



National Pg 3 Women more selective in job searching



National Pg 4 BRELA sponsors five UDSM students



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BUSINESS BOT advised to protect post-pandemic economic recovery

Global financial stocks lose \$465bn in two days

Oil extends decline ahead of US inflation data

Statutory administration of Yetu Microfinance extended

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Full cleaner energy uptake put at 2033

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government is drafting a 10-year national vision and implementation strategy for total transition to clean cooking by 2033.

Felchesmi Mramba, the Energy permanent secretary said the draft is being prepared by the government in collaboration with key stakeholders, following a directive by President Samia Suluhu Hassan last November. Opening a two-day national clean cooking stakeholders' workshop held here, he recalled the president's directive at the clean cooking conference in Dar es Salaam at that time, with the workshop being hosted by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). The European Union funds the UNCDF CookFund programme, working with the Tanzania Renewable Energy Association (TAREA), the Tanzania Association of Clean Cooking Stakeholders (TACCS) and the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC).

The event convened clean cooking technology for small and medium enterprises, diplomatic missions, research institutions, community-based organizations, UN agencies, financial institutions, public institutions and other players in the energy sector.

The workshop is exploring potential cooking technologies and fuels in support of the national target of transitioning 80 percent of the population to clean cooking by 2033, he said.

The ministry is collaborating with stakeholders to implement the president's directive on advancing the clean cooking agenda, demanding that the ministry and relevant stakeholders develop a comprehensive roadmap supporting the transition of 80 percent of the population to clean cooking by 2033, he said.

The government had already initiated the national clean cooking group coordinated by the Prime Minister's Office, to oversee progress in the president's directive being implemented.

Preparations of the structure of the Tanzania Clean Cooking Fund along with drafting the 10 year national vision and implementation strategy on the transition to clean cooking are underway, he emphasised.

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Railways Act set for private sector role



Works and Transport deputy minister Atupele Mwakibete (C. in purple shirt) in a group photo yesterday with members of the Parliamentary Committee on Infrastructure led by its chairman, Mpanda Rural constituency legislator Moshi Selemani Kakoso (to his right), after a field visit of Standard Gauge Railway project sites from Morogoro to Makutupora in Dodoma Region. Photo: Frank Monyo

By Correspondent James Kandoya, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Railways Corporation Act, 1977 is being put to amendment to allow private sector investments in ongoing projects in the sector including the standard gauge railway (SGR).

Atupele Mwakibete, the Works and Transport deputy minister, made this affirmation to members of the Infrastructure standing committee of the National Assembly here yesterday, when visiting the Morogoro -Makutupora SGR section worksite, which officials said it is 92 per cent done.

The bill will be tabled in the parliamentary sitting set for next month, he said, noting that the government has disbursed upwards of 23.5trn/- for the Dar es Salaam-Mwanza and Tabora-Kigoma SGR sections.

Amending the Act will enable higher levels of efficiency, capacity utilization of the facility and enhanced competition with



People want to see the project completed on time to allow them to upscale their business expectations

other transportation service providers, he said.

Currently, the Railways Act doesn't provide for initiatives where the private sector becomes part of actual service providers, with the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) being totally responsible for service provision.

He urged the MPs to join hands with the government initiative to ensure private sector participation in strategic projects including SGR, noting that the country needs foreign and local investors in procuring wagons and locomotives.

When the law is reviewed, the private sector will start offering services such as transporting cargoes, paying concession fees to the government for using rail utilities, he stated.

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Ex-premier picked for food sovereignty team

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has picked former prime minister Mizengo Pinda to lead the Presidential Food and Agriculture Delivery Council (PFADC).

PFADC will oversee the implementation of protocols on the food and agriculture delivery endorsed at the Dakar summit of African Union member states on food sovereignty

and resilience on January 27.

A State House dispatch from the capital issued yesterday said that the former premier brings in his leadership qualities and practical experience on agriculture to help the council to delivery on its goals.

Geoffrey Kirenga, the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) chief executive officer, was appointed to the council as well as Andrew Massawe, who until

recently was Agriculture permanent secretary.

Kirenga is an agriculture expert with a vast experience, serving in different capacities in the government, while the former permanent secretary is expected to share his immense skills in the field of agro-sector policies and operations, the brief noted.

Three high profile personalities would similarly join the PFADC ad-

visory team, namely Dr Florence Turuka, Dr Florence Turuka of the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Dr Jacqueline Mkindi who heads the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) and Dr Mwatima Juma, the Tanzania Organic Agricultural Movement (TOAM) chairperson.

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa cuts ribbon in Mwanza city yesterday to launch Road Safety Week at national level. Photo: PMO

Clerics applaud Samia for democracy, economy gain

By Guardian Reporter

THE Inter-Religious Peace Committee of Tanzania (IRCPT) has praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for opening up the country, strengthening democracy, and fostering social and economic development.

Sheikh Alhad Musa Salum, the committee chairman, said yesterday that the president has done a lot of positive things in the past two years, bringing relief and development achievements.

Asking that all Tanzanians hail the president's achievements, he said that everyone is now

proud of development initiatives that the government is taking. "Samia has opened-up the country," he said, noting that people have witnessed how guests are flowing into the country with many of them establishing investment projects here. This is stimulating social and economic development, fostering welfare to the society, he affirmed.

He similarly asserted that the political situation has greatly improved and party leaders are now happy and free to engage their political responsibilities

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GWP Tanzania implements projects to protect Wami Ruvu Basin water sources

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE international non-governmental organisation the Global Water Partnership (GWP) Tanzania is implementing projects to protect water sources along the Wami Ruvu Basin in Morogoro Region.

The project includes construction of cattle feedlots, an office for water users' community at Lukulunge village, Mvuha ward and water well at Kidongozero village in Vigwaza ward, Bagamoyo District, Coast Region.

GWP Tanzania executive director Dr Victor Kongo said the organisation is implementing the projects to ensure residents at the areas continue to access water services without destroying the sources.

Dr Kongo said the projects are expected to be completed by the end of April 2023. He said they are collaborating with the board of the Wami Ruvu basin, Morogoro and Chalinze districts and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA).

"Villagers will use the office to keep their working equipment and come up with a plan to manage water sources," he said.

Operations Manager, Wami Ruvu Basin, Diana Kimbute commended residents at Mvuha wards saying they have played a big role in protection of water sources. She said the villagers have set rules whereas each user must have a permit.

"The villagers are controlling livestock from drinking water at the sources. We are planning to allocate officers from offices who will be working closely with the villagers in ensuring sustainable protection of the sources," she added.

Acting Morogoro District Director, Ndelisho Mushi said they provided an area for construction of an office for water users' community to facilitate their activities.

RUWASA Manager in Chalinze, James Kionaumela said construction of cattle feedlots at Kidongozero village will enhance protection of water sources. He said previously, cattle could invade the sources in search of water due to prolonged drought caused by climate change.

The feedlot will enable more than 40 cattle to drink water at one time.

Chairman of Livestock keepers Association in Vigwaza, Robert Ole Stio commended the organization for constructing the cattle feedlot saying they were forced to take their animals to water sources because of drought.

He said when all the dams are dry, pastoralists opt to feed their livestock directly from water sources, but with the feedlots, the sources will be safe.

Villagers will use the office to keep their working equipment and come up with a management plan

Full cleaner energy uptake put at 2033

FROM PAGE 1

Immanuel Muro, a finance specialist at UNCDF country office and CookFund programme manager, said that the organization is working closely with the ministry to implement the euro 17m CookFund programme funded by the resident EU mission.

It also involves private sector players to accelerate delivery of clean cooking solutions by addressing undercapitalization at small energy firms and end user affordability challenges, he stated.

The programme targets SMEs to scale their offering capability and end users to afford buying the relevant solutions, he said, while Sarah Gordon-Gibson, the WFP country director said this year, WFP plans to support nearly half a million vulnerable Tanzanians, plus Burundian and Congolese refugees transit to clean cooking energy.

This will be done through a set of activities as the majority of the targeted groups depend on firewood and charcoal for cooking, she said, underlining that access to clean cooking fuel and technologies has a major impact on health, gender, economic, environmental and climate resilience.

Collective, coordinated, comprehensive actions and renewed efforts are required, where national policies are backed by public and private investments, she stated.

Multi-sectoral and multi-functional partnerships are required to transform the way cooking is done in Tanzania, to improve livelihoods, protect the environment and empower women and girls, the director added.

Clerics applaud Samia on democracy, economy gains

FROM PAGE 1

in the wake of the president's reconciliation initiative.

A few years back, people were so afraid, fearing to engage in political issues, but now things have resettled, he said, praising the peace and freedom for Tanzanians to engage in political activities.

"President Samia has also strengthened international relations where the country has witnessed a number of top leaders from various countries visiting Tanzania as well as tourists," he said, pointing out that many of them were attracted by the Royal Tour documentary starring the Head of State.

Implementation of various strategic projects like the standard gauge

railway (SGR) and the Julius Nyerere Hydro-Power Project (JNHPP) have been kept apace, he said, pointing at roads, power projects, bridges, schools and hospitals as other vital infrastructure needs being undertaken.

The cleric urged the breadth of the citizenry and in particular political leaders to render close support to the president to strengthen the drive to at-

tain current objectives.

Rev. George Fupe, the committee vice chairman, said in the two years in office, President Samia has touched all major fields of governance, vital to enabling the country attain its development goals.

The president has been able to set strategies of opening up the country, improve democracy and human rights

conduct, and putting up a conducive trade and investment environment attracting investors by the thousand into the country, he said.

Israel Masa, the committee secretary, hinted on the note that President Samia stands for what is right, combats gender violence and other evils that imperil harmony and proper upbringing of children.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (L) gifts the First Deputy Speaker of Ukraine's Parliament, Oleksandr Korniyenko, a photo of Tanzania's Parliament Building on the sidelines of an Africa Geopolitical Group meeting of the March 11 to 15 Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly in Manama, Bahrain, yesterday. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

Zanzibar pays 5.8m/- compensation

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

A total of 37 citizens who once owned land plots at Dunga Zuze village in Central District of Unguja have been paid their compensation totaling 5.8m/- to leave the area and pave way for the industrial investment activities.

Speaking yesterday during the exercise to issue the compensa-

tion, Minister of Trade and Industrial Development of Zanzibar Omar Said Shaban said the government has issued a total of 5,783,956.51/- to enable the residents to leave the area smoothly.

He said the government has allocated the 173-hectares area for investment purposes, especially construction of factories, enabling citizens to also benefit through the

investments.

"This compensation is due to the government's zeal to develop the industrial sector whereby some potential areas in the country have been allocated including the Chamangwe in Kisiwani, Pemba," he said.

The minister commended the residents who have been affected by the investment in the area for

cooperating well during the whole process until compensation.

Ali Khamis, permanent secretary of the ministry, said earlier the area was used by the residents in various economic activities including agriculture before the government taking it for investment purposes.

Dunga Kiembeni deputy shekha, Kesi Makame Mussa said the investment has greatly helped the

Dunga Zuze to be widely known as investors are now spotting the area so as to establish investment projects.

Mwanajuma Mussa Tenga, one of the residents said that the government's move to allocate the area for investment will not only benefit it but also citizens at the area who will grab various employment produced through the investments.



Energy ministry permanent secretary Felchesmi Mramba addresses a two-day national clean cooking stakeholders' workshop in Dodoma city yesterday. The event was hosted by the Energy ministry, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). The others pictured include WFP's Country Director and Representative in Tanzania, Sarah Gordon-Gibson (2nd-R), and UNCDF Senior Finance Specialist/CookFund Imanuel Muro (R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Ex-premier to lead new food sovereignty team

FROM PAGE 1

Dr Turuka with his experience in public service and high profile lecture in agriculture is particularly expected to bring about insight on how the presidential delivery council would deliver.

Dr Mkindi, an agri-business specialist, bring rich experience on horticulture production, international trade and the private sector perspective, while Dr Juma would share her vast knowledge on organic food production.

The PFADC will be formally launched on Friday at State House in Dar es Salaam, the brief added.

Govt reviewing Railways Act for private sector role

FROM PAGE 1

After presidential assent, TRC will remain the overall service regulator and also an operator like the other firms, he said, while Selemani Kakoso (Mpanda Rural), the committee chairman, expressed full support for that initiative.

He urged the TRC management to ensure that the contractor finishes the project on the agreed time, as there was an excuse from the contractor to delay the works. The government must stand firmly to ensure it is done on time, he emphasised.

"People want to see the project completed on time to allow them to upscale their business expectations," he said, highlighting the need to invest in the youth who will be running the railway in the near future.



Nipashe newspaper deputy managing editor Epton Luhwago (2nd-L) briefs Khamis Mbeto Khamisi CCM Ideology and Publicity Secretary for Zanzibar, on newsroom operations. Khamisi was on a familiarisation tour of The Guardian Ltd (TGL) offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. With them are Nipashe newspaper managing editor Beatrice Bandawe (R) and TGL print manager Balasubramanian Venkatchalan. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

South Africa and Tanzania commit to enhanced economic cooperation

By Guardian Reporter, Pretoria

TANZANIA and South Africa have agreed to increase new areas of investment in the finance and economy, agriculture, minerals, water, tourism, politics, diplomacy, transport, technology, education, industry, trade and development to further the cordial bilateral relations between the two countries.

The agreements were reached this week here during the opening of the Bi-National Commission (BNC) meeting held from March 13 to 16, this year.

The meeting was preceded by senior officers from March 13 and 14 to discuss and prepare reports which will be discussed in the ministerial meeting from March 15 to 16. The second bi-national commission meeting is aimed to evaluate the progress of implementation of commitments made during the inaugural session of the BNC in May, 2017.

Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Ambassador Fatma Rajab said that the meeting provides an opportunity to review the implementation of the areas of cooperation agreed in the first session and to set strong strategies to be implemented.

It is also aimed to assess and evaluate the progress of all outstanding decisions and commitments as well as joint projects. "The meeting will also agree on new areas of cooperation and further enhance cooperation within the framework of the BNC as well as deepen understanding of regional, multilateral, and global issues of mutual concern," she said.

She said that the meeting was important because Tanzania and South Africa enjoy historical relations as well as political, economic and social relations, which were cemented during the period of the liberation struggle.

Zane Dangor, South Africa's international relations and cooperation director-general, said that the BNC also provides opportunities to strengthen trade and investment relations of the two countries.

"Our role is to strengthen cooperation in matters of great interest to our nations and open opportunities for new areas of cooperation," he said.

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

THE ruling CCM's Ideology and Publicity Secretary for Zanzibar, Khamis Mbeto Khamisi, has hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan for lining up initiatives towards resolving contentious issues of the Union between mainland and Zanzibar.

It would be recalled that when she addressed the Parliament for the first time in April last year, President Samia said she would throw her weight behind the Union, in-

cluding sustaining the success recorded since the two sides were united in 1964.

Khamis made the remarks yesterday during a familiarisation tour at IPP Media located at Mikocheni Light Industrial area in Dar es Salaam.

He said President Samia in collaboration with Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi are doing a great job in creating a strong economy for the two countries.

"Apart from the familiarisation

'Samia takes Union at heart'

tour, we also appreciate President Samia's drive in cooperation with President Dr Mwinyi on ensuring Union economic sustainability issues are addressed," he said.

He added that 98-per cent of unresolved matters have been solved with only two per cent remaining namely the Zanzibar shares in the defunct East African currency board and Bank of Tanzania (BoT)

shares," he said.

"Issues that have been removed from the list of union contentious issues include the United Republic of Tanzania and Zanzibar government's joint committee meeting procedures on Union issues and agreement on oil and gas exploration and exploitation," he added.

According to him, in 2006 a special committee was established to

discuss Union disparities and already 25 unresolved union matters were tabled and solved.

He also commended President Dr Mwinyi's initiatives on social economic drive in developing Zanzibar citing the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) which has offered a wide range of investments to investors and 215 projects and already 215 worth \$306 billion

projects are registered.

"16bn/- has been released to communities through World Bank policy that demands the government to facilitate citizens to support community based development projects," he added.

He also raised that with the growing Zanzibar oil consumption things have now turned from 15 million litres per month there are possibilities that it will accommodate transit ship to Comoro and South Africa.



Tanzania LPG Association executive director Amos Mwanumbue (L) speaks at a seminar for LPG cooking gas stakeholders in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The event will run in tandem with the East Africa LPG Expo 2023 conference as well as an exhibition of LPG gas products scheduled to be held in the city today and tomorrow. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Women are more selective in searching for jobs - TPSF

By Guardian Reporter

WOMEN have been urged not to be too selective in jobs and instead invest their efforts in engaging in any legal economic activities that will provide them income to improve their lives as well as contribute to the development of the country.

Angelina Ngalula, Bravo Logistics and Agricom Africa executive chairperson made the call recently in Dar es Salaam saying that women can do any job that men do including bus or truck driving which majority of them have been avoiding.

He was speaking at an event to congratulate female staff of the two companies for doing a good job and actively participating in International Women's Day.

Angelina who also is the chairperson of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) said that in business there is no work for women or men but what is considered is the principle of business to generate profit.

Angelina opposed the statement that if women are empowered, they can but rather said that women have the ability and they can do big things than men.

"However for women to be able, what they need is not privileged positions or being lifted with affirmative positions, they need

to be empowered with capacity building, being given access to capital, better business environment, and to open up access market opportunities, something that even men need," she explained.

Angelina has set an example herself, although she is a woman, she owns a logistics company for long distance trucks, Bravo logistics, and an agricultural equipment company, Agricom Africa,

which is the leading seller of tractors and modern farming equipments, both are said to be men's jobs, but she is a woman, she has entered and has managed.

She gave an example of President Samia Suluhu Hassan on how she has shown the ability to do many things including the impossible, something which gives courage to many women to follow the footsteps.

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
SHERIA YA USAJILI
No 334 R: E 2019
ILANI YA UBATILISHO
(CHINI YA FUNGU LA 99 (1)(F)
(Tangazwa kwenye Gazeti)
Hati Na. 2552
Kumb. Na ARD /N/C/10A
Kiwanja Na 16a Kitabu "C"
Njoro, Jijini Arusha
Kwa
WAN ABDON GAI
S.L.P 554
ARUSHA
Mimi Idalina Juma Kayera S.L.P 370A Arusha Kamitsha wa Ardhi Msaadizi
Mkoa wa Arusha, natao ilani ya Ubatilisho wa haki ya kumiliki ardi
iliyoandikishwa kwa mamba zilizotajwa hapo juu kutokana na sababu
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Arusha ombalo linakutaja wewe kuwa ndiye uliyesajiliwa kama mmiliki
wa kiwanja tajwa hapo juu, hoto hivyo ofisi ya Kamishna Msaadizi wa
Ardhi Mkoa wa Arusha inapendelea kukufahamisha hokutombulijama
mawakilishi hadi wa kiwanja hicho na inatanzia kuchakuka hoto za ulifuzi
miki yako.
Ilani hii ni ya siku sitini (60) kuanzia siku ambayo imetolewa kweko.
Unatakiwa kufika Ofisi ya Ardhi Mkoa wa Arusha uliwa na nyaraka zao
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Kinyume na hapo taratibu za kutafuta umiliki wako zitandelea
Imetolewa hapo Ofisi ya Kamishna wa Ardhi Msaadizi Mkoa wa Arusha leo
tarehe 09 ya mwezi MARCH, 2023
Kamishna wa Ardhi Msaadizi (M) Arusha

IN THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT OF MBEYA
AT MBEYA
CIVIL CASE NO. 12 OF 2021
PUMA ENERGY TANZANIA LTD., APPLICANT/APPELLANT
VERSUS
BLACK GOLD LIMITED T/A PUMA MWANJELWA SERVICE
STATION.....RESPONDENT
TO: BLACK GOLD LIMITED T/A
PUMA MWANJELWA SERVICE STATION - MBEYA
NOTICE OF DATE OF HEARING/MENTION
TAKE NOTICE that the above case has been fixed for
mention on the 21st day of March, 2023 at 8:30 a.m
before Hon. T.R. MLIMBA Resident Magistrate.
YOU ARE required to appear in this Court on the fixed
date without fail.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 7th
day of March, 2021.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have set the seal of the Court this 7th
day of March, 2021.
RESIDENT MAGISTRATE
MBEYA

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UN Women's Representative to Tanzania, Hodan Addou (R), pictured in Dar es Salaam on Monday presenting to The Guardian Ltd journalist Jennifer Gilla the ESAR Gender Journalism award for having won it last year in the Women's Rights Activism and Leadership category. The competition saw 25 journalists from the Eastern and Southern African region earlier awarded for outstanding reporting on gender equality at an online ceremony organised by UN Women in Tanzania and Malawi in partnership with the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), the African Women Leaders' Network and the Tanzania Media Women's Association (Tamwa). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AMF, PBZ support Dar hospital with medical tools worth 300m/-

By Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

ASMA Mwinyi Foundation (AMF) in collaboration with People's Bank of Zanzibar Limited (PBZ) have provided support for medical equipment including delivery kits worth 300m/- to expectant mothers at the Mwananyamala referral hospital with the aim of helping them to receive better medical services.

Speaking shortly after handing over the donation, Asma Mwinyi, AMF founder and chief executive officer (CEO) said they have divided the medical equipment into 100 bags to help expectant mothers during childbirth.

Asma said that the aid is also part of the celebration of International Women's Day, which was officially celebrated on March 8, this year, noting that the donated medical gear will save the lives of mothers and children.

She called upon women and stakeholders to unite in efforts to eradicate the problem of maternal and child deaths.

"Let's unite, as unity is always strength, separation is weakness, so today (yesterday) we joined with PBZ bank to send 300 bags of equipment to three different places including Makunduchi Unguja, here in Mwananyamala and Pemba and in all the

hospitals we went to we gave 100 bags," she said.

She added: "Cooperation is good, maybe we would have said to come ourselves as an institution, maybe we wouldn't have come with 300 bags, and we have provided these equipment considering the hospitals with the greatest need according to the number of pregnant mothers received."

Attieye Muhamed, PBZ's Lumumba branch manager said in collaboration with the AMF they have been making various efforts with the aim of contributing to society, and showing their readiness to help Tanzanians who are in need.

"It's obvious that our community needs a lot that some members of the community are unable to afford, as a result of which PBZ and AMF have shown their willingness to cooperate with any other institution that aims to touch the community directly," said Attieye.

Upendo Lema, Mwananyamala regional referral hospital head nurse lauded AMF and PBZ for extending such needed support, noting: "This is going to be very helpful to us and the entire hospital."

She encouraged other institutions to emulate the spirits and extend the support to the need people in the society.

BRELA sponsors five students pursuing Master's Degree in intellectual property at UDSM

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA), has sponsored five students studying Master's Degree in Intellectual Property (MIP) at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).

The ceremony to hand over the check was held yesterday in Dar es Salaam and was attended by various guests including students of the university who received the funding.

The students who met the criteria and got the funding in this academic year are Grace Mwaikono who is an employee of the High Court and Stanslaus Kigosi who is an employee of BRELA.

Others are Addo Mwasongwe who is an employee of NSSF, Er-

ick Mlasani who is an employee of UDSM and Merciana Ntabaye who is also an employee of UDSM.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Executive Officer of (BRELA), Godfrey Nyaisa, said they have decided to sponsor them to fulfill the mission of encouraging innovation and creativity as well as promoting education about intellectual property issues in Tanzania.

Nyaisa said the funding has a cost of 16,550,000 which includes fees, research costs, diaries and books as well as subsistence allowance for the relevant beneficiaries.

He said that BRELA has set the qualifications and criteria that an applicant should have in order to get the mentioned scholarship and some of those criteria include the applicant's citizenship, age, profes-

sional qualifications and employment status.

He said the goal of BRELA's funding in MIP studies is to expand the scope of professionals in the field of intellectual property since this important area does not have many professionals in this country.

He said another goal is to increase awareness about intellectual property for the positive development of the nation due to the importance of intellectual property in sustainable economic and social development.

He added that the aim is to encourage the beneficiaries of funding to recognise the benefits obtained from education about intellectual property and how to use it to develop, motivate and promote innovation in the country.

Nyaisa said the funding will help

put a special emphasis on the integration of laws and policies and have creativity in the context of the current economic and social trends found in Africa.

He said the expectation is to increase the number and further strengthen experts in the field of intellectual property so that they can be at the forefront of managing and coordinating intellectual property systems in the country.

"Beneficiaries should be important and leading links in preparing or participating in the preparation of policies and strategies for intellectual property at the national and institutional level," he said.

He said that BRELA will continue to encourage the development of education in the field of intellectual property in various ways in order

to promote the understanding of intellectual property for economic and social development.

"The funding of BRELA in these MIP scholarships will be sustainable for those who will meet the criteria set, I would like to give an advice to the beneficiaries of the MIP scholarships who are handed their checks today to use the education and knowledge they will get from these studies to develop and promote intellectual property in various areas they will serve after graduating their studies," he said.

Dr Sosthenes Materu, Dean of the School of Law, (UDSM), said in 2019 UDSM through the Law School, started the Master of Intellectual Property Programme (MIP) which is offered in collaboration between UDSM and the African Regional

Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO), the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

He said that the aim of establishing the studies is to promote and develop intellectual ownership in the country and in the region.

He said the programme is the first and unique one for East Africa which gives the opportunity to candidates from all fields to join the studies.

He said that since the inception of the programme, BRELA has been providing scholarships to the participants where until now a total of nine students, including those who were handed over checks in the event, have benefited from the funding of BRELA.

Women play vital role in economic development, says govt

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has said that it recognises that women in the country own small and medium scale businesses by over 50 percent and they play a big role in the economic development.

Deputy Minister for Industries and

Trade, Exaud Kigahe said this in Dar es Salaam recently during the event to issue awards to women manufacturers organised by the Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC).

Kigahe said that to achieve the country's industrialisation agenda, women have made a huge contribution and

that the government will continue to create a conducive environment to enable them to implement their projects smoothly.

"The government will continue to appreciate the big contribution made by women in building their country's economy by implementing strategies including access to capital, strengthening the efficiency of public institutions that deal with investment and business by empowering citizens economically," he said.

He said that the government knows how women in this country have been working hard to participate in various economic activities in the country.

The deputy minister hailed the TWCC for complementing the government's efforts in uplifting women economically, supporting them in various areas to enable them produce quality products as well as recognising their efforts through awards.

He said the awards will help encourage more women to learn on how other women are succeeding in the manufacturing sector.

He commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her efforts to open-up the country and facilitate a

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS



ICRC

PUBLIC AUCTION:

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE under instructions received from International Committee of the Red Cross, we shall sell two (2) Used Vehicles by public auction on Saturday 25th March, 2023 commencing at 11:00 am. The auction will take place at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street.

Details of the Vehicles

Unit	Make	Model	Year	Duty
1	Toyota Land Cruiser Hard Top TX	1HZ Diesel Engine	2017	Not Paid
1	Nissan Qashqai Station Wagon	FDRN Petrol Engine	2014	Not Paid

All Vehicles may be inspected at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street, Dar es Salaam from March 20th to 24th 2023 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

AUCTION CONDITIONS:

- The winning bidder of the Vehicle must pay immediately 25% of bid amount and the final payment in full within 5 working days by March 31st, 2023 at 4:00pm. Payments not made within 5 working days the deposit will be retained by the Seller for breach of Contract.
- Payments via CRDB and NBC Bank VISA & Master Cards will be accepted.
- All vehicles are sold on "as is" basis with International Committee of the Red Cross absolving itself from any responsibilities whatsoever.
- Duty and all taxes are the responsibility of the buyer. All payment of duties, taxes and vehicle registration transfer needs to be completed within a maximum of three (3) weeks' time.
- Vehicle will only be released to the winning bidder upon proof of duty payments AND vehicle ownership transfer.
- ICRC has the right to reject the sale partially or completely.
- All persons entering the premises must obtain a Bid Number at the entrance.
- All person entering auction yard must wear Mask, Wash hand with running water or sanitizer.

For further information, contact:
UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE,
 (PLOT NO. 5 "E" LION STREET SINZA. **DAR ES SALAAM**
 CELL NO: 0754 284 926 **E-mail: universalauktion@hotmail.com**
 Insta: universalauktioncentre

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Asma Mwinyi Foundation director Asma Mwinyi (4th-R) presents 100 delivery kits to Upendo Lema, chief nursing officer of Dar es Salaam's Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospital, as part of the commemoration of International Women's Day celebrations. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

Women encouraged to venture into tech and innovation space

By Correspondent Mary Kadoko

THE African Mathematical Union Vice President Prof Verdiana Masanja has encouraged women to grab the digitalized technology and innovation space to fit in the competitive employment market in and outside the country.

Prof Masanja made the call in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when speaking at the climax of the International Women's Day organised by Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP). For TGNP, this year's women's day theme: "Digit All: Technology and Innovation for Advancing Gender Equality."

Prof Masanja said women's engagement in the science and technology field is still low hence extra motivation is needed to fill the gap.

"It is time women grasp the digitalized technology and innovations in a tactic to compete in the digital world that men have taken over," she said.

According to her, men seem to have taken over the 'Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), with the community promoting that problems dealing with technology and innovations are to be solved by only men hence urging the society to undo the thoughts and change.

She commended initiatives made in the education sector, Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (Costech) in offering competitive platforms to female students strategically to increase female employment opportunities.

Lilian Liundi, TGNP executive director said the two days' commemoration targeted mainly three aspects, one being organizing intergenerational discussions aimed to question why men stand as the source of digital bullying for women.

"Ahead of the global commemoration of women's day, TGNP has conducted several media campaigns on

changes in technology innovations citing a positive aspect of gender equality," she said.

"The other strategy at hand is cooperating with knowledge centers. The unique thing about TGNP is reaching places that others don't so that we see what can be done to reduce the available gender gap on technology innovations.

Gemma Akilimali, TGNP board chairperson affirmed that its time the community mostly erased the notion that women possessing digital equipment such as smartphones are the cause of their immorality.

Akilimali said: "Women have been tightened with so many responsibilities living behind the digital space because that's what men believe women can do. They end up experiencing gender violence when they possess phones grounded from the notion that the women's communications lead to infidelity.

Construction of sub-station, power transmission line from JNHPP progressing well, says Makamba

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINISTER for Energy, January Makamba has said that the construction of the sub-station at Chalinze and the power transmission line from the Julius Nyerere Hydro-Power Project (JNHPP) of kV 400 has reached 55 and 92 percent respectively.

Makamba said this yesterday here when issuing a report on the implementation of the project before the Parliamentary Committee on Minerals and Energy.

"The implementation of the projects is currently in various stages, the 400 kV transmission line project has reached 92 percent and the construction of the Chalinze cooling station, which involves the installation of six transformer machines, has reached 55 percent," Makamba said.

He explained that the project is part of the implementation of the JNHPP where the transmission line with a length of 160km from the JNHPP site area to Chalinze, Coast Region.

"This project is funded by the government

at a cost of \$51.5 million and 39.12bn /- where the construction of the power transmission line will spend a total of \$44.06 million and 30.85bn /- will be for the construction of the Chalinze cooling station," Makamba explained.

He named the contractor of the power transmission line project as Larsen & amp; Toubro Limited from India while the Chalinze cooling station is under TBEA from China.

Dustan Kitandula, chairman of the committee commended the government for its efforts to implement various projects in the power, gas and oil and sector including the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP).

The meeting was attended by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Eng Felchesmi Mramba, Commissioner for Electricity and Renewable Energy, Eng Innocent Luoga and other officials from the Ministry of Energy, Rural Energy Agency (REA), Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) and the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC).



M-Pesa director Epimack Mbeteni (L) briefs Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the mobile phone service provider's pavilion during the launch of the Road Safety Week by the PM at Furahisha grounds in Mwanza city yesterday. The others include Mwanza regional commissioner Adam Malima (2nd-L, foreground) and Inspector General of Police Camilius Wambura (to the PM's right). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Vodacom facilitates insurance access at Road Safety Week

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said that public private partnerships mode of collaboration will ensure the use of innovative technology in reducing the incidence of road accidents across the country.

Gracing an opening ceremony for the Road Safety Week at Furahisha grounds in of Mwanza city, the premier said that the public sector has a bigger role to play when partnering with the private sector in a commitment to formulate digital solutions to reduce road accidents.

"Collaborate with the private sectors to gain more experience to improve our systems and prevent the loss of the lives from road accidents," he said.

The premier made these remarks when visiting the Vodacom kiosk where an operator explained the function of a tracking device installed in the vehicle of a staff member.

Tacking has helped to prevent workplace accidents for over ten years, he said.

To prevent accidents that cost lives, public institutions need to find better solutions to guard against infrastructure damage and casualties, the premier noted.

For the past three years (2020 - 2022) road accidents have claimed 1,582 lives and inflicted 4,372 cases of injury, which is totally unacceptable and needs to be solved, he declared.

Adam Malima, the regional commissioner, said that each vehicle ought to be insured not only to show a card to the traffic police but for the users' own protection, along with pedestrians and passengers.

The importance of insurance is still unclear to motorists, he said, noting that the laws that require vehicle insurance is meant to protect them while on roads and third parties. "That is why insurance packages vary from one another," he stated.

He praised the Vodacom insurance accessing service conducted on mobile phone, highlighting that the company was among regular participants and sponsors of Road Safety Week/

The firm has come up with different digital solutions impacting positively on the community, as with the mobile insurance accessing service, where everyone with a mobile phone can pay by instalments without visit-

ing insurance agencies, he specified.

The event kicked off the Road Safety Week being nationally commemorated at the lakeside city from March 14-17 with the theme focusing on "Tanzania without accidents is possible, do your duty."

M-Pesao director Epimack Mbeteni said that the mobile service provider's insurance service is accessed on its mobile cash transfer service, easing accessibility of insurance services.

The service offers payment in instalments for a year, sending notifications when scheduled payments are due or the service is about to expire, he said.

Through the service, a customer joins a selected insurance policy depending on the type of vehicle, starting to pay the scheduled instalments. To save time and avoiding getting caught on the road when the policy expires, the service has notification messages for avoid lags in payment, he elaborated.

The service was introduced by Vodacom (T) in July 2021 as an innovative insurance solution easily accessed on M-Pesa. It is meant to enable customers to take up affordable insurance services through mobile phones and pay in instalments throughout the year, he added.



Through VODA BIMA, a customer can easily join depending on a type of vehicle and start paying in instalments for a year. To save time and serve a customer from getting caught on the road when the insurance expires, the service will send push notification messages when the payment is due

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TANGAZO LA MNADA WA HADHARA

Kwa Idhini tuliyoupewa na NMB BANK PLC Tunatoa notisi ya siku kumi na nne (14) kuanzia Tarehe ya Tangazo hili kwa mdaiwa anaetajwa hapo chini, alipe deni analodaiwa na benki hiyo pamoja na riba. Kushindwa kulipa kwa muda huo tutalazimika kuza dhamana (maili) iliyo dhambi mkopo huo kwa **MNADA WA HADHARA**. Mnada utafanyika kuanzia saa 4:00 Asubuhi na kuendelea mahali dhama iliopo kama inavyoonesha hapo chini.

Na.	JINA LA MDAIWA/MDHAMINI	MAELEZO YA DHAMANA NA MAHALI ILIPO	TAREHE	TAWI LA BANK.
1.	MARIA OBETH MWASOMOLA	Nyumba ya Makazi iliyo kwenye Kiwanja Na.488 kitalu 's' maeneo ya Tabata Segerea migombani, Manispaa ya Ila.	1/04/2023	ILALA
2.	YUSUPH MBOETO	Nyumba ya makazi iliyo mabibo sahara yenye leseni ya makazi KND/MBB/MBO16/114 Manispaa ya ubungo	8/4/2023	ILALA
3.	ALEX CHACHA AMOS	1. Nyumba ya makazi iliyo Yombo vituka yenye leseni ya makazi TMK/YBV/BMW/25/71 Mtaa wa Barabara ya Mwinini Manispaa ya TEMEKE, Kwa jina la ZAINABU KHAMISI MWAMBA. 2. Nyumba ya makazi iliopo manzese Mtaa wa Mnzazi Mmoja yenye leseni ya makazi MZS/MNM/425 Manispaa ya UBUNGO.	29/03/2023	ILALA

MASHARTI YA MNADA

- Dhamana itauzwa kama ilivyo.
- Mnunuzi atatakiwa kulipa siku ya mnada asilimia 25% ya bei iliyofikiwa.
- Malipo ya asilimia 75% yalipwe ndani ya siku kumi na nne (14). Kukamilisha malipo yote. Kushindwa kufanya hivyo mnunuzi atakuwa amepoteza malipo yote ya awali ya asilimia 25%, na mnada kurudiwa, au mshindi wa pili atapewa ushindi.
- Gharama za kuona, kukagua, kuhamisha umiliki, kumtoa mdaiwa/mpangaji na zingine zinazobambana na hilo ni jukumu la mnunuzi.

Kwa Taarifa zaidi wasiliana na: AU Mkuruzi Mtendaji
Mkuruzi Mtendaji NMB Bank PLC,
Best Group (T) LTD Ohio Street / Ali Hassan Mwinini Road,
Alli Hassan Mwinini Road P.O. BOX 9213,
Green Acres Building, 2nd Floor. DAR ES SALAAM Telephone: +255 22 2322550
P.O. BOX 1088 DAR ES SALAAM email: Benedicto.Baragomwa@nmbbank.co.tz
MOBILE + 255 715-363537/ +255 765-363537

TouchFoundation P.O. Box 2074, Mwanza, Tanzania
www.touchfoundation.org

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position : Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning (MEL) and Data Specialist
Location : Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Job Status : Full-time (12 Months Assignment)

Touch Foundation, an NGO working to save lives and relieve human suffering by strengthening healthcare services in sub-Saharan Africa, providing better access to care and improving the quality of local health systems, is seeking an outstanding individual to join its team as its MEL and Data Specialist for the m-mama Tanzania Program. The MEL and Data Specialist will join a team of highly mission-driven professionals with diverse backgrounds and experiences, ranging from management consulting to global public health. The MEL and Data Specialist will support the national roll out of the m-mama Emergency Transportation system in Tanzania, by working closely with program teams from Touch, implementing partner and the national Tanzanian Government, becoming an integral part of Touch's commitment to improving health in sub-Saharan Africa.

BACKGROUND

Touch Foundation is a nonprofit organization founded in 2004 to help strengthen the healthcare system in Sub-Saharan Africa. Touch's founder, Lowell Bryan, a former Director with McKinsey & Company, initially founded Touch to address the healthcare crisis in Tanzania where he understood that the country faced a daunting healthcare environment, with declining life expectancy and increasing maternal and infant mortality. One of the biggest impediments to access to healthcare was the dearth of medical professionals. Touch supported the development of a new medical school in Tanzania, created a program to improve training and delivery of services by graduates of the medical school, and started addressing the most critical challenges in the local resource-constrained health system. The success of Touch's initiatives in Tanzania led to the expansion of programs across multiple Sub-Saharan African countries. In the recent years and in collaboration Vodafone Foundation and other funding partners, Touch has developed and implemented in multiple countries (Tanzania and Lesotho) the m-mama program which tackles maternal and infant mortality by providing emergency transportation to pregnant women and newborns in distress during and after childbirth. Touch's work is data driven and evidence based, and we strive to share the knowledge and the information obtained through years of implementation with policy makers and other stakeholders globally.

Most of Touch's staff work in Africa to implement our programs on the ground, with the administrative and development functions centered in the U.S., in New York City. The people who work at Touch are very focused, collaborative and driven to excel which has contributed to the impact that Touch has made.

OVERVIEW OF THE M-MAMA PROGRAM

The m-mama program is an innovative and cost-effective at-scale Emergency Transportation System for pregnant women and newborns led by Vodafone Foundation and implemented by Touch Foundation. Vodafone Foundation, USAID, Touch Foundation and Pathfinder International launched m-mama in 2013 in Tanzania in collaboration with the Government of Tanzania. This program addresses the high rates of maternal and neonatal mortality in rural areas by reducing delays in access to care using safe and timely emergency transportation for pregnant women and newborns experiencing an emergency. The central component of m-mama is an emergency transport system enabled by an innovative digital solution to address complications as quickly and effectively as possible. This digital technology is used to triage a patient remotely 24/7 and then dispatch an ambulance or community driver to bring the patient to a health facility. In Tanzania, after a successful proof of concept implemented in Sengerema and Buchosa districts, and scaling the program to the Shinyanga region, the m-mama program is being scaled up across the country in collaboration with the Government of Tanzania.

POSITION SUMMARY

We are seeking for a full-time Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Data Specialist to support the m-mama program team in implementing the monitoring and evaluation plan for national scale-up in Tanzania for 12 months. The MEL and Data Specialist will work closely with Touch's m-mama Tanzania program team, program partners (Vodafone Foundation, Implementing Partner - Pathfinder International) and national and regional government stakeholders. The role will be responsible to plan and execute monitoring, evaluation and learning activities, manage and analyze data and applying the data for evidence-based decision-making. Reporting to the m-mama Program Director at Touch Foundation, the MEL and Data Specialist will be required to use data to drive quality improvement in the Emergency Transportation System and to improve quality of care for maternal and newborns. The role will work with central government representative, and RHMT and CHMT representatives in data collection, analysis and reporting of the Emergency Transportation System.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

Data Collection and Analysis

- Collect, analyze and use data from primary government sources and secondary sources to produce inputs, outputs, outcomes and impact reports of the program and improve quality of implementation (process) and quality of care (outcome). This includes baseline data collection in the field, quality assessments for the Emergency Transportation System and routine data quality assessments in targeted regions
- Facilitate effective use of data and coordinate regular feedback

to and information exchange with all government, funder and partner stakeholders to share data insights in order to improve quality in the m-mama program

- Improve m-mama outcomes by strengthening data quality, data management, reporting and analysis at the national and regional / council levels
- Provide guidance and support on data collection, management, analysis, visualization and use

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Conduct the monitoring, evaluation and learning activities of the project, including designing and implementing tools for monitoring of specific technical components
- Conduct regular meetings to share M&E data and patient outcomes with national and regional governments understand how effective the system is and what are the areas that need more support and focus
- Conduct program evaluation activities, including the development of tools, materials and reports
- Build and transfer M&E capacity to national and regional government teams responsible for managing the Emergency Transportation System
- Support m-mama program team on monthly Operational M&E, including collection, analysis and reporting of data and support quality assurance throughout the program

Quality improvement

- Based on data and evidence, identify areas for improvement in the implementation process, and work collaboratively with the m-mama Project Manager to ensure adaptation measurements and course correction are put into place
- Participate in the development and implementation of the Quality Improvement work plan and monitor the activities under this work plan to ensure they are executed as planned in the different regions
- Support the improvement of dashboards and other data visualization tools for use by the government
- Strengthen the government's capacity to effectively manage the m-mama systems to provide accountability, oversight and management

Learning, Reporting and Dissemination

- Document and scale up program results, experiences and lessons learnt, and lead dissemination to program partners, donors, Government of Tanzania and other key stakeholders
- Ensure timely and complete reporting of M&E indicators to funder and government reporting formats
- Assist in preparation of documentation (excel, power point) for stakeholders' meetings or funders' meetings

As job vacancy announcement cannot be exhaustive, the Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Data Specialist will be required to undertake other duties that are broadly in line with the above key duties.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge, Education, Skills and Experience:

- Master's degree level in relevant field (Public Health, Data Science, Statistics, or related field)
- Minimum 10 years' relevant professional experience in data analysis and implementing data for decision-making activities
- Experience with training and capacity development of government and partners on data for decision-making at national or regional levels
- A thorough understanding of the health care system and data landscape (including DHIS2) in Tanzania
- Exceptional ability to analyze multiple sources of data to identify data trends and to provide recommendations on project implementation
- Experience with M&E, mentorship, coaching and Continuous Quality Improvement initiatives and activities
- Strong analytical, organizational and problem-solving skills
- Qualitative and quantitative data analysis and report writing skills
- Solid relationship-building skills and cross-cultural sensitivity: ability to relate and work with both local and international individuals
- Good judgment and discretion to represent the Touch Foundation at all relevant areas, as well as respect for culture
- Fluency in English and Kiswahili

Other information:

- Frequent travel: up to 40% of the time travel to the regions for data collection / verification and quality improvement and occasional travel for national-level M&E related activities

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Please submit a Cover Letter and Resume outlining your interest in the position to: jobs@touchfoundation.org. Please put "Touch m-mama Tanzania Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Data Specialist" in the subject line of your e-mailed application.
- Deadline for the application: **Friday, March 24, 2023.**

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

Touch Foundation is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, color, sex, age, gender identification, sexual orientation, veteran status, or disability. All qualified applications will be given equal opportunity and selection decisions will be based solely on job-related factors. Compensation will be commensurate with experience.

For more information about the Touch Foundation, please visit www.touchfoundation.org



PUBLIC NOTICE

The management of Minjingu Mines and Fertiliser Limited (MMFL), a company that produces and distributes various types of fertiliser would like to provide clarification on allegations made against the company in various media outlets, including social media; regarding the discovery of 776 bags of sand in our warehouse in Njombe.

MMFL is a Tanzanian company that has been in the fertiliser production and distribution industry for 22 years, and has never compromised the interests of farmers or stakeholders by producing or packaging sand or soil in their bags as a substitute for fertiliser. The company has continued to work closely with the government to ensure that farmers have access to subsidised and affordable fertilisers.

The company's sales representative in Njombe, Mr. Gervas John Mtitu, was found to have caused the loss of fertiliser, which he admitted to, but he did not cooperate with the company's efforts to resolve the issue and there after absconded. As a result, the company reported the matter at the Njombe Police Station on January 28, 2023, and a case was registered under reference number NJ/RB/390/2023.

On February 20, 2023, the police and MMFL officials visited the warehouse to carry out an inspection after receiving a report that some bags did not contain fertiliser. During the inspection, they found sand in some of the old bags that had been left behind by Mr. Mtitu. The company's marketing officer was taken into police custody, and the warehouse was closed down and placed under police guard.

Later, on February 23, 2023, the Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) officials from Mbeya, the police and MMFL officials visited the warehouse. Upon investigation, they found 776 bags of sand in the old bags of Minjingu fertiliser (used during Mr. Mtitu's tenure). The bags of sand had been concealed by surrounding it with old bags of actual fertiliser to make it look like it was all fertiliser.

The TFRA subsequently issued a letter to MMFL on February 24, 2023, imposing a fine of TZS 30 million for the discovery of non-fertiliser product. The company paid the fine on February 25, 2023.

MMFL's hereby expresses its deep regret that the issue, which had already been resolved by the relevant legal authority, and was brought back into the public domain on March 5, 2023, causing confusion to the public.

In an effort to ensure that farmers get fertiliser according to their crop's nutrient needs, MMFL has been working closely with the Agricultural Research Institute (TARI). As a result of these efforts, the company has been able to produce specialised fertilisers for crops such as tea, coffee, tobacco, cotton, and food crops. We will continue to work closely with research institutions so that more crops can have fertilisers that meet their specific nutrient requirements in order to increase productivity.

Due to the quality of our fertilisers, the company has been selling fertilisers in the Kenyan, Burundi, Rwandan, and Ugandan markets without any complaints regarding their quality. Demand for our fertilisers in these countries has been increasing.

Therefore:

- We assure all Tanzanian farmers that MMFL will continue to provide them with high-quality fertilisers.
- We are willing to cooperate with law enforcement agencies to ensure that the suspect is apprehended and brought to justice.
- The company believes that when the culprit is found, they will provide information that will help determine whether these incidents are isolated efforts or part of a larger scheme to undermine or sabotage MMFL.

We assure the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, and the entire government that MMFL will continue to serve farmers in Tanzania and other countries that use our products by providing high-quality fertilisers.

**Presented by:-
Director of Communication
Minjingu Mines & Fertiliser LTD**

Japan resumes volunteers programme after three years' recess due to Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

JAPAN International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Tanzania has resumed the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) programme after almost three years of suspension due to the global pandemic COVID 19.

According to a statement issued yesterday, on February 7, 2023, one volunteer who is going to be assigned to one of the VETA centers in the field of mechanical engineering finally arrived in Tanzania thereby marking the resumption of the JOCV programme in the country.

"Currently the volunteer is undertaking Swahili language and cultural training for one month before starting his assignment in mid-March 2023," JICA said in a statement.

Just before the global pandemic COVID-19 occurred in March 2020, a total of 60 JICA volunteers were engaged in the different fields in Tanzania, but they were suddenly required

to return to Japan. That was unexpected for all of them.

At the same time, some candidates of JICA volunteers were about to leave Japan for Tanzania in March 2020, but their hope was discouraged. This newly arrived volunteer was one of them.

He was waiting to come to Tanzania for about three years and now his dream has come true. The volunteer appreciates the Tanzanian government for accepting him to work and share his knowledge and skills with Tanzanians.

Japanese volunteers of the JOCV programme generally stay in Tanzania for two years to work in various fields which contribute to human resources development in a wide range of areas including education, governance, health, ICT, agriculture, environment, tourism, sports and several other technical fields.

The JOCV Programme is one of Japan's technical cooperation schemes operated as part of its Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 98 countries and regions including Tanzania.

The main aim is to cooperate in the economic and social development, to share Japan's knowledge and technical expertise in developing countries and to strengthening friendship.

The JOCV programme in Tanzania has a long history, and it started in 1966, and so far JICA has dispatched nearly 1700 volunteers to various institutions in Tanzania.

With the JOCV programme back in action in Tanzania, JICA is hoping to expand the focus fields and geographical areas where Japanese volunteers will be supporting communities in Tanzania. JICA volunteers continue to work closely with Tanzanian friends at the grassroots level to cope with various development challenges with their Tanzanian colleagues. It would enhance the relationship of the two countries. Thus, it remains progressively committed on expanding JOCV programme.



Selemani Majindo (L), Head of Curriculum Delivery and Training at the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET), pictured in Dar es Salaam on Monday presenting a certificate to Mochiwa Choholo. The latter was one of the trainees who had just completed a course for technicians at the city's Regional Aviation College. Third left is the college's principal, Amani Reward. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

CBE launches programme to equip students with entrepreneurship skills

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Dodoma-based College of Business Education (CBE) has launched phase two of a special programme tailored to impart the innovative students from different secondary schools with useful knowledge of business and entrepreneurship skills, together with other vital technologies.

The robust initiative which is being executed by the college in cooperation with the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) and the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) attracts a total of 2,400 innovative students from at least six schools.

Among others, the programme which also involves establishment of relevant school clubs focuses to stimulate, promote and instill innovative spirits and creativity among the young bloods being part to compliment concerted efforts being implemented by the government to promote the side.

Throughout the programme, the involved students will have ample time to acquire useful practical knowledge and skills on entrepreneurship, business and economics, but also, record keeping and finances.

The College's Acting Principal, Prof Edda Luoga observed that the programme was further targeted to provide potential podium through which the vital skills and innovations that the students have been endowed with will be shaped and heightened.

"The college, is very committed to help nurture the ideas of creative students, at both secondary schools and at the college so that they (students) can professionally venture into diverse business while still here at the college and eventually they can stand a chance to employ themselves after graduating," she expressed.

Meanwhile, the coordinator who oversees the programme in the secondary schools, Adrian Ndunguru detailed that in 2023 the programme focuses to absorb at least 400 creative students from six schools, making a total of 2,400 beneficiary students.

He however challenged the innovative from further schools to use the positive programme to register themselves in order to have their innovative ideas and skills promoted for their personal benefits and improvement of the national economy as a whole.

Speaking earlier when launching the programme's phase two, Dodoma District Commissioner (DC), Jabir Shekimwari urged all students to use the useful platform that has been created by the CBE to stand a better chance to improve their livelihood and booking their bright economic future.

Govt urges private sector to create more opportunities in agriculture

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has urged the private sector to produce as many opportunities in the agriculture sector so as to hire youth and help them improve their livelihood.

Permanent secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Dr Hussein Omary said this yesterday here during the opening of the Building Better Tomorrow (BBT) Programme for non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

He said the major aim of the meeting is to ensure that the ministry works closely with all key stakeholders so as to ensure that the available resources are used to support youth to engage in agriculture.

Dr Omary said BBT-YIA is a national plan which is aimed to bring together and unite youth in agri-business which has a number of positive impacts.

"I am requesting for the players in the private sector to ensure that they produce as many youth for them to grab and transform their economy," he added. He said that according to the 2022 national census, 44 percent of the total population are youth at the age of 18, so the establishment of special farming blocks will greatly help the group and improve their status.

Dr Omary further said that NGOs have a huge opportunity to help to produce the opportunities for youth and by doing so, they will help transform the mindsets of the group towards agriculture.

"There are many youths who are struggling to secure employment despite the country having a number of opportunities, so here comes the role of NGOs so as to promote the value chain in agriculture and encourage youth to chip in," he said.

He noted that Tanzania has 4,000 NGOs that work on the agriculture area but the only problem is lack of proper coordination so as to help stimulate investment in the area.

He wanted participants of the meeting to discuss and see how to strengthen collaborations between NGOs and the ministry of agriculture in implementing projects that are aimed to empower women and youth to engage with agri-business.

BBT national coordinator, Vumilia Zakankuba said the strategic plan will be in establishing special farming blocks to enable youth produce various crops that will eventually lift up their lives.

He said that the area that will be surveyed and allocated will be equipped with essential infrastructures that will be dividing the farms.



REQUEST FOR TENDER

NEW PASTE PLANT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide the following goods:

Supply of Prefabricated Steel Pipes, Generators, Unaltered power supply and truck washing station for New Paste Plant Construction Project

Pre-qualification Criteria

No	Reference no	Description of work	Requirements																												
1	NM012/2023_A	<p>Package A: Supply, delivery, installation, and commissioning of Two (02) Diesel generators for New Paste Plant Construction</p> <p>Specs:</p> <p>1. 630 kVA Diesel Generator Specs:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Description</td> <td>Requirement</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ratings</td> <td>575kVA Prime / 630 kVA Standby</td> </tr> </table> <p>2. 1500kVA Diesel Generator Specs:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Description</td> <td>Requirement</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ratings</td> <td>1375kVA Prime / 1500 kVA Standby</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nominal Voltage</td> <td>415/240 Volts ± 1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nominal Frequency</td> <td>50Hz ± 1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Control Voltage</td> <td>110VAC or 24 VDC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phases</td> <td>3 -Phase</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elevation</td> <td>1370ASL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Corrosion</td> <td>Dusty (Mining activities)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Temperature</td> <td>40°</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Humidity</td> <td>80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing</td> <td>Weatherproof Canopy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fuel Supply</td> <td>Skid mounted tank</td> </tr> </table>	Description	Requirement	Ratings	575kVA Prime / 630 kVA Standby	Description	Requirement	Ratings	1375kVA Prime / 1500 kVA Standby	Nominal Voltage	415/240 Volts ± 1%	Nominal Frequency	50Hz ± 1%	Control Voltage	110VAC or 24 VDC	Phases	3 -Phase	Elevation	1370ASL	Corrosion	Dusty (Mining activities)	Temperature	40°	Humidity	80%	Housing	Weatherproof Canopy	Fuel Supply	Skid mounted tank	<p>i. Design, engineering, supply, installation, and commission of Heavy duty Industrial manufactured diesel generators – Preferred make – caterpillar or equivalent.</p> <p>ii. Should have supplied similar or bigger capacity generator within the last 3 years from the closing date of tender, provide proof of Purchase orders/ completion certificate.</p> <p>iii. To be able to supply One (01) each Diesel Generators as per below;</p> <p>a. Genset with 1500Kva standby ratings complete with generator control panel and skid mounted diesel fuel tank and weatherproof canopies</p> <p>b. Genset with 630 KVa standby ratings complete with generator control panel and skid mounted diesel fuel tank and weatherproof canopies</p> <p>iv. Commercial proposal (prices) to be submitted.</p> <p>v. Should submit data sheet</p> <p>vi. Lead time of delivery</p> <p>vii. Quality Assurance and Quality Control Plans and documentation certificates.</p> <p>viii. Warranty & Guarantee period to be specified</p>
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2	NM012/2023_B	<p>Package B: Supply, delivery, installation, and commissioning of Two (02) Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) for New Paste Plant Construction</p> <p>Specs:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Description</td> <td>Requirement</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ratings</td> <td>10kVA / 9 KW</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Back up time</td> <td>67% Load (6 KW)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nominal Voltage</td> <td>400V</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nominal Frequency</td> <td>50Hz ± 1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cabinet protection rating</td> <td>IP20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phases</td> <td>3 -Phase</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Corrosion</td> <td>Dusty (Mining activities)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Temperature</td> <td>40°</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Humidity</td> <td>80%</td> </tr> </table>	Description	Requirement	Ratings	10kVA / 9 KW	Back up time	67% Load (6 KW)	Nominal Voltage	400V	Nominal Frequency	50Hz ± 1%	Cabinet protection rating	IP20	Phases	3 -Phase	Corrosion	Dusty (Mining activities)	Temperature	40°	Humidity	80%	<p>i. Design, engineering, supply, installation, and commission of Uninterrupted power supply</p> <p>ii. Should have supplied similar or bigger capacity UPS within the last 3 years from the closing date of tender, provide proof of Purchase orders/ completion certificate.</p> <p>iii. To be able to supply TWO (02) UPS</p> <p>a. UPS 0.8PF, 10kVA/ 9KW with 67% Back time load / 30 Mins</p> <p>iv. Commercial proposal (prices) to be submitted.</p> <p>v. Should submit data sheet</p> <p>vi. Lead time of delivery</p> <p>vii. Quality Assurance and Quality Control Plans and documentation certificates.</p> <p>viii. Warranty & Guarantee period to be specified.</p>								
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3	NM012/2023_C	<p>Package C: Supply of Prefabricated Steel Pipes, for New Paste Plant Construction</p> <p>Specs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Pipe materials to be compliant with ASTM A106 All fittings to be compliant with ASME B16.9/ SANS 1123/ ASME or B16.11 All fabrication, inspections, and testing are to be compliant with ASME B31.11 	<p>i. Applicant to submit company profile with experience in supply of fabricated steel pipes including corrosion protection, testing, marking and delivery to site</p> <p>ii. Should have supplied similar steel piping within the last 3 years from the closing date of tender, provide proof of Purchase orders/ completion certificate.</p> <p>iii. To be able to supply each of the below pipes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 100mm nominal bore, Qty - 374 spool pipes (SCH40 476Metres SCH80 323Metres) - ASTM A106/A53 GR B 125mm nominal bore, Qty - 2 spool pipes, SCH40 29Metres, - ASTM A106/A53 GR 150mm nominal bore, Qty - 230 spool pipes, (SCH40 151Metres, SCH80 232Metres, SCH160 48Metres) - ASTM A106/A53 GR B 200mm nominal bore, Qty - 228 spool pipes, (SCH80 157Metres SCH20 228Metres SCH120 82Metres) - ASTM A106/A53 GR B 20mm nominal bore, Qty - 2 spool pipes, (SCH80 33Metres NPT THREADED) - ASTM A106/A53 GR B 250mm nominal bore, Qty - 121 spool pipes, (SCH20 80Metres, SCH80 152Metres) - ASTM A106/A53 GR B 25mm nominal bore, Qty - 57 spool pipes (SCH80 554Metres, SCH160 29Metres carbon steel piping, threaded) - ASTM A106 A53 Gr B 300mm nominal bore 73 spool pipes, (SCH20 185Metres, SCH80 31Metres) - ASTM A106/A53 GR B 32mm nominal bore, Qty - 14 spool 																												

			<p>pipes, (SCH80 47Metres) NPT THREADED - ASTM A106/A53 GR B</p> <p>j. 350mm nominal bore, Qty - 5 spool pipes, (SCH10 38Metres) - API5L GR B (GS11)</p> <p>k. 400mm nominal bore 56 spool pipes, (SCH10 110Metres SCH80 67Metres) - ASTM A106/A53 GR B (CS12)</p> <p>l. 40mm nominal bore, Qty - 5 spool pipes, SCH160 48Metres) - ASTM A106/A53 GR B (CS81)</p> <p>m. 40mm nominal bore, Qty - 25 spool pipes, SCH80 197Metres, NPT THREADED - ASTM A106/A53 GR B</p> <p>n. 50mm nominal bore, Qty - 48 spool pipes, (SCH80 296Metres, SCH160 9Metres)- ASTM A106/A53 GR B</p> <p>o. 65mm nominal bore, Qty - 217 spool pipes, SCH40 509Metres - ASTM A106/A53 GR B</p> <p>p. 80mm nominal bore, Qty - 181 spool pipes, (SCH40 188Metres, SCH80 78Metres) - ASTM A106/A53 GR B</p> <p>iv. Commercial proposal (prices) to be submitted</p> <p>v. Lead time of delivery</p> <p>vi. Quality Assurance and Quality Control Plans and documentation certificates</p>
4	NM012/2023_D	<p>Package C: Supply 2-off complete wash water station for washing back of CAT 785C used in mining</p> <p>Specs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All corrosion protection to comply with EN ISO 12944. Structural Steel Grade to be S355JR. Welding shall conform to ANSI/AWS D1.1/D1.1M /SANS 2001-CS1 	<p>i. Applicant to submit company profile with experience in design, engineering, supply of wash stations</p> <p>ii. Should have supplied similar wash station within the last 3 years from the closing date of tender, provide proof of Purchase orders/ completion certificate.</p> <p>iii. To be able to supply Mine truck wash station including, but not limited to, the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wash station bridge structure, with an approximate span of 15m and minimum clearance height of 8m. Remote controlled sever duty spray nozzle, capable of delivering 50m³/h @ 650 kPa. Wash sequence expected to be < 5 minutes per truck. Nozzle can rotate 320° and raise through 155° elevation Clean water storage tank – 1 x 10000 ltrs. 50m³/h water pump skid, with 30kW direct online motor, with over pressure protection safety Control panel for field operation of the system. Control panel to have an allowance for 415 VAC, 50 Hz incomer. Flexible delivery and suction hose. <p>g. All required instrumentation within the confines of the equipment and ancillary equipment including integral wiring and panels.</p> <p>h. Corrosion protection of equipment as per EN ISO 12944 specification.</p> <p>iv. Lead time of delivery</p> <p>v. Quality Assurance and Quality Control Plans and documentation certificates</p> <p>vi. Warranty & Guarantee period to be specified</p>

Submission of Proposals

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria, submit your proposal alongside all relevant documentation to nm.proposal@barrick.com

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

Queries should also be directed to nm.proposal@barrick.com

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

Key Dates

- Last Date to Submit Proposals **21 March 2023**

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH 2023

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Rethinking is needed to change agricultural landscape in Africa

AGRICULTURE is the heartbeat of Africa. The continent's major agricultural advantages include an abundance of natural resources, a young and growing labour force, and a rising middle class, in addition to a surge in urbanisation. The continent has an estimated 600 million hectares of uncultivated arable land, roughly 65 per cent of the global total. Its tropical and subtropical climates enable the cultivation of a wide variety of agricultural produce with minimal technological dependence. Africa also boasts large regional markets, even if the markets lack major industry players. Approximately 80 per cent of agricultural land in sub-Saharan Africa is owned by farmers who cultivate small-based plots of land on which they grow subsistence crops or two cash crops, directly employing 175 million people.

Despite its advantageous agricultural landscape, Africa struggles to translate these advantages into economic transformation. The problem is multifaceted.

For one, arable land for large scale farming is difficult to acquire, and even when available, has insufficient legal rights of ownership. Poor infrastructure, especially in roads and electricity, renders agribusinesses unprofitable, and thus uncompetitive. Additionally, the youth appear disinterested in agriculture; while 60 per cent of Africa's population is under the age of 24, the average age of farmers in the continent remains 60. SSA still cannot feed itself, as evidenced by its growing food import bill of over \$35 billion a year (excluding fish). Rethinking is needed to change the agricultural landscape in Africa.

At the forefront of the efforts to transform Africa's agriculture is modernisation of the sector to help lift farmers' incomes, make farming attractive to the youth, and increase employment. The myth that a modern agriculture sector will mean that the consumption of manufactured goods and services outpaces the consumption of food, leading to a reduction in agriculture-related employment, must be dispelled. Modernisation will actually lead to an increase in agriculture-related jobs. Modernising agriculture will allow for the full development of agricultural value chains in Africa, in turn producing more agriculture-related jobs; thus, there are likely to be employment gains from modernisation. Moreover, modern farming operations would make farming more attractive to Africa's burgeoning youth population, as would the off-farm agricultural value-chain activities such as processing and exports. Aside from boosting employment rates generally, modernised farming would also specifically address the issue of widespread unemployment among educated youth.

The African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) defines agricultural transformation as a process that leads to higher productivity on farms, commercially orients farming, and strengthens the link between farming and other sectors of the economy. An upcoming groundbreaking report on "Transforming Africa's Agriculture" by ACET supports sweeping structural transformation in agriculture over the continent. It is set to change the narrative on agriculture and open conceivable pathways for a new policy discourse.

Appropriately empowering Africa's youth will ease challenges facing the generation

YOUTH empowerment is a process where children and young people are encouraged to take charge of their lives.

They do this by addressing their situation and then take action in order to improve their access to resources and transform their consciousness through their beliefs, values, and attitudes.

Youth empowerment aims to improve quality of life. Youth empowerment is achieved through participation in youth empowerment programmes.

However scholars argue that children's rights implementation should go beyond learning about formal rights and procedures to give birth to a concrete experience of rights.

There are numerous models that youth empowerment programmes use that help youth achieve empowerment.

A variety of youth empowerment initiatives are underway around the world. These programmes can be through non-profit organisations, government organisations, schools or private organisations.

Youth empowerment is different from youth development because development is centered on developing individuals, while empowerment is focused on creating greater community change relies on the development of individual capacity.

Empowerment movements, including youth empowerment, originate, gain momentum, become viable, and become institutionalised. Youth empowerment is often addressed as a gateway to intergenerational equity, civic engagement and de-

mocracy building. Activities may focus on youth-led media, youth rights, youth councils, youth activism, youth involvement in community decision-making, and other methods.

As key drivers of change in the post-2015 era, the world's 1.2 billion young people must be bolstered by robust national policies and innovative solutions to the challenges they faced. The youth are in the driving seat of the sustainable development agenda.

Today's young people were the first generation that could end poverty, and the last that could act to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

Youth in Africa constituted 19 per cent of the global youth population in 2015, numbering 226 million. The United Nations defines youth as people aged 15 to 24 years. By 2030, it is predicted that the number of youths in Africa will have increased by 42 per cent.

Africa's population as a whole is very young, with 60 per cent of the entire continent aged below 25, making it the youngest continent in the world, in relation to its population makeup. All of the world's top 10 youngest countries by median age are in Africa.

The youths of Africa experience the globalisation of culture in many different forms, such as through fashion and music.

There is a crisis in the lack of formal skilled employment opportunities across Africa, which is exacerbated by the addition of 10-12 million youths to the labour market each year.

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The billions allocated for infrastructure require more progressive procurement systems, oversight

By Zukiswa Kota

DELIVERING his budget speech on 22 February, South Africa's Minister of Finance Enoch Godongwana focused on the major infrastructure - electricity, water, and municipal projects. This heavy focus is understandable given that spending on public sector infrastructure over the 2023 medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF) is estimated at R903 billion. Of this, state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and public entities are the largest contributors to capital investment, at a projected R 302.1 billion over the next three years. Over this period, infrastructure spending on social services infrastructure will account for 17.6 per cent (down from 18.2 per cent in the 2022 MTEF).

Health and education account for 5 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively, and while this may pale in comparison to what the government calls "economic infrastructure", the importance of social infrastructure should not be underestimated in a country still gravely challenged with inequality, particularly in the delivery and access to quality health services.

This unequal access to quality health services was recently underscored when health minister Dr Joe Phaahla, in response to a DA MP's question in Parliament, confirmed that only 55 per cent of all clinics in the country have gained 'ideal clinic status'. An ideal clinic is a facility that must comply with a range of criteria, among which is good infrastructure. Yet, judged by observations by the community-led clinic monitoring project RITSHIDZE, there are many clinics across provinces with inadequate infrastructure - from broken toilets to waiting areas that are way too small and inadequately ventilated.

Effective procurement - a social justice

So, given the billions spent on addressing infrastructure challenges across sectors and the fact that poor maintenance and oversight of these big infrastructure projects are well-documented - monitoring closely these trends across the public sector, particularly where procurement and contracting are concerned will be vital. In the health sector, now also plagued with load shedding challenges that require its own infrastructure overhaul, this need for transparency will be particularly pronounced as spending in the health sector is often a matter of life and death for patients.

Arguably less documented are the interventions to address these issues in an ethical and just manner through progressive procurement



systems. Effective procurement is a social and environmental justice imperative which, in South Africa, additionally carries constitutional obligations to tackle the consequences of apartheid-era discriminatory policies. On a global policy level, targets within sustainable development goal 16 make the links between human rights, participation, and anti-corruption efforts clear. These aim to "substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms" and to ensure "responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels". This is important in the context of health infrastructure, which is outlined in the national development plan as a national priority.

So how do we, in the spirit of SDG goal 16, "substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms", especially with eye-watering billions earmarked for infrastructure projects?

Notably, the national anti-corruption strategy (NACS) has identified the health sector as having a high vulnerability to the manifestation of corrupt or unethical practices, who can forget the digital vices scandal, where almost two years after it exploded in the headlines - no high-profile arrests have been made?

The looting of the health system by 'tender pruners' that was exposed in the context of covid-19 personal protective equipment and infrastructure purchases illustrated the need for full cycle procurement transparency and open publication of contract data. To this end, it is encouraging to note that the national infrastructure plan prioritises effective monitoring and evaluation as a means of ensuring infrastructure quality and accountability. Amongst these is the intention to implement open reporting on infrastructure projects at various stages. Importantly, the plan is to align with the open contracting partnership's open

data standards and the cost infrastructure transparency initiative. Cost is one of the "leading global initiatives improving transparency and accountability in public infrastructure".

Nurture greater community involvement

Anti-corruption initiatives must be radically strengthened in the health sector where abuse and maladministration can have life-threatening consequences. What is needed, therefore, is the nurturing of greater community and civic involvement in anti-corruption efforts to support the approach outlined in the NACS. The national health act also makes allowances for community involvement in the governance of the health system at facility, district, and provincial levels. One might therefore assume that meaningfully involving health facility users in on-the-ground infrastructure project oversight is not a far-fetched possibility.

Now, imagine any member of the public having access to project plans, contractor and contract information, as well as expenditure and performance data for each of these projects at every stage of development.

So how do we, in the spirit of SDG Goal 16, "substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms", especially with eye-watering billions earmarked for infrastructure projects?

One key answer, among others, in South Africa is the Public Procurement Bill, which essentially aims to streamline government procurement processes to enhance transparency. However, the silence on the public procurement bill in the budget speech accompanied by only fleeting references to important reform in an annexure of the budget review does not bode well for broader reform.

Still, South Africa is in dire need of a more sustainable, social justice-oriented response to the devastat-

ing poverty and inequality in the country. Open government initiatives can offer significant safeguards against capture of the procurement system. They may also increase opportunities for more robust public and parliamentary oversight. The data from such platforms can be used by diverse stakeholders, including journalists and civil society, to identify signs of irregularity where competition and contracting are concerned. For instance, included in the 2023 public infrastructure updates for health is the construction of the Limpopo central hospital - a 488-bed hospital in Polokwane, which will form part of an academic health complex attached to the university of Limpopo's medical school. Others include the R10.4 billion Inkosi Albert Luthuli central hospital project (a public-private partnership), Tygerberg hospital (R 4.2 billion), and Klipfontein hospital (R 4.3 billion).

Now, imagine any member of the public having access to project plans, contractor and contract information, as well as expenditure and performance data for each of these projects at every stage of development. Imagine all R 903 billion worth of infrastructure projects across SOEs (yes Eskom too), departments, and public entities being open to direct, near real-time scrutiny.

This is entirely possible.

However, in the absence of coherent policy, well-resourced plans, and institutions, as well as active political support for such reforms, the encouraging plans that can make this kind of transparency possible will be severely limited in their impact.

Either way, if we are to track and safeguard efficiently the promises for public healthcare infrastructure, we must urgently finalise South Africa's long-awaited procurement reforms.

Here are tips to ease Monday blues and improve on your productivity

RETURNING to the routine of work can sometimes make you feel down. Some people may feel lower levels of job satisfaction and more stress at the beginning of the workweek, namely Monday, hence minimal concentration and productivity compared to other days.

This is a very common feeling happening to most of us and it is called Monday blues. Various studies have found that people are up to 30 per cent less productive on Mondays which means they only manage 3.5 hours of work throughout the day.

Anyone can experience Monday blues because people don't want the weekend to end after being overwhelmed by workplace responsibilities for five or six days. But I must stress that this is a problem of employees since many employers and self-employed entrepreneurs won't bother.

Whenever weekends arrive, employees find themselves on cloud nine because they can relax, enjoy their time with their family and friends without working. That's really nice but whenever Sunday evening or night arrives, the same people start feeling anxious and depressed about the Monday morning work pressure and the whole week.

Most of us feel reluctant to work but love to enjoy life without working hard. Only enjoyment is the thing we like to do. We hate to work. Experts say that this is mainly because we invest our energy and time in jobs that are not our passion but we hang on only for economic reason.

As a result, we continue with boring routines and feel like free from jail on Fridays and that's why we hate Monday mornings. Therefore, we see weekends and freedom days and workdays as prison time.

But those who are in the fields that are their true passion or talent see

MONDAY.



Experts suggest that job stressors may not cause Monday blues but the feeling affects how a person responds to stress and whoever suffers from Monday blues carry some symptoms.

weekends differently as days to rest and restore energy, and come back on Monday and work even harder for the whole week.

Monday blues are not part of clinical disorders but many people experience the same. According to experts, Monday blues may cause significant unhappiness in someone's life. Although not permanent like depression, it has a specific time when people feel it, namely Mondays. This feeling lessens as the week goes on and the person having this feeling starts feel good towards the weekend.

Studies also show that Monday blues feeling is common in people who have the standard five-day work week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

and two-day (Saturday and Sunday) off duty weekend.

Experts suggest that job stressors may not cause Monday blues but the feeling affects how a person responds to stress and whoever suffers from Monday blues carry

some symptoms. These symptoms may include tense muscles, headache, and difficulty in breathing, fast heartbeat and increased blood pressure.

Experts say that to prevent Monday blues, one needs to exercise

Pressing Issues
With
Chaitra Chatterjee

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We need more innovative ways to keep our girls in school

By Correspondent Zuwena

Shame

AS countries around the world reel from the devastating impact of COVID-19 pandemic which exacerbated already bad girl school dropout situation in developing countries, Tanzania seems to have a lot in her to-do list.

UNESCO estimated that by April 2022, out of the total population of students enrolled in education globally, over 89 per cent were out of school because of COVID-19 closures. This represents 1.54 billion children and youth enrolled in school or university, including nearly 743 million girls.

Over 111 million of these girls were living in the world's least developed countries where getting an education is already a struggle. These are contexts of extreme poverty, economic vulnerability and crisis where gender disparities in education are highest. In Mali, Niger and South Sudan—three countries with some of the lowest enrolment and completion rates for girls—closures forced over 4 million girls out of school.

In 2020 for instance, it was reported that a total of 6,475 schoolgirls in Tanzania dropped out of school due to pregnancy. Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa revealed the figures while launching the national agenda for investing in health and development for adolescents in Dodoma.

Majaliwa said among the girls, a total of 1,135 dropped out of primary schools while a whopping 5,340 walked away from various secondary schools across the country.

Stunned by the numbers, the PM said the situation was “alarming and unacceptable,” calling upon all Tanzanians of good will to play their role in ensuring that girls who are in school remain there until graduation date.

He said that the agenda was aimed at protecting adolescents



from catching HIV/Aids, teenage pregnancy, sexual violence and providing them with good nutrition in schools.

In supporting the government in curbing girl dropout rates, HakiElimu introduced Girls Retention and Transition Initiative (GRTI) to promoting girls' education in Tanzania and aimed at improving retention, performance and transition from primary to secondary or tertiary level of education.

This initiative's activities are to establish gender clubs to empower adolescent girls, invest in infrastructure for improved school attendance, make sustainable access to sanitary products, empowering communities surrounding girls with knowledge and

structures to engage in and drive solutions for girls' education and monitoring policy implementation and advocating for improved access to quality education for girls.

John Kalage, HakiElimu Executive Director, says the aim of champion clubs is to give schoolgirls a platform to solve challenges which hinder their schooling so that they can improve their performance and continue with higher education.

Kalage said that champion clubs also offer capacity building to combat all forms of harassment and sexual violence against children, adding that so far, there are 127 champion clubs whereby every school project has one club with 20 members, including 15 girls and five boys.

“Of many challenges girls child face, the most common one is lack of good learning environment including safe school infrastructure with water, safe toilets, hostels and others like sanitary pads” said Kalage.

He called upon the government to put more efforts in making laws and regulations to protect and enable girl child to avoid harassments and learn effectively.

“Also, the government should increase financial and human resources for improving girl child education in the country,” he said.

Tujuane Kijogeli (18) is a form four pupil at Mpunyule Secondary School located in Kilwa District, Lindi Region. Kijogelo is a member of a champion club through GRTI

initiative.

Before she was selected to join the club in her secondary school, Kijogelo studied at Mabuji Primary School where she witnessed some of her fellow girls drop out of school for various reasons but mainly due to pregnancy.

“Also, some chose not to come to school because they didn't have proper uniforms while others their parents could not afford to give them money for transport nor buy them books and other learning materials,” she said.

“It's risky for girls to walk for long distances to and from school because that is where they meet me especially bodaboda riders who make them pregnant.”

Kijogelo stays with her parents who are farmers

Members of Mpunyule Secondary School Champions Club in Kilwa District, Lindi Region. The counter dropout initiative by HakiElimu seeks to retain girls in school. Photo/Zuwena Shame

regularly because exercise is known to improve a person's mood and emotional state. Also, breathing exercise involves focusing intentionally on the breath. By connecting the mind and body through deep breathing, individuals can experience a relaxing effect.

Some studies on Monday blues recommend that don't always wait for the weekend to enjoy; you can make small plans on Monday or any other day to make Monday exciting too. For instance, dress up nicely on Monday to impress yourself and others. Also, always put a smile on your face that gives you immense strength and others too.

Alternatively, you can generate good vibes through music on the way to work or treat yourself by doing whatever you like or love to do such as shopping or having a cup of coffee with your loved ones or friends on Mondays.

Another recommended trick is to take small breaks from your job to avoid being glued to the desk for eight hours or so. Try to take your workload easy.

Above all, you can figure out why your Mondays are blue. I know it's easier said than done but if you are not really happy with your job and only stuck there for financial reasons, it's ok temporarily as you plan to move to another job which your passion.

A person's quality sleep is an important factor in their mood the following day and generally. Therefore, getting adequate sleep may help lessen the impact of Monday blues. Maintaining a social network that provides emotional support can enhance a person's mental well-being.

If Monday blues signal deeper unhappiness, medical attention may be necessary. Also, if you have serious concerns about Monday blues' negative effects on your work life, you can consult a doctor.

Note that it's a very normal feeling but if you love what you do, then you will only read about it. That id to say loving what you do is the easiest way of getting rid of Monday blues. This is the secret for enjoying workplace on Mondays like weekends.

and support her studies by paying hostel fees for her. She has a dream of becoming a Kiwahili, History and Civics teacher but she is also dreams becoming a head-teacher because she likes not only to educate children but be in a position to make or influence policies that can improve learning for both boys and girls.

“In a bid to fulfill my goal of becoming a head teacher, I spend most of my time studying hard, I listen to my teachers attentively so that I understand subjects fully,” she added.

However, she said that she writes her daily timetable from school and home but she finds another challenge at school which is water. She said that lack of water has made some pupils dodge classes and fail to fulfill their goals. Kijogelo said that lack of enough teachers especially for science subjects and mathematics force sympathetic teachers to teach subjects they are not specialized in.

When asked why she joined champions club, Kijogelo said that she wanted to be one of the members at her school and teachers selected her because of the confidence she has and her habit of helping her fellow pupils whenever she can.

She said that through GRTI, she learned how to make cloth sanitary pads with tailoring materials and machines provided by the project which help the learners stay in class comfortably.

She said that she joined the club when she was in form two because the club motivates girls to achieve their goals by encouraging them to study hard and provides awareness on how to be clean and how to navigate adolescence challenges.

“The club has empowered me a lot academically. I was not one of the brightest before and couldn't speak I public as I used to isolate myself from other pupils but all that has now changed,” she said.

Yes, heat warnings can forestall many fatalities in Latin America

By Emilio Godoy

ON Mar. 9, more than half of Mexico reported maximum temperatures above 30 degrees Celsius, although spring has not even arrived in this Latin American country located in the northern hemisphere.

In fact, the Megalopolis Environmental Commission, which brings together the federal government, the Mexican capital city government and those of five states in the center of the country, forecasts four heat waves, a level similar to that of 2022 - one in March, one in April and two in May - before summer.

Despite constituting a public health problem, Mexico lacks a national heat warning system, like the ones that other Latin American nations, such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Colombia, have in place.

Ismael Marcelo of the National Meteorological Service recommended the creation of a warning system with a regional scope, based on temperature levels.

"Most of the population has a cell phone," the meteorologist told IPS. "It's important for the authorities to inform the public about meteorological events that affect us. In a culture of prevention, we have to adapt. At the National Meteorological Service we have all the tools to inform people, a website and through the social networks."

A heat wave is an unusually hot, dry or humid period that begins and ends abruptly, lasting at least two to three days, with a discernible impact on humans and ecosystems, as defined by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), based in Washington DC.

These phenomena cause public health problems, especially for vulnerable groups - such as children and the elderly - food spoilage, increased air pollution, atmospheric environmental emergencies and forest fires.



Residents of Mexico City take shelter from the heat in a covered area, on a central street in the capital, in the month of March, when spring has not even arrived yet in the country. Heat waves will become more frequent and will last longer, due to the climate emergency. CREDIT: Emilio Godoy/IPS

The Geneva-based World Meteorological Organization warns that heat waves and other negative trends in the climate will become more frequent and will continue until at least 2060, due to the climate crisis.

In Mexico, a federal country, there are two governments that do have their own heat warning systems: Mexico City, which has a Meteorological Early Warning Network, and the southeastern state of Veracruz, which has a Grey Alert.

The scorching sun

Meanwhile, several Latin American countries do have heat warning systems.

In Colombia, a country of 52 million people, the government Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies monitors hot spots. Lidice Álvarez, an academic in the nursing program

at the Colombian University of Magdalena, told IPS about the relative usefulness of early warnings.

"In assessing how to prevent mortality from climatic events, we found that early warnings help, but it is difficult to predict certain events, because climatic variability further complicates things," she told IPS from the city of Santa Marta, on Colombia's Caribbean coast.

"What they do is to say that we are in a heat wave. But the public do not pay attention to the warnings. There is no discipline when it comes to checking climatological variables."

In Colombia, heat waves have not yet occurred this quarter, but when the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon hits in July, a period of drought and lack of rain is expected, which will bring heat waves in the Caribbean zone in the second half of

the year. ENSO cools the surface of the ocean and unleashes droughts in some parts of the planet and storms in others.

In Chile, a country of 19.2 million inhabitants, the government of Santiago introduced an "Extreme Heat and High Temperatures" system in December, which seeks to prevent deaths and protect people's health during the southern hemisphere summer, through preventive alerts.

The number of heat waves in the Andean country increased from nine to 62 in the last 10 summers, according to figures from the Annual Environment Report from the government's National Institute of Statistics.

In the metropolitan region there were 81 heat waves between 2011 and 2020 and forecasts point to a doubling of the percentage of days of extreme temperatures in the

next 30 years. During a summer day in Chile, 100 people die from different causes, but when the temperature exceeds 34 degrees Celsius, the number goes up by 10 additional deaths, related to heat waves in Santiago.

Since 2018, Argentina's National Meteorological Service (SMN) has operated a national warning system, which ranges from white to red according to the impact on human health, in the country of 46 million people.

Since 2009, the SMN has used a heat wave alert mechanism in the capital, Buenos Aires, which was later replicated in several other cities. In the current southern hemisphere summer that officially ends on Mar. 20, there have been nine heat waves so far, and in the metropolitan area of Buenos Aires a red alert has been issued due to the high temperatures.

A worsening problem

In Mexico, population 129 million, events due to high temperatures and victims of heat stroke are on the rise, with the exception of 2020, due to the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic led millions of people to stay at home.

In 2018, 631 health incidents linked to extreme temperatures and 30 deaths were documented, with the numbers growing to 838 and 44 the following year, according to figures from the General Directorate of Epidemiology, under the Ministry of Health.

Due to the pandemic, the numbers fell to 193 health events and 37 deaths in 2020, but the first figure jumped to 870 in 2021, although the latter dropped to 33. However, in 2022 both statistics climbed, to 1,100 and 42, respectively.

PAHO recommends strengthening the ability of the health sector, through the design of action plans against heat waves that include improvements in preparedness and response to this threat, to reduce the excess of diseases, deaths and social disruptions.

It also recommends improving the capacities of the meteorological services to generate accurate projections and forecasts, so that meteorological information can be used for decision-making before, during and after a heat wave.

Marcelo, the Mexican meteorologist, emphasized the importance of disseminating information.

"The authorities must keep the public informed and get them to take the necessary measures. It is very important for the entire population to know what kind of weather lies ahead and to act appropriately. Unfortunately, misinformation is a social problem that we must eradicate all together, but it cannot be a pretext to say that we did not know what could happen," he said.

Álvarez from Colombia said mortality is preventable. "We have focused on how people are part of the problem and can take measures. They believe that they cannot make any changes, but they are realizing that simple steps taken at home can generate changes," she said.

By Cecilia Russell

CHILD marriage, gender-based violence (GBV), sexuality education, religion, and tradition came under the spotlight during a conference, Arab and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting to Follow-Up on ICPD25 Commitments: Addressing Youth Empowerment and Gender-Based Violence, held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Professor Keizo Takemi, MP Japan, Chair of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), reminded delegates that GBV is on the rise in conflict situations, during disasters, and during the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic.

"Furthermore, children in some countries are at higher risk of child marriage due to economic pressures and school closures caused by the pandemic. Globally, about one in five (21 percent) girls are married before the age of 18. Child marriage not only deprives girls of educational opportunities, but early pregnancy and childbearing also come with a higher risk of complications and death.

Pierre Bou Assi, MP Lebanon, President of the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAPPD), told the delegates it was necessary to acknowledge and confront the issues of GBV in the region. It was clear from a series of case studies from the Arab and Asia Pacific region that while there has been some success, there was plenty of work to do.

Dr Dede Yusuf Macan Effendi, MP for Indonesia and Chair of the Indonesian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (IFPPD), said the country had had some successes - for example, the incidence of GBV dropped from 33 percent in 2016 to 26 percent in 2021. However, many incidents were un-



Delegates at the Arab and Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting to Follow-Up on ICPD25 Commitments: Addressing Youth Empowerment and Gender-Based Violence, held in Jakarta, Indonesia. Credit: APDA

Parliamentarians pledge to act on grim reality of GBV - such as child marriage



Effendi noted the region's issues - like the high proportion of child marriage and exposure to HIV/Aids.

reported, and this was considered "the tip of the iceberg."

Effendi noted the region's issues - like the high proportion of child marriage and exposure to HIV/Aids.

Dr Hasto Wardoyo, the chairperson of BKKBN, said parliamentarians played a critical role, with various "studies suggesting that the government should take steps such as increasing care capacity and access to services such as health services, social services, developing children's abilities, opening and equalizing access, strengthening family and social bonds."

A professor from UIN Jakarta, Dr Nur Rofiah, gave a perspective from Islam and said the religion had a

concept of *maslahah* or goodness. This recognizes women's bodily experiences are different from men's, and it would be important to consider actions that "cause painful experiences for women's bodies, including gender-based injustice."

Rofiah emphasized the adverse effects of child marriage for women saying that child brides lost out on their childhood, dropped out of school, experienced domestic violence, often were adversely impacted by divorce, were stigmatized by being widowed, lacked competitiveness in the work environment, very often experienced single parenthood and were susceptible to child marriage.

COVID-19 had impacted the ICPD25 programme of action, especially on health care, with malaria and tuberculosis neglected, as was gender equality, said Nadiul Haque, an MP in India. The Regional Sexual and Reproductive Health Adviser, UNFPA ASRO Professor Hala Youssef, developed this theme, saying policymakers need to change strategy during this decade of action to 2030 - without which it would be difficult to achieve the goals. She called on delegates to move from the idea of "funding" ICPD goals to "financing" them. Funding was reliant on the government, but financing involved the wider society.

Youssef called on parliamentarians to concentrate on the needs of young people, people with disabilities, universal health coverage, budgetary and financial allocations, social determinants of health, maternal deaths among adolescent girls, strengthening health workforce numbers, and capacity building.

The case study presented by Professor Ashraf Hatem, an MP from Egypt, showed that his country's Universal Health Insurance (UHI) would soon remove the issue of what he called "catastrophic health expenditure" of the poor. The scheme rolled out in phases, would decrease out-of-pocket expenditure from 62 percent to 32 percent in 2032.

The government was subsidizing about 35 percent of the population. He gave an example of open heart surgery done in a UHI facility that would cost a patient 300 Egyptian pounds or about USD 10.

A grim picture of the social, psychological, economic, and medical burdens resulting from unintended pregnancies in her country was painted by Soukaina Lahmouch, an MP from Morocco. While there had been an improvement in the legal arsenal regarding abortion, marriage, and access to quality health services, much was still to be done. She explained that in Morocco, about 153 newborns are born out of wedlock each day, of which 24 children are abandoned at birth.

About 11.4 percent of pregnant women still received no prenatal care; however, in rural areas, about one-fifth of mothers received no prenatal care, and 13.4 percent gave birth without the assistance of qualified personnel.

IPS UN Bureau Report

Zimbabwe now counting on lucrative lithium in busting sanctions by the US

By Peter Fabricius

CLIMATE change is gifting Zimbabwe a mining bonanza via its large reserves of lithium, a coveted ingredient in electric vehicle (EV) batteries and other green and advanced technologies.

Zimbabwe's establishment clearly hopes surging international demand for lithium will bring a change in the political climate around the country, which remains negative.

Leaders hope its large reserves of strategic lithium - which they believe are the fifth or sixth largest in the world - will give the country bargaining power to overcome international isolation.

Some hope demand could even help overturn US sanctions, which are the toughest against Zimbabwe. Though almost entirely targeted at key officials of the ruling Zanu-PF party, they also oblige US administrations to veto any loans to Zimbabwe from the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and others.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who ousted Zimbabwe's founding president Robert Mugabe in a coup in 2017, has been more open to the West, touting for investment in the country's large mineral reserves.

Minister of Mines and Mining Development Winston Chitando said at the recent African Mining Indaba in Cape Town that his government saw mining as the key to solving economic problems, including low growth, unemployment and poverty.

"The mining sector plays a significant role in the economic development of the country ... contributing more than 60% of export receipts and ... 13% of GDP," he said.

Mining earned \$5.4-billion in 2022, a 100% growth on the \$2.7-billion of 2017.

Zimbabwe has about 60 minerals, but is largely counting on lithium as the global price of the ore skyrockets - up six-fold or 10-fold



in recent years, depending on ore types - mainly because of exploding demand for lithium-ion batteries to power EVs.

A recent sharp price dip is expected to be temporary as the long-range forecast is of a huge deficit. Chitando said Zimbabwe was trying to maximise the lithium boom by banning the export of raw lithium, to encourage processing in the country.

Get-out-of-jail card

To entice investors, Zimbabwe is offering competitive tax rates and 100% repatriation of dividends and capital, and has dropped indigenisation requirements introduced by Mugabe - except for diamond mines.

Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu-PF evidently sees the country's strategic lithium as a get-out-of-jail card, bringing Zimbabwe in from the cold. Mnangagwa was not invited to US President Joe Biden's Africa summit in Washington last December as he is still under personal sanctions. But the White

House invited the Zimbabwean government, which was represented by its ambassador to the US. Harare saw that as a significant thaw in relations.

At the Mining Indaba, US officials laid out the strategic landscape for lithium and other vital minerals for green technologies. Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment Jose Fernandez said global demand for minerals for EV batteries and other green tech far outstripped supply.

"By 2040, graphite demand will increase 25 times, and lithium 42 times," he said.

China's slice of the pie

What concerns the US - and partly drives Biden's re-engagement with Africa - are inroads China has made into the continent, especially in critical minerals.

China makes about 70% of the world's EV batteries and is carving out a growing slice of the market in cobalt, another key battery

ingredient, buying several mines in Democratic Republic of the Congo, which holds 70% of the world's cobalt reserves.

China processes about 80% of the world's cobalt. Amos Hochstein, Biden's energy adviser, told the Mining Indaba that any one country dominating the supply chain of a critical mineral presented a high risk.

Beijing aims for the same near-monopoly in lithium and already owns three of Zimbabwe's largest lithium mines.

In December, Mnangagwa banned raw lithium exports in pursuit of the old African dream of beneficiation, adding value by processing before export.

But sceptical Zimbabweans believe the lithium ban is a ruse to cut out artisanal miners and give opportunities to Zanu-PF cronies, especially in the military.

They see China as part of this insider enrichment and hear echoes of the Marange diamond fields, where Zanu-PF cronies and soldiers violently evicted miners

in 2006.

The Zimbabwe Independent recently reported that state-owned Zimbabwe Defence Industries (ZDI) had been granted a special permit to export 100,000 tonnes of lithium ore a month to China.

Ibbo Mandaza, executive chairperson of the Southern African Political Economy Series Trust, a regional think tank, says: "Lithium is the new [mineral] curse for Zimbabwe, with similar implications to those experienced under the diamond saga. Whether this will have implications on the international relations front is open to speculation. However, what is certain is that the looting spree will gain momentum ... and further entrench securocrats whose tenure in mining began in the 1990s with the DRC escapade."

Slow off the mark

This refers to Zimbabwe military officers exploiting DRC mineral resources when they went there in 1998 to prevent the top-

pling of President Laurent Kabila by rebels backed by Rwanda and Uganda.

Not all mining in Zimbabwe is corrupt, though, and some miners say China is simply buying up lithium stocks where it can as the US has been slow off the mark. Premier African Minerals CEO George Roach told The Africa Report that Western countries should lift sanctions against Zimbabwe to cash in on lithium.

His company owns Zimbabwe's Zulu lithium project. Roach told the journal that European companies wanting to buy lithium from the Zulu project "have a bit of re-thinking to do". They should be pushing for an end to sanctions and looking for refining capacity.

"Sanctions versus Zimbabwe should be done away with," said Roach. "They don't have any place in a peaceful environment. Let's stop punishing people."

But J Peter Pham, a former US special envoy to the Great Lakes and a distinguished fellow at the Atlantic Council, doesn't see the US dropping sanctions soon.

"Lithium is not as rare as some people would like us to believe... It's pretty widely available around the world," said Pham, adding that a lot more mineral exploration was going on than before.

Known US reserves of about 9.1 million tonnes were 20 times what was being touted in Zimbabwe.

"Zimbabwe's lithium is not like the cobalt of the DRC, which owns some 70% of the world's reserves," Pham said.

He also saw little prospect of the US Congress repealing the 2001 Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act as it had been passed by 396 votes out of 435 and had been backed by powerful bipartisan sponsors, ranging from the far-right Republican Senator Jesse Helms to the liberal Democrat Senator Russ Feingold.

"And the sponsors included Senator Joe Biden," Pham noted. DMI68

WB calls for adoption of digital technologies to spur economic growth, job creation in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE ability of African countries to accelerate economic growth and unleash quality jobs for the youth will be dependent on greater adoption of digital technologies, the World Bank said in a report launched Monday.

Under the title of "Digital Africa: Technological Transformation for Jobs," the World Bank report stresses that sustained efforts to bridge the digital divide in Africa are imperative in order to leapfrog the continent to a new phase of growth and renewal.

World Bank's chief economist for Africa Andrew Dabalen said rapid digitization will enable Africa to harness the full potential of its youth bulge and attain quality and inclusive economic growth.

Projected to have the largest share

of the global workforce by 2100, Africa must boost the uptake of digital technologies in order to create opportunities for more than 22 million people in the continent to join the workforce annually, said the report.

Internet usage varies across the continent with South Sudan recording a low of six per cent and South Africa hitting 53 per cent, necessitating the need for rapid investments, policy reforms, and training as a means to bridge the digital divide across the continent, the report noted.

The World Bank said digital technologies and innovations will be key to modernizing key sectors like manufacturing, agriculture, and financial services in Africa, calling for concerted efforts to bridge the digital divide weighing heavily on the rural poor as well as start-ups led by women and youth.



Young African entrepreneurs learn the operation of Djimart, a cross-border e-commerce platform at the Djibouti international free trade zone in Djibouti city, capital of Djibouti.

African Court crusading for young single mothers' rights and their future prospects



By Correspondent Marc Nkwame - Arusha

THE African Court of Human and People's Rights has realised the importance of safeguarding the basic rights of young single mothers and their need to access education; pursue careers and becoming productive in society.

"Women remain an important foundation to any nation's economic development and social stability," points out the African Court's President, Lady Justice Imani Aboud, adding that even the girls who for one reason or another fall into early pregnancies must be assisted to start afresh.

"It is also high time that young women get initiated into techno-

logical training, digital inventions and other modern skills that not only provide them with new fields of work but also enable them to work from anywhere in the world.

Many girls and young women in Tanzania and other parts of East Africa have been victims of forced marriages, arranged nuptials, early pregnancies and cases of gender-based violence that compel most of them to flee from their homes or drop out of school.

The African Court President, judges and members of staff recently took time to visit and spend time with the young single mothers and girls who happen to be victims of a number of social injustices that catapulted them

into early pregnancy, forced marriages or abuse including being thrown out of school.

It was also part of the African Court's weeklong commemoration of the International Women Day 2023.

Among other things the African Court's delegation visited the Faraja Centre in Arusha for young single mothers and girls below 20 years and donated various items, including mattresses, food supplies, an automatic sewing machine, cookers and gas cylinders.

Operating from Moshono area of Arusha City, the Faraja Young Women Development Organisation (FAYOWODO) is a registered non-government organisation which offers temporary residence, education and vocational

training to young single mothers and girls below the age of 18 years.

Many of the girls at the center have suffered from early pregnancy, forced early marriage, human trafficking, poverty, abuse, and a lack of education. According to the Faraja organisation's director, Esther Mushi, the center thus trains these young women in different vocational fields to empower them for employment and self-reliant projects.

Lisper Lembris, one of the young mothers at Faraja, says despite balancing between motherhood and new vocation, it gets easier due to support she is getting from the establishment.

By Armand Houanyé

BURKINA FASO'S interim President Captain Ibrahim Traoré spoke late last year of the conflicts that are now blighting his country and much of his region. He described the situation in Burkina Faso as predictable given the endemic weaknesses in governance that he believes have led to the economic abandonment of many young people, particularly outside of urban areas.

He delivered these remarks on November 13th to political parties, civil society organizations, and traditional and customary leaders in Ouagadougou to raise awareness of Burkina Faso's rapidly degrading security situation. Of particular note was his focus on water, as he described seeing people throughout the Southwest, Northwest and Sahel regions including Gorom-Gorom, Tinasane and Markoye carrying jerry cans to fetch water.

This led him to question why there were no development projects in these impoverished regions. The people walk, he lamented, for miles to get water for the cattle that die on the way.

There are no roads for trucks to even transport livestock feed to sustain livestock, he reflected, before referring to the Kongoussi-Djibo road bridge built in the 1950s that has fallen into such dilapidation that it can no longer support the trucks that would otherwise take the now rotting local produce to market.

All he says, because of a lack of investment in the construction and the maintenance of essential infrastructure.

His speech depicts a reality across the Sahel region where terrorist attacks have been rampant since 2012, following Mouammar Kadhafi's assassination and the subsequent looting of Libya's weapons deposits. Many villages have since been abandoned in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, with thousands of people having been displaced with no proper government intervention to curb the violence.



Endemic weaknesses in governance in the Sahel have led to the economic abandonment of many young people, particularly outside of urban areas. Credit: United Nations

The impacts of terrorism on safe water access in the Sahel



Water management and development is but one of many sectors affected by terrorist activities in the region, but water, unlike some other sectors, is a matter of survival.

As clean drinking water is a basic need, lack of access to it triggers many problems at every level of society. Traditionally, villages are located close to waterways to allow for the smooth provisioning of water, as well as the practice of gardening to produce basic ingredients for food which can be consumed and sold for cash for the community.

With the rise of terrorist attacks mostly in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso but reaching coastal countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Benin, many villages have been abandoned or are under the

control of armed terrorist groups who impose their own rules and dictates on the local people.

Displaced populations are deprived of their traditional water sources, be they natural water courses, standpipes or boreholes, cutting off their water supply and therefore the access to their means of physical and economic sustenance.

"They lay down the law for the management and use of water and other natural resources by delimiting areas to be exploited," said a local elected authority to me in a terrorist dominated zone in the

Central-Southern part of Mali, adding that, "the cultivable areas are reduced and they [terrorist groups] occupy the wooded areas suitable for agriculture and which contain the local water reserves."

The chiefs of villages occupied under duress are obliged to cooperate with these groups. They are therefore the preferred interlocutors of all those who "seek permission to operate" in these controlled areas.

The opinion of the village chief is conditional to the prior agreement of the group to which the village belongs. There are real

negotiations with these terrorist groups before any projects or partners are allowed to enter the territory.

The reality in Sahelian countries in general is that successive governments since independence have concentrated their "administration" on urban areas. But once you leave the urban areas the populations are left to their own devices with an administration that is more oppressive and not in the least concerned with providing sustainable responses to the development needs of these localities.

The agents of the land registry (customs), law enforcement (police, gendarmes), and nature protection (water and forests) are quicker to find ways to engage in racketeering than to offer the poor the services they require.

"We have lost a lot of funding which has been transferred to other localities deemed more accessible," explained a local government official to me recently in one of the areas under control. "Given the fact that the groups themselves need to have privileged access to drinking water, they facilitate the arrival of certain partners to install water supply systems," he added.

GWP West Africa is implementing the European Union funded project "water for growth and poverty reduction in the Mekrou sub-catchment in Niger" but it was not able to launch the project as planned in August 2020 due to a terrorist attack that tragically killed eight people.

Water management and development is but one of many sectors affected by terrorist activities in the region, but water, unlike some other sectors, is a matter of survival.

There is therefore a critical need to enhance and improve the governance of water resources and land while ensuring that required investments are put in place to sustainably respond to the water related development needs of people living in urban and rural areas at all levels in Sahelian countries.

IPS UN Bureau

Solar-powered freezer improving immunisation coverage in Africa's hard-to-reach rural villages

By Joyce Chimbi

UP until 2019, nurses in three health facilities located in the semi-arid south-eastern Kenya region of Makueni County struggled to bring critical health services closer to a hard-to-reach population scattered across three remote, far-flung villages.

"Kamboo, Yindalani and Yiuma Mavui villages are located 17 and 28 kilometres away from Makindu sub-county hospital, and 10 and 22 kilometres away from the nearest electricity grid," Benson Musyoka, the nurse in charge of Ndalani dispensary in Yindalani village tells IPS.

Without a cold chain capacity to store vital vaccines and drugs, health facilities records show vaccination coverage across these villages was well below 25 percent.

Babies were delivered at home because mothers could not raise 6 to 12 USDs to hire a boda boda or motorbike taxi, which is the only means of transportation in the area. Others could not reach the hospital in time to deliver.

"Every morning, I would collect vaccines at Makindu sub-county hospital and transport them inside a vaccine carrier box to Ndalani dispensary. Once the vaccines are inside the carrier box, they are only viable for up to six hours, at which point whatever doses will have remained unused must be returned to storage at Makindu sub-county hospital for refrigeration or thrown away," Musyoka expounds.

In February 2019, a groundbreaking donation of a solar-powered freezer to the Kamboo health centre significantly improved availability and access to vaccinations as well as maternal health services across the three villages and surrounding areas.



Benson Musyoka rides his motorcycle from Kamboo health centre to transport vaccines to Yindalani village. Photo Joyce Chimbi/IPS

Francis Muli, the nurse in charge of Kamboo health centre, tells IPS that without a fridge or freezer, "you cannot stock Oxytocin, and without Oxytocin, you cannot provide labour and delivery services."

He says it would be extremely dangerous to do so because Oxytocin is injected into all mothers immediately after delivery to prevent postpartum haemorrhage. Oxytocin is also used to induce labour.

As recommended by the World Health Organization, Oxytocin is the gold standard for preventing postpartum haemorrhage and is central to Kenya's ambitious goal

to achieve zero preventable maternal deaths.

In 2017, the Ministry of Health identified sub-standard care in 9 out of 10 maternal deaths owing to postpartum haemorrhage. Overall, postpartum haemorrhage accounts for 25 percent of maternal deaths in this East African nation.

Usungu dispensary and Ndalani dispensary are each located 10 kilometres away from Kamboo health centre in different directions. Nurses in charge of the facilities no longer make the long journey of 28 kilometres to and another 28 kilometres from Makindu to collect and return unused

vaccine doses on vaccination days.

"We collect vaccine doses from Makindu sub-county hospital at the beginning of the month and store them in the freezer at Kamboo health centre. The freezer is large enough to store thousands of various vaccine doses collected from the sub-county hospital for all three facilities," says Antony Matali, the nurse in charge of Usungu dispensary in Yiuma Mavui village.

Two to three times a week, Matali and Musyoka collect doses of various vaccines, including all standard routine immunization vaccines, with the exception of

Yellow Fever. The vaccines are transported to their respective dispensaries in a carrier box that can hold up to 500 doses of different vaccines, including the COVID-19 vaccines. All three facilities have recorded significant improvement in immunization coverage from a low of 25 percent.

At Kamboo health centre, where the freezer is domiciled, records show measles immunization rate has surpassed the target of 100 percent to include additional clients outside the catchment population area of 4,560 people. Overall immunization coverage is at 95 percent, well above the government target of 90 percent.

At Ndalani dispensary, the immunization rate for measles has also surpassed the target of 100 percent as additional patients, or transit patients from four surrounding villages and neighbouring Kitui County, receive services at the dispensary. The overall vaccination rate for measles is at 75 percent, and for other vaccines, coverage is hovering at the 50 percent mark.

"Usungu and Ndalani have not reached the 90 percent mark because we suffer from both missed opportunities and dropouts. Missed opportunities are patients who drop by a facility seeking a service and find that it is not available at that very moment. Dropouts are those who feel inconvenienced if they do not find what they need in their subsequent visits, so they drop out along the way," Musyoka explains.

A cold chain or storage facility such as the solar-powered freezer, Muli says, is the cornerstone of any primary health unit in cash-

strapped rural settings, and all services related to mother and child are the pillars of any health facility. Without these services, he emphasizes, all you have is brick and mortar.

"At Usungu and Ndalani, we are currently not offering labour and delivery services because we do not have Oxytocin in the facility at all times due to lack of storage, and we cannot carry it around in the hope that a delivery will materialize that day due to the six-hour time limit," Musyoka expounds.

Still, pregnant women receive the standard tetanus jabs and all other prenatal services, but close to the delivery period, Ndalani and Usungu refer the women to the Kamboo health centre and follow-up to ensure that they receive referred services. Facility records show zero infant and maternal mortality.

Annually, the Ministry of Health targets to vaccinate at least 1.5 million children against vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, polio, tuberculosis, diarrhoea and pneumonia. Currently, one in six children under one year does not complete their scheduled vaccines.

Only one in two children below two years have received the second jab of Measles-Rubella, and only one in three girls aged 10 have received two doses of the HPV vaccine which protects against cervical cancer.

Ongoing efforts are helping address these gaps. For instance, the HPV vaccine was introduced in Makueni in March 2021. Musyoka vaccinated 46 girls aged 10 years with the two doses of HPV vaccine in 2021, and another 17 girls received their first HPV dose in 2022 and are due for the second dose in November 2022.

Healthcare providers say the freezer has transformed the delivery of mother and child services in the area by bringing critical immunization services closer to a marginalized and highly vulnerable community.

UN Bureau Report

BUSINESS

Global financial stocks lose \$465bn in two days

NEW YORK

GLOBAL financial stocks have lost \$465 billion in market value in two days as investors cut exposure to lenders from New York to Japan in the wake of Silicon Valley Bank's collapse.

Losses widened Tuesday, with the MSCI Asia Pacific Financials Index dropping as much as 2.7 percent to the lowest since Nov. 29. Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc. slid as much as 8.3 percent in Japan, while South Korea's Hana Financial Group Inc. fell 4.7 percent and Australia's ANZ Group Holdings Ltd. lost 2.8 percent.

There are concerns that financial firms could see an impact from their investments in bonds and other instruments on the SVB-induced worry.

Treasury yields plunged Monday amid expectations the Federal Reserve will hold off raising rates due to turmoil in the banking system.

"The financial markets are walking on eggshells," John Woods, Credit Suisse Group AG's chief investment officer for Asia-Pacific, said in an interview with Bloomberg Television. "We really need to know precisely what impact this is likely to have around the broader market. My sense is that the Fed will probably pause because I think this is largely to do with liquidity risk."

The aggregate market value of companies included in the MSCI World Financials Index and the MSCI EM Financials Index has dropped about \$465 billion since Friday. US regional banks were among the hardest hit Monday as the KBW Regional Banking Index sank 7.7 percent, its sharpest plunge since June 2020.

First Republic Bank's shares have plunged almost 73 percent in three sessions to be the top los-

ers on the MSCI World Financials gauge in the period. Moody's put all long-term ratings of the lender on review for downgrade.

Shares of European banks and insurers also slumped on Monday. Credit Suisse Group AG's stock tumbled as much as 15 percent to a fresh record low and the cost of insuring its bonds against default climbed to an all-time high amid concern about broader contagion in the banking industry from SVB's collapse.

Major northern Asia banks mostly have "minimal risk of the sudden run on deposits that crumpled Silicon Valley Bank" given their solid deposits, asset mixes and liquidity, Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Francis Chan wrote in a note. "Smaller lenders may harbor liquidity and credit risks that could easily be overlooked."

Japanese banks feature prominently among the highest unrealized loss-to-equity ratios in the region, according to data on about 130 Asia Pacific lenders with more than \$5 billion in assets compiled by Bloomberg. Jimoto Holdings Inc., Tsukuba Bank Ltd. and Fukushima Bank Ltd. are among those with unrealized loss-to-equity ratios of at least 9 percent.

All three, which have market caps below \$150 million each, have fallen more than 10 percent in three days. Japanese financial stocks had surged since December amid signs the nation's central bank was pivoting toward tightening after years of ultra-loose monetary policy.

"I'm selling banks and insurers today," said Taku Ito, chief fund manager at Nissay Asset Management Corp. "No doubt it's a defeat but I think a lot of fund managers are also doing the same because bank shares had been rising and a lot of growth managers have been increasing bank shares."

BOT advised to protect post-pandemic economic recovery



Economy and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) Associate Researcher Dr Oswald Mashindano stresses a point on the impact of COVID-19 on the country's economy at an ESRF workshop held in Dodoma city last week. Photo by Daniel Semberya

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

RESEARCHERS have recommended fiscal and monetary policy measures to be taken by Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and the Finance and Planning ministry to ensure strong post-pandemic economic recovery.

Monetary measures include buffering to safeguarding banking liquidity, prevent substantial disruptions of credits, deepen financial market, easy mobile money availability and complement its current monetary measures with macro prudential policies have been recommended.

This was said by Dr Oswald Mashindano when presenting a paper on Macroeconomic Policy Development in Tanzania during the COVID-19 Macroeconomic Policy Responses in Africa (COMPROA) dissemination workshop to government policy makers and actors in Dodoma city last week.

The ESRF Associate researcher recommended another tool as to use capital buffer, which requires banks to increase their capital cushions during an economic expansion when systemic risks are rising, and then release them in an economic downturn to absorb losses.

"This tool reduces the capital constraint through releasing the buffer when the economy slows and helps to insure against deleveraging, which, if not counteracted, could deepen the downturn by restricting credit to the economy and worsening the liquidity crunch," the policy recommendations read.

It has been recommended for increased social protection measures to shield the most vulnerable population, including women, youth and the elderly to prevent them from falling below the poverty line.

He said policies should also continue focusing on investment in education, skills development, healthcare, and research and development.

It is being recommended that precautionary debt management measures should be undertaken to prevent further escalation of debt service risk by prioritising concessional financing of the budget by as much as possible and ensuring that projects financed by non-concessional foreign loans have a large impact on overall social-economic growth, green growth and exports.

Measures should also ensure strengthening public investment management and domestic revenue mobilization and improving expenditure management to ensure that no new arrears are accumulated and that verified arrears are promptly paid to continue the country's healthy debt sustainability threshold.

Latest research findings by the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) have revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic had an adverse impact on Tanzania's fiscal and balance of payment.

It has resulted in a drastic reduction in tourism and traditional exports receipts, exerted budget pressures, and decelerated GDP growth from about 7 percent in 2019 to a projected 5.5 percent and 5.4 percent in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

He said that tourism earnings dropped substantially - the sector was severely affected by the pandemic due to the disruptions in international travel.

The tourism sub-sector is one of the cornerstones of Tanzania's economy, contributing about 17.2 percent to the country's GDP and 25 percent of all foreign exchange revenues.

The sector, which provides direct employment for more than 600 000 people, generated approximately US\$2.4 billion in 2018 and US\$2.5 billion in 2019.20 In 2020, the number of international tourist arrivals declined by 59.6 percent to 616 491 from 1,527,230 in the year ending December 2019.

This resulted in a drop of 59.2 percent from tourism earnings to US\$1.06 billion, exerting undue pressure on the country's balance of payments.

Further details that the traditional export earnings also declined due to the disruptions in international trade.

The value of traditional exports also went down by 8.8 percent to US\$8.8 billion in December 2020 from US\$9.65 billion in December 2019.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) attributed the decrease to declines in export values of cashews, coffee and cotton, and reduced volumes and prices of tea and sisal.

The COVID-19 induced reduction in export earnings also impacted the smallholder farmers who constitute over 67 percent of the country's workforce or about 11.3 million people during the 2019/20 crop season, in terms of reduced farm-gate prices and incomes.

However, findings show that gold export earnings rose to ameliorate the balance of payments tension caused by the pandemic. meals with animal source food being the least consumed food groups by majority of school children.



Oil extends decline ahead of US inflation data

SINGAPORE

Oil extended losses ahead of key inflation data as the biggest US bank collapse since 2008 continued to ripple through financial markets.

West Texas Intermediate traded near \$74 a barrel after closing 2.5 percent lower on Monday following a volatile session.

Investors will be watching the consumer price index read

due later Tuesday for clues on the path forward for monetary tightening, though bets are increasing the Federal Reserve won't raise interest rates next week due to the fallout from the demise of Silicon Valley Bank.

Brent's nearby put skew - a gauge of how much more traders are willing to pay for contracts that profit from a price decline rather than a rally - rose to the highest level since

mid-August on Monday amid the market turmoil.

"Oil has been unable to escape the spillover from the collapse of SVB," said Warren Patterson, head of commodities strategy for ING Groep NV. "There is still plenty of room for further volatility in the short term with US CPI data."

Crude has had a bumpy year as traders juggle concerns over a global economic slowdown

and optimism around China's demand rebound after the nation ended Covid Zero. A measure of volatility for WTI skyrocketed on Monday.

OPEC is scheduled to issue its monthly market report later Tuesday, while the International Energy Agency follows with its release on Wednesday, providing on snapshot on the outlook for supply and demand.

Statutory administration of Yetu Microfinance extended

By Guardian Reporter

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has extended the administration of Yetu Microfinance for another thirty days, effective from Sunday (March 12).

According to a public notice issued yesterday by the bank's governor, this comes following the incompleteness of the process of determining resolution options.

The BoT administration of the Dar es Salaam headquartered microfinance bank was scheduled to end on Sunday last week.

"Bank of Tanzania wishes to inform the public that the process of determining the resolution option has not been completed thus extending administration of the bank for a period of thirty (30) days effective 12th March 2023," the notice reads.

The BoT has therefore assured the public that it will continue to protect the interests of deposi-



tors and maintain stability of the banking sector.

BoT took administration of the

Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed Yetu Microfinance Bank Plc effectively from 12th De-

cember 2022 following determination that the bank had critical liquidity and capital problems.

Following the takeover, Bank of Tanzania suspended normal business operations of Yetu Microfinance Bank Plc for a period of ninety days to allow the central bank to determine an appropriate resolution option.

The central bank also suspended Yetu's board of directors and management and appointed a statutory manager to manage the affairs of the lender.

IN December last year, financial markets analysts were quoted saying they already saw underperforming Yetu Microfinance as of 2020.

The microfinance bank posted successive net losses in the last three years due to the huge cost of funding, loan impairments and ever-increasing operating expenses, according to analysts.

"The most notable red flag from their latest published report (quarter four of last year) was the loans to deposits ratio

of 390 per cent, even when we include borrowings, loans were still at 139 per cent of the total," Imani Muhingo, Head of Research and Financial Analytics at Alpha Capital was quoted as saying in December last year.

Vertex International Securities, Advisory and Capital Markets Manager, Ahmed Nganya was quoted as saying Yetu Microfinance's liquidity and capital adequacy ratios were below the required thresholds of 12.50 per cent and 20 per cent respectively.

Yetu Microfinance Bank PLC is a public limited company that was incorporated under the Companies Act 2002 on December 23, 2013 so as to take over the business of Youth Self Employment Foundation (YOSEFO).

YOSEFO was a credit only microfinance institution for 14 years before being transformed into a microfinance bank.

Milk prices up by 25pct over low supply in Tanga

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

MILK prices have risen by between 25 and 30 percent over the last two months in Tanga Region; a good news to farmers but bad news for consumers.

The increased prices is being caused by decreased supply of milk, as climate change, specifically ongoing dry season and high temperature, have dried pastures and water sources, which have stressed cattle health conditions.

Livestock keepers who mostly depend on livestock as their main source of livelihood, also say the situation has affected their income, as the quantities of milk they are currently producing are lower than during the last quarter of 2022.

The survey by the Guardian has shown that one litre of cattle milk is currently sold at between

1,200/- to 1,300/- from 1,000/- recorded between December 2022 and January 2023.

The survey carried out for number of days this month in Muheza, Tanga, Mkinga and Pangani districts, which are the main sources of milk, has found that the increased market stress is due to rising in demands, and low production.

Speaking with the Guardian last week, some of the livestock keepers outlined various reasons causing undersupply of milk, the major one being the dried up of pastures, legumes and water channels they used to graze their cattle herds.

"The rising temperature is reducing animals' health, led to additional loss of milk production as well as reproduction," said Lukumay Akyoo Duga, the Mafoni village's livestock keeper in Mkinga district.

"Even milk retailers from Lun-



ga Lunga in Kenya are currently crossing to Horohoro border post, ordering milk from Tanzanian side, because their main milk producers have also been

affected by the same climatic condition."

Father Roberto Jacues Italian missionary who owns dairy cattle ranch in Muheza district, stat-

ed that heat stress is one of the greatest challenges they are facing as producers, causing the decreasing milk production, hence pushing up consumer prices.

"Warm climates depress feed intake, milk production, and reproductive performance of our cows. I am now spending a lot of money to hire local people to find and buy forage and water from distance, a situation that increased the cost of feeding my cattle; which has therefore forced me to increase the price of milk," stated Father Roberto who is also a major supplier of milk to Muheza, Korogwe and Dar es Salaam.

However, when reached for comments through his phone, the Tanga Dairy Cooperative Union (TDCU) chairman Hamis Mzee was not reachable.

One of the leaders, who preferred to remain anonymity on condition that he is bounded by the union's mandate not to speak, stated that the situation has also decreased dairy products at Tanga Fresh Milk processing factory.



Kinondoni Municipal mayor Songoro Mnyonge (2nd L) cuts the ribbon when receiving 30 desks for Mtakuja Primary School from DCB Commercial Bank Board Chairperson, Ms. Zawadia Nanyaro (3rd L). The event took place yesterday at the school's compound in Kunduchi, Dar es Salaam. This is part of the bank's on-going education campaign dubbed 'Elimu Mpango Mzima na Mama Samia'. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

Europe's inflation cuts Kenya horticulture income

NAIROBI

Kenya's earnings from horticultural exports reduced by 9.7 percent in 2022 on the back of elevated inflation in main markets amid weaker currencies, data shows.

Revenue from horticultural sales abroad amounted to KSh120.26 billion last year from KSh133.23 billion in the prior year, provisional export statistics indicate.

The decline came in a year when the average price growth in the Eurozone – a group of 19 countries which use the euro as a common currency – climbed to 8.35 percent compared with 2.4 percent a year earlier.

Kenyan exporters had complained that the runaway inflation was eroding consumer purchasing power in the Euro area and the UK, the main destinations for cut flowers, fruits and vegetables.

Earnings from the sale of veg-

etables fell by nearly a quarter to KSh27.34 billion, while the value of cut flowers reduced by 10.21 percent to KSh54.25 billion, according to provisional data collated by the Central Bank of Kenya.

The data, however, shows exports of fruits – which were bolstered by the opening up of China for fresh avocados – earned Kenya a modest 4.19 percent more last year to KSh38.67 billion.

The Kenya Flower Council, a lobby, had described 2022 as a "horrible" year which had "worked against growers", citing persistent inflationary pressures on households in Europe following the Russia-Ukraine war.

Europe is the largest market for Kenya's fresh farm produce, buying nearly three-quarters of the country's horticultural exports.

"With [inflationary] pressure that people in Europe have, es-

pecially on energy costs, they are cutting expenditure on things like ornaments where cut flowers fall," KFC chief executive Clement Tulezi had told the Business Daily last October when Eurozone inflation peaked at 10.6 percent.

"We are also incurring a lot of production costs on the shilling which we cannot recover on the euro and pound when you are selling."

A unit of the euro on average exchanged for KSh124.17 last year, a depreciation of 4.3 percent compared with KSh129.76 the year before, an analysis of official foreign exchange rates shows.

The Sterling pound, on the other hand, weakened a marginal 1.3 percent against the Kenyan currency, with a unit priced at KSh145.80 on average compared with KSh150.85 in the prior year.

Kenya sells more than it buys from most of its major trade

partners in Europe, meaning local exporters were net losers as inflation in the Eurozone and the UK soared to decades-high, with respective currencies weakening.

About 72 percent of Kenya's horticulture exports are paid in euros, while about a fifth are paid in the British pound.

Last year's runaway inflation in Europe was largely driven by soaring energy and food costs on the back of Russia's brutal war in Ukraine which further disrupted supply chains that were yet to recover from the pandemic shocks.

"When the Russian war came in, we were subjected to high prices of fuel and other inputs [like fertiliser] coupled with inflation in Europe," Mr Tulezi had said.

"A lot of [flower] farms are struggling with liquidity challenges because money is not coming in as they had expected."

Young women tech aspirants now learn from female experts at Dar IWD seminar

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

YOUNG women technology aspirants were given the opportunity to learn from some of Tanzania's leading women tech experts in an event hosted by the Swedish Embassy in collaboration with the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) and Upstudio Africa.

Swedish Ambassador to Tanzania, Charlotta Ozaki Macias said this recently at the just-ended one day event, which marked the end of weeklong International Women's Day celebrations.

The event took place at Upstudio Africa on Sunday 11 March 2023 and called for more young women and girls' participation in Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

She opened the event and welcomed the young women from various Tanzanian universities (UDSM, UDOM, Tumaini University) to utilise the opportunity.

This training is part of the Swedish TEKLA festival which promotes innovation and inspires girls to take part in STEM," she said

"We are looking forward to kicking off even more events such as these to highlight different aspects of our long-standing cooperation with Tanzania."

The Swedish embassy is celebrating 60 years of partnership with Tanzania this year and the area of women and girl empowerment is something that we are keen to continue working towards."

The workshop aimed to inspire young women by allowing them to see the massive opportunities available for women in technology.

Sandra Sommi from Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) and Buni hub

was one of the presenters at the event who shared her experience of developing and prototyping the country's first locally made non-invasive respiratory support machine (Bubble CPAP Machine) for newborn babies.

"The process has been a long one, we started in 2020 and are constantly redesigning and adjusting after consulting with medical professionals, but we saw a need in the country is happy to find a solution."

Sandra and her team are hoping to apply to the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) for approval of their machine in the coming months.

Tumanini University student, Sabina Ntobi thanked the Embassy of Sweden for the initiative and shared her aspirations of finding solutions to climate and developmental problems in her country.

"All we need is the encouragement like we are getting here for us to come up with solutions to the problems we and the global community are facing. I hope to one day build a network of women problem solvers who tackle different challenges in our country. I am inspired by the women I have met here," she said.

Upstudio Africa founder, Shama Kheraj has built an encouraging space for young people to learn and come up with solutions through high and low technology.

"Children and young people can come up with so many radical ideas, all they need is the space and encouragement to do so. Our motto here is there is no idea that is too crazy and once the young people hear this, they can come up with some inspiring solutions to problems as these young women have done today," Shama said.

Volkswagen to invest \$193bn over 5 years

BERLIN

VOLKSWAGEN plans to invest 180 billion euros (\$193 billion) over the next five years in areas including battery production and its North American operations, it said on Tuesday, though the pace of spending will fall from 2025.

The investments come as Volkswagen, Europe's top carmaker, tries to close a gap with electric vehicle (EV) pioneer Tesla by expanding its slice of the growing market for battery-powered cars.

As it works toward a target of EVs accounting for 50 percent of its sales globally by 2030, over two-thirds of the five-year investment budget is allocated towards electrification and

digitalisation, up from 56 percent in a five-year plan it had released a year earlier.

The difference from the previous plan is primarily down to more investment in its battery business, raw materials, and a \$2 billion plant for the Scout brand, Chief Financial Officer Arno Antlitz said.

"We expect to reach 20 percent electromobility in new sales from 2025 and are already investing two-thirds in that area," Antlitz said. "On the other hand we need to keep combustion engines competitive... that is a double burden."

The carmaker said it is finalising high-performance software for its premium and luxury brands which could in

the medium-term be applied across the company, in an attempt to improve operations at its software unit Cariad.

The unit set up under former CEO Herbert Diess has gone over budget and fallen behind on its goals, suffering an operating loss of 2.1 billion euros in 2022 on revenue of 800 million euros, according to the carmaker's annual report released on Tuesday.

Shares in Volkswagen were 3.1 percent lower by 0958 GMT on Tuesday, at the bottom of Frankfurt's DAX index, with analysts at Jefferies describing the detailed final fourth-quarter results as "weak".

Volkswagen met analysts' expectations in 2022 on revenues but missed the consensus esti-

mate for earnings before interest and taxes by 3 percent, with logistics issues weighing on fourth-quarter results.

In the latest investment plan, up to 15 billion euros is ring-fenced for battery plants and raw materials.

Board member Thomas Schmall said on Monday the carmaker's needs were covered in Europe by the three plants already in the works, and that it was in no rush to pick new sites. It also announced its first North American plant in Canada, due to start production in 2027.

The investment decisions are targeted towards fulfilling a 10-point plan developed by Volkswagen CEO Oliver Blume after he took the helm in September.



VWagon factory in Berlin.

Russia builds \$80 billion offshore cash pile

MOSCOW

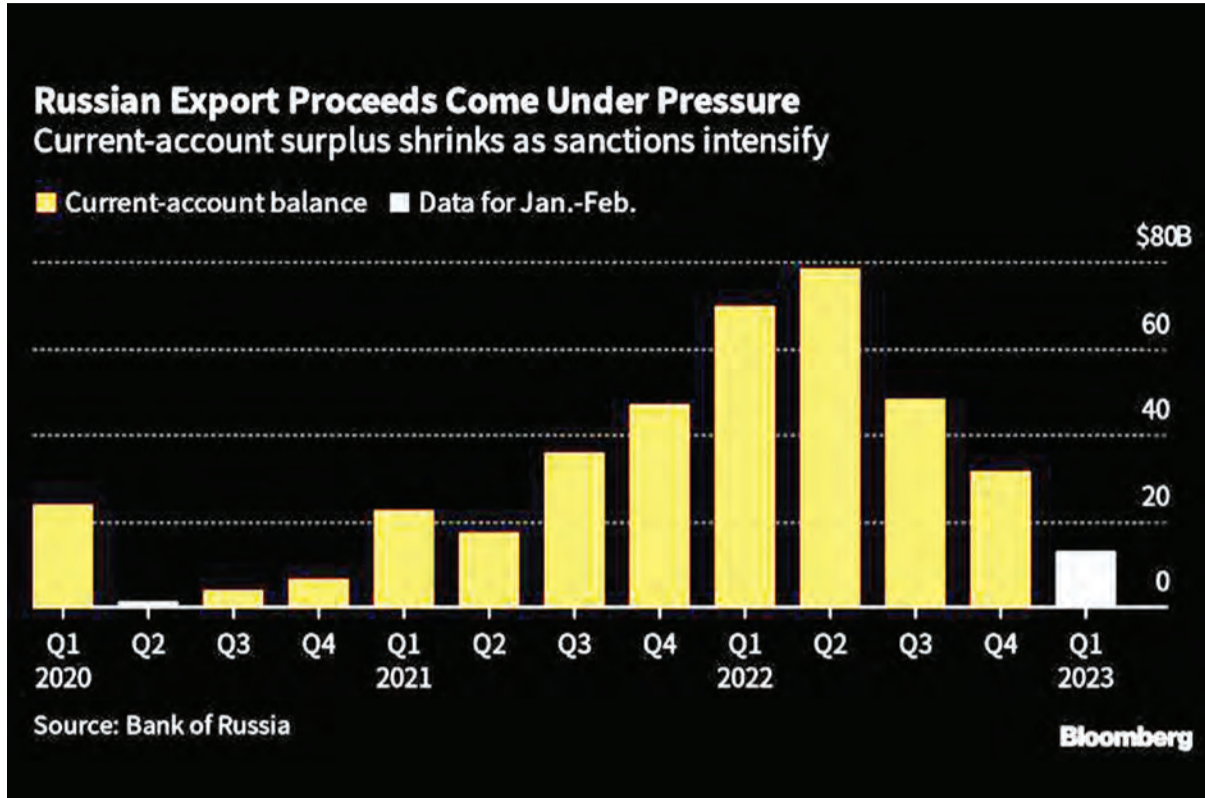
Russia was able to save abroad about a third of the \$227 billion windfall earned last year from its commodity exports, creating a potential new flashpoint as the US and its allies look to tighten their sanctions over the invasion of Ukraine.

About \$80 billion is scattered across holdings of cash, real estate and investments in affiliates abroad, according to a Bloomberg Economics estimate.

The stash amounts to shadow reserves, a byproduct of a record current-account surplus – roughly the difference between exports and imports – that helped sustain the Kremlin's finances since its attack on Ukraine in February 2022.

“Due to Europe's delay with targeting Russia's energy sector, the Kremlin was able to accumulate one of the largest current-account surpluses in its history,” said Maria Shagina, an economist at the UK-based International Institute for Strategic Studies. “This has defacto negated the effect of freezing the central bank assets in March 2022, as Russia could recoup what it lost.”

Any new earnings piling up abroad could make them an inviting target for Russia's adversar-



ies, especially if the funds are controlled by the state. The government is a shareholder in many of Russia's biggest exporters that contributed to last year's windfall, though the question of where the money wound up and who controls it has taken on greater mystery.

In amassing international

assets last year, Russia added the equivalent of around 5% of gross domestic product. That's close to the average for 2009-2013, another period of elevated oil prices and limited foreign-exchange interventions by the central bank.

What Bloomberg Economics Says “The accumulation of international assets was forced rather

than deliberate. Sanctions pushed Russians to cut imports, while commodity prices boosted exports. If anything, instead of motivating corporates to a build up foreign assets, Russia's government eased regulations to help increase imports which it needed to stabilize domestic inflation.”

The fate of Russian funds abroad

is increasingly in focus as Ukraine's backers such as Canada and Germany broach the idea of using billions in frozen Russian assets to compensate the country and help it rebuild.

For the government, the assets accumulated abroad are a resource that can be tapped by way of extraordinary levies on exporters, according to Alexander Knobel at the state-run Russian Foreign Trade Academy.

“Such ‘shadow reserves’ can be formally turned to the state's benefit in a variety of ways,” said Knobel.

As the European Union becomes less dependent on Russian energy supplies, it's likely the funds abroad will draw more attention as a possible target of sanctions, he said.

Unprecedented restrictions on the central bank last year already blocked some \$300 billion of its reserves, leaving it with few options for investments outside yuan and gold. Assets held by sanctioned Russian businesspeople have also been frozen in some western jurisdictions, leaving them in limbo.

With lower commodity prices and new restrictions on oil exports recently coming into force, the current-account surplus has dropped sharply. The Bank of

Russia forecasts it at \$66 billion this year, reaching \$48 billion in 2024 and \$41 billion in 2025.

Even if foreign governments are able to determine ownership of new Russian funds abroad and link them to the state, the total will likely be smaller than official estimates.

While Russia's net acquisition of foreign assets last year reached \$107 billion, according to the central bank, Bloomberg Economics estimates the number is likely overstated by around \$21 billion.

To arrive at the figure, Bloomberg Economics adjusted the total by tourism spending, purchases on a shadow fleet of oil tankers, and outflows related to Russians opening accounts at overseas banks. Such bank transfers distort the data because they appear as an increase in foreign assets but instead represent a redirection of imports.

“The accumulation of hidden reserves by Russia is quite possible,” said Sergei Guriev, an economist who once advised the Russian government but later fled to Paris, where he's now rector of Sciences Po.

“The main question is, to what extent would these reserves be enough to finance the budget deficit in 2023,” Guriev said.

China's official data to show economy is gaining momentum

BEIJING

CHINA'S economic recovery is strengthening in the aftermath of Covid restrictions and outbreaks, with official data on Wednesday providing clues on how sustainable the rebound is likely to be.

The government will publish data for the first two months of the year for retail sales, industrial output and investment, all of which are expected to show a rebound from December. Unemployment likely also eased last month.

While January activity was still fairly muted because of Covid infection waves and the Lunar New Year holidays, high frequency indicators show a notable pickup in consumer spending in February.

The outlook for industrial output remains less certain though, given a sluggish housing market and a slump in exports.

The new leadership under President Xi Jinping has set a modest growth target of around 5 percent for the year at the just-concluded National People's Congress, suggesting any big stimulus through infrastructure investment or the property market is off the table.

The newly re-appointed central bank Governor Yi Gang also signaled monetary policy will largely be stable this year, though he didn't rule out the possibility of reserve requirement ratio cuts to provide liquidity to the economy.

Consumer spending and confidence has gradually recovered after Covid Zero was dropped and the exit wave of infections eased. Some data for eating out

and travel have shown double-digit growth from a year ago and big-ticket spending on cars and homes grew robustly in the past month.

Short-term household loans also picked up in February, the latest central bank data showed, indicating Chinese residents may be increasingly willing to borrow for consumption.

Economists expect retail sales to have grown 3.5% in January-February from the same period a year earlier, according to the median estimate in a Bloomberg survey, reversing from a 1.8% drop in December.

The National Bureau of Statistics usually combines the data releases for the two months of January and February to avoid distortions from the Lunar New Year holiday, which can fall in either month depending on the year.

Factory output likely received a boost as restrictions to production and bottlenecks in logistics were removed following the scrapping of Covid Zero.

A sub-index of production in China's survey of manufacturing purchasing managers jumped in February to the highest level in a over a decade, suggesting stronger momentum in factory output. Solid growth in new orders and an improvement in new export orders suggest factories will be kept humming for a period of time in the future.

Industrial output is seen expanding 2.6 percent year-on-year in the first two months, accelerating from an increase of 1.3 percent in the single month of December, the survey results showed.



Consumer spending and confidence has gradually recovered after Covid Zero was dropped and the exit wave of infections eased

UZALO

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM

ITV	CAPITAL TV	of Ana	SAT 18 MARCH		
WEDNESDAY 15 March 5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Kipindi maalum: TMDA rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt 14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 Music: The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Kipindi maalum: TAZARA 18:30 Jarida la wanawake 19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT 19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon 20:00 Habari 21:05 Aibu Yako 21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco 21:40 Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta 22:00 Ripoti maalum 22:30 Habari 23:30 Music: The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV	Mon 13 March 06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Dw 11:00 Al Jazeera 11:30 Business edition 12:00 Out and About 12:30 Our earth 13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Tomorrow Today 16:30 Eco@Africa 17:00 Dw News Africa rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 The Décor rpt	Tues 14 March 06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Dw 11:00 Al Jazeera 11:30 Monday agenda rpt 12:15 Spots gazette 12:45 Filler doc 13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana rpt 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Culinary Delights Rpt 16:30 Capchat rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Innovation 19:30 Our Earth 20:00 Décor Rpt 20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Jagina rpt 22:30 Eco@Africa 23:00 Al Jazeera	Thurs 16 March 06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Dw 11:00 Al Jazeera 11:30 Capchat 12:30 Décor 13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Tomorrow Today 16:30 Business edition rpt 17:00 In good shape 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Out & About Rpt 19:30 Eco@Africa 20:00 Our Earth Rpt 20:45 Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Capchat rpt 23:00 Al Jazeera	Frid 17 March 06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Dw 11:00 Al Jazeera 11:30 Capchat 12:30 Décor 13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Dw News Africa rpt 16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Rev 19:00 Out & About Rpt 20:00 Aibu Yako 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition 20:45 Telenovela The Three Sides of Ana 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt 00:00 Al Jazeera	Sun 19 March 08:00 Aljazeera 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Dw 12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Bundesligga Kick Off rpt 13:00 In good shape rpt 13:30 Dw 15:15 Aibu yako 15:30 Rev rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Eco@Africa 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 20:00 Jagina 20:30 Out & About rpt 21:00 Dw News Africa 21:30 Capchat live 22:15 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana 00:00 Al Jazeera

WORLD

Commonwealth Day: King Charles draws on mother's inspiration

LONDON

KING Charles drew on his mother's inspiration on Monday as he celebrated his first Commonwealth Day as symbolic head of the grouping with a service at London's Westminster Abbey, joined by other senior members of the British royal family.

Charles succeeded his mother Queen Elizabeth as the head of the club of 56 countries that evolved from the British Empire after she died last September aged 96.

"I draw great strength from her example, together with all that I have learnt from the extraordinary people I have met, throughout the Commonwealth,

over so many years," he told the congregation. "The Commonwealth has been a constant in my own life, and yet its diversity continues to amaze and inspire me."

The 74-year-old king was joined for the service by his wife Camilla, the Queen Consort, and his eldest son Prince William and his wife Kate.

He was greeted with a traditional Maori welcome outside the Abbey and also by a noisy protest from a small number of republicans who have vowed to make their views known at engagements ahead of his coronation in May.

The Commonwealth, one of the world's biggest international organizations, was always very close to Eliza-



Britain's King Charles III, delivers his Commonwealth day message during a service held at Westminster Abbey in London on Monday. AP

beth's heart and some commentators say that helping to maintain and enlarge it was one of the biggest successes of her 70-year reign.

"Her late majesty loved the Commonwealth, and the Commonwealth loved her," said Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland.

"In our sadness at her passing, our admiration for all that she was, and our enduring gratitude for all that she gave us, we can all take heart from the fact that her vision for the Commonwealth, as an equal partnership of nations and races, has come to fruition."

Agencies

Storm Freddy kills over 100 on return to Mozambique, Malawi

BLANTYRE

MOZAMBIQUE and Malawi on Monday were counting the cost of Tropical Storm Freddy, which killed more than 100 people, injured scores and left a trail of destruction as it ripped through southern Africa for the second time in a month over the weekend.

Freddy is one of the strongest storms ever recorded in the southern hemisphere and could be the longest-lasting tropical cyclone, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

It pummeled central Mozambique on Saturday, ripping roofs off buildings and bringing widespread flooding around the port of Quelimane, before moving inland towards Malawi with torrential rains that caused landslides.

The full extent of the damage and loss of life in Mozambique in particular is not yet clear, as the power supply and phone signals were cut off in some parts of the affected area.

The storm has killed 99 people in Malawi, including 85 in the main commercial hub of Blantyre, said the commissioner of the Department of Disaster Management Affairs, Charles Kalemba, at a press briefing.

The total number killed by storm Freddy in Mozambique, Malawi and Madagascar since it first made landfall last month is now around 136.

The central hospital in Blantyre had received at least 60 bodies by early afternoon. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) country director Marion Pechayre told Reuters by telephone, adding that some 200 injured were being treated in the hospital. The injuries were from falling trees, landslides and flash floods, she said. "A lot of (houses) are mud houses with tin roofs, so the roofs fall on people's heads."

Police spokesperson Peter Kalaya told Reuters that rescue teams had been looking for people in Chilobwe and Ndirande, two of the worst-affected townships in Blantyre, the country's second-largest city, where it was still raining on Monday and many residents were without power.

"Some missing people are feared buried in rubble," Kalaya said.



This handout photo taken and distributed by UNICEF on Sunday shows people walking along a street damaged by the impact of Cyclone Freddy in the city of Quelimane, Mozambique. AFP

Critical situation

Malawi's national electricity company EGENCO said that power generation capacity was unstable and that it had experienced total system shutdown twice on Monday. It has shut down all major hydro power stations to protect them from damage, it said.

At least ten people died in Mozambique's Zambezia province, a provincial delegate from the

National Institute of Disaster Risk Management, Nelson Ludovico, said on public broadcaster Radio Mozambique, adding that the figures were still provisional.

"The situation is critical in Zambezia province. We can't advance with an accurate picture of the scale of damage because there's no communications with all the regions," Health Minister Armindo Tiago said on public radio.

Guy Taylor, chief of advocacy, communications and partnerships for UN children's agency UNICEF in Mozambique, told Reuters from Quelimane that humanitarian agencies there did not have the capacity to deal with a disaster of this size.

"We saw a lot of destroyed buildings and clinics. People's homes had their roofs torn off by the wind. Even before the cyclone hit we saw localized flooding," he said. The wind had died down on Monday but there was still a lot of flooding that had destroyed crops and created a risk of waterborne diseases, he said.

Mozambique has seen more than a year's worth of rainfall in the past four weeks.

Malawi has been battling the deadliest cholera outbreak in its history, and UN agencies have warned the situation could now get worse.

Scientists say fossil fuel-driven climate change is making tropical storms stronger, as oceans absorb heat from greenhouse gas emissions and when warm seawater evaporates heat energy is transferred to the atmosphere.

Agencies

RABAT

THE Royal Office of Moroccan King Mohammed VI lashed out Monday at the Justice and Development Party's (PJD) statement regarding ties between Morocco and Israel, reminding the Islamist party that the country's foreign policy is the king's prerogative.

PJD Secretary General and former Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane accused Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita of having defended Israel during a meeting earlier this month with the European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Oliver Varhelyi.

During this meeting, Bourita announced a tripartite cooperation between Morocco, Israel and the European Union during a joint press conference with Varhelyi, a statement that angered Benkirane.

Morocco's royal office blasts PJD on Palestinian issue

"While the Israeli occupation continues its criminal aggression against our Palestinian brothers, particularly in Nablus, the Moroccan Minister for Foreign Affairs appears to be a defender of Israel", Benkirane said.

"Religious, historical and humanitarian duty demands redoubled efforts at this critical juncture to defend Palestine and Jerusalem in the face of escalating Zionist provocations and aggressive practices," he added. The Royal Office insisted that Morocco's position on the Palestinian issue was irreversible.

"Firstly: The Kingdom's position regarding the Palestinian question is irreversible. It constitutes one of the priorities of the foreign policy of His Majesty the King, the Commander of the Faithful and Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, who places this issue on a par

with the question of the Kingdom's territorial integrity. For Morocco, this is a constant, principled position, which should not be open to political posturing and narrow electoral campaigns," said the Royal Office in a statement.

"Secondly: The Kingdom's foreign policy is a prerogative of His Majesty the King, may God assist him, as per the Constitution - a foreign policy which His Majesty implements in light of the immutable values and best interests of the nation, chief among which is the question of territorial integrity.

"Thirdly: The Kingdom's international relations cannot be the subject of blackmail by anyone or for any consideration whatsoever, particularly in the current complex global context. The instrumentalization of the Kingdom's foreign policy in a domestic partisan

agenda thus constitutes a dangerous, unacceptable precedent.

"Fourthly: The resumption of relations between Morocco and Israel took place in circumstances and in a context which everyone knows. It is governed by the communiqué of the Office of His Majesty the King dated December 10, 2020, and the communiqué issued on the same day following the telephone conversation between His Majesty and the Palestinian President, as well as the Tripartite Declaration of December 22, 2020, signed in His Majesty's presence.

"The nation's driving forces, political parties, as well as some prominent figures, and certain associations engaged in the Palestinian question, were at the time informed of that decision, for which they expressed their support and commitment," it concluded.

Agencies

China to resume issuing all types of foreign visas

BEIJING

CHINA'S visa offices abroad will resume issuing all types of visas to foreigners today to facilitate cross-border travels.

Also, foreigners with valid visas which were issued before March 28, 2020 will be able to enter the country.

The Foreign Ministry's Department of Consular Affairs announced these decisions on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, China's visa-free policies will be resumed from Wednesday for entry to the southern island province of Hainan and cruise tour groups at Shanghai ports, said the National Immigration Administration.

Visa-free entry to the southern province of Guangdong will be restored for tour groups of foreigners from Hong Kong and Macao, and a similar mechanism will be reinstated for tour groups from ASEAN countries to enter Guilin in the southern Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

Xinhua

Grain deal extended for 60 days on previous terms

MOSCOW

THE grain deal has been extended for 60 days, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko told TASS yesterday.

"Russian Deputy [Foreign] Minister [Sergey Vershinin] who is in charge of the deal, delivered a statement yesterday. Indeed, the deal was extended, its extension for 60 days was agreed. It was again confirmed as a package agreement," he said.

Moscow will insist on making sure that the pledge given to Russia "on the implementation of specifically the second track, meaning the removal of all sanctions, direct and indirect, on the supply of Russian agricultural products to international markets, is fulfilled," the Deputy Minister stressed.

"It is not only about the actual possibility of transportation itself, the access to foreign ports for our vessels, [but also] about insurance, as well as the necessity to solve issues related directly to production, cultivation of grain in our country," as well as "delivery of respective machinery, spare parts, and various agricultural equipment," he said.

The grain deal will be extended under the same conditions agreed earlier, Grushko told reporters. "I will stress once again that the most important thing for us is to fulfill in full those promises and commitments that have been made (with regard to the export of Russian products - TASS). In this respect, nothing is changing for us, and we will work hard and make our partners deliver on their commitments," the diplomat pointed out.

The removal of restrictions on Russian agricultural exports is moving ahead, but slowly, he noted.

"I would like to reiterate that the process is underway, albeit very slowly. Our fertilizers, which we are ready to deliver to the poorest countries free of charge, still remain at the ports of a slew of countries, with artificial barriers and delays being created," Grushko concluded.

Agencies

Allies' military exercise fuels tensions

HONG KONG

THE longest-ever joint military exercise kicked off by the United States and the Republic of Korea on March 13 is fueling fresh tensions on the Korean Peninsula, with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea signaling its response by test-firing two cruise missiles from a submarine the day before.

Simulating a Korean Peninsula emergency, the ROK-US "Freedom Shield" springtime exercise will run for 11 days until March 23, Yonhap News Agency reported.

Without a weekend break, the joint military drill marks the allies' longest command post exercise and will be larger than those in previous years. The exercise will see the resumption of major field training for the first time in five years, after it was suspended under the administration of former ROK president Moon Jae-in.

The ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff said the combined exercise is a defensive one based on a combined operational plan designed to defend the ROK from potential aggression by the DPRK.

The joint military exercise began despite protests from the DPRK, which said in February that the US and the ROK will face "unprecedentedly persistent and strong counteractions" if they carry out the combined military exercise, what it called "preparations for an invasion".

The DPRK's firing of the two "strategic cruise missiles" from a submarine in waters off its east coast on March 12 was reported by the country's official Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA, on March 13.

"The drill confirmed the reliability of the weapon system and examined the underwater-to-surface offensive operations of submarine units that constitute one of other major forces of the DPRK nuclear deterrent," the KCNA said.

Cause of gender equality enjoys sustained, healthy development in China

WOMEN'S status mirrors a country's social etiquette and civility.

In China, female pediatric intensive care specialist Qian Suyun, who has nearly 40 years of pediatric experience, has brought a ray of hope to numerous children in emergency and critical conditions with her superb medical skills and ethics.

Bi Lixia, a woman that heads a rice farming cooperative in Jianli, central China's Hubei province, has actively applied technologies in rice growing, contributing her strength to maintaining food security.

They are representatives of today's females and have proven that women are

creators of material and spiritual wealth and represent an important force driving social development and progress with concrete actions. Such progress is inseparable from the high-quality development of the cause of gender equality in China in the new era.

China attaches high importance to the cause of gender equality. In the country, women are able to exercise their democratic rights, participate in economic and social development, and benefit from the outcomes of reforms and development on an equal and legal basis.

So far, it has built a legal system for the protection of women's rights and interests, which covers over 100 separate

laws and regulations. The average life expectancy of women has exceeded 80 years. The gender gap in the nine-year compulsory education has been basically eliminated. Women accounted for over 50 percent of students in institutions of higher education.

As of the end of 2020, the number of women participating in maternity insurance had reached 103 million, and 650 million women participated in basic medical insurance. Women accounted for 40 percent of the labor force and 45.8 percent of the total science and technology personnel across China.

These sets of data reflect the efforts made by China to promote the cause of

gender equality, the solid guarantee for women's rights and interests, the broad rights and interests enjoyed by women, and the increasingly prominent role of women in economic and social development.

Women are gaining increasing senses of achievement, happiness and safety, and their confidence is growing in pursuing their own dreams.

In the report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the country vowed to remain committed to the fundamental national policy of gender equality and protect the lawful rights and interests of women and children, eliminate unjustified restric-

tions and discrimination that undermine equal employment, and establish a policy system to boost birth rates. It has charted the course for achieving greater gender equality.

The cause of gender equality in China is entering a golden period featuring more benefits for women, a better development environment, and leapfrogging progress.

From finding a balance between work and family to breaking through the glass ceiling in the workplace, Chinese women's development is supported by the entire society. As relevant parties work together to keep advancing the healthy development of gender equality,

the cause will see broader and brighter prospects.

People's Daily



Women are gaining increasing senses of achievement, happiness and safety, and their confidence is growing in pursuing their own dreams

Russia has a couple of years to win back its share on European gas market, says expert

MOSCOW

IF Russia really wants to increase the supply of natural gas to Europe, this needs to be done in the next couple of years, Alexander Sobko, independent expert, wrote in his column posted by the InfoTEK information and analytical center.

According to him, if we proceed from the current volumes, taking into account the maximum estimate, the volume of pipeline gas exports to Europe in 2023 can amount to 30 billion cubic meters due to pumping through the Ukrainian corridor and along the onshore extension of the second branch of the Turk Stream pipeline.

That means that Russian gas exports to Europe, excluding Turkey, will decrease several times this year, the expert notes.

"One way or another, if Russia really wants to increase exports to Europe, then this needs to be done in the next couple of years.

There is still a chance to increase the scale of deliveries until a large number of investment decisions are made on new LNG plants that compensate for Russian exports. It is already clear that there will be no 100% return to the previous volumes, both because the share of Russian gas in the European balance was very large even in the context of good-neighborly relations (about a third of consumption and an even larger share in imports), and because these relations will not be the same no matter what happens," he thinks.

Sobko noted that a certain number of gas liquefaction capacities replacing Russian gas, in excess of the planned global demand growth, will still be built, primarily in North America, and in the United States in particular.

According to him, in order to completely replace Russian supplies and not "take away" liquefied gas from its other consumers around the world, Europe needs about 100 million tons of "new" LNG per year. This corresponds to 136 billion cubic meters, which is almost same volume by which imports from Russia were reduced in comparison with pre-crisis volumes, he added.

To increase supplies, Russia has several routes: the preserved branch of the Nord Stream (27.5 billion cubic meters), the Yamal-Europe gas pipeline (33 billion cubic meters per year), transit through Ukraine.

Where does EU get gas?

The analyst noted that the United States promises to build capacities comparable to the needs of Europe in the coming years, but this takes time.

"What is 100 million tons of LNG? On the one hand, this is a quarter of all current production, which has been created for more than 50 years. On the other hand, it looks like they promise to build the same capacities of 100 million tons in the United States. But this takes time, at least five years. In this case, we will see a doubling of the current liquefaction capacity in the United States," the expert stressed.

Nevertheless, investment decisions were made in 2022 to build new LNG plants with a total capacity of just 25 million tons, little more than just enough to cover planned demand growth, he said.

"After all, if we proceed from a four percent annual growth in demand for LNG, then it is necessary to make investment decisions for 16 million tons annually to cover this demand and about 5 million tons more to compensate for the decline in production at some old enterprises due to the depletion of deposits tied to them. For now, Europe solves its problems at the expense of other countries," the expert noted.

Mexican president says his country 'is safer than the US'

MEXICO CITY



MEXICO'S president said on Monday his country is safer than the United States, pushing back against US critics of his security record following a deadly kidnapping this month near the border that claimed the lives of two Americans.

The March 3 attack on four Americans in the Mexican city of Matamoros and their subsequent abduction was covered closely by US media and sparked recriminations from politicians in the US, particularly Republicans.

By the time Mexican authorities found the Americans, two of them were dead. Five purported Mexican drug cartel members have since been arrested over the kidnapping.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who has threatened to urge Mexican-Americans not to vote for Republican candidates if they continue their criticism, rejected US official security warnings that depict much of Mexico as a risky place to visit.

"Mexico is safer than the United States," he told reporters when questioned about the warnings at a news conference. "There's no problem with traveling safely around Mexico."

López Obrador said American tourists and Mexicans living in the US were aware of how safe the country is, and pointed to a recent rise in Americans residing in Mexico. Last year saw a sharp jump in US tourists coming to Mexico.

He blamed an "anti-Mexico" campaign by conservative US politicians for negative reports about security.

The US embassy in Mexico did not respond to a request for comment about the president's comments.

At 28 per 100,000 people, Mexico's murder rate was around four times higher than in the United States in 2020, according to data published by the World Bank. Homicides fell about 7 percent last year in Mexico, but the current government is on track to register a record total for any six-year administration.

The US State Department assigns varying levels of travel risk to all but two of Mexico's 32 regions.

On top of the kidnappings, US police say two women from Texas have been missing in Mexico since late February when they drove across the border to sell clothes at a flea market.

UK employers feel the strain of missing skilled workers

BARNSELEY

FRUSTRATED with England's education system, Simon Biltcliffe spends a lot of time training new hires at his marketing firm in the "soft skills" he and many employers say the country's sluggish economy badly needs.

Finding that new starters often struggle to think on their feet, he sets them workplace challenges to learn to solve problems at pace and in teams. Many don't adapt, leading to high attrition after three- and six-month reviews.

Across Britain, Biltcliffe's frustrations are shared by businesses who say the nation's schools, technical colleges and apprentice schemes are not turning out the workers they need, from software coders and designers to skilled machinists.

"There needs to be a step change," Biltcliffe said, speaking at the offices of Webmart - which advises clients on the carbon footprint of their marketing operations - in an industrial estate in Barnsley, a former coal town in northern England. Neighbouring businesses include an IT security firm and other companies far removed from the region's mining past.

Biltcliffe described the education system as "not fit for purpose" in a changing economy where the growth of automation and artificial intelligence will make creative skills and adaptability all the more important.

While Britain boasts world-leading universities, top scientists and a growing share of young people who continue academic studies after 18, less than a fifth of 25-64 year-olds have a vocational qualification, compared with more than half in Germany, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Finance minister Jeremy Hunt is expected to address this skills shortage in a budget statement on Wednesday that he will frame as a growth plan for Britain's economy - still the only one in the Group of Seven yet to recover its pre-coronavirus pandemic size.

But past attempts to train up more workers have seen the problem get worse by some measures, and any big improvement to the post-16 skills system is likely to take years.

The shortage of qualified workers is not unique to Britain but it has been exacerbated by the country's exit from the European Union, which has created more paperwork and cost for employers hiring workers from the bloc. That has contributed to a surge in unfilled vacancies to record levels last year.

Digital roles are growing four times faster than the workforce as a whole, and there are an average of 173,000 vacancies per month for digital occupations, costing the economy tens of billions of pounds each year, according to the government.

Biltcliffe and other employers argue that changes need to be made not only in post-school training, but in schools themselves, which they and some educational campaigners criticise for increasingly promoting memorisation for tests at the expense of creative thinking and practical learning.

The Edge Foundation, which seeks to improve ties between education and employers, says time for subjects such as computing and practical science work has been squeezed over the



The Alphabeta Building, where the offices of Silicon Valley Bank UK are based, is pictured in London on Sunday. (PHOTO/ AFP)

past decade, and that 71 percent fewer pupils studied design and technology courses to exam level in 2022 than in 2010.

Subjects that have seen big increases over the past decade included geography and history. Despite the focus on exams, around 100,000 people leave school every year without required standards in English and maths and Britain has one of the highest rates of young people not in education, employment or training among the world's leading economies.

"We don't do nearly as well for the 50 percent of school leavers who do not go to university as we do for those who do," Hunt said in January.

In response to a question from Reuters about the Edge Foundation data, the education ministry said every state-funded school was "required to teach a broad and balanced curriculum."

Training revamp

Without a rapid overhaul of the training system, Britain's pool of highly skilled adults is likely to shrink further relative to other countries, the OECD has warned.

Employers groups are calling on Hunt to tackle a key part of how training is funded in his budget speech.

Since 2017, firms with an annual pay bill of more than 3 million pounds have been required to pay an Apprenticeship Levy - a tax placed in a fund the companies can

draw on for training.

Employers say they often cannot find suitable training courses, and over 2 billion pounds of unused funds raised have gone to government coffers.

A House of Commons Library report said in January that the government acknowledged the number of apprenticeships had fallen since the levy was introduced, but argued that the quality of apprenticeships had improved.

The Confederation of British Industry, a business lobby group, wants Hunt to allow firms to invest the money in a wider range of training, not just apprenticeships, citing its own research predicting nine out of 10 British workers will need to retrain by 2030 to adapt to changes in the economy.

The Treasury said on Saturday that Hunt will announce training for older people returning to work that would be more flexible and shorter than other programmes, alongside the expansion of a scheme for reskilling in industries such as construction and technology.

Corporate leaders acknowledge employers also need to do more themselves, and prioritize training even in lean times.

"Training is the first thing that goes when the budget is squeezed," Robert West, head of education and skills at the CBI, said.

Bright spots

At Webmart - with 43 staff and annual

sales of about 20 million pounds - Biltcliffe says getting new hires up to speed in how to engage with clients or meet deadlines acts as a brake at a time when demands are getting ever more immediate.

"You're slowing down really quite a lot to go at the pace of the education system," he said of his company, which began as a print management firm in 1996.

Olly Newton, executive director of the Edge Foundation, says there are bright spots, including schools trying out new ideas.

"I think there's a real head of steam to do something different," Newton said.

One such school is the publicly funded XP in Doncaster, 20 miles from Barnsley.

Children joining XP at age 11 immediately go on a trip to the mountains of England or Wales to learn to cope with new challenges and the importance of teamwork.

Inspired by project-based learning schools in the United States, XP sends students out of classrooms to dig into issues such as migration or the impact of the closure of the local mining industry, requiring them to engage with adults and understand the world around them.

"Our students are more reflective than a lot of adults," Clair Salter, XP's principal, said. "Our students can walk into any interview with confidence and talk about themselves."

By the time they leave XP at 16, all pupils have experience of speaking to groups of 250 people about their work.

China accelerates modernisation of industrial system

OVER the recent years, China has thoroughly implemented an innovation-driven development strategy to promote the optimization and upgrading of its industrial structure. Accelerating the modernization of the industrial system remained one of the key focuses of the government work report this year.

China boasts the most complete industrial system in the world, and the demand in its domestic market has the greatest potential globally. Accelerating the industrial structure upgrading and building a modern industrial system that's independent, controllable, safe, reliable and highly competitive is key to future development.

Traditional industries are the foundation of the modern industrial system. At present, China is vigorously promoting the upgrading of traditional industries.

Traditional industries are moving towards higher-end, exploring new development paths.

Wang Lanyu, general manager of HBIS Group, a Chinese steelmaker, told People's Daily that the company has been making ceaseless efforts to deepen supply-side structural reform, develop high-end products, and strive for a higher stage of well-adjusted balance where demand drives supply and supply, in turn, creates demand.

"We are exploring the new arena of intelligent connected new energy vehicles (NEVs) and have launched high-end smart electric vehicles to better meet the demand of the market," said Zhang Xinghai, vice chairman of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce and chairman of Seres, a Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer.

China has fastened its steps on a new path to industrialization as the industrial structure is optimizing and the quality of products keeps improving. High-tech manufacturing and equipment manufacturing accounted for 15.5 percent and 31.8 percent of the total value added of industrial enterprises above designated size, respectively. China has maintained the world's largest producer and seller of NEVs for eight consecutive years.

Traditional industries are becoming intelligent and more competitive.

Only by grasping the opportunities of digital upgrading can enterprises stand out in fierce market competition, said Zhang Zhuang, mayor of Liuzhou, south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. He noted that Liuzhou supports enterprises in digital transformation and is actively building national-level pioneering zones for connected vehicles and intelligent manufacturing. "Digital technologies enable precision workshops to respond to every abnormal situation and reduce the processing period



Workers debug robotic arms in a workshop of an intelligent equipment enterprise in Ningde, east China's Fujian province, March 8, 2023. (Photo by Wang Wangwang/People's Daily)

of core parts by 20 percent, which further lowers cost and improves efficiency," said Ma Bing, an employee of Gentertec Qiqihar No.2 Machine Tool, a manufacturing enterprise for heavy-duty machine tools.

So far, China has built over 2,100 high-level digital workshops and smart factories, and industrial internet has been applied to 45 major categories of the national economy.

Ma suggested that enterprises should keep enhancing their capabilities in the application of digital technologies and software, as well as data management, saying efforts shall be made to guide enterprises to accelerate digital transformation in key links.

Traditional industries are also turning "green" and brimming with new vitality. Aiming to build a waste-free county, Guangze county in east China's Fujian province has managed to mix organic matters such as chicken manure and rice husks and turn them into fuel.

"We should promote clean production and circular economy, so as to achieve green and low-carbon development," said Zhang Yuzhen, president of the Fujian Provincial Academy of Environmental Sciences.

Thanks to synergistic efforts to cut carbon emissions, reduce pollution, expand green development, and pursue economic growth, the country is seeing accelerated development of green and low-carbon production and lifestyles. The share of clean energy in total energy consumption increased from 20.8 percent to over 25 percent over the past five years.

While consolidating the dominant place of traditional advantageous industries, China is also fostering new growth drivers and new strengths.

According to the report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the country will promote the integrated and clustered development of strategic emerging industries and cultivate new growth engines such as next-generation information technology, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, new energy, new materials, high-end equipment, and green industry.

The innovation-driven development strategy cultivates emerging industries. Liao Zengtai, head of Wanhua Chemical Group, told People's Daily that leading enterprises should cooperate with universities and research institutes to contribute to the d

Peop;development of emerging industries with strategic importance. "We have made breakthroughs in the optimization of storage technology, which makes the operation of mobile phones smoother," said Feng Dan, dean of the School of Computer Science and Technology, Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province. Industries, universities and research institutes should work together and turn frontier technologies into productivity, she added.

UK doctors begin three-day strike in pay dispute

LONDON

THOUSANDS of junior doctors in England walked out on Monday in a three-day strike that will disrupt patient care, as they protest over pay they say can work out at less per hour than a barista.

The strike is the latest involving staff at Britain's state-funded National Health Service (NHS), following walkouts by nurses, paramedics and others demanding a pay rise that better reflects double-digit levels of inflation.

The NHS will prioritize emergency care during the strike, which could come at the cost of routine appointments, surgeries and even some urgent cancer treatments, NHS England National Medical Director Stephen Powis said.

"This is likely to be the most disruptive set of industrial action days that we've seen all winter," Powis told Times Radio.

"It is going to be a hard three days and it's going to be quite challenging."

Junior doctors in Britain are qualified physicians, often with several years of experience.

The British Medical Association (BMA) trade union says starting pay for junior doctors can be as low as 14.09 pounds (\$17.04) per hour, one pence less than the top level of pay for a barista at British coffee chain Pret A Manger.

Junior doctors agreed in 2019

to an annual 2 percent pay rise as part of a four-year deal but say that is now inadequate in light of much higher inflation. Last month, 98 percent of the nearly 37,000 who took part in the BMA's strike ballot voted in favor.

Robert Laursen, co-chair of the BMA's Junior Doctors Committee, said they had seen a real terms pay cut over the last 15 years due to public sector wage freezes.

"We're just asking for that pay to be restored, and that looks like something like 19 pounds an hour," he told Reuters at a picket line in London.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is under pressure to help end walkouts by health workers, which also hinder one his major priorities of cutting long waiting lists for treatment.

Health minister Steve Barclay on Friday invited the BMA for formal pay talks.

"We stand ready to have those discussions, and urge them to come and engage with us," Barclay told reporters on Monday. "I don't think a 35 percent pay demand is affordable."

A broader wave of strikes in Britain, involving hundreds of thousands of public sector workers, comes at a time of pressured public finances and as Sunak's government prepares to deliver a budget on Wednesday.

Agencies



Junior doctors hold placards as they stand at a picket line outside St Thomas' Hospital in Westminster in London on Monday. (PHOTO/ AP)

Yanga's tainted euphoria: Yannick Bangala and pain of bungled penalty



Tanzania's Yanga midfielder, Mudathir Yahya (C), outfoxes Mali's AS Real Bamako winger, Cheickna Diakité (R), and defender Boubacar Traore when the clubs took each other in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group D match played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last week. Yanga garnered a 2-0 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

FANS of city giants Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, now on top of their art albeit in the second tier continental tournament, had their festivity dimmed by the crudely unlucky penalty shot on the part of ace midfielder, Yannick Bangala, in the twilight minutes of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage match vs Mali's Real Bamako at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, nicknamed 'Estadio Lupaso', in Dar es Salaam.

It is hard to say who was the more pained between the two of them, viz. the player who took the penalty and the hundreds of thousands of fans watching the game, and, indeed, what is the reason for such error, as it often occurs not with the club but in any tournament.

Bungling a penalty is something of a spectacular misfortune on the part of any player as it has what it takes to bring someone unending nightmares.

The most spectacular penalty misses remembered across generations are those relating to World Cup final matches, as they remained imprinted on the mind of the country's fans for decades.

These other penalty-missing events are quickly forgotten as they have no impact on fate, that is, supremely important expectations on the part of the club or country, as Yanga obtained its

three points.

Those taking a liking to horoscopes know that there is at times surprising precision of what one may expect on that day, apart from a generally accurate picture of the day's atmosphere, a sort of bird's eye view.

While a match isn't a subject for horoscopic consultation, there are spheres in which some soothsayers may attempt a prediction, by using the number of letters of the teams involved, and at times even their starting letters.

The trouble with this sort of prediction is that it raises subjective rules of what causes an event, thus simply false.

There is another way of making a prediction, or more accurately interpreting an event after it has happened, for no one can say when it will occur, save by palm reading or another method of clairvoyance.

It is by looking at someone's name, as it is old wisdom that naming is consecration, in the sense that every name has an owner or a meaning in ordinary language, thus the spirit involved causes or brings about events to highlight his presence in the vicinity.

That explains so many such events, where top players fail to take a penalty kick, overshooting.

In the case of Yannick Bangala, that dimension isn't far to seek, as it doubles down to his surname, Bangala, and his first

name is passive in that event.

There are moments when it is the first name that shines but it needs the effort to see through the veneer of an accidental failure to shoot properly, to realize that there are other forces at work.

In that case, the whole crowd and the fan base would be aghast at the star midfielder bungling the penalty, unaware that the holder of the name is thrilled at the massive outcry and prolonged soul-searching on the cause.

It isn't just in this case that the name is seen to have a bearing on erring in taking a penalty but another dimension comes up, also noticed in other instances.

While the Yannick penalty wasn't crucial to the outcome of the match, how he dented the happiness of thousands of often rowdy fans and spectators may have instructed a certain level is causing that event.

It was to put it on the shoulders of an especially important player whose contribution is above board, as then he can carry the burden while a less important player would face venom.

Another instance where the name emerges as a factor, and often in a contradictory manner depending on the instance, is Lionel Messi.

There Mbappé and Messi took their teams' first penalties at the last World Cup final and scored,

while Kingsley Coman had an attempt saved by Argentina goalkeeper Emilio Martinez.

One reason that Coman was the one to miss the penalty for France was that he plays for Bayern Munich, and would not face massive jeers upon returning to the Premier League. It would be so if he was playing in Ligue 1, say at PSG too.

Messi wasted a crucial penalty shot in the World Cup final against Germany in 2014, where his name can be read in two ways, first as 'messing' up as in 'bungling' the shot, as related to Yannick.

It isn't outrageous to add another dimension, a Canaanite aspect to what is otherwise a reference to the lion, in Lionel as 'leo' or lion has to do with horoscopes.

But 'lione' in Swahili is a different matter, booing the one 'messing' up the penalty.

The name worked perfectly for that event and then at the end of the last finals, Lionel Messi's name had a different aspect altogether as then it stood for a lion leading his country nearly as a messiah.

He lost the penalty as an important player whom it is hard to blame for any misfortune as, finally, he is the one who took the team to the final, in that case, Yannick has put in a lot for Yanga to have arrived there, or withstand pressure.

Tanzanians, Indians now urged to value, take pride in culture

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

MINISTER for Culture, Arts, and Sports Pindi Chana has called on the Indian community and Tanzanians to be proud of and value their cultures to bring positive changes in their localities.

Pindi made the call when speaking at the Holi Milan- the festival of colours- that took place at Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) in Dar es Salaam on Sunday morning.

The festival, organized by the SVCC in collaboration with India's High Commission to Tanzania, celebrated the beginning of a good spring harvest season and signified good's victory over evil.

The minister disclosed that through culture people can bring positive changes in the community, enhance their quality of life, and increase overall well-being for both individuals and communities.

She lauded SVCC and India's High Commission to Tanzania for organizing such a wonderful event that brings the society together, with participants splashing water on each other and painting colour on each other's faces to celebrate the 'Holi' festival.

Pindi pointed out that Tanzania and India have enjoyed a traditionally close friendship and cooperative relations and the two countries have been working closely in various sectors.

To promote sports and culture in both countries, Pindi noted, two Tanzania female boxers will soon travel to India to battle it out in the 2023 International Boxing Association (IBA) Women's World Boxing Championships, which will take place in New Delhi.

Elaborating on the 'Holi' festival, she said the world is one family. The minister noted: "I'm very happy to see people smear power colours on each other and wish each other 'Happy Holi', while others are covered with colours from head to toe."

The minister revealed: "Tanzania will continue to forge a partnership with India in different areas to strengthen culture between the two countries."

India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Pradhan added that on Sunday Indian community celebrated the Holi Milan-the festival of colours- in collaboration with Tanzanians and people from other countries.

He lauded ambassadors from Nigeria, Vietnam, South Korea, the Republic of the Congo, a group of teenagers, and friends from different communities who participated in the festival. The festival was celebrated at SVCC premises.

"Holi festival is important, it is celebrated in various countries around the world to mark the be-

ginning of the spring season and the end of winter," he said.

The High Commissioner noted people celebrate the festival by smearing bright colours on friends and families, conducting prayers, and burning a bonfire to symbolically destroy the bad omen so that the good can triumph.

Pradhan added the festival is based on a Hindu legend and has a huge cultural significance in India.

People see the festival as symbolizing new beginnings and a time for people to mend relationships and start afresh. Normally the Holi festival is marked with colourful dances and performances.

During the festival, children and adults from various countries including India, Nigeria, South Korea, the Republic of the Congo, and Tanzania celebrate it with bright colours.

The festival is celebrated grandly and uniquely at SVCC and people undertake massive processions whilst dancing and smearing colour on each other.

Groups of friends also gathered at SVCC, splashed water, and smeared colour on each other to celebrate the 'Holi' festival.

During the event, children also got a chance to spray coloured water on each other with water pistols.

People celebrating the festival were completely covered with colourful paints whilst participating in a large gathering.

The participants smear 'gula' (red powder), which symbolizes wealth, passion, and strength on each other to mark the festival.

During the event, people spend the day with their children and loved ones and hold festive meals with support from SVCC in collaboration with India's High Commission to Tanzania.

The festival is based on a Hindu legend and has a huge cultural significance in India.

The SVCC's Director, Soumya Chavan, noted: "We are very glad to see women, men, and children dance and smear each other with colourful powders to mark the beginning of spring and the end of winter."

Holi is a Hindu festival that has been celebrated since ancient times. It is a celebration that happens all over the world.

It brings people together and invites them to throw away their inhibitions, feeling united in one big colourful group.

"We are very happy to see people open up and enjoy each other's company during the event, take time to dance and party, and throw their cultural norms to the side," she said.

People got a chance to dance and throw coloured dye at each other. The 'Holi' festival, Soumya noted, is a happy time when people come together and celebrate as one and let go of their inhibitions.

National Sports Council set to award athletes on Friday

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE National Sports Council (NSC) expects to award the best sportsmen and women who excelled in the country aiming at motivating youths to keep on participating in the sector.

Leodegar Tenga, NSC Chairman, stated in Dar es Salaam recently noting that the awards ceremony will be held at Mlimani City on Friday, bringing together various sports stakeholders in the country.

According to Tenga, the awards ceremony's committee consists of nine members who have extensive experience with sports issues as well as have the

competence to organize various sports events.

The committee is made up of Chairman Mkumbukwa Mtambo, Leonard Thadeo (vice-chairman), and Neema Msitha (secretary).

Jonas Tiboroha, Nasra Mohamed, Christina Koroso, Boniface Wambura, Juma Ikangaa, and Omar Omar are the members of the committee.

Tenga pointed out that the awards will be presented to the best sportsmen and sportswomen, and another category is for male and female athletes with disabilities.

Others who will be awarded are the best teams that performed well in international

competitions as well as the best athletes for each sports club that performed well in international competitions.

He added that the three most competent athletes will be chosen from all sports associations and, from there, the winner for both females and males will be picked.

The NSC boss noted that all sports associations and federations will collaborate with the awards ceremony committee to pick the best athletes who will be awarded.

According to him, the body has opted for the move so that the awards process is done with transparency, professionalism, and great attention.

He also urged the media outlets to take advantage of the opportunity by championing the importance for youths to engage more in sports that will offer them a chance to participate in various competitions.

The committee's Chairman, Mkumbukwa, motivated other young athletes who will not be awarded to put in effort so that they also be awarded in the next phase.

Meanwhile, Elia Clement won a gold medal for Tanzania in the long jump in this year's East Africa Junior Athletics Championships, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend.



Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Pindi Chana in a group photo with India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Pradhan, and other people during the Holi Milan- the festival of colours- which took place at Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) in Dar es Salaam last Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL CENTER

Ref corruption case is Spanish football's worst ever moment - La Liga president

MADRID

SPANISH football is enduring its worst ever moment because of the refereeing corruption case involving Barcelona, La Liga president Javier Tebas said Monday.

Last week Spanish prosecutors charged the Catalan club with corruption after payments of more than 7.3 million euros (\$7.8 million) to a company owned by a former refereeing chief were uncovered earlier this year.

Barcelona say they paid Jose Maria Enriquez Negreira, the former referee and ex-vice president of the refereeing committee of the Spanish football federation (CTA) between 1994 and 2018, for reports and advice related to refereeing.

"Yes, (it's the worst moment) that I remember," Tebas told Movistar channel Vamos.

"The problem that we have is the worst. There are payments recognised by Barcelona to the vice-president of the CTA, that's something abnormal.

"It's understandable that tension is generated. The reputation of our football is at stake. I am ashamed. We have no explanation from Barcelona." Barcelona president Joan Laporta spoke at an event on Monday and said he would defend his team against "attacks".

Laporta appeared emotional during his speech and said it was not weakness, but instead showed his desire to take on his club's detractors.

"Don't think that I'm getting emotional out of weakness, I'm getting emotional because I really want to confront all the scoundrels who are tarnishing our badge," said Laporta.

"There are ferocious attacks to sully our club badge, which have nothing to do with reality.

"And you can be sure that the board of directors that I have the honour of chairing will defend it with all our might."

Spanish newspaper El Pais reported Monday that former Barcelona coaches Luis Enrique and Ernesto Valverde, would be called upon as witnesses in the court proceedings.

Reigning Spanish champions Real Madrid said Sunday they would appear as an "injured party" in the case once it moves forward.

As well as the club and Enriquez Negreira, two of the club's former presidents, Josep Maria Bartomeu and Sandro Rosell, are facing the same charge of corruption. On a sporting level, Barcelona face no immediate danger because the governing bodies of Spanish, European and world football have five-year statute of limitations, Tebas has said. On a criminal level, the accused could face up to four years in prison.

Sanctions against the club could range from "suspension of activity...to outright dissolution as a company," Alberto Palomar, professor of law at Carlos III University of Madrid told AFP.

AFP

Morocco coach backs Hakimi amid French investigation

SALE, Morocco

ALTHOUGH implicated in a rape allegation in France, Achraf Hakimi was called into the Morocco squad Monday for friendly games against Brazil and Peru.

Morocco coach Walid Regragui said the country supports the Paris Saint-Germain defender.

"For us, and all Moroccans, we are behind Achraf," Regragui said at a news conference to announce his first squad since the team's historic run to the World Cup semifinals. "He has the presumption of innocence until it's proven to the contrary."

Hakimi was given preliminary charges of rape on March 3 by prosecutors in the suburb of Nanterre. A 24-year-old woman said she was raped by Hakimi at his home, though his lawyer said it is part of a racketeering attempt.

Hakimi has been allowed to leave France and played for PSG at Bayern Munich last week in the Champions League.

Morocco will host Brazil in Tangier on March 25 and then play Peru in Madrid three days later.

"I speak with Achraf often like I do lots of players," Regragui said when asked Monday about Hakimi. "He's calm, that's most important. He's someone who is strong on the pitch and beyond the pitch. "We have to think of football first," the coach said. "He has people taking care of his business for him."

Morocco became the first African team to reach the World Cup semifinals last year. The team beat Belgium in the group stage and then Spain and Portugal in the knockout rounds. Morocco lost to France in the semifinals before being beaten by Croatia in the third-place game.

Hakimi's standout performances in Qatar earned him selection for the World XI team in a poll of players organized by global union FIFPRO.

AP

How Arsenal cracked the transfer market - by targeting their Premier League rivals



Leandro Trossard

BY SAM DEAN

IT is no secret that Leandro Trossard was Arsenal's second-choice transfer target in January. The top priority was Mykhailo Mudryk, who instead joined Chelsea, and there was considerable disappointment in

north London when Arsenal missed out on the Ukraine winger.

Arsenal's executives did not spend too much time feeling sorry for themselves, though, as they quickly pivoted to Trossard, agreeing a deal with Brighton just a few days later. The Belgium international is older,

cheaper and less exciting as a long-term prospect than Mudryk but, crucially, he did boast something that Chelsea's new recruit did not: Premier League experience.

As with Jorginho, Arsenal's other significant January arrival, Trossard knows the league. He understands the pace and

physicality of the English game, and the nature of Arsenal's opponents. He did not require adjustment time and he has already shown, in just a few weeks, how important he will be for his new side this season.

The signings of Jorginho and Trossard, who registered three assists in Arsenal's demolition of Fulham on Sunday, continued a theme that has defined Mikel Arteta's rebuild at the Emirates Stadium. Ever since the Spaniard was appointed and sporting director Edu took the lead on recruitment, Arsenal have routinely signed players who were already thriving in English football.

Under Arteta, there have been seven transfer windows, from January 2020 until now. In that time, Arsenal have made 21 first-team signings, nine of which were from Premier League clubs. Forty-three per cent of all their arrivals under Arteta, therefore, have been players plucked from within the league.

Compared to their 'Big Six' rivals in that same timeframe, it is comfortably the highest percentage. The next highest is 25 per cent, for Manchester City and Manchester United. Of Liverpool's signings since January 2020, meanwhile, only eight per cent were from other Premier League clubs.

How much does this matter? Well, consider this: in the previous

seven windows before Arteta's appointment, Arsenal had signed only two players (out of 22 first-team signings) from Premier League teams. It is a drastic shift in transfer policy, and it has laid the foundation for their title charge this season.

At various points in Sunday's thrashing of Fulham, Arsenal had the following players on the pitch: Aaron Ramsdale, Ben White, Oleksandr Zinchenko, Trossard and Gabriel Jesus. Jorginho, on this occasion, remained on the bench. All of these stars are fundamental to Arsenal's title push, and all of them joined the club from rival Premier League teams.

Arteta knows the value of Premier League experience, of course, because he has that experience himself. The Spaniard was playing in this division as recently as 2016, which cannot be said for any other manager in the league, apart from Bournemouth's Gary O'Neil. Arteta has felt the ferocity of the modern Premier League, doing so every week until only a few years ago, and he knows how difficult it can be for newcomers to find their feet in this country.

It cannot be claimed that Arsenal's recruitment strategy is an entirely original idea. Liverpool built so much of their success under Jurgen Klopp on a similar model, targeting Premier League players with the requisite physical and

mental strength. Sadio Mane, Virgil van Dijk, Georginio Wijnaldum and Andy Robertson - all key pillars of Liverpool's rebirth under Klopp - were all bought from other Premier League sides.

Indeed, in the seven transfer windows prior to Arteta's appointment at Arsenal, 47 per cent of Liverpool's signings were from Premier League clubs, by far the highest percentage of the 'Big Six'.

Manchester United under Sir Alex Ferguson also had a habit of strengthening with players from within the league. The likes of Eric Cantona, Wayne Rooney, Michael Carrick, Rio Ferdinand and Edwin van der Sar all joined from Premier League sides.

Arsenal, of course, have not just focused on signing players with Premier League experience. Crucially, they have also bought two players with experience of winning the competition: Jesus and Zinchenko.

There can be no overstating the importance of these two additions, and their influence could once again be seen at Craven Cottage, where Jesus made his long-awaited return from injury. If Arsenal go on to win the title, these Premier League signings, with their mental know-how and physical robustness, will have been essential to that triumph.

THE TELEGRAPH

Madrid relying on injury-hit Benzema for more European glory

MADRID

KARIM Benzema has formed an essential part of Real Madrid's Champions League success, but there are doubts over whether his team can rely on him to extend their European domination this season.

The French striker's season has been regularly disrupted by injuries, and although Vinicius Junior is a deadly threat on the left, without Benzema, defences can focus on shutting down the Brazilian winger.

His future at Madrid is also unknown - his contract expires in June and no public decision has been made over a renewal by player or club.

"Legends of this club have to stay at Madrid," said Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti, hoping the forward remains at his disposal next year.

Benzema missed Madrid's La Liga win over Espanyol on Saturday with an ankle issue but is expected to return to face Liverpool at the Santiago Bernabeu today in a last 16 second leg clash.

The 35-year-old has been sidelined frequently, including with a thigh problem that saw him miss the World Cup with France.

"Something is wrong with Benzema, never in his entire career has he spent so much time in

the injury room," complained Madrid newspaper AS last week, with Benzema out for the eighth time.

The forward has missed 34 percent of Madrid's games across all competitions this season, 14 matches in total, but has scored 18 in the 27 games he has played.

"These have been months of disappointment and enormous mystery regarding Karim," continued AS.

- Captain and champion -

Benzema has aged like a fine wine, playing his best football in his later years, freed up from playing on the fringes when Cristiano Ronaldo left Madrid in 2018, and becoming a top-class goalscorer.

Last season Benzema captained Madrid to Champions League glory, with the 1-0 win over Liverpool in the final securing a record 14th triumph. Benzema was crucial in Madrid's wild run to Paris, scoring a remarkable 17-minute hat-trick in the last 16 to knock out Paris Saint-Germain.

The forward netted another hat-trick at Stamford Bridge in the quarter-finals to put Chelsea on the ropes and clinched the tie for his team with an extra-time winner in the second leg. Manchester City suf-

fered the same fate in the semi-finals, with Benzema netting twice at the Etihad in the first leg then slotting home a penalty to send Madrid through to the final, in extra-time again at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Benzema finished as the competition's top scorer, with 15 goals, and scored 44 in 46 games across all competitions last season, as Madrid lifted the double.

That magic has been sprinkled less liberally this season, although Liverpool had a taste at Anfield in the first leg as Madrid ran out 5-2 winners, with Benzema netting twice, his first goals in this season's edition.

It was a display of lethal finishing, leaving Jurgen Klopp's side shell-shocked after they had raced into a two-goal lead.

Benzema's brace took



the forward to 88 in the Champions League in his career and he will hope to overtake Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski on 91 as the third top scorer of all time in the competition. Both players are reaching the end of their storied careers and eyes

are turning to the future.

With Benzema's destiny yet to be decided, PSG's Champions League exit last week proved an opportunity for some Spanish news outlets to rekindle links with Kylian Mbappe.

"If you want to win

the Champions League, you already know..." ran Marca's front page, next to a picture of the French striker.

Madrid fans are also excited about young prospect Alvaro Rodriguez, although it is too soon to expect the 18-year-old to make significant contributions on the European stage.

The club's hopes of retaining the trophy this season reside with Benzema, who causes worry each time he suffers a new setback.

Some believe he has been deliberately preserving himself for the team's biggest matches and the key European dates, and that it has affected his form.

"I see a very motivated Benzema, and I think you will see a different Benzema from now on, in 2023," said Ancelotti in late December, but so far it has not transpired.

For Madrid to succeed again in Europe and win a fifth Champions League trophy in 10 seasons, getting Benzema back to his best is of the utmost importance.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

How Arsenal cracked the transfer market – by targeting their Premier League rivals

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Government delighted with installation of air quality sensor at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE government has said it is pleased with the installation of an air quality sensor at Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

National Sports Council (NSC) Secretary-General, Neema Msitha, stated so in the city last week when Sweden-based Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) installed the air monitor at the facility.

She said in the modern world, technology is vital for any sporting activity, including athletics, and thanked Athletics Kenya (AK) and other stakeholders for facilitating the installation of the sensor at the stadium.

"Modern sports require a lot of technology and expertise, we thank SEI, the government of Tanzania, Athletics Kenya, and others for facilitating the installation of this sensor here," Neema revealed.

"This sensor is of great help to the promotion of the stadium and development of athletics in the country," Neema noted.

The SEI Air Quality expert, Ngongang Danube, said the sensor is aimed at connecting science, and technology with athletics.

He said the installation of the sensor at the stadium is a result of corroborated efforts between SEI and the United Nations.

The official said the data is connected to the platform known as IQAIR.com/UNEP.

Danube pointed out: "Tanzania is a signatory of the UNCCC, sports for climate action framework which is an initiative urging sports organizations to reduce their carbon emissions."

"One of its requirements is that any country which hosts international athletics events ought to report on the status of air quality index around the stadium," the official disclosed.

"The sensor will provide timely data on the level of the air quality and also report on the level of carbon dioxide at the stadium," Danube noted.

"It will also help a coach and his technical committee to understand the quality of air athletes are exposed to during high-intensity exercise," the official revealed.

"The data collected could as well help organizers of future events design safer timetables for athletes, while analysis will be carried out on the correlation between air quality and performance," he said.

He said World Athletics is also developing a service for road race organizers, who can use a portable air quality device that can either be installed two days before the race or be fitted to a bike or electric car.

He noted: "This allows for the production of an 'air quality map' while officials are advised on how to lower risks."

The official pointed out that the sensors will not only enable researchers to collect and analyze more data on the impact of air pollution on sports, but also inform mitigation actions.

In 2021, Athletics Kenya became the first national athletics federation to join World Athletics as a signatory of the United Nations Climate Change (UNCC).

Other African nations which are signatories of UNCC and had the air quality monitors installed in their countries are Ethiopia, Senegal, and Uganda.



Benjamin Mkapa stadium

No room for errors in CAF CL clash against Horoya AC, says coach Oliveira



Simba SC head coach, Roberto Oliveira.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S Simba SC head coach Roberto Oliveira has emphasized his side's need to address defensive errors that went unpunished in previous games of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League.

The outfit will welcome Guinea's Horoya Athletic Club in a Group C match of the premier continental tournament at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday, battling for qualification for the last eight.

Simba SC should come out with a victory to seal qualification for the last eight's spot.

The Guinean champion, however, is standing on Simba SC's way of progression to the quarterfinals of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League.

The Msimbazi Street-based club will be eyeing a third quarterfinal appearance in CAF Champions League, having

qualified for the round in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

The side as well booked a place in the last eight of last season's CAF Confederation Cup.

The former Premier League champions are boosted by back-to-back wins in this season's tournament after beating Uganda's Vipers SC 1-0, as they head into the crunch match against Horoya AC.

There was further a Premier League win notched by Simba SC over Morogoro's Mtbwa Sugar last week.

Oliveira conceded that there is no room for marginal errors heading into the coming fixture after committing several mistakes which were not exploited by the opponents.

"Matches like these are the ones used to write history, we know our ambition is equivalent to that of our opponents," the gaffer noted.

The coach added: "It is a match in which we have to be highly disciplined and make sure we don't repeat the mistakes of the last three matches in all competitions."

The Brazilian noted: "We have seen our unbeaten home record come to an end this season, so defensive wise we must be strong."

"According to the posi-

tions in Group C, it means that if we win the game against Horoya AC, then we directly advance to the quarterfinals."

"This clash is like a final for us, so we want to make sure we make better preparations," the Brazilian tactician noted.

Even though hopes for lifting 2022/23 NBC Premier League silverware are slowly fading, the side also nicknamed 'Msimbazi Street Reds' stamped a comfortable 3-0 win over Mtbwa Sugar at Manungu Stadium in Morogoro last weekend.

Simba SC has collected 57 points from 24 matches and is still sitting second on the top-flight log whereas Mtbwa Sugar has accumulated 29 points after 25 encounters.

In Group C of this season's CAF Champions League, Simba SC is placed second with six points after honouring four games, winning two games, and losing two games.

Raja Club Athletic leads Group C after notching 12 points, which have enabled the Moroccan side to directly qualify for the quarterfinal stage.

Horoya AC is sitting third after amassing four points and Vipers SC is positioned last with one point.

BFT unveils provisional squad for Africa Zone 3 Championships

By Guardian Correspondent

BOXING Federation of Tanzania (BFT) has approved 37 pugilists for the national boxing team, which will battle it out in the 2023 Africa Zone 3 Boxing Championships.

The provisional team made up of 32 male boxers and five female boxers for various weight categories will thereafter be trimmed to make the final squad.

The championships are expected to take place in Dar es Salaam from April 11-18 and will involve 14 member countries.

The countries are Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Central Africa, Equatorial Guinea, Congo Brazzaville, Chad, Gabon, and hosts Tanzania.

The selected boxers for the provisional national team are expected to start off-camp training after getting permission from their employers.

According to BFT's executive committee, the recommended camps



Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Pindi Chana (C) is pictured with female boxers, Rahma Joseph Maganga (L), and Beatrice Ambros Nyambega (R) at an occasion for handing over the national flag to the pugilists that will represent Tanzania in 2023 International Boxing Association (IBA) Women's World Boxing Championships slated for March 16-26 in India. The occasion took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

are Ngome training camp at Mwenge, Ukonga Prisons at Ukonga, and Mgulani National Service training camp at Kurasini, all found in Dar es Salaam.

The qualifying stage for the boxers, who will represent the hosts, will be held by pitting the selected pugilists against each other on dates that will be announced later.

After the qualifying stage, the boxers making

the final squad will camp and train together.

The boxers making the provisional squad are Minimum weight boxers Abdallah Maganga (MMJKT), Maulid Athuman Kenneth (MMJKT), and Victor Njile (Morogoro), Flyweight boxers Yohana Kenneth (MMJKT), and Karim Hamisi (Yombayomba).

Kaim Said (MMJKT), Abdallah Salum (JKT Kibiti), and Yusuph Ab-

dulrahman (Ngome) are selected pugilists fighting in Bantamweight.

The Featherweight pugilists are Hassan Waziri (JKT Kibiti), and Daniel Leonard (MMJKT), and the Lightweight pugilists are Ibrahim Marungu (Ngome), Said Shija (Ngome), and Shaibu Jafari (MMJKT).

Light Welterweight boxers selected for the provisional side are Joseph John (Mager-

eza), Wambura Amiri (MMJKT), Alex Isendi (Ngome), and Mohamed Swalahe (MMJKT).

Welterweight pugilists are Athanas Ndiganya (Ngome) and Datsun Peter (MMJKT), boxers fighting in Light Middleweight are Kassim Mbundwike (Ngome), Joseph Phillip (MMJKT), David Chanzi (Ngome), and Malaki Mwaduga (Tanga).

Pugilists in the Mid-

dleweight category are Joshua Shadrack (Kagera), Khalfan Rajabu (MMJKT), Nicco Saduni (Tanga), and John Thomas (Mwanza).

Light Heavyweight boxers are Yusuf Changalawe (Ngome), Nizza Abdulrahman (MMJKT), and Adam Banaba (Ngome).

Cruiserweight pugilists making the provisional team are Geoffrey Peter (Magereza) and Richard Mwakitope (Ngome), whereas Alex Sitta (MMJKT) is the only Super Heavyweight boxer in the provisional team.

Female boxers making the provisional squad are Minimumweight pugilists Rahma Joseph (MMJKT) and Mariam Richard (MMJKT), they have been joined by Bantamweight pugilist Shakila Abdallah (MMJKT), and Lightweight pugilists Fatuma Hamisi (MMJKT), and Beatrice Ambrose (MMJKT).

Coaches for the provisional team are head coach Samwel Kapungu 'Batman' (IBA 1 Star), assisted by Hassan Mzonge (Ngome), Musini Mohamed (MMJKT), MMJKT's Rogata Damian (IBA 1 Star), and Undule Lang'son (Magereza).

Technical Committee is made up of Michael Changarawe (Mwanza), and Robert Sululu (Dar es Salaam).

Flexibles by David Chikoko

