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Samia out to resettle youth on farms

Minister set for India in oil, gas sector talks

By Beatrice Philemon

ENERGY minister January Makamba is expected to leave for India on a working visit next week to meet with potential Indian investors showing interest to invest in Tanzania's oil and gas sector. Indis High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, said this at a media briefing yesterday, devoted to

Imports from India amounted to \$4.5bn/- while \$2.2bn/- worth of exports from Tanzania was transacted, with India standing among leading export destinations for Tanzania

profiling the rising trade volumes between Tanzania and India. This will be even more so in the future as more Indian companies establish projects in the country, he stated, noting that for the past year, Tanzania has witnessed a number of Indian investors to set up firms in sugar production, coal mining and building a high tech animal vaccine plant. It is expected to be a major factory serving all of the East African region, he said, affirming that the Purandare sugar factory is set for Dodoma and it will be completed towards the end of this year. Discussions are being pursued for Indian businessmen to use local currency in importing products and Tanzanian businessmen use Tanzanian shillings or Indian rupees in doing business with

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The Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Foundation chairman, former President Jakaya Kikwete, holds talks in Dodoma city yesterday with Angellah Kairuki, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), on ways to improve education in Tanzania. . Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TFC asks for 45bn/- to fully supply fertiliser

Regulator, ministry want local production of inputs



Agriculture deputy minister Anthony Mavunde (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday inspecting a consignment of fertiliser shortly before it was transported to Rukwa Region. It was during the launch of the distribution of the input through the Tanzania Fertiliser Company. Next to him is the firm's general manager, Samuel Mshote. Photo: Correspondent Moshi Lusonzu

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Tanzania Fertiliser Co. (TFC) is in urgent need of 45bn/- to purchase crop growing fertilisers for the current farming season.

TFC general manager Samuel Mshote told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the amount will allow the state-owned firm to buy 25,000 metric tonnes of fertilisers directly from manufacturers.

Flagging off the distribution of the first consignment of 210 tonnes of fertilisers out of 2,700 tonnes available at the depot, he said a 50kg bag of fertilizer now fetches 70,000/- instead of 112,000/-.

The flagged off consignment was being delivered to Sumbawanga and Rukwa regions, and a second consignment of 450 tonnes will be directed to Iringa, Mbeya and Songwe regions, from the pivotal transit point of Makambako, he said.

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By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan plans to widen youth access to land ownership to promote their engagement in agriculture.

Addressing the opening session of the 2nd Africa Food Summit in the Senegalese capital of Dakar at midweek, the president said the future of agriculture will be hampered without active youth participation.

African Development Bank (AfDB) president Dr Akinwumi Adesina told the summit of a package of \$120m directed at agriculture, focusing on four major crops to be cultivated via irrigation and using transportation and logistics hubs.

Zuhura Yunus, the State House communications director, cited remarks from President Samia explaining the government's plan for 'building a better tomorrow,' where a selected number of youths will be allocated up to 10 acres each, which upon utilisation for several years would obtain full occupancy rights.

"Tanzania is currently in the process of recruiting the first batch of youth who will be enrolled in mid-February 2023 for a three-month training programme after which they will be allocated with the land to commence farming," she explained.

The innovative programme, which focuses on young men and women, has established a youth guarantee scheme and loan facility under the Agricultural Inputs Trust Fund to further support young farmers with consistent credit services, she stated.

Many youth lack access to land and agricultural financing, so the government decided to come up with a plan to support them to grow, she said, noting that since the plan was adopted

Tanzania is currently in the process of recruiting the first batch of youth who will be enrolled in mid-February 2023 for a three-month training ...

in the past six months, 600,000 hectares of land is being cleared for the purpose.

The food summit, taking three days, sought to map out plans to unlock Africa's food-producing potential, to make it a breadbasket to the world.

The summit theme of "Feed Africa: Food Sovereignty and Resilience," was improvement of Africa's food nutrition and security situation, by leveraging the continent's huge unused arable lands.

The high-level meeting also examined boosting international trade, expanding Africa's market share by uplifting production and processing value addition.

Summit organisers, mostly UN agencies, said the event was crucial as Africa has more than 60 percent of the world's unused arable land, while holding a third of the 850m people in chronic food scarcity across the globe.

Minister: Arrest herders feeding cattle on crops

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

KILOSA District authorities in Morogoro Region must arrest and arrest pastoralists invading farms to feed their livestock, a cabinet minister has demanded.

Mashimba Ndaki, the Livestock and Fisheries minister, issued this demand at public meetings in Mbwele and Ulaya wards in the district, touring the region to promote transformation of the sub-sector.

"Livestock keeping is a legal activity

What I see here is that the district hasn't yet allocated special grazing areas for livestock

like others but it should be conducted by adhering to rules and regulations to avoid affecting other land

users," he declared.

Farmers cultivate various crops, but, intentionally pastoralists send their livestock into farms, he said, underlining that grazing in farms is a crime and incidents like this, when proven, should be confined behind bars like any other criminals.

The district leadership needs to arrest and take to court local officials conspiring with herders and receiving bribes, allowing them to graze in farms. Such acts fuel conflicts between the two groups and lead to

killings, he stressed.

Similarly, the Kilosa DC and executive director need to sit down with land use experts to identify allocated for grazing and submit them to the ministry for formalisation procedures.

"What I see here is that the district hasn't yet allocated special grazing areas for livestock," he affirmed, noting that, to address this fully, experts

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TFC seeks 45bn/- to more notably supply fertilisers

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The government had so far provided 6bn/- itemised in the 2022/2023 budget, he said, noting that this amount is inadequate given the high demand for fertiliser, which he pegged at 430,000 tonnes.

The final projected demand for the season is expected to reach 600,000 tonnes, he stated, alluding to discussions with Russian authorities for possible procurement of fertilizers.

Similarly, talks have been engaged with a Moroccan company to establish a fertiliser plant at Kisarawe District in Coast Region, he stated, asserting that poor storage facilities, warehouses, vehicles and inadequate staff affect the company's performance.

Antony Mavunde, the Agriculture deputy minister, tasked the TFC management to find ways for setting up a local fertiliser factory. Producing fertiliser locally was now unavoidable, saying the firm has to take advantage of the president's wish in that direction, plus support of the ministry and the board.

Mavunde said the government's target is to see agriculture grow by up to 10 percent by 2030 from the current 3.6 percent annually, he stated, elaborating that up to 995,000 acres of land be put into irrigation farming.

This will have multiple effects on the demand for fertiliser thus the producing and branding issues should pose no problems, as the issue is to ensure that farmers get fertilizers and insecticides on time, he further noted.

Prof Florence Turuka, TFC board chairman said the company must get prepared to start producing fertilizers locally. TFC must think of producing, distributing fertilizers here and outside, he said.

It was also the company's responsibility to make sure that all agro producers have access to loans from banks and financial institutions to facilitate distribution," he said.

Dr Stephano Ngailo, executive director for the Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) said that TFC needs to ensure that fertiliser is distributed and reaches farmers in peripheral areas.

Farmers in Mbozi, Mbinga and Ludewa districts should be given first priority in distribution of fertiliser due to the high demand there and its strategic importance, he stated.

"I call on TFRA staff to comply with the country's laws governing the distribution of fertilisers," he added



Energy ministry deputy permanent secretary Kheri Mahimbali (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday exchanging documents with Saif Humaid Al Falasi, CEO of ENOC Group (the Emirates national oil company), on an agreement they had just signed under which the firm is to invest in Tanzania. Looking on (2nd-R) is Energy minister January Makamba. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Minister set for India in oil, gas sector talks

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India, he said.

Such options would further boost trade between the two countries, he stated, citing joint start-up projects in digital payment technology that are in the offing, to ease transactions.

The payments technology makes transactions easy and secure, he said, pointing at more projects in health and education, along with the building of industrial parks. In the past year there has been a positive trend in investments in agro-processing, animal vaccines,

pharmaceuticals, hospitals and ports, while working with Tanzania in capacity building for human resources in various fields, he said. India offers a 98 percent duty free tariff scheme to Tanzanian exporters, helping to promote exports to India, he said, pointing

at a marginally balanced bilateral trade in the past year. Imports from India amounted to \$4.5bn/- while \$2.2bn/- worth of exports from Tanzania was transacted, with India standing among leading export destinations for Tanzania, he said.

India was happy with the growing ties with Tanzania, he said, underlining that a lot of products go to India and products from India are coming to Tanzania. "It is our expectation that this year trade volume between the two countries will reach \$6bn/-," he declared.



Mourners pay their respects to Nemes Raymond Tarimo, a Tanzanian reported to have been killed in the Ukraine war, shortly after the casket bearing his body arrived at his family home at Mbezi kwa Msuguri in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He is said to have joined Wagner Group, an organisation of militants which has been used in Russian military operations in many countries. This went with the promise of money and release from a seven-year prison sentence in Russia after the war.. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala.

Minister: Arrest herders feeding cattle on crops

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must move to ensure proper land planning. Kilosa MP Prof Palamagamba Kabudi commended the government for allocating funds to initiate three model farms on animal pasture cultivation. This will greatly reduce the challenge of pastures especially during the dry season, he said. The minister cautioned that as the district has pastoralists who are engaging in farming, they should be supported with training on the best farming practices. Earlier some farmers complained before the minister for incidents where herders invaded

farms, saying such incidents keep rising, sabotaging farmers' efforts to obtain a decent livelihood. Omari Walii, a farmer, said Mbwade ward residents end up counting losses each year from the chronic habit of livestock invasions on their farms. Sozia Zakayo, a pastoralist in the same area said they are sometimes forced to enter village land for water and pastures, citing acute drought in various areas. He appealed for the construction of a big dam sufficient for water supply needs when water is scarce, avoiding moving from one place to another to search for water.

Dealers of metal products urged to adhere to standards

By Guardian Reporter

MANUFACTURERS and importers and distributors of copper, corrugated iron sheets and pipes have been asked to adhere to quality standards in order to avoid complaints from users of the products.

Dr Candida Shirima, Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) acting director for compliance and enforcement made the call in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday when opening a one-day meeting of the bureau and steel products'

manufacturers, importers and suppliers. Dr Shirima tasked stakeholders to ensure that they bring in the market products that meet standards and that are value for money and win the competitive market within and outside the country. "Let's everyone here be responsible for what we produce, import and distribute and make sure we comply with the quality requirements," the standards expert said, noting that stakeholders should focus on quality so that there is fair competition in the market, protect the environ-

ment, and enable buyers to find products that match with the value of money. He stated that in order to improve the quality of metal products, the producers should ensure that they meet national and international standards. "Every producer and importer of these products should ensure that all the necessary information is written, where according to international standards, the products must be labelled with the grade, name of the producer, measurements and version numbers."

According to him, TBS will continue to fully manage the responsibility of ensuring the quality of these products in this country, including conducting inspections and laboratory tests before entering the country. He said that the bureau will also continue to conduct regular inspections on factories that produce these products to verify the quality of the products produced. "TBS is also responsible for regular monitoring, providing quality education to stakeholders and taking appropriate action against all

those who are found to be violating the requirements of the law," he said. Dr Shirima also said TBS has decided to organize the meeting with an aim of promoting the understanding of the stakeholders regarding the requirements of the Standards Act Chapter 130, and the various international standards of the products. He said that since the government's aim for the sixth phase is to build a strong, sustainable and competitive economy, the products produced must be strong.

Clerics vow to take lead in UHC awareness campaigns

By Henry Mwangonde

RELIGIOUS leaders have vowed to take lead in the awareness campaign for the envisaged Universal Health Coverage (UHC) to ensure it is understood by the majority before rollout.

Speaking before the Minister of Health Umy Mwalimu at a meeting in Dar es Salaam, the religious leaders said the UHC decision has come at the right time when there is an increase in non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

In a presentation, Sheikh Hassan Chizenga Secretary for the Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) said it was important for the new health insurance scheme to include all kinds of diseases, saying the current insurance under the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) is sidelining some diseases.

"Majority of Tanzanians do not afford paying for health insurance because their income does not match with the requirements of the scheme, therefore there is need to consider all these issues," he said.

Father Dr Paul Chobo who is the chairman of the health department at the Tanzania Episcopal Conference said the church was excited to be part of the plan to ensure all Tanzanians are covered in the health scheme.

He said the church which also participates to a large extent in providing healthcare services through institutions which it owns, is relieved with the coming of the scheme saying health services will be improved.

The government is set to table the Universal Health Cov-

erage (UHC) in parliament for the second time with key changes made to ensure the majority of Tanzanians are accommodated in the scheme.

The bill will be tabled for the second time this February and the plan is to ensure that the law becomes operational by July, 1 this year.

The programme is in line with Tanzania's 2007 Health Policy which requires all Tanzanians to contribute towards their health expenses whenever they need them.

The government has also made key changes to the draft bill including removing an imprisonment segment for failure to join the scheme.

The minister said other changes in the new draft bill includes allowing private sector members to continue benefiting from the scheme even after retiring contrary to what was the case when one ceased to benefit upon retirement.

In her remarks, the health minister said the government was committed to ensure Tanzanians are covered with health insurance to access quality services.



Majority of Tanzanians do not afford paying for health insurance because their income does not match with the requirements of the scheme



The French Ambassador to Tanzania, Nabil Hajlaoui, bestows a medal of honour for outstanding service to medical researcher Associate Professor Julie Makani in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. It was a gesture of recognition by the French government in recognition of her contribution to a series of research studies on blood vessels and transplantation at Dar es Salaam's Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Mwinyi demands efficiency at Karume Airport

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

PRESIDENT Hussein Mwinyi has called for efficiency in service delivery at Zanzibar's Abeid Amani Karume International Airport to meet the demand of growing number of visitors.

Dr. Mwinyi has said that the government's decision to cooperate with world-renowned companies has helped to improve services at the Abeid Amani Karume airport and put it at a high level of international standards.

Dr Mwinyi said this on Thursday while inaugurating the services of the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport (Terminal 3) and allowing large organisations that

provide services in the airport to start official work.

He said that the government is proud of the great success in strengthening the services of the airport including the increase in direct flights of various international airlines.

He said that about 34 airlines make trips to Zanzibar using the airport and currently there is a large increase in tourists and passengers using air travel and passing through the Terminal 3 passenger building.

Dr. Mwinyi said in 2022, the number of passengers has reached 1.8 million compared to 1.3 million in 2021, equivalent to an increase of 38 per cent.

He said that after the major changes at the airport, the income has increased from 6.7bn/- in July to September and reached 8bn/- October to December last year.

"This is the biggest increase ever. The increase in flights and passengers has led to an increase in the collection of income for the Zanzibar Airports Authority" he said.

He added: "I thank the ministry, the airports authority, Dnata, Emirate Leisure and Segap, and all stakeholders of the aviation industry for their good cooperation in strengthening the services provided in this Complex. It is my belief that you will continue these efforts so that we can reach the levels we expect."

Dr Mwinyi also asked institutions

that provide services in the field to provide services at international standards, a step that will increase the influence of other major airlines to provide direct flight services to Zanzibar.

He said the quality of airport services is the aspect that will enable other organizations and institutions to open their services after they are satisfied with the existing environment.

Dr. Mwinyi called on the immigration department to increase the efficiency of its duties in providing services to visitors entering the stadium, including tourists, by reducing congestion and disruption.

President Mwinyi used the opportunity to congratulate the Dnata

company that provides services in the field for starting at a fast pace with a great direction of hope where a total of 600 youth jobs have been found.

Minister for Works, Communications and Transport, Dr Khalid Salum Mohamed said that the government's strategy is to open up Zanzibar in the air infrastructure sector, where the plans are in the final stages of starting the construction of Pemba's international airport.

He said the government is in the effort to expand the airport to reach Terminal 4, a step that will strengthen the tourism sector and increase the country's income, noting that in the past the provision

of services at the airport was not satisfactory due to the great lack of equipment and tools working conditions and with delays in service delivery for passengers and cargo.

The CEO of Dnata Group, Steve Allen said that they have planned to increase the quality of their services in order to meet the goals and expectations of enabling major international airlines to fly directly to Zanzibar.

He also said that the improvement of services in the building of Terminal 3 in the international airport of Abeid Amani Karume is another opportunity for Zanzibar to increase the number of direct tourists from Europe and other continents of the world.



Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (Tawiri) director general Dr Ernest Mjingo (C, gesturing) briefs Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Pindi Chana (to his right), who visited the Arusha-based institute on Thursday accompanied by its board members. Photo: Correspondent Asraji Mvungi

Reports stories to empower women realise their dreams, scribes urged

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

TANZANIA Media Women's Association Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) has said that in order for more women to be able to hold leadership positions, journalists are responsible for reporting news that will highlight women in various activities that will enable women to hold those positions.

Dr Mzuri Issa, TAMWA-Zanzibar director made the remarks here on Thursday when he was talking to some young journalists from Unguja and Pemba who continue to be given special training to build capacity on reporting women's news to hold leadership positions at the same time as stimulating responsibility for public interest.

Dr Mzuri said for a long time, many women have been unable to achieve the goals of holding leadership positions in various institutions due to the misconception of believing that only men should be leaders, which is opposed by all regional and international agreements.

"You young journalists have a great chance to change this situation, your voices are louder and if you use them well we can get where we want," he said.

One of TAMWA-Zanzibar founders, Fatma Aloo, talking about the various movements she had been through including the founding of the party in 1987 due to the spirit they had when they were very few people.

She said as women when they started with the movement they were given many names but they did not give up or go back but they looked at how they could achieve their goals.

Fatma asked the journalists to set goals for themselves as well as to be people with positions when they decide to find something in the interest of women and the public in general.

Tabia Makame Mohamed, Zanzibar Widows and Divorced Organization (ZAWIO) chairperson said women who want to be leaders have a responsibility to realize themselves and not be easy in everything.

She said there are a large number of women who fail to achieve their goals because they fail to understand themselves and in that situation they find themselves entering into a conflict with those who do not like to see women taking more progressive steps.

"We must accept the fact that humiliation in the workplace exists, but there are few who can agree to leave their jobs to protect their dignity, so young people must recognize themselves," she added.

Former Zanzibar University (ZU) student government president Zainab Salum Saleh encouraged women to show their true determination to be leaders and never gave up on those challenges—they should challenge as a yardstick to remain strong and aspire their dreams.

France reiterates willingness to support Tanzanian researchers

By Felister Peter

FRANCE has reiterated its commitment to support Tanzanian researchers and doctors to develop innovative projects to ensure the country has advanced therapy for sickle cell disease.

Tanzania is one of the five countries in the world with the highest rates of sickle cell patients whereas it is estimated that 11,000 children are born with the disease every year.

However, 80 percent of the new cases identified worldwide are coming from Africa.

The remarks were made in Dar es Salaam on Thursday by the Ambassador of France to Tanzania, Nabil Hajlaoui when speak-

ing during an event to present the medal of merit award to Prof Julie Makani, a medical researcher and associate Professor in the Department of Haematology and Blood Transfusion, School of Medicine at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS).

Ambassador Hajlaoui noted that the embassy also works with Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and universities focusing on health.

"We supported the exchange blood transfusion program, allowing Prof Makani to work with Prof Elianne Gluckman, a prominent French researcher specialized in blood transplantation," he said, adding that France also contribute to the g Global Fund to fight

against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. He said the embassy supported two Tanzanian doctors from MUHAS to attend training on bone marrow transplantation at the Robert Debré Hospital in Paris.

The French Embassy collaborated with MUHAS for advocacy and trainings, including provision of a grant that supported blood transfusion services for five patients with sickle cell in 2021.

"We believe that health services should be common and that people get treated," he added, noting health is a top priority of the French international agenda which translates into the projects developed by the embassy, such as a program aiming to strengthen the treatment of cancer in Tan-

zania implemented in partnership with the Aga Khan Hospital.

Commenting on the medal of merit award, Ambassador Hajlaoui said it is a highly prestigious symbolic distinction of the French Republic that aims to recognize and reward remarkable and inspiring figures who contributed to the strengthening of the French-Tanzanian relationship in a particular sector, such as health and medicine.

"The French Embassy in Tanzania, through this award, intends to underline the long-lasting, fruitful and extensive collaboration that the embassy has had with Prof. Makani, but also with her team from the Department of Haematology and Blood Transfusion at MUHAS," he said.

For her part, Prof Makani said that she has been working to conduct researches for improvement of sickle cell treatment in collaboration with MUHAS, parents, patients and stakeholders including the ministries of Education and Health.

"I dedicated my efforts towards improving clinical care for patients and finding a cure for sickle cell patients because Tanzania is among the countries with the highest rates of patients. Other countries are Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and India," she said.

Sickle cell disease is a genetic disorder resulting in a malformation of the red blood cells and low level of haemoglobin (anemia).



Neglected Tropical Diseases Control Programme (NTDCP) manager Dr George Kabana briefs journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on preparations for the countrywide commemoration of World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (January 30). With him are Health ministry officials Dr Mohamed Nyati (R) and Oscar Kaitaba. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Experts stress need to adopt best policies to control trans-fatty acids

By Correspondent James Kandoya

HEALTH experts have stressed the need for the country to have best practice policies to regulate and control Trans-fatty acids (TFA) and thus reduce burden of non-communicable diseases killing a number of people annually.

Studies have confirmed that industrial produced trans-fatty acids (TFA) are among major causes of heart diseases and then death. They are used in baked and fried foods, pre-packaged snacks, and certain cooking oils and fats that are used at home, in restaurants or in street food.

A physiologist at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Science (MUHAS), Fredrick Mashili said this currently that TFA levels are not assessed including informal food markets (street foods).

He said high levels of unhealthy fatty acids are very dangerous to healthy people.

He said nutrition transition rampant in low developing countries in the sub Saharan countries includes more consumption of energy densely foods.

Also, a shift from consumption of home-made meals to purchased meals and streets and fast foods.

"Products that have high FTA amounts contrary to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations, are still available in the Tanzanian market and unfortunately the country and East Africa in large are still lacking best practice policy to regulate TFA," he said.

Mashili said that best practice policies to regulate and control TFA are desperately needed so as to keep peo-

ple safe from diseases.

According to a 2018 literature review on street foods in Tanzania, street foods provide three quarters of the calorie intake of urban poor and middle income.

It showed that up to 80 percent of school children were purchasing street foods daily.

Mashili informed that products resulting from industrial processing of edible oils/fats are the main cause for excessive intake of TFA resulting in a variety of health problems, including cardiovascular diseases (CVDs).

In Tanzania and other Sub-Saharan countries (SSA), both industrial processing and consumption of oils/fats have tremendously increased over the past decades.

Fried street foods are also mostly exposed to re-heated/re-used edible oils which are also potentially higher in TFA.

Director of Cancer Prevention Services (ORCI), Dr Crispin Kahesa said that sugar is a very dangerous fatty acid hence the policy to cut across.

He, however, admitted that currently there was no such policy to regulate and control the fatty acids contributing to heart diseases in the country.

"It is the right time to have best practice policies to regulate and control TFA to reduce its health consequences to the people," he said.

In the 4th NCD scientific conference 2022 held in Mwanza Region recently, health stakeholders urged the government to prepare an NCD implementation plan as a solution to prevent the sharp increase of diseases.

Prof Apolinary Kamuhabwa, chairman of the organising committee said that the implementation plan

Kijaji urges stakeholders to come up with ten products for AfCFTA

By Guardian Reporter

THE Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade, Dr Ashatu Kijaji, has challenged stakeholders and members of the private sector to come up with ten products that Tanzania will introduce to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by July 1 this year.

Dr Kijaji made the statement yesterday when gracing a stakeholders meeting held to discuss opportunities brought by the AfCFTA. She

said the selected products will enable the country to benefit from opportunities that have been created.

She said trade within African countries stands at 16 percent, compared to 52 percent of Asian countries and 70 percent that has been attained by European nations.

She added: "Africa contributes 2.6 per cent in the inter-continental trade; this figure is too low given the available resources and opportunities that are yet to be well explored."

She said Tanzania has to make

better use of the 1.4 billion population of Africa by selling more goods that are in high demand given the conducive environment that was created by the African Union (AU) commission.

"Tanzania has a large portion of land for farming, we have to make better use of it in producing more and have enough exports to African countries given the permit to sell unlimited volumes of goods and commodities," she said.

Dr Kijaji urged members of the

business community to produce goods that will compete in the global markets.

She commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her efforts to open up the country and enhance economic diplomacy with the rest of the world, a move that aims at contributing highly to the economic growth of individuals and country at large.

"President Samia is taking a lot of efforts in opening up the country, we have to play well our part to sup-

port her initiative's that are purely for the national development," noted further the minister.

Eelier, Executive Director of Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) Gillerd Terry commended the government for its commitment to improving business as well as supporting the AfCFTA.

He said, Tanzania as a country, has all reasons to be part of the AfCFTA as there are plenty of businessmen as well as other opportunities that can be utilised in a way

that benefits the country.

"TPSF is fully committed to support the AfCFTA and we are so ready to ensure business men are taking part in utilizing the opportunities that have been created," he said.

Executive Director of Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) Leodger Tenga assured that the private sector will continue educating their members on the number of opportunities that are available for effective utilisation.



Mwanza regional commissioner Adam Malima lends a hand in welding when launching the construction of three ferries at the Songoro Marine Transport Ltd workshop in Mwanza city on Thursday. With him is the firm's CEO, Major Songoro. Photo: Correspondent Rose Jacob

Burundian national hauled to Dar court charged with illegal entry into Tanzania

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

A BURUNDIAN citizen, Gad Hatageki (Aziz) yesterday appeared before the Kisumu Resident Magistrate Court facing two charges including entering the country illegally.

The charges were read by State Attorney, Khadija Masoud before the Principal Resident Magistrate, Rhoda Ngimilanga.

In the first count it was alleged that on 19 January this year while at the Magufuli Bus Terminal, the accused entered the country illegally.

The State Attorney told the court that on the second count, it is alleged that on 19 January, this year while at the Magufuli bus terminal, the accused was found in the country without having any legal document or visa.

Masoud said that the investigation was complete and therefore requested the court to set a date for preliminary hearings.

The suspect denied all the charges and was released on bail where among the conditions were to have two guarantors who are known legally with their introduction letters from local government authorities

alongside National Identification Cards as well as sign a bond worth million 2m/- each.

He later fulfilled bail terms and the case was adjourned until February 08, this year.

The State Attorney told the court that on the second count, it is alleged that on 19 January, this year while at the Magufuli bus terminal, the accused was found in the country without having any legal document or visa

UN, govt implementing five-year UNSDCF to achieve 2030 Agenda

By Beatrice Philemon

THE United Nation (UN) system in collaboration with the government is now implementing a five-year United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework to achieve the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the national development goals.

Zlatan Milisic, UN resident coordinator for the UN system in Tanzania made the remarks recently during the one-day consultative talk on the IMF Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming that was officially opened by the Minister of Finance and Planning, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba.

The Cooperation Framework (2022-2027) is the most important planning and implementation instrument for all UN agencies in the country.

The framework outlines a coherent plan of action for a coordinated UN response where all partners consolidate their efforts to achieve the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and the national development goals as articulated in the third National Five-Year Development Plan and the Zanzibar Development Plan.

It also serves as a valuable tool in supporting Tanzania's regional commitments and aspirations, the East Africa Community Vision 2050 and the Africa Agenda

2063.

"Our CF prioritizes developing innovative interventions for planning and financing by ensuring stronger legislative and regulatory framework, enhancing availability and use of data, strengthening capacities for implementation and service delivery and greater emphasis on increased community capacity to engage in development processes," he said.

They are also expanding their scope by establishing stronger partnerships with the private sector.

"I commend the partnership to work with the Tanzanian government to accelerate gender financing. This partnership

will combine expertise of UN Women, IMF and others to develop policies and programmes that will accelerate achievement of several SDGs."

Elaborating on the Common Country Analysis (CCA) carried out in 2021 by the United Nations system in Tanzania, he said, the country is becoming increasingly reliant on domestic revenue for development financing.

"This trend is welcome and actively supported by the UN and other development partners in line with the spirit and objectives of Addis-Ababa Action Agenda," he noted.

According to him, renewed efforts to

improve pre-market and in-market conditions as well as the post-market arena, contribute to the creation and sustain an economy which generates revenue both in the short and long term and affords conditions for attracting the private investment for sustainable development.

However, the increase in available public and private flows will not automatically translate into human development gains unless there are well-connected pro-poor growth policy frameworks and budgets.

The assessment showed that government spending on social development which has a direct contribution to closing the gender gap has decreased.

Majaliwa directs stakeholders to boost use of Kiswahili language

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister, Kassim Majaliwa has called upon Kiswahili stakeholders to assist the government in following up on directives given by national leaders to make sure they are implemented and that the use of the Kiswahili language is maximized.

This was said yesterday in Dar es Salaam by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa during the Safal-Cornell Kiswahili Prize awarding ceremony, where he said that national leaders, including President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan have on several occasions issued directives on the importance of Kiswahili and efforts that should be taken to make sure the language grows.

The PM used the same occasion to direct the Ministry of Culture, Artists and Sport to start a special Award for individuals and institutions which are exemplary in the proper use of Kiswahili, which he said will boost the growth of the language.

"The ministry should also make sure that they cooperate with other stakeholders to make sure that Kiswahili grows nationally and internationally which will also be convenient for the country," he said.

The PM also issued a directive to the Ministry of Industry and Trade to make sure that local and imported goods should have their instructions in Kiswahili so that more people can be able to understand.

Meanwhile, Minister for Culture, Artists and Sports, Mohamed Mchengerwa assured the PM that his ministry is working tirelessly to make sure that Kiswahili grows in leaps and bounds, although it also requires the involvement of various stakeholders.

He said that the ministry is already in advanced talks with UNESCO for assistance to put up a special Kiswahili University which will be located in Bagamoyo, and that already they have secured 100 acres for the purpose.

He said that currently Kiswahili is among the top 10 commonly used languages in the world, but they are putting strategies to make sure that it becomes among the top 5.

He urged Tanzanian foreign envoys to take advantage of their positions and promote Kiswahili in their working stations which will spread the language in more foreign countries.

The Prize is sponsored by Safal Group, through its subsidiaries Mabati Rolling Mills of Kenya (MRM) and

ALAF Tanzania, the Africana Studies Center at Cornell University, USA, and the Ngugiwa Thiong'o Foundation.

The Safal-Cornell Kiswahili Prize for African Literature was founded in 2014 by Dr Lizzy Attree and Dr Mukoma WaNgugi to recognise writing in African languages and encourage translation from, between, and into African languages.

The CEO of Safal Group, Andrew Lindgren, also spoke at the ceremony and highlighted the importance of the Kiswahili language in the development of the East African region. "Through our support of these awards, The Safal Group is firmly committed to the course of African languages. I commend ALAF Limited and MRM for organising the award ceremony each year."

On behalf of the panel of judges, Prof Senkoro (chair) commended the 2022 entrants for the high quality of their writing, saying that it made it very difficult for the judges to pick out the first-place winners.

"This is sufficient evidence that we have a great treasure of creativity, especially among young people, that transcends the boundaries of each country, and which if sprinkled with the basics of writing and publishing literary works will greatly strengthen Kiswahili literature," added Prof Senkoro.

The 2022 judges; Prof F.E.M.K. Senkoro (chair, Professor Emeritus), Dr Magdaline Nakhumicha Wafula (Moi University, Kenya), and Dr Hamisi Babusa (Kenyatta University, Kenya) selected Dotto Daudi Rangimoto's novel Ujanjike (Womanhood), as the winner in the Fiction category, and Salum Makamba's poetry collection Mamangu Nipe Wosia (Mother, Counsel me) as the winner in the Poetry category. They both received prize money of US\$5,000 each.

The second-place winner in the Fiction category was Isaac Ndolo (Kenya) for his manuscript Wimbo wa Hatima (The Final Song), and in the Poetry category was Ally Bakari Mchanyato (Tanzania) for his manuscript Uswahilini. Each received 2,500 USD.

The winning manuscripts are published by Mkuki na Nyota publishers.

As earlier announced, other shortlisted works and authors were: Dunia na Watu Wake by Ahmad Simba Mwaita and Mzoga Unaonukia by Lenard Mtesigwa both from Tanzania.

Both the winners and their fellow shortlistees were in attendance during the award giving ceremony in Dar es Salaam.



Iringa Regional Police Commander Allan Bukumbi (R) presents a certificate of recognition to one of the police officers who performed outstandingly during Police Day celebrations held at FFU Kichangani grounds in Iringa municipality yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

Zanzibar govt reiterates plan to continue creating conducive business environment

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR government has reiterated that it will continue creating a conducive business environment so as to facilitate investors and traders to smoothly execute projects and achieve intended goals.

Minister of State, President's office, Regional Administrations and Special Departments of SMZ, Masoud Ali Mohamed said this yesterday here when launching Darajani market located in Unguja after undergoing major rehabilitation.

He said that the government has set aside 36bn/- as part of the Covid-19 funds so as to support entrepreneurs with loans and enable them to improve their projects and increase income.

He said that the government has invested heavily in improving infrastructures which include construction of new markets as well as renovation of those that are in a devastating situation.

"We have conducted major renovations in the Darajani market here in Unguja with an aim to provide an attractive environment for traders and entrepreneurs to conduct their activities smoothly and thus contribute to the country's economic growth," he said.

The minister wanted entrepreneurs to grab credit opportunities which are there for them so as to expand their businesses.

Issa Mahfundi Haji, the ministry permanent secretary said the construction of the market has ad-

hered the stone town criteria while also putting modern infrastructures to make it more attractive.

According to him, the rehabilitation of the market has spent a total of 402m/- which has been issued by the government.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

UPGRADED ELECTRONIC TAX SYSTEMS FOR RETURN FILING AND OTHER MODULES

1.0 Introduction

The Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) wishes to inform taxpayers and the general public that it has made significant improvements to its information systems by upgrading the software, hardware and system infrastructure. This move comes amid a challenge of its current information systems mainly being result of, among others, the existing technology being inadequate to serve growing needs of taxpayers. For a considerable period of time, TRA's information systems supporting tax administration services have been adversely impacted particularly during due dates of filing returns and payment of taxes.

Resolving this challenge has been one of the highest priorities for TRA and for the whole period, we have been working tirelessly focusing on improving the quality of the systems in terms of, among others, availability and processing speed. The initiative involved significant investment in terms of key infrastructure and development of software. Among the key changes is the implementation of the High Availability Data Centre (HADDC) initiative to ensure that the systems remain operational seamlessly at all times.

The initiatives to improve the system is guided by an inspiring vision of becoming "A Trusted Revenue Administration for Socio-Economic Development" which aims at improving the organizations' ability to raise more revenue for economic development by forming coalitions with stakeholders. This blends well with our mission "We Make It Easy to Pay Tax and Enhance Compliance for Sustainable Development". The initiatives are continuous and shall involve taxpayers and all stakeholders through their feedback, ideas and suggestions for improvements. TRA is highly committed to this vital aspect of continual improvement.

2.0 Period of Release of the Upgraded Systems

TRA shall continue with periodic releases of upgraded tax administration information systems, to start with, the current upgraded systems shall be rolled out for use by all taxpayers effective from the second week of February 2023.

3.0 Coverage of the February 2023 Release

The information systems modules that have been upgraded and therefore due for roll out in February 2023 include the following:

- i) Taxpayers' Portal – a gateway for all TRA electronic services,
- ii) Electronic Filing of returns (E-Filing) for the following taxes:
 - Value Added Tax (VAT)
 - Withholding Tax for Employees' Income (PAYE)
 - Skills Development Levy (SDL)
 - Statement of Estimated Tax Payable by Instalments (SETPI)
 - Return of Income (ROI)
- i) Withholding Tax Management System,
- ii) EFD Error Management – a module for cancellation of erroneously issued fiscal receipts/invoices,
- iii) Taxpayer Registration System for Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and VAT Registration Number (VRN) System,
- iv) Payments Registration System (RGS).

4.0 Training and Public Sensitization

TRA has organized and started implementation of an extensive sensitization and training program using varied means such as face to face seminars, workshops, virtual trainings, Television and Radio Programs. The objective is to reach taxpayers and other stakeholders within a short period of time and impart skillset necessary to use the upgraded tax systems. Therefore, TRA urges all taxpayers and the public in general to attend the sessions in order to achieve the intended benefits of the upgraded systems. Information on the scheduled sessions shall be shared through various means and channels including, among others, radio, televisions, newspapers TRA Website and social media accounts.

5.0 Role of Taxpayers and the General Public

TRA recognizes taxpayers and the general public as crucial stakeholders in everything we do. It is the taxpayers' feedback and suggestions that provides TRA with inputs for continual improvement. In the same spirit, TRA invites taxpayers and the general public to provide timely and constructive feedback, ideas and suggestions to make more improvements to our systems. This group of users play a vital role since they are the front-end users of the systems and therefore their experience with our systems is an important input for further improvements.

6.0 Conclusion

TRA would like to extend its utmost gratitude to all taxpayers and the general public for your continued commitment, dedication and relentless efforts towards voluntary compliance with the requirements of the law especially on the aspects of filing returns and payment of taxes notwithstanding the challenges posed by the information system being used for this purpose.

"Together We Build Our Nation"


A. J. Kidata
Commissioner General

For more information, visit your nearest TRA Office or contact us through:

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Court adjourns case facing former JATU boss

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

THE Kisumu Resident Magistrates Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday adjourned a case facing former JATU Public Ltd Chief Executive Officer Peter Gasaya until February 8th this year.

The case brought before the Kisumu Principal Resident Magistrate Evodia Kiaruzi with the prosecution side presented by State Attorney Tumaini Mafuru responding to arguments on the review of bail terms.

However, the case was adjourned because the Kisumu Principal Resident Magistrate Mary Mrio was absent.

Gasaya and his lawyer were given bail conditions which included submission of properties worth 2.6bn/- but they failed to fulfil the conditions urging for review of the stated bail terms.

Gasaya Defence Lawyer, Nafikile Mwamboma told the court that his client remained custody over failure to fulfil bail conditions. He requested the court to consider granting him bail because he is a public figure and has the rights to get bail.

Mwamboma claimed that since his client is the company's CEO, he has the rights for fair bail conditions in accordance with Section 13 (6) (b) and 15 (1-2) of the constitution.

Gasaya is accused for obtaining 5.1bn/-

through false pretence from JATU Plc Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS).

The bail conditions were presented to Kisumu Principal Magistrate, Mary Mrio on January 2nd this year. Mrio ordered the accused to submit immovable property worth 2.6bn/-.

He was also required to have two guarantors with introduction letter and identity cards. The guarantors were also ordered to present properties worth 2.6bn/-.

Reading the charges, State Attorney Tumaini Mafuru claimed that between January 1st 2020 and December 31st 2022 the accused when he was JATU Plc Ltd CEO obtained the alleged amount of money from JATU Plc Ltd SACCOS.

The accused denied all the charges and was taken to remand until February 8th when the case will come for another mention.



Mwamboma claimed that since his client is the company's CEO, he has the rights for fair bail conditions in accordance with Section 13 (6) (b) and 15



Tigo Pesa chief officer Angelica Pasha (2nd-R) pictured in Dar es Salaam on Thursday presenting a prize car to Samson Daniel of Kahama District, Shinyanga Region, for winning the firm's 'Ndinga la Kishua' campaign raffle. There were several other prizes, including 20m/- and 10m/- . Looking on are the firm's 'Wakishua' campaign "ambassadors" Bongo Flava artiste Marioo (R) and Millard Ayo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Experts to engage farmers in adoption of rice seed submergence technologies

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

THE International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) are ramping up efforts to engage rice growers in Morogoro Region to participate in research activities and adoption of rice seed submergence technologies.

Being part of a robust project which seeks to elevate productivity of the starchy cereal grain cash crop in the country, more than thirty participants, including smallholder farmers, agricultural extension workers, and agro-dealers participated in the special training on submergence rice tech-

nologies.

Held earlier this week at TARI Dakawa centre, the event attracted participants in the submergence rice seed project under designing processes and most of the farmers who attended were those affiliated to Dakawa irrigation scheme based at Mvomero District, Morogoro Region.

"The training aimed to help capture innovative ideas from farmers in order to generate appropriate rice seed that survives in flood environments and build farmers' confidence about the technology to be developed; own it hence its adoption once the project excels," said Ngabo

Pamba, research assistant at TARI Dakawa centre.

He added that researchers have finally realised that involving rice farmers in research activities is a promised way for them to adopt the best agronomic practices and technologies.

"If succeeded, the rice seed generated will contain among the attributes that most rice farmers in Africa including Tanzania prefer to, including high yielding, tolerance to flooding, good taste and flavour, long slender, and aromatic rice," he expressed.

During the event, farmers observed the performance of the

released and well-adopted rice varieties in Tanzania and West Africa which are under submergence research after the introduction of Sub 1 and Sub 2 genes of tolerance to floods into the most preferred improved rice varieties.

He said IRRI and TARI Dakawa have a long history of success stories of generated rice technologies that suit the needs of their beneficiaries including farmers.

The Dakawa centre, which is designated for the research and promotion of rice in Tanzania, has been working to conduct a series of rice trainings and projects, targeting both, to improve

expertise among its pundits as well as rice farmer's performance.

Last year, the centre in collaboration with the Zanzibar Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI) conducted a special training on Mutation and Breeding (MB) to help speed up rice breeding programmes in the country.

Tanzania leads in East Africa for rice production and the country stands at 4th position in Africa, after Nigeria, Madagascar and Ivory Coast. During 2019/2020, the country produced 2.2 million tons and the focus, as per the ministry of agriculture, is to heighten the production to at least 4.4 million

tonnes by 2030.

Tanzania's rice records show that at least 71 percent of rice is grown under rain fed conditions with about half of the county's rice grown by 239, 000 smallholder farmers.

Rice is grown in three major ecosystems in Tanzania, rain fed lowland, upland, and irrigated systems. The area under rice increased from about 0.39 million hectares in 1995 to about 0.72 million hectares by 2010.

Production increased from about 0.62 million tonnes in 1995 to about 1.33 million tonnes of paddy rice in 2009 but dropped to 1.10 million tonnes in 2010.



Health deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollé addresses residents of Mseki village in Bulungwa ward, Kahama District, yesterday while on a one-day assessment tour of the quality of service delivery in dispensaries, health centres and hospitals. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Mponde tea factory to resume production

By Correspondent George Sembony, Tanga

MPONDE tea factory in Bumbuli, Lushoto District in Tanga region is set to begin production after a conflict between farmers and an investor which led to its closure came to an end.

The factory's trial production began on September 1st, 2022, and according to the Factory Manager, Sane Kwilabya, has processed 300,000 kilos of farmer-supplied tea leaves into 40 tonnes of tea during the trial production.

The move brings relief to over 4,000 tea growers from five tea schemes who had to wait for all those years until the government retook the factory and released 4bn/- for rehabilitation and modernization. The refurbishment has so far cost 700m/-.

Kwilabya said in an interview with this paper that the Minister of Energy, January Makamba, who has been pushing for the factory's reopening, recently paid a visit to inspect progress.

She noted that because the machines had been idle for a long time, they confronted a variety of challenges during the rehabilitation work and trial production.

"We hope to discover further technical issues as production work at the factory continues." "These will be resolved as work progresses," she said.

She cited another challenge as transportation for moving tea leaves from the farm to the plant, adding that the company is in negotiations with transporters on that issue, which she hoped would be rectified as soon as possible.

Farmers and council officials have welcomed developments on the facility's refurbishment and operation, notably Mponde Ward Councillor Richard Mbuguni, who has stated that the factory is Bumbuli's economy.

"Tea farmers are now optimistic about their economic prospects as a result of the rapid pace of facility renovation. "Our responsibility as public servants is to persuade farmers to direct their efforts to the farm in order to feed the factory "Mbuguni explained.

According to Edwin Mahunda, Chairman of the Tea Farmers' Association, farmers are currently dedicating their energies to the farm in order for the factory to have enough tea leaves when it opens.

Chunya farmers complain of being conned by tobacco buyers

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TOBACCO farmers in Chunya District, Mbeya Region have complained to firms that bought their crops on credit during the last season for failing to pay them, the situation that make some of them without capital for financing their current season's tobacco cultivation.

The farmers also claim that despite failing to pay for their crops, the firms have also have been awarded the tender for supplying them with farm inputs which they

demand payment for them.

They aired their complaints on Tuesday this week at the meeting called by Chunya Tobacco Cooperative Union (CHUTCU) at which they said they are worried that the firms might con them with their money.

John Kamuga, one of the farmers cited Mo Green Ltd that still owe them money but which has also been awarded the tender for supplying farm inputs.

He said the firm has supplied plant insecticides to primary societies and de-

mand payment for them while they know they still owe farmers money.

Kamuga called upon the government to put into custody officials of the firm until they pay them their money.

"We also hear that some of them own storeyed buildings, if so why can't they be liquidated in order to pay us our money?"

"This is our problem and the government is aware of it, hence we appeal for the government's assistance," he added.

Another farmer, Simon Ngomongo mentioned another firm - Grant LTD

that is yet to pay them their money but which has also been awarded the tender to supply the farmers with fertiliser, even though they have not received some essential fertiliser.

Ngomongo said as of now their crops need more the CAN type of fertiliser but so far they have not been supplied with it and added that they are worried that this season's tobacco production can go down.

Speaking on the matter, Assistant Cooperatives Registrar for Mbeya Region, Rich-

ard Zengo thanked farmers for paying for the farm inputs through the Tobacco Cooperative Joint Enterprise (TCJE) LTD.

He advised farmers to agree with TCJE to deduct money from the firms that owe them money to be returned the primary cooperatives for onward transmission to farmers.

"TCJE are the ones who entered into contracts with the firms, hence you can decide that after paying for the fertiliser, they should deduct the money they owe farmers," Zengo said.

AKO Tanzania spends 350m/- to repair three primary schools in Kibosho East

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

AKO Tanzania Community Support, the Germany based private organisation has made refurbishment to three primary schools that were in decrepit condition that were putting teachers and students' lives at risk from their poor infrastructures.

On Tuesday, AKO Tanzania director, Hilda Kimathi said the project costing 350m/- involved Sungu, Kibosho and Singachini primary schools.

The refurbishment costs for each school are Sungu Primary School (100m/-), Kibosho Primary School (50m/-) and Singachini Primary School (200m/-).

"In East Kibosho area we are at the moment with projects in the education sector in refurbishing classrooms and other new construction projects.

"At Uchau Primary School we shall spend 240m/- for building a kitchen and refurbishment of classrooms," said AKO Tanzania director.

According to her, other projects expected to be implemented any time from now include that of Darajani Primary School, to cost 150m/- and Kibaoani Primary School (100m/-) all in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region.

Meanwhile, AKO Tanzania board chairman, Hans Simmer, speaking during the inspections of the schools, said his institution concentrates in helping the community, refurbishment of primary schools' infrastructures and improving both the teaching and learning environment.

Kibosho Ward Education Officer, Amina Juma said: "I like to say that AKO Tanzania Community Support has been a great help to the community in east Kibosho area as it helps us to refurbish our three primary schools.

"My call to the community is that even though we are receiving assistance from these organisations, we must also offer ourselves in making sure that our children learn in a better environment," Amina said.

In the same vein, Niana Nkinga, Head-teacher of Kibosho Primary school said the school, with 349 pupils is 103 years old, it was built in 1920 by the colonial government.



At Uchau Primary School we shall spend 240m/- for building a kitchen and refurbishment of classrooms



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) technicians lay a water pipe in Dar es Salaam's Mabwepande suburb on Thursday in implementation of the Mbopo Chekanao water project. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Govt advised to strengthen public transport

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has been advised to strengthen public transport to discourage the use of private vehicles, the move which is expected to significantly reduce air and environment pollution.

The advice was given in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday by the Director General of the National Conservation and Environmental Management Council (NEMC) Dr Samuel Gwamaka, during an international

conference to discuss land transport and air pollution in African countries.

Delegates were from Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Mozambique, Ghana, Nigeria and Mauritius.

Dr Gwamaka stressed the need to also strengthen transport infrastructures including setting up pedestrian roads to allow people to walk and use bicycles comfortably.

"We are here to share experiences on what we should do to reduce

air pollution in our cities because it affects people's health," said Dr Gwamaka.

He said there are many causes of air pollution such as industries that contribute significantly to air pollution, but cars and especially old ones have become a major source of air pollution.

He said the development has caused an increase of car importation in urban areas to the extent that there is inadequate parking, thus increasing the problem of air

pollution. "Most of the imported vehicles have been used for many years, thus producing dirty air and polluting the environment. We want the government to come up with strategies to encourage the use of public transport," he added.

He added that in order to reduce the use of cars, it is important to build roads that will provide good areas for pedestrians and cyclists as it is done in developed countries.

"City planners should put in place strategies to ensure that roads be-

come friendly for pedestrians and cyclists," he said.

The Director General of the New Delhi-based Center for Science and Environment (CSE), Jagdeep Gupte said this is the tenth time for African countries to meet and discuss land transport and how to get rid of environmental pollution.

She said CSE started such a meeting in 2015 and until now they have brought together more than 20 countries in Africa to share experiences about measures to get rid of

air pollution. Statistics show that air pollution has become the source of many diseases in Africa and in the world, so if efforts are not taken, the health of many people in the world will be in danger.

She added: "Even here in Tanzania air pollution is a problem, although the air here is clean compared to many other African countries, but still a lot has to be done to reach the standards of the World Health Organisation (WHO) regarding air pollution."



Gwamaka Mwakyusa (in yellow blouse), a teacher at Dar es Salaam's Mapambano Primary School, washes her hands shortly planting a tree at the school's premises yesterday. The tree-planting event was organised by the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education in complementing the government's environmental conservation efforts. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Tanzania, Malawian agriculturalists graduate from leadership programme

By Guardian Reporter

AGRICULTURE experts from Tanzania and Malawi have graduated from an advanced leadership programme by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)-led Centre for African Leaders in Agriculture (CALA) in Lilongwe, Malawi.

This is the culmination of a 16-month training designed to equip them with practical leadership skills for effective implementation of national agriculture programmes prioritised in their respective countries. Certificates in food security and sustainability were awarded to those completing the programme.

It brings to 80 the number of food systems leaders who have graduated from the programme's inaugural cohort, drawn from eight countries - Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Malawi, Ghana and Nigeria.

During the graduation ceremony held at Bingu Wa Mutharika International Convention Centre, delegates presented preliminary results of their action learning projects, a unique aspect of CALA's Advanced Leadership Programme.

In Tanzania, this includes reducing poultry mortality rates by promoting cluster production systems and enhancing small-holder sesame farmers' access to formal market channels in the southern part of the country. Malawi delegates have been working on facilitating the creation of

structured markets in the honey value chain and improving the legume value chain through an assessment of the Legumes Platform operations.

While presiding over the ceremony, Dr Rodwell Mzonde, Director of Planning for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in Malawi, urged the graduates to apply what they have learned and mentor other food systems champions. During the ceremony, the graduates presented the results of their Action Learning Projects, a unique aspect of CALA's leadership training programme.

AGRA's President, Dr Agnes Kalibata said that through the programme, CALA is building a critical mass of African leaders who are committed to cross-sector collaboration and innovation in food systems. "CALA actively provides that practical space for peer learning, exchange and networks and we hope this scales and influences change for the agriculture sector," Dr Kalibata added, noting that CALA is supporting African leaders to increase cross-sector collaboration and innovation in food systems.

This is the third and final of three regional graduation ceremonies for CALA's inaugural cohort that started in 2021. The first graduation ceremony for 17 delegates from Ghana and Nigeria was held on November 30, 2022, in Accra, Ghana. The second graduation ceremony for 32 delegates from Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Uganda was held on December 7th, 2022, in Nairobi, Kenya.

HakiElimu calls for better ways to discipline students

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

HAKIELIMU has strongly recommended the use of better ways of disciplining students instead of caning and other punishments which effectively amount to violence against children.

The highly regarded Tanzanian civil society organisation has particularly condemned the recent incident in which a teacher meted out punishment to two pupils at Kakanja primary school in Kyerwa District, Kagera Region, widely condemned as a violation of child rights.

The incident, reports on which soon went viral on the social media, showed headmaster Isaya Benjamin, beating the pupils on the feet after they failed to finish their homework.

A video clip also showed two other teachers, a woman and a man, laughing loudly as Benjamin went about "disciplining" the two pupils, which HakiElimu has referred to as a blatant denial of child rights and ethical principles in teaching.

HakiElimu executive director Dr John Kalage, an activist and research organiser in the education sector, made the remarks before journalists at the agency's headquarters in

Dar es Salaam.

Kalage, whose CSO has a history rooted in the belief that actively involving citizens in education governance can make a difference in the education sector, condemned the incident and recommended the deployment of better ways of making students behave positively.

"We have received with sadness reports the harsh punishment incident attempted by Kakanja primary school headmaster in Kyerwa District in Kagera Region upon two pupils who left their homework untouched this attempt isn't only contrary to the child rights

but against ethical principles in teaching and child care," he said.

According to Dr Kalage, it is time the government reviews the Education Corporal Punishment Regulations based on the existing section challenges.

He highlighted that the 2022 education corporal punishment regulation allows school headmasters to impose punishments to students. It also gives room for other teachers to punish with the approval of the headmaster.

Dr Kalage noted that it's high time the safe school programme initiated recently by the government is channelled to the school

guideline and principles on running 18,000 schools countrywide.

Dr Kalage highlighted the engagement of taboos and ethics training to teachers who seem to cheer up when their fellows are violating the law, stressing that the veteran in the profession should carry the task to strengthen life skills and their capability to attend students' challenges.

Meanwhile, the Legal and Human Rights Centre released a press release condemning headmaster Benjamin's actions while applauding the government's efforts to act on the problem.

The Guardian

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SATURDAY 28 JANUARY 2023

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Frequency of deaths from poor healthcare massively disturbing

MEDICAL experts are beginning to preoccupy themselves with the phenomenon of deaths caused by poor quality healthcare, as they receive less attention compared to those caused by major illnesses. One reason for this situation is that death certificates, unlike inquests, talk of the disease that led to death, and inquests arise only if homicide is suspected or seen to have taken place. In other words the extent of deaths from poor care of patients in all levels of health care is hard to document, but it is likely to be acute, but is quickly forgotten as we know that death is finally an act of divinity, period.

There are times where such situations are actually visible, like an expectant mother dying at the doorstep of a health centre for lack of payment for gloves and other needs of a nursing midwife. It is this sort of situation that a solid gathering of health care experts, surprisingly called a summit, was deliberating upon lately, taking up from an intense brainstorming back in October. What they offered was a careful admission of problems, a careful hint that they can be solved to the extent of being rather unconvincing they are being addressed. It even talks about 'customer care' component in medical training, showing clearly where the emphasis lies, that if one has no money his value is dashed.

A point of interest raised at the gathering was the need for taking up a number of measures for transforming healthcare delivery, itself a difficult subject to take up. It presumes there is plenty of enthusiasm for transforming delivery whereas nature has it that people seek to make ends meet in all deliveries,

and where possible cut the labour time involved in delivering those services. Regular reports show acute shortages of staff in many health centres just as it is in schools, while hundreds of graduates are unemployed. It is this relative imbalance and low productivity that galls, warping health sector outcomes.

So the whole programme of putting patients at the centre of services is likely to be part of the debate, and clearly it was tuned to relate to welfare of the medical and nursing profession, which is fair enough. Experts at the 'summit' focused on the need for embracing research, innovation and bolstering private sector engagement, that is, as part of efforts to improve healthcare services generally and patient care in particular. Additionally, this projection is given as a key ingredient in ensuring Universal Health Coverage (UHC) now at a rather advanced legislative engagement. It is an idea of how to use UNC financing.

It is questionable if poor quality health care services will be checked by more research on the issue, whereas lack of staff, competence or even discipline is part of the problem. A situation where patients pay at every stage of the way, and there is no possible budgetary replacement of such demands as vast funds were added to health sector funding to build hospitals in each district, health centres in each ward and dispensaries in each village, the going will be tough. Current government legislative plans to ensure health insurance for all without financial constraint has teething problems, as if supplies are inadequate, free dispensation with just excise duty type of membership fee leads to neglect.

US-South Africa wildlife trafficking initiative matters to Tanzania as well

EYEBROWS were raised among interested quarter in Tanzania on the news that United States Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen used a tour of the Dinokeng Game Reserve in South Africa at midweek to announce a joint initiative to combat wildlife trafficking and related criminal activities in the United States and South Africa. In the first place environmental issues like trafficking animals or animal parts could hardly need the US Treasury to be involved instead of an auxiliary agency. It apparently had important extra parameters.

The agreement reached between the two countries first involves increasing information sharing between financial intelligence units to better support key law enforcement agencies. To be fair, the United States is regularly updating its involvement against trafficking of animals or products thereof, but ability to actually change situations depends on inputs or resolve from the other side, whether it is Tanzania or South Africa. A top anti-trafficking activist killed by poachers here came from South Africa, so it means it is global criminal webs.

For instance, despite that this agreement relates to US-South Africa potential criminal trafficking, it is well known that the key market for such products is the Far East, though the Western market might not actually be negligible. Quite noticeably, Secretary Yellen was especially interested in prioritizing sharing of financial red flags and indicators related to wildlife trafficking cases, on the basis of the reports. Often such red flags lead to other 'wanted' trafficking, as criminal barons are free in what they handle on a day

to day basis, like drugs.

Indeed the secretary made a pointed remark in that direction, that under the agreement, the two sides will convene relevant government authorities, regulators, law enforcement and the private sector on the subject. They need to improve controls to combat money laundering and illicit proceeds related to drug trafficking and wildlife trafficking. It is clear where the emphasis now lies; this definitely needs the presence of a top official to get things moving.

Just how far that would make a difference in what South Africa is doing can't quite be said, as the rate of poaching on elephant and rhinos for most of the previous decades was comparable here and in South Africa. Things changed for the better in Tanzania as the fifth phase government rooted out the culture of corruption that facilitated looting of wildlife resources. The US assisted with funding participatory engagements of villagers near conservation areas to boost effective alerts but it was enhanced law enforcement that did the trick.

As usual when tough law enforcement is seen to have softened, wildlife speculators or their armed henchmen will be on the prowl, and we just hope that the gaze will have dipped too low. At the same time, South Africa is a sort of strategic gateway to Africa and each major power will seek spheres where it is easy to find common grounds for strategic cooperation. Checking out animal trafficking and drugs can also assist in learning about potential flows of arms to this or that part of the region as part of financial intelligence.

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Happy belated birthday Madam President.

@Msamba



The year of inflation exposes dogma and class bias

By Anis Chowdhury

INFLATION worries topped Ipsos's What Worries the World survey in 2022 overtaking COVID concerns. The return of inflation caught major central banks, e.g., the US Federal Reserve (Fed), Bank of England, European Central Bank "off guard". The persistence of inflation also surprised the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The return of inflation and its persistence exposed the poverty of the economics profession, unable to agree on its causes and required policy responses. It also exposed the profession's anti-working class biases.

Inflation goaf

Almost all major central banks as well as the IMF dismally failed to see the coming of inflation. In December 2020, the US Fed forecast that prices would rise by less than 2 per cent in 2021 and 2022. It failed spectacularly when in December 2021, it estimated that inflation in 2022 would be just 2.6 per cent even though prices were already rising by more than 5 per cent a year.

The US Fed was not alone in failing to see inflation coming. The governor of Australia's central bank - the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) - was so confident of low inflation that he declared in March 2021 that the interest rate would remain at a historic low until at least 2024. Inflation in advanced economies during 2021 exceeded the average of forecasters' expectations by around 5-8 percentage points. The IMF's forecasts have badly and repeatedly undershot inflation.

There was a widespread view among most central bankers and leading economists that the price increases (or inflation) that began in mid-2021 were temporary, and price increases would slow or inflation would drift downwards in 2022. Some, of course, insisted otherwise, and wanted immediate anti-inflationary measures. Thus, policy confusion ruled.

Inflation phobia and dogma

Soon inflation phobia overtook and central banks were advised to act decisively with interest rate hikes even if it meant slowing the economy or a rise in unemployment. Exaggerated claims were made without evidence that not acting now would be more costly later.

References to rare episodes of hyperinflation were made to justify tough policy stances.

The dogmatic inflation hawks ignored the fact that, in most cases, inflation does not accelerate to become harmful hyperinflation, but remains moderate. They also ignored their own neo-classical macroeconomic model, which suggests



small welfare loss from moderate inflation.

Notwithstanding the IMF's Article IV preamble which provides that economic policies should aim to foster "orderly economic growth with reasonable price stability, with due regard to [country specific] circumstances", a one-size-fits-all policy of steep interest rate hikes became the only medicine to be applied to achieve a universal inflation target of 2 per cent, a figure plucked from thin air. Yet, central bankers and mainstream economists boast their credibility!

Inflation excuse for class war

Inflation is primarily an expression and outcome of conflicting claims over the distribution of national output and income, e.g., firms' profit mark-ups vis-à-vis workers' wages. Thus, no sooner inflation spiked early in the year due to slow adjustment of COVID-induced supply shortages to pent-up demand, exacerbated by war and sanctions, leading central bankers and mainstream economists found an excuse to weaponise economic policies against the working class.

Stoking the fear of wage-price spirals, they advocate the use of an interest rate sledgehammer to create unemployment and, in turn, discipline labour. This is despite research within the IMF and the Reserve Bank of Australia which found no evidence of wage-price spirals since the 1980s due to declines in labour's bargaining power. Thus, Bloomberg headlined, "Fattest Profits Since 1950 Debunk Wage-Inflation Story of CEOs".

Research conducted by the IMF also found increases in firms' or corporations' market power, re-

sulting in higher prices and profit margins. Yet, the IMF does not think such factors "are contributing in any sizeable way to the current inflationary environment". Instead, it justifies such fattening of profits on the ground that "they provide flexible buffers between general wage and general price increases" and that it is only a catching-up "after taking a hit in 2020".

But no such compassion is extended to the working people who have lost their lives and livelihoods. The calls for "front-loaded interest rate hikes simply got louder. The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) warned, "With the prospect of higher wages as workers look to make up for the purchasing power they lost, inflation could be high for long".

Labour a clear loser

Labour is a clear loser. Labour's income share in the GDP has been in decline since the early 1970s. Casualisation, off-shoring, anti-union legislation and technological progress have greatly reduced labour's bargaining power, while privatisation and dilution of anti-monopoly legislation hugely strengthened corporate power and their collusive anti-competitive behaviour. Meanwhile, CEO compensation packages swelled to obnoxious levels, rising 940 per cent since 1978 in the US as opposed to a 12 per cent rise for workers during that period. Profiting from the pandemic, CEO pay increased by 16 per cent in 2020 when workers suffered, and to a record level in 2021.

Leading central bankers and mainstream economists conveniently created a dogma around a 2 per cent inflation target to justify

their anti-labour stance. The 2% inflation target has become a global norm akin to the law of gravity, even though it has no theoretical or empirical basis. The law of gravity differs depending on altitude, but the 2 per cent target is said to be universal regardless of circumstances!

Collateral damage

Meanwhile, the advanced countries' inflation fight is causing adverse spillover into developing countries. Higher interest rates have slowed the world economy, and triggered capital outflows from developing countries, thereby depreciating their currencies and lowering their export earnings.

Together, these are causing devastating debt crises in many developing countries, similar to what happened in the 1980s. The rating agency S&P estimates that central bank rate rises could land global borrowers with US\$8.6t in extra debt servicing costs in the coming years.

Instead of providing genuine debt-relief, the G20 kicked the can down the road. As wealthy nations failed the poor countries during the pandemic, the IMF is moving to debt-distressed countries with conditionality-laden one-size-fits-all austerity packages. Thus, a Foreign Policy op-ed asked, "The International Monetary Fund: Holy Grail or Poisoned Chalice?"

Meanwhile, the chiefs of the World Bank and the BIS urged "supply-side" policies professed to increase labour force participation and investment.

These are code words for further labour market deregulation, privatisation and liberalisation.

By Telesphor Magobe

Let us learn to discipline our children with love instead of violence

LAST week, we briefly looked at parties to criminal offences (the doctrine of common intention) covered in sections 22-24 of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022) and said to make the doctrine of common intention applicable, an accused person must share with another a common intention to pursue a specific unlawful purpose.

We took all this trouble to help readers, especially laypersons, understand some of the legal provisions they may be unfamiliar with to avoid criminal liability, which could have not happened had they known what the law says.

Today, I invite you again to look at family or domestic violence, especially the type of violence directed towards children. A child, according to section 4(i) of the Law of the Child Act (R.E. 2019), is any person aged below 18 years old.

I have been prompted to write on family or domestic violence after viewing a clip which went viral on social media, showing a girl who is being caned in front of children and onlookers in a violent manner by two men who are supposedly close relatives in a village.

As they cane her, while she is crying "Nakufa" (I am dying), she is held by four people. One person is holding the head and three others the legs, pressing her on the ground. One person (probably her father) is caning her on her buttocks and he is joined by another person, who also canes her from the opposite direction.

As they continue caning her part of the gown she is wearing moves beyond the buttocks and appears to have no underpants. The two men continue caning her on her naked buttocks. The girl could be aged between 14 and 16 years old. She could have done something wrong or could have been suspected of doing something wrong. But is it proper to punish a girl in such a manner?

A WILDAF report, 'Domestic Violence in Tanzania: A Need for Policy Change', published in 2021, quoting Tanzania Police Report (2020), suggests that there is an increase in violence against children by 25.95 per cent. "In 2020, 7,388 cases were reported across the country unlike in 2015 where 5,803 incidents were re-



The Law and You



ported."

The report says "domestic violence includes, but not limited to any behaviour that frighten, intimidate, scare, manipulate, sexually assault, abuse children, abuse elders, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure, or wound someone living in the same household."

Looking at how children are mistreated while they are at home or school, it is clear that the use of force or violence is thought to be effective in child upbringing. There are people who believe when a child makes mistakes it must be disciplined (canned) so that it doesn't repeat. But this type of thinking is different

from the practice. We adults were also caned when we were still children, but we still make mistakes even more than those made by children. The only difference is that if we make mistakes nobody canes us, but if children make mistakes we cane them. Like the one I viewed on a clip, the caning of the girl had nothing to do with discipline her, but simply mistreating her because she cannot defend herself. The more violence we experience in life the more we realise that it has been bred for "violence breeds violence".

Section 4(2) of the Law of the Child Act (R.E. 2019) states that "The best interests of a child shall be a primary considera-

tion in all actions concerning children whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts or administrative bodies." If this is true, then violence against a child cannot be for the best interests of that child. Section 13(1) states: "A person shall not subject a child to torture, or other cruel, inhuman punishment or degrading treatment including any cultural practice which dehumanises or is injurious to the physical and mental well-being of a child." Subsection (2) states further that "No correction of a child is justifiable which is unreasonable in kind or in degree according to the age, physical

and mental condition of the child and no correction is justifiable if the child is by reason of tender age or otherwise incapable of understanding the purpose of the correction."

Degrading treatment means "an act done to a child with the intention of humiliating or lowering his dignity" as stated in subsection (3). So, let us take care!

Today's proverb: "Wash your dirty linen at home."

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Participatory leadership is superb but should be exercised with caution

By Thomas Lyimo

IN any institution, there must be a form of leadership which gives direction on how individuals in that particular organization have to behave as they strive to achieve the set objectives.

Administrations normally set objectives by involving or not involving those they lead but in many cases individual employees prefer participatory leadership due to increased awareness about its benefits compared to non-participatory approach.

The choice of leadership approach depends on the nature of an objective which an institution needs to accomplish at a certain time although some individuals like each and everything to be communicated. The way administration people think may not be the same as that of employees and that poses a challenge to administration.

Non-participatory approach in leadership may work best if the administration people know exactly that what they propose to the employees is more likely to be successful. This is when the administration has conducted research on feasibility of the project or initiative and is convinced that something can be achieved.

Here is where the idea of leading is guiding the way applies. But the challenge is that some individuals do not believe that an administrator has a right to decide for those they lead. Instead, they see that as a way of oppressing them and hence they prefer participatory leadership.

Can participatory leadership work in all situations? The administrators need to be vision bearers for an institution. If the administration fails to decide and leaves that task to be done by employees and the decision does not work out right, administrators cannot escape blame.



On the other hand, participatory leadership is embraced on the account that it makes those led (employees) to feel valued and involved. It is expected that employees can be motivated to work hard if institution's objectives resulted from their opinions. The idea is that it is not easy for people to betray themselves. But what if the opinions are wrong? Can employees easily accept the blame?

Administrations always get a reason to encourage employees by referring to the opinions which employees gave out in the process of setting the objectives. To convince someone to do something needs justification and agreement acts as a base of enhancing common understanding which motivates the spirit of hard work. But it should not be forgotten that administrators need to show the way and if the

destination is not approached, they are likely to be blamed. Although employees are normally happy with participatory leadership, some precautions need to be taken when exercising it because it can have more harm than good in some situations.

One of the disadvantages of participatory leadership is leakage of sensitive information. For any institution, there must be some things kept secret for the advantage of the institution. When participatory leadership is exercised without limits, some information may leak and cause harm to the institution. It is well known that anything that can cause more harm than good should not be done.

In an institution, it happens that there are some individuals who commit mistakes unintentionally and after being criticized or correct-

ed, they promise that they will not repeat and they can work diligently for the institution's development. If for instance the information on the mistake leaks, other employees may be driven to commit the same mistakes with the hope that they will be tolerated. Therefore, keeping secrets is more than important when it comes to leadership in an institution.

Also, participatory leadership may lead to discomfort and stress. If employees hear about challenges of their colleagues without any psychological preparedness, they may experience discomfort and stress. The risk is high when those challenges are huge and demand a lot of effort to mitigate.

Author of 'The power of positive thinking' Norman Vincent Peale proposes that one should not carry the entire world's problems

on the shoulders. It is advised that it is not necessary to know someone's problems if you cannot help in solving them. The situation can cause you discomfort and stress. It becomes necessary for administrators to avoid placing heavy loads on shoulders of employees when it comes to decision-making unless they are comfortable with their ability to cope with the results of participatory decision-making.

Disturbance of social cohesion may result from participatory leadership. When reactions of individual employees are heard by all members of an institution, there is a high possibility of disturbing unity and solidarity of individuals as they may be divided in terms of perspectives and relations to one another.

It is better for the reactions to be contained by administration and if necessary feedback to be given to the entire institution. Administrators should avoid interviewing employees in the presence of their colleagues. This may cause embarrassment to some of employees and make them lose confidence. Employees cannot work effectively if their confidence has been drained away. Administrators are sociologists.

The challenge that leaders experience is that they sometimes get into blames which they do not deserve. To reduce the blames which are in fact inevitable, a leader needs to see afar from the sight of those they lead. Leading should be of more convincing than compromising.

The author is a teacher based in Moshi. He can be reached at lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com

Solar energy useless without good batteries in Brazil's Amazon jungle



Solar panels with a capacity to generate 30 kilowatts no longer work in the Darora Community of the Macuxi people, an indigenous group from Roraima, a state in the far north of Brazil. The batteries only worked for a month before they were damaged because they could not withstand the charge. CREDIT: Boa Vista City Hall

By Mario Osava

“OUR electric power is of bad quality, it ruins electrical appliances,” complained Jesus Mota, 63. “In other places it works well, not here. Just because we are indigenous,” protested his wife, Adélia Augusto da Silva, of the same age.

The Darora Community of the Macuxi indigenous people illustrates the struggle for electricity by towns and isolated villages in the Amazon rainforest. Most get it from generators that run on diesel, a fuel that is polluting and expensive since it is transported from far away, by boats that travel on rivers for days.

Located 88 kilometers from the city of Boa Vista, capital of the state of Roraima, in the far north of Brazil, Darora celebrated the inauguration of its solar power plant, installed by the municipal government, in March 2017. It represented modernity in the form of a clean, stable source of energy.

A 600-meter network of poles and cables made it possible to light up the “center” of the community and to distribute electricity to its 48 families.

But “it only lasted a month, the batteries broke down,” Tuxaua (chief) Lindomar da Silva Homero, 43, a school bus driver, told IPS during a visit to the community. The village had to go back to the noisy and unreliable diesel generator, which only supplies a few hours of electricity a day.

Fortunately, about four months later, the Boa Vista electricity distribution company laid its cables to Darora, making it part of its grid.

“The solar panels were left here, useless. We want to reactivate them, it would be really good. We need more powerful batteries, like the ones they put in the bus terminal in Boa Vista,” said Homero, referring to one of the many solar plants that the city government installed in the capital.

Expensive energy

But indigenous people can’t afford the electricity from the distributor Roraima Energia, he said. On average, each family pays between 100 and 150 reais (20 to 30 dollars) a month, he estimated.

Besides, there are unpleasant surprises. “My November bill climbed to 649 reais” (130 dollars), without any explanation,” Homero complained. The solar energy was free.

“If you don’t pay, they cut off your power,” said Mota, who was tuxaua from 1990 to 2020. “In addition, the electricity from the grid fails a lot,” which is why the equipment is damaged.

Apart from the unreliable supply and frequent blackouts, there is not enough energy for the irrigation of agriculture, the community’s main source of income. “We can do it with diesel pumps, but it’s expensive; selling watermelons at the current price does not cover the cost,” he said.

“In 2022, it rained a lot, but there are dry summers that require irrigation for our corn, bean, squash, potato, and cassava crops. The energy we receive is not enough to operate the pump,” said Mota.

Achilles’ heel

Batteries still apparently limit the efficiency of solar energy in isolated or autonomous off-grid systems, with which the government and various private initiatives are attempting to make the supply of electricity universal and replace diesel generators.

Homero said that some of the Darora families who live outside the “center” of the village and have solar panels also had problems with the batteries.

Besides the 48 families in the village “center” there are 18 rural families, bringing the community’s total population to 265.

A solar plant was also installed in another community made up of 22 indigenous families of the Warao people, immigrants from Venezuela, called Warao a Janoko, 30 kilometers from Boa Vista.

But of the plant’s eight batteries, two have already stopped working after only a few months of use. And electricity is only guaranteed until 8:00 p.m.

“Batteries have gotten a lot better in the last decade, but they are still the weak link in solar power,” Aurelio Souza, a consultant who specializes in this question, told IPS from the city of São Paulo. “Poor sizing and the low quality of electronic charging control equipment aggravate this situ-

ation and reduce the useful life of the batteries.”

In Brazil’s Amazon jungle, close to a million people live without electricity, according to the Institute of Energy and the Environment, a non-governmental organization based in São Paulo. More precisely, its 2019 study identified 990,103 people in that situation.

Another three million inhabitants of the region, including the 650,000 people in Roraima, are outside the National Interconnected Electricity System. Their energy therefore depends mostly on diesel fuel transported from other regions, at a cost that affects all Brazilians.

The government decided to subsidize this fossil fuel so that the cost of electricity is not prohibitive in the Amazon region.

This subsidy is paid by other consumers, which contributes to making Brazilian electricity one of the most expensive in the world, despite the low cost of its main source, hydropower, which accounts for about 60 of the country’s electricity.

Solar energy became a viable alternative as the parts became cheaper. Initiatives to bring electricity to remote communities and reduce diesel consumption mushroomed.

But in remote plants outside the reach of the grid, good batteries are needed to store energy for the nighttime hours.

A unique case

Darora is not a typical case. It is part of the municipality of Boa Vista, which has a population of 437,000 inhabitants and good resources, it is close to a paved road and is within a savannah ecosystem called “lavrado”.

It is at the southern end of the São Marcos indigenous territory, where many Macuxi indigenous people live but fewer than in Raposa Serra do Sol, Roraima’s other large native reserve. According to the Special Secretariat for Indigenous Health (Sesai), there were 33,603 Macuxi Indians

living in Roraima in 2014.

The Macuxi people also live in the neighboring country of Guyana, where there are a similar number to that of Roraima. Their language is part of the Karib family.

Although there are no large forests in the surrounding area, Darora takes its name from a tree, which offers “very resistant wood that is good for building houses,” Homero explained.

The community emerged in 1944, founded by a patriarch who lived to be 93 years old and attracted other Macuxi people to the area.

The progress they have made especially stands out in the secondary school in the village “center”, which currently has 89 students and 32 employees, “all from Darora, except for three teachers from outside,” Homero said proudly.

A new, larger elementary and middle school for students in the first to ninth grades was built a few years ago about 500 meters from the community.

Water used to be a serious problem. “We drank dirty, red water, children died of diarrhea. But now we have good, treated water,” said Adélia da Silva.

“We dug three artesian wells, but the water was useless, it was salty. The solution was brought by a Sesai technician, who used a chemical substance to make the water from the lagoon drinkable,” Homero said.

The community has three elevated water tanks, two for water used for bathing and cleaning and one for drinking water. There are no more health problems caused by water, the tuxaua said.

His current concern is to find new sources of income for the community. Tourism is one alternative. “We have the Tacutu river beach 300 meters away, great fruit production, handicrafts and typical local gastronomy based on corn and cassava,” he said, listing attractions for visitors.



Tuxaua (chief) Lindomar Homero of the Darora Community is calling for new adequate batteries to reactivate the solar power plant, because the electricity they receive from the national grid is too expensive for the local indigenous people. Behind him stands his predecessor, former tuxaua Jesus Mota. CREDIT: Mario Osava/IPS

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS DALA DALA 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Kinshasa prepares to welcome Pope Francis

KINSHASA

IN DR Congo's bustling capital Kinshasa, the faithful are flocking to impromptu market stalls in churchyards to buy t-shirts and wax tissues adorned with the image of Pope Francis, ahead of the pontiff's visit.

Papal souvenirs have become hot-selling items in the city ahead of the Argentinian pope's four-day trip to the deeply religious central African country, which begins on January 31.

Many in the Democratic Republic of Congo view the papal visit as a chance to soothe tensions in the east, where M23 rebels have captured swaths of territory since last year and provoked a humanitarian crisis.

Berthe Baleweya, a woman who'd come to Kinshasa's Notre-Dame du Congo cathedral to buy a Francis-themed wax cloth, told AFP that wearing the pope's image would be a "great blessing".

Emmanuelle Wemu, who runs a Catholic aid group, has already bought and tailored her wax print decorated with the pope's

face.

"I expect a message of peace from him, in this moment when the DRC is in turmoil," she said.

Over one million worshippers are expected to turn out for an open-air mass in Kinshasa's Ndolo airport on February 1, a sizeable portion in the megacity of over 15 million.

The DRC is a traditionally Catholic nation of over 90 million people, deeply impoverished despite vast mineral wealth.

Pope Francis was scheduled to arrive in the DRC last July, but the trip was postponed over health concerns.

Many also speculated that escalating conflict in eastern Congo -- where the pope had been due to visit -- prompted a rethink.

The M23 rebel group, which is allegedly backed by Rwanda, has waged an offensive against the Congolese military and recently come within several miles of Goma, a commercial hub of over a million people and capital of North Kivu province.

Pope Francis is no longer due to go to



eastern Congo, according to his new programme, but he will meet victims of the conflict while in Kinshasa.

Some are disappointed. Gelo Mandela, a youth coordinator in the diocese of Goma, said young people were despairing that the city was no longer on the

itinerary. "We were prepared," he said.

Aid worker Emmanuelle Wemu said she hoped the pope's visit would bring reconciliation with Rwanda.

Diplomatic relations between the DRC and its smaller neighbour have plunged to rock-bottom since the eruption of the M23 crisis in late 2021. Rwanda denies backing the rebels.

Pope Francis' security in Kinshasa also remains a concern, notably because of the threat of militias from the east.

The Allied Democratic Forces, which the Islamic State group claims as its affiliate, bombed a Pentecostal church in eastern Congo on January 15, killing 14 people.

The ADF has to date only operated in eastern DRC, over 1,500 kilometres (930 miles) from the capital.

A three-day period of prayers -- known as a triduum -- is planned at the Notre-Dame du Congo cathedral in the run-up to Francis' arrival.

A vigil will also take place at Ndolo military airport on the night of January 31, ahead of the papal mass there the following morning, according to Father Camille Esika, a cathedral priest.

Between one and 1.5 million people are expected to celebrate mass at the eight-hectare (20-acre) site. Preparatory works are ongoing.

"That day, rain or no rain, there will be an event," said Jesus-Noel Sheke, the project's technical coordinator.

Across Kinshasa, banners and signs welcoming the pope already hang from buildings. His visit marks the first papal trip to the country since Pope John Paul II's in 1985.

Justin-Marie Bayala, a teacher who attended a recent mass at the Notre-Dame du Congo, like many, evoked high hopes.

"We dare to believe that he will bring us lasting peace," Bayala said.

Task force must examine national energy efficiency policy, not clean cooking only

By Daniel Mshana

When President Samia Suluhu Hassan was officially launching a two day Clean Cooking Conference in Dar es Salaam in November, last year, she directed for the formation of a National Taskforce which will steer the country towards clean cooking energy.

"We want at least 80 percent of Tanzanians to have access to clean cooking energy by 2032 as opposed to charcoal and firewood, which are detrimental to the environment and health of people using them," said the Head of State, directing that all institutions with more than 300 people should start using clean cooking methods before the end of 2024.

No doubt the importance of clean cooking has been prompted by Tanzania's energy situation, characterized by very low per capital consumption of commercial energy.

More than 80 percent of the total energy is consumed in rural areas where the majority of people depend mainly on wood fuel for cooking, kerosene for lighting and human energy for agricultural activities. Biomass, particularly wood fuel, has a significant impact on environmental degradation.

Therefore clinging to clean cooking energy would make the majority of people abandon firewood and charcoal which are obtained through cutting down trees.

You should note that charcoal, for instance, is a significant fuel in our urban centres, its production forms an important source of financial income to many rural charcoal makers and dealers.

It was estimated a few years

ago that the amount of charcoal entering Dar es Salaam city alone ranged between 40,000 and 60,000 sacks per day. Which means, if the government is not careful to manage woodland forests (which are the major sources of raw materials for charcoal production), the forests will be depleted in the near future.

According to the data available from Global Forest Watch Report, Tanzania lost 186 ha of tree cover (equivalent to 67mt of CO of emissions) in 2020. Tree loss was very high in Coast, Morogoro, Shinyanga, Lindi, Mtwara and Tabora regions.

Therefore reduction of biomass consumption particularly firewood and charcoal for cooking will mean a lot to the conservation of natural forests, water sources and wildlife habitats. It will also reduce the time rural poor spend on energy related activities such as gathering fuel wood and water.

Leaning towards clean cooking energy will not only mean creating more awareness to the households on using Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) but also using improved stone-made firewood stoves, charcoal earth mound kilns, clay stoves and ovens as well as solar cookers and dryers.

Leaving aside biomass, electricity is the second form of energy to be used in our country. Electrical energy is a result of conversion of many forms of energy that are abundant in nature such as waterfalls (hydro), solar, wind, coal, natural gas, tides, uranium as well as geothermal and nuclear power.

Abundance of energy sources in our country give us wide options to choose suitable sources. The challenge is

how to select and implement optimum sources for power generation as every source has got its advantages and disadvantages.

According to our National Energy Policy and even the Power System Master Plan (PSMP) of Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) hydro generation and natural gas are most preferred.

What is crucial however is that power supply should always exceed power demand i.e. the system should have enough "Spinning reserve" which simply means surplus capacity.

The problem is that Tanzania has experienced massive load shedding since 1992 because the country did not have the "Spinning reserve". There has been power shedding in the national grid in 1992, 1994, 1997, 2006 and 2011.

Reasons for the power shedding are the same throughout the years. Prolonged drought that causes low availability of water in our hydropower reservoirs (Mtera, Kidatu, Pangani, Nyumba ya Mungu and Kihansi).

Also expansion of agriculture and overgrazing upstream of Pangani, Usungu and Ruaha river basins, hence water cannot return back into the rivers to flow into reservoirs!

In February 2011, Honourable January Makamba (MP) wrote a strongly worded letter to the then Minister of Energy and Minerals, Honourable William Ngeleja (MP) asking him to explain in the Parliament why there were these repeated power rationings since 1992. He reiterated that the rationings "made the public lose faith in their government".

Eleven years later, January Makamba became the Minis-

ter of Energy. The Managing Director of TANESCO, Maharaige Chande, called a press conference (on behalf of the Minister)

in November last year to announce that due to a deficit of between 300 and 350 MW in the national grid, because of reduced hydropower generation, the power utility had no other option but to institute load shedding exercise.

It is clear that the Ministry and TANESCO could not avert the rationing because, as said earlier, the power system still lacks a "Spinning reserve". For many years, investment on power infrastructure has not commensurate with the power demand requirements to sustain energy efficiency.

There is no doubt that the completion of the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project (JNHPP) which has an installed capacity of 2,115 MW will give our nation a lot of surplus power. As a caution however there is need to work closely with environmental specialists and water resource strategists so that what happens in other existing local reservoirs will not affect Rufiji River which JNHPP entirely depends on! Until completion, this big project will consume an insurmountable amount of 6.5 trillion shillings.

While waiting to celebrate the launching of JNHPP, energy authorities must continue with plans to increase power supply through natural gas, solar, wind, coal, tides, uranium and geothermal to raise energy efficiency in the Country. Electrification by renewable mini-grids (MGs) is another option to increase access to electricity without undermining the fight against climate change.

Tanzania is a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, whose members regularly experience power deficits as their national utilities cannot meet peak demand. The demand in the region has been increasing at an average of 4 percent per annum since 2018 while new generation projects have lagged behind.

Early this January, the Zambia power utility announced load shedding due to depletion of water at the famous Kariba hydro dam. In South Africa, the Minister of Energy has appealed this week for calm as there are protests in Johannesburg over load shedding. Eskom's persistent power cuts have forced several commercial businesses to close down and hundreds of workers to be laid off.

If Tanzania will substantially increase its power generation in the coming five to ten years and attain a surplus capacity, there is no reason why it should not export to neighbouring Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) and the East African Power Pool (EAPP) and earn enormous foreign exchange and much reputation as well.

Luckily, new foreign investors in the energy sector are lined up at the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) waiting to be offered the opportunity to invest their capital here.

Lastly, we cannot talk of energy efficiency without grasping what are called technical and non-technical losses. Such losses are an inevitable consequence of the process of energy transfer through transmission and distribution networks.

This means that some of the electricity produced in the

power system does not reach the consumers who make payment. It is estimated that an average 8.8 percent of the World's electricity energy is lost in the electric network system. The technical and non-technical losses, when added together, make up the total transmission and distribution losses.

TANESCO needs to survey and estimate these losses so as to reduce them to acceptable levels. Many of the power utilities in Africa have high losses amounting to between 15 and 25 percent, while the globally acceptable levels range between 6 to 8 percent.

Countries like Japan, Germany, Finland, Sweden and Netherlands have done their best and reduced the losses to between 2 and 4 percent only. Concerted efforts should be put where there are excessive losses to increase investment on preventive maintenance of the substations and networks; optimizing network designs; installation of capacitor banks where needed; supervision of leakages and the like.

Distribution losses mainly occur where there is failure to optimize network components during design, poor maintenance of transformers and switchgears; theft of electricity, illegal connections, faulty metering, leakages and pilferages in general.

It was inspiring to hear UNDP Tanzania officials, Usiah Nkoma and Sewiche Wamunza, in one of the local conferences emphasizing that UNDP was keenly concerned with energy efficiency projects which reduce environmental degradation and misuse of water resources base.

UNDP is quite aware that energy improvement interventions are extremely necessary to contribute to poverty reduction in our country.

Few countries have been able to increase their per capita incomes and quality of life from low levels without also increasing their usage of energy for industrial, commercial and domestic purposes.

Decisive policy decisions are urgently required to accelerate modern energy access, attain energy efficiency and curb losses.

Apparently stakeholders are confident that the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Engineer Felschemi Mramba, who also held senior positions in TANESCO for several years, was capable and will lead the way in delivering reliable, safe and efficient supply. Let us give him the support he deserves.

Few years back, it was reported in one of the SADC Energy Ministers meeting in Botswana that the Southern African region had saved 750 megawatts from the compact fluorescent lamps. A campaign was held to replace incandescent bulbs (which use plenty of electricity) with compact fluorescent lamps which use less.

Public relations and media awareness campaigns must be instituted during this period of regular blackouts to educate large and small energy consumers how to save electricity in factories, commercial premises and households, and importance of attaining energy efficiency.

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AU farming chief: Crisis offers chance for Africa to enhance food production

By Special Correspondent

THE disruption of grain deliveries from Ukraine can be a chance for African countries to step up food production at home, the African Union's Commissioner for rural economy and agriculture, Josefa Sacko, said in an interview.

While pressures on global food prices had relaxed somewhat by the start of this year according to data from the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 had a major impact on international agricultural markets.

As Ukraine and Russia together made up significant shares of worldwide grain and oilseed exports, countries dependent on imported wheat and other products were hit hard by disruptions and price spikes.

North African countries like Egypt, Algeria, or Tunisia, but also sub-Saharan states including Nigeria, Kenya, and Benin have been particularly affected, Sacko explained. Speaking on the sidelines of the Berlin

Agriculture Ministers Conference on January 21, she warned that food shortages and high prices pose a high risk of social unrest in many African countries.

"In Africa, we are very vulnerable to such conflicts," she said while pointing to the beginning of the Arab Spring in Egypt, where protests were triggered in 2010 by high bread prices.

However, the temporary disruptions of grain imports due to the Ukraine war could also be an opportunity for African countries to strengthen agricultural production at home, the Commissioner stressed.

"As policymakers, we should take this as an opportunity to change the narrative, change our approach," she said. "Look at Ethiopia today: this year, they are going to export wheat because last year, when the war started, they started producing it."

She added that Africa currently spends \$45 billion (€41.4 billion) every year on food imports - money that could be spent instead on developing the domestic agriculture sector.



Asked whether it is the right approach for the EU to ramp up production in order to fill the gap left by Ukraine on global markets, Sacko said that, on a free international market, it is fair for Europe to export its products but that African countries would be able to offer theirs at more competitive prices once production on the continent is ramped up.

"We cannot tell Europeans not to produce. But once we start producing, it will be competitive - people will see the price," she stressed.

The African Union, Sacko explained, is therefore encouraging its member states to leverage the possibilities held by their agricultural land by investing in domestic production and thereby creating jobs and wealth.

With 60% of arable land so far uncultivated, there is a large potential to ramp up agricultural production, she added. "We have the ecosystem to feed Africa and to feed the world."

Meanwhile, the EU's green farming ambitions set out in the bloc's food flagship

policy, the Farm to Fork Strategy, have left many farmers in Africa worried, especially with calls to apply sustainability or animal welfare standards applied within the EU to exports as well.

Small farmers, especially, fear that such requirements without matching support to implement sustainable measures could become a major hurdle to trade.

Asked about the issues, Sacko acknowledged that demanding standards can be a challenge for African producers looking to export to Europe.

At the same time, she stressed that the application of standards in itself is not something to be criticised, but that, in order for producers to be able to comply, they need fair international markets and fair producer prices.

"Standards are good because we are fighting for food safety, we want quality food - you have to standardise when you are trading," she said. "But we also want to have a say in setting the price. Currently, this does not even take into account the cost of production."

New business technology transfer provides benefits for African pharmaceutical industry

By Aimable Twahirwa

A FEW months after German biotechnology company BioNTech announced the establishment of the first-ever local vaccine manufacturing in Rwanda, experts believe the successful implementation of such initiatives across the continent will require countries to acquire know-how while encouraging potential industrial partners in the pharmaceutical industry.

Experts emphasise the need to prioritise technology transfer to revamp Africa's pharmaceutical industry with a key focus on vaccine manufacturing capacity and building quality healthcare infrastructure.

This is because, while pharmaceutical products are manufactured in countries such as South Africa, Kenya, Morocco and Egypt, the latest estimates by the World Health Organization (WHO) show that the continent currently imports more than 80 percent of its pharmaceutical and medical consumables.

During the forum, which took place recently in Kigali, experts elaborated on some challenges and current opportunities to boost the health prospects of a continent battered for decades by the burden of several diseases and pandemics such as COVID-19, with very limited capacity to produce its medicines and vaccines.

Participants at the forum, which focused mainly on operationalising the first-ever African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation discussed how the African Union should achieve its target of having 60% of vaccines needed on the continent by 2040.

While the continent imports more than 70% of all the medicines it needs, gulping \$14 billion annually, Dr Yvan Butera, Rwandan Minister of State in the Minister of Health, emphasised the need to mobilise additional financial resources for African countries that need them most to procure vaccine.

"The new initiative comes as a solution since most of [African] countries still face a challenge in receiving them on time," the senior Rwandan Government official told the forum.

As current efforts to expand the manufacturing of essential pharmaceutical products, including vaccines, in developing countries, particularly in Africa, experts argue that concerted efforts to promote technology transfer are urgently needed. According to official estimates, Africa imports more than 70% of all the medicines it needs, gulping \$14 billion



The African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation will be hosted by Rwanda. It is part of the African Development Bank's commitment to spend at least USD 3 billion over the next ten years to support Africa's pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing sector. Credit: Aimable Twahirwa/IPS

annually. Commenting on this situation, Professor Padmashree Gehi Sampath, Special Adviser to the President on Pharmaceuticals and Health, African Development Bank and Director of Global Access in Action, Harvard University, told delegates that technology transfer is critical, and the new initiative will help African countries to look at what are their technology needs. "Most pharmaceutical companies in Africa are using different kinds of technology (...) it is important to boost their capacity, which has been hampered by intellectual property rights protection and patents on technologies, know-how, manufacturing processes and trade secrets," the senior bank official told IPS.

Yet Africa's public health challenges are well known; some experts believe that enhancing access to these technologies for pharmaceutical companies is critical to addressing numerous challenges facing the continent's pharmaceutical industry.

According to Dr Hanan Balkhy, Deputy Director General World Health Organization (WHO), the continent faces many

challenges before it can produce its medicines.

"Africa suffers from the repetitive occurrence of preventable diseases and epidemics, and the large part of medicines and vaccines to treat or prevent these diseases are imported from outside the continent," Balkhy told delegates.

When fully established, the African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation, which the bank has already approved, will be staffed with world-class experts on pharmaceutical innovation and development, intellectual property rights, and health policy.

The foundation also has the mandate as a transparent intermediary advancing and brokering the interests of the African pharmaceutical sector with global and other southern pharmaceutical companies to share IP-protected technologies, know-how and patented processes.

Dr Precious Matoso, a co-chair of the international negotiating body of the WHO on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response, stressed the importance of

ensuring the African health system is resilient.

"Establishing the African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation, by the bank, is a milestone to address these barriers we are facing, such as health equity," she said.

Although the foundation is being established under the auspices of the African Development Bank, it will operate independently and raise funds from various stakeholders, including governments, development finance institutions, and philanthropic organisations.

Dr Richard Hatchett, Chief Executive Officer of the Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Initiative (CEPI), told delegates that this foundation was initiated in timeously since Africa needs to learn from the lessons pandemic, which can be an important step to build resilience of its health system.

"These health care innovative solutions will help in saving lives on the continent," he said.

So far, Rwanda has been selected to host the African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation. A common benefits entity, the

foundation will have its own governance and operational structures. It will also promote and broker alliances between foreign and African pharmaceutical companies.

However, some experts also emphasised the need to prioritise the African patent pharmaceutical industry to implement the new initiative successfully.

Professor Carlos Correa, Executive Director, South Centre, Geneva, pointed out that it was important for the region to have their own framework.

"Manufacturing capacity [in Africa] is there, but technology capacity is crucial to develop vaccines for Africa (...) Timely transfer of technology is also important," he said.

During the forum, some panellists also stressed the need to establish a partnership between African pharmaceutical companies with their counterparts from other continents, such as Europe.

According to Brigit Pickel, Director General for Africa in the Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, this partnership is important for vaccine manufacturing. It applies to the production and supply of other pharmaceutical products.

"We recognise the importance of promoting local pharmaceutical products across the value chain in Africa," she said.

Apart from technology transfer, Professor Fredrick Abbott, Edward Ball Eminent Scholar Professor, Florida State University, USA, pointed out that this initiative cannot work without sustainable funding.

"Countries need to develop domestic resources because providing funding is a critical step to ensure the continuity of promising clinical development programs of vaccines and drugs," Abbott told IPS.

IPS UN Bureau Report

Cabo Verde hoists the blue flag during 2023 edition of The Ocean Race

By Christopher Marc Lilyblad

ON 20 January, the world's best sailors arrived in Mindelo, Cabo Verde, completing the initial leg of the 2023 edition of The Ocean Race. Coinciding with this stop was the launch of Cabo Verde's first blue bond at the Ocean Summit, an event jointly organized by The Ocean Race and the Government of Cabo Verde on the sidelines of the gruelling round-the-world race. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was in attendance as this year's keynote speaker.

The bond was launched on Cabo Verde's Blu-X sustainable finance platform, a regional platform for listing and trading sustainable and inclusive financial instruments.

The issuance will raise do-

mestic, regional, and global investment in Cabo Verde's rising ocean economy while divesting capital from industries responsible for sea-level rise, pollution, and other transgressions against ocean rights.

In brief, the winds of sustainable finance are filling the sails of a local blue economy heeling towards global Ocean Rights.

Consistent with its blue seal, up to US\$1 million in proceeds (minimum US\$500,000) will supply affordable loans to microentrepreneurs and startups in coastal communities, emphasizing financial inclusion to ensure widespread access to the new value generated from the growing blue economy.

The remaining US\$1.5 million foresees structural investments in small and medium-sized enterprises operating

in the maritime and fisheries sectors.

Notably, this is the first initial public offering, or IPO, listed on the Blu-X sustainable finance platform. This means anyone, anywhere with access to the digital Blu-X platform can invest via their computer or phone, including foreign investors and members of Cabo Verde's sizable diaspora.

Furthermore, this marks the first private issuance that does not rely on a public guarantee but is solely backed by market demand. With a 'green shoe' (or 'blue aquasocks', rather) option of an additional US\$1 million triggered if demand for bond subscriptions exceeds the initial US\$2.5 million, the blue bond could ultimately generate US\$3.5 million in private and market-driven finance for a sustainable blue

economy.

In a race against time during the UN's Ocean Decade, this initial blue bond listing offers a potentially game-changing test case for Cabo Verde's blue finance ambitions.

The strategic partnership between the Cabo Verde Stock Exchange (Bolsa de Valores de Cabo Verde - BVC) and UNDP under Cabo Verde's integrated national financing framework (INFF) has already led to four sustainable bond issuances totaling US\$32.5 million.

Building on this momentum, the blue bond's proceeds are exclusively destined for sustainable marine- and ocean-based projects generating returns for the economy, society, and environment - the triple bottom line. With funding from the UN's Joint SDG Fund and UNDP's strategic and technical

support, the Blu-X team at the BVC guided the Cabo-Verdean International Investment Bank through the process of issuing the bond framework, following an external review process that ensures adherence to blue principles.

What actually 'counts as' blue has recently been established through a new blue bond regulation in November 2022, enacted under the authority of Cabo Verde's capital market regulatory agency. The regulation draws on the Atlantic Technical University's blue taxonomy, derived from a scientific study of existing blue economy activities and the potential of Cabo Verde's shores.

The first of its kind in Africa, the regulation reflects the country's pioneering role in defining blue finance norms,

standards, and principles, which closely aligns with the Ocean Race's Sustainability Charter and corresponding calls for a Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights anchored at the United Nations.

By hoisting the blue flag, Cabo Verde is again signaling its emergence as a global frontrunner. Indeed, since the first blue bond issuance by Seychelles in 2018, these financial instruments have mostly been treated as a subsidiary category of green bonds in financial markets. However, what was once seen as a 'shade of green' is now emerging as a primary colour of its own. Building on this initial proof of concept, the proliferation of blue bonds has the potential to transform financing for Cabo Verde's strategic sustainable development agenda: Ambition 2030.

In a tourism-dependent economy vulnerable to external shocks, the growth of sustainable finance and the blue economy will accelerate socio-economic decentralization and sectorial diversification, from fisheries and maritime transport to nautical sports and ocean-based technology. As a small island developing state that is "99 percent ocean," this stands to benefit the local communities that depend on marine environments and maritime spaces for their livelihoods.

Blue economy impact investing poignantly illustrates why marine environments and biodiversity should be preserved not only as ends in themselves but also as catalysts for value creation. As more and more people

Source: UNDP



RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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



Radio One



Pump jacks operate at sunset in an oil field

Oil prices advance over US growth, Chinese recovery

SINGAPORE

Oil rose in line with a broader market rally as optimism over Chinese demand outweighed concerns over an economic slowdown.

West Texas Intermediate futures traded above \$81 a barrel after closing 1.1% higher on Thursday. Trafigura Group sees "a lot of upside" for oil markets as pent-up demand is unleashed, especially as Chinese consumption rebounds after the nation dismantled its strict Covid Zero policy.

US economic growth beat expectations in the last quarter of 2022, but there's still a considerable risk of a recession this year.

The Federal Reserve is set to raise interest rates next week, although there's speculation that the central bank could be less aggressive in its monetary policy tightening.

"The theme for oil this year is China plus supply tightness from Russia, against a recessionary backdrop," said

Sean Lim, an analyst at RHB Investment Bank Bhd in Kuala Lumpur. "We expect Brent to average \$85 in the first quarter."

Chinese markets are closed this week for the Lunar New Year holiday and will reopen Monday. Crude futures are little changed for the week.

Oil has recovered from a steep slump at the start of the year and liquidity is returning to the futures market.

Attention is shifting to the potential fallout from European Union sanctions on Russia's seaborne shipments of petroleum products early next month. The EU is considering a plan to cap the price of premium refined fuel exports like diesel at \$100 a barrel.

The forward curve is starting to indicate signs of tightness in the oil market after a period of weakness.

The prompt spread for global benchmark Brent – the gap between the two nearest contracts – firmed in a bullish backwardation pattern after spending most of the past two months in contango.

could nevertheless cope with.

"Our entrepreneurs are massively burdened by energy costs, taxes and duties," said Dirk Jandura, president of the BGA. The association expects cost pressures will ease.

Global supply chains have experienced disruption. "As a result, companies are replenishing their inventories and stockpiling large quantities to reliably meet customers' demand," Jandura said. According to the survey, 78% of companies are taking this approach, while 46% are diversifying their suppliers.

Sentiment among German exporters in January was at its highest point in nearly a year, climbing for the fourth consecutive month as the start of the year brings hope for new momentum, according to a separate survey by the Ifo economic institute published on Thursday.

Wholesales in Germany growth to halve in 2023

BERLIN

German wholesalers can expect sales growth to halve in 2023 after a jump last year fuelled by rising prices, the BGA wholesale and foreign trade association said in a survey on Thursday.

In 2022 revenues rose 16 percent to 1.74 trillion euros (\$1.9 trillion), according to the BGA's estimates. But this increase was mainly due to rising prices, the association said. When price-adjusted, the increase was 0.8 percent.

For 2023, the BGA forecasts a sharp slowdown in sales growth to 8 percent year-on-year, or total sales of 1.9 trillion euros. Adjusted for inflation however, this would be an increase of about 1 percent.

According to the survey, 4 percent of wholesale companies surveyed see their existence threatened by the rise in energy and electricity costs, while 40 percent have been strongly impacted by rising costs which they said they

NBC Bank Limited posts 57.8bn/- net profit in 2022

By Guardian Reporter

NBC Bank Limited recorded a net profit of 57.8 billion last year, compared with 40bn/- recorded in 2021, with basic earnings per share amounted to 36,794/- compared with 25,497/- respectively.

According to unaudited financial statements for the fourth quarter of last year, net profit amounted 11.55bn/- during the fourth quarter 2022, from 13.9bn/- recorded during similar quarter in 2021 while eps amounted to 7,358/- from 8,857/- respectively.

The statements shows that all bank's income streams including interest income, foreign exchange dealing, fees and commission increased on quarterly and annual basis.

Net interest income rose to 167.1bn/- last year compared with 158.3bn/- in 2021, while on quarterly basis, net interest income went up to 46.6bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year, compared with 42.8bn/- recorded in Q4, 2021.

On quarterly basis, non-interest income reached 21.4bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year, compared with 16.3bn/- during similar quarter in 2021, while on cumulative annual basis, a total of 92.5bn/- were recorded last year compared with 61.6bn/- generated in 2021.

Foreign exchange dealing ad transactions generated 20.2bn/- last year compared with 12.1bn/- in 2021 while fees and commissions amounted 52.4bn/- last year from 43.2bn/- during the previous year.

According to the statements, total comprehensive income increased to 59.3bn/- last year compared with 39.1bn/- in 2021, although on quarterly basis, it slowed to 11.5bn/- in Q4, 2022 from 13.9bn/- in Q4, 2021.

The bank's total assets amounted 2.8trn/- during the fourth quarter of last year, compared with 2.7trn/-



during the third quarter due to increased lending, other assets, balance with other banks and financial institutions and investment in government securities, amid slowed balance with Bank of Tanzania (BoT), cash and interbank receivables.

Balance with other banks and financial institutions amounted 54.8bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 48.4bn/- during the third quarter, while investment in government securities jumped to 442.8bn/- compared with 421.4bn/- respectively.

Property plant and equipment increased to 51.2bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year,

compared with 49.1bn/- recorded during the previous quarter while equity investments remained flat at 2.02bn/-.

Lending amounted 1.77trn/- during the fourth quarter compared with 1.52trn/-, while other assets gained to 83.4bn/- from 78.9bn/- respectively.

According to the statement, total liabilities amounted 2.50trn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 2.38trn/- during the third quarter due to increased borrowings which amounted to 376bn/- compared with 196.6bn/- respectively.

Customer deposits amounted 1.9trn/- during the fourth quarter, similar to the third quarter

and total shareholders' fund increased to 347.4bn/- compared with 338.7bn/- respectively.

However, the bank's non-performing loans rate slowed to 3.5 percent from 3.8 percent, which is far below the regulatory benchmark of five percent.

The bank's total equity closed the year high at 347.3bn/- during the end of the year from 301.1bn/- during the beginning of last year due to increase in profit. A dividend of 15bn/- paid during the reported period.

Number of employees increased to 984 at the end of the year from 950 who were employed during the beginning of last year.



Access Bank records 744mn/- net profit after clearing losses

By Guardian Reporter

Access Bank Tanzania posted a cumulative net profit of 744mn/- last year, compared with a loss of 542mn/- recorded during the previous year.

Unaudited financial statement for the fourth quarter of last year shows quarterly net profit amounted 186mn/- compared with a loss of 249mn/- recorded during similar quarter in 2021.

Cumulative annual basic earnings per share increased to 18.6/- last year, compared with a loss of 13.6/- in 2021, while o quarterly

basis, eps amounted to 18.6/- in Q4, 2022 compared with a loss of 24.9/- recorded during similar quarter of the previous year.

According to the statement, both interest and non-interest income streams increased during the reported periods.

Net interest income increased to 16.8bn/- from 13.5bn/- annually, while on quarterly basis, net interest income increased to 4.5bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 3.7bn/- recorded during similar quarter of 2021.

Non-Interest income amounted 4.6bn/- last year compared with

3.4bn/- in 2021 due to increase in fees and commission, other operating income, amid slowing income from foreign exchange dealing and transactions.

Annual earnings from fees and commission increased to 1.3bn/- last year compared with 1bn/- recorded in 2021 while other operating income wet up to 3.3bn/- from 2.3bn/- respectively. Operating income amounted 1bn/- last year compared with a loss of 542m/- in 2021.

According to the statements, total assets amounted to 69.9bn/- during the last quarter of last year

from 67.5 during the third quarter due to increased balance with Bank of Tanzania (BoT) as well as loans, advances and overdraft.

Balance with Bank of Tanzania went up to 7.2bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year compared with 5.7bn/- during the third quarter while lending increased to 47.5bn/- compared with 45.6bn/- respectively.

Customer deposits increased to 52.4bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 50.7bn/- during the third quarter while shareholders' fund slightly gained to 7.1bn/- from 6.9bn/- respectively.

Ecobank Tanzania net profit doubles to 1.7bn/-

By Guardian Reporter

Ecobank Tanzania net profit more than doubled to 1.7bn/- during last year, compared with 692mn/- recorded during 2021.

According to the bank's unaudited financial statements for the fourth quarter of last year, quarterly net profit increased to 335mn/- during the reported period compared with 7mn/- recorded during similar quarter in 2021.

Annual basic earnings per share amounted to 10/- last year compared with 4/- recorded in 2021, while quarterly earnings per share increase to 2/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 0/- recorded in Q4, 2021.

Return on average total assets doubled to 0.6 percent last year from 0.3 percent in 2021, while return on average shareholders' fund increased to 8.8 percent last year from 7.7 percent during the previous year.

The statements show both interest and non-interest incomes recorded upward trends during the reported period.

Net interest income reached 10.6bn/- last year compared with 9.1bn/- in 2021, while on quarterly basis, the amount increased to 3.1bn/- in Q4, 2022 from 2.3bn/- during



comparative quarter of 2021.

Non-interest income also increased to 10.3bn/- last year compared with 7.1bn/- recorded in 2021 due to increased earnings from fees and commission and foreign exchange dealing and transaction gains.

Annual cumulative fees and commission increased

to 5.9bn/- last year compared with 4.2bn/- recorded during the previous year while foreign currency dealing and transaction gains went up to 4.3bn/- from 2.8bn/- respectively.

The Bank total assets increased to 320.1bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 285bn/- during the

third quarter due to doubled interbank loan receivables, increased investment in government securities and balance with Bank of Tanzania (BoT), amid slowed lending.

Investment in government securities increased to 152.6bn/- in Q4, 2022 compared with 126.2bn/-

during the third quarter while balance with BoT slightly increased to 14.1bn/- from 13.8bn/- respectively.

The financial statements shows the bank's lending slightly decreased to 91.98bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 95.93bn/- during the third quarter. Non-performing

loans rate was 2.23 percent less than half of the regulatory benchmark of 5 percent.

Customer deposits increased to 171.4bn/- during the fourth quarter last year compared with 150.2bn/- during the third quarter and shareholders' fund slightly increased to 19.8bn/- from 19.5bn/- respectively.

iGaming company launched with hope pervasive

By Guardian Correspondent

GR8 Tech has been launched, with a focus on long-term partnerships, commitment, and a straightforward approach on global iGaming B2B market.

A statement issued by the company yesterday said, GR8 Tech will provide great gaming tech to satisfy the even greater ambition of its clients.

"Coming from a large ecosystem with first-hand experience of working with B2C clients, we understand the pains and problems of operators and can solve them with our developments. We understand that business is a race in which the only partners you need are GR8 ones," said a press statement.

"Our race in the gambling industry began in 1994 with the birth of the Parimatch brand. Over the years, we've helped it grow to a world-renowned level, providing it with a leading technological platform and partnerships with top football clubs, athletes, and e-sports organizations."

GR8 Tech provides full tech coverage for established gambling businesses, including sportsbook, casino, payments hub, flexible API, CRM tools, player management, risk management, fraud prevention, gamification, and other custom tools and services.

"Today's B2B iGaming market is quite saturated with offers, yet it very much lacks consistency, convenience, and great service. We are here to change that and set a new norm for what a great product means. GR8 Tech composes tailor-made gaming solutions designed to evolve and fit changing business environments, thus allowing our partners the freedom of forward thinking and long-term planning. And that's GR8!" said GR8 Tech CEO Evgen Belousov.

He said all GR8 Tech products and services have been quality checked by Parimatch brand operators worldwide.

Company clients (Parimatch Eastern Europe, P, Parimatch United) successfully use GR8 Tech products in 15 markets worldwide, including Ukraine, Cyprus, the United Kingdom, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, and several other countries across Europe, Asia, and Oceania.

Bank of India posts net profit of 1.2bn/- for 2022

By Guardian Reporter

Bank of India Tanzania posted a cumulative net profit of 1.2bn/- last year, compared with 1.5bn/- recorded during the previous year.

Unaudited financial statements for the fourth quarter of last year said, quarterly net profit increased to 438mn/- during the fourth quarter of 2022 from

352mn/- recorded in Q4, 2021.

Annual basis earnings per share slightly decreased to 57/- last year compared with 71/- in 2021, while quarterly eps increased to 81/- compared with 65/- recorded during the fourth quarter of 2021.

According to the financial statements, both interest and non-interest incomes increased during the report-

ed period. On annual basis, net interest income slightly increased to 8.02bn/- last year compared with 7.9bn/- recorded in 2021 while non-interest income gained to 997mn/- from 869mn/- respectively.

On quarterly basis, net interest income slightly increased to 2.21bn/- in Q4, 2022 from 2.10bn/- recorded in Q4, 2021 while non-interest income went up to

405mn/- compared with 368mn/- respectively.

The bank's total assets amounted to 180.6bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 167.1bn/- during the third quarter, specifically due to increase in loans, advances and overdraft, investment in government securities.

Lending to the sectors of the economy increased to 98.8bn/- during the fourth

quarter of last year from 84.6bn/- recorded during the third quarter, while investments in government debt instruments reached 48.5bn/- compared with 45.3bn/- respectively.

Balance with Bank of Tanzania (BoT) remained flat at 16bn/- while interbank loans receivables decreased to 8.3bn/- in the fourth quarter of last year from 10.6bn/- recorded during the previous

quarter.

Deposits from other banks and financial institutions increased to 60.3bn/- from 54.6bn/- respectively while customer deposits went up to 76.8bn/- in the fourth quarter of last year from 69.6bn/- in the third quarter.

Total shareholders' fund amounted to 38.3bn/- during Q4, 2022, higher than 38.1bn/- recorded during the third quarter.

First Housing Finance records 239mn/- net profit in 2022

By Guardian Reporter

First Housing Finance Tanzania recorded a cumulative net income after income tax amounting 239.9mn/- last year, a slight increase compared with 232.9mn/- recorded during the previous year, unaudited financial statements for Q4, 2022 has shown.

On quarterly basis, the statements show a total net income after income tax of 138mn/- recorded during the fourth quarter of last year, compared with 114.7mn/- recorded during similar quarter in 2021.

Both interest and non-interest incomes increased during the reported periods, although there was a decrease of non-interest income on quarterly basis due to fall of other operating income.

Net interest income increased to 2.67bn/- last year compared with 2.37bn/- recorded in 2021 while on quarterly basis, net interest income increased to 742.6mn/- in Q4, 2022 compared with 639.3mn/- in Q4, 2021.

According to the statements, cumulative annual non-interest income went up to 341.1mn/- last year compared with 130.6mn/- in 2021 while quarterly income

slowed to 82.6mn/- in Q4, 2022 compared with 90.1mn/- in Q4, 2021.

Cumulative annual fees and commission increased more than three times to 240mn/- last year compared with 53.8mn/- in 2021 and quarterly earnings from the same income stream went up to 73.4mn/- in Q4, 2022 from 48.8mn/- in Q4, 2021.

Total assets amounted 32.7bn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 32.5bn/- recorded during the third quarter due to increased loans, advances and overdraft which amounted 19.7bn/- in Q4, 2022 from 18.7bn/- in Q3, 2022.

Cash increased to 1.5b/- in the fourth quarter of last year from 114mn/- recorded in the third quarter while investments in government debt instruments slightly decreased to 3.59bn/- from 3.65bn/- respectively.

Customer deposits amounted 911.7mn/- during the fourth quarter of last year from 741.7mn/- recorded during the third quarter.

According to the statements total shareholders' fund slightly gained to 18.45bn/- during the last quarter of last year from 18.31bn/- recorded during the third quarter.



First Housing Finance team

Toyota president Akio Toyoda to resign

TOKYO

Toyota Motor Corporation announced that current president and CEO Akio Toyoda (pictured) will step aside and become chairman as part of a leadership shakeup.

In a statement, the company said "Takeshi Uchiyamada will resign from his post as Chairman of the Board of Directors," while "Akio Toyoda will be appointed the new chairman and Koji Sato the new president and Chief Executive Officer."

"I am going to give it my all," said Sato, who has been managing the Lexus luxury division and Toyota motor racing. "The new team will lead the shift in the transition to a mobility company to provide the freedom of mobility to all people."

The appointments still need shareholders' approval, scheduled for the next general meeting. Toyoda said Uchiyamada's decision to quit as chairman propelled him to take that job and give up the presidency.

Akio Toyoda, president of Toyota Motor Corporation, right, with Koji Sato, president of Gazoo Racing Company and president of Lexus International Co., in Chiba, Japan, on Friday, Jan. 13.

Toyota announced the leadership reshuffle without any forewarning, but it had a promotional video prepared to highlight Toyoda and Sato's love for electric vehicles and fast cars.



Although Toyota is the top Japanese company in terms of market value, it has been criticized in recent years as falling behind in the industry's move toward electric vehicles.

In December, Toyoda questioned whether the push for the auto industry to phase out gas-powered vehicles is the right decision.

"People involved in the auto industry are largely a silent majority," he said, according to The Wall Street Journal. "That silent majority is wondering whether EVs are really OK to have as a single option. But they think it's the trend so they can't speak out loudly."

People look at the newly redesigned 2023 Prius hybrid unveiled by Japanese automaker Toyota prior to the start of the Los Angeles Auto Show in Los Angeles Nov. 16, 2022.

Like other automakers, Toyota recently has contended with a supply crunch in semiconductors and other parts, because of production snags caused by disruptions from the pandemic.

The problem hurt Toyota, which also makes the Camry sedan and bZ4X electric car, because it could not keep up with customer demand, The Associated Press reported.

Banks' Sh224bn record profits signal bonus

NAIROBI

Banks' pre-tax profits for 11 months to November last year hit a record Sh223.7 billion on increased lending, setting the stage for a dividend windfall for owners when full-year results are announced in March.

Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) economic indicators show that the pre-tax earnings are already 25 percent ahead of the 178.8 billion that was posted in a similar period in 2021 and the Sh194.8 billion for the full year.

Increased profits in the sector set up investors for another year of dividends, with lenders such as KCB, Equity, Absa Kenya and Standard Chartered Bank Kenya that had cut or frozen payouts in 2020 due to Covid-19 disruptions having resumed or increased payouts last year.

The profit boom also sets the stage for bonus payments to bank executives in a sector known to pay higher rewards to top managers.

Nine listed banks—Equity, KCB, Co-op Bank, NCBA, Standard Chartered Kenya, Absa, Stanbic, DTB and I&M—last year nearly trebled the dividend payouts to Sh51.7 billion for the 2021 performance, up from Sh18.8 billion in 2020.

Banks are expected to declare the full-year results by end of March, with annual

general meetings following to ratify dividend decisions.

The latest increased earnings come on the back of continued economic recovery that has seen banks expand lending and stem growth in non-performing loans.

The lenders closed the review period with a loan book of Sh3.656 trillion compared with Sh3.248 trillion as they stepped up lending to key sectors in the private sector.

Listed banks had grown their loan books by between 1.7 percent (HF Group) and 34.1 percent (Stanbic Bank) by the end of September.

Increased lending and upward review of loan prices have helped lenders book more interest income while aggressive loan recoveries have saved them from a sharp elevation of loan defaults.

CBK data shows the weighted average lending of 23 out of the 39 commercial banks had increased by September when compared with the average rates for June.

Many lenders have been revising the rates upwards to reflect the risk profile of customers, with some taking the rates as high as 20 percent, partly on the decision by the CBK to increase the benchmark lending rates.

Kenya plans special tariff for electric cars

NAIROBI

Kenya plans a special tariff for electric car charging stations that will be cheaper than the average domestic consumer, in the latest e-mobility by East Africa's biggest economy.

The tariff plan revealed in the application by Kenya Power to the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority, the sector regulator, will price consumption of between 200 and 15,000-kilowatt hours at Sh17 per kWh, lower than the ordinary domestic tariff proposed at Sh21.68 per unit.

The tariff is expected to hold until 2025, providing predictability to investors in e-mobility.

"The introduction of the new consumer categories and tariffs captures changes in the market. A special e-mobility tariff will influence the demand and growth for e-mobility," said Kenya Power.

The utility has been leading the transition to electric mobility and has begun the construction of charging systems for homes, businesses and the public.

Kenya Power is set to establish an e-mobility network infrastructure system in Nairobi and Nakuru from where it will pilot the charging hubs.

The lack of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles and motorcycles has been one of the leading impediments to the full adoption of e-mobility, prompting the utility to take the lead in the switch.

The Kenya Power pilot, which began in September, is expected to take six months while a countrywide roll-out of e-mobility infrastructure will take between 18 months and two years.

Last year, the utility which outlined plans to abandon diesel and petrol vehicles indicated it had enough power to charge 50,000 buses and two million motorcycles during off-peak hours.

The State-owned company said it would set aside Sh40 million in the year ending June 2023 to purchase three electric vehicles on a pilot basis.

Over the medium term, the firm is seeking to purchase 50 long-range electric bikes as part of its larger plan to phase out fuel-powered motorbikes within its fleet.

Electricity Generating Company KenGen has also become a leader in the transition journey and unveiled its first electric vehicle (EV) fleet in December.

The fleet which constitutes of two sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and two-double cabin pickups is expected to provide the company with first-hand experience and data to inform policy development.

KenGen has also planned to set up 30 EV charging stations by the end of this year and already has two stations in Nairobi and Naivasha for internal use.

EV firms such as BasiGo and Roam who have been piloting electric buses in the country are some of the potential takers of new EV charging stations and beneficiaries of the special e-mobility tariff.

Earlier this week, for instance, BasiGo inked a new partnership with Associated Vehicle Assemblers Limited to assemble over 1,000 electric buses in the next three years.

BasiGo has also outlined plans to diversify its revenue by installing EV charging infrastructure over the medium term.



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A BasiGo full electric passenger bus. File photo

Kenyan court convicts Venezuelan diplomat for envoy's murder

NAIROBI

A KENYAN court on Wednesday found a Venezuelan diplomat guilty of murdering the Latin American nation's acting ambassador a decade ago at her home in an upmarket Nairobi neighborhood.

Dwight Sagaray, who was the first secretary at the embassy, was found guilty of the July 2012 killing of Olga Fonseca, Judge Roselyn Korir said in her ruling.

The court also convicted three Kenyan nationals who had been charged alongside Sagaray, saying they were involved in a common plan to carry out the murder.

Another suspect who fled after the murder is still at large and the court said his arrest warrant should remain in force.

Sagaray, who wore a suit and tie in the dock, clasped his hands and held them against his face when the verdict was read.



Venezuelan diplomat Dwight Sagaray (center) attends on April 7, 2014 at the high-court in Nairobi, his trial for the murder of former acting Venezuelan ambassador to Kenya, Olga Fonseca in July 2012. AFP

Sagaray could be tried for the murder because he did not enjoy diplomatic immunity after Venezuela waived it following the crime, the court ruled.

Fonseca was found strangled in her bedroom less than two weeks into her posting to Nairobi, which followed the abrupt departure of the previous ambassador after he was accused by his domestic staff of sexual harassment.

Sagaray, who had been heading the

mission before the arrival of Fonseca, was angered by her presence since he wanted to continue overseeing the embassy, the court found.

He intended to be the main beneficiary of the crime, Korir said, adding there was evidence he had tried to interfere with Fonseca's ability to take over as the head of the embassy, before she was killed.

Sagaray and his co-accused will be sentenced at a later date, the judge said.

Agencies

Russians' level of trust in Putin rises to 78.5%, poll shows

MOSCOW

THE Russian public's level of confidence in President Vladimir Putin increased by 0.4 percentage points to 78.5% on January 16-22, according to a poll released by the All-Russia Public Opinion Research Center yesterday.

"When asked if they trusted Putin, 78.5% of the poll's participants said 'yes' (a 0.4 percentage point rise from a previous rating). The share of people who approve of the way the president is handling his job rose by 0.3 percentage points to 75.5%," the pollster said.

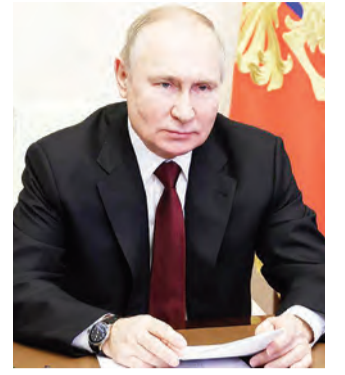
A total of 51.3% of those polled said they approved of the Russian government's work (a 0.8 percentage point increase) and 53.3% approved of Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin's work (a 0.1 percentage point rise). As many as 62.4% of respondents said they trusted Mishustin (a 0.2 percentage point drop).

As for the leaders of the parliamentary parties, 32.2% of those surveyed trust leader of the Russian Communist Party Gennady Zyuganov (a 0.3 percentage point drop), 31.4% trust leader of the A Just Russia – For Truth party Sergey Mironov (a 2.5 percentage point increase), 9% said they trusted Chairman of the New People party Alexey Netchayev (0.8 percentage point fall) and 16.5% of the poll's participants trust leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) Leonid Slutsky (a 0.7 percentage point decline).

The level of popular support for the United Russia party stood at 38.7% (a 0.1 percentage point decrease). The level increased by 0.4 percentage points to 11% for the Russian Communist Party and rose by 0.7 percentage points to 4.6% for the New People party.

The Russian Liberal Democratic Party saw a 0.1 percentage point decline to 9.1%, while popular support for the A Just Russia – For Truth party shrank by 0.5 percentage points to 5.2%. The poll involving 1,600 adult respondents was conducted on January 16-22.

Agencies



Deadly raid: Palestine ends security coordination with Israel

RAMALLAH

THE Palestinian Authority (PA) announced on Thursday the end of security coordination with Israel in response to the killing of nine Palestinians in the West Bank city of Jenin.

"In the light of the repeated aggression against our people and the undermining of signed agreements, we consider that security coordination with the Israeli occupation government no longer exists as of now," Nabil Abu Rudeineh, the spokesman of the Palestinian presidency, said in a press statement.

The decision came after an emergency meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee, the Fatah Central Committee, and the Palestinian government. The meeting was chaired by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Earlier in the day, the Israeli army force stormed the Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank and killed nine Palestinians, including an elderly woman, and wounded 16, four of them in serious condi-



A man holds a tapestry depicting the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem and a flag showing a map of historic Palestine superimposed with a key and the word "Return" in English and Arabic during a demonstration against the evacuation of Bedouins in the village of Khan al-Ahmar in the occupied West Bank, near the east Jerusalem suburb of Abu Dis on Jan 23, 2023. AFP

tion.

Abu Rudeineh called on the Palestinian factions for more peaceful popular resistance "to protect the Palestinians and their capabilities in the face of settler terrorism and the Israeli occupation forces."

The Palestinian leadership has decided to immediately turn to the UN Security Council for international protection for the Palestinian people under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to stop unilateral measures, he said.

Security coordination be-

tween Israel and the PA was brought on by the Oslo Accords signed between Israel and the PLO in the 1990s. The establishment of the PA itself was also an outcome of the Oslo Accords.

The Palestinian leadership will also go urgently to the

International Criminal Court to add "the file of the massacre committed by Israeli forces in Jenin today to the files previously submitted to the court," the spokesman added.

Security coordination between Israel and the PA was brought on by the Oslo Accords signed between Israel and the PLO in the 1990s. The establishment of the PA itself was also an outcome of the Oslo Accords.

More than 170 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank in 2022, and at least 29 have been killed in January this year, according to figures from the Palestinian Health Ministry. According to a statement issued by the United Nations, 2022 was the deadliest year for Palestinians since 2006.

The tensions have been further aggravated since Israel's most right-wing government, headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, took office last month.

Agencies

ICC prosecutor to reopen Philippines drug war probe

AMSTERDAM / MANILA

THE chief enforcer of former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte's brutal 'war on drugs' said yesterday he would cooperate with an International Criminal Court investigation if the government decided to participate.

The ICC on Thursday said it had granted its prosecutor's request to reopen an investigation into drug war killings and other suspected rights abuses. The court suspended the probe in November 2021 at Manila's request after the country said it was implementing its own investigations and prosecutions.

"If the Philippine government would cooperate, then, I am a part of the government, so I will cooperate," Ronaldo dela Rosa, a former police chief who is now a senator told ANC News channel.

Dela Rosa, who oversaw Duterte's anti-narcotics crackdown, which resulted in the deaths of more than 6,200 people, mostly small-time drug dealers, said he saw no problem if the government cooperated. "All my action will be in consonance with the decision of this government."

There was no immediate comment from the office of President Ferdinand Marcos and the justice ministry.

Marcos in August said he had no intention of rejoining the ICC after Duterte, whose daughter is the country's current vice-president, pulled out of the court in 2019. Duterte said at the time the ICC had no right to meddle in his country's affairs.

In a statement, the ICC said it was "not satisfied that the Philippines is undertaking relevant investigations that would war-



This photo shows exterior view of the headquarters of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, Jan 12, 2016. AP

rant a deferral of the investigation." The court said that the actions by Philippine authorities did not amount to "tangible, concrete and progressive investigative steps in a way that

would sufficiently mirror the Court's investigation".

Human Rights Watch said the ICC investigation was the only credible path to justice for victims and their families.

"As the court's judges agreed, Philippine authorities are not 'undertaking relevant investigations' into these crimes or 'making a real or genuine effort' to carry these investigations out," Human Rights Watch said in a statement. "The ICC offers a path forward to fill the accountability vacuum."

Rights groups and critics say law enforcers summarily executed drug suspects. Police say those killed were armed and had violently resisted arrest. Meanwhile, the families of many drug war victims are still seeking justice in long, drawn-out cases.

In a rare conviction, a Philippine court in 2018 sentenced three police officers to up to 40 years in jail for the murder of a 17-year-old high school student. The teenager's death featured in a report by a former ICC prosecutor.

IATA confirms restoration of Somalia's Class A status after 30 years

MOGADISHU

THE Somali airspace has regained its Class A classification after more than 30 years, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) confirmed.

"The reclassification of the Mogadishu Flight Information Region (FIR) as 'Class A' airspace will significantly improve safety in the region and enhance efficiency," IATA's Regional Vice President for the Middle East and Africa, Kamil Al-Awadhi, said in a statement issued on Wednesday evening.

Al-Awadhi said the upgrade of air traffic management and improved navigation and communication infrastructure will enhance situational awareness along an increasingly busy air corridor and its intersections with routes linking many of the world's regions.

The reclassification of the airspace took effect on Thursday when air traffic control services were operationally restored after a 30-year disruption.

Xinhua

Germans gloomy about their country's economic prospects - survey

BERLIN

ONLY 39 percent of respondents to a survey published by the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ) newspaper on Thursday said they were confident that Germany will still be one of the leading economic nations in ten to 15 years, compared with 59 percent five years ago.

Another survey conducted by the Allensbach Institute for Public Opinion Research (IfD) found that 14 percent of the respondents thought that Germany would emerge stronger from the crises of

the past few years.

The majority of respondents identified "serious weaknesses," such as in transport infrastructure, digital equipment, the quality of schools, and the compatibility of family and career, the IfD found.

Seventy-nine percent saw too much bureaucracy and regulations as a major reason for the shortfalls, followed by a lack of skilled staff in Germany.

According to recent calculations by the Institute for Employment Research of the Federal Employment Agency (BA), Germany could lack up to seven million

skilled workers by 2035.

There is already a shortage in many sectors, such as skilled trades, energy transition, housing construction, information technology (IT) companies and nursing care.

Labor Minister Hubertus Heil last week called for "utilizing all domestic potential" with improvements in education and training. The draft of an immigration law would be presented in March to bring "helping hands and bright minds to Germany."

The Association of German Chambers

of Industry and Commerce (DIHK) earlier this week presented a ten-point program to simplify and digitize administrative procedures, standardize approvals and make immigration easier.

Crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the energy price increase have been "shaping our lives for some time now," the DIHK said in a statement. Recent years have shown that "our state is often not sufficiently capable of acting, and in any case not fast enough."

Xinhua



There is already a shortage in many sectors, such as skilled trades, energy transition, housing construction, information technology (IT) companies and nursing

Xiplomacy: China, LAC countries embrace new era of win-win cooperation

MEXICO CITY

FOR decades, Argentines have dreamt of having a hydroelectric power plant on the Santa Cruz River, one of the last large free-flowing rivers in the region of Patagonia encompassing the southern end of South America, so that they could be less dependent on energy imports.

But the plan to build one was on ice at one point because of the engineering challenges of adverse weather conditions like freezing temperatures and perennial gusts, as well as environmental impacts given the river's proximity to an iconic glacier.

Now, thanks to Argentina's determination and Chinese expertise, Argentines are about to witness their dream coming true.

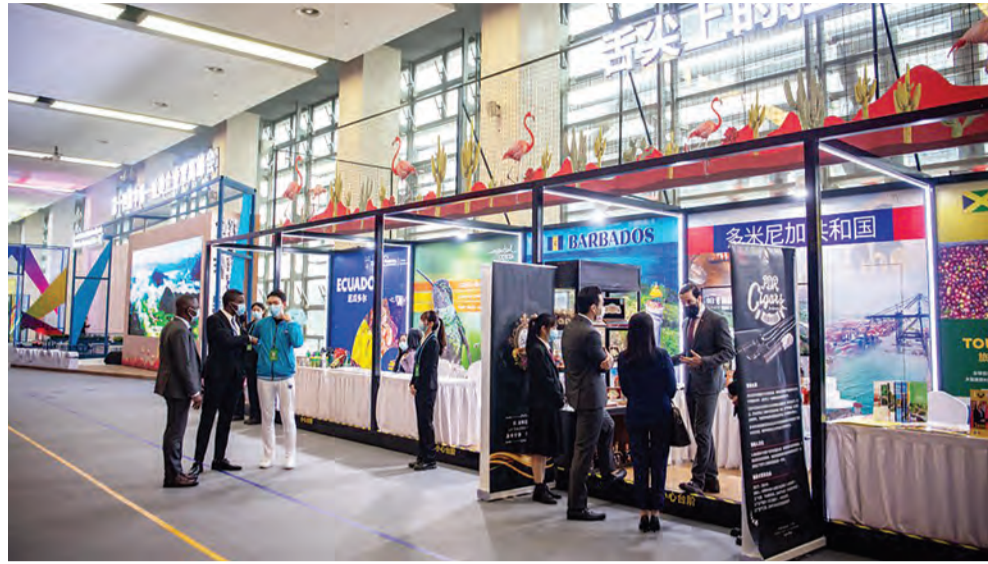
BREEZE OF THE BELT AND ROAD

On the first day of the Year of the Rabbit, when most of the Chinese people across the world were still enjoying their Spring Festival vacation, Chinese engineer Xiong Yongfeng went to work on the construction site of the Nestor Kirchner-Jorge Cepernic Hydroelectric Power Plant on Santa Cruz. Upon arrival, Xiong took out some construction blueprints, and started a heated discussion with Argentine engineers on site. Surrounding him and his Argentine colleagues were running machines and moving construction vehicles.

Xiong was one of the 50 Chinese staff remaining on duty during the festival break. Together with Argentine staff, they ensured that the construction is progressing smoothly, so that ordinary Argentines could be a step closer to their "energy dream."

Besides increasing energy sufficiency in Argentina, the project has improved the living conditions of many, generating jobs and building roads for the local communities. Braving numerous challenges, Chinese and Argentine engineers have also guaranteed the environmental sustainability of the project, as the plant has been designed with fish passes and ecological bottom wells.

Argentina is not the only Latin American country working with China on infrastructure construction under the framework of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. The reconstruction of the Eloy Alfaro International Airport in the Ecuadorian city of Manta, which was hit hard by a powerful earthquake in 2016, has enhanced the country's trade, tourism and business ties with the rest of the world; a UHV power transmission line stretching from north to south in Brazil, a country abundant in energy but limited by unequal distribution,



People visit an exhibition during the 14th China-Latin America and the Caribbean Business Summit in southwest China's Chongqing on Nov. 16, 2021. (Xinhua/Tang Yi)

has brought benefits to 22 million Brazilians, or 10 percent of the country's population.

Eduardo Regalado, a researcher at the International Policy Research Center of Cuba, said the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has given a strong boost to the development of relations between China and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries.

China has played a key role in promoting infrastructure construction in Latin America, while economic and social development in the region has injected new impetus into China-LAC relations, Regalado said.

As Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a video address delivered at the seventh Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) held Tuesday in Buenos Aires, more and more countries in the region have engaged in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation with China, supported and participated in the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, and are working with China in building a China-LAC community with a shared future.

BILATERAL TRADE IN BLOOM

Dalian Port in northeast China has opened a direct shipping route to import cherries

from Chile. Earlier in the month, the ship *GSL Tinos*, loaded with 616 twenty-foot equivalent units of Chilean cherries, docked at the container terminal in Dalian after a 22-day trip.

Of the total, 592 TEUs of cherries would be delivered directly to the wholesale markets in China. The others would be transferred to the Republic of Korea via Dalian Port.

Chilean cherries are increasingly favored by Chinese consumers, and the market demand continues to rise. "China has become our main market and strategic partner," said Victor Maroto, a representative of Chilean shippers.

In addition to Chilean cherries, blueberries from Peru and beef from Uruguay are also among the best-selling products in China, especially during the Spring Festival. In Guangzhou in southern China, Ecuadorian roses and Colombian hydrangeas have become good choices for local people to decorate their houses.

During the fifth China International Import Expo held in November 2022 in Shanghai, Latin American companies showcased such quality products as Argentine wine and Colombian chocolate, hoping to take a bigger share in the Chinese market.

Meanwhile, Latin American countries have become important markets for Chinese companies. In Ecuador, Chinese vehicles lead the automobile market as consumers are increasingly drawn to their design, sticker price and innovative features. Automobiles, vans, SUVs and trucks of more than 40 Chinese brands are estimated to be sold in Ecuador.

Even during the pandemic, bilateral trade has showed strong vitality. Data from China's General Administration of Customs showed that in 2022, the total trade value between China and Latin America and the Caribbean exceeded 450 billion U.S. dollars for the second consecutive year.

TOGETHER TOWARD A BETTER FUTURE

In Mexico, the "home of corn," China's technical cooperation with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) is making steady progress.

Bram Govaerts, director general of CIMMYT, said the collaboration with China can be regarded as one of the mutually beneficial examples of working together to safeguard the world's food security.

"CIMMYT and China together can be partners," said Govaerts. "CIMMYT can work with China for new wheat varieties that can fight climate change, for new maize varieties that can sustain new diseases."

China and Latin America have set a good example of South-South cooperation, and they are expected to carry out more exchanges and cooperation through such multilateral platforms as the China-CELAC Forum in the future, so as to jointly benefit the world, Argentine sociologist Marcelo Rodriguez said.

Xinhua

Lavrov castigates Western press for distorted coverage of his African tour

MASSAWA

WESTERN media outlets sought to cover the Russian delegation's tour of African countries in a distorted manner, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a press conference following talks with his Eritrean counterpart Osman Saleh Mohammed.

"In South Africa, Eswatini and Angola, there were reporters from media outlets that represent the interests of the West's information machine.

The governments of these countries are well aware of that. Attempts were made to cover our visit in a perverse and distorted manner," the Russian foreign minister pointed out.

"They were recreating the picture that US and European media seek to depict," he added.

"When commenting on our trip to South Africa, Euronews reported that it was causing a negative reaction in the country," Lavrov noted.

Meanwhile, in his words, any Russian media report about relations between Moscow and the West "contains direct quotes and statements by Western leaders that are strictly anti-Russian, and then our observers and political scientists analyze it all."

"I took the time to watch Western TV channels during the trip. Russia's arguments weren't mentioned at all, even partially, and there was nothing but their slogans," the Russian top diplomat stressed.



Agencies

ANKARA

Türkiye: NATO talks with Finland, Sweden 'meaningless'

IT is "meaningless" to hold a trilateral meeting with Sweden and Finland to discuss their NATO accession process after recent protests in Stockholm, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Thursday.

"In this environment, a trilateral meeting is meaningless. It has been postponed because the current environment will overshadow this,"

Cavusoglu explained at a joint press conference with visiting Serbia's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic.

"Sweden has to decide. Does it want to join NATO or not? One of the aims of these incidents is to prevent Sweden from joining NATO," the Turkish minister said, referring to recent protests in the Nordic coun-

try, which involves burning of Quran and demonstrations by the supporters of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) outlawed by Türkiye.

He warned the incident was a "racist attack that has nothing to do with freedom of thought."

Türkiye has postponed a trilateral meeting with Sweden and Finland on their NATO bids slated for Febru-

ary following the burning of a copy of the Quran in Stockholm.

Sweden and Finland submitted their formal requests to join NATO in May 2022, which were initially objected by Türkiye, a NATO member, citing their support for anti-Turkish Kurdish organizations and political dissidents.

A month later, Türkiye, Sweden

and Finland reached a memorandum of understanding ahead of the NATO summit held in Madrid.

Under the MoU, Ankara agreed to lift its veto on the NATO bids by Finland and Sweden, which in return pledged to support Türkiye's fight against terrorism and address its "pending deportation or extradition requests of terror suspects expeditiously and thoroughly."

Agencies

Chinese market enjoys advantages in its size, vitality for innovation

THE year 2022 was the International Year of Glass, and Albert Chen, managing director of Schott in China, one of the leading specialty glass companies in the world from Germany, shared with People's Daily a story about glass.

Over the past 30 years, the German manufacturer has always been committed to improving its manufacturing and processing technologies of ultra-thin glass. However, it lacked an opportunity to massively launch its products in the market, till it learned from negotiations with its Chinese partners that many Chinese tech firms were seeking solutions for producing curved screens.

"The success of our technologies and products came from not only the demand of Chinese tech firms for new technologies but also the strong industrial chain of the Chinese electronics industry and its vital consumption market," Chen said.

He noted that the potential of the Chinese market is obvious to all, and expanding investment in China is an important strategy adopted by many multinational companies, including Schott.

Schott started its business in China in 2002. So far, its total sales volume in the country has hit 2.55 billion yuan (\$381 million).

Chen told People's Daily that Schott has enjoyed prosperous development in China over the past two decades, and with the general expectation of the Chinese economy picking up in 2023, it is believed that the investment environment for foreign companies in the country will keep being optimized.

Over the recent years, Schott has continuously expanded its investment in China, introducing high-end production lines and establishing an Asia-Pacific R&D center.

Many new outcomes were delivered in China by the German manufacturer, including mobile phone



Photo shows glass products developed by Schott displayed at the third China International Import Expo. (Photo provided by Schott.)

screens made of curved ultra-thin glass, a transistor outline header for 5G fronthaul, and an encapsulation design for the light engines of augmented reality glasses.

Besides, the company has also inked agreements about optical communication with Chinese corporations at the China International Import Expo for three consecutive years, contributing its part to the development of the Chinese 5G market.

"China is Schott's fastest-growing consumption market. The Chinese market enjoys advantages in its size and also in its vitality for innovation," Chen said.

In 2021, Schott set up an Asia-Pacific R&D center in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu province, to offer frontier technical support for its ultra-thin glass, 5G communication, virtual reality and augmented reality, as well as energy storage businesses.

So far, the company has in-

vested 20 million yuan in the construction of an application center in China. It plans to invest 8 million to 10 million yuan each year to promote the development of the center.

"We'll keep contributing to the innovation and R&D of Chinese brands, to make full use of our technical advantages and benefit the country through close cooperation on the application of technologies," Chen noted.

According to him, China has always been the fastest-growing market of Schott in the past five years. He told People's Daily that China's business environment is conducive to the development of innovative enterprises. The Chinese government has constantly widened access for foreign capital, handed down the power to approve administrative items, and streamlined administrative approvals, which relieves the burden of enterprises and creates a market featur-

ing efficiency, equity, convenience, and freedom for foreign enterprises.

"As a high-tech firm, Schott has benefited from the reduced enterprise income tax rate of 15 percent and the policy on granting additional tax deductions for R&D costs. It is also facilitated by the streamlined customs procedures and optimized customs approvals," Chen told People's Daily.

China is the world's second largest economy, largest trading country in goods, and the top destination of foreign investment. Its economic development draws global attention.

Chen said that as China takes solid steps towards high-quality economic development, foreign enterprises still enjoy huge development potential in the country.

"China, as a source of stable growth for global economy, will make more contributions to building an open world economy and a better future for mankind in the post-pandemic era," Chen said.

People's Daily

EU ministers discuss challenges of migration from third countries

STOCKHOLM

"THE migratory situation in the European Union (EU) is strained," the member states' justice and home affairs ministers agreed at their Council meeting here on Thursday.

"There is an urgent need to strengthen the external borders, increase returns, and prevent irregular migration," they said, according to a statement issued by the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU.

"Difficulties in returning third country nationals who are not entitled to stay in the EU is a major challenge for many member states. Current return rates are not acceptable, and negatively affect the reception capacity, as well as the legitimacy of (the EU states') national asylum and migration systems," the statement said.

The ministers agreed on the need for more effective cooperation with countries of origin, and for comprehensive migra-

tion partnerships and effective readmission agreements with third countries to prevent irregular migration and improve returns.

They agreed that the EU should use both positive incentives and restrictive measures and that all relevant policy areas, such as visa policy, development cooperation, trade and diplomatic relations, must be used.

The EU member states also support the introduction of restrictive visa measures in relation to third countries that do not cooperate on returns, the statement said.

The two-day informal meeting of justice and home affairs ministers, which also addressed the fight against organized crime in the digital age, ended yesterday.

Agencies



Swedish Minister for Migration Maria Malmer Stenergard speaks at a press conference in Stockholm, Sweden, on Jan. 26, 2023. "The migratory situation in the European Union (EU) is strained," the member states' justice and home affairs ministers agreed at their Council meeting here on Thursday. (Government Offices of Sweden/Handout via Xinhua)

'Robertinho should just have waited for the league to end'

By Correspondent John Kimbute

There are usually two types of employment, where one works in relative privacy with colleagues and superiors, and open positions demanding acute awareness that each word or gesture of such a person is being monitored and put to public scrutiny.

The first type of employment can be physically demanding and exhaustive but is mentally serene, in that one is unlikely to be overtaxed by what others may say, especially as regards the wide public.

Limited reflections or evaluations in private are easy to live with, not public exposure at every passing moment, and that is the work of a coach.

Coaches have their shades of those who are openly extroverts and those who are mildly so, but one finds it hard to figure out a coach who dearly wishes for privacy not just at home but even in what he does, in the relative obscurity of a routine post or position of employment.

A company director, even at a place like Simba SC or their next-street rivals can be a rather secluded person, meeting or having to meet, converse with those who work closely with him or her.

If there is a need for a public statement, it can be written down and put to the media, or an officer reads it out.

A coach, on the contrary, is out there, on the field and the pitch, and is being subjected to piercing gazes in whatever he decides, even things as trifling as who can start in the next match.

If the player has as many admirers as they often do, it is a problem making a decision, as one has to balance



Simba SC head coach Roberto Oliveira. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

between soccer expectations and popularity.

So a coach is under pressure to meet fans' expectations about players as they have every reason to believe they know how the game is out to be played, or so to speak, organized.

Veteran Brazil tactician Carlos Alberto Pereira once said that there are 150 million coaches in Brazil, which means they easily coincide with its adults.

For that reason - among others - coaching is a particularly unstable position out of all or any employment aspirations one cares to mention, where one must routinely carry the blame that ought to be shouldered by others.

But there is an expression, 'noblesse oblige', in that when a coach says that the wide is well enough, and then genuinely fails to deliver, he takes the blame and quits.

If the side is not well he ought

arduous schedule of the domestic league and biting continental engagements.

As each moment - or match - counts to the fans, or breadth of them they can't countenance the idea of the head coach missing one match, the players relax and they miss two points, or lose the game.

That there are capable assistants isn't an issue, pundits pointed out that the players mind only the gaze of the coach.

It follows that the fans and even pundits care hugely about the presence of the coach not for the technical aspect per se but for authority, which bespeaks not just of team weaknesses but cultural drawbacks.

It implies a low level of professionalism where players believe or are under the impression that they have been registered due to their skills in ball control, passing or scoring, or defensive skills.

They scarcely take note of the fact that being fit and able, and going all out to do what has to be done at any particular moment is what is expected; it must be squeezed by the coach.

It also bespeaks off gaps of discipline where assistant coaches can only do what is routine and minimally necessary, not give any affirmative instruction, something like an order unless the head coach is around.

That means he would have allowed that assistant coach and if he is in Brazil, that command would be brushed aside and ignored, until it is repeated in his presence, by himself or the same assistant.

The pundits know for sure that this is the level of team professionalism and thus show irritation at the idea of the coach missing one match, for they could lose that match, foreclosing the chances of defending the title. It is a round figure to square up.



Meridianbet Tanzania's Head of Marketing and Communications, Matina Nkurulu (R), and the firm's Content Manager, Twaha Ibrahim (L) launch the company's store located at Tandika Majaribio in Temeke, Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Looking on is one of the firm's accountants, Joyce Songalele. The company has launched a total of 58 stores across the country and created more than 142 jobs. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

Betting firm employs 142 Tanzanian youths

By Guardian Correspondent

A total of 142 youths have benefited from employment through Meridianbet Tanzania, which is one of the dreams of the company, which provides online betting services, harbours.

Matina Nkurulu, Meridianbet Tanzania's Head of Marketing and Communications unraveled the information on Thursday when speaking at the launch of the Meridianbet store located at Tandika Majaribio Street, Temeke District in Dar es Salaam.

Nkurulu said that the company has strong strategic goals to create direct jobs for many Tanzanians that are in great need of employment now and in the future.

"After the launch of this store, we hope it will provide more jobs for our brothers who will work here and at over 18 stores located in different places in the country. Until now, the Meridianbet company that provides online gambling services has helped to employ 142 Tanzanians who work at our stores spread across the country, including the Max 25 found at Tandika Majaribio," Nkurulu revealed.

He said that the main goal of Meridianbet is to ensure that it provides quality and reliable services to customers, regardless of gender, ethnicity, race, or age, adding that as long as the customer is either 18 years old or above, he/she is allowed to join their company which, he stressed, is the number one sports betting firm in Tanzania.

He thanked Meridianbet Tanzania's customers for enabling the firm to make headway, from the moment the company started providing betting services for various sports such as football and casino.

He stated the services offered by Meridianbet Tanzania are the best and the firm has the biggest odds for every match and all leagues, with more than 1000 different options available by visiting its website www.meridianbet.co.tz.

"There is one very popular service, known as Turbo that is also available at Meridianbet. This is not a mean feat, it is a big step we are taking with our customers," Nkurulu noted.

One of the company's customers, Jackson Kuchumu, said that the store will have the area's residents reducing the costs of going long distances to access betting services.

"This store will reduce the incon-

venience of walking a long distance to follow betting services. The fare I was using will be put into placing a bigger bet so I can win more money," he said.

Another customer, Hassan Juma, said: "I like many services offered by Meridianbet, including the Turbo because it helps me save my bet in case there is a team that tends to have my bet go wrong, it further has many options which give me the freedom to choose what to bet on and what I should leave."

Nkurulu added: "We started to gradually launch stores owned by Meridianbet in 2019, starting with stores at Kariakoo, Manzese, Gongo la Mboto, and other areas of Dar es Salaam, four years down since the launch of the stores, the number of Meridianbet stores has reached 58."

"That is not enough, this company that strives to every day open up opportunities for everyone who aims to do business with us, gets that opportunity, Meridianbet has decided to provide agency for 39 stores owned by our agents who in collaboration with us have been providing good services to our customers found across the country, and this shows Meridianbet has taken a big step towards growth and demonstrates its seniority."

He also stressed that the main goal of Meridianbet is to continue launching various stores and expand the scope of markets by reaching customers easily, making it easier to provide better services to everyone and create jobs for people.



That is not enough, this company that strives to every day open up opportunities for everyone who aims to do business with us, gets that opportunity, Meridianbet has decided to provide agency for 39 stores owned by our agents who in coll ss the country, and this shows Meridianbet has taken a big step ...



Geita's Magogo Stadium.

Magogo Stadium's first phase completion set for May

By Guardian Correspondent

THE first phase of construction of Magogo Stadium, built by the Geita Town Council in collaboration with Geita Gold Mining Limited, is scheduled to be completed in May this year.

Simon Shayo, the vice president of AngloGold Ashanti which oversees sustainability for Ghana and Tanzania, said so recently in Geita while addressing the media following the conclusion of the 2022/23 NBC Premier League encounter between Geita Gold FC and Coastal Union from Tanga, played in Geita, in which the home team won 1-0.

He stated that the stadium being built in the Magogo area of Geita Town is nearing the end of its first stage of construction.

Shayo said that they are constructing a better and safer sta-

dium, adding that the work is completed effectively under the supervision of a contractor who had been appointed by the Geita Town Council to provide consultation on how to complete the first phase and the other phases of construction.

The official noted: "Our goal is to ensure that the first phase of construction is completed and ready by May this year, working with the council and the leadership of Geita. Therefore, a lot will depend on how quick our contractors and everyone else we deal with in constructing this stadium will be."

"This is because we want it to be a proper stadium; if we rush it, there could be risks to people's safety or potential problems down the road. Since safety is our first value as a company,

we would like to see players and spectators engaging in their normal activities on a safe field," Shayo stated.

He added that he now sees Geita Gold FC achieve success when discussing the sponsorship of more than 800m/- that Geita Gold Mining Limited has extended to the outfit.

The official pointed out: "We have watched the team succeed, seen how the players performed in prior games, heard that the players are growing more compatible, and as long as the team remains intact, we think it will improve over time."

"Our goal is to ensure that Geita Gold FC wins Mainland Tanzania Premier League's silverware rather than just finishing in the top four."

The official insisted: "We an-

tipiculate that soon, other sides that will come up against Geita Gold FC in Geita will be taking on Mainland Tanzania Premier League champion," he said.

Speaking about the stadium's construction and amenities, Zahara Michuzi, Geita Town Council's Director, asserted that the facility will provide additional economic opportunities for Geita's residents as a result of the stadium hosting a large number of people for the NBC Premier League fixtures.

The first phase of construction of the stadium is estimated to cost 2.4bn/- of which Geita Gold Mining Limited has funded almost 80% through its CSR Plan in collaboration with the Geita Town Council. The stadium will serve as Geita Gold Football Club's home ground.

Bayern urged to 'wake up' as in-form Frankfurt looms

BERLIN

AFTER a second-successive 1-1 draw on Tuesday, Bayern Munich sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic it was "high time we flicked the switch", warning "the title is at stake".

A loss when Bayern host Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday would see the Eagles climb within two points of the 31-time Bundesliga title winners, while blowing the league wide open for the chasing pack.

While calling out forward Serge Gnabry for an "amateurish" mid-season jaunt to Paris Fashion Week, Salihamidzic said Bayern need to "wake up now".

"We can prepare well for (Frankfurt) in the next few days, (we must) burn it into our heads how important the game is."

The shift in reckoning may seem dramatic considering Bayern won 6-1 in Frankfurt in the season's opening fixture in August. It is however a credit to the Eagles' continued development under manager Oliver Glasner this season.

Half a season later, Frankfurt have lost just once early October in all competitions. They sit third in the league and have made it through to the Champions League knockouts at their first attempt.

A sure sign that the reigning Europa League champions have Bayern worried came on Sunday's edition of German TV institution Doppelpass, when Frankfurt became the target of former club boss Uli Hoeness' pre-match mind games.

Hoeness praised Saturday's opponents, saying the club had "made the greatest progress of any club (in Germany) in the last 12 to 18 months" while adding Bayern had "thought about bringing back" star midfielder Mario Goetze, just before the 2014 World Cup winner signed with Frankfurt in 2022, but opted against it.

Goetze, plucked from then rival Borussia Dortmund in 2013, had a largely unhappy three-year spell in the Bavarian capital.

He returned to Dortmund in 2016, before moving to Dutch side PSV Eindhoven on a free in 2020.

While it would be generous to say that Eintracht have the wood on Bayern, they have won two of their past four games against the all-conquering Bavarians and were one of only two teams to win in Munich in the league last season.

Frankfurt's 3-1 win in the 2018 German Cup final was only the fourth time Bayern have lost in the showpiece event, having won it on 20 occasions.

Frankfurt however missed a golden chance to close the gap with Bayern to three points on Wednesday, drawing 1-1 at Freiburg.

AFP

Vinicius effigy hung from bridge before Madrid derby

MADRID

A DUMMY dressed in a Vinicius Junior shirt was hung from a bridge near Real Madrid's training ground ahead of the Copa del Rey quarter-final clash against Atletico Madrid on Thursday.

"Madrid hates Real," read a banner draped on the bridge close to Valdebebas overnight Wednesday.

The Vinicius effigy was described as a "disgusting act of racism, xenophobia and hatred" against the Brazilian forward, by Real Madrid in a statement.

"Attacks like those our player is suffering now, or those that any athlete can suffer, cannot have a place in a society like ours," added Madrid.

Police sources told AFP they were investigating the incident, without offering further details.

The slogan is one which has been used by Atletico Madrid ultras in the past.

"Such acts are absolutely repugnant and inadmissible and shame society," said Atletico in a statement.

"Our condemnation of any act that attacks the dignity of persons or institutions is categorical and unreserved."

Atletico fans were filmed aiming racist chants at Vinicius in September before the Madrid derby at the Wanda Metropolitan in La Liga.

However in December Spanish prosecutors closed an investigation into the chants, saying it was not possible to identify those culpable.

"We condemn the hateful actions against Vinicius," wrote La Liga on Twitter.

"Intolerance and violence do not fit within football."

The Spanish football federation (RFEF) also offered their support to Vinicius, describing the incident a direct threat aimed at the forward "loaded with hate".

Real Madrid's 22-year-old winger is a divisive figure in Spanish football, with opponents sometimes angered by his flair and playing style, his propensity to go to ground easily and dancing goal celebrations.

On the other hand, Vinicius is often targeted and hacked by opposition defenders to try and put him off his game, with no player in Europe fouled more this season.

"We have to protect him," urged Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti on Wednesday in a news conference.

"Football needs him, he's got an extraordinary talent and we have to protect him physically and in a mental aspect too."

Real Madrid won 3-1 against rivals Atletico at the Santiago Bernabeu later Thursday.

AFP

Stewart, McBride exit US Soccer, leaving Berhalter in limbo

NEW YORK

THE American men's national team shake-up that began after a public spat erupted between two well-known families accelerated Thursday when sporting director Earnie Stewart announced he is quitting the U.S. Soccer Federation to join PSV Eindhoven.

Men's general manager Brian McBride also is resigning, leaving coach Gregg Berhalter in limbo following the expiration of his contract on Dec. 31. Berhalter is under investigation for a 1991 domestic violence incident and Anthony Hudson, one of his assistants, led his first game as interim coach on Wednesday.

Hours later, Austin's Major League Soccer team said former U.S. captain Claudio Reyna was no longer its sporting director. The Reyna family has been embroiled in a dispute with Berhalter that became public earlier this month, several weeks after the U.S. was eliminated from the World Cup.

USFF President Cindy Parlow Cone said it likely will be many months before the coach situation is sorted out. Sportsology Group, a company that has worked with the Los Angeles Rams and several soccer teams, was hired to lead the sporting director search, review the sporting department and analyze coach candidates. The sporting director will



FILE - U.S. Soccer Federation sporting director Earnie Stewart stands on the field before the World Cup group B soccer match between Iran and the United States at the Al Thumama Stadium in Doha, Qatar, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022. (AP Photo)

then make the coach decision.

"We're hopeful that we can fill these two positions by the end of the summer so that the men's team has plenty of time in preparation for the World Cup in leading up to 2026," Cone said. "Greg remains a candidate."

Following the Americans' round of 16 elimination against the Netherlands on Dec. 3, Berhalter told a management conference in New York that he nearly sent a player home from Qatar for lack of hustle in training. The remarks clearly were about 20-year-old Gio Reyna, a son of Claudio Reyna and former women's player Danielle Egan

Reyna.

The Reyna parents complained to Stewart and McBride about their son's lack of playing time in Qatar, where he was limited to a pair of substitute appearances.

Danielle Reyna notified Stewart of a 1991 incident in which Berhalter kicked a woman who later became his wife, Rosalind Santana Berhalter, who was Danielle's college roommate. The USSF hired the law firm Alston & Bird to investigate in a probe that is ongoing. Berhalter has said, "There are zero excuses for my actions that night."

Stewart, 53, played for the U.S. at the 1994, 1998 and 2002 World Cups and was hired as

the first GM of the team in June 2018 as part of a management reorganization that followed the Americans' failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup. Stewart recommended to the board in December 2018 that Berhalter be hired as coach.

Stewart was elevated to sporting director of the men's and women's programs in August 2019 and McBride, a former American star forward, was hired as GM by Stewart in January 2020.

McBride said he told the USSF of his planned department in October.

"I didn't want any of the focus off of the team in the leadup or during the World Cup," he said

in a statement.

McBride was a candidate for promotion, saying "another opportunity inside the federation arose" during the tournament and "I spent the last month looking into the position."

"The position has been put on hold for the foreseeable future," McBride said, "which leads me to this statement."

Stewart informed the USSF board of McBride's departure last week. Cone said McBride will leave on Jan. 31 and it is unclear whether he will be replaced.

Stewart, who born in the Netherlands and grew up there, will depart on Feb. 15 to become PSV's director of football. The USSF is re-

leasing him from his contract, which ran through 2026, and Cone hopes to hire a replacement before the Women's World Cup opens on July 20.

"This isn't the process that we chose to go down," she said. "I know this moment feels a bit uncertain. ... What it actually is is a clean canvas."

Cone, a former women's player, became USSF president in March 2020. JT Batson, hired last September as CEO, said the Berhalter investigation had "no impact whatsoever" on the departures. Sporting staff will report to Batson until Stewart is replaced.

Hudson, a former coach of Bahrain and New Zealand, will lead the U.S. against Colombia on Saturday, a pair of CONCACAF Nations League matches in March and likely in June games and the CONCACAF Gold Cup this summer. His tenure is much like Dave Sarachan's appointment as interim coach from October 2017 until Berhalter was hired.

"On the head coaching job, I will work directly with Sportsology on that to continue to move that search forward," Cone said. "And then as we bring the sporting director on board, that sporting director will then join me in leading that search. And ultimately, this new sporting director will be tasked with hiring the men's national team coach."

AP

LeBron, Giannis chosen as captains for NBA All-Star Game

NEW YORK

LEBRON James is closing in on Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's NBA career scoring record. And now, he has caught Abdul-Jabbar on another page of the All-Star record book.

James was announced Thursday as an NBA All-Star for the 19th time, the Los Angeles Lakers' star tying Abdul-Jabbar for the most selections in league history. James — the leading overall vote-getter — will be the captain of one of the teams for the Feb. 19 All-Star Game in Salt Lake City, while Eastern Conference voting leader, Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks will captain the other side.

This is the sixth year the NBA has used the captain format for the All-Star Game; James has been a captain every time and has never lost, taking a 5-0 record into this year. Antetokounmpo is a captain for the third time, after also earning that right in 2019 and 2020.

James and Antetokounmpo will pick their teams shortly before the game in Salt Lake City, a newly announced twist and a departure from past years in which the captains picked a week or two in advance of All-Star weekend.

The other eight starters they'll be choosing from, barring any changes because of injury beforehand, are: Denver's



Giannis Antetokounmpo

Lebron James

two-time reigning NBA MVP Nikola Jokic, NBA scoring leader Luka Doncic of Dallas, Golden State's Stephen Curry, Boston's Jayson Tatum, Brooklyn teammates Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving, Cleveland's Donovan Mitchell and New Orleans' Zion Williamson.

"I'm definitely blessed and humbled to be a part of this," Mitchell said during the televised starters' announcement on TNT. "To be a part of my fourth All-Star and now to be a starter, I couldn't be happier."

The big intrigue was the third East frontcourt spot, where Philadelphia's Joel Embiid — No. 2 in the NBA's scoring race entering Thursday at 33.4 points per game — was the odd man out after Antetokounmpo, Durant and Tatum were the top three in the balloting. Starters — three frontcourt players and two guards from each conference — were se-

lected by a combination of three different votes: fan balloting counted for 50%, media balloting was worth 25% and voting by the NBA's players made up the final 25%.

The reserves, which are chosen by votes from the league's coaches, will be announced Feb. 2. Among the players certain to merit strong consideration: Portland's Damian Lillard, Oklaho-

ma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Boston's Jaylen Brown and Miami's Bam Adebayo.

James is 157 points away from Abdul-Jabbar's career scoring total of 38,387 points. At his current average of 29.9 points per game, James will need just over five games to break the record — and, if he doesn't miss any games in the interim, would be on pace

to pass Abdul-Jabbar in a Feb. 7 home game against Oklahoma City.

And that means the All-Star weekend, if James passes the record beforehand, could be a celebration of his breaking a record that Abdul-Jabbar has held for nearly 40 years.

"Calculating out when it might happen, it seems at this point it's likely to happen before our All-Star break," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said last week in Paris. "If it were to happen before our All-Star break, it seems like the All-Star Game this year, which is in Salt Lake City, may be the perfect opportunity to honor him."

James is now tied with Abdul-Jabbar for most All-Star selections, and if James plays in Salt Lake City he will become the first player in NBA history to actually appear in 19 All-Star games. Ab-

dul-Jabbar was selected to the 1973 game but did not play.

That'll be just another entry on a long list of All-Star records for James. He's the first player to be selected to 19 consecutive All-Star games — until Thursday, he shared that record with 18-time-selection Kobe Bryant, the Lakers legend who died Jan. 26, 2020, exactly three years to the date from Thursday.

If he actually starts, it'll be James' 19th time doing so, four more anyone else in league history; Bryant made 15 starts. The 19 starts in a row extends another All-Star record; Bob Cousy has the second-longest such streak, having started 13 straight.

James also is the career All-Star leader in minutes, points, field goals made and field goals attempted.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Stewart, McBride exit US Soccer, leaving Berhalter in limbo

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Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Technical Director, Oscar Mirambo.

TFF set to announce Taifa Stars head coach

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) is in the final stages of hiring and announcing the new head coach for the senior national team, alias Taifa Stars, after the departure of interim head coach, Zambian Honour Janza.

Taifa Stars, which is seeking qualification for the 2023 African Nations Cup finals, has been without a head coach since the departure of Janza.

The Zambian gaffer that was also heading Namungo FC's technical bench was temporarily taking charge of the senior national side after the then-head coach Kim Poulson was sacked and returned to the national U-23 team.

Oscar Mirambo, TFF Technical Director, disclosed they are in the final stages of completing the process of finding the coach, following specific criteria that will enable Taifa Stars to do well internationally.

The official pointed out: "Right now we are in the final process of hiring the coach for the senior national team 'Taifa Stars', a process that is going well so far."

He revealed: "Soon we will announce to the public how far we have gone in the exercise and who will be allowed to lead our team."

The official stated: "We are aware and we already have evidence that we have had coaches before, and what probably prevented us from reaching the goals that the federation and the country have."

"We are trying to do the calculations well so that the coach to be announced will satisfy the fans so we cannot face the challenges we have experienced in the past," Milambo noted.

Taifa Stars' new head coach will begin his task when Tanzania returns to the pitch in March 2023 to take on Uganda in the third round game of Group F of qualifiers for the 2023 African Nations Cup finals.

Tanzania has one point from two games of the 2023 AFCON qualifiers after settling for a 1-1 draw with Niger at Stade de l'Amitié, Cotonou in Benin on June 4, 2022, and losing 2-0 to Algeria in Dar es Salaam on June 8, 2022.

Stars' hopes of securing qualification for the high-profile continental tournament will be at stake when they face Uganda in March.

The other teams in qualifiers' Group F are Algeria, the group leader with six points, and Niger which has collected two points while Uganda has one point as is the case with Tanzania.

The 2023 African Nations Cup qualifiers will end on September 22, with a total of 24 teams securing qualification for the final tournament, including Ivory Coast, who qualify automatically as hosts.

Simba SC out to put Coastal Union to the sword once more



Simba SC players (L-R) Jimmyson Mwanuke, Pape Ousmane Sakho, Yusuph Mhlu, Gadiel Michael, and Peter Banda, jubilate after Mhlu scored a goal in the 2021/22 Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) last eight's match against Mwanza's Pamba FC that took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

FIVE-time Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) tournament winners Simba SC will welcome Coastal Union to Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam for a round of 32's tie to be played in the evening.

Simba SC assistant coach Juma Mgunda will standby for the absent head coach Roberto Oliveira against his former club Coastal Union, where he spent much of his years as a player and coach.

The Msimbazi Reds secured a resounding 8-0 victory over Eagles SC in the previous round to set up a contest with Coastal Union, nicknamed 'Wagosi wa Kaya', who beat second-tier side Tanga Middle Age, 3-1 at the home venue.

While closing the six-point gap to this season's Premier League leaders Yanga will be high on Simba SC's technical bench agenda, the latter now

turn their attention back to the ASFC tournament, seeking to reclaim the title they surrendered to their age-old rivals last season.

Simba SC enters Saturday's contest in fine form at the home venue after winning each of their last nine games at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium across all competitions.

They have already beaten Coastal Union in the NBC Premier League this season, the aforementioned

3-0 away win last month, while they have also won two of their last three home meetings against the same opponents without conceding, so Mgunda and co should be confident of keeping their rivals quiet.

Mgunda is unlikely to make too many changes, if any, to his starting lineup, although the likes of Henock Inonga and Moses Phiri will all be hoping to force their way back into the side having missed

several matches due to injuries.

Congolese striker Jean Baleke who scored on his debut for Simba SC against Dodoma Jiji FC could retain his place up front ahead of Phiri who might not be 100% fit to start.

Since their victory in the ASFC tournament six weeks ago, Coastal Union has failed to win their last seven NBC Premier League games.

The Tanga outfit conceded

ed nine goals in the process, with a 0-0 draw at home to Kagera Sugar followed by a 1-0 loss by Geita Gold FC on Tuesday.

They have subsequently slipped to the 14th spot in the Premier League table and stay only four points clear of the bottom two outfits.

There will be a total of five other fixtures for the showdown on Saturday afternoon.

Kinondoni Municipal Council FC is set to welcome Championship League side Copco FC at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam while at Liti Stadium there will be a face-off between hosts Singida Big Stars and Ruvu Shooting.

Geita Gold FC will lock horns with lower division side Nyanumbu United at Nyanumbu Girls Secondary School Stadium in Geita.

African Sports will travel to Dodoma to face Dandee at Jamhuri Stadium. Also on display on Saturday is a much anticipated regional derby between Mbeya Kwanza FC and Mbeya City FC at Majimaji Stadium, Songea.

Four fixtures are scheduled for Sunday, defending champions Yanga will be at home coming up against Rhino Rangers while 2021 edition's finalists Namungo FC entertains Ihefu SC.

Tanzania Prisons travel to Lake Tanganyika Stadium, Kigoma to face Mashujaa FC while Kagera Sugar hosts Ken Gold FC at Kaitaba Stadium in Kagera.

Aga Khan SC plots Caravans Cricket Club downfall in Gymkhana Shield tourney semis

By Guardian Reporter

AGA Khan SC cricketers will be all out to spring a surprise on the Cello/Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield showdown favourites, Caravans Cricket Club, in the second semi-final to be held at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club today.

The anxiously awaited matchup will bring together outfits that have, in recent years, been holding sway in almost all tournaments that have been taking place in the city.

Caravans Cricket Club comes into the tie as strong favourites, having finished first in Group A with a 2.4848 net run rate following victory in all five ties the club has participated in.

The outfit is in a great run, boasting of an unbeaten run having recorded a total of 655 runs and given away 500 runs in the five clashes.

The Group A leader has so far only trailed third-placed Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC) in the total runs scored, as the latter ended its campaign with the highest number, 702 runs, whilst leaking 509 runs.



Cricketers making Aga Khan SC in group picture ahead of this season's Cello/Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield showdown's tie between the club and Aruti Aces Cricket Club held in Dar es Salaam last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GYMKHANA CRICKET CLUB

Aga Khan SC's late onslaught had the outfit taking second place in Group B, trailing group leader, Aruti Aces Cricket Club, which has already made it to the showdown's final.

The Ayzaz Jasani-led Aga Khan SC made certain of its qualification for the last four with a thumping 71-run win over Dar Cricket Club (DCC) in a clash that took place last Sunday.

The experienced all-rounder, Abhik Patwa, is highly expected to be one of the cricketers that Aga Khan SC will depend on for suc-

cess in today's clash.

The veteran was in impressive form at the crease when his outfit locked horns with DCC, blasting unbeaten 108 runs from 45 balls (10 boundaries and six sixes) which won the duel for the former.

Caravans Cricket Club has, among others, gifted cricketers Amal Rajeevan, Kassim Nassor, Jitin Pratap Singh, and Adersh Dileep who are set to exhibit their virtuosity in search of a win and a place in the final.

Winners of today's semi-final duel will come up against Aruti Aces Cricket Club in the

showdown's final at the same venue the following day.

Aruti Aces Cricket Club, which is equally the tournament favourite, booked a place in the final with a comprehensive four-wicket win over Pak Stars in the first semi-final duel which took place last Sunday. The outfits battling it out in this season's showpiece have been placed in groups A and B.

Group A consists of Caravans Cricket Club, GP, Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC), Pak Stars, Union Sports Club, and Gymkhana Cricket Club.

Aruti Aces, Upanga Sports Club, Aga Khan SC, Annadil Burhani Club, Dar Cricket Club (DCC), and Lions Cricket Club have been put in Group B. The ongoing edition is sponsored by Cello/Ruby's Magic and Co, as well as long-time sponsors, General Petroleum (GP). Other sponsors are Planet Fitness, Gem Point, ETG, and Pepsi.

Cello/Ruby's Magic and Co has moreover sponsored a special cash prize to be handed over to batsmen scoring centuries and wicket-takers posting hat-tricks in the showdown.

This season's edition of the tournament was officially launched at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club on November 6 last year.

The jerseys for clubs taking part in the showdown were handed out to the outfits' skipper in presence of various supporters and stakeholders.

The showpiece's organizers stated that exciting matchups made up of old and new rivalries have always been in store for cricket followers in the city that will watch the tournament's ties during week-ends.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

