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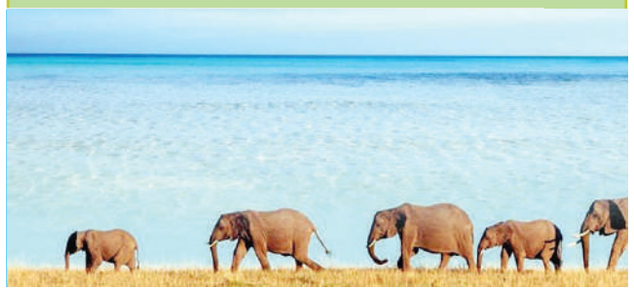
National Pg 3
Saadani National Park attracts more tourists



National Pg 4
Govt to hike taxes on imported edible oils

National Pg 5
Create database on contractors, agency told

President Samia Suluhu Hassan arrives at Eagle Square in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, yesterday to attend the swearing-in of Chief Bola Ahmed Adekunle Tinubu (born March 29, 1952), who has succeeded Muhammadu Buhari (born December 17, 1942) as Nigeria's President. Photo: State House

Ministry seeking loan for 245bn/- for surveillance cameras project

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government is in discussion with United Arab Emirates (UAE) authorities to secure a soft loan of $105m (245bn/-) for surveillance cameras installed on roads, shops, buildings and streets of key cities.

Home Affairs minister Hamad Masauni made this observation when tabling estimates for fiscal 2023/24 in the National Assembly yesterday, noting that the 'Safer Cities' initiative focuses on cameras that have clear facial recognition capacity.

He said the goal is to identify, control and overcome various threats and crime loopholes in the three regions, easing police efforts for ensuring peaceful and harmonious neighbourhoods, with less fear of crime or violence.

"The project will be implemented in partnership with the private sector where 40 checkpoints will be used in all regions including mobile centres. The project will use modern technology without much human interaction in inspecting the motor vehicles," he elaborated.

To this effect, the Tanzania Police Force Corporation Sole Unit, a special project to conduct intensive inspection of all motor vehicles, is being lined up for the next financial year, managing surveillance systems being put in place, he explained.

The system will reduce human weaknesses in vehicle inspection, making it that only vehicles that meet the required quality and safety standards ply the roads, he said.

Surveillance cameras are to be installed in the major cities of Arusha, Dar es Salaam and Dodoma to boost safety and curb crime incidents.

Gender and child protection has been incorporated into the police force training curriculum for use in the various police training colleges to heighten the fight against violence upon women and children, he said.

Despite government and stakeholder efforts, violent incidents have continued to

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Chinese firm takes up 150MW solar project

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

A 274.76bn/ - solar power project for 150 megawatts of electricity will be completed for the national grid by August next year.

Maharage Chande, managing director for the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (TANESCO) yesterday signed the solar photo voltage project, saying it is the first ever in East Africa.

A Chinese power firm, Sinohydro Corporation is implementing the project, set to be completed within 14 months, he said. The project will be located in Kishapu District, Shinyanga Region, set in two phases, with the first phase targeting 50MW, doubled in the next phase, he specified.

The project marks the beginning of government efforts for an energy mix strategy in electricity, to make the grid attain 5000MW by 2025. The solar project takes off next month, taking 14 months to its completion, he explained.

Energy minister January Makamba, witnessing the signing, applauded TANESCO for efforts in tendering and procurement to ensure that the long awaited project takes off,

Crediting the project to efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, he said that the dedication to development that the president exudes convinces the development partners to finance such

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Prison kitchens to be facilitated with LPG

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

ALL prisons are set to be installed with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for cooking, in a move to end the use of firewood.

Home Affairs minister Hamad Masauni announced the shift when tabling the ministry's 1.29trn/-estimates for fiscal 2023/24 in the National Assembly yesterday, noting that fuelwood fuels have negative impacts on the environment.

Adopting cooking gas in prisons is a response to a directive by President Samia Suluhu Hassan that the security departments and other public entities must reduce the use of firewood, prioritising gas and other clean cooking fuels, he said.

He referred to the national clean cooking strategy aimed to realize 80 percent use of clean cooking fuels in households by 2033, where to start with, Keko prison and the correctional training academy (TCTA) are now connected with LPG.

A total of 1bn/- has been set aside for the project where various prions will be installed with gas delivery systems, listing the prisons as Arusha, Karanga

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Z'bar CAG Report 'tabled in silence'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ACT- Wazalendo leaders, who form part of the Government of National Unity in Zanzibar, are surprised that the audit report of the Zanzibar Controller and Auditor General (CAG) for 2021/2022 has quietly been tabled in the Zanzibar legislature.

Ismail Jussa Ladhu, a party central committee member, raised the issue in a rally at Garagara Grounds in Unguja Urban West Region, demanding that the government issues an explanation on this mode of conduct.

Failing to inform the public that the report was being presented to the House of Representatives is at variance with principles of good governance, he told the rally whose focus was the Zanzibar political and economic environment.

He said that the eighth-phase

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Morogoro district commissioner Rebeka Nsemwa (L) is 'welcomed' with placards bearing messages on demands by residents of Bwakira and Mvuha divisions that they be given back more than 400 hectares of their land allegedly now in the hands of Kisesa constituency legislator Luhaga Mpina, a former Livestock and Fisheries minister. Photo: Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa

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Prison kitchens to be facilitated with LPG

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(Kilimanjaro Region), Maweni (Tanga Region), Isanga, King'ang'a and Msalato (Dodoma Region), Uyui (Tabora Region), Butimba (Mwanza Region), Lilungu (Mtwara Region), Ruanda (Mbeya Region), Ukonga, Segerea, Keko, Wazo Hill and Kimbiji (Dar es Salaam Region), Lindi, Mbigiri (Morogoro Region), Ubena (Coast Region) and Ngara (Kagera Region).

The department is also keen on environmental conservation and combating climate change impacts, pushing with tree planting, similarly addressing the congestion challenge facing remand and other jails. Building new prisons, fast tracking investigations of cases and wider use of the parole system are envisaged in the next financial year, he stated.

He praised the president for pardoning a wide range of prisoners each year, enabling a decrease in congestion, he said, citing data that from July 2022 to early this month a total of 30,901 prisoners were being held, 18,857 being convicted prisoners and 12,044 held in remand. It is a decrease from 32,671 prisoners hosted in large part of fiscal 2021/22, he said.

A total of 499.9m/- has been set aside for mapping and registration of all plots held by the ministry to curb conflicts between prisons and local residents in particular, he said.

Reviewing various laws for amendment to strengthen supervision of the various departments was envisaged in the next financial year, he said, citing the Immigration Act (chapter 54) of the laws of Tanzania, the Parole Act (Cap 400), the Prisons Act (Cap 58), the Community Service Act (Cap 291) and the Penal Code Act (Cap 247).

Others are the Human Trafficking Prevention Act (Cap 432), the Fire and Rescue Force Act (Cap. 241), the Refugee Act (No. 9 of 1998) and the Registration and Identification of Persons Act of 1986, revision of 2012, he said.

Upwards of 480m/- has been set aside to facilitate review of the laws, regulations and other legal provisions, he said.

Reducing the number of identity cards (IDs) used for various services by having one national ID was being examined, as the latter is a universal national identification card, he said.

Preliminary discussions were being held with officials of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on the matter, he stated, elaborating that the government will engage key stakeholders on the plan for feedback.

It will also seek to amend the 1986 Act as revised, to include the use of modern technology in registering deaths and the newly born as events.

This will be done by drawing experience from other countries that use a single national identity card, as part of investing in modern systems of identification and registration of people, he added.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a quick word with Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Dr Stergomena Tax (C, foreground) in the National Assembly debating chamber in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: PMO

Chinese firm takes up 150MW solar project

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projects.

The Kishapu project sits over 1000 hectares and has obtained a loan from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Group, he said, describing the solar project as an easier electricity generation method. Such projects take 12-18 months while building a hydropower plant takes beyond three years, he pointed out.

Boniphace Butondo (Kishapu) said residents in the area have for three years waited for the project to start. The region boasts of harbouring large mining firms mostly relying on the national grid, thus making its supply unstable. It compels power rationing which affects economic activities, he said.

The project will stimulate economic growth in the area with enhanced capacity for service levy and corporate social responsibility activities, he said, highlighting that a water project, dispensary and schools are earmarked for CSR contribution from the solar project.

Judith Kapinga, deputy chairperson of the Energy and Minerals standing committee in the legislature, praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her commitment as it makes such projects to be accepted.

The president always affirms how energy is vital in the nation's development, she said, observing that the committee will follow up to ensure there is value for money in all energy projects, she added.

Z'bar CAG Report 'tabled in silence'

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government in its first year made public CAG audit reports regarding the previous government, but the current report covering the period this government is in office has not been made public.

Underlining that the report touches on financial conduct under the present government, he referred to construction projects not being implemented transparently.

He also queried the 'leasing of public institutions to private firms' as was the case of Malindi port leased to a private investor to operate it.

"The government had been boasting in regard to increasing revenue collection through port handling services and for buying modern handling equipment valued at billions of shillings," he affirmed, wondering why ports should be leased to a foreign private firm.

Investment done in regard to port services was not done transparently, he asserted, asking the government to disclose as to when the tender thereof was advertised "to enable the people know as the port is among sensitive areas economically."

He similarly expressed worries as to a section of employees losing their jobs at the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport terminal three after its operations were leased to Dnata, a Dubai firm.

"Zanzibar has been turned into a farm for harvesting," he declared, while admitting that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has assisted Zanzibar a lot through Covid-19 funds towards various development projects, "but the money was not used appropriately as intended."

First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman, who is also party vice chairman for Zanzibar, said the government is nobody's property. All of its activities ought to be conducted transparently for the interest of the nation and its people, he stated.

Records show that Zanzibar has had the CAG institution since ten years after the revolution intended to control public expenditure and enable the public to know.

"Zanzibar cannot make any meaningful development strides without having its own authority in the Union system," he affirmed, urging Zanzibaris to use the opportunity provided by the process for writing a new constitution as decided by the Union president.

President Samia will not favour either side of the Union but only the views of the people, he cautioned, emphasizing that leaders' solidarity will assist to get a better constitution.

He was emphatic that despite having a national unity government in Zanzibar, "there are still acts of discrimination regarding employment and accessing resident identity cards for Zanzibaris."

Mansour Yusuf Himid, a senior party official, said it surprises to see the government demolishing roads that are still usable, omitting to rebuild roads in a parlous state.

Ministry seeking loan for 245bn/- for surveillance cameras project

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rise where 14,184 incidents were reported from July 2022 to May, 2023 compared to 12,642 incidents reported in the 2021/22 financial year, he stated.

Police posts will be built in various areas, chiefly wards and shehias, helping to boost security, he said.

The government will improve the performance of the police force with the construction of residential facilities, office buildings, police stations and duty vehicles, with a total of 27bn/- set aside for the purpose, he asserted.

A total of 3,117 new officers will be recruited to improve efficiency where 2,000 recruits will be allocated to the Police Force, 517 for Prisons, 200 for Fire and Rescue Force and 400 for the Immigration Department, he said.

He requested the House to approve 1.29trn/- for fiscal 2023/24, an increase of 82.9bn/- from the 1.21trn/- estimates last year.

Of the proposed amount, 678.7bn/- will cater for salaries, 510.1bn/- for office expenses and 105bn/- will be spent on development projects, he added.

Kiula Kingu (with microphone), acting CEO of Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation (Dawasa), pictured yesterday briefing Abdallah Shaibu Kaim (L), leader of this year's edition of the countrywide Uhuru Torch Race, on the construction of water storage tanks in Kinondoni District's Mbweni suburb. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Dawasa assures Makongo residents of potable water

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA), has assured residents of Makongo of safe water after the completion of the Makongo-Bagamoyo project which will serve about 60,000 people.

The project which was recently launched by the Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa was implemented (DAWASA) at a cost of 71bn/-.

Kiula Kingu, DAWASA's acting Chief Executive Officer made the remarks during the 2023 Uhuru Torch rally which visited Kawe area in Dar es Salaam to inspect various development projects.

Kingu said DAWASA has continued to improve access to water services in all four regions that provide services in order to relieve the suffering of people who had water problems.

He said DAWASA has continued to emphasize and take various measures to protect and take care of water sources including the Ruvu River in order to make the large projects that have been completed sustainable throughout the year.

He said the project has been completed and so far DAWASA has managed to connect 30,000 people with water service and the goal is to connect more than 60,000 citizens.

Speaking during the visit, the leader of the touch, Abdalla Shaibu Kaim, said that the project carries the hope for many people, so it is the duty of DAWASA to ensure that the service reaches every citizen since the project has been completed.

He said the project will benefit the people of Mbweni, Bunju, Ununio and Boko adding that he is satisfied with the implementation of the project that supplies water from Makongo to Bagamoyo.

"This is a large and strategic project in which the government has invested a lot of money amounting to 71 billion with the aim of ensuring that all the targeted people get access to clean water, so people should take care of the water infrastructure," said Kaim.

"We have visited and inspected the implementation of this project, it is a great work that has been done through DAWASA, so I want DAWASA to ensure that water service reaches every citizen through this infrastructure built with a lot of money," he explained.

"I would like to thank President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the way she cares for his people and directed 71bn/- from the World Bank to come here so that all people can get water services," said Kaim.

Kawe MP Josephat Gwajima, commended President Samia for directing that the water project be implemented in the area.

He said the project has been a savior for his people who had no water for a long time and had to rely on shallow wells.

Kahama district commissioner Mboni Mhita (R) has a word with UNFPA deputy Country Representative Melissa McNeil Barrett, who paid her a courtesy call at the weekend. They exchanged ideas on the well-being of girls and women, including efforts to eradicate cases of gender-based violence targeting those groups. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Upgrading of Saadani National Park infrastructure luring more tourists

By Guardian Correspondent, Bagamoyo

UPGRADING of infrastructure by the government in Saadani National Park through COVID-19 Funds has helped to improve services that have attracted more tourists in various areas of the park that were once unreachable.

This, including President Samia Suluhu Hassan Royal Tour documentary which she starred in, has boosted the number of tourists by breaking the record, drawing in 28,000 tourists per year from 20,000 to 21,000 per year in the past.

Addressing reporters who visited the park at the weekend, Assistant Commissioner of Conservation of Saadani National Park, Ephraim Mwangomo said last year they earned 928m/- to implement the projects from the covid-19 funds that involved the construction of 21kms of roads for tourists, an airport and modern public toilets at the airport.

He said during seasonal rains tourists were unable to tour some of the Park areas but the upgrading of the roads, many of them reach areas that were once difficult to reach.

For his part, the Park's senior game warden, Hamza Minangu said in the past the roads were in very poor condition but now the tourists enjoy their tours and reach many areas to view game and other marine life.

"The Covid-19 Funds has helped to refurbish hard core areas that were unreachable, but we believe as revenue from tourism increases, we shall revamp more areas," he added.

On their part some of the tourists said more refurbishments were needed in the Park's infrastructures.

Mickaep Good, a French tourist and his colleagues said they were nonetheless happy to visit the park and viewed various kinds of wildlife including hippos, crocodiles and pledged to be good ambassadors when they return to their countries.

Tourist guide Mussa Mussa thanked for the refurbishment of the roads as it has helped to draw in many more tourists to the park.

Zitto Kabwe, Leader of the opposition ACT-Wazalendo, addresses a rally in Songea Urban District at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Samia offers 2million/- for EAGT church construction

By Guardian Correspondent, Mufindi

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has dished out 2m/- assistance towards the finishing of the Evangelistic Assemblies of God (EAGT) in Mafinga, Iringa Region.

CCM secretary general, Daniel Chongolo handed over the money yesterday on behalf of the president when he attended prayers at the church and called on adherents to continue praying for the country.

Chongolo is on his six-day visit in Iringa Region to inspect development projects, party's activities and listen to people's complaints.

He appealed to the adherents to pray for President Samia and other government leaders to lead the country and for the maintenance of peace.

The Church's Pastor, Dr Wallace Howa Howa thanked President Samia for the financial assistance saying it will help to finalise construction work of the church.

He said so far the church is in its final stages and they were struggling to get funds for its completion through fundraising from among adherents.

"We call on you to convey our greetings to our president, for the love she has shown, we are making sure we shall continue to support and pray for her, as we have nothing to offer to her in return," said Pastor Howa Howa.

CCM secretary general Chongolo continues with his visit in Iringa Region in company of the party secretary for ideology and mobilisation, Sophia Mjema and the organising secretary Issa Haji Ussi aka 'Gavu'.

300 motorcycles and 'Bajaj' drivers arrested for lack of business, driving licences

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) in Iringa Region has arrested more than 300 motorcycles and tricycles (Bajaj) for lack of business and driving licences in the ongoing special operation in Iringa Region.

Joseph Omoti, LATRA's regional officer in charge said that the operation is meant to compel Bajaj and motorcycle drivers to have in hand licenses.

The exercise is in parallel with the provision of education including customer service care, which seemed to be lacking on the motorcycles and Bajaj's operators.

Omoti said that customer service care is key for the growth of the transportion sector in the country, taking into account that studies have shown that 70 per cent of customer defections occur when customers feel poorly treated.

He said that after conducting regular inspections as well as providing various education to transporters, the response is still low for those people to cut their licenses.

Omoti added that they have been able to provide education in the four major centers for bicycles and motorcycles in Iringa Municipality, which are Miyomboni, Ipogolo, Barabara Mbili and Mashine Tatu as well as many other small centers.

The authority has also provided education in other areas of Iringa Municipality such as Kidamali in Iringa district, Mafinga in Mufindi district as well as Kilolo District in collaboration with the police force, but there is still no willingness to pay.

He also said that the operation is aimed at reaching more than 2000 passengers who use these means of transport so that they can use safe transport.

Omoti also asked all drivers to comply with various road safety rules as well as to load passengers in the allowed number, which is three passengers per passenger and motorcycle passenger is only one, as well as to pass the permitted lanes.

He also called on passengers, transporters and stakeholders to observe the procedures for land transportation, that the vehicle must have a business license for transport, including trucks, motorcycles, wagons, buses and trucks.

He said that the government has lowered the price of business licenses from 32,000/- to 22,000/- for Bajaj and from 22,000/- to 17,000/-, and the fine has dropped from 100,000/- to 25,000/- according to the real life situation.

> **...customer service care is key for the growth of the transportion sector in the country, taking into account that studies have shown that 70 per cent of customer defections occur when customers feel poorly treated**

EITI wants extractive contracts to be made public from 2023/24

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (TEITI), the local chapter of the global Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) is working on strategies to ensure extractive contracts are made public in 2023/24.

It also plans to strengthen collaboration with other government authorities on how best to implement this, the deputy Minister for Minerals, Dr Stephen Kiruswa told the National Assembly yesterday.

He made the statement in response to a question asked by the Special Seats MP, Jesca Kishoa (CHADEMA), who had wanted to know when the government would make all the mining contracts in the country public.

"When shall the government make public all the contracts in the extractive sector as a requirement by the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)" asked the law maker.

In response, the deputy minister said Tanzania is a member of EITI, whose mission is to promote understanding of natural resource management, strengthen public and corporate governance and accountability, and provide the data to inform policymaking and multi-stakeholder dialogue in the extractive sector.

He added that member countries commit to disclose information along the extractive industry value chain - from how extraction rights are awarded, to how revenues make their way through government and how they benefit the public.

Through participation in the EITI, more than 50 countries have agreed to a common set of rules governing what has to be disclosed and when - the EITI standard.

Dr Kisurwa added that in implementing EITI requirements, TEITI has prepared a roadmap on making the contracts public, among other clauses in the agreement.

> **...member countries commit to disclose information along the extractive industry value chain – from how extraction rights are awarded, to how revenues make their way through government and how they benefit the public**

AMANDI E.A LIMITED
INCORPORATION NUMBER 97727
THE COMPANIES ACT, 2002
(SECTION 334 (1))
MEMBERS VOLUNTARY WINDING UP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the General Public that at a duly convened meeting of **AMANDI E.A LIMITED** (the Company) company number **97727** which took place on **15 May 2023** the following special resolution were passed:

- That in accordance with section **333 (1) (b)** of the Companies Act, 2002, the company should be wound up voluntarily, and
- That the members have approved the appointment of **JOHNPAUL THADEI MWAKILASA** of Mikumi House, 368 Msasani Road, Oysterbay, P.O. Box 9673, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania as the Liquidator of the Company.

NOTICE is hereby given to the General Public and the parties concerned to submit their claims for admission within 30 days. Claims lodged after 30 days will not be considered for admission.

JOHNPAUL THADEI MWAKILASA
Liquidator
For AMANDI E.A LIMITED

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TANESCO says it needs 4.42 trillion/- to repair derelict infrastructure thoughout Tanzania

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) needs 4.42trn/- to repair all the dilapidated infrastructure countrywide.

Maharage Chande, the director general, said this at the weekend in Dar es Salaam when speaking during his meeting with editors.

Chande said the company implements a number of projects to completely end the shortage of electricity in the country.

The state-owned power firm has 4,000,000 customers who consume power for domestic use, said Chande, adding the current power consumption at homes is equivalent to 50 percent of the total consumption while 4,000 industrial customers use the remaining 50 percent.

He said that the company plans are to produce 5,000 Megawatts by 2025. He said production of electricity at the JNHPP dam will lead to reliable electricity services.

"We will not make proposals to lower prices because we want to strengthen ourselves economically so that we are able to connect more Tanzanians who do not have the services," he said.

Chande said that the Parliament in the past financial year endorsed 500bn/- for repair of old infrastructures, adding the company is finalizing procurement procedures and the contractors are at work. He said completion of the repair work will reduce power outage challenges.

"Currently we have 1,800MW from 1,600MW we had last year. When the JNHPP comes we will reach 3,800MW," he said, noting more power had to be produced to be able to connect all the people.

He said South Africa produces 54,000MW and yet people experience power rationing.

Chande added: "We will continue to produce electricity in large quantities because the demand for electricity is increasing rapidly due to increased economic activities in both Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland."

He said efforts are ongoing to make sure the country produces enough power like Egypt that produces more than 40,000MW, Turkey 80,000MW and Dubai 70MW.

He said that the company developed a strategy of between 18 and 24 months and they are now in the second phase of implementation through the 'Tanesco Tuko Kazini' campaign where it implements all the things planned in the first phase.

Chande said the strategy had priorities while noting that the conducted evaluation found that results are good as they have been able to reach more customers.

"Customers are our first priority since they are ones who make us come to work, we do hire people who will guarantee the best service to our customers. We also prioritize issues of efficiency, execution of strategic projects, finding resources, managing risks and provision of information to customers," he said.

Small-time fishermen based in Musoma municipality return to the shore yesterday, their routine fishing mission in Lake Victoria waters over for the day. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Govt contemplates increasing taxes on imported edible oils'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is contemplating increasing taxes on imported edible oils in an effort to improve the market for locally produced ones, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

Deputy minister for Agriculture, Anthony Mavunde told the lawmakers that ministries of Agriculture and Finance & Planning are in talks on how to implement the decision.

He explained that the government is concerned about the low prices of the locally produced oil, making farmers and processors fail to get the right return for their production.

The deputy minister made the statement in response to a supplementary question asked by the Meatu MP, Leah Komanya (CCM), who had wanted to know the government stance on the ever reducing price of sunflower in the country.

"As of now, the price of sunflower seeds has reduced by almost 50 percent while the country faces acute shortage of edible oil" she said.

In response, Mavunde acknowledged the ever dwindling price of sunflower seeds, a situation that discouraged farmers. "The government is aware of the situation and the two ministries involved are in talks on how to increase taxes and other charges on imported oil to save local farmers" said the deputy minister.

On his part, the Kiteto MP, Edward Lekaita (CCM), also questioned why the government could not buy locally produced sunflower as it looked into measures on tax increase on the imported oil.

Mavunde responded, noting that the government faced the challenge, and that is why in the ministerial budget for 2023/2024, they proposed the establishment of an agricultural development fund which can be used in stabilization of prices.

Earlier, in her main question, the Special Seats MP, Mwamtumu Dau (CCM) had wanted to know what the government's efforts to solve the challenge of poor price for farm produce, especially cereals in the country.

However, the deputy minister explained that the government is implementing different strategies to ensure farmers get reliable and sustainable markets for their produce.

He said the strategies include improving productivity through investments in irrigation infrastructure, farm inputs, research, extension services, use of technology and cooperation with the private sector.

TPSF engages private sector to address challenges facing wildlife, conservation work

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Tanzania Private Sector Foundation is engaging members of the private sector in the country in addressing human-driven problems facing wildlife and conservation programmes.

Through an inter-ministerial dialogue between the private sector and officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, held in Arusha the parties discussed ways of combating wildlife trafficking, addressing human-wildlife conflicts and negative effects of climate change.

The dialogue was made possible by support from the 'Tuhifadhi Maliasili,' program executed through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF)'s Acting Chief Executive Officer Raphael Maganga who encouraged participants to propose their own recommendations, adding that the project aims at creating awareness among Private Sector Organizations on the importance of corridors in biodiversity conservation and national development.

"Today we will discuss the outcomes of the dialogues held in Tanga and Arusha, and share these insights with high-level authorities in different ministries. By doing so, we hope to formulate resolutions that will further advance our collective efforts in promoting sustainable investments, protecting our biodiversity, combating wildlife trafficking as well as taking measures against climate change," said Maganga.

The Director of Wildlife from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Maurus Msuha who was the guest of honor during the Arusha Dialogue, lauded the partnership between Tanzania and the United States in supporting conservation efforts in the country.

Dr Msuha pointed out that the wildlife sector is responsible for more than 80 percent of tourism activities in Tanzania.

"It is the members of the private sector who conduct tourism business, all the government does is to conserve the ecosystem that allows wildlife to flourish and create a conducive environment for stakeholders to benefit from the industry," said the Director of Wildlife.

"Conservation certainly pays dividends when the private and public partnership join hands to ensure that both conservation and investment goals are attained amicably," Dr Msuha maintained, further stating that wildlife tourism accounts for 25 percent of foreign exchange and 17 percent of the country's GDP.

On his part, the USAID Environment and Natural Resources Management Team Leader, Nathan Sage, reminded that the United States boasts more than 60 years conservation partnerships with Tanzania, and over the past five years, USAID has invested over 100 million dollars to this effect.

The USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasii Chief of Party, Thadeus Binamungu said that the project aims to address threats to Tanzania's biodiversity through building institutional capacities of both public and private stakeholders, increasing private sector engagement in biodiversity conservation and natural resources management and Improving the policy, regulatory, and enabling environment for biodiversity conservation and natural resource management.

Participants tabled a series of recommendations including the need for joint efforts between the public and private sectors in addressing human-wildlife conflict, combating wildlife trafficking, addressing climate change, and sustainable investment and practices.

They also advised the need to assign value to conservation to attract sustainable investments in areas of connectivity, to link livelihood with conservation and hatching a master plan to address land use plans and other conservation challenges.

Penina Ernest (C), advocate for Thomas Nkola (R), has a word with state attorney Saraji Iboru at the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after Nkola's case was adjourned. Nkola, a farmer, has filed a case against ministers whose portfolios the Controller and Auditor General's report has associated with cases of financial misconduct. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

CCM calls on govt to reinstate sec schools with agriculture subjects

By Guardian Correspondent, Mufindi

THE ruling CCM has called on the government to make use of the new education curriculum being prepared to restore secondary schools concentrating in agriculture subjects to be used to prepare the youth to become farming experts as well as empowering them to employ themselves in the sector.

CCM secretary general, Daniel Chongolo made the remarks at the weekend during his visit to Malangali secondary school in Mufindi District, Iringa Region which was formerly among schools with agriculture subjects.

He said farming is among sectors that needs to be accentuated by empowering the youth to like it owing to its employing more people compared to other sectors.

He said if the youth are taught about farming, livestock keeping and other hand skills they stand to benefit more than is the case when they are taught with the aim of getting employment thereby causing job shortages.

He said if such schools are reinstated, students will be studying ordinary subjects but the main stress will be on agriculture as was in the past.

The party's Secretary for Ideology and mobilisation, Sophia Mjema appealed to parents and guardians in Mufindi District to make sure they send their children, especially girls to schools instead of marrying them off.

She said as for now the country has many examples of women who have helped the nation including President Samia Suluhu Hassan, the only female president in the East African region.

She also called on parents and guardians to closely monitor their children's progress behaviour while at school and in the streets and make sure they keep away from bad groups of other youth.

"You must also follow up what they are being taught at school by perusing their exercise books, the present world has changed a lot, and no one will up-bring your children other than yourself," she said.

For his part, Iringa Regional Commissioner, Halima Dendego said the government continues with its implementation of various development projects in Mufindi district including the construction of education, health, water, electricity and road infrastructures.

She said as for now water availability in urban areas stands at 84 per cent and 74 per cent in rural areas and that by June 15 this year they expect to sign a contract agreement for the construction of a water valued at 5bn/- that will enhance water supply services.

Government shows pathways to address research activities

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has expressed its commitment to improve research activities by introducing a special programme to award lecturers whose research is published in any special journals.

The Super Fund Research (SRP) programme, seeks to award 50m/- to lecturers from both private and public higher learning institutions who will publish their research works in high impact journals.

Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Professor Adolph Mkenda, said to start with, the researches to be awarded are only those concerning natural and health sciences.

Prof Mkenda was speaking at Dodoma's St John's University of Tanzania (SJUT) during prayers and inauguration of the university's new administration block.

According to the minister, the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan was fully committed to motivate research in the unique science fields, provided that the findings have a greater impact on the nation and that they were supposed to compete on the globe.

That is why, the minister said, they should be published in high impact journals which have great readership, thus promoting the country's education system and making the country's lecturers win global recognition.

Many SRP scientists have published their findings in high-impact journals–those considered to be highly influential in their fields. A journal's impact factor is a measure of the frequency with which an average article in a journal has been cited in a particular year.

In the 50m/- award, the minister insisted the government would be fair to all universities whether private or public including those owned by religious institutions like SJUT.

Prof Mkenda said that already, the guideline for the award had been released by the ministry, adding that any time soon the government shall announce the names of initial beneficiaries.

The package to award the best performing lecturers in health and natural sciences was requested in the 2022/23 financial year and was unanimously approved by all Members of Parliament, according to Prof Mkenda.

Oscar Amos (L), m-mama dispatch coordinator at Musoma municipality's Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Hospital, pictured at the weekend briefing Mara regional administrative secretary Msalika Makungu (R, in specs) on how the m-mama system facilitates access to emergency transport to pregnant women and newborns. Second right is Vodacom Tanzania's Digital and Value-Added Services director, Nguvu Kamando, and second left is a customer service agent at the hospital, Salome Sizya. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Lions Club of Dar extends 15m/- in support to school for 'needy' pupils

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

LIONS Club of Dar es Salaam Infinity has pumped in 15m/-to Viziwi Primary School in Buguruni, an initiative aimed to support the provision of the best possible living and studying environment to students with hearing impairment.

Speaking during the inauguration of the newly renovated dormitory wards held over the weekend, Nafisa Khanbai, charter president of Lions Club of Dar es Salaam said the donation comes from a grounded belief that comfortable living environments are vital to students' physical and mental well being.

"A total of 15m/- has been endorsed to renovate dormitory premises, toilet doors and washrooms, new mattresses, pillows and covers. As we all know a comfortable living environment is vital for our physical and mental well being hence the dormitory renovations is a testament to our commitment to providing the best possible living conditions for our students," she said.

She added: "To our students I would like to remind you that these new facilities are a reflection of our commitment to your well being and success. We hope that these newly renovated dormitory wards and washrooms will provide you with a comfortable and welcoming environment where you can focus on your studies and personal growth."

She further requested the club's members to reflect on the importance of community and their role in creating a positive and supportive living environment, likewise pledging to work together to maintain new facilities and create a new culture of respect, responsibility and accountability.

Mustansir Gulamhossein, District Governor of the Lions Club of Dar es Salaam Infinity said the club's commitment has always been known for its endeavor in serving the community and therefore with the particular project they guaranteed to continue with the legacy of 'sadaka'.

"We have now decided to become a center of hope to these individuals who have been marginalized for a very long time by providing a safe environment to individuals with dignity," he said.

According to him, the initiative is incredibly important in bringing about a remarkable achievement and life changing experience based on the fact that the community has now taken away humility in communicating with the deaf and dumped something that has brought about isolated experience.

Richard Kweka, a deputy headmaster at Viziwi primary school, commended Lions Club initiative as despite its initiative in serving the vulnerable group with a comfy living environment, it has also enhanced their privacy in one way or the other.

"We thank Lions Club of Dar es Salaam Mzizima and Infinity members and stakeholders on this life changing initiative. It does not make sense when young girls sneak adolescent girls at times they are having their private time in washrooms therefore having renovated dormitories fixed with doors will definitely protect their privacy," he said.

He further added that the initiative will also enhance students' health from the new provided mattresses, bed sheets and pillows, however stimulate their academic performance.

Kweka noted: "One of the reasons leading to having broken doors from time to time is the children's lack of sound response when they unlock doors hence at some point they are not aware of overdoing it."

> **We have now decided to become a center of hope to these individuals who have been marginalized for a very long time by providing a safe environment to individuals with dignity**

TANROADS urged to establish database of local contractors

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has directed the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) to establish a database of local contractors participating in construction of strategic projects so that they are later given priority in execution of other projects.

TANROADS chief executive officer, Eng Rogatus Mativila made the remarks over the weekend when he inspected the progress implementation of the John Pombe Magufuli (JPM) Bridge.

The 3.2 kilometres bridge between Kigongo and Busisi crossing Lake Victoria in Mwanza Region is being constructed by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation in collaboration with China Railway 15 Bureau Group Corporation (CCECC-CR15GJV, and is scheduled for completion by the end of February next year.

Eng Mativila said the Head of State wants local contractors to be identified for the government to use them in implementing different projects. He said their participation in major construction projects improves their knowledge, thus being in a good position to replace foreign contractors.

Eng Mativila noted that the government policy directs authorities to build the capacity of local contractors to be used in implementation of various projects. He said the move is meant to ensure that they are given priority when it comes to offering construction tenders.

Commenting on construction of the bridge, he expressed satisfaction with the progress reached so far, insisting contractors should make sure the work is completed within schedule and at required standards.

He said construction of the bridge has now reached 74 percent although it was to be 84 percent as per signed agreements.

When President Samia took office in March 2021, only 25 percent of the work was done and continued releasing funds for its implementation.

The bridge is being constructed to the standards so that it can last for more than 100 years, thus stimulating development in Mwanza and nearby regions. Completion of the bridge will open-up the region and facilitate business between Tanzania and neighbouring countries.

He said that the bridge is one the country's strategic transport infrastructure being implemented by the government under TANROADS.

TANROADS Manager in Mwanza Region, Eng Ambrose Pascal commended the CEO for making close follow-up of the project.

Raymond Mwangila, United Bank of Tanzania's Dodoma branch manager, symbolically presents 300 books to Msalato Secondary School at the weekend as part of a drive meant to promote a reading culture among youths. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ZAFELA, TAMWA raise concerns on cold-blooded killing of women

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) and Tanzania Media Women's Association, Zanzibar (TAMWA Zanzibar) have expressed their sadness by the acts of cold-blooded killing of two women which took place recently in Bububu Kijichi and Mbuzini West District "A" West Urban Region Unguja, respectively.

According to the Police Force and media reports, the two women - Laura Msemwa (23) and Khairat Juma Bakari (28) have been killed by unknown assailants.

The reports added that the killings that occurred on 20/05/2023 took place in the same week thus bringing attention to the community particularly women and girls.

ZAFELA and TAMWA-ZNZ regret that the assailants are at large; and they haven't been arrested, according to the Police report issued to journalists on May 25-2023.

It is against this background that ZAFELA and TAMWA-Zanzibar call for the police to use all means possible and its resources to nab the culprits.

In a statement, TAMWA-Zanzibar and ZAFELA argued for the police force to expedite investigation so that the suspects will be brought to justice.

According to the records by TAMWA-Zanzibar and ZAFELA from the year 2016, some 23 women and children were brutally murdered whilst justice has not been easily secured.

"We believe that in a small community like Zanzibar, it may be easy to apprehend the culprit if there is good investigation and community cooperation," said Jamila Mahmoud, ZAFELA director.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021/2022

NIC SISI NDIYO BIMA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

A ASSETS	General insurance 2021/22 TZS'000	Life assurance 2021/22 TZS'000	Total 2021/22 TZS'000	Total 2020/21 TZS'000
Property and equipment	2,207,515	8,556,052	10,763,567	11,174,612
Investment properties	23,590,585	79,893,968	103,484,553	103,990,167
Right of Use Asset	160,634	-	160,634	119,708
Intangible asset	95,096	-	95,096	97,618
Work in Progress (Computer Software)	-	-	-	-
Deferred acquisition costs	1,341,639	-	1,341,639	506,348
Investment securities	2,892,256	31,491,034	34,383,290	33,141,079
Investment in Associates	-	21,070,870	21,070,870	21,081,456
Re-insurers share of insurancecontract provisions	17,103,957	-	17,103,957	16,794,260
Insurance and other receivables	59,675,362	34,826,861	94,502,223	60,039,259
Treasury Bonds	85,618,323	20,020,667	105,638,990	108,100,132
Treasury Bills	-	-	-	1,799,550
Fixed deposits with banks	15,208,393	17,022,799	32,231,192	10,384,477
Cash and cash equivalents	17,769,541	(14,553,847)	3,215,694	15,901,669
Total assets	**225,663,301**	**198,328,404**	**423,991,705**	**383,130,335**

B LIABILITIES	General insurance 2021/22 TZS'000	Life assurance 2021/22 TZS'000	Total 2021/22 TZS'000	Total 2020/21 TZS'000
Deferred tax liability	5,464,379	6,909,626	12,374,005	11,677,858
Insurance contract provisions	14,252,272	18,515,664	32,767,936	51,377,617
Accrued Liability	-	58,089,483	58,089,483	51,571,120
Unearned Premium Reserve	9,274,329	-	9,274,329	16,999,103
Payables to re-insurers	24,818,803	-	24,818,803	27,319,199
Pen save deposits	-	164,498	164,498	164,498
Other payables	47,380,874	9,843,645	57,224,519	47,227,714
Gratuity payable	-	-	-	-
Income tax payable	12,207,103	-	12,207,103	12,801,432
Total liabilities	**113,397,760**	**93,522,916**	**206,920,676**	**219,138,541**
Net assets	**112,265,542**	**104,805,488**	**217,071,031**	**163,991,794**

C SHAREHOLDER'S EQUITY	General insurance 2021/22 TZS'000	Life assurance 2021/22 TZS'000	Total 2021/22 TZS'000	Total 2020/21 TZS'000
Share capital	9,812,515	5,187,485	15,000,000	2,945,130
Available for sale reserve	8,190,786	26,392,517	34,583,303	24,300,081
Other reserves	-	638,608	638,608	638,608
Revaluation reserve	23,173,753	12,950,392	36,124,145	36,124,145
Policyholders' Fund	-	59,041,748	59,041,748	55,856,907
Retained Earnings	45,740,446	-	45,740,446	25,756,653
Contingency reserve	25,348,042	594,738	25,942,780	18,370,270
Total shareholder's equity	**112,265,542**	**104,805,488**	**217,071,031**	**163,991,794**

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Details	General insurance 2021/22 TZS'000	Life assurance 2021/22 TZS'000	Total 2021/22 TZS'000	Total 2020/21 TZS'000
Gross written premium	104,900,756	19,674,326	124,575,082	87,401,534
Written premium ceded to reinsures	(56,291,055)	(627,423)	(56,918,478)	(29,906,006)
Net written premium	**48,609,701**	**19,046,903**	**67,656,604**	**57,495,528**
Change in gross provisions for unearned premium	7,545,590	-	7,545,590	6,881,151
Net earned premium	**56,155,291**	**19,046,903**	**75,202,194**	**64,376,679**
Commission income from re-insurance	11,427,863	-	11,427,863	5,345,559
Finance and investment income	12,697,012	5,824,937	18,521,949	16,873,538
Other operating income	(1,199,030)	(16,716)	(1,215,746)	17,828,904
Total income	**79,081,136**	**24,855,124**	**103,936,260**	**104,424,680**
Claims and policyholders' benefits incurred	(12,115,856)	(7,448,962)	(19,564,818)	(24,430,302)
Reinsurers' share of claims and benefits incurred	7,770,924	-	7,770,924	7,884,097
Net policyholders' claims and benefits incurred	**(4,344,932)**	**(7,448,962)**	**(11,793,894)**	**(16,546,205)**
Acquisition costs	(1,537,458)	(1,453,277)	(2,990,735)	(1,811,132)
Administrative expenses	(18,535,467)	(6,450,802)	(24,986,269)	(18,970,791)
Impairment losses	(933,786)	(88,167)	(1,021,953)	(2,469,495)
Total operating expenses	**(25,351,643)**	**(15,441,208)**	**(40,792,851)**	**(39,797,623)**
Operating profit	**53,729,493**	**9,413,916**	**63,143,409**	**64,627,057**
Finance costs	(25,458)	(44,256)	(69,714)	(64,741)
Share of profit of equity- accounted investees, net of tax	-	136,801	136,801	177,308
Profit before taxation	**53,704,035**	**9,506,461**	**63,210,496**	**64,739,625**
Tax expense	(14,857,767)	-	(14,857,767)	(15,968,017)
Transfer to policyholders' fund	-	(9,506,461)	(9,506,461)	(8,177,650)
Profit for the year	**38,846,268**	**-**	**38,846,268**	**40,593,957**
Other comprehensive income:				
Fair Value gain on Treasury Bonds	7,172,579	2,366,279	9,538,858	-
Fair value gains on equity securities net of deferred tax	80,127	664,237	744,364	1,617,269
Total comprehensive income for the year	**46,098,974**	**3,030,516**	**49,129,490**	**42,211,226**

63.21 Billion
Profit for the year

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Share capital	Fair value reserves	Other reserves	Revaluation reserve	Accumulated (losses)/retained earnings	Contingency reserve	Life Fund	Total Equity
Balance at 01 July 2021	2,945,130	24,300,081	638,608	36,124,145	25,756,653	18,370,270	55,856,907	163,991,794
Prior year adjustment*	-	-	-	-	2,461,649	-	-	2,461,649
Balance at 01 July 2021	**2,945,130**	**24,300,081**	**638,608**	**36,124,145**	**28,218,302**	**18,370,270**	**55,856,907**	**166,453,443**
Total comprehensive income for the year:								
Increase in paid up share capital	12,054,870	-	-	-	(12,054,870)	-	-	-
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	38,846,268	-	9,506,461	48,352,729
Dividend Paid	-	-	-	-	(1,500,000)	-	-	(1,500,000)
Accrued liability							(6,518,364)	(6,518,364)
Other comprehensive income:								
Revaluation of Investment Property net of deferred tax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation of PPE net of deferred tax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fair value gain/(loss) on treasury Bonds	-	9,538,858	-	-	-	-	-	9,538,858
Fair value gain on equity securities net of deferred tax	-	744,364	-	-	-	-	-	744,364
Total comprehensive income for the year	**12,054,870**	**10,283,222**	**-**	**-**	**25,291,398**	**-**	**2,988,097**	**50,617,587**
Transfer to contingency reserve	-	-	-	-	(7,769,253)	7,572,510	196,743	-
Balance at 30 June 2022	**1 5,000,000**	**34,583,303**	**638,608**	**36,124,145**	**45,740,446**	**25,942,780**	**59,041,747**	**217,071,031**

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NIC INSURANCE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021/2022

NIC SISI NDIYO BIMA

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	General insurance 2021/22 TZS'000	Life insurance 2021/22 TZS'000	Total 2021/22 TZS'000	Total 2020/21 TZS'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Premium received	93,207,138	15,015,987	108,223,125	96,270,09
Unearned premium	7,545,590	-	7,545,590	6,881,151
Commission and Claims received from reinsurers	18,889,090	-	18,889,090	8,351,378
Receipts from other operating income	39,223	3,772	42,995	19,121,981
Premium paid to reinsurers	(58,791,452)	(627,423)	(59,418,875)	(26,182,152)
Gratuity Paid	-	-	-	(363,664)
Claims Paid	(20,920,251)	(17,254,248)	(38,174,499)	(21,612,605)
Commission and Administrative expense paid	(19,572,120)	(5,488,880)	(25,061,000)	(30,431,500)
Corporate Tax Paid	(15,137,612)	-	(15,137,612)	(13,610,271)
Value Added Tax Paid	(8,331,446)	(523,475)	(8,854,921)	(14,406,477)
Net cash flows (used in)/ generated from operating activities	(3,071,840)	(8,874,267)	(11,946,107)	24,017,938
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Purchase of Property and Equipment	(311,278)	(139,916)	(451,194)	(398,022)
Purchase of Intangible Assets	(37,522)	(11,360)	(48,882)	311,395
Proceeds from Investment Income	12,922,084	5,943,791	18,865,875	12,198,602
Investment Properties	(1,115,936)	(403,709)	(1,519,645)	(39,742)
Investment in Treasury Bonds	(4,172,579)	6,633,721	2,461,142	(60,510,258)
Investment in Treasury Bills	866,850	932,700	1,799,550	(286,525)
Investment in Call	-	-	-	6,174,200
Investment in Fixed Deposit	(7,162,129)	(14,684,585)	(21,846,714)	9,140,629
Net cash generated from/ (used in) investing activities	989,490	(1,729,358)	(739,868)	(33,409,721)
Decrease in Cash and Cash equivalent	(2,082,351)	(10,603,625)	(12,685,976)	(9,391,785)
Cash and Cash equivalent at start of the year	19,851,891	(3,950,222)	15,901,669	25,293,454
Cash and Cash equivalent at the end of the year	**17,769,540**	**(14,553,847)**	**3,215,693**	**15,901,669**

NIC INSURANCE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SUMMARY

GROSS WRITTEN PREMIUM 43%
Bilion **87,402.00** 2020/2021 ▲ Bilion **124,575.00** 2021/2022

TOTAL ASSETS 11%
Bilion **383,130.00** 2020/2021 ▲ Bilion **423,992.00** 2021/2022

SHARE HOLDER'S EQUITY 32%
Bilion **163,992.00** 2020/2021 ▲ Bilion **217,071.00** 2021/2022

INVESTMENT IN FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS 15%
Bilion **120,284.00** 2020/2021 ▲ Bilion **137,870.00** 2021/2022

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Taking A New Look At The News
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Harmony vital in Dar, Zanzibar port taxation

CUTTING edge consultations were lately being held between the Union and Zanzibar treasuries as well as the Bank of Tanzania and the two tax authorities, definitely a rare meeting in how financial policy is conducted. Usually each side handles its own part of fiscal issues, where the central bank handles currency issues as a whole as well as bank stability matters. Rarely is fiscal policy a matter of coordination, as usually either government has its own prerogatives.

Removing tax roadblocks in trade between Zanzibar and the Mainland, where it would be expected that an item taxed in Zanzibar will be deemed to have been taxed in Tanzania as in any port, if the matter is agreed, will be a watershed. It will change the standard operational mode of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in like manner as abolition of its task force teams presently suggests, as a deep lying prerogative. It is like going back to pre-TRA days, up to mid-1996.

Most of the current generation of young women, even those arriving at middle age are not likely to remember days where women used to make the boat trip to Zanzibar, purchase fabrics imported from India, China or elsewhere and tax paid in Zanzibar. They would come with them onshore, lend to their neighbours as regular customers and were largely assured to be paid at the end of the month. Statistics were showing that there was greater inflation than at present but purchasing power was better than after mid-1996 when the trade collapsed.

What are usually known as impediments to traders at the Kariakoo market, or from Zanzibar to Dar es Salaam port, are in many ways precisely the same problems that the public faces everywhere. Business initiatives fail because of the taxation, where one can't raise prices and volumes of sales are far too low. Many supermarkets which started with EAC protocols soon closed first those of South African firms and then of Kenyan firms, both ill adapted to local demand.

Eliminating tax differentials between Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam (along with Tanga and Mtwara) is the creation of a national market at the most prudent tax levels. In economic history it's to prepare conditions for industrial take off, as in 1776 the clarion call in Britain was 'laissez faire, laissez aller,' be free to trade or to go (to get goods). It is to refuse upper class prerogatives that need massive revenues as a condition for their satisfaction, in opposition to all of civil society.

The port of Zanzibar complies with protocols of the single customs area for EAC partner states, SADC and AfCFTA, thus Dar, Tanga and Mtwara ports need not mark up the tax figures. Big revenue collections are geared at subsidies for poorly performing public firms without affecting development projects and public service perks, etc. Reorganising this needs taking up policy alternatives.

Put it differently, if the proposals made by the Zanzibar side at the Treasury consultations in Zanzibar are to be taken up, there won't be1.1trn/- for beefing up capital for such corporations. Instead they would be asked to form capital bonds with major investors around public private partnerships (as most state executives aren't prepared to contemplate a share sale). It is this capital inflow that would cover the gaps as they have cash for salaries, not for equipment, etc.

Efforts by government to improve service delivery help to drive reduction in poverty

TANZANIA has undergone impressive political and economic developments and improvements in social welfare in recent years. However, the country continues to face considerable development challenges, not least in essential areas such as economic distribution, population growth, corruption. At the same time, new opportunities are arising which have the potential to become decisive for the necessary changes and reforms.

Spillovers from conflicts and domestic factors have weighed on Tanzania's economic recovery. The recovery programme in Tanzania was a continuation of government effort in the structural adjustment started in the early part of 1980's.

The Tanzania Economic Update which is published twice a year by the World Bank, provides an outlook of the local economy while highlighting a specific issue of strategic importance about which it aims to foster constructive policy debate among stakeholders and policymakers.

In a survey featured in the report, experts are evenly divided on the prospects for the global economy.

Chief economists expect both growth and inflation dynamics to vary widely across African regions. Although the majority do not see recent financial-sector disruption as a sign of systemic vulnerability, further bank failures and turbulence are considered likely this year. Indeed the country has made significant progress in recent years in providing universal access to water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). More than nine per cent of the population continues to practice open defecation which entails serious health risks.

We ought to focus section on women's economic empowerment, which will play a pivotal role in achieving an inclusive and resilient post-crisis recovery. Tanzania has experienced over 20 years of sustained economic growth, culminating in its transition from low-income to lower-middle-income status in July 2020. The Tanzania Development Vision 2025, emphasises gender equity in its social, economic, and political dimensions.

We have huge untapped potential of the tourism sector to drive the country's development agenda.

Tanzania was again one of the top growth performers in the region.

Investing in human capital is essential for Tanzania. To generate future income and achieve sustainable development, people are the most important asset countries have. Tanzania stands in terms of its investments in human capital for both children and adults.

Recent Bank of Tanzania data confirm lower cashew exports and decline in non-traditional exports has continued which raises concerns on prospects for longer term growth. The Tanzania Revenue Authority is reporting that many large tax payers are unable to meet their tax obligations on time. Banks have limited lending to businesses and interest rates are high though some banks have lowered benchmark lending rates. On a positive note, credit to the private sector has been edging up. Public debt is currently sustainable, but there is need for the government to consider cost-effective financing options and manage associated risks to support public investments.

According to the UN, Africa's economic growth is expected to be impacted negatively by several factors in 2023.

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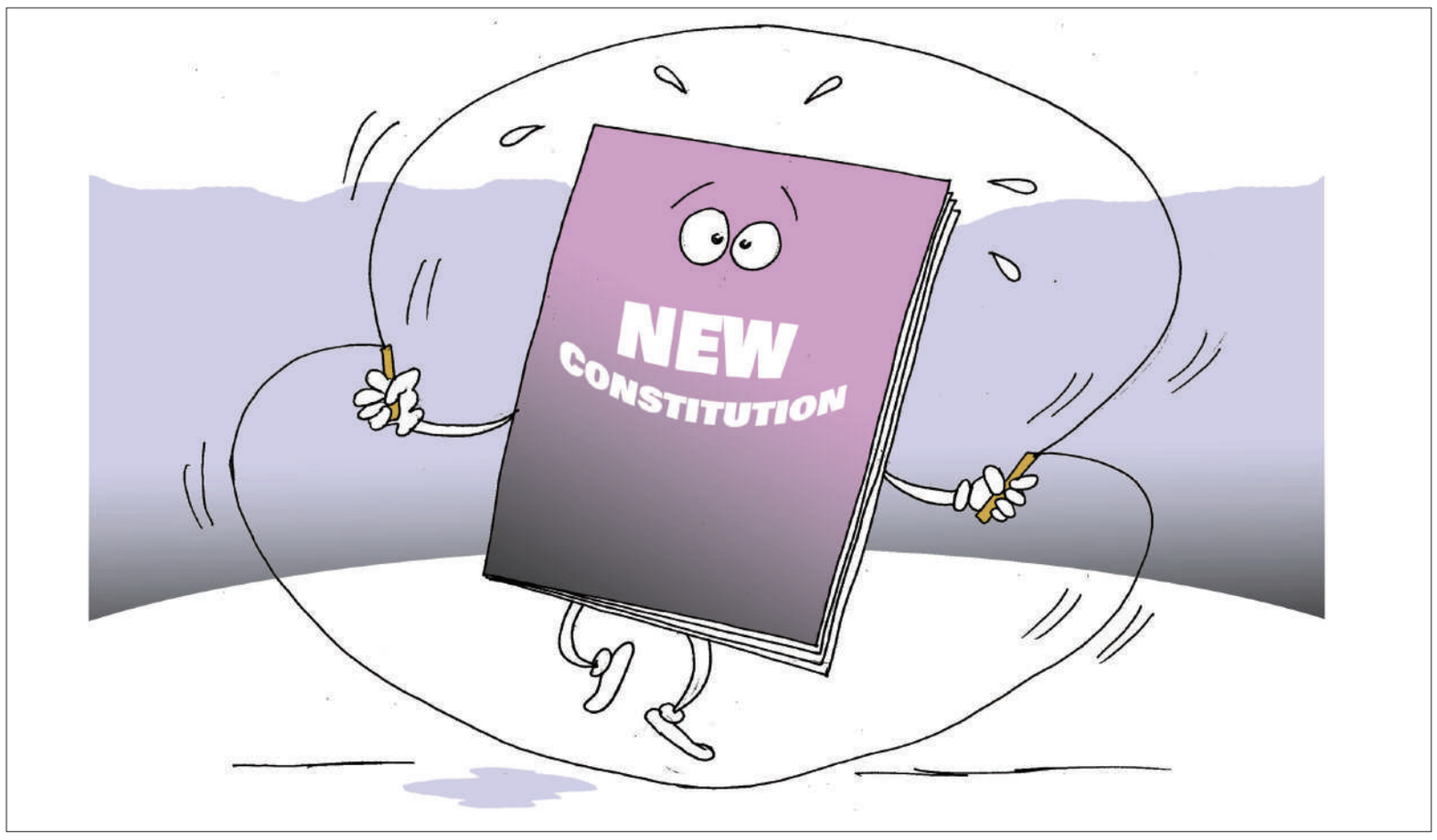

Many Nigerians are certainly happy to see Buhari go but less sure of what comes next

By Phillip van Niekerk

FOR the past six months, many of the people in Africa's most populous country have been waiting for the misery of the Muhammadu Buhari years to end. Now, as Nigeria's version of eight lost years winds down, expectations are rising.

Nigeria's hopes of moving to a better place depend largely on two men: incoming President Bola Tinubu and the billionaire industrialist Aliko Dangote.

The launch this week in Lagos of the world's largest mega refinery by Dangote, Africa's richest man, has created a buzz of excitement.

The refinery is a $20-billion monster which, if it reaches capacity, is designed to produce 650,000 barrels of product a day, employ 120,000 people, spawn a domestic petrochemical industry, provide the fertiliser needs for the country's farmers and generate more than double the country's present supply of electricity.

While doubts remain about the engineering and how soon it will take to be fully operational – no one in the world has built a refinery like this before – its importance to the region was reflected by the attendance of six west African heads of state at the launch.

Dangote has a plaque on his desk that reads: "Nothing is impossible." He has shown that big things can still get done in Nigeria – just not by the government.

Incompetence

As a perfect illustration of the incompetence that has marked his time in office, Muhammadu Buhari finally released a long-term national development plan, Nigeria 2050, this month – eight years after becoming President and three weeks before stepping down.

Buhari is clearly not willing to go gently into the night. This eleventh-hour move is among a raft of obstacles he put in place to trip up incoming Tinubu – even though he did confer on him Nigeria's highest honour on Thursday night.

"Buhari does not even understand that such action is an insult and deeply disrespectful of the incoming government," commented Jibrin Ibrahim, a senior fellow at the Centre for Democracy and Development, "especially coming from a man who could not implement a plan for himself."

Buhari also got the launch of Dangote's refinery in Lagos this week moved earlier so that he could cut the ribbon, but its game-changing benefits will accrue to the Tinubu administration.

Tinubu inherits a nation that has been run into the ground. Abuja has been paralysed and economic recovery has been sluggish.

The Nigerian economy remains shackled to oil and gas, which is responsible for more than 80% of government revenue. The decline of production in the sector, which now produces little more than half of its Opec quota of 1.8 million barrels per day, explains why Nigeria is bringing in less revenue than the monthly interest payments on its ballooning debt.

A supporter of Nigeria's ruling party, the All Progressives Congress, holds a banner with the image of the party's presidential candidate, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, during a political campaign rally in Lagos, Nigeria, on 26 November 2022. Photo: EPA-EFE/Akintunde Akinleye

Under Buhari real power has been vested in a small clique of northerners – relatives and hometown cronies – while Nigerians complain that corruption has risen to levels not seen since the era of military rule.

The new refinery should end the practice in which Nigeria exports its crude and then pays to import the product back with scarce foreign exchange. Rent-seekers can extract their cut at both ends of the transaction. The refinery will allow Tinubu to remove or scale down the fuel subsidy, which is draining the economy. Foreign exchange savings from the refinery will strengthen the naira and potentially help remove the other bugbear of Nigerian traders and investors – the two-tier currency.

Lekki free trade zone

It is noteworthy that Dangote chose to build the plant not in the Niger Delta, from where the refinery will draw much of its light sweet crude oil, but Lagos – or more precisely the Lekki Free Trade Zone, a brainchild of Tinubu who was governor of the state.

Tinubu has come in for bashing by some press and political opponents who accuse him of corruption and question his victory in the February election, which is still being litigated before a tribunal. However, Nigerian society is broader than the social media activists who have dominated the discourse since the election, and many Nigerians just want to move on.

In his presidential campaign, Tinubu ran on a track record of achievement as Governor of Lagos from 1999 to 2007, which became what he termed the "engine of prosperity" in Nigeria. His vision is essentially to do for Nigeria what he did for Lagos.

There are many who challenge his claims, but the reality is that Lagos has the most diversified economy of the 36 states in Nigeria and constitutes 22% of the country's economy with only 6% of its population.

Zainab Usman, director of the Africa programme at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and a leading advocate for the diversification of the Nigerian economy, provides a compelling glimpse of what Tinubu achieved: "The city has cleaned up dramatically since the dark days of the 1990s when parts of Lagos were uninhabitable, buried under mountains of rubbish, being devoured by the rising tides of the Atlantic Ocean, conquered by violent criminal gangs and arenas of social unrest."

Crime and security

Key to Tinubu's success was hiring technocrats and mentoring smart young people to run the state. While he has kept his appointments close to his chest, much will depend on whom he entrusts with leadership in the new administration.

Tinubu regards one of his most important achievements as combating crime and restoring security – the "bedrock of a prosperous and democratic society" – to Lagos.

As President, he will have to radically reorganise the police, military and intelligence to deal with multiple overlapping security crises.

Tinubu is more of a backroom dealmaker than a charismatic leader. His strength in southwest Nigeria was his ability to unite all the power groups – the intellectuals, the traditional leaders, the street and market people – for the eight years when he was virtually the only check on the power against a federal government in the hands of the People's Democratic Party.

Tinubu has been accused of corruption, yet his election was vigorously opposed by many of the rent-seekers allied with the Buhari administration who went to extreme lengths to prevent him from being elected.

If he is to restore the rule of law and security in Nigeria, he knows he has to crack down on the scams, the sharp practices and looting that keeps an entire class of parasites in Nigeria afloat. In this too, he will find common ground with Dangote, whose refinery threatens the livelihoods of oil traders and importers, among the most venal and tricky members of the grey economy.

Ebenezer Obadare of the Council on Foreign Relations writes that one insight to draw from the Buhari presidency "is that it is possible for an individual believed by many to be personally incorruptible [Buhari] to preside over an administration that is none the less defined by corruption and rank incompetence. On the contrary, with the incoming Bola Tinubu government, Nigerians will soon find out whether a leader widely seen as corrupt can preside over a relatively malfeasance-free and reasonably competent administration."

Phillip van Niekerk is the editor of Africa Unscrambled, a newsletter covering the continent in a way you won't read anywhere else. Get unscrambled by signing up right here.

Govt's misconception about US ambassador triggers worrying signals from Washington

By Rodney D. Sieh

IN June 2021, US President Joe Biden unveiled his administration's National Security Strategy in which fighting corruption was deemed a national security issue for the United States of America.

In establishing the strategy, the Biden administration recognized corruption's ability to corrode democracy. The policy also aims at fighting against corruption seen as a core U.S. national security interest. As part of the strategy, President Biden (pictured) directed his national security team to lead the creation of a comprehensive strategy that, when implemented, would improve the U.S. government's ability to prevent corruption, more effectively combat illicit finance, better hold corrupt actors accountable, and strengthen the capacity of activists, investigative journalists, and others on the front lines of exposing corrupt acts.

The strategy outlines a whole-of-government approach to elevating the fight against corruption and places particular emphasis on better understanding and responding to the threat's transnational dimensions, including by taking additional steps to reduce the ability of corrupt actors to use the U.S. and international financial systems to hide assets and launder the proceeds of corrupt acts.

Over the course of the past few months, however, Ambassador Michael McCarthy, the US envoy accredited to Liberia has come under fire for trying to enforce the Biden administration's strategy with senior Liberian government officials, including the heads of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, taking turns throwing tantrums at the Ambassador for implementing the Biden administration's policy.

In March this year, Ambassador McCarthy, aptly timed a speech with anti-corruption coordinators to lament what he sees as a rapidly growing gap between the rich and the poor, the haves and the have not in Liberia's bourgeoning post-war democracy.

The Singapore parallel

In that speech, Ambassador McCarthy lamented that while he has great hopes for Liberia and dreams of a better country, a lot of missteps and corruption under the administration of President George Manneh Weah are holding Liberia from progress - and more US assistance.

The ambassador opined that he envisions a country, "where labor regulations are enforced uniformly without prejudice, and not for personal manipulation or political gain; one where all legislators appropriate funds to a Ministry without the expectation of kickbacks; one where all Ministers negotiate on behalf of what is best for the country, not on the basis of what funds are being paid directly to them; one where public appropriations are distributed as the legislature directed them - not in a random or weaponised fashion determined by individuals; one where schools have no ghost employees and are supplied with the actual number of teachers on their payroll; one where donated medicine is actually available free of charge to the poorest of the poor in public health facilities throughout the country. Liberia can be this country. Just as in Singapore, it is within the power of the Liberian people to make this happen."

Drawing parallels with Singapore, Ambassador McCarthy stated that with only 270 square miles of land, virtually no natural resources, and with a population almost the same size as Liberia's, Singapore had a reputation in the early 1960s as one of the poorest, most corrupt countries in Asia. Singapore's per capita Gross Domestic Product in 1960 was $428. "Today, he notes, "Singapore is one of the wealthiest countries on the planet, and their per capita Gross Domestic Product in 2022 had risen to $82,794. In comparison, Liberia's per capita Gross Domestic Product in 2022 was $630. How did this happen? Did they win the lottery? Was it by chance or coincidence? No. One of the primary reasons for the phenomenal success of Singapore, is that they decided corruption would no longer be accepted as a normal part of life."

Lingering misconceptions

Ambassador Michael McCarthy's critical and honest assessment of topical issues regarding misgovernance and corruption in Liberia is often greeted with mixed reviews. For many Liberians, the ambassador's critique of the George Weah-led government is often timely and hits the core of what many are feeling but afraid to say, perhaps out of fear. For sympathizers of the Weah administration, the ambassador's jabs cross the line, but Washington insiders say, everything the ambassador says falls in line with President Biden's National Security Strategy unveiled in June 2021.

In recent weeks, the heads of both the Senate, Senator Albert Chie and the House representatives, Speaker Bophal Chambers have been throwing pointed jabs at the Ambassador for speaking truth to the powers that be.

According to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the ambassador's unprofessional approach to key issues of national governance does not sit well with the government. Speaker Chambers accuses Ambassador McCarthy of displaying undiplomatic behavior when commenting on the challenges faced by the current government led by the Coalition for Democratic Change.

Speaker Chambers went as far as to suggest that Ambassador McCarthy's conduct does not align with the views of the government and people of the United States, emphasizing that such behavior was unacceptable and not representative of how diplomats should conduct themselves.

Additionally, Speaker Chambers, who was a strong critic against former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, asserted that any allegations from the ambassador would not be tolerated on Liberian soil.

"It is important for diplomats to conduct themselves in a manner that is professional and aligned with the values of their government and the host country.

Earlier this month, while campaigning in the southeast, Senate Pro Temp Albert Chie also took the Ambassador to task, accusing McCarthy of being supportive of the opposition bloc by creating an unleveled field to the advantage of the opposition ahead of the October elections.

The Pro Temp's outburst followed a recent press statement released by the Ambassador, in which the Ambassador lamented the harsh living conditions of rural Liberians and alleged that the Legislature allocated to itself over US$65 million in 2022 for salaries and operations to feather their own nest while hospitals and county service centers withered on the vine.

Sen. Chie argued that Ambassador would have ascertained facts about the monies that lawmakers receive by visiting the projects being carried out by all lawmakers throughout the country. "What do we do with the money we get? We build clinics, we buy drugs, we build schools, we build guest houses, etc., that's what legislators all over the country do with their money," he said.

The Grand Kru Senator also argued that the Ambassador's recent statement is a strategy employed by him to strengthen the opposition in this election year.

Said Mr. Chie: "He's fond of spreading falsehood because this is an election year so that the opposition would be strengthened. He's lying because of his support to a field that shouldn't be level because this is a political year. How can you be spreading falsehood on the government?

This is why Washington has recalled him because he's interfering with the politics of our country. He's a foreigner and he must stick to his position."

Washington insiders say the US is becoming increasingly frustrated due to the millions of dollars invested in the health sector in Liberia with the US remaining the largest bilateral donor in Liberia.

Demanding accountability for millions to Liberia

The United States is the largest bilateral donor to Liberia, with over $4.4 billion in bilateral assistance since the civil war ended in 2003. This is in addition to roughly $1 billion in assessed contributions in support of the UN peacekeeping mission UNMIL, which lasted 14 years and concluded in March 2018. This includes more than $54 million annually in health assistance to Liberia to support maternal and child health care, malaria and HIV prevention and treatment, and Global Health Security Agenda and WASH activities.

For President Biden, "Corruption threatens United States national security, economic equity, global anti-poverty and development efforts, and democracy itself. But by effectively preventing and countering corruption and demonstrating the advantages of transparent and accountable governance, we can secure a critical advantage for the United States and other democracies."

In recent months, the Biden administration has also come under pressure from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee where Senators Tim Kaine and Cory Booker--both members of the committee--introduced a legislation, which would require the US President to detail how nominees tipped to serve as ambassador's language skills, foreign policy expertise, and experience have prepared that nominee to effectively lead U.S. diplomatic efforts in the specific country in which they are nominated to serve. "Our ambassadors are critical to building and maintaining the relationships we need to protect not only our own safety and security, but that of our allies around the world," said Senator Kaine.

Senator Booker added: "Ambassadors are crucial to American diplomacy, dedicating their service to protecting the interests and security of the United States.

Given the importance of their role, we must increase oversight and transparency within our nomination process and ensure that those nominated for these positions are adequately qualified to serve and represent our country abroad."

Uganda: Politics in plural societies

By Andrew M. Mwenda

SO, we begin from where we stopped last week with lessons from my former lecturer at the University of London, Mushtaq Khan. Studying South Korea and Pakistan, he found that what makes successful nations is not just the form of government or the quality of political institutions or even the public policies. He says it is the "political settlement" the balance of power between the state (acting as patron) and the different social forces acting as its clients.

According to Khan, in the 1960s, Pakistan and South Korea had the same system of government an all-powerful military ruler who had centralised power in the presidency and personalised it in his hands: Field Marshal Mohammed Ayub Khan in Pakistan and Gen. Park Chung Hee in South Korea.

Both governments pursued a common industrial policy, a selective allocation of state rents such as tax exemptions, government subsidies and access to cheap credit to a small select group of industrial houses. In South Korea, this led to successful industrialisation. In Pakistan, it led to a military coup, a civil war and the breakup of the country. Why?

South Korea, he argued, was a homogenous society with a long history of both statehood and nationhood. Both formal power and effective power were centralised in the state.

Whenever the state pursued a given policy, it could mount relatively unified action without generating what he called "secondary contestations" strong enough to derail it. It is this that produced highly concentrated set of industrial houses, known as the "chaebol" Daewoo, Hyundai, Kia, Sam Sung, etc. It is these few but large family based industrial conglomerates that underpinned South Korea's industrial success.

Pakistan is a heterogenous state riven with multitudes of ethnic and religious factions. It lacked a long history of statehood and nationhood. While formal power could be centralised, (as Ayub Khan did) effective power remained dispersed among diffuse fragments of society. Any policy that favoured one set of interests but neg

lected others could generate very powerful secondary contestations. In such cases, those excluded mounted strong resistance to their exclusion and derailed the state.

For Pakistan, therefore, the best industrial policy would have been an inclusive one, akin to that pursued by Taiwan.

On that Island nation, the ruling party, the KMT, supported a large and diverse group of small industrial houses. This way, it was able to ensure that no major group is excluded from state rents. The lesson? It is not political institutions and public policies (alone) that produce successful and sustained economic transformation. Rather it is their interaction with a country's social dynamics. What is good for the goose may not always be good for the gander.

For Mushtaq Khan, success comes from a strong state relative to society. Such a state is able to impose its will on society without generating secondary contestations capable of derailing it. This view finds support in the work of scholars such as Alice Amsden, Robert Wade, Peter Evans, Joel Migdal among others. They argue that East Asian countries were successful because the state was strong relative to society and could thus impose performance standards on the recipients of its rents.

Evans specifically locates the failure of India and Brazil to transform on the scale of Taiwan and South Korea to the weaknesses of the state relative to society.

However, David Kang, in his book Crony Capitalism: Corruption and Development and the Philippines makes an entirely different argument. For him, a strong state is very likely to cannibalise the private sector.

This, he argues, was the case with the Philippines under Ferdinand Marcos. Kang says that South Korea succeeded because the state and the business community found themselves in such a state that they were "mutual hostages" their power equally balanced and symbiotic.

The success and survival of the state depended to a big degree on the cooperation of the private sector and vice versa. If either side sought to harm the other, both would lose therefore the better to cooperate.

I have a suspicion that even this argument of mutual hostages or mutual dependence works only in some cases. I made this argument in a study I did for the World Bank on the political economy of Uganda's reforms.

I argued that in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Africa was a basket case. Most countries on the continent had suffered prolonged economic decline in spite of but also because of foreign assistance, both technical and financial.

There was aid fatigue. Many people in the West were tired of aid because it was not producing the intended results. Powerful voices emerged asking for an end to aid. However, the international donor community, seeking to justify and perpetuate itself, was hungry for a success story in Africa.

Then comes President Yoweri Museveni and his NRM. They embraced IMF and World Bank policies and implemented them as their own. The economy of Uganda began to grow. Museveni needed the donors for money to kick-start the economy and thereby consolidate his political position.

The donors needed someone who understood and appreciated their ideas and implemented them. But the two sides had disagreements as well, especially on human rights, democracy and Museveni's pursuit of a military solution to the war in the north.

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TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

1.0. INTRODUCTION

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) was established under the Tanzania Revenue Authority Act No.11 Of 1995. The Authority is a semi-autonomous agency of the Government responsible for the administration of the Central Government taxes as well as several non-tax revenues. TRA is currently implementing the Sixth Corporate Plan (CP6: 2022/23 – 2026/27) with the Vision of ***"A Trusted Revenue Administration for Socio-economic Development"*** and the Mission of ***"We Make It Easy to Pay Tax and Enhance Compliance for Sustainable Development".***

TRA would like to recruit qualified, dynamic and ethical personnel to fill positions in the Domestic Revenue, Customs and Excise, Human Resource and Administration, Information and Communication Technology, Board Secretariat and Legal Services, Procurement and Logistics, Research, Policy and Planning, Finance, Internal Audit, internal Affairs and Risk and Compliance Department. Applications are therefore invited from suitable qualified Tanzanians for the followings positions:

2.0. POSITION: DIRECTOR FOR RISK AND COMPLIANCE (1 POST) – RISK AND COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include

- To oversee development and review of TRA's Risk Management Policy in line with Government Guidelines and international best practice.
- To oversee implementation of Risk Management Framework in line with TRA's Risk Management Policy.
- To oversee development and implementation of data policies and processes to ensure data quality assurance.
- To oversee implementation of Business Continuity Management Framework in line with TRA's BCM Policy.
- To coordinate implementation of Quality Management System and Gemba Kaizen Management System.
- To oversee development and management of business intelligence solutions.
- To oversee development and management of data analytics and data mining solutions.
- To coordinate the review of all risk registers for consistency and completeness.
- To oversee and update organization-wide risk profiles, with input from risk owners.
- To oversee risk management programmes in order to enhance risk management culture.
- To oversee TRA's compliance with laws (TRA Act, Tax Laws, Environmental Law, OSHA), regulations, circulars, Quality Standards, procedures and adopted non-binding rules (e.g. Taxpayers Service Charter).
- To develop policies, procedures and guidelines to ensure compliance.
- To serve as Chief Compliance officer for TRA.
- To institute internal controls and ensure that they operate accordingly.
- To provide periodic organizational risk management policy and framework implementation reports to management and TRA Board.
- To provide periodic compliance reports.
- To oversee delivery of quality services when dealing with taxpayers and other stakeholder while discharging statutory obligations.
- To conduct and supervise performance appraisal process within the department.
- To manage staff integrity within the department by ensuring adherence to TRA governance policies and guidelines.
- To perform other duties assigned by Superiors.

Key Qualifications, experience and competencies

Master Degree or Postgraduate Diploma in one of the following fields; Economics, Actuarial Science, Accountancy, Finance, Business Administration majoring in Accountancy or Finance, Taxation, Statistics, Information Technology, Operational Research or equivalent qualifications from a recognized Institution/University with working experience of at least ten (10) years in related field of which five (5) years must be at managerial level.

Salary Scale: TRAS 13

3.0. POSITION: DEPUTY DIRECTOR RESEARCH AND FISCAL POLICY ADVISORY (1 POST) – RESEARCH, POLICY AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include

- To coordinate development, review and implementation of research policy, guidelines, standards and procedures.
- To supervise planning and execution of research functions.
- To supervise preparation of annual forecast of revenue collection, negotiate and agree with the Government and on the collection targets.
- To serve as the TRA link with internal and external stakeholders on matters related to research.
- To coordinate implementation of TRA's Innovation Management Framework.
- To facilitate preparation and implementation of fiscal policy advice to the Government.
- To supervise the development and submission of proposals for tax reforms.
- To coordinate preparation of inputs for the Ministry for Finance and Planning on Parliamentary matters.
- To coordinate gathering and dissemination of statistics requirements for internal and external stakeholders including, Development partners (MDAs, EAC, SADC, DFID, IMF and World Bank).
- To coordinate participation in preparation of TRA's Annual Reports.
- To conduct and supervise performance appraisal process within the division.
- To manage staff integrity within the division by ensuring adherence to TRA governance policies and guidelines.
- To coordinate delivery of quality services when dealing with taxpayers and other stakeholder while discharging statutory obligations.
- To oversee adherence to TRA Management Systems.
- To perform other duties assigned by supervisor.

Key Qualifications, experience and competencies

Master Degree or Postgraduate Diploma in one of the following fields; Economics, Public Finance, Taxation, Statistics, Operations Research or equivalent qualifications from a recognized Institution/University with working experience of at least ten (10) years in the related field of which five (5) years must be at managerial level.

Salary Scale: TRAS 12

4.0. POSITION: PRINCIPAL RISK OFFICER (ACTUARIAL SCIENTIST) (1 POST) – RISK AND COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include

- To analyse statistical data and evaluate them to determine potential risks
- To explore ways to reduce risks analysed
- To supervise and coordinate communication of findings to management for decisions.
- To provide advice based on calculations in ways that non-experts can understand.
- To supervise and coordinate development of IT systems and monitor processes to ensure are efficient and compliant with regulations.
- To provide hands-on support on data mining engineering in the in the TRA.
- To coordinate development of methodologies for data collection on various aspects of the TRA operational programmes.
- To maintain third party data management.
- To review quarter and annual data engineering reports and reports.
- To review and implement TRA data mining and data analytic infrastructure.
- To collaborate with other departments in designing data science infrastructure and ensure it is up to date with current trends and that they involve to stay ahead of the strategic needs of TRA business.
- To promote the design and development of customized data collection, management, and search-and-retrieval systems in order to support the collection, processing, exploitation, analysis and dissemination of big and complex datasets.
- To communicate and present summaries of structured and unstructured data in visual, text-based and interactive formats to non-specialists.
- To ensure delivery of quality services when dealing with taxpayers and other stakeholder while discharging statutory obligations.
- To ensure adherence to TRA Management Systems within the section and;
- Manage staff integrity by ensuring adherence to TRA governance policies and guidelines and;
- To perform other duties as assigned by the superior.

Key Qualifications, experience and competencies

Master's degree or Postgraduate Diploma in one of the following disciplines: Data science, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Actuarial Science, Mathematics, Data Mining or equivalent qualifications with working experience of at least eight (8) years in the related field in which three (3) years must be in a senior position.

Salary Scale: TRAS 7:1

5.0. POSITION: RISK OFFICER II (ACTUARIAL SCIENTIST) (3 POSTS) – RISK AND COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include

- To prepare statistical data and evaluate them to determine potential risks
- To explore ways to reduce risks analysed
- To prepare findings to management for decisions.
- To provide advice based on calculations in ways that non-experts can understand
- To prepare reports and presentations
- To conduct hands on support on data mining engineering in the in the TRA;
- To prepare methodologies for data collection on various aspects of the TRA operational programmes;
- To design and reviews data collection instruments;
- To interacts with the Internet of Things by capturing and merging relevant sources of data for real-time and offline processing
- To integrates and merges the contents of disparate databases into new datasets that meet the specified needs of users
- To processes, generates and translates metadata in order to make data searchable and discoverable for users.
- To prepare and maintain specialized data collection and processing infrastructure to support specialized mission and user needs
- To develops and manages safeguards to protect data holdings according to law, regulation, and policy requirements
- To performs other duties as assigned by superior

Key Qualifications

Bachelor degree of Advanced Diploma in one of the following disciplines: Data science, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Actuarial Science, Mathematics, Data Mining or equivalent qualifications from recognized Institution/University.

Salary Scale: TRAS 4:1

6.0. POSITION: TAX MANAGEMENT OFFICER II (206 POSTS) – DOMESTIC REVENUE DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include

- To assist in the preparation of action plans.
- To conduct face vetting of tax returns.
- To conduct desk audit on simple cases and assist in field audits.
- To conduct physical and compliance surveillance surveys.
- To prepare respective periodic management reports.
- To gather information for new taxpayers' registrations.
- To prepare tax positions for all taxpayers and arrears list and follow up payments.
- To conduct face vetting of application for tax exemptions, relief, refunds, motor
- vehicle and driver's license application.
- To process annual motor vehicle licenses renewal, transfers of ownership and issue
- the licenses.
- To conduct registration, Audit, Data Processing and Examination.
- To perform other duties as assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications

Bachelor Degree or Advanced Diploma in Taxation or Accountancy or Finance or Public Finance or Economics or Business Administration majoring in Finance or Accountancy, or equivalent qualifications from a recognized Institution/University.

Salary Scale: TRAS 4:1

7.0. POSITION: CUSTOMS OFFICER II (41 POSTS) – CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include

- To control imports, export and transit goods.
- To carry out documentary verification.
- To prepare enquiries and offence files.
- To assess and value goods.
- To release goods after payment of duties.
- To prepare various returns for Customs & Excise.
- To prepare Management reports (various).
- To conduct physical verification of goods.
- To perform anti- smuggling patrols.
- To perform other duties as assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications

Bachelor Degree or Advanced Diploma in one of the following fields; Taxation, Customs, Accountancy, Finance, Public Finance, Economics, Business Administration, Law, or equivalent qualifications from a recognized Institution/University.

Salary Scale: TRAS 4:1

8.0. POSITION: TAX MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT II (65 POSTS) – DOMESTIC REVENUE DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include

- To process application for new taxpayers' registration and facilitate issuance of
- Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN).
- To manage return filing processes including identifying none and late filers.
- To manage tax assessments control records such as tax assessments levels,
- assessments in arrears and jeopardy cases.
- To prepare tax returns, assessments and revenue collection reports.
- To process non-account cases returns including withholding tax statements
- To trace missing taxpayers' files.
- To prepare tax clearance certificates, registration of Motor Vehicles, issuance of
- Motor Vehicle annual licenses, issuance and renewal of drivers' licenses.
- To manage objections and appeals controls such as Registers and Tax Stand over orders.
- To gather and file tax information.
- To assist in conducting physical and compliance surveillance surveys
- To prepare cases for enforcement activities.
- To perform other duties assigned by the supervisor.

Key Qualifications

Diploma in Taxation or Customs or Accountancy or Business Administration or Law or equivalent qualifications from a recognized Institution.

Salary Scale: TRAS 3:1

9.0. POSITION: CUSTOMS ASSISTANT II (24 POSTS) – CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include

- To control imports, export and transit goods.
- To examine goods.
- To enter the Data into the Customs System.
- To maintain field records in the Customs system.
- To release goods when physical verification conforms.
- To keep records and maintain documents.
- To check transit documents and shipping orders for bond cancellations.
- To perform any other duties assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications

Diploma in one of the following fields; Taxation, Customs, Accountancy, Business Administration, Law or equivalent qualifications from a recognized Institution.

Salary Scale: TRAS 3:1

10.0. POSITION: ASSISTANT LECTURER (01 POST) – HRA DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include

- To teach up to NTA level 8 (Degree).
- To prepare learning resources for lectures and tutorial exercises.
- To conduct tutorials and seminars for students.
- To participate in the design, delivery and evaluation of training programmes.
- To design and carry out research assignments.
- To conduct consultancy and provide community services.
- To supervise field work and projects of students.
- To participate in carrying out Training Needs Assessment.
- To perform other duties as assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications

Master Degree in Taxation, Customs, Accountancy, Law, ICT, Finance, Economics, Public Finance, Business Administration, Mathematics, Statistics, Quantitative Techniques, Clearing and Forwarding, or equivalent qualifications from a recognized Institution/University with GPA of at least 3.8 at undergraduate studies and an average of at least Grade B at Master Degree level.

Salary Scale: TRAS 5:1

11.0. POSITION: ICT OFFICER II (COMPUTER SYSTEM ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT) (64 POSTS) – ICT DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include

- To assists in capturing user Customer Requirement Specifications.
- To performs systems analysis and design.
- To implement software systems (Write and document code).
- To performs systems testing (Software validation & verification) and document test results.
- To performs system configurations.
- To assists in conducting user acceptance test.
- To participates in design review and provide input for user documentation.
- To liaises with user support staff in supporting end users.
- To maintains and support various business process applications.
- To establish solutions for the identified Authority's requirements covering design and development.
- To implement solution components progressively in accordance with detailed applications designs following enterprise architecture, documentation standards, quality assurance (QA) requirements and approval standards.
- To assist to procure solution components based on the acquisition plan in accordance with requirements and detailed applications designs, architecture principles and standards, and the Authority's overall procurement and contract procedures, QA requirements, and approval standards.
- To develop related reporting and analysis functionality for operational and historical data in ICT systems to enable production of reports and analysis for effective decision making.
- To implement the escalated service development related problems (2nd and/or 3rd level) and their root causes to provide timely resolution to prevent recurring incidents.
- To provide descriptions and relationships between service development related key resources and capabilities required to deliver ICT-enabled services.
- To perform any other duties assigned by the supervisor.

Key Qualifications

Bachelor Degree or Advanced Diploma in one of the following fields; Computer Science, Information and Communications Technology, Software Engineering, Systems Engineering, System Security, Network Administration, Database Administration, or equivalent qualifications from recognized Institutions.

Salary Scale: TRAS 4:1

12.0. POSITION: LEGAL COUNSEL II (12 POSTS) – BSLS DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include

- To identify Court cases which are suitable for settlement out of judicial processes and recommend to the supervisor.
- To draft legal documents as may be assigned.
- To give legal opinions or advise on matters related to functions and operations of TRA.
- To propose amendment and give interpretation of laws administered by TRA.
- To handle administrative activities of the department as may be directed.
- To identify potential risks in relation to activities of the department and report to the supervisor.
- To prepare monthly, quarterly and annual performance reports.
- To perform other duties assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications

Bachelor Degree in Law or equivalent qualifications from recognized Institutions who have successfully attended postgraduate training at Law School of Tanzania or one year internship.

Salary Scale: TRAS 4:1

13.0. POSITION: PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLIES OFFICER II (11 POSTS) – PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include

- To identify stock item requirements for placement of orders.
- To seek approval to purchase the identified requirements.
- To prepare requests for quotations.
- To receive and analyse quotations and recommend awards of tenders.
- To prepare and draft contracts or LPOs to approved bidders.
- To make follow upon orders for timely delivery.
- To receive, inspect and issue goods to user departments.
- To receive, match and submit documents of goods delivered for payment.
- To assist in preparation for stock taking.
- To supervise cleanliness and arrangement for safe keeping.
- To participate in preparation of monthly, quarterly and annual reports.
- To perform other duties assigned by the supervisor.

Key Qualifications

Bachelor Degree or Advanced Diploma in one of the following fields; Procurement and Supplies Management, Materials Management, Logistics Management, Business Administration (specialising in Procurement and Supplies) or equivalent qualifications from recognised institution.

Salary Scale: TRAS 4:1

14.0. POSITION: HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER II (03 POSTS) – HRA DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include

- To attend to employee grievances.
- To interpret various regulations to staff.
- To handle pension and terminal benefits schemes.
- To coordinate staff performance appraisal process.
- To handle labour relation matters at work place.
- To draft letters, circulars and papers related to human resources
- matters.
- To initiate staff requirements for the department.
- To compile training plans and programs.
- To perform other duties assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications

Bachelor Degree in one of the following fields; Human Resources Management, Public Administration, Sociology, Business Administration (Human Resources Management) or equivalent qualification from recognised institution

Salary Scale: TRAS 4:1

15.0. POSITION: TRANSPORT OFFICER II (02 POSTS) – HRA DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include

- To coordinate transport services.
- To responsible for purchase/issuing of fuel and maintenance of vehicle.
- To promptly report on vehicles and motorcycles breakdown
- To supervise the cleaning, maintenance and repair of vehicles and motor vehicles.
- To control transport fleet
- To control and monitor activities of the drivers and fuel allocations.
- To coordinate and supervise transportation of workers during day and night shifts;
- To coordinate implementation of fuel and lubricant permits and control fuel usage.
- To monitor the filling in of logbooks and ensure compliance by drivers and motor
- cyclists.
- To prepare weekly and monthly transportation reports and present it to the
- supervisor.
- To perform any other duties as assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications

- Bachelor Degree in one of the following fields; Transport Management, Logistics Management or equivalent qualifications from a recognised institutions.

Salary Scale: TRAS 4:1

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16.0. POSITION: ESTATE OFFICER II (02 POSTS) – HRA DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
- To assist in preparation and implement preventive and corrective maintenance
- schedules
- To assist in preparation and update Estate Register and housing inventory.
- To assist in drafting and advice review of lease agreements.
- To certify and advise payment of rent to landlord.
- To initiate and coordinate the process of acquisition of title deeds for landed
- properties.
- To record and assist to evaluate request for residential houses to staff.
- To maintain and update the tenancy register for leased in and out premises.
- To perform other duties assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications
Bachelor Degree in one of the following fields; Property and Facilities Management, Civil Engineering, Quantity Survey, Building Economics, Architecture or equivalent qualifications from recognised institution.

Salary Scale: TRAS 4:1

17.0. POSITION: LIBRARIAN II (01 POST) – HRA DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
- To handle matters pertaining to lending out and receipt of books and other reading materials in the library.
- To automate the library catalogue and circulation services.
- To carry out cataloguing and classification of books.
- To index of periodicals and journals.
- To re-shelf books left by readers on the study tables.
- To assist readers for searching information in the computer (through CD-ROM/ internet) and shelves
- To understudy senior members including attending lecturers and seminars.
- To carry out research/consultancy/community services assignments under close supervision.
- To perform other duties as assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications
Bachelor Degree or Advanced Diploma in Library, Information Studies, Documentation or equivalent qualifications from a recognized Institution.

Salary Scale: TRAS 4:1

18.0. POSITION: ECONOMIST II (01 POST) – RPP DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
- To participate in design, management and execution of research projects.
- To undertake relevant evaluation of macroeconomic and revenue performance.
- To supply the data necessary for tax analysis and performance measuring against the government budget and related aspects.
- To maintain and update ordinary assignment files and working papers so they are readily available for future reference.
- To ensure that all research carried out by the team is fully incorporated in the legal and administrative aspect of taxation.
- To keep updated on local and international institutional arrangements and related areas and communicate them to colleagues.
- To prepare quarterly macroeconomic performance reports.
- To participate in preparation of responses on issues raised by parliament especially during the budget session.
- To perform other duties assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications
- Bachelor Degree in one of the following fields; Economics, Agricultural Economics, Economic Planning, or equivalent qualifications from recognised institutions/University.
- Knowledge in the application of various statistical and econometric softwares is an added advantage.

Salary Scale: TRAS 4:1

19.0. POSITION: INFORMATION SYSTESM AUDITOR II (01 POST) – INTERNAL AUDIT DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
- To assess and analyse risks pertinent to the organisations' Information Systems.
- To participate in drawing plans and programmes for Information Systems and audits.
- To evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of the Information Systems controls.
- To conduct audit tests and procedures necessary to establish compliance with Information Systems operating practices and standards.
- To follow-up on the implementation of previous audit recommendations.
- To perform other duties assigned by the supervisor.

Key Qualifications
Bachelor Degree or Advanced Diploma in one of the following fields; Information Technology, Information Systems, Computer Science or equivalent qualifications from recognized Institutions. Possession of Certificate in Computer Assisted Audit Techniques (CAATS) is added advantage

Salary Scale: TRAS 4:1

20.0. POSITION: TUTORIAL ASSISTANT II (12 POSTS) – HRA DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
- To teach up to NTA level 6 (Ordinary Diploma).
- To assist in conducting tutorials and practical exercises for students.
- To prepare learning resources for tutorial exercise.
- To assist in carrying out research/consultancy/community services assignments.
- To perform other duties assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications
Bachelor Degree or Advanced Diploma in Taxation, Customs, Accountancy, Law, ICT, Finance, Economics, Public Finance, Business Administration, Mathematics, Statistics, Quantitative Techniques, Clearing and Forwarding, Linguistics or equivalent qualifications from a recognized Institution/University with GPA of at least 3.8.

Salary Scale: TRAS 4:1

21.0. POSITION: SKIPPER II (11 POSTS) – CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
- To ensure all navigation equipment work perfectly.
- To ensure safety of the boat and the personnel is maintained at all times
- To arrange with navy/TPDF to get armed soldiers.
- To communicate with port authorities for the permission to proceed to sea.
- To act as a link between boat matters and management.
- To maintain deck log book and voyage reports.

Key Qualifications
- Form IV Certificate plus Certificate of Competency (COC) Class 3 and Mandatory Certificates i.e. medical care or advanced fire-fighting or survival at sea or PSSR or GMDSS.
- Relevant training in Customs procedures will be added advantage

Salary Scale: TRAS 3:1

22.0. POSITION: ICT TECHNICIAN II (6 POSTS) – ICT DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
Hardware
- To install PCs, EFD and peripherals
- To assist in the repair and maintenance of computers and audio-visual equipment;
- To ensure that computers in computer laboratories and offices are in good working condition
- To provide assistance to computer end users
- To carry out specified routine technical tasks.
- To provide technical support for PCs, EFD and related peripheral equipment
- To assist in testing new or modified equipment and systems.
- To document and communicate problems, solutions, and the implementation process to supervisor

Software
- To store copies of software and documentations of computer systems
- To assist ICT Officers in finding source documents and solutions for identified problems
- To maintain operations, system development and/or programming documentation manual libraries.
- To perform archiving of official documents
- To perform simple coding of raw data on source documents by applying established, clearly defined codes;
- To key data from source documents; verify keyed data; upload data to computer server.
- To review production output for accuracy and validity by comparing the output data with the job request and systems documentation standards and procedures
- To assist programmers in testing new or revised application programs.
- To validate (check, verify dates and times, etc.) input to and output from information systems.
- To advise programmers in problems related to data entry
- To maintain data processing systems, tape library and disk storage.
- To monitor console for errors; observe elements of operation for evidence of incorrect operation.
- To separate and sort output for distribution; set up input job streams and submit
- jobs; schedule submission of work to the system.
- To perform any other duties as may be assigned by Supervisor.

Key Qualifications
Holder of Ordinary Diploma in Computer Science, Information Technology, Information Systems or equivalent qualifications from a recognized Institution

Salary Scale: TRAS 3:1

23.0. POSITION: RECORDS MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT II (6 POSTS) – HRA DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
- To register incoming and outgoing mails.
- To control movement of files.
- To file the letters and other documents received.
- To ensure timely circulation of documents to designated officers for necessary action.
- To bring up the files to the respective staff for action and retrieve the files from the staff for filing of incoming mail.
- To take stock of the files kept by staff.
- To open and close files.
- To assist in supervision of out sourced services.
- To account for the stamps used for postage of letters.
- To perform other duties assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications
Diploma in Records Management/Archives or equivalent qualifications from recognised institution

Salary Scale: TRAS 3:1

24.0. POSITION: TECHNICIAN II (CIVIL) (06 POSTS) – HRA DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
- To assist in supervision for repair and maintenance of motor vehicle, machines,
- equipment and furniture.
- To assist in coordination of insurance matters, cleaning, services, motor vehicle maintenance done by sub-contractors and security systems.
- To assist the supervision of services provided by internal and external service
- providers.
- To maintain high customer service.
- To performs other duties assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications
Full Technician Certificate (FTC) or Diploma in Civil/Electrical/ Plumbing or equivalent qualifications from recognised institution

Salary Scale: TRAS 3:1

25.0. POSITION: TECHNICIAN II (ELECTRICAL) (2 POSTS) – HRA DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
- To assist in supervision for repair and maintenance of motor vehicle, machines,
- equipment and furniture.
- To assist in coordination of insurance matters, cleaning, services, motor vehicle
- maintenance done by sub-contractors and security systems.
- To assist the supervision of services provided by internal and external service
- providers.
- To maintain high customer service.
- To performs other duties assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications
Full Technician Certificate (FTC) or Diploma in Civil/Electrical/ Plumbing or equivalent qualifications from recognised institution

Salary Scale: TRAS 3:1

26.0. POSITION: TECHNICIAN II (PLUMBER) (02 POSTS) – HRA DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
- To assist in supervision for repair and maintenance of motor vehicle, machines,
- equipment and furniture.
- To assist in coordination of insurance matters, cleaning, services, motor vehicle
- maintenance done by sub-contractors and security systems.
- To assist the supervision of services provided by internal and external service
- providers.
- To maintain high customer service.
- To performs other duties assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications
Full Technician Certificate (FTC) or Diploma in Civil/Electrical/ Plumbing or equivalent qualifications from recognised institution

Salary Scale: TRAS 3:1

27.0. POSITION: BOAT TECHNICIAN II (05 POSTS) – CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
- To check and maintain boat electrical and mechanical machineries to
- make sure they are in good working order and report any deficiency.
- To check the state of bunkers (fuel, water) and lubricants are at
- operational level and recorded accordingly.
- To ensure availability of consumable spares on boat.
- To assist the boat captain during mooring and unmooring of the boat.
- To conduct planning of the service and maintenance schedule (including
- dry docking of the boat) and machineries and participate in the repair process.
- To ensure safety of the equipment, machineries and personnel is
- maintained at all times.
- To maintain engine log book.
- To perform other duties assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications
Form IV Certificate plus Certificate of Competency (COC) Class 1+2+3. Possession of Mandatory Certificate i.e. medical care or advanced fire- fighting or survival at sea or PSSR or GMDSS or its equivalent. Training in customs procedures will be added advantage.

Salary Scale: TRAS 2:1

28.0. POSITION: RATING II (01 POST) – CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
- To assist the boat captain on steering the boat.
- To assist the engineer to carry out the services and repairs.
- To assist the mooring and unmooring the boat.
- To maintain day to day cleanliness of the boat hull, engine and boat machineries.
- To carry out paint touch-ups on corroded parts.
- To perform dock duties as assigned by captain or engineer while on dock.
- To ensure availability of cleaning materials and provisions on the boat

Key Qualifications
Form IV Certificate plus possession of the Mandatory Certificates i.e. Survival at Sea or First Aid or Firefighting or EDH or rating certificate or relevant courses in swimming or deep sea diving and customs issues.

Salary Scale: TRAS 3:1

29.0. POSITION: ACCOUNTS OFFICER II (01 POST) – FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
- To prepare weekly/monthly revenue collection, transfers, revenue float and tax exemption reports.
- To capture invoices, payment vouchers and credit memos in the expenditure accounting system.
- To prepare salary journal vouchers, deduction schedules, print salary slips and distribute to regions and departments.
- To prepare monthly expenditure reports and supporting schedules.
- To prepare budget and physical performance report for the Finance Unit on quarterly basis.
- To participate in quarterly stock taking exercise.
- To ensure that all over-the-counter receipts are banked intact and promptly.
- To ensure timely filling of performance report as per QMS requirement.
- To perform any other duties assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications
Bachelor Degree or Advanced Diploma in one of the following fields; Accountancy, Finance, Commerce or Business Administration majoring in Accountancy or Finance or equivalent qualifications from recognized Institutions. Ability to use different Accounting packages/software is an added advantage.

Salary Scale: TRAS 4:1

30.0. POSITION: SECURITY SYSTEM OPERATOR II (02 POSTS) – INTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
- To conduct programming and activation of the Access cards.
- To monitor CCTV and surveillance systems.
- To oversee functioning of CCTV, Access Control and Alarm system.
- To record and report CCTV events.
- To attend to complaints related to Access Control and CCTV.
- To supervise security system maintenance.
- To monitor intrusion in restricted areas.
- To report technical faults arising.
- To perform any other duties assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications
Diploma in one of the following fields; Information and Communications Technology, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Electronics Engineering or equivalent qualifications from a recognized Institution.

Salary Scale: TRAS 3:1

31.0. POSITION: PERSONAL SECRETARY II (12 POSTS) – HRA DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
- To receive, interview and direct visitors accordingly.
- To prepare letters and various documents.
- To handle confidential and sensitive information.
- To ensure that working tools are in good order and the working environment is well maintained.
- To receive and make telephone calls.
- To maintain a register detailing records for incoming and outgoing mails and files.
- To communicate information by typing, sending and receiving emails/faxes.
- To keep diaries of events and make appointments for and on behalf of the designated officer.
- To organize and follow upon travel and related logistics for meetings, field visits, and any other programmes.
- To process, file, sort and retrieve information.
- To perform other duties assigned by the supervisor

Key Qualifications
- Diploma in Secretarial Studies/Computer Studies or equivalent qualifications from recognised institution who have passed Shorthand (English) and Hati Mkato (Kiswahili) at a speed of 80 words per minute
- Computer knowledge in MS-Word, MS-Excel, Internet, Email, MS-Publisher from a recognized institution.

Salary Scale: TRAS 3:1

32.0. POSITION: DRIVER II (4 POSTS) – HRA DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
- To drive motor vehicles in accordance with road traffic rules and regulations.
- To inspect motor vehicles before and after any route/journey in order to identify required maintenances or rehabilitation.
- To ensure that a motor vehicle and its equipment's (jack, spanner, space tyre etc) are available and are in good condition.
- To carry out minor/routine maintenances of vehicles.
- To maintain the car logbook by recording all trips and fuel consumption.
- To prepare fuel, oil and car log book returns for the vehicle.
- To ensure that motor vehicle doors and windows are properly locked and safe all the time.
- To maintain the vehicle and report to the supervisor any vehicle defects that which need repairs.
- To assist in collecting and dispatching mails.
- To ensure cleanness of motor at all time.
- To report any accident immediately to Supervisor or Traffic Police.
- To perform other duties assigned by the supervisor.

Key Qualifications
- Form IV Certificate who have attended Basic Driving Course offered by VETA or any recognized Institution and has Class "C1 or E" Driving License.
- The candidate must have driving experience of at least one (1) year without causing an accident.

Salary Scale: TRAS 1:1

33.0. POSITION: OFFICE ASSISTANT II (14 POSTS) – HRA DEPARTMENT

Key Responsibilities will include
- To distribute documents to respective offices.
- To collect and forward mail to Post Office.
- To move files to and from registries.
- To open office doors in the morning and close the same in the evening.
- To carry out photocopying and binding of documents.
- To assist in organizing for pre-meeting arrangements when needed.
- To distribute mails internally to respective offices & staff.
- To duplicate documents, such as circulars and other publications.
- To circulate files and documents internally to respective staff.
- To prepare and serve tea and refreshments to staff and during meetings and
- workshops.
- To perform other duties assigned by the supervisor.

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Key Qualifications
- National Form IV Certificate with passes in English and Kiswahili.
- The candidate should have attended training course in Office Assistance or Cleaning or Office Management or equivalent conducted by VETA or any other recognized training institution.

Salary Scale: TRAS 1:1

34.0. GENERAL INFORMATION/REQUIREMENT

1. Applicants **MUST** be ready to work anywhere in the United Republic of Tanzania.
2. All applicants must be citizens of Tanzania with an age of not above 45 years of age except for those who are in Public Service.
3. Applicants must attach up to date Curricurum Vitae (CV) having reliable contacts, postal address/post code,emails and telephone numbers.
4. Applicants should apply on the strength of the information given in this advertisement.
5. Applicants must attach their certified copies of the certificates.
   a) Postgraduate/Degree/Advanced Diploma/Diploma/Certificates.
   b) Postgraduate/Degree/Advanced Diploma/Diploma transcripts.
   c) Form IV and Form VI National Examination Certificates.
   d) Computer Certificates.
   e) Professional Certificates from relevant authorities.
   f) One recent passport size picture.
   g) Birth Certificate.
6. Attaching copies of the following certificates is strictly not accepted.
   - **Form IV and form VI results slip**
   - **Testimonials and all Partial transcript**
7. Presentation of forged certificates and other information will necessitate to legal action.
8. Applicants employed in the public service should route thier application letters thorught their respective employers.
9. An Applicant who is retired from the Public Service for whatever reason should not apply.
10. An Applicant should indicate three reputable referees with their reliable contacts.
11. An applicants with special needs/case (disability) is supposed/advised to indicate.
12. Certificates from foreign examination bodies for ordinary or Advanced level education should be verified by The National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) and National Council for Technical Education (NACTE).
13. Professional certificates from foreign Universities and other training institution should be verified by The Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU).
14. A signed Application letter should be written either English or Swahili and addressed to Commissioner General, **P.O. Box 11491, Mchafukoge - Dar Es Salaam**
15. Deadline for application is 9th June, 2023.
16. Only short listed candidates will be informed on a date for interview.

NOTE: All application must be sent through Recruitment portal by using following address https://recruitment.tra.go.tz/tra_careers/Career.aspx and not otherwise.

35.0. APPLICATION DEADLINE
The application should be submitted online by **9th June, 2023.** Applicants who will not be contacted should regard themselves unsuccessful.

36.0. MODE OF APPLICATION
*Click **'Vacancies'** link to select the position then "**click here to apply online".** All applicants are required to properly fill in the application form provided in the system. Please be informed that shortlisting has been automated through the Human Resources Information System (Aruti). Therefore, a failure to fill in all the fields properly may lead to disqualification.*

For assistance on how to fill in the Job Application Form please make use of on line "HELP" available under the Application Form or dial TRA Call Centre Tel: 0800 750075, 0800 780078 and 0800 110016 from 0800 to 1700 Hours Monday to Friday. These are Toll free numbers.

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TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

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FEATURE

Sudan: Khartoum is falling - the global community must move fast to protect children in their darkest moments

By Joyce Chimbi

Smoke rises behind buildings in Khartoum on April 19, 2023, as fighting between the army and paramilitaries raged for a fifth day after a 24-hour truce collapsed. AFP

AS unprecedentedly fierce armed battles play out on the streets of Khartoum, more than 600 people are dead, thousands injured, and over 1 million displaced.

The fighting, which broke out suddenly on April 15, 2023, between the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces and Sundanese Armed Forces, is Sudan's third internal war - and has exacerbated the humanitarian crisis the region was already facing.

More than 220,000 people have crossed the borders. Without a ceasefire, it will get even worse as a protracted crisis is in the making. UNHCR projects that this number could reach 860,000 as conflict escalates.

Education Cannot Wait's Executive Director Yasmine Sherif came face-to-face with the effects of the brutal conflict during a recent high-level field mission with UNHCR, UNICEF, the Jesuit Refugee Service, and local partners to the border regions of Chad and Sudan, where they witnessed the impacts of the war. In these remote places, large numbers of incoming refugees - a majority of women and children - have settled in flimsy temporary homemade tents. Children are particularly vulnerable and urgently need the protection and support that emergency education interventions provide.

"What we saw is appalling, a heartbreaking dire situation growing very fast. In just two days, the number of refugees grew from 30,000 to 60,000, and 70 percent of them were school-age children. But I am encouraged by the commendable work that UNHCR is doing on the ground."

The UN's global fund for education responded with speed to the escalating Sudan refugee regional crisis by announcing a new 12-month USD 3 million First Emergency Response grant. Sherif says this is a catalytic fund to help UNHCR and its partners, in close coordination with Chad's government, kick start a holistic education program.

Before the new crisis erupted in Sudan and despite Chad being one of the poorest countries in the world, Chad was already hosting Africa's fourth largest refugee population.

"Chad is second to last on the Human Development Index, only before South Sudan. The government of Chad is showing very progressive policies and generosity. They have very little resources, and yet they still receive refugees and provide them with much-needed security," she observes.

Sherif lauded the government's progressive policy on refugee inclusion within its national education system, stressing that it serves as a model example for the whole region. The new grant brings ECW's total investments to support vulnerable children's education in Chad to over USD 41 million. ECW and its partners have reached over 830,000 children in the country since 2017, focusing on refugee and internally displaced children, host communities, girls, children with disabilities, and other vulnerable children.

Funding is urgently needed and critical to implement the regional refugee response plan, which includes an estimated cost of USD 26.5 million for education. While Sudan shares borders with seven countries, including the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Libya, and South Sudan, nearly all of them are dealing with protracted crises or effects of years of a protracted crisis and require urgent funding to meet the needs of refugees.

"The refugees we met in eastern Chad are in a dire situation. They fled their homes with barely anything and are in very remote and hard-to-reach areas where infrastructures are scarce, and temperatures rise above 40 Celsius. Without emergency relief from international organizations such as UNHCR and UNICEF, it would be difficult for them to survive for long," she explains.

Despite the government's best efforts, Chad is dealing with multiple successive shocks, such as climate-induced disasters, large-scale internal displacement, and the Lake Chad and Central African refugee crises, which have eroded the delivery of basic services.

"ECW has made various investments in Chad, including a multiyear resilient program for vulnerable refugee and internally displaced children and their host communities, and other marginalized children in Chad, that has been going on for three years and will be renewed next year. We have also provided USD 2 million in response to the floods or climate-induced disasters affecting Chad," Sherif says.

"We are now providing this catalytic USD 3 million funding to help UNCHR to provide immediate access to holistic education to the new cohort of refugees arriving from Sudan. ECW's holistic support enhances school infrastructure and provides school feeding, quality learning materials, mental health, psycho-social services, teachers' training, and inclusive education approaches. We hope this will inspire other donors and contributors to meet the remaining financing gap."

Chad's education performance indicators are among the lowest in sub-Saharan Africa, with 56 percent of primary school-aged children out of school.

UNHCR and its partners in Chad require USD 8 million to implement the education component of the regional refugee response plan. EWC has provided about 40 percent of the budget; the international community should assist with the remaining 60 percent. Sherif hopes that additional support will also be forthcoming for UNICEF and partners to cater to the host communities, who also need support to access quality education.

Incoming refugees live in precarious conditions, lacking the most basic facilities, and need urgent assistance and empowerment. As conditions become increasingly dire, ECW funding will provide access to safe and protective learning environments for incoming refugee girls and boys and support the host communities.

The depth and magnitude of this conflict on children and adolescents are such that their learning and development will most certainly be impaired if immediate access to education is not provided. ECW support offers an opportunity for holistic education to mitigate the debilitating long-term effects of war on young minds.

Fleeing children and adolescents will need immediate psycho-social support and mental health care to cope with the stress, adversity, and trauma of the outbreak of violence and their perilous escape. They will need school meals, water, and sanitation.

"To the international community, we must act now. This is a moral issue; we must prioritize and show solidarity. Our support must be generous. The world cannot afford to lose an entire generation due to this senseless conflict," Sherif stresses.

ECW and its strategic partners are committed to reaching 20 million crisis-impacted children and adolescents over the next four years. To this end, ECW seeks to mobilize a minimum of USD 1.5 billion from government donors, the private sector, and philan-

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY
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
7:10 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
10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO
13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13:30 HRS DJ SHOW
16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO
18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
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 TIZII
23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF
23.03 HRS AFRO TIZII
01:00 -05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHGANGANYIKO)

TUESDAY
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
7:10 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
09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA
10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF
10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO
13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13:30 HRS DJ SHOW
16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO
18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
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 TIZII
23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF
23.03 HRS AFRO TIZII
01:00 - 05:00HRSMUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO)

WEDNESDAY
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
7:10 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
09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO
10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF
10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO
13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13:30 HRS DJ SHOW
16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO
18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
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 TIZII
23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF
23.03 HRS AFRO TIZII
01:00-05:00HRS HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO)

THURSDAY
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
7:10 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
09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI
10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF
10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO
13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13:30 HRS DJ SHOW
16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO
18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
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 TIZII
01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO

FRIDAY
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
7:10 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
10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.10 AM HIZI NAZO
13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13:30 HRS DJ SHOW
16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO
18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO
20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN
20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI
21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF
21.05HRS KIPIMA JOTO
23.00 HRS WEEKEND SHOW
01:00 - 05:00HRSMUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO

SATURDAY
TIME PROGRAMME
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 NEWSPAPERS 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 MTAA 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
16.15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO
18:00 HRS BONGO TEN
19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO
20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN
20.15 HRS CHEMSHA 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 WEEK END SHOW III
01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO

SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME
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 NEWSPAPERS 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
13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13.30 HRS NANI ZAIDI
16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.30 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI
18:00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA
19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO
20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN
20:10 HRS MBAVU 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 II
01:00 - 05:00 MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One

The Guardian www.ippmedia.com

SMART MONEY

Tuesday 30 May 2023

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Tanzania becomes first to experience KLM's new cabin class
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AFRICA DAY:

Let's put resources behind Africa's young people – AfDB's Adesina

SHARMA EL SHEIKH

DELEGATES attended the 2023 African Development Bank Group's Annual Meetings held here, celebrated Africa Day last week, amid hopes for better prospects for the continent and its youth.

The commemoration, which marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the African Union, allowed for retrospection by member countries on how the continent can surmount its challenges towards achieving prosperity.

Addressing the event, African Development Bank President, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, said the occasion must provide the impetus for the continent to rise, challenges notwithstanding.

"Africa should lift itself economically, financially, and politically to surmount every hurdle in its way," Adesina said, stressing that the continent has abundant resources that, if well-managed, can help move it forward.

"We have great sunshine; we have water... we have 65 percent of the arable land left to feed 9 billion people worldwide by 2050. We have minerals and metals - 80 percent of the world's platinum is in Africa, 50percent of the world's cobalt is in Africa, 40 percent of the world's nickel is in Africa," the Bank chief reiterated.

He said there must be consistent efforts to bolster peace and security to attract foreign investment and expand trade.

He called on political and business leaders to put resources at risk behind Africa's young people, who he said, are very innovative.

"Africa has young people that can grow bigger than Bill Gates; that can grow bigger than (Mark) Zuckerberg," Adesina said, adding that the youth's potential is evident in the fintech industry, which young people dominate.

Adesina cited various human capital support programs being implemented by the Bank to prop up startups. These include its YouthAdapt program, initiated jointly with the Global Center for Adaptation.

Adesina said the Bank is also setting up youth entrepreneurship investment banks across Africa to support young people's businesses. "Africa can have youth-based wealth, and to have that youth-based wealth, we need financial institutions around them."

He mentioned some celebrated African professionals who have excelled abroad in diverse areas, saying the African diaspora is replete with talent that must be attracted to play a role in the continent's transformation agenda.

In his opening speech, Dr. Albert Muchanga, African Union Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals, paid tribute to African heroes who sacrificed to see the continent progress.

He noted that the continent's progress over the 60 years has been mixed.

Africa's young people

"As we look at the road travelled 60 years ago, we can celebrate some achievements, and one key achievement is continental unity; we can also not deny that there have been setbacks, and one of the key setbacks is unconstitutional changes of government," Muchanga said.

He said all is not lost, adding that there are high hopes for the new generation to drive the continent's future. "The youth are the innovators, and they are able to take advantage of emerging technologies."

He said the AU had instituted schemes across all its departments, including a Junior Professional Program to equip young graduates. It also has a start-up program that complements youth initiatives implemented by partner organizations such as the African Development Bank.

Dr. Muchanga mentioned the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area to foster trade policy harmonization and eventually transform the agreement into a common market that will lead to adopting a single currency union.

The event featured a panel of selected youth entrepreneurs from the continent who shared their experiences about their challenges while seeking financial support for their startups.

Thursday's celebration showcased rich African culture through music and dance as proceedings were interspersed with traditional and pan-African pop music, drawing attendees, including scores of youth, to the floor.

In an illustration, Egypt's Minister of Youth and Sports, Ashraf Sobhy, shared the successes of various initiatives implemented by his government to build the capacity of the youth. These include leadership programs involving the youth across the continent in partnership with the African Development Bank and Egypt's central bank.

Sobhy called for further feasibility studies to assess the needs of the youth to provide the right environment for them to initiate critical projects for the continent's transformation.

He said the Bank Group's 2023 Annual Meeting recommendations would be essential to carving a path for the youth, whom he described as "the tree of life for our continent."

Key charts to watch in global commodity market

NEW YORK

COPPER and European natural gas futures prices are both in the midst of multi-week losing streaks, while oil is looking to maintain the momentum after a two-week rally.

In the US, investors will be focused on two annual general meetings from oil behemoths Exxon Mobil Corp. and Chevron Corp. Here are five notable charts to consider as the week in commodities gets underway.

Big Oil

Exxon is scheduled to hold its AGM on Wednesday. Two years ago, the oil giant suffered a rare defeat after activist investor Engine No. 1 – who held a tiny slice of Exxon shares – led a successful campaign to win board seats, part of a push to improve the company's performance and accelerate its climate change goals.

Since then, the stock has soared almost 80 percent – outperforming the 23-member S&P 500 Energy Index – showing the company may be under a lot less pressure from shareholders this time around. Chevron also hosts its annual meeting the same day.

Shipping

Panamax vessels used to carry grain and coal around the world are facing more delays amid a surge in demand. Ships are waiting longer at countries like Turkey and China, which have raised their imports of food and fuel this year.

Congestion levels in March surged to 20 percent of the total Panamax fleet, the highest since August 2021, according to Arrow Shipbroking Group.

While more ships are tied up waiting, bulk freight rates for these vessels are still struggling after sinking to a two-year low set in February, signaling an oversupply of ships.

Natural Gas

European natural gas prices have plunged 68 percent this year, and there's little indication the slide will end anytime soon amid weak demand, larger-than-usual inventories and mild weather. Benchmark futures fell for the eighth straight week on Friday, the longest string of weekly losses since 2007.

The slump raises questions about the possibility producers will curb production and how prices may be impacted heading into the Northern Hemisphere winter.

Already, futures for December, January and February are trading below €50 per megawatt-hour. Meanwhile, natural gas prices in the US are also showing weakness, tumbling more than 50 percent in 2023.

Oil & OPEC+

Despite a recent rally, oil is about 10 percent lower for the year as traders grapple with China's lackluster post-Covid economic recovery, aggressive interest-rate hikes from the Federal Reserve and concerns over the US debt ceiling.

That comes even after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies shocked markets in early April with an unexpected cut to production, which initially sent prices higher amid supply concerns.

OPEC+ members are scheduled to meet June 3-4 in Vienna, with market watchers anticipating no change in output after Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said last week the cartel wasn't likely to take further measures, an apparent contrast to remarks a few days earlier from Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman saying speculators should "watch out."

Copper

The red metal will take center stage as the Peru copper conference gets underway in Lima, bringing together industry executives, traders and government officials to share ideas related to mining and exploration.

While copper prices had a solid start to the year, futures on the London Metal Exchange declined for a sixth straight week on Friday amid fading momentum in top consumer China and fears over the global economy.

Copper is hovering above $8,000 a metric ton after falling below the closely watched level last week – and breaching the lower limits of its trading envelope, a technical measure built around moving price averages. The development can often signal the downward momentum may be overdone, while the widening band can indicate further volatility lies ahead.

European natural gas prices have plunged 68 percent this year, and there's little indication the slide will end anytime soon amid weak demand, larger-than-usual inventories and mild weather. Benchmark futures fell for the eighth straight week on Friday, the longest string of weekly losses since 2007

CBK reveals cheap, expensive Kenyan banks

NAIROBI

SMALL lenders such as First Community Bank (FCB), Ecobank of Kenya and HF Bank dominate the list of banks offering lower interest rates in the latest regulatory disclosure that puts large players such as Absa and Equity Group among those with the steepest rates.

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) data on the average lending rates commercial banks offer show 27 of the 39 commercial banks have raised their overall rates in the three months to March.

The review puts the lowest rate at nine percent (FCB) and the highest at 17.6 percent (Credit Bank). The highest rate was 14.6 percent (Sidian) in December.

FCB, a shariah-compliant lender that was in March cleared to sell 62.5 percent stake to Premier Bank Limited of Somalia, had a uniform rate of nine percent for personal, business and corporate loans.

Ecobank Kenya follows with an average rate of 10.7 percent while HF and Access Bank Kenya follow with 11 and 11.2 percent respectively.

Credit Bank, with an average loan rate of 17.6 percent, tops the charts with higher rates followed by Middle East Bank (16 percent) and Sidian at 14.9 percent.

Absa and the country's most profitable lender, Equity Bank Kenya, are ranked sixth and seventh, with interest rates averaging 14.2 percent and 14.1 percent respectively.

The banks' disclosures to the CBK do not, however, factor in costs such as negotiation fees, legal fees and insurance, which typically increase the effective cost of servicing loans.

Banks usually post a breakdown of other fees on a website that was developed by the Kenya Bankers Association (KBA) and the CBK to enhance transparency.

Lenders that are more into personal and SME banking tend to charge more fees because the loan itself is smaller when compared with corporate loans.

Lenders with many repeat customers sometimes trim fees on subsequent loans.

Absa will adopt the risk-based pricing model on loans in the second half of the year after obtaining the CBK's nod last year.

Equity had in January informed customers that it was reviewing its lending rates to between 12.5 percent and 21.02 percent after it started implementing the risk-based pricing in an environment of rising benchmark rates.

At the end of March, the CBK raised its benchmark lending rate to a five-year high of 9.5 percent from 8.75 percent as a counter-inflation measure that set the stage for costlier loans.

The jumbo rate hike was aimed at easing demand for credit in the hope of taming inflation, which dropped from 9.2 percent in March to 7.9 percent in April. Inflation, however, has remained above the government's targeted upper limit of 7.5 percent for 11 consecutive months.

Another CBK meeting held yesterday at a time the KBA has called on the regulator to keep the benchmark rate unchanged.

Banks have been riding on the increased benchmark rates to revise their interest rates upwards, despite the prevailing economic difficulties that have seen defaults start mounting.

The average commercial bank lending rate breached the 13 percent mark for the first time since July 2018 in February to an average 13.06 percent from 12.7 percent in December and the upward momentum continues.

First Community Bank (FCB)

The Guardian www.ippmedia.com

SMART MONEY

Real-time settlement of bonds is 'fundamentally problematic'

By Burhan Khadbai

INSTANT settlement of debt securities is frequently cited as something that can be achieved with electronic debt capital markets platforms and digital bonds. But it is simply not realistic when the current payments system in bonds markets is flawed.

The developments in digital bond markets, ways to improve the inefficiencies in primary debt markets and the challenges faced by issuers were discussed in detail at the Public sector debt summit, hosted by OMFIF's Sovereign Debt Institute in London. This exclusive, in-person event brought together around 20 global sovereign, supranational and agency borrowers, a similar number of investors as well as other key market participants to explore the important issues facing the public sector bond market.

Speed over efficiency

Settlement of SSA bonds typically takes five to seven days. This is referred to as 'T+5' and 'T+7', where T is the transaction date and the number being the amount of days after which the bonds settle – when the security clears from seller to buyer. Electronic DCM platforms and digital bonds can speed up this settlement and even bring same-day settlement. But this has its problems: one head of funding at a leading supranational borrower at the summit described T+0 settlement as 'fundamentally problematic'.

'I'm not convinced at the moment when we have failed now to be able to make very simple payments correctly through the systems in a way that it should that [T+0] is actually even desirable,' she said. 'Maybe at the moment we need to be working out how we go back to basics to ensure that we can all agree payments in a very seamless way before we then start trying to take the next steps.'

It is simply not possible to digitalise the entire chain of issuance in the bond markets, particularly on payments where not all systems agree on the same number. 'Sometimes we need to go back to Excel spreadsheets, because our system is not going to produce the same answer as a bank system, which is going to be different than the paying agent, which is going to be different than the other leads,' she explained.

When new risk-free reference rates were being rolled out a few years ago, public sector borrowers ran into many issues with the first coupon payments for those deals. The issuers' internal and external systems all produced different figures thanks to differences in rounding, causing issuers to manually calculate the coupons on Excel spreadsheets before a new structure for those transactions was introduced. This is an example of where digitalisation and real-time settlement would have created more problems rather than a solution.

Business problem, not technology

In addition to the issues around payments, there are concerns for global investors in different times zones. As safe-haven assets and highly rated, SSA bonds are high-demand securities with investors all over the world entering the books of these deals.

'Fundamentally, it is a business problem, not a technology problem,' said a senior official at a settlement house. 'And the business problem first needs to be addressed, before we run with the technology.' In a poll of the attendees at the summit, 75% said T+0 was not achievable from a business perspective.

T+2 or T+3 settlement is perhaps more realistic to take into account the different time zones for investors across Asia, Latin America and other regions. Any settlement quicker than that is problematic for custodian banks to get all the information from investors and send the money for settlement.

There was unanimity among issuers at the summit on the need to improve the inefficiencies of the technology and systems in bond markets before the advancement in technology and the introduction of digital assets.

'We always forget that internal digitalisation is probably the biggest challenge,' said a senior funding official at a European agency borrower. 'To go from paper to a purely digital document and how to integrate that in the process.' The official said the issuer was working on a test trade via a digital post-trade platform to see how they could digitalise the process of issuing bonds.

'What I've learned is that we have to take small steps, so that's what we're trying to do,' said a treasurer at another European agency borrower, who said they were onboarding a digital platform's workflow system. 'We issue bonds many times a year, so how can it be that legal documentation takes such a long time, because I would assume that the legal documentation is the same every time and that you only have to adjust the coupon and maturity?'

The reality is that bond markets have not moved a long way towards digitalisation and there is much more work for all parties in the debt capital markets to get on with.

Burhan Khadbai is Head of Content, Sovereign Debt Institute

Emerging markets warned against swift rate reduction

LONDON

TIGHT labour markets and loose fiscal policies will prolong inflation in some developing countries, warn analysts, with underlying price pressures remaining stubbornly entrenched even as food and energy prices fall from last year's highs.

After a round of tightening to tackle soaring inflation fuelled by the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions and Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, politicians and some central bank policymakers are keen to cut interest rates quickly to boost weak growth. But analysts warn that cutting too soon will backfire on developing economies.

"In monetary policy, [showing] resolve up front saves you more pain later," said David Hauner, head of emerging market cross-asset strategy at Bank of America Global Research. "If you let go too early, you have to go back and inflict more pain [by raising rates again]."

Analysts say inflation is being entrenched by structural issues, such as a longstanding shortage of labour in central Europe and the use of indexation in Latin America, in which contracts such as rental agreements are automatically adjusted in line with higher prices. Wage inflation is high in both regions.

The fall in energy prices has helped to bring headline inflation down. In Brazil, the headline rate fall from 12 per cent last year to just over 4 per cent last month, inside the central bank's target range.

But underlying core inflation, which strips out volatile items such as energy and food, has fallen more slowly as last year's global surge in commodity prices feeds through into services and wages. Core inflation in Brazil is running at more than 7 per cent. Wages rose 13 per cent in the year to March, according to the most recent data.

As price rises become widespread, people expect inflation to stay high, exacerbating the challenges for policymakers.

"Central banks are not fooled by headline rates moving down but are looking at high prints for core and services," said Alberto Ramos, Latin American economist at Goldman Sachs. "They give a better idea of how strong and intense the pressures are."

Despite such pressures, some policymakers in Latin America and central Europe – many of whom were among the first to raise rates – are eager to kick-start growth. Hungary's central bank reduced its main policy rate by 1 percentage point last week to 17 per cent, despite headline inflation running at 24 per cent in April. Core inflation was higher, at almost 25 per cent. Wages rose about 17 per cent in the year to March.

Thierry Larose, senior portfolio manager at Vontobel, speaking before the cut, said the central bank's dovish stance was "very concerning".

"It is way, way too early for the central bank to think of loosening."

Larose highlighted Hungary for pursuing "high-pressure" fiscal policies, such as household energy price caps, aimed at "boosting growth at any cost for populist reasons".

In contrast with Hungary, policymakers in Poland have stressed that interest rates will have to remain high until inflation is under control. Poland's main index of core inflation shows it to be lower than the headline rate, although an alternative index that strips out other volatile items shows it more than a point higher, at 15.3 per cent in April.

Emerging market policymakers were the first to raise rates as the lifting of Covid lockdowns boosted demand and inflationary pressures. Brazil's central bank began increasing in March 2021, a full year before the first rise from the US Federal Reserve. Despite political pressure to cut, it has retained the rate of 13.75 per cent hit last August.

William Jackson, chief emerging markets economist at Capital Economics, said persistent high wage growth in central Europe and Latin America is "one of the great unknowns" for policymakers. While he expected more central banks to begin cutting this year, he said policy will be loosened "more gradually" than anticipated.

Over next 12 months, Hauner predicted interest rates to be reduced by less than market prices indicate in Hungary, the Czech Republic, Peru, Mexico, Colombia and Chile. In Brazil, he saw room for a bit more loosening than the roughly 2.5 percentage points of cuts that have been priced in. He said rates would have to stay high "for a couple of years at least, to bring inflation back to where it should be".

Many countries, he warned, will have to get used to rates at levels last seen before the 2008-09 financial crisis.

"We are not going back to the pre-Covid paradigm [of very low interest rates] any time soon."

CURRENTNEWS

GLOBAL MARKETS

Stocks rise on US debt ceiling deal but China drags

SYDNEY

ASIAN shares and Wall Street futures rose on Monday as a weekend deal by US President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy to suspend the government's debt ceiling provided relief for investors although China worries capped sentiment.

Europe is set to open slightly higher, with pan-regional Euro Stoxx 50 futures up 0.2 percent. S&P 500 futures rose 0.3 percent while Nasdaq futures firmed 0.5 percent.

After weeks of negotiations, congressional Republican McCarthy and Biden agreed on Saturday to avert an economically destabilising default by suspending the $31.4 trillion debt ceiling until 2025. The deal now has to clear a narrowly divided Congress before the United States runs out of money to pay its debts in early June.

In Asia, MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.2 percent, with falls in Chinese and Hong Kong shares offsetting gains seen elsewhere.

Elsewhere, Tokyo's Nikkei surged 1.0 percent to a fresh 33-year high and Australia's resources heavy shares gained 1.0 percent.

"There may be an initial sliver of relief that may send yields a tad lower along with some US dollar bump-up, alongside equities. But the vagaries of pushing the deal through Congress may hold back (the optimism)," said Vishnu Varathan, head of economics at Mizuho Bank in Singapore.

"And beyond that, the overriding implications on liquidity squeeze from issuances to bolster cash that is running very low at the Treasury may perversely elevate yields and dampen equities. The dollar, though, may be bid."

Defying the bullish trend, China's bluechips lost 0.6 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index dropped 0.8 percent, after weak profit data for China's industrial firms added to signs of flagging momentum in the world's second-biggest economy.

Cash US Treasuries were untraded in Asia on Monday, owing to the Memorial Day holiday, while futures were broadly steady. Two-year yields hit a 2-1/2 month high of 4.6390percent on Friday on market bets of higher Federal Reserve rates for longer.

US shares rallied at the end of last week on hopes of a debt ceiling deal and bets on artificial intelligence firms. The Dow Jones Industrial Average ended a five-day losing streak on Friday, while the Nasdaq Composite Index and S&P 500 closed at their highest levels since August 2022.

"We always thought there was going to be a resolution, and now we have got that, so that removes some of the uncertainty for markets. But when we get past that, when the votes get passed and when we come back from Memorial Day, the question becomes what next?" said Tony Sycamore, market analyst at IG.

"Yes, we will get the relief rally in the short-term but then we have to start thinking about the June FOMC meeting, about inflation being stickier than expected, and the money being drained out of the markets."

The Fed's preferred inflation gauge - the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index - came in stronger than expected on Friday. Taken together with strong US consumer spending, markets are now leaning towards a quarter-point hike from the Fed next month and see rates staying there for the rest of the year..

In the week ahead, US job openings and non-farm payrolls data could influence the Fed's thinking for the June decision. Economists polled by Reuters expect payrolls likely rose 195,000 in May, slowing from 253,000 the prior month.

In Turkey, the lira hovered at 20.05 against the dollar , just a touch above its record low of 20.06 hit on Friday, after President Tayyip Erdogan secured victory in the country's presidential election, extending his increasingly authoritarian rule into a third decade.

Elsewhere in the currency markets, the dollar index - a measure of the greenback against its major peers - was a touch lower at 104.17 as risk-sensitive currencies staged a rebound. However, it is still close to a two-month high hit on Friday.

Oil prices rallied early Monday. Brent crude futures climbed 0.8 percent to $77.47 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate crude was at $73.25 a barrel, also up 0.8 percent.

Gold prices were little changed at $1,945.93 per ounce.

Buying global $20bn company for nothing

By Leo Lewis

JAPAN, declares tourist after tourist, investor after investor, is red hot. The yen is tumbling, the shopping is amazing, the stock market is flying, the sushi is cheap. It is also, perhaps, the only place in the world right now where you can buy a globally successful $20bn company for free.

And glorious though that notionally knockdown pricing sounds, it may yet spoil an important element of the party.

Like all good tricks, this so-far-hypothetical $20bn great gratis grab takes a bit of setting-up. For a start, to be the lucky buyer you have to be Toyota Motor – global carmaker supreme, Japan's biggest company and embodiment of the reality that, while governance reform is happening apace, it is certainly not happening everywhere.

And second, you need to exist in a stock market that has, for decades, tolerated the self-evidently problematic phenomenon of listed companies' "cross-holdings" of equity stakes in one another. Traditionally held as symbols of business friendship between companies, these stakes have acted as barriers against pushier shareholders and allowed poor management an ill-deserved cushion of complacency. True, the networks have been unwinding in recent years under government and shareholder pressure, but some pretty remarkable anomalies still exist.

Last week a large audience of visiting fund managers who had gathered in Tokyo took part in a thought experiment. Consider Toyota Industries – the world's biggest manufacturer of forklift trucks and a major global player in weaving machinery.

It is also, via the magic of cross-holdings, the single largest private sector owner of Toyota Motor shares. Toyota Industries' 7.31 per cent stake in the parent (whose stock price has roughly doubled over the past decade) is currently worth $16.4bn, or roughly 85 per cent of the total market value of Toyota Industries.

But wait. Cross-holdings. Toyota Motor, in concert with its wholly owned subsidiaries, holds roughly a third of all the free-float shares in Toyota Industries. Presto! The stage is set for the (notional) deal of a lifetime.

Toyota Motor could, in theory, make an all-share offer for the two-thirds of Toyota Industries it doesn't already own at a magnanimous 30 per cent premium to the current market price. The Japanese government, on a hitherto fairly fruitless mission to provoke industrial consolidation, has even tried to encourage this sort of all-share deal by wrapping them in protections from capital gains tax.

Were the hypothetical bid successful, Toyota Motor would not only become the proud owner of Toyota Industries, but also of $16.4bn worth of Toyota shares held by its new acquisition and just used to pay for the deal. The takeover (give or take some advisory fees) would have cost Toyota Motor precisely nothing.

The timing of this thought experiment was important – many of the fund managers were in Japan for the first time since 2019. There are several new "Buy Japan" narratives that have emerged in the interim, the return of inflation after a long absence high among them. With geopolitics making China less readily investable to some funds, the Japanese market was easy to present as more ripe for global investment attention than it has been in a very long time.

Even with the market at a 33-year high, the visitors were told, there is plenty of room for it to go higher. Many Japanese companies are highly profitable, stable and undervalued. The Tokyo Exchange is prodding companies to be more shareholder friendly. Activists are making significant inroads. And so on.

While all this may be true – and even capable of sustaining a rally for months to come – two very important factors remain absent. The first of these is that, while the advent of inflation should theoretically encourage Japanese households to move their assets from cash to equities, that has not remotely begun.

The second factor missing is a clear sense of why Japan's market (where theoretical M&A opportunities abound) is not priced as one where a potential change of corporate control is reflected in share prices.

Toyota Industries shares do not trade as if Toyota Motor is poised to take advantage of the opportunity, because nobody really thinks it will. Companies do not project any eagerness to engage in domestic consolidation either as buyers or sellers, and the implication is party-pooping.

Stock markets can still rise without being permanently frenetic arenas for takeovers, but they require at least a sense that they might be when obviously good deals arise. Investors, after a week of otherwise good news, will not have left with that.

Bitcoin back above $28,000 as cryptos rebound

Tom Zuo

BITCOIN moved back above US$28,000 in Monday morning trading in Asia, leading a rally among all top 10 non-stable coin cryptocurrencies.

Ethereum broke through the resistance ceiling of US$1,900. The gains followed an in-principle agreement between US President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin Mccarthy to raise the country's debt ceiling, which boosted investors' appetite for risk assets.

Crypto

Bitcoin rose 3.98 percent over the last 24 hours to US$28,195 at 9:30 a.m. in Hong Kong. It recorded a weekly gain of 5.73 percent, according to data from CoinMarketCap. The world's largest cryptocurrency moved above US$28,000 for the first time since May 10.

Ether jumped 3.48 percent in the past 24 hours to US$1,916, moving up 6.53 percent over the past seven days. It was trading above the US$1,900 mark for the first time in three weeks.

Cryptocurrency prices received a boost after US President Biden on Saturday said he had reached an in-principle agreement with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy to raise the government's debt ceiling, which averts the threat of a default in the world's biggest economy. If ratified, the agreement would run through Jan. 1, 2025.

Both parties are now urging US Congress to pass the deal by June 5 – the deadline set by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen. The talks had rattled investors for weeks as a debt default in the U.S. could have caused panic in global markets.

The sense of relief among investors that a deal is on the verge of completion has led to "fresh buying of risk assets," said Markus Thielen, Head of Crypto Research & Strategy at digital asset service platform Matrixport, in a note shared with Forkast.

"So many investors were scared about the debt ceiling and the potential default by the U.S. government - which is just so unlikely. Now, they need to find something else to be bearish about while the market likely rallies," said Thielen.

With Bitcoin taking the lead, all other top 10 non-stablecoin cryptocurrencies traded higher over the past 24 hours. The total market cap for cryptocurrencies rose 3.00 percent in that period to US$1.17 trillion. The 24-hour trading volume also jumped 57.01 percent to US$31.73 billion.

Neo, the token that supports China-affiliated Neo blockchain, saw the largest weekly gain in the top 100 cryptocurrencies. It rose 23.83 percent to US$11.37. Neo is backed by Onchain, a Chinese blockchain company and member of the country's internet finance industry lobby.

Neo outperformed most other larger-cap cryptocurrencies in the past week with investors now "positioning themselves for the Hong Kong opening event," said Thielen of Matrixport.

Hong Kong will unlock trading for retail investors from June 1, as the city seeks to become a hub for the crypto industry.

Bitcoin NFT sales surge

The indexes are proxy measures of the performance of the global NFT market. They are managed by CryptoSlam, a sister company of Forkast.News under the Forkast.Labs umbrella.

In the non-fungible token (NFT) market, the Forkast 500 NFT index edged up 0.57 percent to 3,373.39 in the 24 hours to 11:20 a.m. in Hong Kong, but is still down 0.82 percent for the past seven days.

NFT sales on Ethereum dipped 8.07 percent in the past 24 hours to US$13.10 million, according to CryptoSlam data. In contrast, NFT sales on the Bitcoin network surged 95.50 percent to US$8.29 million.

$OXBT BRC-20 NFTs, a Bitcoin NFT collection launched last Thursday, saw its sales exceed US$3 million in the past 24 hours, or more than 35 percent of all the NFT sales on the Bitcoin blockchain. The collection has attracted over 34,000 owners in four days.

Data from CryptoSlam indicates a rapid rise of Bitcoin in the NFT space, said Yohann Calpu, Chief Marketing Officer at Forkast Labs.

"I have never seen an ecosystem boot up this fast, except for NFTs in 2020-2021, and I would argue that it's even moving faster this time around," said Calpu. He added that the Ethereum and Bitcoin networks are competing for NFT supremacy, with Bitcoin protocol potentially better suited for NFT projects "that see immutability and scarcity as features instead of weaknesses."

Peter Schiff, Euro Pacific Capital Chief Economist and vocal Bitcoin critic, said on Saturday he had collaborated in an art project to launch 50 Ordinal inscriptions – the Bitcoin blockchain's iteration of NFTs – on the Bitcoin blockchain, which will be open for bidding in an auction in early June.

"Seeing Peter Schiff convert makes me happy," tweeted Binance Chief Executive Officer Changpeng Zhao on Sunday.

Elsewhere, Our Force 1, the NFT sneaker collection launched by sportswear Giant Nike last Wednesday, has seen sales exceed 75,000 in five days to around US$1.48 million, giving each NFT sneaker a price of US$19.82, according to data from PolygonScan.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Tanzania becomes first to experience KLM's new 'luxury'

By Guardian Reporter

DUTCH National Carrier KLM has introduced a new cabin class dubbed Premium Comfort in between the economy class and business class.

Targeted at customers who want to enjoy the luxury of flying comfortably, the new cabin is installed on all Boeing 777 and 787 aircraft flying to international destinations.

Alexander van de Wint, Air France - KLM Country Manager, Tanzania said in Dar es Salaam over the weekend that the new Premium Comfort Class allows KLM to more closely meet the needs and wishes of leisure and business travelers.

"We are thrilled to introduce our new premium comfort cabin class, designed to offer a luxurious flying experience. With this new offering, we can cater to the needs of our customers who value more comfort," he said.

He added "Customers in this cabin get to also enjoy sky priority, extra legroom and an extensive menu. We are confident that this new cabin class will elevate our customers' travel experience, and we look forward to welcoming them on board,"said van de Wint.

According to Wint Containing 28 seats on 787-10 and 21 seats on 787-9, the premium comfort cabin comes featuring more legroom than a standard Economy Class seat, more recline, more space between armrests, movable leg- and footrests, In-seat power, and personal entertainment system.

He added that passengers travelling in Premium Comfort will also have access to priority boarding, allowing them to settle in and relax before take-off.

With the introduction of Premium Comfort, KLM aims to meet the growing demand for an affordable luxury travel experience. As of 2022, at least 85 per cent of the airline's capacity in the market was restored against the backdrop of the gradual lifting of the Covid-19 restrictions on passengers.

He added looking into 2023, the airline projects that it will register at least 16 per cent more seats than in 2022 in terms of capacity in East Africa, South Africa, Nigeria, and Ghana.

Oil gains after US leaders strike debt deal

SINGAPORE

Oil prices rose on Monday after US leaders reached a tentative debt ceiling deal, possibly averting a default in the world's largest economy and oil consumer, although concerns about further interest rate hikes capped gains.

Brent crude futures climbed 45 cents, or 0.6 percent, to $77.40 a barrel by 0636 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude was at $73.2 a barrel, up 53 cents, or 0.7 percent. Trade is expected to be subdued on Monday because of UK and US holidays.

US President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy on the weekend forged an agreement to suspend the $31.4 trillion debt ceiling and cap government spending for the next two years. Both leaders expressed confidence that members of the Democratic and Republican parties will vote to support the deal.

Reaching the deal and coming closer to avoiding a default on U.S. debt renewed investor appetite for riskier assets such as commodities.

Analysts said the provisional deal has taken pressure off the markets, offering a relief rally in risk assets, including crude oil.

"We could see more gains as a relief rally gets under way in the broader financial markets when the U.S. comes back from the long Memorial Day weekend," Vandana Hari, founder of oil market analysis provider Vanda Insights, said.

Last week, Brent and WTI rose by more than 1 percent, gaining for a second week.

Prices gained as the US debt ceiling talks showed progress and after Saudi energy minister Abdulaziz bin Salman warned short-sellers betting that oil prices will fall to "watch out" for pain.

Bin Salman's warning was seen as a signal that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies including Russia, known as OPEC+, may further cut output when they meet on June 4.

However, comments from Russian oil officials and sources, including Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak, indicate the world's third-largest oil producer is leaning toward leaving output unchanged.

Analysts see the boost in oil prices from the debt deal as short-lived.

The rally's sustainability is questionable as there is a higher chance the US Federal Reserve will raise interest rates in June after their preferred inflation metric rose more than expected for April, IG's Sydney-based analyst Tony Sycamore said.

"Higher US rates are a headwind for crude oil demand," he added.

Investors will be watching for manufacturing and services data in China, the world's biggest oil importer, this week as well as US nonfarm payroll data on Friday for signals on economic growth and oil demand.

Future oil output growth in the US, the world's biggest producer, also may slow as energy firms cut rigs for a fourth week.

The Guardian www.ippmedia.com

WORLD

Erdogan seeks 'unity, solidarity' after securing another term

This handout photograph taken and released by the Turkish Presidency Press Office on Sunday shows Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addressing supporters gathered outside his residence following his victory in Turkish presidential election at Kisikli district in Istanbul. The head of Türkiye's election commission on May 28, 2023 declared President Recep Tayyip Erdogan the winner of a historic runoff vote that will extend his 20-year rule until 2028. AFP

ANKARA

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan pledged early yesterday to build the "Century of Türkiye" together with the nation and called for unity as he won the presidential runoff which would extend his tenure until 2028.

"We should come together in unity and solidarity," he addressed supporters outside the presidential residence in the capital Ankara.

"Nobody has lost today, all 85 million won. Now is the time to unite and integrate around our national goals and national dreams ... We are not the only winners. The winner is Türkiye, the winner is our nation with all its segments, our democracy is the winner," he said, adding that he would be the president of the whole nation.

Erdogan promised to ease economic difficulties and said healing the "wounds" of the massive earthquakes on February 6 would be his priority.

On addressing problems caused by inflation, he said that compensating welfare loss is the "most urgent" priority of the government and that the inflation has been slowed.

"We are planning an economy focused on financial management, investment, and employment. We will continue on the road with confidence and stability. We (will) design a manufacturing economy with an international reputation for financial management, investment, and employment," he said.

He recalled that nearly 600,000 Syrians returned to their country and that Türkiye agreed with Qatar on cooperation for a new housing project in northern Syria, so that the government would help 1 million more Syrian refugees to go back to their homeland in a "couple of years."

The issue of refugees was a hot topic in the election campaign of the candidates as nearly 4 million refugees hosted by Türkiye increasingly have become a politically contentious issue amid the economic difficulties of the Turkish citizens.

Turkish Supreme Election Council chairman Ahmet Yener on Sunday evening declared incumbent President Erdogan the winner of the presidential runoff.

Erdogan won 52.14 percent of votes in the presidential runoff against his rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu, who garnered 47.86 percent of the votes, Yener said.

In the first round of the presidential election on May 14, Erdogan earned 49.52 percent of the vote while Kilicdaroglu received 44.88 percent. Neither secured more than 50 percent of the votes needed to call a winner in the first round, therefore an election runoff was held for the first time for the presidency.

The third-place candidate, nationalist politician Sinan Ogan, with 5.17 percent of votes, announced his endorsement of Erdogan in the runoff where only the two most supported were able to race.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday congratulated Erdogan on his re-election as Turkish president, said Guterres' spokesman Stephane Dujarric in a statement.

The UN chief looks forward to further strengthening the cooperation between Türkiye and the United Nations, said Dujarric.

Erdogan, who has been leading the country since he became prime minister in 2003, became the first executive president of Türkiye in 2018 following a constitutional referendum in 2017 which changed Türkiye's parliamentary system into a presidential system.

In recent years Türkiye has increased its presence in regional affairs despite contentions with the United States and other Western allies on issues such as the Syria conflict and rapprochement with Russia.

Erdogan's win came amid the country's current economic troubles and cost-of-living crisis. The Turkish lira lost roughly 80 percent of its value against the U.S. dollar in five years and the inflation rate is around 50 percent. Erdogan is a supporter of an unorthodox economic policy of lowering interest rates despite high inflation.

The crisis is further exacerbated by the devastating earthquakes in early February in southern Türkiye, which killed more than 50,000 people and left tens of thousands of people homeless.

In the last two weeks, the two candidates focused to appeal to nationalist votes in their campaigns. They both pledged to focus on problems regarding refugee issues and vowed to end terrorism as the May 14 results showed an increase in support for nationalist parties.

Erdogan was promising a new "Turkish century" if he is re-elected. He also stressed his presidency as a requirement for harmony among state institutions and stability in the country as his alliance held the majority at the parliament.

PM Modi congratulates Turkish President Erdogan on election win

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday congratulated Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his re-election as President of Turkey. PM Modi said that he is confident that the bilateral ties between the two nations and cooperation on global issues will continue to grow.

PM Modi (pictured) tweeted, "Congratulations @RTErdogan on re-election as the President of Turkiye! I am confident that our bilateral ties and cooperation on global issues will continue to grow in the coming times." PM Modi's congratulatory message on Twitter comes after Erdogan was declared the winner of Turkey's presidential runoff election on Sunday.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has won Turkey's presidential election, extending his rule to a third decade, CNN reported. He defeated opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu in a runoff vote on Sunday.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan addressed massive crowds of supporters at the Presidential Palace after being re-elected as President of Turkey, as per the CNN report.

Addressing thousands of supporters outside the presidential palace, Erdogan celebrated his election to a third term and called the nation a "winner." He said, "We are not the only winners, the winner is Turkey. The winner is our nation with all its segments, our democracy is the winner," CNN reported.

"Now is the time to put aside all the debates and conflicts regarding the election period and unite around our national goals and dreams. We make this call with all our heart," he added.

ANI

'Clumsy excuses': Russian Foreign Ministry on claim Graham's words taken out of context

MOSCOW

REPORTS by Reuters that remarks by US Senator Lindsey Graham (Republican, South Carolina) made during a meeting with Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky may have been taken out of context represent clumsy, shameless excuses, a statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry made public yesterday said.

"'It turns out,' that's not what Senator Graham said or how he said it. Just like with similar cannibalistic musings by former US President George W. Bush, clumsy, shameful excuses are being bandied about: so, allegedly, the senator's words were taken out of context, there was some 'editing' and so on.

Who would have doubted that the politician himself and his spin doctors, such as the top Anglo-Saxon media outlets and news agencies, would, as they say, 'play dumb.' What's next?

They will tell us that Lindsey Graham is a product of [artificial intelligence] and doesn't actually exist?" the Foreign Ministry asked rhetorically. It stressed that this "attempt is doomed to fail." "It is already impossible to clean oneself [and one's reputation] from the stain of such remarks, even if they were uttered separately," the ministry added.

Earlier, at a meeting in Kiev with Zelensky, Graham seemingly linked the fact that "Russians are dying" in the Ukrainian conflict with US aid for Ukraine, saying it is "the best money we've ever spent."

The Russian Foreign Ministry pointed out that this was hardly the first instance of such hateful remarks and that "the senator is not alone." "The Nazi philosophy of hatred toward Russians is actually what unites the Kiev regime and its American handlers," the ministry emphasized.

The ministry also stated that widespread popular outrage has forced the Western propaganda machine "with its cogs, such as Reuters and the BBC, who led the campaign to whitewash the [words of the] lawmaker, to initiate a crisis management approach and attempt to reverse the situation."

"This entire story with cowardly excuses and ludicrous attempts to absolve Lindsey Graham is yet another blow to the already faded reputation of Reuters and the BBC, which were left to worm their way of out the mess on behalf of both Washington and Kiev.

This is not journalism, but PR agencies carrying out an assignment for the 'collective West,'" the Russian Foreign Ministry concluded.

Earlier, Reuters, having examined a complete recording of Graham's meeting with the Ukrainian leader, said that the remarks by the US senator may have been taken out of context.

Agencies

African Union adopts roadmap to resolve conflict in Sudan

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union has adopted the Roadmap for the Resolution of the Conflict in Sudan toward silencing the guns in Sudan.

The roadmap was adopted during the AU Peace and Security Council meeting that was held at the heads of state and government level on Saturday, focusing on the situation in Sudan, the AU said in a communique issued on Sunday.

The roadmap outlined six elements that include the establishment of a coordination mechanism to ensure all efforts by the regional and global actors are harmonized and impactful; an immediate, permanent, inclusive and comprehensive cessation of hostilities; and an effective humanitarian response.

Smoke billows in the distance in Khartoum amid ongoing fighting between the forces of two rival generals, on May 15, 2023. AFP

The high-level meeting underscored the overriding importance of a single, inclusive and consolidated peace process for Sudan, coordinated under the joint auspices of the AU, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the League of Arab States and the United Nations, along with likeminded partners.

"The council, with deep concern, strongly condemns the ongoing senseless and unjustified conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which has resulted in an unprecedented dire humanitarian situation, indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians," the statement said.

Sudan has witnessed deadly armed clashes between the SAF and the paramilitary RSF in the capital of Khartoum and other areas since April 15, with the two sides accusing each other of initiating the conflict.

According to the Sudanese Doctors Union, the number of civilian deaths since the beginning of the clashes has risen to 863, with 3,531 injuries. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs recently said over 1 million people have been displaced since the conflict.

Agencies

Indian Army celebrates 75th International Day of UN Peacekeepers

NEW DELH

THE Indian Army yesterday commemorated the 75th International Day of UN Peacekeepers, by paying homage to the fallen comrades by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial in the national capital, stated an official release from Ministry of Defence.

The wreath was laid by Chief of the Army Staff Gen Manoj Pande, Vice Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar and representatives from the Navy and Air Force, Ministry of External Affairs and the United Nations.

"This is the day when in 1948 the first UN peacekeeping mission, UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) began operations in Palestine," read an official release.

Each year on this Day, the UN and countries across the globe pay tributes to the professionalism, dedication and courage of all men and women who have served or are serving in UN Peacekeeping Missions and honour the memory of those who have laid down their lives in the cause of peace.

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the UN Peacekeepers Day.

"India has a rich legacy of contribution to UN Peacekeeping operations and is one of the largest contributors of troops. It has contributed approximately 2,75,000 troops to peacekeeping missions so far, with around 5,900 troops currently deployed in 12 UN Missions.

Indian Army personnel have operated under difficult conditions in challenging terrains and have displayed exemplary professionalism, humane approach, courage and valour, to the extent of making the supreme sacrifice to defend the UN mandates," it read.

According to an official release, 159 Indian Army soldiers have made the supreme sacrifice to ensure peace across the globe. Apart from the current deployment, India has pledged one Infantry Battalion Group and Corvette with Helicopter, as hard power and an Engineer Company & Signal Company as Force enablers, to be deployed at the behest of the UN.

ANI

How innovation will drive growth and create new opportunities in the Indian economy

NEW DELHI

INNOVATION has always been a driving force behind economic growth, and India is no exception. The Indian economy has been undergoing significant changes in recent years, with a strong focus on innovation and technology. In fact, in 2022, India made it to the top 40 countries in the Global Innovation Index (GII) for the first time.

While patents represent only one of many quantifiable parameters of the GII, but the GII ranking and the patent metrics show a remarkable overlap. This clearly indicates that protection of innovation motivates more companies to find breakthrough solutions.

Resultantly, the Indian government is working towards creating an ecosystem that fosters more innovation, with policies that encourage entrepreneurship and investment in research and development.

This has resulted in a wave of new startups, increased investment in research and development, and the emergence of new industries in the country.

"Today, India is a leader in information technology, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and renewable energy.", states Deepak Syal Director and Cofounder GreyB.

One of the key drivers of innovation in the Indian economy is the startup ecosystem. India has the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world, after the US and China.

"The startup ecosystem in India has been growing at a rapid pace, with new startups emerging every day. These startups are creating new products and services, disrupting traditional industries, and driving employment as well as economic growth. The patent applications from start-ups in the last year had touched 6,000, indicating a rise of 5 times in 5 years.", shares Deepak.

Bangalore has been ranked as one of the world's five fastest growing startup cities. The silicon valley of India houses more than 10000 startups in various industries.

Be it delivery services like Dunzo and BigBasket, ride sharing apps like Zoomcar and Rapido, edtech solutions like BYJU's and Vedantu, and fintech and payments app like Cred, Razorpay, India's startup ecosystem has been thriving, with the emergence of numerous innovative companies across various sectors.

The availability of venture capital funding, incubators, and accelerators has further fueled the growth of the startup ecosystem.

Another important contributor to innovation in the Indian economy is the growing investment in research and development. India has been investing heavily in research and development, with the government setting an initial target of spending 0.7% of GDP on R&D by 2023.

"India's R&D investments have tripled in the last decade. This investment in R&D has resulted in the emergence of new industries, such as biotechnology, renewable energy, and space technology.", comments Sahil Kapoor, who analyze global innovation data at GreyB.

The government's initiatives like "Startup India" and "Make in India" have played a crucial role in fostering entrepreneurship and supporting startups, with schemes such as tax benefits, funding, and incubation support. Several collaborations and competitions are also motivating entrepreneurship in India.

CBRE India recently collaborated with Nasscom for a proptech challenge with an aim to highlight emerging startups creating innovative tech solutions in the real estate industry. Mines Ministry is also collaborating with IIT Bombay to organize the first Mining Start-up Summit this year.

Not just that, the Indian government is also collaborating cross-country. A recent example is the Singapore India Hackathon to harness the creative potential of youth from both nations.

ANI

Nigeria swears in new president

ABUJA

THE new president of Africa's largest democracy, Nigeria, has been sworn in at a ceremony in the capital, Abuja.

Bola Tinubu, 71, won February's election with a promise to renew hope - but he faces tough economic and security challenges.

He takes over from two-term President Muhammadu Buhari amid a high inflation rate, record debt levels and increasing cases of kidnap-for-ransom.

Tinubu's victory is being challenged in court by his two closest rivals.

They say the outcome was manipulated.

But the outgoing president, who did not run in the election after eight years in power, said the results were "credible" and the vote was "fair and transparent".

Dignitaries from across the continent were at the swearing-in ceremony in the capital, Abuja, reflecting the significance of the event.

President Tinubu may have little time to celebrate. Nigerians expect swift action.

Inflation is running at its highest rate for nearly 18 years, one in three people are unemployed and the output of the vital oil industry is shrinking.

He will have to move quickly to convince people who did not vote for him that he is up to the task.

In one sign that he intends to shake things up, the new president used his inaugural speech to announce that the government will stop subsidising imported petroleum products.

He said the payments could not be justified in the face of drying resources, but cheaper petrol has been seen by many Nigerians as one benefit that the ordinary citizen gets from the authorities.

"Instead, the money will be invested in public infrastructure that will provide for people," Mr Tinubu said.

It is not clear when the policy will kick-in, but subsidy payments were due to end next month.

The trained accountant is unlikely to be fazed by the many challenges. As a two-term governor of Lagos, he revitalised Nigeria's commercial hub - no easy job - and is well aware of the issues.

His allies say he will take the same technocratic and thoughtful approach to running Nigeria, a vast country of more than 200 million people.

But opponents of the new president say he has lost the vitality he used to forcefully modernise Lagos.

Since the election he has travelled abroad twice, raising questions about his health. In 2021 he spent months in London being treated for an undisclosed illness.

He has brushed off the criticism, saying the job does not require the fitness of an Olympic athlete - and his associates are quick to remind everyone that US President Joe Biden is older, at 80.

But if the candidates who came second and third - Atiku Abubakar and Peter Obi - in February's presidential election have their way then Mr Tinubu may not be in power for very long.

The election tribunal is expected to start hearing the main arguments today and the outcome of the case should be known within the next six months.

Agencies

China to launch Shenzhou XVI manned spacecraft

By Zhao Lei at Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center

Chinese taikonauts Jing Haipeng (center), Zhu Yangzhu (right) and Gui Haichao wave to journalists at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China yesterday. XINHUA

THE Shenzhou XVI crewed spaceship is scheduled to be launched at 9:31 am today (Beijing Time) from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China.

Chinese taikonauts Jing Haipeng, Zhu Yangzhu, and Gui Haichao will carry out the spaceflight mission, and Jing will be the commander, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) announced at a press conference on Monday.

Jing, a senior spacecraft pilot, will become the country's first taikonaut to go into space for the fourth time. He was involved in the Shenzhou VII mission in 2008 and commanded the Shenzhou IX and Shenzhou XI crews in 2012 and 2016, respectively.

Zhu and Gui are set to embark on their first trip to space. Born in 1986, they are members of China's third batch of taikonauts, whose selection was completed by September 2020.

Zhu, a postdoctoral fellow in aerodynamics and a former university teacher, will serve as a spaceflight engineer in the Shenzhou XVI mission. He will work with commander Jing to control and manage the spacecraft, and conduct technical tests.

He said he is lucky to catch up with a new era, in which everyone who works hard has the opportunity to realize his dreams and values in life.

"Over the past two years, I have grown from an ordinary university teacher to a spaceflight soldier, which is the achievement of my career and the nurturing of the time," said Zhu when the trio met the press on Monday.

Gui, a civilian taikonaut and a spectacled professor at Beijing-based Beihang University, will work as a payload expert responsible for the in-orbit operations of science experiment payloads in China's Tiangong space station.

In addition, Jing and Zhu are members of the People's Liberation Army's Astronaut Division. All of the three crew members hold a doctorate.

Compared to previous crews, the Shenzhou XVI comprises a diverse trio of male astronauts from different career backgrounds, including aircraft pilot, flight engineer and payload specialist.

"This is the first crewed mission with the participation of three types of taikonauts," Lin Xiqiang, deputy director of the CMSA, said at the press conference.

Although the fresh crew has a 20-year age gap, the three have worked together very well.

"We have gotten along like a family," Jing told the press.

According to the CMSA, among China's third batch of taikonauts, seven are spacecraft pilots, seven are flight engineers and four are payload experts. After more than two years of rigorous training, they have become capable of performing spaceflight tasks.

"All of them have started targeted training for the space station in the new stage and will become the backbones of the follow-up missions," Lin said, adding that more new members will be selected to be space travelers in the future.

'Crew in good condition'

Shenzhou XVI is the second flight mission of China's manned space program this year, and the first crewed mission after China's space station entered the application and development stage.

After the Shenzhou XVI spacecraft enters the orbit, it will activate the rapid rendezvous-docking mode to approach and connect with the radial port on the Tianhe core module, forming a combination with three modules and three spacecraft, Lin said.

Jing's team will take over the Tiangong space station from their peers in the Shenzhou XV, mission commander Major General Fei Junlong, Senior Colonel Deng Qingming and Senior Colonel Zhang Lu, who arrived on Nov 30. By now, Fei's crew has stayed in orbit for six months.

The Shenzhou XVI astronauts will witness the dockings of the Tianzhou V cargo craft and the Shenzhou VII crewed spaceship, as well as the departures of the Shenzhou XV manned spaceship and Tianzhou V, Lin said.

The astronauts will conduct large-scale in-orbit tests and experiments in various fields as planned, he said.

They are expected to make high-level scientific achievements in the study of novel quantum phenomena, high-precision space time-frequency systems, the verification of general relativity, and the origin of life, said the official.

The Shenzhou XVI mission will also install electric propulsion cylinders and lift extravehicular cameras, he said.

The official added that the mission will carry out several spacewalks to maintain the massive orbital outpost and complete the installation of large extravehicular application facilities such as radiation biological exposure experiment equipment.

The Shenzhou XVI crew is in good condition, while the ground system facilities are in stable operation, Lin said.

The trio will stay in orbit for about five months and is scheduled to return to the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region in November this year, the official said.

Six categories of in-orbit work

Work handovers of different groups of astronauts and cargo supply missions will be implemented regularly in following missions. According to Lin, the in-orbit work of astronauts mainly covers six categories.

The first is to operate the dockings and returns of crewed spaceships and assist the dockings and departures of cargo craft and survey telescopes, ensuring the regular personnel rotation and material supply.

The second is the maintenance of the space station complex, including the spacecraft status setting, in-orbit material management, platform equipment maintenance and inspection, equipment installation inside and outside the modules, and payload entry into and exit from the modules.

The third is health management of astronauts, including health status monitoring and in-orbit exercise and training.

The fourth is to conduct large-scale in-orbit scientific research and applications.

The fifth is the popularization of science, such as giving space lectures and shooting videos for public service.

The sixth is to handle emergent in-orbit failures, fix and replace faulty equipment, and conduct extravehicular maintenance when necessary, so as to ensure long-term stable operation of the space station.

Ready for launch

All preparations for the launch have been completed, CMSA's Lin said.

On Sunday, the Shenzhou XVI mission completed a final pre-launch rehearsal at the launch center.

The vessel, along with its Long March 2F rocket, and all systems and preparations at the launch center are ready for the launch, said the launch center.

The carrier rocket would be filled with propellants at the service tower soon, Lin said.

Various inspections of the rocket and the spacecraft and pre-launch rehearsals have been conducted since the combination of the spaceship and the rocket transferred to the launch center, said He Pengju, a senior engineer at the launch center.

He added that the preparations include sealing facilities on the launch tower to prevent sand and rainwater from entering the rocket. It is in accordance with the sandy environment of the Gobi Desert, where the launch center is located.

Foreign astronauts welcomed

China is also looking forward to and welcomes the participation of foreign astronauts in the country's space station flight missions, Lin said.

During the development and construction of China's space station, the country has carried out various forms of exchanges and cooperation with many foreign space agencies and international organizations.

"On the one hand, China is steadily pushing forward the planned cooperation projects with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, the European Space Agency and other organizations. On the other hand, China has actively expanded exchanges with emerging space nations, focusing on in-orbit scientific experiments and applications, and joint flights for astronauts to the space station," Lin said.

In addition, China has been actively engaged in discussions and the making of regulations pertaining to issues like space environment governance, space traffic management, and the development and utilization of space resources. These efforts have contributed to addressing common challenges of humankind in outer space, the CMSA spokesperson said.

With a complete near-Earth manned space station, a manned shuttle transportation system, and a comprehensive framework for selecting, training and supporting taikonauts, China is now able to carry out crewed missions on a regular basis with a frequency of twice a year.

As of now, all of the Chinese astronauts who have been on spaceflights are members of the People's Liberation Army. They are the first two generations of astronauts who were selected from experienced Air Force aviators. The third generation of astronauts has civilians recruited from researchers and engineers.

There are 17 men and one woman in this generation in three groups: seven spacecraft pilots, another seven as spaceflight engineers and the last four as science payloads specialists.

Earlier this month, the Tianzhou VI robotic cargo spaceship set out from the Wenchang Space Launch Center in Hainan province to transport materials for the next manned missions, becoming the first spacecraft to visit the Tiangong space station this year.

Orbiting about 400 kilometers above the ground, the Tiangong currently consists of three major components, the Tianhe core module and Wentian and Mengtian science lab modules, and is connected with two visiting craft, the Shenzhou XV crew ship and the Tianzhou VI cargo ship.

Xinhua

China to realise manned lunar landing by 2030

JIUQUAN

CHINA plans to realize manned lunar landing by 2030, announced the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) at a press conference yesterday.

Lin Xiqiang, deputy director of the CMSA, said at the conference that China has recently initiated the lunar landing phase of its manned lunar exploration program.

The overall goal is to achieve China's first manned landing on the moon by 2030 and carry out lunar scientific exploration and related technological experiments, he added.

According to Lin, the goal also includes mastering the key technologies such as Earth-moon manned roundtrip, lunar surface short-term stay, human-robot joint exploration, accomplishing multiple tasks of landing, roving, sampling, researching, returning, and forming an independent capability of manned lunar exploration.

China's manned lunar landing will promote the leapfrog development of manned space technology from near-Earth to deep space, deepen human understanding of the origin and evolution of the moon and the solar system, and contribute Chinese wisdom to the development of lunar science, he said.

The CMSA has carried out various research and development work to achieve the goal on the basis of preliminary key technology research and program demonstration, including the research and development of the new-generation manned launch vehicle Long March-10, new-generation manned spaceship, lunar lander and lunar landing suits, as well as the building and testing of a new launch site, facilities and equipment.

Manned lunar rover

Also yesterday, the CMSA released an announcement to solicit proposals for the country's first manned lunar rover, which will be driven by two astronauts.

The current mission design indicates that the manned lunar rover will have functions such as manned driving and riding, lunar surface movement, positioning support and safety assistance, which can help astronauts in terms of movement, communication, exploration and so on, it said.

To pool high-quality resources from the whole society, explore a suitable commercial development mode and improve efficiency, the CMSA solicits proposals from the public and will select the best teams to develop the rover prototype, it added.

The proposals should include task requirement demonstration, overall scheme design, main key technologies, safety and reliability design, the development process, quality and schedule guarantees, a business model, and funding request.

Xinhua

More action against plastic pollution needed, says WWF section lead

GENEVA

MORE action against plastic pollution is needed, Eirik Lindebjerg, Global Plastics Policy Lead of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) told Xinhua in a recent interview.

"The overproduction and consumption of plastic are suffocating our rivers and oceans, killing wildlife, contaminating our food, air, and water, and it's only getting worse," Lindebjerg said, stressing the urgency ahead of World Environment Day 2023 and the United Nations (UN) plastic pollution treaty talks in Paris.

"The World Environment Day this year is about plastic pollution and finding solutions to stop and reduce plastic pollution, which is one of the fastest growing and accelerating global environmental crises," he said.

According to the UN Environment Programme, more than 400 million tonnes of plastic is produced annually, half of which is designed to be used only once. Of that, less than 10 percent is recycled. An estimated 19-23 million tonnes end up in lakes, rivers, and seas.

The UN plastic pollution treaty talks, aimed to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, is to be held in Paris between May 29 and June 2.

"This is the final meeting before we go into discussing the legal text. Therefore, it's important that governments come to this meeting with great ambition and ready to define concrete global rules and regulations that are needed," he said.

The treaty's negotiations are expected to be concluded by 2024, he said, adding that negotiators must now flesh out the details of the treaty text to most effectively and equitably tackle plastic pollution.

"WWF is calling for a treaty that can ban or quickly phase out the most high-risk plastics, products, chemicals, additives from being produced," Lindebjerg said, stressing the importance of reuse and non-toxic recycling at a large scale.

It's also important that the treaty has a proper support mechanism for implementation, such as financial support and technical collaboration, he added.

Hailing China's contribution in this area, Lindebjerg said actions such as the promotion of the "Beautiful China Initiative" and the strengthening of biodiversity conservation as a national strategy are "important steps."

Multivitamin improves memory in older adults -study

NEW YORK

A COMPREHENSIVE study headed by experts at Columbia University and Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard found that taking a daily multivitamin pill helps reduce age-related memory deterioration.

"Cognitive ageing is a top health concern for older adults, and this study suggests that there may be a simple, inexpensive way to help older adults slow down memory decline," says study leader Adam M Brickman, PhD, professor of neuropsychology at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. Many older people take vitamins or dietary supplements under the assumption that they will help maintain general health.

But studies that have tested whether they improve memory and brain function have been mixed, and very few large-scale, randomized trials have been done.

Study methods

In the current study, more than 3,500 adults (mostly non-Hispanic white) over age 60 were randomly assigned to take a daily multivitamin supplement or placebo for three years.

At the end of each year, participants performed a series of online cognitive assessments at home designed to test memory function of the hippocampus, an area of the brain that is affected by normal ageing. The COSMOS-Web study is part of a large clinical trial led by Brigham & Women's Hospital and Harvard called the Cocoa Supplement and Multivitamin Outcomes Study (COSMOS).

By the end of the first year, memory improved for people taking a daily multivitamin, compared with those taking a placebo.

The researchers estimate the improvement, which was sustained over the three-year study period, was equivalent to about three years of age-related memory decline. The effect was more pronounced in participants with underlying cardiovascular disease.

The results of the new study are consistent with another recent COSMOS study of more than 2,200 older adults that found that taking a daily multivitamin improved overall cognition, memory recall, and attention, effects that were also more pronounced in those with underlying cardiovascular disease.

"There is evidence that people with cardiovascular disease may have lower micronutrient levels that multivitamins may correct, but we don't really know right now why the effect is stronger in this group," says Brickman.

Good nutrition important for the ageing brain

Though the researchers did not look at whether any specific component of the multivitamin supplement was linked to the improvement in memory, the findings support growing evidence that nutrition is important for optimizing brain health as we age. ***ANI***

SPORT

Tanzania's Yanga forward, Fiston Mayele (C), negotiates his way past Algeria's USM Alger defenders Saadi Radouani (R), and Adam Alilet when they faced each other in the first leg of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE

'Return to normal' in city rivals' continental derbies, just for once

By Correspondent John Kimbute

FINALLY, the soccer atmosphere in Dar es Salaam returned to an eerie calm, as the presumptive Premier League champions Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, more or less reached the end of the road as it was USM Alger, rather than the home side, who 'killed' the game on Sunday.

A 2-1 win in an away encounter is virtually unassailable unless it then makes big mistakes to allow a reversal of the table as they say.

It has happened not just once and it can always happen, but not an event one can bill for.

In that sense, it needs a miracle for the city side to make a difference in Algiers, but usually after losing at the first match, the best one can get in the second is a draw.

As it stands, USM Alger is to the Jangwani Street side what Wydad Casablanca was to their next-street rivals, as they gallantly battled the North African side but to no avail.

This outcome settles the issues for what indeed can be grasped from the series of encounters, how far Yanga was indeed a superior side in the tourneys, etc.

In a sense, the result at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, popularly known as 'Estadio Lupaso', was similar to its preliminary encounter with Al Hilal Omdurman, the Sudanese champions who threw them out of the top-tier tourney.

That was a sort of blessing for the side as after that they had plenty of laughter up to the final, starting to entertain the faulty impression that the side was simply impregnable, not because it was meeting, comparatively, weak sides.

A bit of this guarded makeup was let loose when it was finally announced that Marumo Gallants was now relegated to the South African equivalent of the 'championship'.

The stands at 'Estadio Lupaso' resembled the scene at Mohamed V Stadium when Simba SC was there for the return match, as the fans started with plenty of fanfare and drumming, which started to fall silent as the match contours showed up.

Some near misses at the beginning, albeit on both sides, sounded the warning that things aren't that easy for the local champions.

The visitors scored, and matters remained that way for long periods of the match, far into the second half, for the home side to level up. It was a majestic shot that comes up once in a match or not at all, often.

While the past loss by the Msimbazi Street side was not strange to its fans owing to having had a taste of North African top teams with Raja Casablanca, which was a terror to the Robertinho-trained side, this time the issues were different.

Everyone knew about North Africa and that its competing sides at that level of the tourney would scarcely be easy but Yanga was triumphant. That means it was a bit relaxed.

No one announced any relaxation but it goes without asking that one cannot be triumphant and battle-ready at the same time, as triumph calls for an icing to the cake, not seeking it out in the first place.

In a sense Yanga was so carried away by its Marumo triumph that they believed the side was unbeatable, neatly tucking away the 2-0 Premier League loss to their archrivals as if it was just 'one of those things,' rather than a proper 'temperature check'.

They did not show any worries, nor indeed sought to explain the match and link it with this assignment.

A spate of celebration at the result for the red and white fans was enough to figure out that the much-vaunted patriotism that bureaucrats routinely emphasize when it comes to club tournaments is nowhere to be seen.

Not just was there a need for the Msimbazi Street side to see a North African lesson taught to their arch-rivals, now that they rated their final stage appearance as a huge event, but another subterfuge cropped up.

The countdown to the match was overshadowed by a silly controversy about what one would choose between 'a Mgunda and a bun,' to an easy answer!

Even the appeal for contributions for wayward ex-Yanga superstar Feisal Salum to take his case to a panel that is expected to be fair took some of the shine out of the preparations, as a breadth of the fans were busy shouting about Feisal, Mgunda, etc to properly focus on the match.

How far this affected the players can't be said as it was, in the final analysis, a storm in a teacup, relating to the wider surroundings.

If they did not have their mobile phones with them they would hardly be disturbed.

For a good number of their fans, it was a night to forget, and are unlikely to have big expectations for the return encounter, unless Professor Nabi tells them it is possible.

If he remains modest, or unless he blames some official for some error or cause for them to fail at 'Estadio Lupaso' it will not be easy to find a mood-altering narrative that gives the fans the confidence to expect they can turn the table.

Their next-street rivals are impressing the point even further, we told you so, that had you met either of the sides we met (Raja CA, Wydad AC) you would have failed.

Strictly it is worse, as USM Alger is eighth on their standings, in a weaker league.

Yanga now saddled with a monumental task in the CAF CC final second leg

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

IT is an incontestable fact that Yanga's especially splendid displays in the CAF Confederation Cup this season have given innumerable Tanzanians such rare joy and ecstasy.

Indeed, even though local clubs have historically found the going tough in African football championships, Yanga this season has exceeded all of our expectations as their admirably skillful brand of football demonstrates.

Last Sunday though at the grand Benjamin Mkapa stadium in Dar es Salaam, Yanga disappointingly came unstuck in the first leg of their CAF Confederation Cup final against Algerian titans USM Alger.

Right from the get-go, the two teams attempted to launch successful forays into each other's 18-yard boxes although the score remained deadlocked at 0-0.

However, to the utter dismay of the sea of Yanga fans in attendance, USM Alger would draw first blood as they took the lead in the 32nd minute. Unsurprisingly, the hush that descended over the stadium in the immediate aftermath of USM Alger's goal was such that one could have heard a pin drop.

In the second half though, Yanga came out with all guns blazing as they went in search of an equalizer that would leave the teeming masses of their fans pleased as punch.

Nevertheless, despite doing their utmost to gain an equalizer, Yanga's mighty exertions would all prove to be in vain, that is, until the 83rd minute when the ever-deadly Fiston Mayele unleashed a smashing volley that flew directly into the left corner of the net.

Cruelly though, Yanga's jubilation would prove to be short-lived as precisely one minute later (yes, I'm not making this up), USM Alger would shatter all Tanzanian hearts by unbelievably taking the lead - again. Ultimately, the Algerian powerhouse claimed a 2-1 victory away from home, which consequently sets up an all-important and crunch second leg in Algeria where Yanga will have no room for errors. Let us remain with all things football and switch our focus to Spain's top-tier league, La Liga, which has distinctly uncomfortably been in the headlines for all the wrong reasons.

Tanzania's Yanga forward, Kennedy Musonda (R), races past Algeria's USM Alger defender Brahim Benzaza in the first leg of 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Indeed, a few weeks ago during a high-profile clash between heavyweights Real Madrid and Valencia, the pacy Brazilian football player extraordinaire Vinicius Junior was subjected to vicious and downright insulting racist abuse by some Valencia supporters.

Understandably, after hearing the taunting chants, Vinicius Junior was livid and full of rage as the game was momentarily brought to a standstill.

However, what is so profoundly shameful about this latest targeting of Vinicius Junior, who is black, is the fact that it marks the 10th time during the past two years that the Brazilian has been subjected to such ruthless racist attacks by supporters of various La Liga outfits.

It should be noted here that some African football gems like Samuel Eto'o for instance have also unpleasantly found themselves on the receiving end of racist taunting from prejudiced Spanish supporters in the past.

Thus, it seems crystal clear then that racism is a deep-seated malaise within Spanish football and that it remains a distinctly ugly stain on the image of the country's internationally renowned top-tier football league, La Liga.

To successfully deal with this crisis, the Spanish authorities have arrested some supporters who were guilty of insulting Vinicius Junior in the past.

Nonetheless, deeper and more far-reaching change will be required to restore the badly dented reputation of Spanish football's top-flight league, La Liga.

Tanzanians urged to value tea drinking

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

SPORTSMEN in Tanzania have been advised to develop the culture of drinking tea before and after sports given the drink is the perfect remedy for boosting energy, which will ultimately reflect performance.

Cultural Counsellor of China's Embassy in Tanzania, Wang Siping, made the call at the China Cultural Centre in Tanzania in Dar es Salaam yesterday soon after Tea for Harmony-Yaji Cultural Salon was launched in China.

It is an initiative seeking to promote Chinese tea culture around the world.

Wang, who also serves as Director of the China Cultural Centre in Tanzania, said that drinking tea after a workout helps to boost metabolism, reduces muscle soreness, and helps to burn fat faster.

The official said the drink can help reduce pain and aches as well as alleviate soreness and muscle damage, a remedy which is good for sports people.

According to him, whether or not speed is a factor in an individual's sport, it is always important for an individual to feel energized and rested while he/she is performing.

Wang insisted that tea is the perfect remedy for boosting energy, which will ultimately reflect performance.

"Having originated in China, tea is not only a medium for the Chinese belief in the harmony between human and nature, but also an important bond connecting China and the rest of the world", he noted.

"To give the tea a greater role to play in enhancing friendly dialogue and mutual learning between civilizations, the 'Tea for Harmony: Yaji Cultural Salon', a worldwide event, will be celebrated on May 21 every year," he said.

The official disclosed as its name indicates, Yaji, literally means 'a gathering of elegance'. It was a common way for the ancient Chinese literati to enjoy their cultural life collectively and during the meeting the participants would recite poetry and appreciate tea, paintings, flowers, incense, and Guqin (a traditional Chinese zither) music, in pursuit of elegance, artistic sensibility, and moral nobility.

The practice, the official noted, is reflective of the Chinese culture that highly values harmony, be it about aesthetic refinement, friendships based on the affinity of souls, or unity between humans and nature.

This year the Tea for Harmony- Yaji Cultural Salon event was launched on May 21 and was organized by China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, as it holds a good clue to the relationship between 'tea' and 'harmony'.

"Taking the form of Yaji and the theme of traditional tea processing techniques and associated social practices in China, the 'Tea for Harmony: Yaji Cultural Salon' will feature 44 Chinese national-level intangible cultural heritage items from 15 provinces (regions or municipalities) related to green tea, black tea, oolong tea, white tea, dark tea, yellow tea, reprocessed tea," he noted

"Through displays of objects and images, demonstrations, performances, and interactions, the event will give friends across the world an immersive taste of the charming Chinese tea culture as well as an insight into the Chinese culture of elegance defined by the time-honoured oriental aesthetics," he noted.

The official noted to promote Chinese tea culture in Tanzania as well as around the world, China Cultural Centre in Tanzania will be posting a series of videos about Chinese tea on its social media platforms and also on the official China Cultural Centre website.

Bulls football squad's player, Nova Burke (2nd R), outfoxes International All Stars' defenders in one of the U-15 event ties of this season's Dar Youth Cup tournament at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

Mourinho eyeing more European glory with latest love Roma

LONDON

JOSE Mourinho will put his remarkable European record on the line when Roma face Sevilla in tomorrow's Europa League final with a second straight continental cup up for grabs.

The 60-year-old coaching icon has never lost a European final in his career, five wins from five over two decades making him the first manager to reach a UEFA final with four different clubs.

Mourinho announced himself on the big stage in 2003 when he led Porto to the UEFA Cup, the Europa League's precursor, and the following year he claimed the first of two Champions League triumphs.

And 20 years on he is ready to take his tally of European trophies to six at Roma, who tasted success in last year's Europa Conference League.

The Italian capital has become a happy home for a coach whose time had looked to be over following his unfulfilling time at Tottenham Hotspur.

"Better coach, better person, same DNA. The DNA is motivation, is happiness. Desire for these big moments, and these are the feelings that I try to pass to the boys," Mourinho told reporters on Thursday.

"I think you can be better and better with your experiences... I think your brain becomes sharper and the accumulation of knowledge is better with the years.

"I think you stop when you lose motivation, my motivation grows up every day... I think I am better now."

Mourinho has become a bona fide hero to Roma fans after winning their team's first ever major European honour last season, a triumph which moved the Portuguese veteran to tears.

A deep emotional connection has developed between coach and the supporters -- who had waited since 2008 to see their team lift a trophy.

It was reminiscent of his passionate, short-lived love affair with Inter Milan where in his pomp 13 years ago he won the treble of Serie A, Champions League and Italian Cup.

"It's because I give everything... People aren't stupid. In the Roma case I think it is above winning or European finals. I think they feel like I wore the shirt and I fight for them every day," said Mourinho.

"Maybe people think you cannot love every club. Yes, I love every club. I love every club because I also felt it the other way around, they also love me. So with Roma, one day it will be hard but we will be connected forever."

- Dybala doubt -

Roma come into the match in shaky form and hammered by injury problems which have accompanied them throughout the season.

The only matches Mourinho's team have won in their last 10 have been the home legs of the quarter- and semi-finals against Feyenoord and Bayer Leverkusen which took them to Wednesday's showdown in Budapest.

Roma's starting line-up will almost certainly not feature injury-prone star Paulo Dybala, who has had ankle problems since an awful tackle by Atalanta's Jose Palomino a month ago and is hoping to be on the bench.

"I don't think so, honestly, I don't think so," said Mourinho when asked if there was any chance Dybala could start.

"However, if I'm speaking honestly I hope that he can be on the bench. If Paulo can be on the bench and give me 15 minutes of effort, I would be happy."

Mourinho's future beyond this season is in serious doubt as Wednesday's final could be his last major act at Roma.

His departure after two years and a European trophy would mirror how he left Inter in 2010, when he skipped off to Real Madrid almost immediately after lifting the Champions League trophy in the Spanish capital.

"The only thing I'm focussed on is the final. I'm not thinking about my future or anything else. Everything else becomes secondary when you have a final to play," said Mourinho.

"I'm not thinking about myself, I'm thinking about the players and the supporters... we want to play, and Wednesday we will be there."

AFP

Sevilla's Europa League love affair could give them edge

LONDON

SEVILLA and Roma may seem an even match on paper in the Europa League final but the Andalucians' love affair with the competition may give them an edge in Budapest.

They are the record six-time champions, with the closest contenders – Inter Milan, Liverpool, Juventus and Atletico Madrid, on three each.

Despite their disappointing season in La Liga, Sevilla have stepped up a gear in the Europa League, blowing away Manchester United and then Juventus to reach a seventh final.

The other six they have emerged victorious in, with captain Jesus Navas saying his side come out of the blocks flying in the competition.

"We transform (in the Europa League) and it's incredible how we come out in every match," Navas told UEFA last week.

"It's a competition that has given us a lot, and the joy it provides us every time we take part in it drives us to go as far as possible." This season an added goal is paying back the fans for their support after one of the worst Sevilla La Liga campaigns in recent memory.

Since they were promoted in 2001, they have never finished in the bottom half, but are currently 11th with one game left to play.

It could have been a lot worse. They flirted with relegation for much of the campaign, sacking Julen Lopetegui and then Jorge Sampaoli, before Jose Luis Mendilibar steadied the ship.

"We're a family, we've showed it, we've had some very bad moments but the last quarter of the season has been spectacular," striker Rafa Mir told DAZN on Saturday.

"Now we have the prize of the final, we want to come back here with the cup."

- Rich history -

Sevilla won the competition first in 2006, with Navas, now 37, involved as a 20-year-old as they thrashed Steve McClaren's Middlesborough 4-0 in the final. It was their maiden European silverware and their first trophy for 57 years.

The late Antonio Puerta scored in extra time to help Juande Ramos's team squeeze past Schalke in the semi-finals, a goal which is fondly remembered to this day in Seville.

Puerta netted from the penalty spot the following year in the final as Sevilla edged La Liga rivals Espanyol in Glasgow in a shoot-out to lift the cup once more. Just a few months later Puerta died after suffering a heart attack while playing for his club in La Liga.

The Andalucians needed penalties again to triumph in 2014 with Unai Emery at the helm, as they beat Benfica to win the competition for the third time with Ivan Rakitic playing a key role before his move to Barcelona.

Sevilla went on to win the next two Europa Leagues, first beating Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk 3-2 in a thrilling clash in 2015, with Colombian striker Carlos Bacca netting twice.

The following season they beat Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool 3-1, this time full-back Coke hitting a brace. It would have been the German coach's first trophy on Merseyside.

"If you won it last year, what does it mean? If you won it two years ago, what does it mean? Actually nothing, so it's another game," said Klopp before the match, with Sevilla perhaps proving him wrong as they wrapped up their third in a row.

Sevilla clinched their sixth under Lopetegui against Inter Milan in another thrilling 3-2 win, albeit in an empty stadium because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Romelu Lukaku's own goal settled the game and ensured Sevilla maintained their 100 percent record in Europa League finals. ***AFP***

Winners and losers of the Premier League season

LONDON

ERLING Haaland fired Manchester City to a third consecutive Premier League title, but there was also plenty to celebrate for Arsenal, Newcastle and Manchester United as they secured a return to the Champions League next season.

Liverpool and Tottenham were among the major disappointments as they crashed out of the top four despite high hopes for the season.

Chelsea's scale of underachievement took some beating as the Blues finished 12th after spending over £500 million ($617 million) on new players.

After Sunday's final round of fixtures, AFP Sport looks at the winners and losers from the 2022/23 Premier League season:

Erling Haaland was the star of Manchester City's title triumph. (Agencies)

WINNERS

***Erling Haaland**

Haaland already has one trophy, individual prizes and a series of new records to show for his first season in England and is still only getting started.

Any doubts over how Pep Guardiola's men would adjust to having a focal point up front were banished as Haaland's 36 Premier League goals set a single-season record.

The 22-year-old has collected a clean sweep of Premier League player, young player and football writers' player of the season awards.

But it is two more pieces of silverware that will turn Haaland's remarkable season into a historic one.

Beat Manchester United in the FA Cup final on June 3 and Inter Milan a week later in the Champions League final and City will become just the second English side to ever do the treble.

***Brighton**

Brighton were one of the beneficiaries of a season of managerial change despite having their coach Graham Potter poached by Chelsea in September.

The Seagulls duly pocketed £20 million in compensation for Potter and hired Roberto De Zerbi, who has led the club into Europe for the first time in their history.

Guardiola hailed the Italian as "one of the most influential managers of the last 20 years" for his revolutionary style that has made Brighton one of the most attractive sides in Europe to watch.

The Premier League's predators are already waiting to pounce for the likes of Moises Caicedo and Alexis Mac Allister in the transfer window, but Brighton have become a conveyor belt of young talent.

Of the 20 goals scored by teenagers in the Premier League this season, 11 came from the Brighton trio Evan Ferguson, Julio Enciso and Facundo Buonanotte.

***Newcastle**

Backed by the Saudi sovereign wealth fund, Newcastle look the best long-term bet to challenge Manchester City's dominance of English football.

But few expected the Magpies' rise to be so rapid that they could secure Champions League football for the first time in 20 years in the first full season under the new regime.

Newcastle's success can also not be explained solely by money. They appear to have learned from the early days of other state-backed projects City and Paris Saint-Germain in not splashing out immediately on superstars.

Instead, Eddie Howe has managed to get the best out of players that were previously seen as expensive flops on Tyneside such as Joelinton and Miguel Almiron and fostered a fine team spirit despite an influx of new arrivals.

LOSERS

***Chelsea**

The Blues finished with their lowest ever Premier League points tally despite spending more than any club ever has in one season in the transfer market.

Mauricio Pochettino is expected to be named as the new man in charge at Stamford Bridge in the coming days, but the Argentine has a huge job on his hands to turn a bloated squad back into contenders at the top of the table.

The biggest concern for Chelsea fans will be whether the club's new owners will quickly learn from their foolhardy approach in their first season in charge.

***Managerial stability**

Only nine Premier League sides ended this term with the same man in charge that started the campaign, with a record 14 managers dismissed throughout the course of the season.

But a change of coach rarely brought about the desired result.

Chelsea, relegated Southampton and Leeds were the three clubs to fire two managers.

By contrast, there were no sackings among the clubs that finished in the top six, while Brentford and Fulham enjoyed brilliant seasons under Thomas Frank and Marco Silva respectively.

Even at the bottom, West Ham and Nottingham Forest were rewarded for sticking by David Moyes and Steve Cooper as they stayed up.

***Leicester**

Seven years after their stunning title triumph, Leicester will swap trips to Anfield, Old Trafford and the Etihad Stadium for less glamourous assignments at Rotherham, Plymouth and Hull in the Championship next season.

Relegated Leicester's fall from grace came as a huge shock as a talented squad boasting the likes of James Maddison and Youri Tielemans failed to deliver on their potential.

A run of two wins in their last 17 games sealed Leicester's fate as they crashed into the second tier for the first time since 2014.

AFP

Granit Xhaka's chaotic Arsenal journey ends in fitting style

BY SAM DEAN

Granit Xhaka arrived at Arsenal in the summer of 2016, when the club had just finished second in the Premier League. He is expected to leave them in the summer of 2023, after they have just finished second in the Premier League.

Based on those two snapshots alone, an uninformed observer might assume that little has changed at the Emirates Stadium in those seven years. On the most simplistic level, it could be said that Xhaka is departing the club as he found it.

Clearly, that would be a gross misreading. For these have been the wilderness years at Arsenal, a club shut out of the Champions League since 2017, and no player better embodies the chaotic journey than Xhaka, the midfielder who has perhaps lived through more turbulence - collective and personal - than any other in Arsenal's recent history.

In many ways, the story of Arsenal since 2016 is also the story of Xhaka. The two go hand-in-hand and, as he played what was surely his final game for the club, it felt entirely appropriate that it was he who took the headlines again. With two first-half goals, he made sure that this Sunday in May will be forever remembered as his day.

There was a time, not so long ago, when Xhaka appeared destined to leave Arsenal out the back door. Now, assuming his move to Bayer Leverkusen is finalised as expected, he can walk out the front, with his head held high and with the fans singing his name.

The sheer fact that Xhaka is departing on a positive note is an achievement in itself, given how painful the lows have been over the past few years of his professional life. There appeared to be no way back after he swore at his own supporters and was stripped of the captaincy by Unai Emery in 2019, but his relationship with the club and fans has been rebuilt from the rubble.

Arsenal's Granit Xhaka waves to fans during the lap of appreciation after the match – Reuters

Mikel Arteta would not confirm that Xhaka is leaving, but did say: "He has had an incredible season. One year back I spoke to him and told him: 'there's a question mark on you, you have to deliver more, you have to be better, I'm going to challenge you to play here.'

"He went back and I think he started to train the next day. He came back in pre-season four kilos less, fit, and really willing to do it. He has been exceptional. I'm so happy everybody is appreciating what he has done."

It is a measure of Xhaka's resilience, and his importance to Arteta over the past three years, that he received such an enthusiastic send-off in this final-day stroll past a disinterested Wolves.

The Swiss midfielder's song was the first to be sung by the home supporters and those cheers only became louder when he struck the early opener. It was a rare header, from an accurate Gabriel Jesus cross, and it was followed by a celebration which carried clear emotional significance.

More was to follow just three minutes later, when Martin Odegaard's attempted flick was diverted into Xhaka's path. This time he celebrated by the dugout, where long-time teammate Mohamed Elneny (currently injured) was waiting for a hug.

Remarkably, Xhaka could even have scored a first-half hat-trick. Perhaps knowing how silly that would have been, he sliced horribly wide.

For the rest of the afternoon, almost every one of Xhaka's touches was greeted with cries of "shoot" from the home supporters. He resisted the urge, instead allowing his team-mates to join him on the scoresheet for this drubbing of Wolves.

Julen Lopetegui's side have long since checked out of this campaign. Bukayo Saka scored Arsenal's third by cutting inside and curling into the far corner, before Jesus added the fourth with a back-post header, from Leandro Trossard's cross, after the break.

New signing Jakub Kiwior made it five with around 10 minutes to play, as he converted a half-cleared set piece, but the moment to savour in the second half was Xhaka's substit ution. The Emirates Stadium rose as one to salute the departing midfielder, and many fans even pleaded for him to stay, which really was the ultimate proof of how far he has come on his wild journey at the club.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko

The Guardian www.ippmedia.com

SPORT

Winners and losers of the Premier League season

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Polisi Tanzania takes survival quest to Azam Complex Stadium

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

POLISI Tanzania's quest to preserve their NBC Premier League status next season takes them to Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam next month.

The Police-owned club will face Simba SC and Azam FC at the same venue while praying Mtibwa Sugar fails to grab victory in the side's match against Kagera Sugar at Manungu Complex.

Polisi Tanzania is currently positioned 15th in the league log as the side hopes to secure a playoff spot at the expense of 14th-placed Mtibwa Sugar, now without a win in their last five games and currently with 29 points.

Mwinyi Zahera, Polisi Tanzania's head coach said: "We're going for a win, where we are at the moment, and with a few games to go, you can't make mistakes, only a win can save you."

Polisi Tanzania has managed to pick up an impressive six points in their last two games, as they beat Geita Gold FC 2-1 and Mtibwa Sugar 3-1.

"We want to cement our position there, and if possible, move clear of the bottom two but that will come after results of other teams going our way," a confident Zahera, the former DR Congo assistant coach, stated.

"We aim to win every match. We shall see where that lands us at the end of the season," he added.

In the meantime, Polisi Tanzania will be hoping for Mtibwa Sugar's poor form to continue against Kagera Sugar.

The Sugar Millers are winless in five games, and with one win from the past 15 league games and recently dropped to the relegation zone- exchanging positions with Mbeya City FC.

Mtibwa Sugar will play their last league fixture against Geita Gold FC as Polisi Tanzania is rooting for a loss to the Morogoro club.

Polisi Tanzania's management has however vowed to ensure they stay afloat.

"The administration has ensured that the boys are trained and motivated under my tutelage. I do not doubt in my mind that we're going to survive the chop," Zahera noted.

Their fellow military side, Ruvu Shooting have already been relegated as they prepare for a new life in the Championship League next season.

USM Alger's head coach Abdelhak Benchikha.

USMA coach warns players over Yanga response

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

ALGERIA's USM Alger coach Abdelhak Benchikha has told his players not to be complacent ahead of CAF Confederation Cup final second leg against Tanzanian outfit, Young Africans SC.

USM Alger put on a footballing clinic away from home and took a handy 2-1 first-leg advantage into their home tie against Young Africans SC, also known as Yanga.

Islam Merili produced a late match-winner to silence the crowd at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam soon after Yanga striker Fiston Mayele cancelled out the opening goal netted by Aymen Mahious.

The result puts Benchikha's charges in a strong position to win their first continental title, but the veteran Algerian coach is taking nothing for granted.

Benchikha is demanding focus from his players and wants them to treat the tie seriously, with less consideration for the result from the first leg.

The tactician pointed out: "Nothing is done yet. The game remains 50-50. I have experience with these kinds of matches as a coach. Yanga will come to Algeria with nothing to lose and we have to remain focused."

"Yes, we have a small step from the first leg but I know how things can change and we should not lose focus. We will keep working," the gaffer revealed.

Benchikha was pleased with the performance and fighting spirit of his players, as well as their tactical awareness in a difficult away outing played on a slippery pitch following on-and-off rains throughout the day.

The tactician pointed out: "I am happy with this positive result. We played a very heroic match and we implemented our strategy well."

"It was tough playing under the rainy conditions but our players showed a superb game and possibly we should have scored more," the coach noted.

He added: "We had a very good balance in defending and attacking and our tactical approach was really good. We did not leave spaces for Yanga to exploit because they have very dangerous players who can punish you."

The second leg will be played at the July 5 Stadium in Algiers where hosts USM Alger will be strong favourites to complete success in front of their fanatical fans.

USM Alger who previously played in the final of the 2015 CAF Champions League, losing 4-1 on aggregate against Congolese giants TP Mazembe will need only a draw to lift the CAF Confederation Cup trophy.

Home form has played a key role in their CAF Confederation Cup campaign this season, winning all seven ties in front of their fans in Algiers.

Tanzania's Yanga forward, Kennedy Musonda (2nd R), negotiates his way past Algeria's USM Alger defenders as the former's teammate, Kibwana Shomari (L), closes in during the first leg of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE

Yanga's Nabi admits USMA comeback is difficult but not impossible

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YANGA's head coach Nasreddine Nabbi acknowledges the size of the task facing his outfit in the second leg of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final tie with USM Alger but insisted they still have a chance to lay their hands on the continental trophy.

In a tightly contested first leg of the CAF Confederation Cup final at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday, visitors USM Alger of Algeria edged past the Tanzanian football giant with a 2-1 victory.

The Algerians found the winner through Islam Merili barely two minutes after Yanga had leveled the score in the 82nd minute through Fiston Mayele's exceptional goal.

Aimen Mahious had given USM Alger a first-half lead, heading home a set piece within Yanga's penalty area.

Nevertheless, during his post-match press conference, Nabi told reporters his side will go to Algiers with the target of staging a dramatic comeback against the odds.

He said they will have nothing to lose and will give their all to ensure they put to clinch their first-ever continental trophy.

The coach noted: "There are 90 minutes left and as long as we still have this chance, there is an opportunity. It is difficult but not impossible."

"I can't promise the supporters that I'm going to come back with the Cup. But I say, we will fight to turn the tide. We have the means to do this because we have already proven it," the gaffer revealed.

Reflecting on how his team played, the Tunisian-born coach was pleased with the performance of his players, but only unhappy that they could not convert their chances.

He added the home performance against a defensive side is a major reason he believes the tie is not over.

The gaffer said: "We saw that even though USM Alger is very compact defensively, we managed to create a lot of chances. We had almost 62% possession of the ball against a compact defense and very aggressive players in duels."

"This is why I say that nothing is finished. On top of that, we have the tradition of scoring away from home," the gaffer added.

The results ended Yanga's eight-game unbeaten run in the CAF Confederation Cup. It was also their first home defeat in both the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup this season.

Yanga will now need a victory of more than two goals to progress, while a 2-1 victory will force the game to extra time and a possible penalty shootout.

> *It was tough playing under the rainy conditions but our players showed a superb game and possibly we should have scored more*

Flexibles by David Chikoko