Peter Van Acker said he was proud to inaugurate the centre which he believes that one day will be the center of excellence in Africa.

Acker said he believes that the centre will be helpful to all EAC Member States who will be coming to learn on how to overcome urban challenges.

"It is my expectations that Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, DRC, Kenya and Uganda will take this centre as opportunity to them for their people to come and learn about urban challenges," the envoy said.



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AT DAR ES SALAAM

APPEAL NO. 5 OF 2022

BETWEEN

MEXONS JAPHET SANGA APPELLANT

AND

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES

REGULATORY AUTHORITY RESPONDENT

(Notice pursuant to Rule 16 of the Fair Competition Tribunal Rules, 2012)

TAKE NOTICE THAT an appeal has been lodged in the Tribunal against the whole decision of the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) given on 4th March, 2022 in which EWURA denied the Appellant's application for renewal of petroleum products retail license due to failure to comply with EWURA's order to submit certified copy of the title deed and a valid lease agreement over the plots subject of the application.

The appeal is based on the grounds that, among others, EWURA erred in law and fact in refusing to renew the license and closing the station while the Appellant had satisfied conditions for renewal and provided all necessary requested information. Thus, the Appellant prays for orders allowing the station to operate; granting renewal of the license; setting aside and quashing the decision of EWURA.

BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE any person who considers that he has sufficient interest may apply to intervene in the proceedings within seven days of the first publication of this notice to the Fair Competition Tribunal, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology Building, Jamhuri Street, Dar Es Salaam.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of the Tribunal this 15th April, 2022.

REGISTRAR

216809101



PUBLIC NOTICE

Farm Africa Tanzania has been working in Tanzania since 1990 as Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) under NGO Act with certificate of registration no. I-NGO/0008750. Its long-term objective is to contribute to poverty alleviation by developing replicable community based approaches for improving agricultural productivity and sustainable land use in Tanzania.

Farm Africa is an innovative international NGO that reduces poverty in rural eastern Africa by helping farmers grow more, sell more and sell for more: we help farmers to not only boost yields, but also gain access to markets, and add value to their produce. We place a high priority on environmental sustainability and develop approaches that help farmers to improve their yields and incomes without degrading their natural resources.

Farm Africa operates under its global Strategy for the period 2021-2025 with a mission Driving Prosperity Through Agriculture

On 12th April 2022, Farm Africa signed a grant agreement with World Food Program (WFP) worth TZS 1,380,815,810 /- to implement a twelve (12) month project which will focus of increasing incomes and resilience of smallholders by providing them access to commercially sustainable value chains and to make markets work better for smallholder farmers (with surplus or surplus potential) by working through partnerships with off-takers, agri-related businesses, service providers and to align activities with relevant Government policies and coordinate with public sector players in specific value chains.

The project will be implemented in Hanang, Babati, Simanjiro and Kiteto Districts in Manyara region, Singida, Iramba and Mkalama Districts in Singida region, Mvomero and Kilombero Districts in Morogoro region. This notice is in compliance with Non-Governmental Organizations (Amendments) Regulations, 2018 GN609 of 19th October 2018.

In case of further information please email: infotanzania@farmafrika.org



Alice Kilembe, manager of Serengeti Breweries Ltd's plant in Moshi municipality, presents a blanket to a Mwika ward elder earlier this week. The firm extended similar assistance to 149 other elders in the ward. Looking on is Mwika Rotary Club member Ester Towo, who was coordinating event. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Five-year plan eyes fighting non-communicable diseases

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government is implementing a five-year strategic action plan (2021-2026) for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) to reduce the disease burden by taking integrated actions to ensure a healthy nation which is free from the diseases and conditions.

In Tanzania, 26 per cent of adults aged between 25 and 64 years have hypertension.

Addressing delegates during the launch of the second phase of the Healthy Heart Africa Program in Dodoma on Wednesday, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Aifello Sichwale said the number of patients suffering from the diseases has been increasing annually.

The two years program which is implemented by the government in collaboration with PATH and AstraZeneca is expected to reach over 500,000 people in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma regions.

Dr Sichwale stated that data from some regional referral hospitals indicates that 19 out of 100 admitted patients have high blood pressure while 39 out of 100 patients with stroke lost their lives.

"The government is conducting a survey to identify indicators of NCDs because research shows that 75 per cent of the patients are not using any of the drugs," he noted.

He added: "We are witnessing a surge of non-communicable diseases. They now account for nearly a third of all deaths every year. Cardiovascular diseases, especially hypertension, contribute too much of the burden."

Hypertension, also known as high blood pressure, is a serious medical condition that can lead to other complications such as heart attack, stroke, and heart failure. It is a significant cause of premature death worldwide.

He highlighted some initiatives taken by the government in fighting NCDs which includes developing and implementing the strategic action plan.

Dr Sichwale commended PATH and AstraZeneca for coming up with the program which will see residents in the specific regions provided with services such as blood pressure screening, education, awareness and hypertension diagnosis, linkages to hypertension care and treatment at 35 primary health care facilities.

PATH Tanzania Country Director, Amos Mugisha assured the government

of total commitment and support in implementing the project.

Mugisha said that PATH has been operating in the country since 2005 in supporting provision of health services for Tuberculosis, HIV, malaria and cancer.

"It is within our reach to prevent, diagnose and treat hypertension. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how life is fragile and good health is the most precious commodity," he said, adding that people with hypertension are at increased risk of severe disease and death from COVID-19.

Like the pandemic, hypertension epidemic hits the world's most vulnerable the hardest, he added.

Dr Allan Mackenzie, Associate Director, Government Affairs, Global Sustainability - Access to Healthcare at AstraZeneca said the launch of the second phase follows successful implementation of the first phase which saw the screening of 76,000 pregnant women, the training of 437 health workers on hypertension care modules, and the screening of 931 health workers within three years.

"We are optimistic that this phase will expand support for hypertension prevention and management in Tanzania," said Mackenzie.

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

DC pushes for collective efforts to protect children against abuse

KARATU District Commissioner, Dadi Kolimba has suggested the need for all stakeholders to jointly work together in protecting children and strengthening families.

DC Kolimba made the suggestion here yesterday when speaking at the occasion to launch a new five-year Re-Innovation and extended program for the SOS Children Village in Arusha.

"The government acknowledges the important roles played by Community Based Organizations, religious bodies, security organs and other private institutions in taking care of the youth and children welfare and that is why a number of problems related to young people are always solved in time," Karatu DC said.

He stated that Arusha Region is home to more than 600 Non-Government and Community Based Organizations all working to support the government in achieving set goals of health, education and other community development projects.

Kolimba lauded the SOS Organization for taking the initiative of expanding operations to all districts of Arusha, assuring the Children Village Management of government support in all related fields

of community services.

Themed, 'Arusha Rising as Center of excellence in childcare, Youth and Community,' the SOS Children Villages through its new five year program entity is expanding its mission in the region to accommodate more initiatives aimed at protecting young children and assisting the youth across the Arusha Region.

Under the new programme, 2022-2026, the SOS Children Villages will cover four district councils including Arusha Urban (City), Arusha Rural, Karatu and Arumeru.

Police Officer in-charge of the Regional Gender Desk, Happiness Temu lauded the SOS Villages' mission in the rescue and protection of young children saying with the organization's presence in Arusha, the number of street children has been significantly reduced.

Her views were also echoed by Dr Nandera Mhando from the Local Government Ministry who reinforced the importance of not only taking children off the streets but ensuring that where possible many get reunited with their families.

The SOS Chairman of the Board Haruni Masebu stated that his organization works to ensure that homeless youth and

orphaned children at their equivalent to any stable villages receive proper care home.

Govt and JICA in new drive to decongest Dar

By Guardian Reporter

THE government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have signed a technical agreement on Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), which entails planning in advance and organizing an efficient urban development linked to public transport infrastructure to decongest Dar es Salaam.

TOD, which will be jointly implemented for the first time in Tanzania's economic development trajectory, is one of the concrete strategies to decongest Dar es Salaam as proposed in the Transport Master Plan supported by JICA in 2018.

JICA said in response to a request from the government it dispatched a Detailed Planning Study Team to Tanzania from early February, this year for the TOD for Dar es Salaam.


The team held a series of discussions with the President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), Dar Rapid Transit Agency (DART), and other stakeholders to develop a detailed plan for the scheme.

The project overall goal is to promote TOD pragmatic methodology in the urban planning of Dar es Salaam.

"The Project purpose is to enhance the capacity of relevant institutions to use TOD method for urban planning, and improve mobility along the BRT lines and establish coordination mechanisms for planning and implementation. The duration of the Project is 36 months from June 2022 to May 2025," in the statement reads in part.

The project concept involves technical transfer and capacity building in various forms such as co-working, on-the-job training, and seminar with respect to the plan for officials of the concerned stakeholders.

Connectivity with other modes of transport in other stations will be improved. Feeder bus network information-route maps, bus stops, frequency, operating time, and fares will be incorporated.



Britam Insurance (Tanzania) Limited

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
	Notes	2021 TZS'000	2020 TZS'000
Gross written premium		36,171,580	35,271,964
Premium ceded to re-insurers		(19,833,345)	(18,673,489)
Net written premium		16,538,235	16,598,475
Changes in the gross provision for unearned premium	(2,954,885)	(639,755)	
Re-insurers' share of change in the provision for unearned premium	1,061,599	1,872,121	
Net unearned premium	(1,893,286)	1,232,366	
Net earned premium	14,644,949	17,830,841	
Commission income		4,450,007	4,214,241
Investment income	5	2,398,105	2,142,283
Other income/(expense)	6	712,548	(130,337)
Net income		22,205,609	24,057,028
Claims and benefits incurred	(11,479,106)	(13,483,365)	
Re-insurers' share of claims and benefits incurred	6,401,590	6,619,578	
Net insurance claims	(5,077,526)	(6,863,787)	
Acquisition costs	7	(4,989,910)	(5,048,062)
Administrative expenses	8	(10,204,027)	(9,530,616)
Finance costs on lease liability		(101,027)	(107,435)
Profit before tax		1,833,119	2,507,128
Income tax expense	9	(634,103)	(883,835)
Profit for the year		1,199,016	1,623,493
Other comprehensive income:		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		1,199,016	1,623,493

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			
	Note	2021 TZS' 000	2020 TZS' 000
Assets			
Motor vehicles and equipment	10	598,618	617,410
Intangible assets	11	641,654	785,928
Right-of-use asset	12	594,440	644,920
Deferred tax assets	13	873,794	794,528
Deferred acquisition costs	14	664,634	396,318
Equity investments	15 (a)	137,519	137,519
Investments in Government securities – amortized cost	15 (b)	1,121,657	1,263,483
Current income tax	9	-	414,008
Reinsurers' share of technical provisions and reserves	16	17,204,787	13,117,123
Insurance and reinsurance receivables	17	1,581,373	3,335,145
Other receivables	18	237,321	656,024
Deposits with financial institutions	19 (b)	17,385,249	17,127,438
Cash and cash equivalents	19 (a)	13,397,643	9,247,450
Total assets		54,438,689	48,537,194
Liabilities			
Lease liabilities	20	555,573	583,851
Insurance contract liabilities	21	30,702,265	25,863,365
Payables arising from reinsurance arrangements		5,611,184	6,957,064
Due to related parties	25 (b)	3,883,985	3,113,003
Other payables	23	3,829,919	3,566,356
Current income tax	9	3,191	-
Total liabilities		44,586,117	39,883,639
Net assets		9,852,572	8,653,555
Shareholders' equity			
Ordinary share capital	24	2,289,000	2,125,000
Preference share capital	24	5,000,000	5,000,000
Advance towards share capital		-	164,000
Accumulated losses		(1,221,954)	(1,981,622)
Contingency reserves		3,785,526	3,346,177
Total shareholders' equity		9,852,572	8,653,555

STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN EQUITY						
	Ordinary share capital	Preference share per capital	Advance towards share capital	Contingency reserves	Accumulated losses	Total
	TZS'000	TZS'000	TZS'000	TZS'000	TZS'000	TZS'000
At 1 January 2021	2,125,000	5,000,000	164,000	3,346,177	(1,981,622)	8,653,555
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	1,199,016	1,199,016
Issue of shares during the year	164,000	-	(164,000)	-	-	-
Transfer to contingency reserve	-	-	-	439,348	(439,348)	-
At 31 December 2021	2,289,000	5,000,000	-	3,785,526	(1,221,954)	9,852,572
At 1 January 2020	2,125,000	5,000,000	90,600	2,811,252	(3,070,190)	8,956,562
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	1,623,493	1,623,493
Transfer to contingency reserve	-	-	-	534,925	(534,925)	-
Advance towards share capital	-	-	73,500	-	-	73,500
At 31 December 2020	2,125,000	5,000,000	164,000	3,346,177	(1,981,622)	8,653,555

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
	2021 TZS'000	2020 TZS'000
Operating activities		
Profit before income tax	1,833,119	2,507,129
Adjustments to reconcile profit before tax to net cash flows:		
Depreciation and amortization	365,630	386,885
Amortization on right of use asset	321,607	349,063
Interest income	(2,394,016)	(2,140,056)
Dividend income	(4,089)	(2,227)
Interest on lease liability	101,027	107,435
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	(20,169)	(3,824)
INSIS Write-off	163,400	-
Working capital adjustments:		
Deferred acquisition costs	(268,316)	267,339
Reinsurers' share of technical provision and reserves	(4,087,664)	(3,646,052)
Insurance receivables	1,753,772	(1,438,220)
Increase in other receivables	418,701	(124,202)
Insurance contract liabilities	5,038,900	4,276,703
Payables arising from reinsurance arrangements	(1,345,880)	2,466,523
Balances with related parties	770,962	(188,187)
Other payables	263,563	(87,668)
	2,910,567	2,750,640
Income tax paid	(296,169)	(235,604)
Net cash flows generated from operating activities	2,614,398	2,515,036
Investing activities		
Interest received	2,394,016	2,140,056
Dividend received	4,089	2,227
Proceeds from maturity of investment in government securities	141,826	(127,830)
Movement in deposits with banks	(257,811)	(748,413)
Acquisition of motor vehicles, equipment and intangibles	(366,063)	(377,922)
Proceeds from disposal of motor vehicles and equipment	29,169	6,041
Net cash generated from investing activities	1,936,226	893,162
Financing activities		
Proceeds from advance towards share capital	-	73,500
Repayment of lease liability – principal	(400,431)	(448,242)
Net cash used in financing activities	(400,431)	(374,742)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	4,150,193	3,033,456
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	9,247,450	6,213,993
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	19 13,397,643	9,247,450

The above extracts are from the annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 which have been prepared in compliance with the International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Companies Act, No 12 of 2002. The financial statements are audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers, Certified Public Accountants and received Unqualified Audit Opinion. The annual report and audited financial statements were approved and authorized for issue by the Board of Directors on 30 March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Dr. Peter Munga, CBS
Chairman

Mr. M. Laiser
Director

Official Medical Insurer of Tanzania Premier League football clubs.

Our Branches: Dar es Salaam | Arusha | Mtwara | Mwanza | Mbeya | Dodoma

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**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED**



**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE SELECTION TENDER NO:
AE-020/HQ/2021-22/C/10
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
FOR
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY
SERVICES FOR FOR INTERIOR DESIGNING**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) in joint venture with the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) is finalizing construction of Eighteen (18) storeys multipurpose building with a total space of 22,421m² plus the public/ common areas and 87 parking spaces. The building comprises of basement, ground floor, first floor to sixteenth floor, mezzanine of sixteenth floor and semi accessed rooftop. The Building is located on plot No.114, BLOCK Z, Sekei along Namanga-Moshi Road in Arusha, Tanzania. The building is designed to accommodate a bank branch, anchor shops, post office at the ground floor; Two commercial restaurants one at 2nd and 16th floors respectively including international conferences.

In ensuring the building is built with aesthetic look and state of an art, TCRA and PAPU have decided to engage specialist firm with experience and competence in to provide services for interior designing of all public areas, interior decoration including fixtures and fittings.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this assignment is to ensure
The interior designer shall therefore provide technical services to TCRA and PAPU in design and supervision on the implementation of the assignment.

3. INVITATION

TCRA is now inviting Expression of Interest from eligible, qualified and competent firms to indicate their interest to be shortlisted for submission of technical and financial proposals for interior designing.
healthier and more aesthetically pleasing environment for the people using the the interior of a building achieves a space.

4. SELECTION PROCEDURES

A firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Public Procurement Act No. 7 of 2011 and the Public Procurement Regulations of 2013 as amended in 2016. Note that this is not a request for proposal. Letters for expression of interest will be reviewed and a shortlist of consultants will be prepared and will be invited to submit their proposals through letters of invitation, which will include specific terms of reference.

5. CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

In assessing the Expression of Interest, consideration will be given to the following: -

- i. Profile (certified copies of original documents defining constitutional or legal status of the principal place of business of the company/firm/individual including valid business licenses);
- ii. Experience (Submit list of at least two (2) similar assignments indicating amount for each assignment, nature of the assignment, name of the employer and contact address and year of completion of the project);
- iii. Qualification and experience of the proposed key staff (submit certified Curriculum Vitae);
- iv. Audited Financial statements to support financial soundness of the firm to carry out the assignment (submit latest three years consecutive audited financial statements).

NB: All attachments should be scanned.

6. All applications should be **prepared** and submitted electronically via online national procurement system (TANePS) before or on **5th May, 2022 at 11.00.00 am EAT**. The link to TANePS is www.taneps.go.tz.

**DIRECTOR GENERAL
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

216810601

**The United Republic of Tanzania
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED**



**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE SELECTION TENDER NO:
AE-020/HQ/2021-22/C/09
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
FOR
PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) in joint venture with the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) is finalizing construction of Eighteen (18) storeys multipurpose building with a total space of 22,421m² plus the public/ common areas and 87 parking spaces. The building comprises of basement, ground floor, first floor to sixteenth floor, mezzanine of sixteenth floor and semi accessed rooftop. The Building is located on plot No.114, BLOCK Z, Sekei along Namanga-Moshi Road in Arusha, Tanzania. The building is designed to accommodate a bank branch, anchor shops, post office at the ground floor; two commercial restaurants one 2nd and 16th floors respectively including international conferences.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE SERVICE

The main objective of this Consultancy is to ensure that the building is properly managed, maintained, leased and fully occupied at all times.

3. INVITATION

TCRA is now inviting Expression of Interest from eligible, qualified and competent firms to indicate their interest to be shortlisted for submission of technical and financial proposals for interior designing.

4. SELECTION PROCEDURES

A firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Public Procurement Act No. 7 of 2011 and the Public Procurement Regulations of 2013 as amended in 2016. Note that this is not a request for proposal. Letters for expression of interest will be reviewed and a shortlist of consultants will be prepared and will be invited to submit their proposals through letters of invitation, which will include specific terms of reference.

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- iii. Qualification and experience of the proposed key staff (submit certified Curriculum Vitae);
- iv. Audited Financial statements to support financial soundness of the firm to carry out the assignment (submit latest three years consecutive audited financial statements).

NB: All attachments should be scanned.

5. All applications should be prepared and submitted electronically via online national procurement system (TANePS) before or on **4th May, 2022 at 11.00.00 am EAT**. The link to TANePS is www.taneps.go.tz.

**DIRECTOR GENERAL
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

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Forgotten road stretch receives 204 million/- for refurbishing

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

THE government has dished out 204m/- for revamping of the Igalako-Mwatenga-Kilambo Road in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region which had not seen any repairs since independence.

The 21km road stretch is now being Revamped by Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA), Mbarali district in collaboration with Ubaruku Limited as contractors.

Speaking during the road's inspection visit by the District Security and Defence Committee team led by Reuben Mfune, the District Commissioner, Mbarali TARURA Manager Eng. Rashid Kavandama said so far construction work is 30 per cent complete.

He said the funds for the road upgrade was drawn from mobile money transactions charges through the Road Fund and work October 31 2021, but the work has been slow

due to rains.

However, he said the project will be completed June 29 this year as per the contract agreement.

He said the work now going on is to raise the 3km long road ridge to withstand erosion.

Kilambo District Chairman, Mwakami Matiga thanked the government for refurbishing the road, saying that the road has not seen such repairs since colonial times.

He added that during rainy seasons the road becomes unusable affecting economic activities in the area and transport of farm products and livestock to markets.

Inspecting the road repair progress, Mbarali District Commissioner, Reuben Mfune called the contractor to work by adhering to accepted quality standards.

He also called on TARURA to closely monitor construction work to make sure the road is completed in time as per the contract agreement.

SUA tasked to offer agriculture-related courses

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

MEMBERS of the Parliamentary Committee for Agriculture, Livestock and Water have tasked the Morogoro-based Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) to offer agricultural courses to produce competent experts that would help to improve the sector in the country.

They raised the concern at a special meeting organised by Action Aid Tanzania for deliberating results of the 3rd Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Biennial Review (BR) Report Tanzania.

Musoma Rural MP, Prof. Sospeter Muhongo said by offering non-agriculture related courses will end-up diluting the performance of the agriculture sector within the country.

While the country is currently working to transform the agriculture sector, they observed it was prudent for the state-owned varsity to major concentration in helping improve diverse agro research as well as molding useful experts, and not otherwise.

Prof Muhongo said the country was in need for more agricultural researches in order to

achieve the much needed transformation in the key sector, saying that it was 'very' unprofessional to allow SUA to venture into other irrelevant courses.

"Today, Tanzania faces an acute shortage of agriculture extension officers to help guide the farmers on better agronomic practices. Principally, SUA, apart from conducting key research, was established for the wide purpose to create useful agricultural experts, and not otherwise," he said.

For instance, he said the country was lagging far behind in Bio-Technology due to absence of serious researches and experts, insisting it were the task of the Morogoro-based varsity to help bridge the gap

"It was very disconcerting today SUA is start offering irrelevant degree courses like Law (LLB), Education, Business Administration," he stated, added: "Obvious, may SUA is doing this in order to generate more money by attracting more students through the Higher Education Students' Loan Board (HELB), but it's unprofessional."

Special Seats MP Ritta Kabati urged the

government to direct SUA to develop useful agricultural syllabuses to be included in training curriculum from primary to secondary schools in the county.

"This will help contain the shortage of extension officers in the country by imparting the students with key agronomic practices in cultivation of all crops from grassroots levels," she stated, challenging the government to come-up with a viable mechanism to sensitize, educate and empowering more youth to venture into the agriculture as part to stimulate the performance of the key sector in which the national economy hinges.



It was very disconcerting today SUA is start offering irrelevant degree courses like Law (LLB), Education, Business Administration

GLOBAL PROGRAMS

Affiliate of the University of California, San Francisco

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Tanzania
+255 222-151-112
info.tanzania@ucglobalprograms.org

Job Opportunity – Surveillance Technical Lead

Location : Dar es Salaam
Application deadline : April 29, 2022
Start date : June 1, 2022

Background:

The University of California San Francisco (UCSF) is engaged in a five-year Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Tanzania (CDC-Tanzania) to provide strategic information, with a focus on improving data quality, Surveillance, and health information systems (HIS) technical assistance to the Ministry of Health (MOH) for Both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar as well as the United States' President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and their implementing partners (IPs).

UCSF is recruiting an individual through our affiliated international NGO Global Programs to serve as Surveillance Technical Lead. This is a full-time 4-month position with the possibility of extension for 12 months subject to continued funding. The position is expected to start on June 1, 2022 and will be based in Dar es Salaam.

Main duties and responsibilities:

Under the supervision of the Technical Director and Surveillance PIs, the Surveillance Technical Lead will be responsible for coordinating and overseeing an Integrated Bio-Behavioral Survey (IBBS) in Zanzibar and supporting other surveillance activities for both Zanzibar and Tanzania Mainland as needed.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Participate in the development of survey protocols, survey tools, field SOPs, and training materials for qualitative and quantitative surveys among key populations.
- Plan, conduct, and supervise training on study protocols and operations and coordinate all training related to surveys in conjunction with other partners.
- Provide technical, administrative, and logistical management support, including pre-testing and refining tools, coordinating training, data collection, data analysis, study documentation, and ensuring protocol adherence before, during, and after the survey.
- Ensure timely delivery of materials and supplies needed for the implementation of the survey.
- Oversee daily on-site implementation of surveillance activities including facility engagement, data collection, and study staff supervision.
- Ensure the sending of samples as scheduled in the survey and specified in the SOP.
- Participate in data analysis and report writing.
- Participation in technical working group (TWG) meetings and fora related to HIV surveillance.
- Work with other partners with issues related to the planning and implementation of surveillance activities.

Experience, skills, and minimum required qualifications:

- Undergraduate in social sciences preferred (demography, geography, sociology, psychology, or other) OR health professional with tertiary qualifications, such as nursing, clinical medicine, or medical laboratory technology, AND Master of Public Health, Epidemiology, Social Sciences, or related field
- At least 4 years of total public health experience with at least 3 years of post-graduate work in HIV surveillance, including experience conducting national HIV serologic surveys in the general population and sub-national surveys among Key Populations
- Demonstrated research and evaluation experience, including protocol and tools development, ethics review board submission/management, study coordination, data analysis, and report and manuscript writing
- Demonstrated ability to use SAS, Stata, SPSS, or R statistical software packages for basic, intermediate, and advanced statistical analysis
- Previous experience managing HIV and AIDS projects in PEPFAR setting strongly preferred
- Strong analytical, problem-solving, communication, and decision-making skills
- Demonstrable experience working with a variety of organizations and stakeholders, including experience collaborating with MOH
- Demonstrated ability to work professionally and collaboratively in a multi-cultural environment and with vulnerable populations
- Fluency in oral and written English and Kiswahili required

Other desired skills/qualities:

- Strong organizational and management skills.
- Ability to prioritize, work under deadlines, work independently with minimal supervision, and multi-task.
- Ability to summarize disparate information in a clear and concise manner.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Excellent computer skills, including word processing and PowerPoint.
- Ability to travel in-country to support project activities

To Apply:

All applicants must address each selection criterion detailed in the minimum requirements above with specific and comprehensive information supporting each item.

All applications must include the following:

- A current CV with names and telephone numbers for at least 2 referees, 1 of whom must be from your current employer
- Copies of academic and professional certificates

Applications and supporting documents should be sent via e-mail to info.tanzania@ucglobalprograms.org and must be received by **April 29, 2022**. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

GLOBAL PROGRAMS

Affiliate of the University of California, San Francisco

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Job Opportunity – Data Quality Technical Lead

Location: Dar es Salaam
Application deadline: April 29, 2022
Start date: June 1, 2022

Background:

The University of California San Francisco (UCSF) is engaged in a five-year Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Tanzania (CDC-Tanzania) to provide strategic information, with a focus on improving data quality, and health information systems (HIS) technical assistance to the Ministry of Health (MOH) as well as the United States' President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and their implementing partners (IPs).

UCSF is recruiting an individual through our affiliated international NGO Global Programs to serve as Data Quality Technical Lead. This is a full-time 4-month position with the possibility of extension for 12 months subject to continued funding. The position is expected to start on June 1, 2022 and will be based in Dar es Salaam.

Main duties and responsibilities:

Under the supervision of the Technical Director, the Data Quality Technical Lead will be responsible for coordinating and guiding UCSF-Global Programs data quality-related work. This position will supervise a small in-country team and collaborate with CDC to continuously improve the quality of routine data across all HIV service delivery programs.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Manage all UCSF-Global Programs data quality activities and ensure deliverables and timelines are clearly delineated and met.
- Manage a small team of data quality analysts who implement and support data quality improvement activities and collaborate with other in-country UCSF-Global Programs staff on aspects of data quality work that are cross-cutting, including data visualization and data use.
- Oversee and provide technical guidance on data quality analyses and the implementation of data quality activities such as data quality audits.
- Develop new and improved strategies for analyzing routine HIV and AIDS data for data quality challenges, and new and improved strategies for documenting and tracking data quality issues.
- Oversee the roll-out of a standardized data quality toolkit to all CDC implementing partners and coordinate technical support to IPs to implement data quality activities.
- Support CDC to introduce new implementing partners to all routine data quality activities and conduct IP close-out data quality assessments.
- Support implementing partners in the implementation of routine data quality activities and remediation of data quality challenges.
- Liaise with CDC-Tanzania, implementing partners, and MOH on data quality activities.
- Provide technical assistance and guidance to MOH on data quality activities, including updating national strategies, policies, and SOPs, as well as the roll-out of these documents, as required.

Experience, skills, and minimum required qualifications:

- Undergraduate degree in public health, statistics, mathematics, epidemiology or related fields is required. A Master's degree in Monitoring and Evaluation or Public Health is a strong advantage.
- Minimum of five years of progressive professional experience in public health working in data-focused positions including experience with data use and data quality improvement activities. Experience implementing data quality improvement activities at the facility level required.
- Demonstrable knowledge of data quality concepts and of routine HIV and AIDS health data. Knowledge of both PEPFAR and MOH reporting tools, systems (including DATIM, CTC2, DHIS2, Monthly Portal), and HIV and AIDS indicators required.
- Previous experience managing HIV and AIDS projects in the PEPFAR setting strongly preferred.
- Demonstrable data analysis skills including intermediate to advanced knowledge of Microsoft Excel.
- Strong analytical, problem-solving, communication, and decision-making skills.
- Demonstrable experience working with a variety of organizations and stakeholders, including experience collaborating with MOH.
- Ability to work professionally and collaboratively in a multi-cultural, internationally based team setting.
- Fluency in oral and written English and Kiswahili are required.

Other desired skills/qualities:

- Ability to prioritize, work under deadlines, work with minimal supervision, and multi-task.
- Ability to summarize disparate information in a clear and concise manner.
- Working knowledge of statistical software (STATA, SAS or SPSS) preferred.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Excellent computer skills, including word processing and PowerPoint.
- Ability to travel in-country to support project activities (20% or less).

To Apply:

All applicants must address each selection criterion detailed in the minimum requirements above with specific and comprehensive information supporting each item.

All applications must include the following:

- A current CV with names and telephone numbers for at least 2 referees, one of which is from your current employer.
- Copies of academic and professional certificates

Applications and supporting documents should be sent via e-mail to info.tanzania@ucglobalprograms.org and must be received by **April 29, 2022**. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

It's time for hard work on renewable energy sources

MIXED feelings greeted contemplation by the government some years ago of introducing tax on charcoal.

The idea was primarily to discourage the heavy and pervasive dependence on the use of the particular source of fuel, for long cited as an obvious cause of deforestation.

There was little doubt as to the wisdom in the proposition, only that the preponderant view was that the matter ought to be approached with caution.

There were suggestions that the government stood convinced that making charcoal more expensive would appreciably lower demand for it and substantially reduce the wanton felling of trees in the country.

What was by then the Energy and Minerals ministry was quoted as having said that the charcoal tax so collected would go into financing reforestation activities, where decades of expected implementation have come to precious little.

To its credit, the government looked as determined as optimistic as environmentalists relentlessly warned that more than 370,000 hectares (915,000 acres) of forests were being cleared in the country every year, mostly for fuel.

There was statistical evidence that 2.3 million tonnes of charcoal were consumed in the country each year, roughly half of it in Dar es Salaam alone, and that demand was expected to double by 2030.

There was ample evidence that, despite being destructive to the environment, charcoal business was hugely lucrative and therefore highly tempting.

Accordingly, the government was emphatic that it just could not afford to look on helplessly as the business blossomed.

Charcoal business in the country was

said to generate an estimated US\$650 million a year, employing hundreds of thousands of people as producers and transporters - alongside manufacturers and retailers of charcoal stoves.

Tanzania boasts a rich range of 'live' and potential sources or forms of fuel or energy sources, but charcoal and firewood still account for over three-quarters of total cooking energy consumption.

So, what is the way out? Logic may run thus: Imposing a hefty levy on charcoal will see its price rise remarkably, with fewer people attracted to cut down trees to sell it. Once its price goes off the roof, the business will die a natural death...

There appears to be some sense here, the proposed solution sounding brilliant. There are, however, questions we will have to ask ourselves and find answers to.

First, are alternative sources of energy available and affordable to the majority of our people?

Secondly, is there any guarantee (basing on best practices) that taxation and government-funded reforestation programmes will bear the desired fruit?

Thirdly, in the absence of such law, what are we doing to sensitise the citizenry on the need to plant trees to compensate for the lost forest cover?

Fourth, in the event of some people (and even companies) finding the charcoal money too good to relent and plant trees in their farms for that business, would the tax still apply?

The likes of the United Nations Environment Programme have worked on this multifaceted issue for decades on end but are yet to come up with what one would call a reassuringly conclusive stand pointing to a promising way forward.

In the circumstances, the struggle must continue. This is especially given current trends in the global market for petroleum products.

Oil hub quest text-book case of foreign investment project

HIGH levels of policy planning are engaged in a vibrant brainstorming on a project meant to make the Dar es Salaam Port become a major oil depot and reserve storage tank field serving both Tanzania and other countries around the region.

Some Tanzanian legislators are understood to be strongly supportive of the implementation of the project mooted, while others argue that a former oil refinery close to the port has enough capacity for the purpose.

From an economic point of view, the issue of having a large reservoir belongs to a supply side intention which then expects to create a market for the services and commodities it will be offering, whereas scores of pundits will assert that this is a wrong starting point.

One has to ascertain that there is demand, in a manner pointedly expressed and even discussed as to how it can be solved, which isn't the point as regards this intended facility. It arises from other concerns, like a supply crunch or rising prices.

There is another aspect that will not be easy to acknowledge on the part of policy planners, which is that large projects have multiple advantages of providing work to crucial stakeholders, and instantly provide an image that development is being realised at a faster pace.

That side of wishing has its downsides, as it doesn't frontally take the issue of viability or real marketability of the project, viewed in self-adoration as vital for nearby countries.

Traders seek bargain prices to order large amounts of fuel, while proximity isn't a deciding factor in any event.

That is the snag with the current plan, as policy planners putting into use public resources can at best set out what Tanzanian oil importers need over a period, and then weigh whether the new facility is worth the effort by looking at monthly bulk importation.

It is much like obtaining one's salary a month or two earlier than normal and then that amount is deducted in a corresponding number of months - no one would be richer by that method.

It is worth noting that the prevailing oil supply bottlenecks are short-term, not long-term, structural dislocations.

There was a plan to speed up use of natural gas in vehicles and reduce oil importation, which doesn't appear to be high in parliamentary deliberations at the moment.

Also, the old refinery facility appears to have much space lying unused, which means some refurbishing could safely be done for the storage of more oil.

Predictably, the market may not be all that upbeat for higher oil imports and so the current storage space might suffice.

This puts the whole idea in a vicious cycle unless major oil exporters can put up a supply hub in Dar es Salaam to sell oil at Dubai or Texas prices, or if there are general traders of the sort, stocking at low world prices.

If the Tanzania Investment Centre has such traders in mind, it could contact them but without resorting to the spending of public funds.

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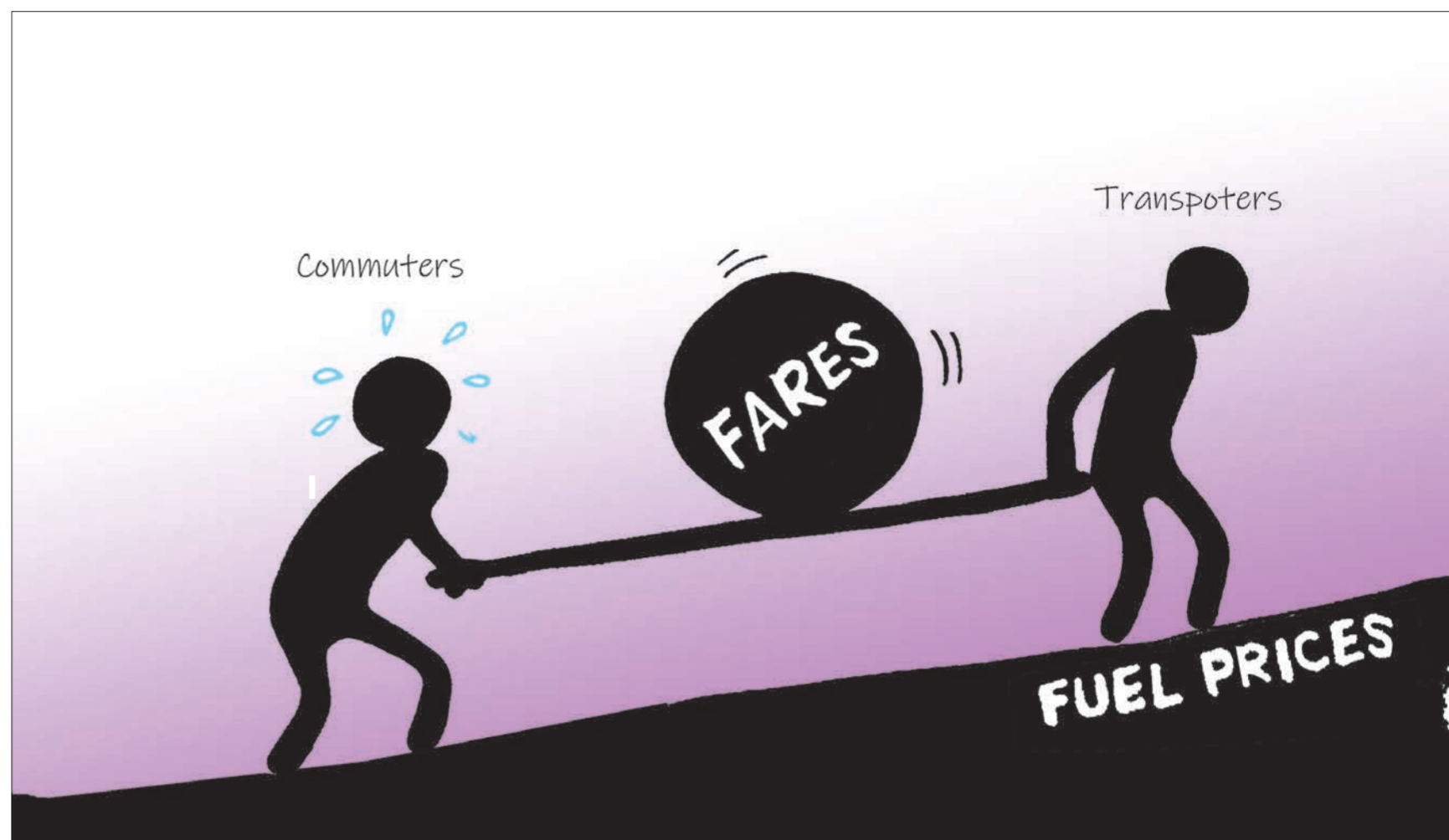
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Contrary to popular opinion, we are not winning this war. It's going to be our last.

By Jessica Wildfire

HERE is a bit of history we are forgetting: The Soviet-Afghan War lasted from 1979 to 1989. The Soviets were fighting a range of rag-tag forces, all armed and funded by the US.

The war resulted in somewhere between 500,000 and 2 million deaths - and several million refugees. It destroyed Afghanistan. It exhausted the Soviet military. It bankrupted the government.

Two years later, the Soviet Union dissolved. Barely ten years later, the US sank trillions of dollars trying to gain control over the exact same region, fighting the same groups they had armed and trained, but now very likely backed and funded by Russia. Americans spent two decades there, accomplishing almost nothing.

Now we're exhausted and bankrupt, suffering from the same kinds of domestic problems the Soviet Union did before its collapse. This time, we also have a pandemic. Instead of dealing with our problems, we are desperately seeking out yet another proxy war.

Please, tell me you see. The Bucha massacre (in Ukraine) was an answer.

Here's something Americans don't get: (President Joe) Biden spent weeks calling (his Russian counterpart Vladimir) Putin a thug. He travelled to Russia's border and called Putin a war criminal, a butcher, and threatened regime change.

A few days later, we learn that Putin ordered a massacre. This wasn't thoughtless violence. It was an answer. Putin was saying: "Yes, I am a butcher."

Americans don't seem to understand that their leader's empty threats may have provoked this massacre.

What does he (Biden) do next? He makes more empty threats. The world sees. Joe Biden says America's doing just great.

The leader of the free world hurls insults and threats. The result is that innocent people die. His own country goes broke. He says Russia is hurting badly. He says our economy is on the move again. I'm not so sure about that.

Over here, people are stealing bread. Our politicians tell us to deal with high gas prices by buying a Tesla. They don't grasp how dangerously close this sounds to "let them eat cake". They're debating things that don't matter.

We're trying to survive. We're projecting our own shadow. Die-hard liberals keep saying Putin is dumb. His military is blundering through Ukraine. His economy is in a shambles.

I'm not so sure. Look what's happening. Energy costs are soaring. Europe is crippled and leaning on the US for life support, and we can barely afford to help ourselves.

Food prices are expected to go up by between 20 and 50 per cent in Germany, just this week. They're doing double digits almost everywhere else.

As Ukraine misses their planting season, things are going to get worse. Countries that usually rely on Europe for grains will have no choice but to come to Russia for help.

It's just the beginning. We have no idea what we're doing.

Western countries crowded when they announced sanctions against Russia and closed all of their businesses.

Our mainstream media talk all day long about how it's really hurting Russia. They don't talk very much about what's going on over here right now.

They don't talk about first-time home buyers giving up. They don't talk about hospitals without doctors or nurses. They don't talk about schools without teachers or bus drivers.

They say we're adding record jobs. They don't say that it's the same people working two or three jobs, just so they don't have to steal bread.

The media keep telling us the ruble (the Russian currency) is crashing. They don't talk about the dollar.

They don't mention that several economic superpowers have spent the last decade working together, how they've created a separate financial grid that can bypass our banking system.

They don't consider that, perhaps, Vladimir Putin knew what would happen, and that it was a calculated first step to destabilise and displace our currency.

We say Putin's clueless. I'm not so sure. I think we are. We're sabotaging ourselves and each other. We call Putin a butcher. Yes, he is. What about our own?

There's a memo going around from an Applebee's CEO. It's really something special. It talks about how many Americans now are having to pick up a second or third job just to get by.

Basically, that's everyone. The CEO calls this a wonderful development. It means that we're so desperate that they can afford to lower starting wages. They can pay us less.

dead. You might wonder which one's more humane. Our leaders are focusing on the first kind.

It distracts us from the second. We don't know we've lost. We're a country that doesn't know how to surrender. That's not a good thing.

There's only one reason the world's other two superpowers haven't invaded us yet, and it's because they already have.

They've flooded us with misinformation for years. They've corrupted our democratic process, which was already pretty corrupt. Now they've even got Democrats desperately spewing their own propaganda nonstop, just to counter the other party's spin. They're both full of lies.

A few weeks ago, everyone was laughing about Russian tanks running out of gas. Apparently we didn't appreciate the irony. If you pay attention, we're the ones running out of gas. We're the ones running out of workers. We're the ones running out of money and food.

We're living in a failed state. I know we're living in a failed state. How do I know we're in a failed state? We're acting like one.

Only the leaders of a failed state completely ignore the poverty of their own citizens. Only the leaders of a failed state bellow meaningless threats at their enemies, with zero power to back them up.

Only the leaders of a failed state give up on public health and leave their own citizens to face deadly diseases on their own. Only the leaders of a failed state talk about how strong the economy is, while people steal bread.

We're sitting almost exactly where the Soviet Union was more than 30 years ago, on the precipice of total collapse - but too proud to admit it. People are talking about how the United States might need to break up, because we've become utterly

ungovernable.

It's a popular opinion. We need to split up. This proxy war in Ukraine is going to be the end of us. It seems obvious to me, and anyone else who isn't wallowing in false hope and wishful thinking. We can't keep going like this.

It's literally killing us. We can't keep pumping hundreds of billions of dollars into a largely ineffective military. We can't keep letting corporations raise prices on basic necessities while paying us less and less.

We can't keep printing trillions of dollars to bail out billionaires who screw the working class. We can't keep letting people get sick and develop chronic disease, then not treating them. We know we can't, and yet nobody is doing anything to stop it.

We're celebrating it. This is how countries collapse. The people wind up too tired, too hungry, too sick, too angry, or just too plain crazy to keep on producing goods and services.

There was a time we could've stopped it. Not anymore. It won't take much longer, just a couple more waves of this pandemic, a few more months of super inflation and backfiring sanctions, another season of severe drought and wildfires, a couple more broken links in supply chains, all leading up to midterm elections.

We're not just getting there. We've arrived. Maybe our time's up. I've wondered if I'm going to miss America. I don't think so.

I'm starting to think breaking up America would be a good thing. It would be a good thing for the rest of the world. It would be a good thing for the environment, at least in the long term.

The collapse of the Soviet Union was ultimately a good moment for humanity. It was the most extreme, perverted form of socialism. We're the most extreme, perverted form of capitalism.

Maybe it's our turn. I don't think it's possible to save this thing we call "The United States" anymore. I think it's too late to take the advice we should've taken ten or twenty years ago.

People ask me for solutions. Well, this is it. This isn't a solution that makes us feel good. It's a solution that forces us to come to terms with our history.

It's a solution that avoids hundreds of thousands of unnecessary deaths. Above all, it's a solution that allows us to evolve into something better.

It's what we deserve. An Injustice! A new intersectional publication, geared towards voices, values, and identities!

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We say Putin's clueless. I'm not so sure. I think we are. We're sabotaging ourselves and each other. We call Putin a butcher. Yes, he is. What about our own?

HEADING to the long Easter holiday while unemployed and not being in a position to purchase goodies for your family or treat yourself to a good meal can be really frustrating.

Be it you are fresh from college and hasn't been luck to land a job, you got laid off or resigned for whatever reason; unemployment in the city is quite frustrating if not dehumanizing.

Having no tangible job lined up for you and no job placements in sight either is something you wouldn't even wish for your worst enemy. It is only those who have travelled that road know what I mean.

Whichever reasons that might be the cause of a lengthy unemployment status, the question still remains: how do you handle all that and explain to a potential employer your whereabouts during that gap period? Pretty much how do you do so without minimizing the chances of them offering you the job?

We are all aware that several graduates and other people who had been employed before have undergone a period without employment for years and also there are graduates who still attend to job duties outside their field of study for as long as they can

Take available lowly job instead of looking for your dream one forever



remember!
It's hard to explain when we have to lie about something; when we should

have done something but didn't do it. In situations like these, we try to make up stories and end up making

ourselves miserable. If you have tried something sincerely but didn't work out, mention

the same honestly. Even if they don't believe it, you should not feel bad about it because you have honestly put it.

If you have not done something worth mentioning in the last two years, then I suggest you take a pause for the next six months from your job search then do something worthwhile. It could be training, a free internship, a low paying job, an odd job whatever maybe it but something that you can mention and attest to. If you can explain your last six months, people may not bother too much about the last two years.

Do something but not everything that comes your way. Get busy and do any legal that earns you a living and keep pushing to find your dream job.

Don't shy away from jobs that the society thinks are for unlearned people. I have heard of a lot of successful people tell of how they once took lowly jobs and

still made it to the top of their careers later. A job isn't mediocre if you know where you are headed after that and what you would like to achieve in life.

All in all, if you are still jobless, it's pretty clear that there was a mismatch between what you possess as skills and what your interviewers wanted. So, various activities that you do in between enable you to acquire valuable skills.

Create a personal schedule and set goals as well. Follow the schedule and stick to it. Have a weekly, monthly and even annual plan too. Get out of bed early and have a plan already in mind. This helps you minimize wasting precious time and doing unnecessary activities.

If you spend the day sitting at your desk on

the computer, you'll feel better having showered and dressed. Keep a regular bedtime too—try not to go to bed in the wee hours of the morning. Assume a night schedule similar to what you'd keep if you were working. If you don't own a planner, you might want to invest in one.

Allocate time in your day for activities like applying for jobs, exercise, socialization and networking. Frankly speaking, the reality is this: If you've been unemployed for a long period of time, you're going to face a steeper uphill climb than those who are currently employed or have recently become unemployed.

Recruiters assume your skills have begun to deteriorate or there is something about your

character as a person or otherwise as to why you have not taken another placement sooner after your previous one.

The unemployment gap isn't a place you stay and feel sorry for yourself but a grace period where you make ends meet regardless of the circumstances. Learn a skill, volunteer, practice your passions in relevant places and spread your wings further in the advancement of your career.

The bus stops, passengers alight; it hoots the horn and picks up those at the next station and not those at home. So are opportunities; success is not a product of luck but a destination you arrive at when luck meets preparation.



Nairobi

Abrutal war now engulfs the young lives of an estimated 7.5 million children in Ukraine. Caught in the crossfire of bullets and missiles as the conflict escalates, children and young people have been plunged into a humanitarian crisis.

With their lives turned upside down, affected children are lost, traumatized, and among millions fleeing their homes into neighboring countries, including the Republic of Moldova, in search of safety, protection, and assistance.

Having seen the effects of the ongoing crisis firsthand, Yasmine Sherif, Director of Education Cannot Wait (ECW), tells IPS that affected children and their mothers arrive in Moldova visibly traumatized and need immediate psychosocial support.

"As a result of the conflict in Ukraine, across the region, there are more than 5 million refugees who have fled Ukraine and an additional 7.1 million people internally displaced. An estimated 400,000 people have passed through Moldova in search of safety thus far," she says. Sherif paints a picture of a country unprepared for the refugee crisis—despite its welcoming spirit and an open-door policy for refugees.

"Moldova is the poorest country in Europe with significant capacity gaps and is struggling to accommodate an inflow of refugees. Today, Moldova hosts at least 100,000 refugees, including 50,000 refugee girls and boys, of whom only 1,800 are currently enrolled in school."

Sherif confirms that Moldova is registering the children as quickly as possible to attend school and that public schools are open to refugees.

Still, she says there are pressing issues facing affected Ukrainian refugee children and that, as of now, Moldova is ill-equipped to address their educational needs.

Sherif says that the capac-

ECW, strategic partners bring relief to child refugees fleeing Ukrainian conflict



A "Blue Dot" Centre established by UNICEF, UNHCR and partners in Chi in u. "Blue Dot" support centers offer protection, temporary shelter, food and psychosocial support to meet the urgent needs of families fleeing Ukraine. Credit: ECW

ity was stretched in Moldova, and many parts of the education system needed development even before the refugee crisis.

With 50,000 children in the country needing to be enrolled, she says, the capacity is "now stretching

beyond what was expected. Moldova was not ready for this crisis."

ECW and its strategic partners US Agency for International Development (USAID), Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office/UK (FCDO/UK), and

Theirworld were looking at the capacity gap, including "urgent mental health and psychosocial services."

Children in Moldova are taught in Romania, a Latin-derived language, while children in Ukraine speak Russian, a Slavic language -

leading to language barriers. This requires additional teachers who can teach in Russian and are trained to handle children in crisis. For refugee children in the rural part of Moldova, access to safe water and sanitation is another pressing

need.

Sherif spoke in the backdrop of a high-level mission to Moldova with its strategic partners in a coordinated and joint-up response in Moldova.

ECW has thus far contributed 6.5 million US dollars to support education in emergencies response to the Ukraine refugee crisis.

In March, the organization announced that it had made a grant of 5 million US dollars available for Ukraine's First Emergency Response.

On April 13, ECW announced a new, initial US\$1.5 million allocation to support the education in emergencies response, to be delivered in partnership with the Government of Moldova, to ensure refugee children and youth can access safe and protective learning opportunities.

During the high-level mission, USAID also announced an additional 18 million US dollar contribution to the ECW global trust fund to support ECW education responses in crisis-impacted countries across the globe. After Germany and the UK, this contribution makes the USA the third-largest donor to ECW - the UN global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises.

With an estimated \$30 million funding gap for the emergency education response in Ukraine, ECW has escalated advocacy efforts, calling for donors and other strategic partners to help close the gap.

UNHCR Representative to Moldova, Francesca Bonelli, says education is key to refugees living with dignity and "is one of the first services requested. We greatly appreciate the support of the Moldovan authorities, teachers, and communities in welcoming refugee learners."

Theirworld President, Justin van Fleet, says the organization will announce additional funding. Theirworld is a global innovative

children's charity committed to ending the global education crisis and unleashing the potential of the next generation.

The funds, he says, will support refugee education projects in the coming weeks, harnessing the charity's experiences from other emergencies and campaigning to ensure donors invest 10% of the humanitarian response funding into education.

"COVID-19 school closures have taught us that learning loss amounts to more than days missed in school," says UNICEF Representative to Moldova Maha Damaj. "In Moldova, UNICEF is working with partners to help refugee children coming from Ukraine reclaim their learning experience in a safe and supportive environment, nurturing their resilience against the traumas of war."

"As a leading donor to Education Cannot Wait, the UK is committed to protecting the right of all children to education, including those affected by the crisis. We stand ready to support a coordinated education response for refugee children from Ukraine. Education must be prioritized as an integral part of the ongoing humanitarian response in Ukraine," says Alicia Herbert, Director of Education, Gender and Equality and Gender Envoy, FCDO.

Whether contributed resources will meet the most pressing needs of affected Ukrainian children in Moldova, Sherif says it all depends on how long it takes to resolve the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

"More than 400,000 refugees have passed through Moldova. Should hostilities escalate further and new towns such as Odesa are captured, the second wave of refugees will be coming to Moldova and elsewhere," Sherif says.

"Moldova is currently unprepared for a refugee crisis of this magnitude, and more funding will be required to meet the ongoing capacity gap. I appeal to governments and the private sector not to rest because there can be no peace until everyone has peace."



Students attends class at a local school in Ungheni, Moldova. The school hosts Ukraine refugee children who attend class with Moldovan pupils. Credit: ECW

Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere as a statesman, thinker and humanist

By Nikolai Kosukhin

MWALIMU Julius Kambarage Nyerere was a leader of the type of Mahatma Gandhi, Sun Yatsen, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Kwame Nkrumah and Leopold Sedar Senghor, who earned their place in the history of humankind.

Even his miscalculations, about which he repeatedly spoke himself, have special features: they were mistakes of a pathfinder. He belonged to the leaders of a charismatic type, symbolising the ideals and expectations of the people.

We are not discussing simply the statesman but the leader-thinker whose contribution to the development of the original Ujamaa concept and the experience of independent development is a really great one. Therefore it takes some time to estimate, in a fitting manner, his role and weight in the world history.

All post-colonial history of Africa and, above all, Tanzania is associated with his name. The Nyerere epoch is the period of the struggle of African peoples for independence, construction of the national state, search for ways of development, and establishment of democratic foundations in Tanzania.

Nyerere's political biography is typical of many African leaders. He was born in 1922 in the northern part of the country at a small village not far from Musoma town (now municipality), to the family of a chief of a small ethnic group, the Zanaki.

After receiving secondary school education, he entered Makerere University, Uganda, and from 1949 to 1952 studied history and sociology at Edinburgh University.

During his studies, Nyerere was interested in politics, and got to know some future West African leaders of national liberation movements. Nyerere's Weltanschauung (or world view) was formed under the strong influence of Fabian Socialism.

On his return home, Nyerere worked with the Tanganyika African Association and for some time as a teacher at a secondary school (Pugu) near Dar es Salaam.

In 1954, he became the head of the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU). In 1960 he was appointed Chief Minister, and after the declaration of independence on December 9, 1961, Prime Minister.

One year later he was elected the President of the country. Shortly afterwards, Nyerere became known by the honourable title "Mwalimu" (teacher). In 1964 he became the President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

In 1985, of his own free will, Nyerere stepped down as president. He believed that a leader should resign when is still "intellectually and physically capable of transferring the power to his successor", who was, at the time, Ali Hassan Mwinyi.

Since the early days of independence, the ruling party (TANU) called upon the people of the country to work persistently on raising the standard of living and eliminating poverty and backwardness inherited from colonialism.

Guided by Nyerere, TANU developed and adopted the plan of "nation-building", having in view the widespread use, under the socialist slogans, of such communal traditions as common work, mutual help and support, still existing in the African society.

As far back as in the period of national liberation struggle, Julius Nyerere advanced the idea of "African Socialism", which later evolved into a painful search for ways of development for the newly emerged states.

Nyerere's theoretical concepts reflected the nation's urgent needs: the requirements of farmers, urban workers, the tiny national bourgeoisie and the intellectuals.

In May 1960, he published an article titled "The Future of African Nationalism", where he argues for



the necessity of a social revolution and the creation of such a society whose foundation would be the wellbeing of all rather than the accumulation of wealth by a few individuals. It means that the new national governments should be socialist in their views and actions.

Nyerere expounded his ideas on the essence of Socialism at a conference on Pan-African Socialism, which took place in April 1962 in Dar es Salaam. His keynote speech was titled "Ujamaa: the Foundation of African Socialism".

The concept of Ujamaa (Familyhood) is among the most influential and interesting theories created by the ideologists of the national liberation movements.

The principal meaning of this word is the type of social organisation, characteristic of the traditional African extended family. Nyerere opined that the traditional way of life in a community is the exact pattern for the social order, in other words, for socialism.

Putting in the concept of Ujamaa the various contents depending on a concrete situation, he combined his economic and socio-political views in a comprehensive ideology of development.

The reference to socialism as a means to development was intended to be a symbol of national cohesion and unity, an ideology of development, and a legitimization of the new authority by ideological means.

Many essential elements of the Ujamaa concept were exposed to change during the practical and theoretical activity of its author.

The African socialism was intended to look for the synthetic theory within the channel of world social development and to encompass all that mankind had created in the field of social sciences.

A special place in Nyerere's theoretical heritage occupies the work "The Arusha Declaration" and TANU's "Policy on Socialism and Self-Reliance".

Many years after, Nyerere still valued this work highly, saying that two books, the Bible and the Arusha Declaration, were always with him.

He emphasized that the whole community should be self-sufficient both economically and socially, irrespective of the outer world.

In his opinion, it would allow keeping the feeling of uniqueness in the environment of technical modernisation, would speed up development, and would contribute to saving human and material resources.

In an effort to prevent the bureaucratization and degeneration of the TANU and Government top officials, a kind of a "Code of Leadership" was embodied in the Arusha Declaration, prescribing that no TANU or government leader should hold shares in any company; hold directorship in any privately owned enterprise; receive two or more salaries; own houses which he rents to others.

Later these clauses were extended to all TANU and Government officials and civil

servants in the high and middle cadres.

It is opportune to mention here, that one of the determining features of the Ujamaa concept is its "human", ethical nucleus. At the very onset of independence, Nyerere emphasized the need "to build an ethic of the nation" which should be based on national spiritual traditions. This explains his definition of socialism as an attitude of mind.

In the Ujamaa theory, the individual was put at the center of development; therefore all plans of development should be measured by the criteria of their conformity to real needs and requirements of the people.

The disregard of the human factor, according to Nyerere's explanation, was the main cause of mistakes in the political line of Tanzanian leaders.

Given the existing, in Tanzania, of communal solidarity, and the practice of farmers' teamwork, a mass program of action was launched, aimed at building a new society under the banner of the Ujamaa theory.

The creation of Ujamaa villages was conceived as a voluntary form of cooperation of the peasantry that pursued certain objectives.

It was presumed that the resettlement of the peasants on more fertile sites, integration of villages and transition to new methods of management - all this in due course, should increase labor productivity in agriculture and raise the living standard.

The principles of self-management and initiative in Ujamaa should have transformed these villages into schools of political and cultural mass education, which would have made them a strong base of the state and society.

The creation of such villages envisioned the voluntary participation of the peasants in teamwork. However, during the campaign, this major principle was broken.

In 1973, the TANU National Executive Committee adopted the decision on resettlement of all peasants into Ujamaa villages as soon as by the end of 1976. In 1981, the number of registered villages reached 8,180, embracing 14 million people or 90 percent of all the rural population.

But the main motive of the creation of these settlements, i.e. the ensuring of food self-sufficiency, failed to materialise.

The Tanzanian experience of agrarian development has shown the complexity and ambiguity of application of communal traditional norms.

The resistance of farmers to any form of state interference in the sphere of their production activity was the problem that the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) confronted at the time of the creation of Ujamaa villages and at the introduction in them of the principles of collective production.

The majority of the inhabitants of Ujamaa villages, not having any stimulus to expand

agricultural production, continued to live in the old traditional way tilling mainly their individual plots of land.

Many peasants refused to work on collective fields, abandoned villages, and some even abandoned agricultural activities. Moreover, it turned out that the level of production on individual farms was 75 percent higher than on collective plots.

Apparently, the failure of cooperation is not evidence of the non-feasibility of the Ujamaa programme. Probably the main reason is that it was introduced prematurely on a national scale. Nyerere himself critically estimated realisation of the results of the programme.

In the work "Arusha Declaration. Ten Years After", he wrote that the country was facing "many problems, which had to be solved, and mistakes, which should be corrected. But we are moving in the right direction."

In many aspects the country has achieved good results, in particular, in the development of social equality, education, health services, democratic participation in decision-making and public management, getting into the practice of social cooperation. The standard of living of the population, consumption of the basic food products and living necessities has risen.

However, within several years Tanzania will encounter economic difficulties. "Our efforts", wrote Nyerere, "should be commensurate to our difficulties. We cannot expect speedy returns for our work. We should be ready to find the remuneration for our efforts in extending national self-sufficiency and preservation of our independence in actions. There is a time of sowing and a time of harvesting. I am afraid, that for us the time of sowing is not over yet."

Nyerere, characteristically, sensibly and objectively rated his contribution to the country's development. After the 24-year long presidency, he stepped down as the Head of State retaining the post of the Chairman of the ruling CCM, and five years later left this position too.

During the ensuing years, he lived in his village of Butiama, worked on his own farm and periodically took part in various political functions.

To make clearer what Tanzania has achieved under Nyerere's presidency, it is necessary to recollect what state the country was in at the moment of its independence in 1961.

After 75 years of colonial domination, first by Germany and then by Britain, the national coffers were nearly empty. Old age came at 40 years. Quite curable diseases had become the cause of mass mortality both amongst children and adults. The rate of infant mortality reached 250 per 1,000.

Only 26 per cent of the land suitable for agriculture was cultivated, and the rest of it remained unused. Large areas became unsuitable for human settlement because of the proliferation of the tsetse fly.

The whole population of the country was squeezed into only 10 per cent of the territory. About 90 percent of the people were deprived of access to sources of clean water.

Only about a half-dozen lucky individuals had received tertiary education. The basic primary schools course was only four years long, and attended by a very small percentage of the population.

These days, Tanzania is a country with one of the highest level of education in the Third World. Primary education (seven years) is officially compulsory and free of charge.

The number of students in secondary and tertiary education establishments has increased considerably. Tanzania is highly rated among the developing countries for its successful programmes of adult education.

The death rate has decreased sharply, and some diseases have been totally eradicated. Almost the whole population has access to free medical care and access to sources of safe portable water.

Life expectancy has increased from 40 to 52 years, and infant mortality has been greatly reduced.

Nyerere left to the successor a country uncommonly united and stable. The ethnic problems common in many African countries as the main obstacle on the way to achievement of national unity have, in Tanzania, been practically left behind.

Nyerere paid special attention to the development of a national language, Kiswahili. He has translated into this language some plays by William Shakespeare and has written his own poetry.

In addition, there were achievements beyond statistics, for example, the reputation of Tanzania in the world arena, its role and authority among the peoples struggling for economic independence and national unity welded out of the country's ethnic groups.

And in all that achievement, the merit of Julius Nyerere is to be found.

Nyerere, who was at the helm of the country since its independence, was a recognized standard bearer of the struggle of African liberation and a tireless champion of the idea of equitable economic relations between the rich North and the developing South.

"Freedom and Unity" was the slogan of the TANU as founded by Nyerere. It is the party that led the country to independence.

On April 26, 1964, Tanganyika and the neighbouring island state of Zanzibar formed the United Republic of Tanzania, which has become one of the most successful examples of African federalism.

Independence gave Tanzania the opportunity to establish diplomatic relations with other countries of the continent, and also with the USSR.

The development of diplomatic and political links between Tanzania and the USSR was accompanied by the expansion of economic, scientific and technical contacts.

In October 1969, Nyerere visited the Soviet Union. The joint Soviet-Tanzania communiqué that followed revealed the identity of views on such important international problems as the struggle for liquidation of colonialism and the termination of imperialist aggression.

In March 1977, a visit by a Soviet state delegation to Tanzania took place. During the visit, agreements of trade, cultural and scientific cooperation were signed.

Nyerere repeatedly emphasized that his country required more from the world, than the world required from her. In the first years of independence the foreign policy course of Tanzania was distinguished by support for the peoples of Southern Africa in their struggle for national liberation and elimination of the system of apartheid and racial oppression.

The vigorous foreign political activity of Tanzania and its leader has won the country a well-deserved authority among the world community. In 1987, Julius Nyerere was awarded the International Lenin Peace Prize.

Dares Salaam hosted the headquarters of many national liberation movements. The fighters of the national liberation armies: FRELIMO (Mozambique), MPLA (Angola), ANC (South Africa), and the troops of the national liberation forces of Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) were trained in camps located in Tanzania.

From 1977 to 1985, Nyerere was the chairman of the Frontline States group. From 1988 to 1990 he was Chairman of the Commission on South-South Cooperation.

Since March 1996, he had been the Chief International Mediator on the Settlement of the Ethnic conflict in Burundi. Practically, till the last days of his life, Nyerere indefatigably sought for peace in Africa and solution to its problems by exclusively political means.

At the end of 1997, in connection with Nyerere's 75th anniversary, the University of Dar es Salaam held the international theoretical conference on the theme: "Reflections on Leadership in Africa: Forty Years after Independence".

Some reports were directly devoted to Nyerere and his contribution to the liberation of Africa and consolidation of Tanzania into a nation. Two years later, on October 14, 1999, at 10:30 a.m. in St. Thomas Hospital, in London, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere died in the 78th year of his life.

Such was the outstanding figure on the national liberation movement of Tanzania, its first President Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere.

A man with a kind heart and a large destiny, he belongs not only to Tanzania and Africa but also to all humankind.

In his statement on the occasion of the death of the first President of Tanzania, the UN Secretary General (Ghanaian diplomat Kofi Atta Annan) told the world that Julius Nyerere was a 20th century giant.

• **Professor Nikolai Kosukhin, Dr Sc. (History), is Leading Research Fellow of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute for African Studies.**

Council loans become a game changer for marginalised groups in Shinyanga

By Correspondent Marco Maduhu, Shinyanga

THE government, through local councils has been dishing out free interest loans to vulnerable groups - women, youth and people with disabilities to conduct various entrepreneurial activities for income generation.

The loans, from 10 per cent of councils' internal revenues are issued according to the laid down scale - four per cent to women, four per cent to the youth and two per cent to people with disabilities.

According to 2012 statistics from the National Bureau of statistics (NBS), 10 per cent of Tanzanians or 4.4 million have disabilities out of who 9.4 per cent are women and 9.1 per cent are men.

A big percentage of the people with disabilities are face life hardships and mostly depend on others for their wellbeing as they are believed to be incapable of doing any work due to their disabilities.

Hence after the government began remembering these vulnerable groups and started providing them with loans, many of them have used loan money well and lifted themselves out of poverty with some even able to educate their children up to universities.

Janety Limbe, a blind woman, resident of Kitangili area in Shinyanga Municipality is among the beneficiaries of the two per cent council loans through their group that is engaged in pig keeping.

She says in 2019, through their pigs keeping group they received 2m/- loan from the Municipal Council from which they bought two pigs and built pig sties.

She says: "The number pigs increased in number and last year we again received a 3m/- loan from which they bought 10 more pigs."

So far, she says their group owns 28 pigs with seven

piglets and often they sell part of them and distribute the proceeds among themselves.

"Before I joined the group of people with disabilities and received council loans I used to live a hard life and failed to properly up-bring my children especially in regard to their education," Limbe says, noting: "But as for now I am no longer poor as I used to be, because I have the ability to serve my six children including their education, one of them is studying diploma at the Moshi Co-operative University (MoCU)."

"We appeal to the government to continue issuing these loans, but it should increase the loan amount according to our application requests to satisfy our entrepreneurial commitments. For example, last year our group applied for 5m/- but we were given only 3m/-, the amount that made us unable to complete our plans," she says.

Neema Michael, one of Limbe's children now in Ibinzamata Secondary School in Shinyanga Municipality says in the past they lived a very difficult life as they failed to get essential school's items, but she says now it is different.

The other child, Ndiganya Michael, who is studying at MoCU says the council loan has helped her realize her dreams, where she did not expect to be able to attend university due to her family economic hardships.

"I thank the government for providing these council loans and remembering the special groups, where I went to fulfill my dreams and come to help my parents and younger siblings develop their education," says Michael.

John Samuel is a person with disabilities. He is dealing with leather shoe making, where last year with her group they received a loan worth 10m/- from the district council. The loan, Samuel says it has completely

changed his lives economically.

Samuel thanked the government for providing them with loans—two of the 10 per cent council loans for people with disabilities. "This has completely changed the future of our lives and now we are no longer dependent, but we run our lives and serve our families," he says.

Shinyanga Municipal community development officer, John Tesha says between July and December last year the council has dished out 175m/- as interest-free loans to women, youth and people with disabilities groups in the area.

Shinyanga District Commissioner Jasinta Mboneko, urging young people, women and people with disabilities, to continue to take advantage of the council's 10 percent loan opportunities to earn a living.

The DC also demanded that when these groups receive the council's loan funds, they should repay the loan on time, so that other groups can borrow, while congratulating women and people with disabilities as the front lines to repay the loans on time.

Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Sophia Mjema urged people with disabilities to join entrepreneurial groups for them to easily get loans, as things have improved compared to the past.

"It's not necessary to join as many people as it was before. If you meet the conditions you get a loan, I urge you to embrace these kinds of loans as for you," the RC says, adding that groups of people with disabilities get two percent of 10 percent of the council loans.

"Be good ambassadors of your colleagues, and to educate them on how they managed to get a loan and empower themselves economically," adds Mjema.

Speaking at the climax of the International Women's Day celebrations, Deputy Minister Office of the Presi-

dent Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) Dr Festo Dugange emphasized that groups of women, youth and people with disabilities should not be negligent in taking 10% of the council's loan loans to earn a living.

Dr Dugange also instructed the directors and development officers of all councils that the loan funds should be given in large quantities to a few groups to meet their needs and economic growth, rather than giving to few groups and many people remain in poverty.

"I urge all council directors, these loans for entrepreneurs' women, youth and people with disabilities, I want it to be more productive for them.

Chairman of the Tanzania Federation of Disabled People's Organizations (SHIVYA-WATA) in Sinyanga Region Richard Mpongo, says that the 2 percent of council loans have been a great help to people with disabilities to boost their economy.

"These loans have liberated us economically and stopped being dependent, we just ask for entrepreneurship education to continue to be provided more for people with disabilities, so that they continue to join more groups and get loans," says Mpongo.

For a long time, the cultural norm and prejudice towards women, youth and people with disability has been a limitation for them to achieve meaningful access to financial opportunities. These groups were neglected and even if they obtained loans, the process was very difficult hence made some of them fail to pay back the loan. The seed money for women, youth and PWD's was first introduced by a parliamentary resolution of 1993 that aimed at uplifting economically disadvantaged groups of women and youth with no access to loans issued by financial institutions due to lack of

collateral.

According to the Local Government Financial Act of 1982, CAP 290, section 37A was amended to mandate local councils set aside 10 percent of own sources of revenue at no interest rate to empowerment loans for women, youth and people with disabilities. The loan was designed as a revolving fund to which Local Government Authorities (LGAs) are supposed to allocate 10 percent of their own sourced revenue (four percent for women and youth groups each while two percent goes to PWDs. The idea was to empower these groups in carrying out gainful enterprises to lift their own households out of poverty.



Shinyanga regional commissioner Sophia Mjema (R) looks at different products made by Amani group of women with disabilities after they had received a two-percent loan offered by the local councils. To her right is group chairperson Rehema Mkengele explaining about the group's operations. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu.



BRAC Maendeleo Tanzania

Request for Proposals and TOR for Community Assessment Lead:
BRAC-MCF Partnership Project 2022-2026

Date Issued: 11 Apr 2022

BRAC Maendeleo Tanzania is a leading nonprofit organisation with a mission to empower people and communities in situations of poverty, illiteracy, disease, and social injustice. Our approach is grounded in the conviction that people living in vulnerable situations can be agents of change if they are empowered with the tools, skills, and hope they need to change their lives. We design proven, scalable solutions that equip people with the support and confidence they need to achieve their potential. BRAC's institutional expertise on successfully implemented programmes is applied across 10 countries, touching the lives of over 130 million people, where our models are adapted according to the country's context.

In 2022, the Mastercard Foundation in partnership with BRAC International (81) will be announcing an initiative that will create positive and measurable impact for 1.2 million adolescent girls and young women and 9.5 million people across seven countries in East and West Africa, including Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Community assessments are one of the inception phase activities which will set the groundwork to understand the contexts, needs, and implementation dynamics in the implementing communities. This ToR describes the roles, eligibility, and recruitment process of the leads who will oversee the assessments and write the final reports in four countries.

The purpose of the assessments is to facilitate programme to select the relevant communities, potential beneficiaries, service providers, and other supports. The specific purposes are as below:-

- To facilitate the selection of relevant community in terms of the project's purpose;
- To determine the selection criteria of potential beneficiaries in terms of project relevance;
- To map out the active and new service providers (govt, private, NGOs);
- To suggest appropriate programme supports and associate resources and intervention tweaking to implement the project; and
- Short guideline for similar assessments in the follow-up years.

With a participatory rural appraisal approach (PRA), the assessments will be qualitative cross-sectional study. Literature review will be used to triangulate the community level findings with the similar studies and national level relevant analytics. The potential study population for the assessments are household heads, Adolescent Girls Young Women (AGYW), Adolescent Boys Young Men (ABYM), local service providers, and other stakeholders. The tools to be used are FGD, KI, Household survey (qual), market observation, and transect walk. Many of the tools will be built on BRAC's validated (qualitative) tools being used in UPG (ultra-poor graduation) inceptions.

The Community Assessment Lead will lead the assessments with the help of M&E, BRAC's Independent Evaluation and Research Cell (IERC), and community assessment leads/consultant. BRAC staff, M&E, IERC and hired enumerators will collect data. BRAC Country Team will clean and compile the dataset for analysis. The same enumerators will do data entry/transcription.

The main scope of the works by the Assessment Lead is to contextualize assessment tools if needed, train enumerators on data collection methods, facilitate the implementation of the data collection, analyse the report, and write reports. The specific roles are as below:-

- Through BRAC country team, the assessment lead will facilitate a quality implementation of the data collection in each country. One consultant for each country will be responsible for writing the reports of many (15-20) of the community assessments if the country selects 10-15 Branch areas for the first-year term (4-5 communities in each Branch);
- Contextualize and synchronize the validation and finalization of the tools based on the field learning across countries. The consultants will receive the final draft version of the tools from BRAC central teams;
- Analyse the (qualitative) primary data and use relevant secondary data (literature reviews) about the respective communities, Branch, and country context to write the reports;
- Write around 10-15 reports for each country (based on the estimation that 10-15 Branches will include 40-60 communities - 4 communities under each Branch). The reports should be short, precise, and inclusive of the scope of the assessments. Report template will be shared;
- Based on the implementation and report writing experience, the assessment lead will draft a "Community Assessment Guideline" for this project which the programme managers can use themselves to conduct similar assessment for the remaining communities and in the following years.

Individual experts are preferred over consultancy firms. National and international candidates are qualified for this position given that the international applicants are qualified (with respective country context) and available to travel and work in the designated countries for the most part.

Qualitative researchers experienced in PRA, M&E, and project implementation with high quality writing skills are encouraged to apply.

Interested candidates should send their proposals (**technical and financial**), CV and some writing samples to lilian.msoffe@brac.net and nassor.m@brac.net and irene.lwamayanga@brac.net by 1700hrs of Monday, 25 Apr 2022. Only short-listed candidates will be interviewed for selection and negotiation.

For further information, if so needed, please contact Ms. Lilian Msoffe (+255 754 413 457)

GIZ-E4D introduces 'Ajira kwa Vijana' project

By Guardian Reporter

THE Germany Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) through the Employment and Skills for Development in Africa (E4D) programme in collaboration with the Forum for International Cooperation (FIC) has introduced the 'Ajira kwa Vijana' project to support improvement of vocational training centres.

The programme which brings together partners in the public and private sector is referred to as a transition from education and training to employment.

The E4D aims to support the government's work at the national and local government levels to operationalize the Tanzanian National Skills Development Strategy that will contribute towards reduction in the high level of unemployment in line with the government's 3rd financial year development plan.

Speaking during the project launch in Dar es Salaam, GIZ Project Manager Awadh Milasi said that the E4D project is contributing to revitalize the vocational and technical training sector, thus providing more opportunities for poor and vulnerable young people to acquire market-relevant skills.

He said: "The project is implementing two complementary components to increase youth employment. We are strengthening the in-



Partners of the Ajira kwa Vijana project who attended an introductory meeting in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. The project is implemented by The Germany Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) Employment and Skills for Development in Africa (E4D) program in collaboration with the Forum for International Cooperation (FIC). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

stitutional and technical capacities of Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) institutions in Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Dodoma regions by training instructors, curriculum review and development."

Milasi added that the program will facilitate establishment of job matching platforms and linkages to the private sector, resource mobilization, branding and marketing of the institutions in order to attract more students.

The second component is providing training courses, employment services and enterprise development support to 790 youth that are socially and economically disadvantaged or have dropped out of formal education, he said.

The training courses focus on skills relevant to the hos-

pitality and tourism sectors, communication, technology (ICT) sector, which as a result of the transition to the digital economy is lush with opportunities for the youth to find employment or set up enterprises and secure a source for their livelihood.

He said: "The enterprise development support covers topics like development of a business idea, product development, access to finance and marketing which includes formation of business networks to link entrepreneurs with financing and other business resources."

Partners of the 'Ajira kwa Vijana' project are Prime Minister Office- Labour, Youth, Education and People with Disability, FIC, National College of Tourism, Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO),

Vocational Educational Training (VETA), RVTC, Ministry of Education Science and Technology, under the GIZ-E4D program commissioned by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and co-funded by European Union (EU), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

E4D is expecting to equip skills demanded by the private sector and place youth in employment opportunities; additional 250 with soft skills tailored for the target industry and also support at least 250 youth to establish sustainable enterprises in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Tanga while other 290 youth will benefit from education full sponsorship.

Oil crisis offers opportunities to the South and for the green energy transition

CARACA

The oil and gas supply crisis unleashed by the Russian invasion of Ukraine represents new business opportunities for the oil-producing countries of the developing South, both traditional and emerging, and also for accelerating the global transition to green forms of energy.

"The countries with the most positive economic effects are the net exporters that depend on hydrocarbon revenues for a large portion of their budget, economic activity and foreign exchange," Nate Graham, head of energy at the Washington-based think tank Inter-American Dialogue, told IPS.

In Latin America this is the case, Graham said, for "countries such as Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela, while on the other hand, countries in the Caribbean, Central America and Chile, which import oil and gas, will suffer the opposite effect."

The opportunities arose after the Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, due to the abrupt withdrawal, in markets with fragile balances, of some three million (159-liter) barrels per day of crude oil from Russia, and the decision of a large part of Europe to cancel gas imports from Russia and look for other suppliers.

Oil and gas producers in the South "are enjoying ex-



View of the Ras Tanura terminal in Saudi Arabia, the oil exporter receiving the highest revenues in the context of the crisis generated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. CREDIT: Aramco

traordinary revenues," Venezuelan oil geopolitics expert Kenneth Ramirez told IPS, "but those who are not producers have higher energy bills and are suffering from higher prices for food, of which Russia and Ukraine are major suppliers."

Graham said: "Even in oil-producing countries, rising consumer fuel prices put pressure on governments to provide subsidies, which can then be politically difficult to reverse when prices fall

again." But it seems that it is not yet time to heed all the warnings, given the new "black gold rush" unleashed in a world dependent on fossil fuel energy and aware that it will continue to be so for several more decades.

Room for everyone
In South America one of the first to benefit has been Guyana, which extracted from the Atlantic Ocean - in waters pending delimitation with Cara-

cas, noted Ramirez, who chairs the private Venezuelan Council of International Relations - some 110,000 barrels per day (b/d) in 2021 and expects to add another 220,000 within a year.

To achieve this, U.S. oil giant Exxon, with a century and a half of experience in the industry, accelerated its decision to invest another 10 billion dollars in Guyana.

Neighboring Suriname is also hoping for new investments, and traditional exporters Colombia and Ecuador must be rubbing their hands together in anticipation. But the most striking note was a new contact between the United States and Venezuela.

Formal ties between the two political opponents are broken, Washington has imposed sanctions that prevent Caracas from freely trading its oil and the South American country has made a show of being Russia's ally in the region.

Venezuela, a major oil exporter throughout the 20th century, with production exceeding three million b/d between 1997 and 2001, now produces less than 700,000 b/d, following a decline in its oil industry under the administration of President Nicolás Maduro, in office since 2013.

But the country has gigantic reserves, close to 300 billion

barrels, mostly of heavy crude, and the market read the new contact from Washington as a sign that the United States has decided that the adios to Russian supplies will last for a long time.

The US company Chevron, which maintains a minimum level of production in Venezuela with Washington's permission, could invest to produce another 200,000 b/d in a year, and the state-owned oil company Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) is studying the leasing of new oil tankers, according to industry sources.

In Africa, in addition to the best-known producers, such as Nigeria, Angola, Libya, Algeria and Egypt, there are the hopes of the smaller and newer producers, such as Equatorial Guinea, South Sudan and above all Ghana, which, from producing a few thousand barrels a day five years ago, now produces almost 170,000 barrels per day.

Iran is another long-time oil producer which is again flexing with the crisis: it maintains energy alliances with Russia while the tug-of-war with the United States - which has sanctioned it for more than 40 years - continues over its nuclear program, whose redefinition may free it from some sanctions.

Tehran, which produces 2.5 million b/d, is preparing to increase its crude oil exports from 1.2 to 1.4 million b/d, and has a long-term plan to return to a production level of four million b/d.

Among the major beneficiaries of the crisis are the Gulf Arab exporters and in general the partners of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which act in alliance with 10 other producers in the OPEC+ group.

Saudi Arabia's Aramco alone already recorded pre-war profits of 110 billion dollars in 2021

(compared to 49 billion dollars in 2020). Both the kingdom and the neighboring United Arab Emirates have been asked by Washington to increase oil production in order to avoid a price spike.

The main benchmark crudes, U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and North Sea Brent, were trading at around 70 dollars per barrel in 2021, but with the Ukraine crisis their prices soared: Brent has been holding steady this April at above 100 dollars and WTI at close to 95 dollars.

Global demand for crude oil is approximately 100 million b/d, of which OPEC contributes 32 million b/d, plus another 14 million b/d from the 10 OPEC+ allies, including Russia, Kazakhstan and Mexico.

OPEC+ rejected the request of large consumers, considering that the price increase is not due to market fundamentals but to the conflict in Ukraine, and agreed to add only 432,000 b/d to the group's supply, starting in May.

"Nobody listened when we said more investments were needed in oil and gas," said Emirati Oil Minister Suhail al-Mazroui. "Raising production will only be in a measured way and through a consensus among members."

U.S. President Joe Biden then ordered the release of one million b/d for six months from his country's strategic reserves of more than 650 million barrels, to increase the crude oil available to refineries and thus try to curb the rise in fuel prices.

Meanwhile, Algeria allowed itself the luxury of maintaining steady prices for the gas it exports to all its customers but not to Spain, in retaliation for a change in Madrid's position on the dispute over the self-determination of the Saharawi people.



The oil production vessel Liza Destiny is used by Exxon to develop oil fields under Atlantic waters that Guyana has not yet definitively demarcated with neighboring Venezuela. CREDIT: SBM Offshore

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 263 00--

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

3 LETTERS: PLY, FIG, ALL
4 LETTERS: SALT, TIME, LOME, IGAD, ENDS, ISLE SNAR (7 WORDS)
5 LETTERS: PANEL, ENDED, STARK, TIGRE, ROMEO (5 WORDS)
6 LETTERS: NEEDLE, PENALS, RUSSIA, SKILLS LOOSER (5 WORDS)
7 LETTERS: TUNNELS
8 LETTERS: FLAMINGO
10 LETTERS: SITUATIONS

WORD-FIT

CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across

- a Japanese dish of thinly sliced beef or pork boiled quickly with vegetables and then dipped in sauce
- a crow-like bird
- little in size
- a soft plastic mixture
- a male child
- police officer in East Afrika
- a musical instrument
- a piece of writing on a particular subject
- laws formerly in operation in S.Africa controlling blacks
- rowdy behaviour
- the holding of an office

Down:

- class, kind, variety
- on the top of
- the place where one lives
- basic monetary unit of Panama
- large New Zealand parrot
- labour hard
- Assegai
- Lake victoria in Kenya
- a course or run for skiing
- someone who plants
- argument in favor of something
- a habitual drunkard

RADIO One RAJIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.30 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.30 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.30 AM NEWS BRIEF 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10.30 AM NEWS BRIEF 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM HIZI NAZO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05HRS KIPIMA JOTO 23.00 HRS WEEKEND SHOW 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 09.00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11.00 AM MITAA WA MAGOMA 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15.00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS MIFUNDO 16.30 HRS BONGO TEN 18.00 HRS SPOTI LEO 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.15 HRS CHEMASHA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS RAFIKI II 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18.30 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18:00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MBAYU ZANGU 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS RAFIKI I 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS RAFIKI I 01:00 - 05:00 MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO

CAG UNCOVERS WEAKNESSES IN PENSION FUNDS PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

By Guardian Reporter

THE Controller Auditor General (CAG) has uncovered irregularities on pension funds' real estate investments and management.

The 2020/2021 audit report published on the National Audit Office (NAOT) website has revealed thousands of investment plots owned by National Social Security Fund (NSSF) have no title deeds; there is incomplete real estate investment projects as well as investing in properties which are not belong to the fund.

According to the audit, a total of 3,082 plots which is 89.30 percent of 3,451 investment plots owned by NSSF have no title deed.

"The existing of undeveloped NSSF investments and unprotected properties valued 69bn/-," said CAG in his audit opinion. "I discovered that 14 plots out of 3,505 undeveloped plots were not demarcated."

CAG audit also found that the Public Sector Social Security Fund (PSSSF) did not put billboards to indicate the ownership of plots, including plot number 39 located at Nunge beach in Bagamoto and plot number 2, block N located at Pangani in Kibaha.

The audit has also discovered that NSSF had developed the land which does not own, after entering into an agreement with three partners including Red Cross Society of Tanzania, Umati

and Female Scout Association and form a special management firm responsible to supervise the construction of commercial complex located in Moshi.

The agreement required three partners to provide land, which will be owned by the formed management firm and NSSF was responsible for financing the construction of the complex.

The construction of Kilimanjaro Commercial Complex was completed in 2019, according to CAG opinion.

However NSSF does not own the land, which has caused a conflict among shareholders, which has not been resolved.

Another irregularity according to CAG report was delay of completion of construction of a tourist hotel in Mwanza of which NSSF contracted a private consulting firm named M/S Habco-sult and a Chinese M/S China Railway as contractor from 2010 to 2013 at a cost of 89.83bn/-.

The completion of construction was scheduled on October 2021, but only 73.5 percent of the work was done.

It was also discovered that the construction contract was already expired on June 30, 2021 and there was no any extension period.

According to CAG report, on November 13, 2020, NSSF entered into a contract with the National College of Tourism (NCT) to provide consultancy for the hotel including selection of busi-



Kilimanjaro business complex

ness operator.

However, until November last year, the business operator has not been selected due to incompleteness of interior design of the hotel project.

"I am worried that all these shortcomings found in management of permanent investment properties will affect the capacity of the fund to increase revenue as well as protecting it against inversion," the CAG says.

The CAG has therefore recommended that NSSF must ensure that all investment plots have title deeds and should collaborate with

PSSSF to formulate strategies that will lead into demarcation of open plots that are yet to be developed.

The funds should also ensure that all conflicting projects, including the Kilimanjaro Commercial Complex is solved and extend the Mwanza Hotel construction contract period as well as secure operator of the hotel.

Meanwhile, the CAG review on NSSF investment has found that the profit margin of real estate investments was low and has been shrinking each year since 2017 to 2021 and increased invest-

ments in real estate does not match the real income generated.

CAG also discovered that NSSF has no capacity analyze the real costs of real estate management of each building, which causes the fund to fail to estimate real profit of each building project.

However, NSSF has rent claims mounting 29.82bn/- of which have not been settled by tenants, which is contrary with the NSSF policy 2018 which requires all rent claims to be paid without delays.

NSSF has also failed to re-

view the management costs and rent structure of its real estate projects, which has resulted into shrinking of profit on buildings.

"Lower profit and long term rent claims on NSSF real estate projects is affecting the return of investment, which generally affects the capital and management of the fund," the report says.

It was therefore recommended that NSSF should create strategies to measure and improve real revenue collections from its real estate projects, include reviewing the rent structures.

China's Beibu Gulf Port sees rise in cargo throughput

NANNING

BEIBU Gulf Port Group, which operates the Beibu Gulf Port in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, saw its cargo throughput rise 5.25 percent year on year to 65.17 million tonnes in the first quarter of 2022, according to the company.

During this period, the port handled over 1.4 million twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) containers, up 11.22 percent year on year.

Seizing opportunities offered by the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the Group has launched cold-chain express lines linking the port with southeastern Asian countries such as Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

The new lines contributed to a 32-percent year-on-year increase in the number of TEU containers of cold-chain goods the port handled in the first quarter.

The port also opened three new container routes over the same period. Beibu Gulf Port currently has 67 shipping routes connecting it with more than 300 ports around the world, according to the group.

The port serves as an important transit point in the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, a trade and logistics passage jointly built by western Chinese provincial regions and Singapore.

Major shift in housing policy is an opportunity for civil society

JOHANNESBURG

A drastic change to housing policy in South Africa is in the institutional pipeline. From a delivery model centred on subsidised houses, the state is to shift focus to site and service schemes. But there is very little clarity as to how this will work, and civil society is well positioned to enter the debate.

In 2020 Minister Lindiwe Sisulu noted that subsidised housing delivery is fiscally unsustainable and cannot meet the growing demand. A shift towards site and service linked to self-build was announced, with land to be made available through the government's Rapid Land Release Programme.

This sea change has now filtered down to provincial and municipal level. The City of Cape Town's 2022 draft Integrated Human Settlements Sector Plan notes that for the vast majority of applicants for houses the current housing programme "will not be the suitable housing solution". Instead, the National Department of Human Settlements has issued a directive for the prioritisation of serviced sites to qualifying beneficiaries with the Human Settlements Development Grant.

As usual with housing policy in South Africa, the devil is in the detail. At the moment it is not at all clear how a site and service approach will be implemented. The state itself, through the myriad institutions that deal with human settlements, does not appear to have a clear idea of what site and service will, and should, involve. As

a result, civil society is well positioned to make suggestions.

To state clearly upfront: to us site and service is about more than merely providing people with a plot and municipal services. It is about the incremental development of dignified housing and neighbourhoods. However, the focus of this opinion piece is to present ideas loosely organised around three key categories: building support, finance, and municipal capacity.

This covers a broad range of services that would enable the recipient of a serviced site to build a dignified, formal structure. Existing land use management practices need to be amended to allow for rapid plan approval and construction. A plot provided with several options for pre-approved building plans, from which beneficiaries can select, is a possible option (and can also be applied to subsidy housing as to allow for future extensions).

The next point to consider is how to build. Materials and labour are required, and one must assume that large scale contractors (such as, ASLA and Mellon Housing) will not operate in this space. There is an opportunity for small-scale builders and material suppliers, with quality control measures applied by the municipality. This could be achieved through a local database of suppliers, an application process and the monitoring of work during construction.

Title deeds should be provided with formal transfer of the plot.

The ideal institutional "vehicle" to provide such support, alongside other housing related services, is a local Housing Support Centre. This office would be staffed by the municipality and would provide strategic housing support to people with serviced plots.

Without support, many people who qualify for serviced sites will build shacks very similar to those currently found in informal settlements on urban peripheries. To avoid this, site and service provision must rework existing top-structure grants, and include mechanisms to provide beneficiaries with access to loan finance. Group savings schemes should also be considered as a source of finance.

History has shown that private sector banks are extremely reluctant to extend housing loans to the urban poor and one cannot imagine this will change overnight. Government will need to convince banks to provide loan finance, to underwrite private bank finance, to create a specialised financial vehicle to provide loans for construction.

Grants or loan finance could be of several types: for materials only where beneficiaries have building skills; for partial structures with plans for future extensions; for construction costs only where materials can be procured privately; and for all materials and construction. As in the formal banking world, loan agreements would need to be signed and there would need to be clear rules for defaulting.



CAG queries 6bn/- additional investment costs on Rock City Mall

By Francis Kajubi

MWANZA City Commercial Complex has not registered any profit for the past 11 years through its investment in the Rock City Mall commercial complex in Mwanza city.

According to the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report for the financial year 2020/21 released on Tuesday this week, as of June 30, 2021, an audit found that there was a 6.16billion /- additional investment on the project which does not contain satisfactory explanations.

The report states that through the implementation of the project, there has been regular increment in the cost of investment which leaves questions to the government as the main shareholder of the project.

"Due to controversy over regular additional investment costs, Mwanza City Council and Ilemela Municipal Council have not registered any benefits from investments made in the Commercial Complex for over 11 years now as has been reporting losses on a regular basis since its

inception," states the report.

Mwanza City Commercial Complex was established on 11 March 2010 under a joint venture ownership of the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF), Mwanza City Council and Ilemela Municipal Council.

The company owns and operates the Mwanza Rock City Mall located in Ilemela Municipality.

In accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed on January 28, 2009, Mwanza City Council entered into an agreement with the former Local Authorities Pensions Fund (LAPF) before merging with other funds to form PSSSF.

The entities established an investment of Mwanza City Commercial Complex worth 20billion/- with a capital ratio of 40:60 respectively provided that Mwanza City Council had to offer land and PSSSF to finance construction and cover costs of other projects.

In 2020/21, the CAG says PSSSF in its financial statements reported 93 percent ownership of the Company equivalent to 83.97billion/-.

Mwanza City Council and Ilemela Municipal Council reported they have investments in the company amounting 3.7billion/- and 2.46billion/- respectively.

This, the CAG says, means that the share capital of the councils has been reduced from 40 percent in 2010 to 7 percent.

As a result, the board of directors adjusted the company's share structure from 40:60 to 20:80 in favor of PSSSF.

In addition, the board recommended that in order for the councils to continue own shares in the company in accordance with article 5 of the contract and the co-operative clause, along with the value of the land, it should increase the investment rate by 20 percent by purchasing shares worth 10billion/-, paid at a ratio of 40:60 to Ilemela Municipal Council and Mwanza City Council respectively.

However, the CAG states that there was no evidence to justify the additional investment reported by PSSSF from 20 billion/- at the commencement of the project to

83.97billion/- as at 30 June 2021.

The CAG doubts that in the absence of such evidence, it is likely that the investment cost allegedly made to be improper and intended to diminish the capital of the Council's shares under the agreed ratio.

In his recommendation, CAG Charles Kichere reiterates the directive issued during the meeting of the Local Authorities Accounts Committee (LAAC) held on October 20, 2021 for the city director to co-operate with the Office of the President - PMO-RALG and the Regional Administrative Secretary:

"Communicate with all stakeholders to discuss the Company's share structure and project management plans for the benefit of all parties involved; and

"A joint committee should be set up with experts who are knowledgeable enough to investigate the investment costs reported by the Social Security Fund for Public Servants to determine the legitimacy of the reported stock structure" says Kichere.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES WILL THRIVE IN CITY LOGISTICS

NAIROBI

THE perfect storm of a diseased season, slow economic growth, geopolitical disturbance, and disrupted supply chains is causing all sectors to relook their fundamentals and adjust for survival and sustainability.

The public transport sector across road, rail and air took a heavy blow as the Covid-19 pandemic ravaged the world.

The restriction of movement and reduced carriage capacity crippled many, unable to unlock economies of scale, or quickly pivot into parallel opportunities in logistics that the pandemic catalysed, using available assets such as trucks and human resources.

Everyone uses a means of transport. We have to connect to daily

opportunities, which often means moving from one place to another in search of or fulfillment of these opportunities. In Nairobi metros, the majority use public transport, followed by non-motorised transit.

An efficient, sustainable, and environmentally friendly transport network is the key to thriving city metros and overall economic well-being.

I have spent time embedded in operations along a busy transport artery serving a large metro area. The highest cost centre within any fossil fuel-based transport operation is energy.

The transport sector is 'driven' by fossil fuels. While subject to many controls at a global level, tectonic supply disruption has not happened. It has now come to a head as fuel prices skyrocket, the government subsidy not counting for much in the larger scheme

of things.

The domino effect is an increase in the cost of goods, services, and labour. Notwithstanding, the climate change conversation hangs heavy.

How do we best mitigate this downside? A few years ago, the answer would have stumped us.

Now, I believe the adoption of electric vehicles in public transport and logistics will stem the negative effects, and create a much-needed social-economic lift.

First, 90 percent of Kenya's energy comes from renewable sources buffering us from supply disruptions and price fluctuations as is in the case of fossil fuels.

Acting Kenya Power managing director Rosemary Oduor sees this opportunity and has publicly said there is enough current off-peak capacity to

charge 50,000 buses and two million motorcycles daily.

They are working closely with six e-mobility providers setting up charging infrastructure and other operations where product-market fit is undeniable across buses, vans, taxis, tuk-tuks, and boda-bodas.

Crowning this thought is that we have access to affordable electric vehicle technologies. Coupled with local manufacturing and fabrication, whose quality continues to improve, the shift argument - whether under an EV conversion framework or building brand new grows stronger.

If the government lived up to its tax subsidy promise, imports from established OEMs will also rise.

The climate mitigation dividend is another benefit but insight for another day.



Flooded Toyota Durban plant

Flooded Toyota Durban plant halts vehicle production

By Irma Venter, JOHANNESBURG

TOYOTA South Africa Motors (TSAM) has suspended vehicle production at its Prospecton plant, south of Durban, on the back of heavy rains and flooding in KwaZulu-Natal.

A spokesperson for TSAM says the plant "incurred some flooding in areas", with operations halted since Monday evening.

"Efforts geared towards a safe start-up, after the water has been cleared, are in place."

TSAM produces the Corolla Cross, Fortuner, Hiace Ses'fikile minibus and Hilux bakkie for the local market, while some models are also exported. The Prospecton operations also hosts the Hino truck assembly plant.

Toyota is the sales leader in the local market, and the Hilux the country's best-selling vehicle.

The Motor Industry Staff Association (MISA) noted on Wednesday that was "devastated by the impact" the flooding in Durban and surrounding areas would have on the retail motor industry, which was still battling to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.

MISA operations CEO Martlé Keyter said the organisation would donate R90 700 to the Gift of the Givers Foundation, which was busy providing blankets and warm meals to displaced communities.

President Cyril Ramaphosa visited the province on Wednesday. It is estimated that more than 250 people died in the floods.

Transnet gradually resumed operations at the Port of Durban early on Wednesday morning, following a suspension of service across the port's terminals on Monday evening.

Operations were halted following flooding in and around the port precinct.

The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) said it was working with Transnet, the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government, eThekweni municipality and Eskom to stabilise operations at the harbour.

Priority interventions include repairing Bayhead road, which is the main access route to the container terminals at the port and Island View, and investigating alternative access roads into the port while Bayhead road is under

construction.

The DPE said the cargo that would be prioritised for evacuation from the port on Wednesday included food, medical supplies and petroleum products.

Shipping, which was suspended as a result of extensive debris caused by the adverse weather, is expected to resume once it has been established that it is safe to do so.

Transnet National Ports Authority, using its helicopters, noted that it had rescued 80 people trapped in various flooded areas around eThekweni on Tuesday.

It also reported that there had been no damage to the pipeline infrastructure, and that Transnet Pipelines would continue to supply fuel that was already in the system into the inland market.

Transnet Freight Rail said it was assessing the rail network in Durban and surrounding areas to determine the extent of damage before resuming train services into and out of the port.

The North Coast, South Coast and main lines from Durban to Pietermaritzburg remain closed.

In Richards Bay, operations are not suspended, but the terminals are operating less efficiently, with challenges experienced in handling wet cargo.

Transnet said on Tuesday that it had requested customers to refrain from sending trucks to the Port of Durban. A number of trucks were, however, already on their way to the harbour, prior to news of the floods breaking.

Road Freight Association CEO Gavin Kelly on Wednesday reported that there were "already long queues of trucks along the N3".

"The Marianhill plaza has a backlog of 10 km all the way to Hammarsdale." Kelly said it appeared as if this queue had now afforded criminals the opportunity to loot the trucks.

"Access roads around the Port of Durban have been damaged. Container yards, truck depots and trucks themselves have been flooded and damaged. The area is really a disaster at the moment," he added.

Kelly said the flooding would cause delivery disruptions in the flow of imported goods. However, he did not foresee any shortages in foodstuffs and fuel.

Konnect Tanzania to provide satellite broadband connectivity

By Guardian Reporter

KONNECT Broadband Tanzania Limited - a subsidiary of Eutelsat group has announced plans to boost Tanzania's agriculture and tourism sector with high internet connectivity as the company strategizes to provide new satellite broadband services in the country.

As part of investment in the country the company plans to connect farms, lodges, schools and any kind of family or business requirement which may be suffering from low or no connectivity according to Konnect Africa General Manager - Philippe Baudrier.

"Our Konnect satellite covers 100-percent of Tanzania, we aim at supporting the economic growth of market segments, which creates jobs and facilitates financial inclusion and trading," he said in a special interview with the 'The Guardian' recently.

According to him high speed reliable internet is key to upgrading agriculture activity which represents 26.74percent of the Tanzanian national gross domestic product.

During the launch of the company in Dar es Salaam recently, the Executive Director of the National Network of Farmers Groups in Tanzania Stephen Ruvuga said most farms in the country are located isolated areas with no access to the internet.

"Connecting these farms to satellite broadband will allow farmers to collect

valuable information such as soil moisture, and dam levels as well as weather monitoring," he said.

The company boasts offering unique solution in areas throughout Tanzania where proper mobile, radio and fiber technology is not available.

In supporting the importance of equipping remote lodges with high speed internet, Chief Executive Officer of the Hotel Association of Tanzania Kennedy Edward said equipping lodges with internet will increase attractiveness of tourism hot spots which has been affected by Covid-19 dropping from 10.7-percent in 2019 to 5.3percent in 2020.

The company said it has analyzed the Tanzanian market before investing with an aim of understanding the challenges and other issues.

"This is why I am very pleased to announce affordable internet access, as low as 60,000/- with unlimited data usage," he said.

According to him, this solution will allow even very remote villages to connect families to the digital world saying the company is taking part in the digital transformation which the government is pushing for.

Baudrier said the company sees Tanzania as a potential to become a technology hub in East Africa saying Konnect has the ambition to accelerate the digital transformation in the country and wants to be part of the challenge.



Philippe Baudrier

Projects worth billions signed in Hainan Free Trade Port

HAIKOU

THIRTY-SIX projects with total investment of 13 billion yuan (about \$2 billion) were signed Monday in the Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP), said local authorities.

The projects cover fields including modern logistics,

biomedicine, high-end manufacturing, the digital economy, offshore trade, business aviation, modern finance, and high-tech agriculture.

A signing ceremony took place in Haikou, capital of south China's island province Hainan.

Among these projects, 21 relate to the biomedicine

industry, which is also among the city's main industrial driving engines. By the end of last year, biomedicine had become an industry of 37.6 billion yuan in Haikou.

Haikou is building itself into an integrated institutional innovation demonstration base for the FTP's biomedicine sector.

The city's biomedicine industry is expected to rake in 100 billion yuan in operating revenues by 2025. The figure will double by 2030, according to Liu Liwu, deputy mayor of Haikou.

CONSTRUCTION

LONDON HOUSE PRICES: PROPERTY MARKET 'DISCONNECTED FROM ECONOMIC REALITY'

LONDON

LONDON property prices are rising at their fastest rate for more than five years as buyers flood back into the market, according to official figures today.

Land Registry data showed that the average cost of a home in the capital surged 8.1 per cent in February to a new record high of £529,882. Prices have not gone up more rapidly since August 2016.

It means London prices have risen by an average of more than £55,000 since the start of the pandemic two years ago.

The increase in February alone was 2.24 per cent, adding £11,600 to the value of a property, but making it ever harder for young buyers to climb on or up the property ladder.

The buoyant London property market still lags the 10.9 per cent national rise in prices but is rapidly catching up, fuelled by a chronic shortage of properties for sale and a surge in buyers.

Guy Gittins, chief executive of agents Chestertons, says: "In February London was seeing a substantial uplift in buyer demand. Buyer enquiries were up 36 per cent in 2021 whilst the number of properties for sale were down 11 per cent.

"If 2021 was defined by a race for space and people moving out to the suburbs, 2022 has been seeing an absolute boomerang effect with house hunters rushing back into the capital; a change in buyer behaviour that has been accelerated by the return of office workers and international travellers."

Marc von Grundherr, director of London agents Benham and Reeves said: "While the London market continues to trail the house price pack where annual rates of appreciation are concerned, February's explosive monthly increase provides the first signs of how quickly the tide is starting to turn.



London Housing

"We've seen a sharp uptick in market activity on the ground for some months, driven by the return of both domestic professionals and foreign buyers, and this is now starting to translate into positive market momentum.

"Although the wider UK market may be susceptible to

higher mortgage rates and the increasing cost of living, this is less likely to faze buyers within the capital. So we expect to see a complete role reversal with regard to property value performance as the year goes on."

Lawrence Bowles, Savills research director said buyers were returning to their pre-pandemic priorities

with proximity to a Tube or other amenities creeping back up the wishlist.

He said: "While access to more space remains important, more buyers are telling us that living near a tube station or close to shops and other amenities is a higher priority. In our February survey, 40 per cent of our buyers in London said living near a rail or underground station was their first or second priority when looking for their next home; while 26 per cent said they prioritised living near local amenities.

"While London looks ripe for further recovery, we do expect overall price growth to slow in the coming months as affordability tightens. The Bank of England has already increased the base rate three times in the last few months.

"With inflation still running hot, mortgage lenders have been pricing in further rate rises. That limits affordability at the point of purchase, particularly for first-time buyers who have less equity backing them."

Other agents agreed that rapidly rising mortgage rates would soon snuff out the mini-boom.

North London agent Jeremy Leaf said: "These numbers show house prices continuing on their apparently inexorable upward path but that's not quite what's happening on the ground now.

"Demand is still well ahead of supply but concerns about the rising cost of living, squeezed pay packets and potentially further interest rate rises, are reducing price growth and transaction numbers.

"Looking forward, we expect activity to return to more 'normal' pre-pandemic conditions as supply picks up as part of the usual spring bounce."

Andrew Montlake, managing director of mortgage broker, Coreco, said: "Has the property market ever been so disconnected from economic reality? For prices to rise further in February should create more unease than it does celebration.

Dubai property market rebounds with 83 pc yearly growth

DUBAI

DESPITE market volatility, the residential market in Dubai witnessed a record first quarter as the total volume of transactions reached 7,865 in March 2022, up 83.4 percent from a year earlier, according to a CBRE report.

Total transaction volumes in the year to date to March 2022 reached 19,009, the highest ever total reported in the first quarter of any year.

In the first quarter of 2022, off-plan sales increased by 94.6 percent while secondary market sales were up by 76.1 percent.

Average property prices in Dubai increasing

The report noted that average prices increased by 11.3 percent in the year to March 2022.

Over this period, average apartment prices increased by 10.0 percent, while average villa prices were up by 20.2 percent.

At the end of March 2022, average apartment prices in Dubai stood at \$30 per square foot and average villa prices stood at \$344 per square foot.

Compared to the highs witnessed in late 2014, these rates per square foot are 26.2 percent and 12.3 percent below the peak,



Dubai Housing

for apartments and villas respectively.

In the apartments segment of the market, Downtown

Dubai has recorded the highest average sales rate per square foot at \$550.

In the villas segment,

Palm Jumeirah recorded the highest average sales rate per square foot at \$792.

Average rents in the 12

months to March 2022 have increased by 13.1 percent, with average apartment and villa rents increasing by 11.7

percent and 22.5 percent respectively.

As of March 2022, average apartment and villa rents stood at \$21,780 and \$64,917 per annum respectively.

In the rental market, the highest average annual apartment and villa rents were found in Palm Jumeirah, where asking rents on average were \$53,766.

Dubai's luxury home market will continue to see high demand in 2022, supported by rising interest from international investors, according to Zoom Property Insights.

The real estate consultancy said the post-Expo landscape looks "bright" for the emirate's luxury home market. Transactions are up 30 per cent on a year-on-year basis, with 4,083 deals being recorded in January 2022 alone. The average property prices (per square foot) also witnessed an increase of 35.1 per cent during the month.

"The market, on the whole, will benefit from an influx of overseas investors as there's an increase in demand from Ukrainian and Russian buyers as well," Ata Shobeiry, CEO at Zoom Property, said in a statement.

China installs deepwater jacket for offshore oil development

BEIJING

CHINA'S 300-meter deepwater jacket Haiji-1 has been successfully installed and accurately positioned at sea in south China.

The Haiji-1 deepwater jacket measures 302 meters in total height and 30,000 tonnes in weight, and this is the first time for China to install a jacket in a water depth of nearly 300 meters.

Jackets are structures pinned to the seafloor to support offshore oil and gas production facilities.

The offshore installation assisted the jacket in sliding smoothly into the sea from the barge and hoisted the jacket to sit at the bottom through the lifting boat.

The successful installation indicates that China's key technology and installation capacity in ultra-large deepwater fixed jackets has reached a world-class level, which will promote the storage and production of offshore oil and gas.

The Haiji-1 boarded a launch barge in Zhuhai, south China's Guangdong Province, on March 15. It was designed and built by Tianjin-based Offshore Oil Engineering Co., Ltd.

Jeddah redevelopment project to clean up urban environment

JEDDAH

Deprived neighborhoods in Saudi Arabia's coastal city of Jeddah are undergoing major redevelopment after decades of relentless urbanization led to a host of social, economic, and environmental issues.

Municipal authorities are clearing districts and squatter settlements where planners say substandard infrastructure, criminality, and disease are blighting the lives of roughly half a million people.

Saudi cities have historically benefited from the close attention and generous investment of the central

government, evident in the provision of a well-maintained physical infrastructure and impressive skylines.

But investment has had to keep pace with a rapidly growing urban population. According to the Kingdom's Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, approximately 82.1 percent of the Kingdom's total population now lives in urban areas.

This trend is part of a global phenomenon, driven by a host of economic and environmental factors. According to UN-Habitat, around 60 percent of the global population will live in cities by the year 2030.

Current trends indicate that an additional 3 billion people will be living in cities by 2050, increasing the urban share of the world's population to two-thirds. Some 90 percent of this urban growth is likely to occur in low- and middle-income countries.

In the context of cities like Jeddah, this has meant the rapid growth of densely populated and poorly planned urban districts that have swamped local infrastructure. In the words of Saleh Al-Turki, mayor of Jeddah since 2018: "Mistakes were made, ignored, and corruption occurred."

According to an October 2017 paper published by Dr. Hisham Mor-

tada, a professor of architecture at the College of Environmental Design at King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, the city's rapid population growth began in the 1970s during the Kingdom's oil boom.

While Jeddah's substandard housing in some communities have provided an affordable starting point for many new arrivals, they are also seen as a breeding ground for criminality. (Supplied)

The paper, titled "Analytical conception of slums of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia," traces the growth of the city's slums to the demolition of the old city walls in 1947, which led to the creation of Al-Suhaifa, Al-Hindawiya, and Al-Sabeel.



Demolition work is under way in Jeddah's 26 undeveloped districts as part of the city's major redevelopment.

WORLD

Finnish govt submits security report preparing for NATO membership

HELSINKI

THE Finnish government on Wednesday submitted to parliament a report on changes to Finland's foreign and security policy environment following the Ukraine crisis.

The report is a framework for a broader debate on foreign, security, and defense policy, and includes an assessment of how Finland can boost national defense capability and international defense cooperation, as well as the effects of possible NATO membership.

National broadcaster Yle said that although the report is the basis for a discussion on NATO in the coming weeks, it will not lead to a parliamentary vote, only a communication.

The issue will then be referred back to the government and president.

President: Decision before summer

Also on Wednesday, President Sauli Niinistö said Finland's decision on NATO membership would be taken before the summer.

Niinistö told the newspaper Helsingin Sanomat that the report provides crucial information to decision-makers. However, the final decision on membership will fall to Niinistö.

He warned against delays in the decision-making process, saying that the fate of Finland and Sweden was being used as a political football.

Russia's possible reaction is another reason to speed up the process, he added.

Public support for Finnish membership of NATO has surged in Finland since late February. In Finnish media polls, around 60 percent supported accession, while this week over half of the members of parliament backed NATO membership.

Moving forward with Sweden

Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin and Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson also discussed NATO membership in Stockholm on Wednesday.

The Finnish government's report estimates



Finland's President Sauli Niinistö

that the accession of Finland and Sweden to NATO would increase stability in the Baltic Sea region.

Meanwhile, Marin said on Wednesday that Finland's decision on its membership of NATO would come within weeks.

Sweden and Finland have intensified their military cooperation with each other, and with NATO in recent years. Although both countries have emphasized their autonomy in making security policy decisions, they have also expressed their desire to

move in tandem regarding potential NATO membership.

Marin said there were risks involved in both applying for membership, and in not doing so.

Meanwhile, President Niinistö said on Wednesday said that "it would be best for Finland and Sweden to decide jointly and find the same path."

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov on Monday reiterated his claim that further NATO expansion will not bring stability to the European continent.

UN chief calls for action to mitigate global impact of Russia-Ukraine conflict

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday called for action to mitigate the global impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on food, energy and finance systems.

The conflict is supercharging a three-dimensional crisis of food, energy and finance that is pummeling some of the world's most vulnerable people, countries and economies, he said at the launch of a report by the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance over the Ukraine crisis.

"And all this comes at a time when developing countries are already struggling with a slate of challenges not of their making: the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and a lack of access to adequate resources to finance the recovery in the context of persistent and growing inequalities," he said.

"We are now facing a perfect storm that threatens to devastate the economies of many developing countries." The report shows that the impact of the Ukraine crisis is global and systemic, said Guterres.

As many as 1.7 billion people, one-third of whom are already living in poverty, are now highly exposed to disruptions in food, energy and finance systems that are triggering increases in poverty and hunger, he said.

Thirty-six countries count on Russia and Ukraine for more than half of their wheat imports, including some of the poorest and most vulnerable countries of the world. Food prices were already on the rise. But the Ukraine crisis has made a bad situation far worse.

At the same time, Russia is a top energy supplier. Oil prices are up more than 60 percent over the past year. The same goes for natural gas prices, which have risen by 50 percent in recent months. And fertilizer prices have more than doubled, he noted.

"As prices climb, so does hunger and malnutrition, especially for young children. Inflation is rising, purchasing power is eroding, growth prospects are shrinking, and development is being stalled and in some cases, gains are receding."

Many developing economies are drowning in debt, with bond yields already on the rise since last September, leading now to increased risk premiums and exchange rate pressures," he said.

"This is setting in motion a potential vicious circle of inflation and stagnation – the so-called stagflation." The report also shows that there is a direct correlation between rising food prices and social and political instability, he warned.

Guterres called for open markets and the lifting of unnecessary export restrictions to ensure a steady flow of food and energy.

There is also a need to direct surpluses and reserves to those in need and to keep a lid on food prices and calm the volatility in food markets.

He called on countries to use this crisis as an opportunity to work toward progressively phasing out coal and other fossil fuels, and accelerating the deployment of renewable energy and a just transition. Guterres stressed the need to pull developing countries back from the financial brink.

Funds must be made available to economies that need them most so that governments can avoid default, provide social safety nets for the poorest and most vulnerable, and continue to make critical investments in sustainable development, he said.

He called for an end to the conflict in Ukraine. "The people of Ukraine cannot bear the violence being inflicted on them. And the most vulnerable people around the globe cannot become collateral damage in yet another disaster for which they bear no responsibility."

We need to silence the guns and accelerate negotiations toward peace – now." The report, "Global Impact of War in Ukraine on Food, Energy and Finance Systems," is the first product by the Global Crisis Response Group that Guterres established in March 2022.



As prices climb, so does hunger and malnutrition, especially for young children. Inflation is rising, purchasing power is eroding, growth prospects are shrinking, and development is being stalled and in some cases, gains are receding

Agencies

S. African leader visits flood victims as death toll rises to 306

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa pledged on Wednesday to help the victims of devastating east coast floods, as the death toll rose to 306 from heavy rains that washed out roads and disrupted shipping in one of Africa's busiest ports.

Ramaphosa visited families who had lost loved ones in KwaZulu-Natal province, including a family with four children, after floods and mudslides ravaged their homes on Tuesday.

Africa's southeastern coast is on the front line of seaboard weather systems that scientists believe global warming is making nastier - and predict will get far worse in decades to come.

"You're not alone ... We'll do everything in our power to see how we can help," Ramaphosa said. "Even though your hearts are in pain, we're here for you."

A statement late Wednesday by

the Department of Cooperative Governance for KwaZulu-Natal, said the death toll had reached 306, adding that municipal services like electricity, water and refuse removal had been resumed in some areas.

South Africa's northern neighbour Mozambique has suffered a series of devastating floods over the past decade, including one last month that killed more than 50 people.

"You're battling one of the biggest incidents we've seen and we thought this only happens in other countries like Mozambique or Zimbabwe," Ramaphosa told the victims.

Meli Sokela, a victim who lost his child in the flood, told Reuters that when the area was inundated on Monday night he could hear sounds like a thunderstorm hitting his house roof, and immediately afterward the walls of his home crumbled.

"My neighbours, they tried to assist me, it took two hours. After two



Stranded people stand in front of a bridge that was swept away in Ntuzuma, outside Durban, South Africa on April 12, 2022. Prolonged rains and flooding in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province have claimed dozens of lives, according to local officials. AP

hours I survived but unfortunately my child did not survive," he said.

A report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in February warned that humanity was far from ready even for the climate change that is already baked

into the system by decades of fossil fuel-burning and deforestation. It urged the world to ramp up investments in adaptation.

"None of this is surprising but it's absolutely devastating. Can you imagine the cost to people's lives?"

in the United States in 2020, after heart disease and cancer.

Authors of the study said the United States mismanaged the federal, state and local responses to the COVID-19 pandemic at the start, contributing to higher death rates than those in other countries. The pandemic response exacerbated the life expectancy gap between the US and its peers.

"The fact the US lost so many more lives than other high-income countries speaks not only to how we managed the pandemic but also to more deeply rooted problems that predated the pandemic," said Steven H. Woolf, one of the study authors and faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University.

"US life expectancy has been falling behind other countries since the 1980s, and the gap has

widened over time, especially in the last decade," he said.

Woolf said Americans die at higher rates because of heart disease, diabetes and dozens of other conditions. The lack of universal health care, income and educational inequality, and less healthy physical and social environments also contributed.

The study findings mirrored earlier estimates from US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that showed 2020 life expectancy was 77 years for the total US population, a decrease of 1.8 years from 78.8 years in 2019, the biggest decline since World War II.

With the pandemic in its third year, close to a million Americans have died due to COVID-19, according to the CDC.

Agencies



People have their temperature checked before attending The Metropolitan Museum of Art on their first day open since closing due to the COVID-19 outbreak in the Manhattan borough of New York City, New York, US, Aug 27, 2020. File photo

steep as that of the United States, according to the study.

US COVID-19 mortality and ex-

cess deaths were among the highest in the world and the virus was the third leading cause of death

US life expectancy fell by 2 yrs in 2020 amid pandemic

NEW YORK

LIFE expectancy in the United States fell by nearly two years in 2020 to about 77 years amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the sharpest drop compared to 21 other high-income countries, according to a global study.

Americans on average are now expected to live for 76.99 years from 78.86 years in 2019, according to the study, which looked at national death and population counts in 2019 and 2020 to calculate the mortality rate ratio.

The decline of 1.87 years in life expectancy for 2020 was far higher than the mean reduction of 0.58 years in 21 peer countries, including Canada, France, Germany, Denmark and South Korea. No country experienced a decrease as

Pursuing absolute security would only make worse security dilemma

NATO's response to the Ukraine crisis clearly exposes its nature as a tool of the U.S. to maintain American hegemony.

The Meeting of NATO Ministers of Foreign Affairs held on April 6 and 7 continued to exacerbate the tensions between Ukraine and Russia, just like what the NATO summit did in late March, trying to build a strategic pattern in Europe where Russia is comprehensively oppressed.

Meanwhile, the NATO again distorted China's responsible stance on the Ukraine crisis that promotes dialogue and peace talks, and groundlessly hyped the so-called China threat, following the U.S. to smear and contain China with the crisis.

NATO survives on conflicts as a Cold War relic. It has never enhanced and

will never enhance world peace. The outbreak of the Ukraine crisis is exactly the latest example of the military alliance provoking conflicts upholding Cold War mentality.

The world has gradually become peaceful since the end of the Cold War. However, NATO, led by the U.S., has expanded eastward five times to pursue its absolute security. It's para-security, para-political and para-military practices in the economic, finance and cultural spheres are a potential danger threatening the security of Europe, and have led to a sense of insecurity for all.

Robert Wade, a political economy and development scholar at the Lon-

don School of Economics and Political Science, sees through the NATO's intention to seek and create an imaginary enemy. He said that to justify U.S. leadership, to present a unitary front in NATO and to justify big increases in western military budgets, Russia must be presented as the common enemy.

Peace is the only target that China sees on the Ukraine crisis. To reach the target, China has actively encouraged Russia and Ukraine to overcome difficulties and disputes, believing that the general direction of peace talks should be upheld until a ceasefire is reached and peace is restored. Such stance is highly consistent with the mainstream voice in the international society.

It is the NATO that lit the fuse for the Ukraine crisis, and is still fueling protracted conflicts. The military alliance is in no position to accuse China for the latter's responsible stance on peace.

Twenty-three years ago, the NATO, without approval from the UN Security Council, arbitrarily launched a 78-day bombing against the sovereign country of Yugoslavia, killing thousands of innocent civilians, including three Chinese journalists. The military alliance's war crime will never be forgotten by the Chinese people or the people in the rest of the world. The NATO is never qualified to oppress China with the "sovereignty principle" and "inter-

national order" rhetoric.

Nothing is more precious than peace. What's the most urgent for solving the crisis is to strive for a cease fire. However, the practices of the NATO are extremely likely to escalate the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, contradicting the common aspiration for reconstructing peace of the international society, including European countries.

The U.S., as an external force, is just fanning the flames and waiting to profit from the two countries' fight. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine would make the NATO great again, said David Petraeus, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The U.S. is coping with the Ukraine-Russia conflict by enhancing Europe's strategic dependence on the U.S. by dealing a heavy blow to Russia and plaguing Europe with the conflict-related refugee crisis and energy crisis.

George Galloway, former Member of the UK Parliament warned Europeans that the U.S. "is ready to fight to the last drop of Ukrainian blood, in the end, it's prepared to fight to the last drop of European blood."

According to Portuguese newspaper Publico, the NATO should have been dissolved when the Warsaw Treaty Organization was, because only in this way can the EU establish its own defense policies and military power that conform to its own interests, rather than to those of the U.S.

People's Daily

Americans' dim view of economy could bode ill for Democrats

WASHINGTON

THE majority of Americans say the economy is not doing well, which could hurt Democrats in the lead-up to November's midterms, experts said.

"Perceptions of the economy are one of the most powerful influences on voters. When they think the economy is doing well, they reward the party in power.

When they think it's bad, they punish the party in power," Christopher Galdieri, assistant professor at Saint Anselm College, told Xinhua. A CBS poll released earlier this week showed that 63 percent of voters billed the U.S. economy as bad, and a whopping 66 percent said that rising inflation has been difficult in their personal lives.

What's more, among those who deemed the economy as bad, 86 percent said it was due to inflation - which is the highest in four decades - and 82 percent pointed to gas prices. Half said the reason was because they did not trust the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden.

A CBS/Yougov poll released in recent days also found that 69 percent of Americans disapprove of Biden's handling of inflation, with 31 percent approving.

All this could bode ill for Democrats in November's midterms, at a time when Biden's polls stand at record lows, with 41.4 percent approval, according to the average of polls of RealClearPolitics, an American political news website and polling data aggregator.

Indeed, strong recent jobs reports have not been sufficient to change the views of many Americans that the economy is faring poorly. While wages have climbed amid inflation, the rise has not been enough to offset the impact of inflation.

The White House blames price hikes on the war in Ukraine, although inflation started long before that conflict. The White House has also accused oil companies of price gouging - a charge

they deny.

Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the center for international and security studies at the University of Maryland, told Xinhua: "Americans hadn't experienced any significant inflation in decades before now, while they have experienced many ups and downs in the job market.

So price increases are top of mind for many people." Noting that while wages have increased, they haven't kept pace with the prices for things people buy, Ramsay said.

"The Democrats would be in trouble even without this, because they couldn't pass their agenda," due to division within the party. "Inflation makes their situation worse," Ramsay added.

Democrats put a massive effort into passing the Build Back Better social spending bill, a key piece of Biden's economic agenda, but the Senate remains deadlocked on the bill. That took a bite out of the party's credibility, experts said.

Galdieri said Democrats "need a sharp turnaround in the state of the economy, as reflected by worries over inflation and gas prices, if they want to have any chance of avoiding the traditional 'midterm curse' for the party controlling the White House." Typically, the party in control of the White House loses seats in the midterms.

Elizabeth Henson, a retiree in her 70s in the U.S. state of New Jersey, said inflation has affected her financial well-being.

"My grocery budget is stretched, the price of gasoline is high and my grass cutter raised prices recently due to the high price of gasoline that is used to run his machinery," she told Xinhua.

"This certainly will affect my vote this year," she said of November's midterms.

Japan's Kumamoto mourns lives lost in double-quake disaster 6 years on

TOKYO

KUMAMOTO Prefecture in southwestern Japan yesterday mourned the lives that were lost in two devastating earthquakes that struck the region six years ago killing almost 300 people.

With reconstruction work still in progress six years on and almost 100 people still displaced and living in makeshift houses, Kumamoto Governor Ikuo Kabashima said in a commemorative speech at the Kumamoto prefectural government office that the lessons and experiences of the past should be passed on to future generations.

"It is our important responsibility to pass on the experience of the earthquake to the future, which will lead to the prevention and limiting of the damage of disasters at home and abroad," Kabashima said to some 30 people attending the ceremony, including family members of the bereaved.

The number of those allowed to attend the annual ceremony was capped for the second year in a row, due to COVID-19 restrictions, as the virus stages another resurgence in some regions in Japan.

The southwestern region was rocked by a magnitude 6.5 earthquake on April 14, 2016, only to be struck by a magnitude 7.3 quake two days later. Both temblors maxed out Japan's seismic intensity scale which peaks at 7.

As a result of the quakes, 227 people died, and around 200,000 houses were leveled or severely damaged across 40 municipalities, according to Japan's public broadcaster NHK.

In the days and weeks after the quakes battered the region, as many as 47,800 people were left stranded and 4,300 units of temporary housing were hastily erected at 110 locations in 16 municipalities in 2017.

According to a recent prefectural report, almost 100 people are still without permanent accommodation to live in, with reconstruction work in the hard-hit town of Mashiki still expected to take another five years.

Renovation work is still continuing to restore the damage caused by the quakes to the iconic Kumamoto Castle and the damage caused to its centuries-old stone walls, with restoration work likely not to be completed until 2038.

At the site of the castle on Thursday, an elderly woman was quoted as saying that while she didn't cry when her one home was destroyed by the quakes, she was full of tears and emotion when she saw how extensive the damage to the castle had been.

Kumamoto Castle is close to people's hearts, and she prays every day for the progress of the recovery work, she was quoted by local media as saying.

Another man said that the castle serves as a great source of emotional support for everyone, intimating that its damage has caused a great deal of pain and suffering to those who cherish it so dearly.

Those attending the memorial ceremony also expressed their grief as well as their conviction to move forward from the tragedy that irrevocably changed the lives of thousands of people six years ago.

"I believe that all of you who have gone through such a painful and sad experience is still moving forward strongly with your own feelings in your hearts," Yoshimasa Mochida, 54, who lost his 70-year-old mother, was quoted as saying.

He went on to say that he and his family members "pledge to move forward along with Kumamoto's reconstruction."

Xinhua



I believe that all of you who have gone through such a painful and sad experience is still moving forward strongly with your own feelings in your hearts

Russian missile cruiser of Black Sea fleet damaged by blast

MOSCOW/WASHINGTON/KYIV/
HELSINKI/UNITED NATIONS

RUSSIA yesterday said the flagship of its Black Sea fleet, the Moskva missile cruiser, was badly damaged in a blast.

Russian state media blamed the blaze for an accidental ammunition explosion.

"A fire onboard the Moskva missile cruiser caused a blast of the broadside munitions. The ship received serious damage. The crew was evacuated," Tass news agency quoted the Russian Defense Ministry as saying in a statement.

Tass didn't elaborate on the cause of the fire, but said investigation is underway, citing the statement.

The ministry's confirmation of the blast came hours after multiple Ukrainian government officials claimed that anti-ship guided missiles, hidden in or around the coast of Odessa, scored two hits on Moskva.

The 12,500-tonne cruiser, the most essential ship in Russia's Black Sea fleet, was officially commissioned in 1983 and armed with 16 anti-ship "Vulcan" cruise missiles.

Guterres not hopeful about ceasefire

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Wednesday that a nationwide humanitarian ceasefire in Ukraine seems to be out of reach at the moment.

"I don't think we had a chance to have a humanitarian ceasefire as we wanted globally (in Ukraine)," he said.

"But there is a number of proposals that were made, and we are waiting for an answer from the Russian Federation in relation to those proposals, including different mechanisms for local cease-



Engineers inspect the state of destruction of the bridge that connects Kyiv with Irpin, Ukraine, on Wednesday AP

fires, for corridors, for humanitarian assistance, evacuations, and different other aspects that can minimize the dramatic impact on civilians that we are witnessing."

Guterres also called for action to mitigate the global impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on food, energy and finance systems.

The conflict is supercharging a three-dimensional crisis of food, energy and finance that is pummeling some of the world's most vulnerable people, countries and economies, he said at the launch of a report by the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance over the Ukraine crisis.

Biden announces new aid for Ukraine

US President Joe Biden said Wednesday his administration will provide Ukraine with additional military aid worth \$800 million due to what Wash-

ington anticipated to be a "wider assault" by Russia in eastern Ukraine.

"As Russia prepares to intensify its attack in the Donbas region, the United States will continue to provide Ukraine with the capabilities to defend itself," Biden said in a statement after a phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

The new package, Biden said, "will contain many of the highly effective weapons systems we have already provided and new capabilities tailored to the wider assault we expect Russia to launch in eastern Ukraine."

Ukraine relocates enterprises internally

The Ukrainian government has relocated more than 250 enterprises from the conflict-affected areas to safer places inside the country.

Out of the companies, 121 are already fully operational in the new location, while another 430 will move their facilities to safer regions with the government assistance soon, Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said on Wednesday.

Besides, the government has allocated some 200 million hryvnias (about \$6.8 million) to employers

who hire internally displaced persons, Shmyhal said.

BRICS for comprehensive solution

BRICS countries have expressed their support for continued dialogue and negotiations between Russia and Ukraine to seek a comprehensive solution to the Ukraine issue.

During the second BRICS sherpas' meeting in 2022 held from Tuesday to Wednesday via videolink, BRICS countries reiterated their respective national positions on the Ukraine issue, pledging to support multilateralism, abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and respect the legitimate security concerns of all countries. Ma Zhaoxu, sherpa for BRICS affairs and vice foreign minister of China, chaired the meeting.

BRICS countries, consisting of China, Russia, India, Brazil and South Africa, expressed their concern over the humanitarian situation in and around Ukraine, as well as support for all humanitarian aid to Ukraine, including the contributions of the ICRC and UN agencies.

In a retaliatory move, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Wednesday it has imposed personal sanctions against 398 members of the US House of Representatives and 87 Canadian senators.

Xinhua

'We have felt personally the significance of building a community with a shared future for mankind'

"AS the leader of a major country and a major political party, Chinese President Xi Jinping has not only made remarkable achievements in governance, but cared deeply about humanity," Sommad Pholsena, vice president of the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, told People's Daily in a recent interview.

His father, Quinim Pholsena, was an important promoter of and witness to the China-Laos friendship. Before China and Laos established diplomatic relations, Quinim Pholsena, then Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Laos, visited China for many times. He became close friends with the older generation of leaders of the Communist Party of China (CPC), including Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and Chen Yi, and contributed significantly to the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Laos.

In the 1960s, Sommad Pholsena and his siblings studied at the Beijing Bayi School, where they became schoolmates of Xi, and forged a friendship with him that has lasted for over half a century.

Sommad Pholsena vividly remembers his meetings with Xi. "Xi visited Laos as vice president of China in 2010. He only stayed in Laos for about one day during the visit, and yet he spent over an hour meeting my family," he said.

"He told us that he really looked forward to the meeting and was delighted to see us again after half a century. He remembered what kind of clothes we wore to school and what we liked doing at that time, which showed his sincere care about his old friends," he added.

During his state visit to Laos in November 2017, Xi once again met Sommad Pholsena and his family. "It has been seven years since our last meeting. I'm really glad to see that you're all in good shape and have a happy family," Xi told Sommad



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets Sommad Pholsena, Vice President of the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and his family at a hotel in Vientiane, capital of Laos, Nov. 14, 2017. File photo

Pholsena kindly.

Sommad Pholsena still remembers Xi's expectations of them. "I hope you will continue devoting yourselves to deepening China-Laos friendship and encourage your children and grandchildren to carry forward our friendly ties so that the friendship between the two peoples will last forever," Xi told them.

"President Xi has always cared about us old schoolmates, which made us feel warm and moved," he said.

During the meeting, Sommad Pholsena and his family also asked Xi to sign their copies of the Chinese and English editions of Xi Jinping: The Governance of China, a three-volume collection of speeches and writings by Xi.

"Laos, which has entered a period of innovation and development, has the same ideals, beliefs and social systems as China. We have always wanted to learn from China's governance experience, so Xi's books are really helpful," Sommad Pholsena pointed out.

Sommad Pholsena has

Xi's books neatly placed in his office. "After each volume was published, I would read it carefully immediately. Besides Xi Jinping: The Governance of China, other books about President Xi's thoughts are also inspiring," he said.

Sommad Pholsena and his family all think that Xi is easy-going and values greatly his friendship with others. "Every time I saw him, I felt closer to him; and every time I talked with him, I understood better his commitment to his people and nation," he pointed out.

He was deeply touched by Xi's remarks, "For the good of my people, I will put aside my own well-being." In his association with Xi, Sommad Pholsena saw a CPC member who always puts the people in the most prominent place in his heart, always serves the people wholeheartedly, and always works hard for the people's interests and happiness.

President Xi is concerned about the interests of people from various countries and endeavors to benefit the hu-

manity, Sommad Pholsena pointed out.

The farsighted Chinese leader proposed jointly constructing the Belt and Road and building a community with a shared future for mankind, constantly contributing to world peace, development and prosperity, he stressed.

"We have felt personally the significance of building a community with a shared future for mankind in Laos. China will do well only when the world does well, and vice versa, as President Xi noted," Sommad Pholsena said.

On Dec. 3, 2021, the China-Laos Railway was officially put into operation, bringing to Laos its first modern railway. Sommad Pholsena, who once served as minister of public works and transport of Laos, witnessed how the railway came into existence, from its planning, foundation laying, to construction and completion.

"In 2015, President Xi, together with Lao leaders, made a major decision to jointly build the China-Laos Railway. In fact, China wasn't

the first country that said it would help Laos build railways, but it was the only one that actually did it. It seems that only the Chinese people helped us so sincerely and only President Xi lived up to his words to assist us," Sommad Pholsena said.

"The long-lasting friendship between our family and China is a great interpretation of the relationship between Laos and China, who are forever good neighbors, good friends, good comrades and good partners," he pointed out.

"As an old friend of China, Laos, more than any other country, is happy for China over its achievements in development, hopes that China will grow stronger, and expects President Xi's proposal of building a community with a shared future for mankind to be embraced by more people and the country to make greater contributions to promoting regional and world peace, stability, development and prosperity," he added.

People's Daily



Yanga's central defender Bakari Mwamnyeto.

Tanzania faces shortage of central defenders

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimi

TANZANIA is in dire straits when it comes to central defenders, it experiences a serious shortage of such players. Who has thought of this in recent days?

Nadir Haroub 'Cannavaro' hung up his boots a few years back. After many years of playing for Yanga and the national squad, Taifa Stars, he saw it was enough. He retired.

Those were the times when Yanga also saw Haroub's fellow central defender Kelvin Yondani settle for the decision. Yanga let him go. The side started a new life.

Last week at the Azam Complex I felt sorry for Azam FC skipper Aggrey Morris. He was defending Yanga forward Fiston Mayeye. Morris was in for a really tough time.

The captain's mind desired to do something, but his body could not fulfil the duty.

That is why at a time Yanga scored the second goal, Morris saw the attack but did not know what to do.

Do you know why? On March 12, this year Morris turned 38. He is an adult. Few footballers still play for a prominent outfit at that age.

Very few footballers are still dependable at that age. That is why at Manchester United, Cristiano Ronaldo is not very dependable at the age the performer is in.

The biggest challenge is not Morris' age. The problem is that many solid defenders are leaving at the same time, leaving the country with few footballers playing the role.

Since Yondani left Polisi Tanzania, the outfit's line of defense has not remained the same.

Those are the times when the Kilimanjaro-based squad conceded a lot of careless goals.

At Geita Gold FC, despite the trust of many young players, the squad's defensive line was tormented and allowed many goals.

That is why they signed Yondani and Juma Said Nyoso together during the mini registration period.

Yondani is also 38 years old. Similarly, Nyoso will turn 38 in August this year.

They are still the mainstay of Geita Gold FC's defense. There is a problem in the position.

Many new generation defenders have failed to be as strong as the ones that are aging.

Dickson Job and Bakari Mwamnyeto have by far achieved that quality, others have hardly made progress.

The country relies on the likes of Idd Mobby, Ibrahim Ame, Kennedy Juma, Abdulmajid Mangalo, and others to fill the central defensive position but they have failed.

That is why to this day, soccer lovers do not know who will be Job and Mwamnyeto's replacements in the senior national squad.

Local clubs rely more on foreign defenders. Is that the squads' fault? No.

In the marketplace is there a solid domestic central defender to put Congolese central defender Henock Inonga on the bench? There is no such central defender.

Few domestic defenders show light. Mangalo of Biashara United is one of the performers.

The center back though still has a long way to go to achieve the quality Yondani and Haroub have had.

Some teams are trying to produce new defenders, but the footballers still do not show any signs of early growth.

A good defender appears early. That is why Yanga signed Job earlier from Mtibwa Sugar.

Azam FC has tested Oscar Masai and Lusajo Mwaikenda but they still have a long way to go to reach the level Morris has reached. They have a long way to go to close the gap.

I feel very sorry for the pastors and sheiks who work to rebuke demons. I believe it is one of the most difficult tasks in the world.

Imagine that an individual is struggling with something either she hardly sees.

It is a fierce battle of faith and spirituality. But the clergymen conduct healing prayers every day. They have chosen the work of God.

Getting rid of Simba and Yanga fans' problems is also a very difficult task. It is a strange culture that has now become fashionable.

It has now become common for some Simba and Yanga fans to welcome foreign teams at Julius Nyerere International Airport. It has happened many times.

Just recently a section of Yanga fans was seen welcome RS Berkane of Morocco. They used great force to ask the squad to beat Simba in this season's CAF Confederation Cup Group D match. It is very funny.

When a domestic club goes to an international tournament it represents a country. It is the same for native pugilists when the pugilists take on foreign opponents.

Tanzania should come first, but the ignorance and brutality of social media life have made people less patriotic. This is a shameful act.

Simba deserves praise for making Benjamin Mkapa Stadium become foreign sides' 'slaughterhouse'.

The venue turns out to be a really difficult place for foreign teams to excel.

Today even prominent African teams like Al Ahly, Mamelodi Sundowns, and others are afraid of gracing Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. That is the way it should be.

Why must Mwakinyo try to avoid professional bouts at career peak?

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

SPORTS pundits appear to be ill at ease to understand the posture taken by Hassan Mwakinyo, a professional boxer technically at the peak of his career.

He just turned 27 on March 15, and that is three years before most boxers think of retiring, thus his hesitation to take up a few challengers in between raises questions.

He was already stripped of some titles by February, after winning a solid fight by knockout in September, not following up on such fights regularly, apparently on a three-month schedule, or four.

That may explain why the African Boxing Union and others took action in February.

The age at which a boxer may feel tired and wish to leave is open-ended, at times to the extreme, as chroniclers say that some boxers retire as early as 26 and some have spanned another career after 26, fighting up to 53 years.

That would be like fighting five years or more after another person born at the time that the fighter was already professional enters the ring as a professional, and the boxing veteran is still itching for a fight.

Those are rare cases, but by some standards, it is not surprising for a local boxer to think of retiring at 27, and affirmations that Mwakinyo has been making sort of point in that direction.

Having won by technical knockout back in September, it would imply that he still has plenty of energy, but the fact that he has since that period been bout shy, almost allergic to climbing the stage unless the pay is overly right, is somewhat symptomatic.

Listening to pundits discuss the situation, they more or less can't figure out the reason, for instance, the latest fight that the pugilist skipped carried a price tag of slightly above 40m/- and he deemed it demeaning for him to climb the stage for the reason.

That has resonances of a semi-retiring fellow, who loathes being defeated in the ring and being compelled to retire, so he thinks big.

It means he will be ready to suffer the pain of defeat only if he has been paid quite handsomely, while the 46m/- or so offered may have appeared to be somewhat within the ordinary run of things, so he refused it.

In any case, he risked more than can quickly be seen as he was taken further down in the ranking, from number five assigned in February after skipping a fight, to number 14 in world ranks, which he must have been aware of from the start that skipping the bout has consequences.

Yet since everyone needs to be taken as the best judge of his interests, the issue



Hassan Mwakinyo

isn't to decry his approach but get to the bottom of it.

At the time of his last fight back in September, the professional pugilist had won 19 fights out of 21 battles he fought, losing two, meaning he

is a winner by temperament, and when he starts doubting his ability to win outright, he wonders whether he should take to the stage.

As he has so far lost two bouts and the last one was

won by knockout basis, there is statistically no evidence that the fear had already crept in, as that needs at least one defeat followed by a draw/two defeats more than confirmation.

That is why pundits may try to make out what is happening and not find easy answers, as the fear of losing is not yet demonstrated, and on that basis, the early retirement reflex can all but be ruled out.

That means a more homely interpretation is either welcome or feasible, that the boxer is playing hide and seek games with organizers, which stems from an ingrained impression that the game needs him, specifically the super-welterweight category in which he battles his opponents.

Since they will come looking for him, he will state his price and if it isn't right he will stay home - and as he hasn't lost another fight, his pride is intact.

Admittedly most pundits find the situation somewhat strange, as boxers rarely seek such a mark up in what they shall earn to forgo even a world title and drop first to number five and then number 14 globally.

Still, it depends on what he knows of the game and how far not having a regular title or competitive bouts can affect his fighting ability overall, in which case his position is unavoidably a reasoned one, even if it may look controversial to others.

In a sense, it may even appear somewhat self-injurious, surprisingly.

There is at least one test that is coming in his way soon enough as the world cannot wait for someone to make up his mind whether he is still a professional boxer or not.

After refusing the 46m/- or so payday the last time it was raised, and being ranked much lower on the scale, he has a problem arranging his fight and getting good pay, which is difficult as only fights are arranged by the professional organization can fetch reasonable odds as to the paycheck expected.

Alternatively, a much lower quotation can be put up by organizers but based on his being slotted at number 14, to see if he refuses it too. It is not over yet.

Dar Gospel artist Madame Flora counsels men

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

TANZANIA'S Gospel music star, Madame Flora, formerly known as Flora Mbasha, has urged men to stop abusing their wives, adding that God sees those who do so, and the tears of those women hinder the men's progress.

The singer has posted the statement on social media, seeking to counsel married men.

Madame Flora stated that in the event of a man waking up at night he does not cover himself with a sheet while his wife is covered, a quarrel begins, and he beats his wife because of the sheets.

Madame Flora noted: "Not every marriage is the will of God, but many are the desires of the flesh."

"For the sake of God even when you are in conflict it is easy to forgive each other and the marriage reigns," she pointed out.

She urged women to recognize themselves and insisted that those who are not yet married should not rush into marriage.

The singer appealed to women to help each other to end such practices in society.

Madame Flora noted: "It should get to the point where women help fellow women, do not rejoice when your fellow is sexually abused because you do not know your future."

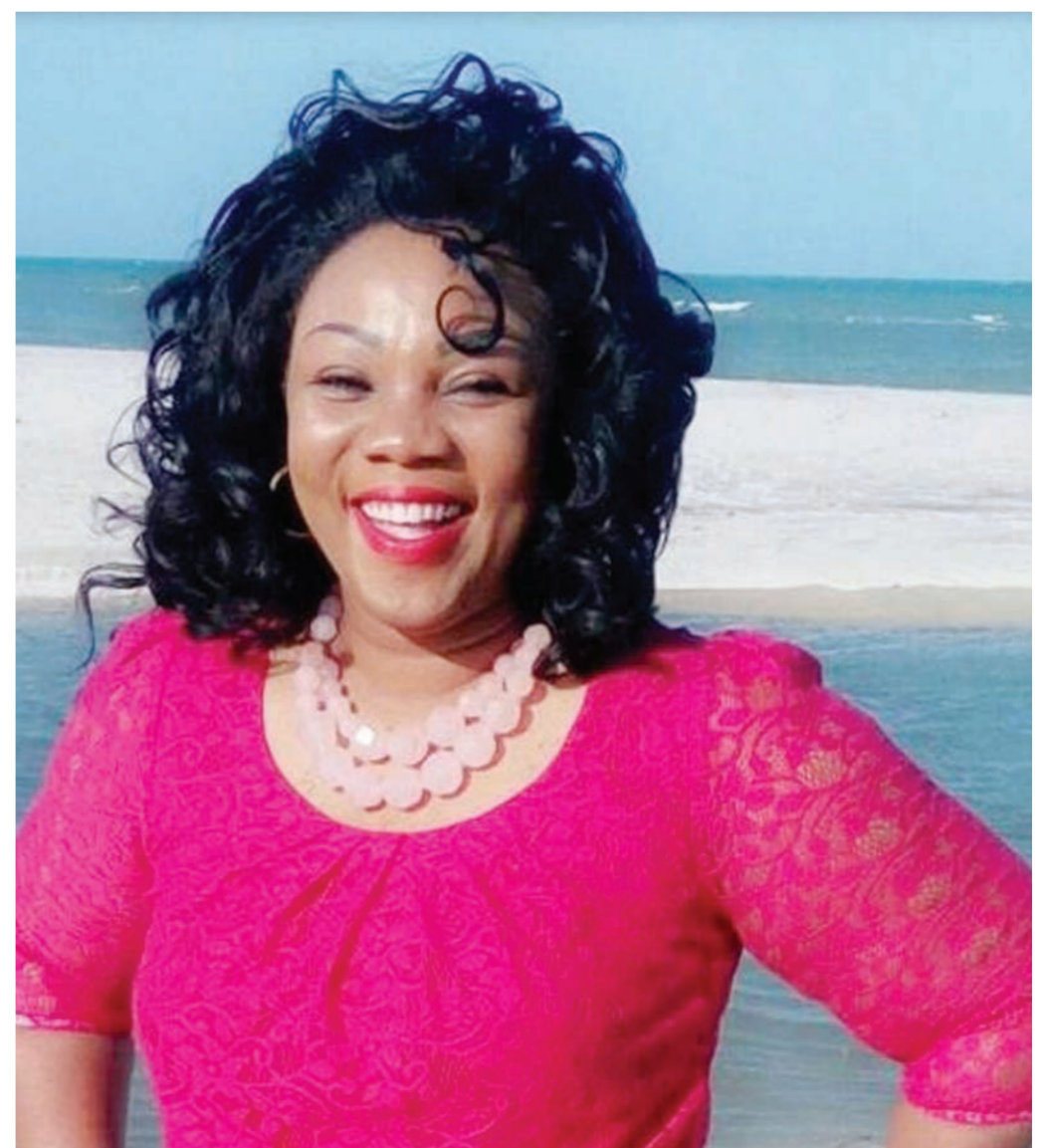
The singer stated women should not wait to die and leave their children to suffer from a stepmother's ill-treatment.

The artist noted love will only exist, so, women ought to look at their safety first, otherwise, God will do it.

She said: "You get married by pretending to be a happy folk, but you are full of sores all over your body because of blows, cuts caused by a razor blade."

"One woman was being beaten by her husband and she went into a coma and was taken to a psychiatric ward," she said.

The singer said another was beaten until her cervix was damaged, and she could not give birth again.



Madame Flora

Klopp wary of 'king of cups' Emery in UCL semis

LONDON

LIVERPOOL manager Jurgen Klopp says Champions League semifinal opponents Villarreal fully deserve their place in the last four and their coach Unai Emery is the "King of the Cups".

Liverpool drew 3-3 with Benfica in their quarter-final second leg on Wednesday to go through to the semis with a 6-4 aggregate scoreline.

The win sets up a meeting with Villarreal, who pulled off a shock victory over Bayern Munich in their quarter-final tie.

"I saw the results, the game was very impressive. I only picked up pieces but to beat Juventus and Bayern Munich they deserve to be in the Champions League semifinals," Klopp said.

"Unai Emery is the king of the cups, it is unbelievable what he is doing. But give me a bit of time to prepare it properly."

Emery won the Europa League three times with Sevilla and triumphed in the same competition with Villarreal last season, while also winning four domestic cups with Paris Saint-Germain.

While the Spaniard's time in charge at Arsenal was a disappointment, he still managed to take the London club to the Europa League final in 2019.

Klopp was in a forgiving mood about his team's leaky performance against Benfica at Anfield where, as well as conceding three goals, they also saw two efforts from the visitors ruled out for offside.

"The day we qualify for the Champions League semifinal and I'm not happy please come and knock me out," he said. "We made seven changes. The situation was the last line had never played together and it was about details, staying 100% concentrated."

"It was not exactly what we wanted, but it is absolutely not important because if we played the best game of the season tonight it wouldn't have made it more likely to get to the final. We are through and that's all that matters and I'm really happy."

Liverpool's defence, featuring Ibrahima Konate, who scored, and Joel Matip in the middle with Joe Gomez and Kostas Tsimikas at full-back, was opened up with some ease by the Portuguese side. Klopp said that was understandable.

"The one thing we knew is it will be hard as the last line never played together," Klopp said. "You lose the boys like Virgil [van Dijk] and these things are normal. This is not a problem. Benfica kept believing and kept going that's all."

"It was important we could make changes and still be successful. That's fine."

(Agencies)

Cops intervene in Manchester City, Atleti tunnel clash

MADRID

POLICE had to intervene after an ill-tempered end to Atletico Madrid's 0-0 draw with Manchester City in their Champions League quarterfinal second leg spilled over into a post-match confrontation in the tunnel.

City will face Real Madrid in the semifinals after holding off a late rally from a much-improved Atletico in the second half at the Wanda Metropolitano on Wednesday to progress 1-0 on aggregate.

Tensions boiled over in the 91st minute when Atletico defender Felipe was sent off for a challenge on Phil Foden, sparking a touchline brawl which continued in the tunnel after the full-time whistle.

TV images showed Stefan Savic trying to confront Jack Grealish, having earlier been pictured pulling the City player's hair in the melee after Felipe's red card. Substitute Sime Vrsaljko had to be restrained by Atletico coaching staff, and Kyle Walker was held back by goalkeeper Ederson, before police officers moved in to restore order.

"The game can make you mad like that, when you're putting them under pressure and creating chances, and they're going down, wasting time," Atletico captain Koke said, when asked about the red card and the fracas that followed. "It's football. We often get criticised for that, let's see what people think about it today."

Atletico's players were angered by what they felt were attempts by City to run down the clock as they protected a 1-0 first leg lead.

"In a tense game like that, it can happen," Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak said. "People came on from the bench, there are a lot of nerves, it's normal that there's pushing and some bad words said. What happens in a game, stays there. It was good for City, it wasted a bit of time."

However, City defender Aymeric Laporte hit back, saying: "Who were wasting time were their team, getting into absurd fights."

"We already know how they are and they always do the same. It's always ugly to see these fights, a lot of fuss is made with little. I think it was bad for them because they were in their best moment in the game."

Pep Guardiola refused to answer questions about time-wasting, but City midfielder Rodri admitted that there are times when it is necessary.

"When you are locked behind and when there are five to 10 minutes left, we have to play with other weapons," Rodri said.

"I am not in favour of doing it throughout the game, but on occasions. What stays in the field stays there. It's a game with a lot of pressure and I don't really know what happened to Felipe, but it's not pleasant."

(Agencies)

CAF Champions League quarter-finals: Five things to know

JOHANNESBURG

FORWARD Peter Shalulile from South African club Mamelodi Sundowns is in superb form ahead of a CAF Champions League quarter-final first leg against Petro Luanda in Angola on Saturday.

The 28-year-old Namibian this week became the first player to score hat-tricks in successive South African Premiership matches, and took his tally in all competitions this season to 27 goals.

Of the eight contenders, Sundowns, title-holders Al Ahly of Egypt, Raja and Wydad Casablanca of Morocco, Entente Setif of Algeria and Esperance of Tunisia have won the marquee African club competition.

Here, AFP Sport highlights five things to know before the first knockout phase kicks off on Friday when Setif host Esperance.

***Sharpshooter Shalulile**

Not since 2005 has South Africa witnessed as consistent and clinical a finisher as Shalulile, who

has notched 21 Premiership goals, three in domestic cup competitions and three in the Champions League.

Zambian Collins Mbesuma fired 25 goals for champions Kaizer Chiefs 17 years ago -- a record that will be overtaken if Shalulile scores at least five goals in Sundowns' five remaining Premiership fixtures.

His successive league trebles, away to Swallows and at home against Golden Arrows, have taken Sundowns within seven points of a fifth straight Premiership crown.

***Ramadan concessions**

League matches kick off at 1300, 1600 and 1900 GMT on Fridays and Saturdays, but the rules have been loosened due to Ramadan, the Muslim holy month.

The six quarter-final fixtures involving north African clubs will begin between 2000 and 2200 GMT to accommodate Muslim players, with some ending nearly an hour after midnight local time.

Muslim footballers are permitted to break the



Star Mamelodi Sundowns forward Peter Shalulile (R) attacks in a CAF Champions League group match against Egyptian opponents Al Ahly (AFP)

dawn-to-dusk food-and-drink fast during Ramadan, but few do so, preferring to eat and drink at night before preparing for matches.

***Mosimane vs Jose**

Retired Egyptian football stars differ as to who is the best Ahly coach between South Africa-born incumbent Pitsso Mosimane and Portuguese Manuel Jose, who had three stints with

the Cairo Red Devils.

Defender Wael Gomaa rates Jose, who won a record eight CAF titles between 2001 and 2008, the best, but Ahmed 'Mido' Hossam backs Mosimane, the winner of six African titles.

It is widely accepted that Jose had an advantage over Mosimane in that he guided arguably the greatest club team in African his-

tory, including goalkeeper Essam el Hadary, Gomaa and midfielder Mohamed Aboutrika.

***Away goals remain**

Unlike European governing body UEFA, who scrapped the away-goal rule from this season, Africa has stuck with a system which doubles the value of away goals in the event of an aggregate tie after two legs.

However, only two of 40 quarter-finals have been decided by away goals, in favour of USMA of Algeria and Primeiro Agosto of Angola, since the last-eight phase was introduced five seasons ago.

Penalty shootouts decided two other ties, a single goal separated clubs in seven more, while the widest winning margin was five goals, achieved by Wydad Casablanca of Morocco.

***Consistent Esperance**

Esperance share with Ahly and Wydad the distinction of qualifying for the quarter-finals every season since they were introduced in 2017.

The team, named after a Tunis cafe where it was formed 103 years ago, are the only one to have won home and away twice in the last-eight phase of the premier African club competition.

This season, Esperance share with Sundowns the distinction of being unbeaten in Champions League qualifying and group matches while Setif have suffered five defeats in 10 matches.

AFP

Man City stood up as Atletico Madrid tried to bully them and earned a Champions League semifinal spot

MADRID

ON a night when Atletico Madrid tried everything to make Manchester City lose their heads, Pep Guardiola's players showed they have the steel as well as the silk to win the Champions League.

By the end, it was the home side who lost their cool when Brazilian defender Felipe was sent off in the aftermath of a confrontation in the corner that involved most of the 22 players and backroom staff from both benches.

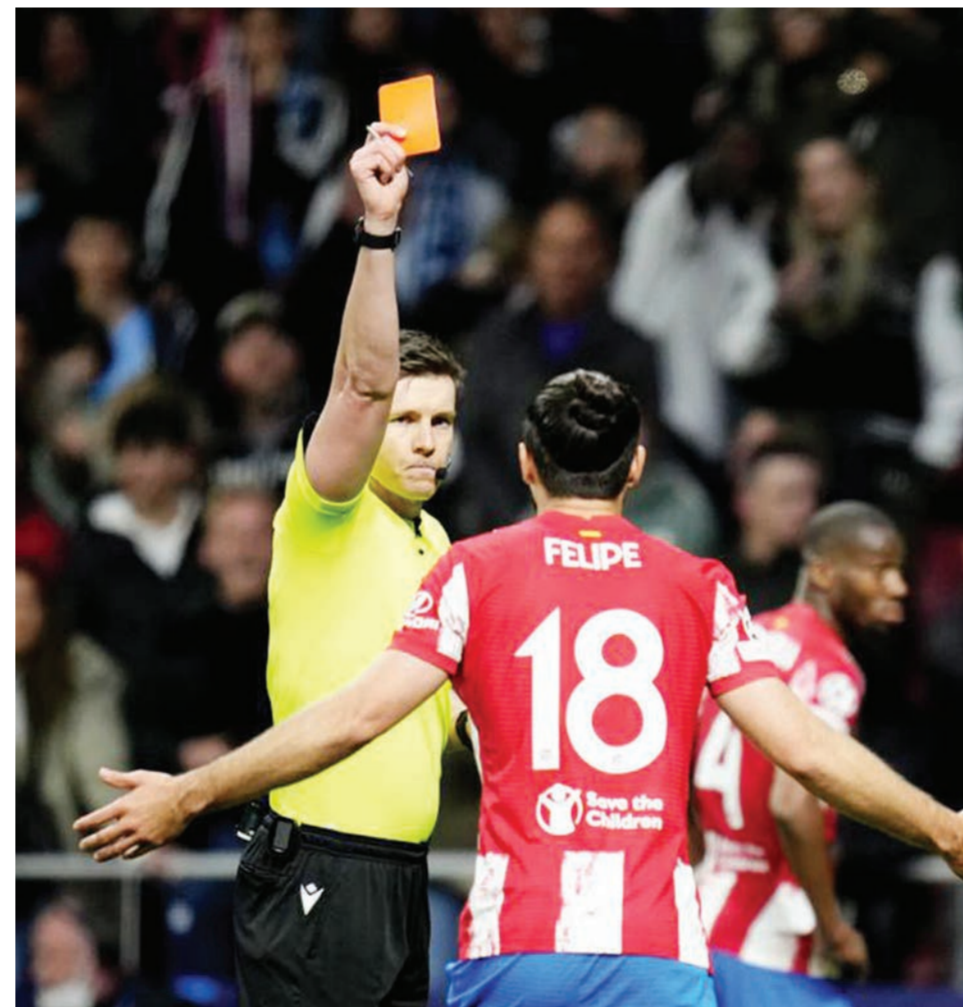
That Atletico's frustration eventually boiled over was credit to the way Man City managed an awkward tie amid the mayhem to see out the game 0-0 and hold the aggregate at 1-0, setting up a semifinal with Real Madrid later this month. It wasn't pretty, but it doesn't always have to be.

The night ended after more than 13 minutes of stoppage time with Guardiola being pelted by bottles as he left the pitch and with police pulling apart players from both sides in the tunnel after Stefan Savic had raced after Jack Grealish. If City can come through this, they can get through anything.

"Nothing to say," said Guardiola afterwards when asked about the melee on the pitch and in the tunnel. "It's always difficult with these people in this stadium. It's a big compliment for the players. We gave everything. We have to live these kind of situations. We suffered."

"We can't expect that we're going to make everything marvelous against the champions of Spain. The opponent was really, really good."

Backed by fierce support inside the Wanda Metropolitano, Atletico set out their plan to literally knock City out of their rhythm as early as the first minute. At the Etihad last week,



Atletico Madrid's Felipe receives a red card during the Champions League quarterfinal second leg soccer match between Atletico Madrid and Manchester City at Wanda Metropolitano stadium in Madrid, Spain, Wednesday, April 13, 2022. (AP Photo)

they didn't look keen to engage with City's blue shirts much beyond the edge of their own penalty area but at home they suddenly found a whole other half to play in.

Savic quickly came charging out of defence to thunder into the back of Ilkay Gundogan in the centre circle, and Kyle Walker was forced into a slip after Diego Simeone had roared his players forward from his technical area.

If Simeone had asked before kick-off for more aggression, Felipe took it too literally. Not content with clattering into Phil Foden with enough force to leave the 21-year-old bloodied and bandaged, Felipe followed it up by swiping away the legs of Kevin De Bruyne.

Foden got the rough stuff

again when Savic needlessly barged into his side as the ball rolled out of play for a throw in. Savic versus Foden was a running battle that carried on all evening.

Mixed in were moments of calm when it would have been easy for City to fold. Riyadh Mahrez was cool enough to knock the ball around Joao Felix in

his own penalty area before the Portuguese forward raced towards Ederson only for the goalkeeper to drill a pinpoint pass through Atletico's midfield and into Gundogan's feet.

In the past, City have been guilty of allowing Champions League knockout ties to descend into chaos, coming off second-best against Monaco in 2017, Liverpool in 2018, Tottenham in 2019 and Lyon in 2020. There were spells on Wednesday, particularly in the second half, when it looked like the game would veer that way but this is a City team who look far better for the experiences of those harrowing exits.

Man City defended doggedly when they had to -- John Stones made a vital block from Matheus Cunha after 87 minutes and Ederson saved low from Angel Correa deep into stoppage time. In the end, it was the determined clean sheet rather than any of their usual champagne football that sent them through to a second successive semifinal and just a third in the club's history.

"It is the champion of Spain and they played with energy and in the second half were better than us and we were lucky we didn't concede," Guardiola

added. "In the first half, we had chances."

"Overall we are in the semifinals -- it is well deserved. The opponent is so tough, all the teams in the Champions League come here and suffer so it is important we go through."

"We cannot play all the time and score four or five goals. We are human beings, we come from a difficult game against Liverpool. We celebrate because it is the third time in Manchester City's history we are in the Champions League semifinals."

It keeps City on course for a treble of the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup, although the clash with Atletico came at a cost after injuries to De Bruyne and Walker. Both were forced off in the second half ahead of the FA Cup semifinal with Liverpool at Wembley on Saturday.

A few more are likely to be nursing knocks after a bruising encounter but at a stage of the competition when City have fallen short before, this time they proved up to the test. They have had some impressive Champions League performances under Guardiola and this was another -- just for different reasons.

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

CAF Champions League quarter-finals: Five things to know

Ecological online photography exhibition climaxes today

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

A three-day ecological online photography exhibition ends in Dar es Salaam today, the event's organizers have disclosed.

The exhibition, known as a preface to Tanzania ecological, was organized by a Chinese photographer, Chen Jianxing, in conjunction with China Cultural Center in the country. The online exhibition started on Wednesday.

The center's Director, Wang Siping, said the online exhibition is of great importance as it has helped many people appreciate the country's biodiversity.

Chen said he has been fond of animals since childhood and dreamed of coming to Serengeti National Park to make friends with the lion and cheetah.

According to Chen, he has spent 15 years pursuing this dream and he has been engaged in animal photography and research in the national parks in Tanzania since 2009.

"In the 15 years I have been tracking wild animals passionately and bearing the longstanding homesickness, hardships, but with great joy," he said.

He said he is not only an ecological photographer but also a wildlife expert.

Chen said he is hopeful that many Chinese will be inspired by the online exhibition and follow his dreams.

During the past years, Chen has taken thousands of lovely pictures of various animals in the national parks in Tanzania, especially the lion, cheetah, and other ones that appear fierce to ordinary viewers.

In 2013, he was honoured as the Chinese representative for Tanzania national parks and was responsible for promoting Tanzania's ecological resources to the Chinese people.

Former Tanzania President, Jakaya Kikwete, wrote the preface for Chen's book titled "To Tanzania" and commented: "I have never met such a young man that is so committed to pursuing the wild animals."

A media release from the China Cultural Center quotes Tim Davenport, Country Director for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), saying Tanzania is Africa's most biodiverse country.

Davenport stated in the release: "Between July and August, hundreds of thousands of wildebeests (Gnu) can be seen very well crossing Mara River in Serengeti, which is spectacular and remains a fascinating experience to thousands of tourists from around the world each year."

The official pointed out: "Many photography enthusiasts come here with professional equipment and stay there day and night waiting for the scene."

"Tanzania is famed as the paradise for wildlife animals and is often called a wildlife garden of Eden," the official disclosed.

Azam FC head coach hails outfit's intensity in victory over Polisi Tanzania



Azam FC midfielder, Mudathir Yahya (R), lobbs the ball over Polisi Tanzania goalkeeper, Metacha Mnata, to notch a third goal when the sides locked horns in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC)'s last-eight match that took place in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Azam FC cruised to a 3-0 win. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

Azam FC head coach Abdihamid Moallin pointed towards his team's intensity as the deciding factor as they beat Polisi Tanzania 3-0 at the Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday night to set up a Federation Cup final four clash with Coastal Union.

Goals from Rodgers Kola, Ismail Kader, and Mudathir Yahya were able to see Azam FC overcome Polisi Tanzania who had beaten the former home and

away in the league this season.

The victory puts behind Azam FC's recent league defeat against

Young Africans SC 'Yanga' that left the former 23 points behind the league leaders.

When speaking to the media after the match, Moallin appeared delighted with the results as his side kept a fourth consecutive clean sheet in the Federation Cup this season.

The American gaffer was happy to explain it was due to the intense approach they took against a familiar opponent.

"Polisi Tanzania is a very good team, we knew their quality obviously after we played them in the Premier League but again this is a different competition," the tactician disclosed.

Moallin pointed out: "It is almost a final game for us and also for them and we have to be at our best. I think tonight we showed good energy, good quality, the players were up for the game."

"I congratulate them for their performance and it is

well deserved we moved to the semi-final."

"I think it was about effort. The last time they came here I was not happy with our efforts in terms of that game. I told the players that we need to be 100% in terms."

"We're gonna spend a lot of energy, a lot of effort in this game and they were ready for that. We prepared them for that and they were ready and they fought for ninety minutes."

"Yanga is a different team to Polisi Tanzania, we played with the same line-up but I think in terms of performance, it wasn't a bad performance in the Yanga game but tonight the difference was the intensity level."

The tactician noted: "The guys knew this was almost a final so they played with good intensity, good energy, that was the difference. Overall in the two halves, we showed better energy than Polisi Tanzania."



Azam FC attacker, Prince Dube. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Azam FC's Dube tipped to bounce back from difficult season

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

Azam FC head coach Abdihamid Moallin has backed forward Prince Dube to overcome a difficult campaign and prove his worth to the squad once again.

Dube drew a blank against Polisi Tanzania but provided an assist, prompting Moallin to reveal that he is happy with his performance.

The Zimbabwean's form has been the subject of much debate among supporters, with his record of one goal in this season hardly befitting a striker who was banging goals for fun last season before his injury.

Moallin, though, remains the 25-year-old's biggest advocate. When asked about the club's top scorer last season, the tactician revealed his delight with Dube's performance and backed the striker to play a crucial part.

"Prince is an exceptional player. Strikers live on their form and I think his form is becoming better and better every game now."

"I know he is one of the guys who will help us through the rest of the season and in the future so I am very happy with him."

Dube has made just 11 appearances across all competitions in a troubled campaign during which he has battled injury.

The forward also missed out on several games after going with his national team, Zimbabwe, to the African Cup of Nations in Cameroon early this year.

On Wednesday, Azam FC came out with a 3-0 win, with goals from Rodgers Kola, Ismail Kader, and Mudathir Yahya seeing the ice cream makers book a semi-final ticket for the 2021/22 Federation Cup with the victory over Polisi Tanzania.

They will be hoping that Dube can find his feet before the end of the season as they look to hold on to their third place in the league and prepare for the Federation Cup semi-final against Coastal Union to be played next month.

He is returning step by step to his old form and scored his first goal in the NBC Premier League against Namungo FC to take his tally to two for the campaign across all competitions.

His striking partner Kola, however, is firing on all cylinders and once again found the net on Wednesday - his fifth since Moallin arrived.



Coast Region's Kibiti resident, Yasin Kingwande (C), is pictured after emerging victorious in a betting game supervised by a sports betting firm, Bikosports, in the region yesterday. Kingwande was presented with a cash prize totalling 30m/- after placing the right bets on 12 matches played in various leagues in the world, whilst spending 500/- in betting. Others are Bikosports firm's representative (L) and Kingwande's relative. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

Flexibles by David Chikoko

