



National Pg 2 Kongwa project to fight climate change



National Pg 3 Egypt to make Tanzania industrial hub



National Pg 6 Geita receives 19bn/- for development



Clean energy, rapid transit: Dar, Kigali comparing notes

By Guardian Correspondent

DAR ES SALAAM regional commissioner Amos Makalla (pictured) recently visited Rwanda's capital, Kigali, for an extensive briefing on what the city to be ranked the cleanest in Africa, while his counterparts intend to make a visit to look at the bus rapid transit system for application there.

Opening a meeting of local and international environment protection stakeholders in Dar es Salaam on the use of safe and clean energy instead of fuel oil that pollutes the air, he said that Kigali is making strides in that direction/ "The city of Dar es Salaam can also improve its air quality and enjoy the status of a clean city," he said, citing reports that the commercial capital is number six for cleanliness in Africa.

"The Rwandese want to come to Tanzania for exposure on how we had succeeded in the city rapid transport services," he said, affirming that the meeting was intended to focus on how to reduce pollution, that is has come at the right time.

The RC stood in for the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister in the President's Office, Angellah Kairuki, where he aired the view that in order to attain success in curbing air pollution, it is important to start using electricity for motor vehicle powering instead of liquid fuels.

As the city of Dar es Salaam has a population of six million, it is important to have in place



The city of Dar es Salaam can also improve its air quality and enjoy the status of a clean city

procedures to conserve the environment, especially having vehicles that use electricity instead of liquid fuel, he stated.

Dr Edwin Mhede, Dar es Salaam Rapid Transport (DART) director general, told the meeting involving 16 individual participants from 16 countries that road transportation contributes close to 67 percent of air pollution.

There is hence great need to adopt technologies helping to check and finally eradicate the menace of air pollution.

He referred to structural challenges calling for adopting policies attracting investors in adapting current vehicles to electricity use, while at present there are move to shift to using natural gas instead of petrol or diesel and at times kerosene.

The government has invested 2trn/- in the rapid transport infrastructure from phase one to five, he stated, elaborating that this is a huge investment whose value can best be reaped by using buses that use clean and low cost technology.

Officials of municipal authorities and transport agencies from 18 countries had visited Tanzania to take a close look at the DRT project, he added.

Marburg scare: WHO sends in emergency response unit

By Guardian Reporter



A member of the business community based at Dar es Salaam's Ferry fish market (gesturing) addresses Sharik Choughule (L), councillor for Dar es Salaam's Kivukoni ward, and other officials yesterday on what he called "challenges commonly facing us". Photo: Guardian Correspondent

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has deployed an emergency team to Kagera Region to carry out further epidemiological investigations following an outbreak of Marburg Virus Disease (MVD).

Dr Matshidiso Moeti, its regional director for Africa said in a statement released on Tuesday that efforts by the government to establish the cause of the disease is a clear indication of the determination to effectively respond to the outbreak, the first ever outbreak of the viral disease in the country.

WHO is working with the government to rapidly scale up control measures to halt the spread of the virus and end the outbreak as soon as possible, she said, noting that the WHO emergency team will focus on active case finding in the community.

It will also look at local health care facilities to identify more contacts so as to provide them with appropriate care, she stated.

"The lessons learnt, and progress made during other recent outbreaks should stand the country in good stead as it confronts this latest challenge," the director asserted, promising to work closely with the national health authorities to save lives. Soon after the government confirmed an outbreak of MVD in Bukoba District, Kagera Region.

The MVD outbreak was confirmed four days after reports of a contagious disease similar to the Ebola viral threat that emerged in the district, killing five people including a medical staffer, who developed symptoms of fever, vomiting, bleeding from various body openings and kidney failure.

District authorities were on Tuesday monitoring 160 people suspected to have been in contact with infected persons, with the response situation already prepared by response measures relating to other health emergencies including COVID-19, cholera and dengue fever.

A WHO strategic risk assessment last September indicated that the country is at high risk for infectious disease outbreaks, with Tanzania not having recorded a

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Govt readying cooking energy transition plans

By Guardian Reporter

ENERGY minister January Makamba has announced a national launch of the country's vision for shifting to the use of clean energy for cooking, in the next three months.

The minister made the remarks in Dodoma on Tuesday when outlining the government's plans for a drive to adopt clean energy for cooking to the ruling party women's wing, its executive committee along with regional and district chairpersons and secretaries.

They were convened as they are



Rice is sold from 2,500/- and 3,500/- and hasn't changed since last month

expected to assist the government in pushing the clean cooking energy agenda by spreading awareness and feasibility of the shift to the wing's branches in administrative wards countrywide, he said.

Implementing that vision includes setting out steps to be taken by the government to make sure 80 per cent of Tanzanians use clean energy for cooking by the year 2033, he said.

"Statistics show that only eight per cent of Tanzanians use clean energy for cooking," he said, noting that President

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PMO sets out measures over intra-regional cholera threats

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

HEALTH ministry authorities and regional commissioners have been directed to work together to limit chances of cross border infection of cholera in border regions as limited outbreaks rock some neighbouring countries.

George Simbachawene, the Policy, Parliamentary Affairs and Coordination state minister in the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday that the government has directed the Health ministry to set up the framework for working in collaboration with regional authorities to check the cholera spread threats.

He said that neighboring DRC, Malawi and Zambia have been grappling with cholera outbreaks, underlining that this situation ought to alert respective authorities to exercise readiness and plug loopholes for cross-border spread of the disease.

He issued these instructions when

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Members of the Taturu tribal community pictured at Mwamayoka village in Igunga District, Tabora Region, on Monday signing documents on an agreement to the effect that they accept the idea of having the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project pipeline pass through areas they have traditionally used and recognised as cemeteries. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Marburg scare: WHO sends in emergency response unit

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Marburg case, Ebola or other, which were sprouting in bouts in nearby countries.

Marburg virus disease is highly virulent and causes hemorrhagic fever, with a fatality ratio of up to 88 percent, much in the same way as the Ebola virus disease, a similar virus.

Illness caused by Marburg virus begins abruptly, with high fever, severe headache and severe malaise. Many patients develop severe hemorrhagic symptoms within seven days, experts affirm.

The virus is transmitted to people from fruit bats and spreads among humans through direct contact with the bodily fluids of infected people, surfaces and materials.

PMO sets out measures over intra-regional cholera threats

FROM PAGE 1

launching the national multi sectoral programme for 2023 to 2027 to counter the threat of cholera outbreaks in the country. Liaisons need to be initiated between the ministry and regional commissioners, district commissioners and lower levels of local government in regions bordering the three countries to prevent cross border infections, he stated.

Citing a report by the World Health Organization (WHO) showing the situation up to March 8, he said Malawi had experienced 52,167 cases of cholera, claiming the lives of 1,620 people up to that moment.

A total of 72 cases of cholera was reported countrywide from January to early this month, in which 13 cases were reported for Ruvuma, seven for Kigoma, 34 cases for Katavi and 18 in Rukwa region, with three people losing their lives, he said.

Water authorities across the country to cure water before distributing it to the public, he said, noting that poorly treated or untreated water was a major avenue for the outbreak of the disease.

"Cholera is a shameful disease rooted in poor hygiene and poverty," he declared, urging wider cooperation between private sector stakeholders and the development partners to limit its outbreak in the country.

The multi-sector programme is meant to serve as a forum to improve coordination of effective interventions against cholera, with the focus being on preventing

disease rather than cure eventual patients, he stated.

He cited lack of safe and clean water, consumption of poor-hygienic foods and unhealthy latrines as the chief drivers of the disease, needing joint efforts from different ministries and sectors in implementing the vital programme.

Angela Kauleni, the country director for Save the Children, said poor hygiene, including unreliable accessibility to clean and safe water along with a poor hand washing culture are key drivers in most cholera-prone areas.

The NGO has conducted several helpful interventions in some regions and districts, including Katavi, Manyara, Kigoma-Tanganyika, Babati and Uvinza since January, she said.

The focus was on spot training, awareness raising plus rolled out, diverse humanitarian support for the victims, she specified.

In pastoralist communities for instance, there are negative traditions that fuel the outbreak of cholera. Household heads in areas NGO officials visited mostly rejected the use of aqua tablets, she stated.

Shalini Bahuguna, the UNICEF country representative, said launching the strategy was part of fostering human rights in the country, as it pushes forward efforts to attain the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Dr Zabuloni Yoti, the World Health Organization (WHO) representative said cholera was a preventable disease, so the programme is geared to stamp out drivers of the disease within local communities.

NGO recommends alternative means of disciplining students

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

A non-governmental organisation, HakiElimu, has recommended other means to discipline students in schools instead of canning and other punishments which are seen as violence to children.

HakiElimu has condemned the death of a 14-year Form One student at Mwinuko secondary school, Gloria Faustine who died last week allegedly meting out punishment.

Mwanza Regional Police Commander Wilbroad Mutafungwa confirmed reports that Gloria was allegedly punished by her teacher.

Briefing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, HakiElimu executive director Dr John Kalage urged the government to revisit stakeholders' recommendations upon the use of Kiswahili language in secondary school curricular.

Dr Kalage noted that decisions to use Kiswahili language in secondary schools will save students from a wave of punishments by their teachers.

He said most of the students joining secondary school education, especially those from public schools are incapable of speaking English hence the need for the government to revisit stakeholder's recommendations about the language as a medium of education to also benefit students who are not conversant in speaking English.

"The death of Gloria Faustine has reminded us of the stakeholder's recommendation on the use of Kiswahili in secondary school teaching as it is in no doubt that a great number of pupils joining

secondary education will be capable of using Kiswahili in learning and speaking," he said.

Dr Kalage who is also an activist in the sector said it is time the concept of 'positive punishment' is stressed on internship training for teachers so that punishments given to students aim to endorse knowledge instead of causing harm.

He said one of the 2005 education plans, '2013 version' on secondary curriculum aims to ensure students master effectively the use of Kiswahili. However English and other foreign languages should also be taught as subjects at all education levels.

"The community and mostly education stakeholders need to understand that for a student to master English as a second language does not necessarily need blocking the use of the mother language. The existing principles that say, 'Speak English only' or 'No English No Service' puts barrier on learning processes of students," he added.

Godfrey Boniventura, HakiElimu Head of Programmes said the best tactics that can help students master articulately speaking English is the strong bond between teachers and students.

"Research has shown that the language used to process mind aspects before they are put into implementation are done effectively with mother language. It is never done appropriately with the use of second languages," he said.

He said countries like China who emphasize the use of Chinese language as first language in speaking and learning are winning in the social economic aspects.



President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan is briefed by Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) managing director, Frank Nyabundege (R), during the launch of block farming at Chamwino in Dodoma Region on Monday. TADB provided agricultural tools worth 500m/- to 812 participants of the 'Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT) agribusiness programme'. Left is the Minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt readying cooking energy transition plans

FROM PAGE 1

Samia Suluhu Hassan has issued directives for a policy drive to ensure that within 10 years the rate of shifting to cleaner energy rises to 80 per cent.

The vision, strategy and direction was formulated in that context, as well as establishing a fund for clean cooking energy for subsidies to enable people from low income 'to

withstand the price of cooking gas," he said, underlining that "it is a big undertaking, but it can be done."

He said that the sixth phase government has decided to fully address the cooking energy issue as among efforts to improve the lives of Tanzanians, particularly women.

The development of Tanzanian women is being threatened on how she searches for energy sources for cooking, he said, affirming that

experts say one hour in the kitchen is the same as smoking one cigarette a day, which impedes prospects for women's development.

Using unclean energy for cooking such as firewood has adverse effects like respiratory ailments, an unsafe environment when fetching firewood especially from wild animals.

It also affects girls, hindered from private study to fetch firewood for

cooking, he stated, handing over 400 gas cylinders to UWT for every region and 1,500 cylinders to the UWT headquarters as part of the awareness campaign.

UWT national chairperson Mary Chatanda said the cylinders will be used to mobilise others to use clean energy for cooking, a vow expressed with CCM Mainland vice chairman Abdulrahman Kinana in attendance.



Finance and Planning minister, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (L), presents to the British trade commissioner for the African region, John Humphrey, a copy of a magazine on the achievements the government has made during the two years of the Samia Suluhu Hassan presidency. The event was held at the Tanzania Embassy offices in London yesterday. Photo: Ben Mwaipaja

Kongwa District project to battle climate change

By Guardian Reporter

DR Omary Nkullo, District Executive Director for Kongwa in Dodoma Region, has launched a project to fight the effects of climate change for the district's rural women.

The project, dubbed Rural Women Climate Change Adaptation (RUWOCCA) is being implemented by Environment Media Agenda (EMA), a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) based in Spain.

Launching the project, Dr Nkullo called upon the women to register their groups to be able to benefit from council loans to boost their beekeeping projects.

The RUWOCCA project is benefiting 100 women in tree planting for firewood, shade, beekeeping, fruits and the use of cooking stoves.

Presenting beehives to the group members and later visiting a seedling block, Dr Nkullo said the council is pleased to witness EMA efforts in empowering women to fight the effects of climate change and that the Council was ready to work together with EMA to make sure the RUWOCCA project succeeds to better lives for the women of Kongwa.

Regarding tree planting, Dr Nkullo said Kongwa District has a strategy to plant 1.5 million

trees this year (2023) and that 5,500 seedlings prepared by the RUWOCCA project will help to attain the district's target as part of the overall strategy to make Dodoma Region green.

Meanwhile, EMA chairman and founder, Secelela Balisidyaa thanked Kongwa DED, Dr Nkullo and the government in general for recognizing and value NGOs' contribution in bringing development to Tanzanians.

On the other hand, EMA Managing Director, Balbina Makoi said Kongwa District was picked to implement the project due to its geography and drought considerations, and called on the

project's beneficiaries to work hard in fighting the effects of climate change.

RUWOCCA Project Coordinator, James Nkini thanked women who came forward to implement the project, saying it was quite clear changes are being discerned in their lives especially in enhancing their incomes especially from sale of honey.

RUWOCCA Project Officer, Nyemo Sawasawa has called on women to come out during various training seminars in regard to beekeeping and how to make cooking stoves.

RUWOCCA is the 12th project to be implemented by EMA since its establishment in 2008.



Zanzibar First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman speaks to South Unguja Region officials, Street local government leaders and Ward Councillors on the government's plan to make Zanzibar green on Tuesday. Photo: FVPO

MNH, China to facilitate provision of super special pediatric services

By Henry Mwangonde

MUHIMBILI National Hospital (MNH) has signed an agreement with Hunan Children's Hospital of China to work together in knowledge and technology transfer to facilitate provision of pediatric super special services.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, MNH executive director Prof Mohammed Janabi said the MoU will help the country's main referral hospital with exchange of professionals with the Chinese entity which is advanced in the area.

"This is the largest hospital in China, it has 2000 beds for children only, it is also the first to conduct liver and kidney transplants for children in China for long time ago," he said.

According to Prof Janabi, MNH plans to expand its pediatric department into a fully-fledged children's hospital saying the agreement will be a stepping stone to achieve the plans.

Prof Janabi said currently, MNH pediatric ward has 326 beds and the plan is to have enough experts who will accommodate a national

pediatric hospital.

He said the agreement will help in building capacity for MNH to establish such a hospital because Hunan is more advanced in technology.

He added that Hunan hospital houses 2000 beds for children only with MNH planning to have a children's hospital in the country.

Economic and Commercial Counselor from the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania Chu Kun hailed the government of Tanzania for the tireless effort to ensure the agreement was reached.

He said the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania will continue to work in collaboration with other stakeholders to strengthen and prolong the relationship between the two countries.

Head of Referral Services at the Ministry of Health Dr Asha Mahita said through the agreement, establishment of specialized services at MNH will be a possibility.

"The government has invested so much in the lower level hospitals, therefore this agreement today will be very important for establishment of such services," she said.

Egyptian firm pledges to making Tanzania Africa's industrial hub

By Guardian Reporter

AN Egyptian firm-El Sewedy Electric is set to make Tanzania as its main hub for the production of some of its main products including transformers and electric cables in the African continent.

Eng. Ibrahim Qamer, Elsewedy Electric Tanzania managing director made the pledge yesterday when speaking at the transformer manufacturing plant in Kigamboni District, Dar es Salaam during the permanent secretary for Investment visit at the factory

He said: "We're committed to ensure Tanzania feeds the markets which were once supplied directly by Egyptian firm-El Sewedy Electric company to as far as South Africa, Kenya, DRC, Rwanda, Burundi and many more."

Elsewedy Electric MD Eng. Qamer said they are committed to implement the project and have requested fast track on the finalisation of land issues so that they can realise the promise made to HE during her visit to our headquarters in Egypt.

He said that production capacity 15000 cables per annum Transformers 2800 per annum.

Dr Tausi Kida, Permanent Secretary at the President Office - Investment commended Elsewedy Electric for the state of the art factory which she said has so far invested over 40 million dollars and will invest above 60 million dollars once the project is complete.

Dr Kida said the Elsewedy Electric project was a result of the President Samia Suluhu Hassan's initiatives who visited Egypt in 2021 and encourage Elsewedy Group to establish a factory in Tanzania and the commissioning of the project began in December 2021 and now

the factory is planning to expand by establishing an Industrial Park which will accommodate over 100 factories.

The production of transformers aluminium and copper cables has attracted over 400 jobs where 35 of them were taken to Egypt for capacity building to ensure they perform at the required level.

Before these products were manufactured in Egypt but currently they are manufactured here in Kigamboni a move that would enhance foreign currency for Tanzania.

In another move, Dr Kida has advised Elsewedy Electric to fast-track the process for the industrial park investment in Kikongo in Mlandizi where the government has allocated land for their project.

The PS said the government is keen to see the project is implemented and we are ready to provide necessary support to ensure the project is implemented on time.



We're committed to ensure Tanzania feeds the markets which were once supplied directly by Egyptian firm-El Sewedy Electric company to as far as South Africa, Kenya, DRC, Rwanda, Burundi and many more

ADVERTISEMENT

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below services at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-23-03-01	Concrete supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available to commence drilling from May 2023. Able to provide 4,200m³ of pumpable concrete. Able to provide at least 2 (two) Agicars to transport concrete to site. Capable batch plant with a capacity of 13.5 m³ an hour Able to provide mine site approved equipment. Able to comply with Barrick's Safety standards and management systems. Able to supply references for 3 x similar project scopes. Able to install, operate, test and maintain all the equipment in good workable condition in accordance with good drilling practice. Able to submit an acceptable localisation plan and obtain an approval from relevant government authorities.

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead referencing the work package reference number should your company qualify as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- BRELA - Register of Companies detailed information certificate
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration
- Years' service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 1800hrs on the 30th March 2023. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

If you do not hear from us in 21days after the deadline date, please consider your EOI unsuccessful.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited

REQUEST FOR TENDER

South Dump Waste Rock Rehandling for Gokona Box cut and East Raise Bore

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

Pre-qualification Criteria

No.	Reference no.	Description of work	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	NM007/2023	South Dump Waste rock rehandling for Gokona Box cut and East Raise bore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Local Content Compliance & Ownership, CRB Registration & Class ii. Ready to source and mobilize the following equipment that deemed necessary to perform the intended work. Excavator, loader, Dozer, and Dump Trucks. iii. Provision of the experienced labour force working with heavy-duty equipment. iv. Available to commence rehandle of waste rock from April -2023 and complete within 8 months. v. Able to comply with Barrick's Safety standards and management systems. vi. Able to submit an acceptable localisation plan and obtain an approval from relevant government authorities.

Expression of interest

If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to nm.proposal@barrick.com

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

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

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of NMGM

Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI 29 March 2023

North Mara Gold Mine Limited



D.LIGHT TANZANIA LIMITED

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) PROVISION OF CALL CENTER MANPOWER SERVICES.

d.light is a global leader and pioneer in delivering affordable solar-powered solutions designed for the two billion people in the developing world without access to reliable energy. d.light provides distributed solar energy solutions for households and small businesses that are transforming the way people all over the world use and pay for energy.

d.light (TZ) Ltd Request for Proposal (RFP) from all qualified Vendors in accordance with the requirements hereunder outlined.

The scope of work and deliverables

d.light (TZ) Ltd is seeking to contract a reputable firm to provide Manpower for its call center operations in Tanzania. The firm is expected to supply manpower in the following specified areas: -

- Inbound - Call Center Agents
- Outbound - Collection Agents, Welcome call Agents & KYC registration Agents
- Back-office support Agents
- Team Leaders
- Quality assurance Agents

Services to be delivered are: -

1. Inbound Call Centre Operations KPI

Key Result Area	Target
Service Level	85%
Quality Assurance	90%
First Call Resolution	90%
Repeat Calls	<10%
Call Abandon Rate (CAR)	< 5%
Net Promoter Score (NPS)	70%
Service Availability	98%
Agent Utilization	85%

2. Outbound Call Centre Operations KPI

Key Result Area	Target
Average \$ Collected per call	>3x
Utilization	80%
Contact Rate	70%
ROI (monthly)	3

3. KYC Call Centre Operations KPI

Key Result Area	Target
Activations	90%
Onboarding Score	90%
Process adherence	90%
Utilization	70%

- The manpower firm is expected to have sufficient financial capability to deploy the said manpower in the Customer experience center. d.light (TZ) Ltd will honor monthly payments when service is rendered.
- The Supplier shall provide a training for new hires and ensure that new employees shall become fully productive within 1 week of completing training.
- The supplier shall provide the quality assurance team, which can provide oversight and guidance on quality standards and expectations.
- The Manpower supplied should be adequately skilled to receive calls, make outgoing calls and verify sales.
- The manpower supplied must be graduated, have a diploma, or have a degree and be well versed in performing customer care and debt collection tasks for delayed payments.
- The Manpower supplied must provide a team leader who is able to identify and secure the capacity necessary to meet service-level targets efficiently. Create and manage an effective staff scheduling system.
- Ability to plan department-planned off-phone activities around demand spikes and adjust schedules to account for last-minute changes in demand or capacity.
- The supplied manpower will be under the sole responsibility of the manpower supplier. Interested manpower supply firms should quote applicable rates monthly; including all statutory expenses such as NSSF; WCF, SDL etc.
- The manpower supplier firm shall be responsible for making payments to the supplied manpower by 28th of each month from own sources and subsequently raise an invoice for reimbursement which will be verified on the basis of actual Man power supplied
- The manpower firm is expected to have a buffer of resources to cover planned and unplanned workforce absences, such as sick leave, maternity leave.
- The manpower supplier firm shall be governed by the laws of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Quotation

The prices quoted should be in Tanzanian Shilling (TZS).

Submission

- Company profile.
- Client recommendation letter.
- Certificates.

Company or individuals who wish to express their interest should do so in writing to tender-tz@dlight.com by **23 April, 2023 not later than 17:00 Hours.**

Further information

Questions about the content of this tender should be submitted to:

D. Light TZ Limited, 57 Haile Selassie Road, P.O. Box 1378 Uzunguni - Arusha or by emailing tender-tz@dlight.com

www.dlight.com

Minerals ministry's budget should boost levy collection, says Biteko

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Minister for Minerals, Dr Doto Biteko has called upon workers and staff of the Ministry to make sure the budget set aside for FY 2023/24 is fully utilised to boost the collection of levies in order to attain the 10 per cent goal in the contribution to the national income.

He also called on the ministry staff and experts to concentrate on the strategic mineral development, development of small miners, adding value to the minerals and empowering institutions under the ministry.

Dr Biteko made the remarks here on Sunday when opening the ministry's Workers Council that was also attended by officials from institutions under the ministry as well as representatives from Tanzania Union of Government and Health Employees (TUGHE).

He directed the Ministry's Permanent Secretary to supervise the money obtained and implement their responsibilities by adhering to the ministry's priorities without forgetting workers' rights and their emoluments.

He also used the occasion to commend ministry workers and staff saying despite budgetary challenges, they were not hindered to perform their responsibilities.

Meanwhile, the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Kheri Mahimbali said among others, there have been a good implementation in regard to the goals set by the ministry during FY 2022/23 that saw the increase of the ministry's contribution to the national income in the Third quarter of 2022 (July - September 2022 that reached 9.7 per cent as compared to 7.9 per cent for the same period in 2021.

Hementionedotherachievements

as including the increase of levies collection remitted to the Treasury in the period July 2022 to February 2023 that reached 457.23bn/- as compared to 412.09bn/- for the same period in 2021/22.

He added that amendments to laws and regulations have enabled the formalisation of the mineral processing.

Earlier, conveying his greeting at the meeting, a representative from TUGHE headquarters in Dar es Salaam said the trade union will continue working together with the ministry, saying TUGHE has witnessed great achievements in the mineral sector.

Closing the meeting, Deputy Minister for Minerals, Dr Steven Kiruswa stressed upon ministry workers to closely work together including exchange of information that will enable full implementation of the ministry's responsibilities.



Tigo Pesa chief officer Angelica Pesho (C) speaks during the launch of the Tigo Pesa Mastercard internet card in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Looking on are Selcom managing director Sameer Hirji (R) and the Mastercard representative Oyuga Lenin. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tigo, Selcom, Mastercard partner to launch online digital payment solution in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

TIGO Tanzania, Selcom and Mastercard Inc. have announced a strategic partnership that will see the three industry leaders revolutionise the digital payment ecosystem by enabling convenient online payments globally through the Tigo Mastercard virtual service via the Selcom's card-as-a-service (CaaS) platform.

Angelica Pesho Tigo's Chief Officer for Mobile Financial Services (MFS) said that the partnership will empower Tigo Pesa customers to transact on global payments platforms and benefit from Mastercard's technology which will enable new digital commerce opportunities for consumers and merchants, through simple and secure payment experiences.

Angelica said the launch of the virtual card will ensure Tigo's ability to provide its customers access to products and services previously a preserve of physical credit card holders while diversifying its mobile money portfolio.

"The partnership will result in a wide range of cutting-edge digital payment solutions being introduced in Tanzania and connect Tigo customers in Tanzania to a global online market place across multiple digital payment use cases and provide access to Mastercard's global network of merchants," she said.

She noted: "As the leading digital lifestyle company in Tanzania we are always on the lookout for such partnerships, our customers will now be able to complete online transactions that require MasterCard credentials, while using funds from their Tigo Pesa wallets. It also means that this service will allow customers to quickly and conveniently pay for goods and services in the international market, we hope this partnership will improve user experience and accessibility to a vast array of MFS services".

"This partnership further cements our position as a provider of choice for Mobile financial services and we believe this venture will increase the number of transactions for cross-border business, this showcases that Tigo Pesa is a fully-fledged financial services in Tanzania."

"The virtual card allows for Tigo consumers to easily make payments at any online purchase point where Mastercard is accepted without the need for a bank account or credit card. To create the virtual card, customers should dial Tigo Pesa menu (*150*01#) or use Tigo Pesa App and follow the simple steps. Once the card is created, the virtual card is ready for use for online payments," Angelica said.

Sameer Hirji, Selcom's Executive Director expressed his enthusiasm for the groundbreaking

collaboration.

"At Selcom, we take pride in our unwavering commitment to innovation and excellence in the payment industry. We are thrilled to join forces with esteemed partners like Tigo Pesa and Mastercard to unveil our state-of-the-art mobile money wallet-linked virtual card. By constantly investing in our infrastructure and refining our market presence, we aim to deliver cutting-edge, dependable solutions that foster growth and success for our partners and customers alike."

Ngozi Megwa, Senior Vice President, Digital Partnerships EEMEA, Mastercard said: "Mastercard recognizes that consumers today are looking for simple and secure financial products that add more value to their daily lives. Our innovation approach is focused on enabling the digital transformation of our partners so that millions of customers can enjoy seamless access to a global payments eco-system with a superior user experience. Our technology is fully equipped to empower our partners to launch innovative and relevant solutions that will create a strong value proposition for all our customers. With our deepened relationships with the telecommunications industry players, this partnership with Tigo embeds our commitment to further expand customer choice and access to digital commerce."

Financial constraints hold back pyrethrum research, board told

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

LACK of funds has contributed to pyrethrum research not being conducted for over 20 years, the situation that has reduced the crop's production.

This was revealed here yesterday by the country's National Pyrethrum Coordinator, Billesi Mzirano at the meeting of Tanzania Pyrethrum Board (TPB) members who visited seed farms at the Uyole Centre of Tanzania Agricultural Institute (TARI-Uyole).

Mzirano said financial constraints

has undermined pyrethrum production efforts and caused its poor performance.

"We admit that there hasn't been any research done on the crop in regard to having quality seeds and our farmers have been cultivating it through traditional practice thereby reaping meagre harvests," he said.

TPB director, Lucas Ayo said the government has started addressing the issue and a sum of 200m/- has been provided for conducting pyrethrum research on quality seeds.

Hesaidthemoneywillbeprovided

to all research centres countrywide that conduct pyrethrum research aimed at coming up with new seeds to withstand the effects of climate change.

He appealed to agriculture researchers to use their expertise to invent a new seed breed that will be friendly to the environment and also advised farmers to apply better land use to reap more harvests.

TPB Vice Chairman, Gideon Mapunda said the country produces 3,200 tonnes of pyrethrum but their goal for the 2024/25 farming season is to produce 9,000 tonnes after getting new quality seeds.

PPB Member Damas Lubuva said among obstacles that hinder pyrethrum production is lack of quality seeds to farmers.



Dr John Kalage (2nd -R) HakiElimu executive director briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on recommendations to the government following the death of Gloria Faustine (14) Mwinuko secondary school Form One student from Ilemela, Mwanza. She passed away allegedly serving punishment meted out to her. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

TCB in country wide farmers' registration to bolster sector

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB) has embarked on a countrywide exercise to identify and register all farmers engaging in the cultivation of the economic cash crop.

According to the TCB's director general, Marco Mtunga, the registration in the country's cotton production facet involves both farmers, those practicing organic farming as well as those adhering to conventional growing.

Among others, he detailed that the crucial exercise focuses to give the economic sector a new thrive by improving production and productivity among the involved farmers.

Furthermore, he informed that the vision was also to help improve the quality of the cotton produced across the country.

"The board is currently taking serious measures to attain professional quality control of all cotton produced by Tanzania's

farmers, the much-needed development which gears to rejuvenate the performance of the sector and thus placing the country in a comfortable position to penetrate and compete in the international cotton market," he expressed.

In further concerted efforts to advance the sector, Mtunga unveiled that the board had restricted and removed all unregistered cotton selling points, saying all cotton was now being marketed through registered Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society (AMCOS).

Together with that, he said the board was contemplating to engage the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Ukiriguru Centre and the Biosustain Company Ltd to conduct a trial project for the production of useful biopesticides for assisting the cotton farmers who are producing organically.

Mtunga observed that Tanzania was the fifth largest producer of organic cotton in the world and

in the season 2021/22, more than 30,000 cotton growers were internationally certified organic.

"Over the last years, organic cotton farmers in Tanzania have been harvesting bumper compared to their conventional peers, they received, on average, a 10-15 per cent premium on top of the farm gate price for seed cotton," he unveiled.

The DG noted that, through practicing regenerative agriculture the farmers are less vulnerable to weather extremes and pest attacks and that improved resilience of their crop production system and the use of locally produced botanical pesticides significantly reduces the cost for inputs, the impressive development that he said leads to a higher productivity of organic cotton production in Tanzania.

"The Cotton Board (TCB) is very keen to stand at forefront in working to support the organic cotton producers. Contrary to the cotton being produced through

conventional practices, organic cotton is currently attracting wider and lucrative prices at the world market and thus we have an array of reasons to assist the side since Tanzania has in many areas endowed with all potential to grow cotton through biological farming," Mtunga stated.

As per the Textile Exchange Organic Cotton Demand Insights Report 2020/21, the world-wide demand for organic cotton outweighs the production, and it is forecasted that the demand will heighten by at least 84 percent between 2020 and 2030, and over 36 global textile brands and retailers have pledged to only source sustainable cotton by 2025.

However, the world's leading producer of organic cotton, India, has difficulties increasing its production due to co-existence with the genetic modification (GM) cotton farming technology.

Tanzania, on the contrary, prohibits the use of GMO and traditionally uses less agro chemicals than other countries, the positive development that gives Tanzania a strategic opportunity to position itself as a leading producer of organic cotton in the world.

Universities, colleges challenged to equip students with basic soft skills

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

UNIVERSITIES and colleges in the country have been challenged to focus more on equipping graduates with basic soft skills that will avail them with a wide-range of employability.

Nikolaus Shome, National Development Corporation (NDC), director general threw the challenge over the weekend when speaking at a breakfast meeting in Dar es Salaam organized by College of Business Education (CBE). The college has been holding such meetings every year in order to get feedback from employers on how to improve their courses and the type of graduates they want to hire in their companies.

He said a large number of graduates lack basic soft skills such as communication skills, critical thinking and problem solving skills, which in turn bar them from competing in the competitive labor markets.

He said many employers have been looking at the high Grade Point Average (GPA) performance of a prospective employee but through that they cannot determine if the person has soft skills which is very crucial in their daily operations.

"That's why in work places many employees are missing the basics of soft skills, you may find someone who has studied accounts has A in B.com, A in Mathematics and Economics but even writing a job application letter becomes a problem," he said.

"For example, artificial intelligence cannot be avoided in the current situation because it is going to replace people in the workplace, for example, in the past if you wanted to translate a speech, you had to hire someone to translate, but now through Google you can do it," he said.

He said that due to the changes that happened, people who studied and continue to study translation of languages may find themselves jobless because the work can be done by using Google and within a short time.

He cited another example that in

the past people used to take pictures and had to wait for more than a week to get their pictures but now they use their mobile phone to take all kinds of pictures and get them instantly.

"The world is very dynamic and we cannot avoid this situation, so universities should make sure they produce people who are compatible with these changes so that they can be employed easily and work efficiently," he said.

He said that in today's world, colleges and universities must form partnerships with employers so that they can tell the graduates what they want instead of locking themselves and teaching courses that are sometimes not needed in the labor market.

"For example, today a person who teaches public finance at CBE, after teaching the theoretical part, can invite someone who is at work as a budget commissioner to explain to the students how the budget is prepared," he said.

He said that even the one who teaches the capital market when he finishes teaching the theory part should call the Chief Executive Officer of the Stock Market who will explain to the students how business is done in the stock market, a situation that will give the student reality.

He said business colleges must also look for role models to motivate students by calling them to colleges to explain how they started their businesses and the challenges they faced until they became big businesses.

He asked various employers to take the CBE students for practical training as they have received high level training and are employable.

"I congratulate CBE for this initiative to engage with employers regularly and you employers must appreciate this by sending your employees to sharpen their skills in their profession at CBE," he said.

He said that there has been a great change in business because the business education that was taught many years ago is no longer taught today.



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Integrated Approach to Sustainable Cooking Solutions Programme
Publication reference: EuropeAid/177519

The National Authorising Officer of the European Development Fund (EDF), at the Ministry of Finance and Planning, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania (GoT) is seeking proposals for activities to promote sustainable forest management including wood-fuel production in Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Dodoma, Mwanza, Pwani, Tanga and Tabora regions with financial assistance from the **Integrated Approach to Sustainable Cooking Solutions Programme under EDF**. The full guidelines for applicants are available for consultation at:

The National Authorising Officer for EDF
Ministry of Finance and Planning,
EDF - Programme Support Unit,
Treasury Main Building - Room 330, 2nd Floor
1 Madaraka Street. P.O. Box 1851
11468 Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania
E-mail address: psu@hazina.go.tz
and on the following internet site:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>

The deadline for submission of proposals is 21st June 2023 at 3:30PM (Local Time).

An information session on this call for proposals will be held on 5th April 2023 at 10:00AM (Local Time) at the Ministry of Finance and Planning, in Dar es Salaam.



HAVEN OF PEACE ACADEMY

EXPERIENCED TEACHERS NEEDED TO SERVE AND TEACH AT AN INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HAVEN OF PEACE ACADEMY

Haven of Peace Academy (HOPAC) is a faith-based educational institution owned and operated by Haven of Peace Trust. HOPAC was founded in 1994 for children of missionaries and has evolved into a Christian international school with a diverse student population that includes children of missionaries and full-time Christian service workers, children of expats working in the non-profit and for-profit sectors, and children of Tanzanians working in the non-profit, for-profit, and public sectors. The school is located in Kunduchi at the junction of Salasala Road and Bagamoyo Road in Kinondoni Municipal in Dar es Salaam and is currently inviting applications for vacancies of competent, experienced, and qualified teachers.

The following positions are open for the school year 2023/2024 starting August 2023:

- * Business Teacher Secondary
- * Psychology/Sociology Secondary
- * ICT Secondary
- * Art Secondary
- * Head of PE and Sports
- * Geography teacher Secondary

JOB SUMMARY

SECONDARY TEACHER

- * Creating a learning environment in which each student in the class is enabled to work.
- * Instructing the students in accordance with the school curriculum.
- * Maintaining discipline within the classroom to enable students to work and learn.
- * Maintaining the Christian ethos of the school within the classroom.
- * Creating and maintaining a classroom that is esthetically pleasing and conducive to learning.
- * Attending and participating in regular staff meetings and in-service trainings sponsored by the school
- * Maintaining and submitting weekly lesson plans and assessments and providing topic web details.
- * Keeping records of students' progress as appropriate and providing written reports each term for the parents.
- * Being present in the classroom at least 15 minutes before school starts and at least 15 minutes after school is out.
- * Agreeing to adhere to any reasonable request made by the Principal or Director.

HEAD OF PE AND SPORT

- * Develop and Oversee implementation of physical education curricula for all grade levels
- * Create a learning environment in which each child in the class is enabled to work.
- * Coordinate on and off-campus sports events and coaching of sports teams if needed
- * Ensure proper maintenance of sports facilities to serve curricular needs of the school and students in collaboration with Operations and other departments
- * Work closely with Principals and other staff to develop and enforce a sports/academic code of conduct which is consistent with the mission, ethos and goals of the school and which promotes good sportsmanship and welcomes competing teams and guests
- * Integrate discipleship into the sports program so that students build confidence and character in Christ above their sports ability
- * Any other duties as assigned by the Senior School Principal or Director that align with the sports program

The ideal teacher will be self-motivated, a team player, adaptable, and willing to learn with experience working in multicultural, international settings, and fluent in English.

HOPAC follows the Cambridge curriculum and is an ACSI/MSA accredited school.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- * Bachelor's degree in education or subject-specific field
- * Teaching license, qualification, or certification
- * Committed Evangelical Christian
- * Fluent in English, the medium of instruction
- * Minimum of three years teaching experience, preferably in a multicultural setting
- * Experience teaching Cambridge International Curriculum preferred

If you are confident that you match the above criteria, please send your Application letter and CV only by email to personnel@hopac.sc.tz to arrive on or before **7th April 2023**, or physically addressed to Personnel Department, Haven of Peace Academy, P. O. Box 70027, Dar es Salaam, TANZANIA.

'Access to WASH services key human right, let us honor World Water Day'

By Correspondent Mohammed Hammie

"World Water Day will mean a lot to the communities if this commemoration is taken more seriously and not a day to be celebrated," says Abel Dugange, Executive Director at Shahidi wa Maji, a Tanzanian Civil Society Organisation dedicated to sustainability, equity, and accountability in water resource management.

Today is the World Water Day, held annually on 22 March celebrates water and raises awareness of the two billion people living without access to safe water.

In 2023, World Water Day focuses on accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis. According to the UN-Water, we are seriously off-track to meet Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030. The latest data show that governments must work on average four times faster to meet this goal on time.

Also, the global campaign, called be the change, encourages people to take action in their own lives to change the way they use, consume, and manage water. Every action - no matter how small - will make a difference.

Back in 2015, the world committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 as part of the 2030 Agenda, now seven with years left before 2030. I have asked Dugange if we can expect positive changes by accelerating implementation, his answer is Yes! and No!

"Yes! If and only if we will have a translation of international and national commitments into practically resourcing the WASH and Water resources management. Dedicated efforts in strengthening Governance and accountability at all water financing and management levels. Mechanisms to hold international partners to account for promises are needed equally by national governments and other water sector stakeholders, including the communities themselves. Mechanisms to sustain year-on-year investments, services and mechanisms to ensure inclusive access are necessary to accelerate coverage and access to WASH services. All these should be coupled with efforts to positively challenge the water resources stressors such as climate change and the increasing demand for water by the water-intensive sectors, among others," says Dugange.

He added: "No! If we donors do the above and remain in business as usual, let us not lie to ourselves. We should not expect much. It will be a shame if the Millennium Development Goals' history comes around in 2030 when we have many lessons from the MDGs."

Water is fundamental to all aspects of life. It is essential for human health and well-being, energy and food production, healthy ecosystems, climate adaptation, gender equality and health, and more.

Water is at the core of sustainable development. Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene is a human right - fundamental to everyone's health, dignity, and prosperity. Yet, billions of people around the world lack safely managed drinking water, and this is why we need to accelerate change.

Historically, the globe and Tanzania, in particular, missed meeting the millennium development goal for water and sanitation. Therefore, working business as usual is a simple way of registering another failure by 2030. It has become evident that sustainable and equitable access to water and sanitation services is essential for attaining equity in educational attainment and a catalytic factor for improved healthcare services, to mention a few.

So, it goes without saying that without dedicated efforts to accomplish sustainable development goals (SDG), #6 is planning to fail in these social sectors. This is enough justification for why we should accelerate access to water and sanitation in a more sustainable and integrated manner. Is it timely? Probably is a more challenging moment, and there are critical socio-economic and environmental factors to consider to make the acceleration sustainable and equitable.

While it makes a lot of sense for everyone to take action, it equally makes sense that the agenda should have been given more effort

since the inception of the SDGs. We have observed slippage of commitment of resources from the international partners and equally little commitment from the national sectoral stakeholders even though we have equal benefits. Only genuine commitment coupled with necessary accountability mechanisms will make this agenda right despite being late to profile it.

"Water is a problem in our village. During the dry season the situation gets worse, so to get water we have to start digging holes. Sometimes it is dangerous even for children to pass by. Sadly, the water supply situation is not good. We, as women, are the ones who suffer the most. That is, when it rains, we get drinking water." Says Magret Leswila from Mnyune village.

Not only Magret, large communities, especially rural areas, have been living with water challenges due to a lack of planning by their governments. Organisations like Shahidi wa Maji are needed to help communities solve the water challenge.

"Our work is focused on policy research and advocacy, empowering communities to participate meaningfully in managing water resources. Our work contributes to systems strengthening, such as improving policies and programmes and strengthening community-based management of water resources." Says Abel Dugange, Executive Director at Shahidi wa Maji.

Being an active member of the joint water sector review forum, a technical working group for water resources management and the national multi-sectoral forum for water resources, Shahidi wa Maji is using well-researched evidence on water security to constructively engage in dialogue with the Ministry of water, water agencies and other water-dependent ministries to improve policies and practices changes.

Through its social accountability monitoring approach, Shahidi wa Maji have worked with communities to accelerate access to water resources and water supply services. In the last two years of their interventions, they have enabled over 90,000 people to tangibly benefit from water security improvements triggered by improved water tenure and water access supply, including access to water use permits.

The organisation has also managed to increase knowledge of water security issues, water rights, and water management responsibilities to 308,057 people through its social accountability monitoring approach, ground activation, and social media campaign. With its new strategy, they commit to reaching an additional 500,000 people by 2026.

Today the world comes together during the UN 2023 Water Conference, this is a crucial occasion to join together and reflect on the best ways to save the globe on the water situation. It's important for organisations, civil society, and individuals to come together and join hands, ideas, and efforts so that everyone can enjoy access to clean, safe and affordable water.

The UN 2023 Water Conference will also review how the water and sanitation community can cooperate more effectively within itself and with other sectors and realms of decision-making where water is critical for progress, such as health, education, climate change and gender equality.

"With the Water Sector Development Programme Phase III in place, the government should mobilise sector stakeholders to have a dedicated acceleration plan, well resourced, well coordinated and embedded with robust accountability mechanisms. The government should increase budget allocation to the sector." Says Shahidi wa Maji Executive Director Dugange, as a call to the government.

Dugange added that water-based organisations and individuals should dedicate efforts, resources and skills to address and unlock critical sector challenges. Programmes and projects in whatever design should answer difficult questions around the sustainability of water resources and water supply and sanitation services, accountability at all levels, equity and inclusivity. It also makes a lot of sense if these organisations can critically dedicate expertise in examining and addressing issues around individual behaviors in water management, adaption to climate change and related aspects.



Geita Gold Mining Limited acting managing director, Elder Damon (R) together with Geita Town Council executive director, Zahara Michuzi (L) display the MoU they signed on Tuesday for the implementation of the community service programme (CSR). GGML provided a total of 19bn/- to implement the CSR agreement for the year 2022/2023. Looking on (C) is Geita Regional Commissioner Martin Shigela and other GGML officials. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Geita signs MoU worth 19bn/- with mining firm for development actions

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

AUTHORITIES in Geita Region have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) worth 19bn/- with Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) to develop communities in the north-western part of Tanzania.

The amount is to benefit communities in Geita Town and District Councils as well as the neighbouring councils of Chato, Bukombe and Mbogwe.

The move is part of GGML's commitment in terms of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for the period of 2022/2023.

So far 9.8bn/- has been budgeted for the Geita Town Council whereas for Geita District Council, a budget of 8.6bn/- has been allocated.

In the agreement, GGML will also provide a total of 600m/- to implement development projects

for the three councils of Mbogwe, Chato and Bukombe in Geita whereby each will receive 200m/-.

Presiding over the MoU signing ceremony, Geita Regional Commissioner, Martin Shigella was accompanied by regional and district authorities as well as other stakeholders.

Elder Damon, GGML's acting managing director said: "This MoU is momentous and reaffirms our commitment to the host communities, the Government of Tanzania and its people through compliance with the requirements of the Mining Act that includes mineral rights holder's Corporate Social Responsibility Plan."

He added that the GGML's CSR plan is a continuation of previous plans and seeks to consolidate the progress made by the company to

date in the areas of environment, infrastructure, health, education and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Geita host communities.

He said: "It personally gives me great joy to witness firsthand the ripple effect of successful projects in the lives of Tanzanians, particularly those residing around the mine."

GGML remains the most compliant and top taxpayer in the country's extractive industry with over 5.64trillion/- in taxes borne and paid to the government between the year 2000 and 2022.

Vice President of AngloGold Ashanti, Simon Shayo, who oversees sustainability in Ghana and Tanzania, said many people do not know that before the mining law of 2010 which was amended in 2017, GGML was already implementing a CSR programme by providing

more than 9bn/- to finance various community projects in Geita region.

"Even after introducing the element of corporate social responsibility, we (GGML) were the first to do so because every year we used to spend at least 9.2bn/- to 10bn/-," said Shayo.

RC Shigella said it was a great pleasure to witness the event taking place during the period in which the country was celebrating two years of success of President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

He also commended GGML for establishing a credible CSR Plan and urged other stakeholders in the mining industry to follow suit in which he pledged continued support from the government.

"We, as the government, promise to continue to provide cooperation to all investors in the country, including mining companies, in order to reach and possibly exceed the goal of the mining sector to contribute 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2025," RC Shigella said.



Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) Mwanza branch staff participate in cleanliness campaign of Mirongo river in the city yesterday to commemorate World Water Day. Mirongo river flows into Lake Victoria. SBL partnered with Lake Victoria Basin Water Board in the cleanliness exercise. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Brewer workers clean river in marking World Water Day

By Guardian Reporter

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) has expressed its commitment towards initiatives for clean water provision and sanitation services in communities with its staff joining the public to clean Mirongo River that feeds Lake Victoria.

The move is part of SBL staff initiatives to commemorate the just-ended World Water Day.

Speaking during the cleaning exercise yesterday, SBL Communications and Sustainability Manager, Rispa Hatibu said the company is keen to continue

investing in effort towards protecting water sources in line with this year's theme.

The theme for the 2023 World Water Day is "Accelerating Access to Water in the face of Climate Change".

Hatibu said that Mirongo River which runs through Mwanza city is dirty with neighbouring residents sometimes dumping waste into it especially when it rains, something which poses health risks and may result in the outbreak of diseases such as cholera.

The cleaning by SBL staff was also done in collaboration with the

Lake Victoria Basin Water Board, he added.

The Lake Victoria Basin Water Board is a government institution which is under the Ministry of Water. The board oversees the management of water resources.

According to Hatibu, SBL has made various accomplishments related to water provision and conservation including undertaking 24 mega water projects in the country in the past 10 years which have collectively provided free and clean water to over two million beneficiaries under the banner of 'Water of Life' programme.

She said: "SBL will continue to partner with other stakeholders to enable communities that are deprived of clean and safe water to get access to this precious resource. This is a commitment we have set for ourselves under a ten framework we call Society 2030."

Earlier this month, SBL invested a total of 380m/- to bankroll construction of a water dam in Handeni District, Tanga Region, which upon completion will give access to water to an estimated 12,000 residents of Kwamizi ward. The project is set to be completed next month, she added.

Police clears air on death of North Mara Gold Mine worker

By Guardian Reporter

AS it has been widely reported, on March 12 this year, a security incident happened at North Mara Gold Mine (NMGM) on the previous day, March 11 in which a person died.

Working on the report received, the government's independent task force against gold smuggling requested to enter the mine area for inspecting the restricted underground mine pit where illegal gold mining was taking place.

Following the inspection, one illegal miner was found in one unused mine pit that was fenced off and in the process of trying to flee, he fell down and died.

Thereafter the police launched official investigations on the incident

and came up with a statement the deceased, Emmanuel Chacha was an NMGM worker and that already a full report thereof would be released after the completion of the deceased's postmortem.

In his report of March 20 this year, TARIME-Rorya Region Special Zone Police Commander Geoffrey Sarakikya confirmed that reports from eyewitnesses at the area of incident, including postmortem results, indicated the death was caused by injuries caused by the fall from above.

During the investigations, there were rumours in the social media claiming that Chacha died from bullet wounds, designed to sway the then ongoing police investigations.

In his statement Sarakikya confirmed that the reports in the social media were fake.

School in Iringa in need of clean water, science teachers and desks

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

KIDAMALI Secondary School in Nzihhi ward, Iringa District, Iringa Region is facing various challenges including lack of clean and safe water, science teachers and desks.

Following the situation, the government in Iringa District is collaborating with stakeholders to resolve the challenges by ensuring all students sit on desks.

Speaking recently after being handed 162 desks from Shafa Agro Milk Processing Company Ltd, the school Headmaster, Joram Mponzi said his school has more than 800 students, but the available desks can be used by 300 students only.

He said the various challenges the school faces affects students' academic performance.

Mponzi noted that from 2020 to 2022, there was a shortage of 500 chairs and tables, but with support from stakeholders such as banks, government and individuals they have now started to receive desks donations.

"We have received 162 desks worth over 9.7m/- from Shafa Company as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy. The factory also supports our

teachers whereas it helped us to pay 750,000/- to five teachers from July 2022 to February 2023, an equivalent of 6m/- within eight months," he said.

He said the school also lacks a kitchen, dining hall and unreliable water supply where they are now forced to use water from seasonal wells, a situation that poses health risk to students and the entire school community.

Oscar Kawanganise, Education Officer, Nzihhi ward applauded the company for the donation as they support the government towards improving the learning environment at public schools.

Chairman, Iringa District Council, Steven Mhapa asked citizens to protect investors due to their contribution in development of the community and the nation.

Iringa District Acting Executive Director, Lucy Nyalu urged stakeholders to continue supporting the school with various assistance including desks. A study conducted by Young Scientists Tanzania (YST) in 2020 on the Impact of Free Education on Quality Education in Iringa municipality, provision of free education had a positive impact on student's enrolment.

Increase budget for ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade, parliamentary committee urges

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendopole

THE government has been tasked to increase the budget for the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade to facilitate smooth execution of its duties that includes conducting research.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry, Trade and Agriculture members were concerned that industries are pillars of economic development; hence the need to allocate sufficient budget to spur the country's economic growth.

Chairman of the Committee, Eng Ezra Chiwelesa made the call in Dodoma yesterday during a meeting with officials from the ministry who presented a report on budget implementation for the 2022/2023 financial year.

He urged the ministry to set plans for implementation of strategic and model projects—Mchuchuma and Liganga due to its economic benefits to the nation.

Eng Chiwelesa said that members of the committee have given various opinions aimed at facilitating implementation of various projects as well as industrial research which are important in the development of the industrial sector.

He said committee members have recommended the use of modern technology and the need for production sectors including agriculture and livestock, empowerment of entrepreneurs and search for foreign markets for Tanzanian products.

Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade, Dr Ashatu Kijaji said the ministry will continue to work on the advice and directives of the committee to develop

the investment sector, industry and trade, but also promote the country's economy and people's welfare.

On the 2022/2023 budget implementation, the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Dr Hashil Abdallah said that from July 2022 to February 2023, the ministry has managed to register a total of 204 new projects with a value of \$3,591 million and created 31,531 employments.

He said the ministry encourages construction and expansion of factories to add value to agricultural products, ensure availability of local goods, promote exports and create jobs. Factories under expansion includes the Bagamoyo, Mkulazi, Kilombero and Kagera Sugar industries, he said, adding others are Serengeti Breweries Limited in Moshi, Intracom Fertilizer Limited of Dodoma and Minjingu Arusha fertilizers factory.

Dr Abdallah noted that the ministry has continued to implement strategic and exemplary projects including the Magadi Soda Project - Engaruka, Coal - Mchuchuma, Iron - Liganga, Crude Steel (iron ore) Maganga Matitu and Coal - Katewaka and the construction of industrial zones and special economic zones including the industrial zones of Kwala - Pwani, Mkulazi - Morogoro, Nala - Dodoma and Bagamoyo.

He also said the government continues to create a better environment for business and investments whereas it has established a One Window System to provide services to investors, promote economic empowerment and development of the private sector.



Community Development Institute officer Elizabeth Mashishanga speaks at a capacity building training about physical and mental effects of drug abuse to motorbike riders in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Law enforcers, lawyers team up to fight poaching

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

LAW enforcers and lawyers will team up to fight poaching within and around Burunge wildlife management area (WMA) in Babati district, Manyara region.

There had been increased incidences of killing of giraffes in the protected area for game meat trade.

A fortnight ago, two people were arrested allegedly for selling giraffe meat after mowing down the animal.

The 283 square km Burunge WMA is sandwiched between the Tarangire and Lake Manyara national parks.

The protected area is managed by the local communities and was formed by ten villages around

Lake Burunge.

Burunge WMA secretary, Benson Mwaie claim that despite numerous arrests of poaching suspects, they are often set free under unclear circumstances.

When reached on the issue, the Manyara regional crimes officer (RCO) Juma Majura said they will team up with the locals to fight wanton killing of wild animals.

"Cooperation between the security agencies, the villagers and other players in the conservation sector in order to contain poaching is necessary," he said.

Majura added that the police force in Manyara region will join the game rangers, lawyers and the Office of Public Prosecutors to indict the suspects.

Recently, the Tanzania Wildlife

Management Authority (Tawa) conducted training for the WMA rangers and those from Babati district.

Two prosecutors Gertrude Kariongi and Blandina Msawa from the Office of Public Prosecutor urged the rangers to work professionally.

Kariongi insisted that once arrested the poaching suspects should be immediately arraigned to face the wrath of law.

"Their cases should be fast-tracked and rulings made without much delay," she pointed out.

Msawa called on the game rangers to speed up investigations once the suspects are arrested.

The training was conducted by Tawa in collaboration with Chem Chem Association which operates

in the area and fully engaged in anti-poaching fight.

This is according to an officer in charge of Tawa in the northern zone regions, Emmanuel Pius who noted that the training was aimed to increase capacity of the rangers in investigations and prosecution.

Chem Chem Association and EBN director Nicolas Negri expressed his desire to continue fighting poachers in order to safeguard the nation's natural heritage.

Speaking during the climax of the training, Chem Chem Association manager Clever Zulu said the rangers have been trained in investigations, mopping up operations and apprehending of the suspected poachers so that the cases are fast-tracked.



Tanzania Commercial Bank, Musoma branch manager Hagai Gilbert (R) hands over 135 iron sheets to Hunyari ward councillor, Mugungi Muhochi to support Nyamikoma health centre project in Butiama District, Mara Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TCB bank supports villagers in Mara region

By Guardian Correspondent, Musoma

TANZANIA Commercial Bank (TCB) has handed over 135 iron sheets in Nyamikoma village, Butiama District, Mara Region for purposes supporting government efforts to ensure Tanzanians get health care services in their nearby vicinity.

The iron sheets were handed over to Kinyare Ward Councillor, Mkingi Itagata during a function held at Nyamikoma village in Butiama District on Wednesday.

"We are thankful to TCB bank as we receive assistance that is going to help us to complete construction of our health centre. We need about 150m/- to finish its construction, but we have so far collected 47m/- only," said the ward councillor.

Itagata said the government together with the villagers have been working to ensure completion of health centre structures. He said once completed, the facility will save villagers from working long distances in search of medical services.

TCB bank Branch Manager in Musoma, Gilbert Hagai said the bank will continue to support the efforts of people who love development as well as ensuring that bank services are moved closer to the people.

He congratulated the residents and village leadership for their efforts to contribute for construction of the health centre which its implementation started in 2017 and has not been completed.

"Our bank is a major player in

the country's development, every year; we set aside a portion from our profits to give back to the community. Some of our priority areas include education, health and several others. We believe that all these investments help us to get future customers and employees for our bank," said Hagai.

He added that TCB will continue to contribute and support efforts by the sixth phase government under President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan in improving provision of health care services.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

Inland water fishing crisis reflects overall state of agro-based activity

AN eye opening report says that Lake Tanganyika fishermen lose up to 70 per cent of their catch on account of grave weaknesses of the value chain environment, and seeks ways to get out of that situation. The study involving a consortium of international agencies and the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) were made public at a forum grouping experts from around the region; several countries border the outstretched shores of the lake. The key point was that there is acute need for market linkages internally and with buyers in neighbouring countries, all targeted at higher value buyers.

There was a fine point raised about increased access to electricity as among facilities to enhance reliability of the value chain in its core cold chain operations. Once this aspect is resolved, and there are projects within the zone for more electricity supply and booster centres, the picture could change. There are all the same other issues that may have been hinted on the margin on the basis of this focus.

An external aspect of the study is to make a stock assessment in Lake Tanganyika fishing, moving from harvests and waste to the rise in population and sustainability of fishing there. For one thing, it is apparent that the fish population there faces a reduced threat of sustainability compared to Lake Victoria on account of depth of the lake and accessibility of fish, as well as less population pressure. It is on the whole plausible that environmental factors (resources and population) for Lake Tanganyika fishery ecosystem reflect the other Rift Valley lake to the south, Nyasa. Victoria is definitely different.

It is in a sense relevant that the listed problems for Lake Tanganyika fishing illustrate the high level of

ability to obtain fish despite a less hospitable configuration, while the uptake by the market reflects more acute limitations of nearby markets. In that case its losses per catch are much higher than in the Victoria zone with its much larger population, while the sustainability level is in the opposite direction.

Agro-sector crises are expressed differently in the two situations, as technology in the Lake Tanganyika zone and as over-fishing in the Lake Victoria zone. In both, population growth is but a latent crisis.

No one can rapidly dispute the finding that improved processing plus handling technology, cutting the rapid perishing of the produce, can facilitate increased supply to local and neighbouring country markets. Yet much of this is hypothetical as most spheres have plenty of inland water bodies with their relevant fish stock levels, thus no exponential possibilities exist by introducing a technological uplift into the fishing modality there. What can really make a difference is either higher purchasing power in current markets, or fewer people reliant on fishing thus not scrambling to make a sale.

A note on fish processors in the area recording low profitability at \$591 annually on average, explained from value chain weaknesses, puts the idea of exploiting unmet demand for value chain products somewhat ill at ease. The relatively evident markets in local urban centres and even in neighbouring countries demand vast change in the packaging, while similarly requiring a diminution of pricing to compete with meat, chicken, etc. It means that current processors around Lake Tanganyika dry more fish and reduce prices, which is impractical. Only increased trade, industry and formal sector jobs can change the consumption situation significantly, not technology.

Africa can play a part to end fence sitting over the tensions in Palestine

AFRICAN countries are beginning to take some of the heat from ongoing tensions and sharpening violence between the two sides of the Palestinian dispute. Just as President Samia Suluhu Hassan was leaving South Africa following a landmark state visit, high level officials of Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) addressed students at the University of Cape Town. It has been common for over three decades to compare the situation in Palestine with the apartheid situation in South Africa. Well wishers scan around for a Bishop Desmond Tutu to effectively preach brotherhood between the two communities or a Nelson Mandela ready to lead Palestinians to accept a rainbow nation; that the Jews aren't going anywhere.

While the UCT event was billed "Israeli Apartheid Week 2023" organised by the Palestine Solidarity Forum (PSF), it was not clear the representatives asked to address the highnote assembly were really seeking solutions to 'apartheid.' Until they can do that, it appears that ideologues stuck to militant narratives of the past sleep-walk their people to catastrophe, as Israelis increasingly grow tired of the supposed two-state solution where one side just seeks territorial proximity to destroy what will then remain of the now dominant Jewish state. The paroxysm is so high that recently an Israeli minister for the new 'far right' authorities asked 'who are the Palestinians.' The statement wasn't new for those familiar with Middle East diplomacy as it was once given by then Israeli prime minister the late Golda Meir to the United Nations or to the Knesset, the 1970s.

An online periodical tracking events around the world relating

to Israel said the PIJ representative Nasser Abu Sharif and Hamas representative Khaled Qadomi both represent their organizations in Iran. They clearly rejoiced in that invitation as radical campuses in South Africa, like radical liberals in the United States, are increasingly fatigued with even the presence of the Jewish state. The chronicler said that Abu Sharif has for years suggested that Israelis would be expelled from Israel should Palestinians achieve complete victory.

It said that in 2014 he told an Iranian news outlet that Palestine does not have room for the two sides, insisting that either the Palestinians or the Israelis must reside in it. That is surprising from the viewpoint of the 21st century, the idea that a country can only have people of one race or branch of a race, as it bespeaks of what Gen. Idi Amin did to Asians in Uganda in 1972, or more catastrophically, the Hutu 'final solution' for the threat of a Tutsi take over in Rwanda, in 1994. Africa, which lately invited Israel as an observer member of the African Union, could play a role in breaking the stalemate, as the West is seen as a coloniser, as a bulwark for Israel.

The Jewish presence is part of an environment with roots in what is divine. It just can't be wished away, nor indeed, conquered with rockets. Rejecting the voices of Bishop Tutu and President Mandela, to pay attention only to radical ideology, would be costly to the Middle East and even poison the world. It is something that Africa can help to rectify or at least begin the discussion, before another round of the ancient Crusades is fought in Jerusalem, leading to near-genocide and a massive refugee outbound wave



By Mkama Mwijarubi

EARLIER this week the government launched a new strategy to rid Tanzania of cholera. It is called National Multisectoral Cholera Prevention and Control Plan 2023 - 2027.

The strategy's objectives are much similar to those of Zanzibar's Comprehensive Cholera Elimination Plan (2018 - 2028) which can be summed up as attaining a global goal to reduce cholera deaths by 90 per cent and to eliminate the disease by 2030.

It is particularly encouraging that Tanzania is according due importance to the ending of cholera, this all the more so because the persistence of the disease in our communities does not rhyme with the tremendous level of progress the country is making in all development sectors.

This laudable progress should improve the quality of life at the family level, as cholera discolours evidence of improved quality of life.

Cholera exploits slip-ups in personal hygiene or strategic miscalculations in planning human settlements, sources of domestic water and the management of waste at the level of households and communities - that is, neighbourhoods, villages, towns and cities.

For that reason, both the Union and Zanzibar governments merit accolades for taking cholera seriously and developing strategic plans to eliminate it as soon as humanly possible.

Now is a most opportune moment to apply whatever lessons have been learnt from the country's experience in handling the Covid-19

AS World TB Day approaches on March 24, the challenges that have faced public health systems worldwide for decades - adequate funding, improved medicines and efficient health systems remain. World Tuberculosis Day, observed on 24 March each year, is designed to build public awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease. In 2018, 10 million people fell ill with TB, and 1.5 million died from the disease, mostly in low and middle-income countries. This also makes it the leading cause of death from an infectious disease.

World TB Day is one of eleven official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organisation (WHO), along with World Health Day, World Chagas Disease Day, World Blood Donor Day, World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, World Immunisation Week, World Malaria Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Hepatitis Day, World Patient Safety Day and World AIDS Day.

Five things everyone must remember about cholera outbreaks in Tanzania

pandemic, one being that we should not prioritize response to one crisis or health emergency at the expense of known hazards.

This is the first fact about cholera that everyone, whether it is a policy maker, a decision maker, a town planner, a family, etc., ought to remember. Cholera should not as much as insert itself in our midst and claim lives while we helplessly marvel at how to sweep it into oblivion, as it were.

Secondly, we should not forget the devastation cholera caused in our communities across the country - that is, both on the mainland and in the Isles.

From 2010 and all the way to 2022 cholera outbreaks were reported yearly except in 2014 and 2020 in the mainland. From August 2015 to December 2018, the mainland suffered the longest outbreak that affected all 26 regions and 129 (out of 139) districts. It claimed a total of 550 lives.

Going by what is now known about cholera, it would neither an exaggeration nor a misrepresentation of fact suggesting that quite a few of these deaths could have been easily avoided.

Zanzibar also has had its share of cholera outbreaks, with the last one reported in 2017 and having claimed 68 lives.

Families, municipal policy makers and other authorities need to examine and "block" the channels that drove the deadly bacteria into our loved ones.

Stopping contact with the bacteria that cause cholera proves

the third fact we are promoting - as, indeed, cholera is preventable.

We thus also need to remember that since the longest outbreak of cholera in 2018, Tanzania has managed to control cholera in most of the districts, with much fewer outbreaks and deaths having emerged. The efforts that brought that impact must be scaled up and persistently maintained.

The fourth fact we need to remember, in an epidemiological mindset, is that current cholera hotspots are known. Past outbreaks originated from these areas and spread out.

It's heartening that the strategic plans the government is setting out to implement acknowledge the fundamental importance of targeting these hotspots.

The Tanzania Office of the World Health Organisation (WHO-Tanzania) is very clear about the need for its unwavering commitment to working with the sectors involved and development partners concerned in prioritising focused efforts in these districts.

Fifth is with regard to the keyword as appears in the title of the plan the government has recently launched: Multisectoral.

The health sector may surely know how cholera is transmitted and how to handle patients. But assurance of a consistent supply of clean sources of water for domestic use, planning of human settlements, and management of waste in communities calls for action from an array of other sectors.

It is notable that the Prime

Minister's Office is supposed to oversee the overall implementation of this plan, including the participation of agencies and ministries from a variety of sectors.

As the implementation of the new national cholera elimination strategy starts, we must all remember that cholera, like other highly communicable diseases, knows no village, ward, constituency, district, regional, territorial or some other border.

This is to state the obvious: even the mere threat of a cholera outbreak in one area calls for genuine vigilance and preparedness next door and beyond - just as would apply for, say, Ebola and Covid-19.

Malawi, one of Tanzania's next-door neighbours, has recently been busy combating a protracted outbreak of cholera. As expected, the UN health agency and other partner agencies are on the ground supporting the response.

With the launch of Tanzania's National Multisectoral Cholera Prevention and Control Plan 2023 - 2027, there is every reason to be optimistic that it will not take the country up to 2027 to implement the strategic plan in full.

Accordingly, the elimination of cholera will be an integral part of critical evidence that as Tanzania makes progress in all sectors for the benefit of its people, NO ONE remains - or is left - behind.

* **Mkama Mwijarubi is a long-serving journalist based in Dar es Salaam. He is currently with the Tanzania Office of the World Health Organisation.**

Historic challenges remain in TB fight

24 March commemorates the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch astounded the scientific community by announcing to a small group of scientists at the University of Berlin's Institute of Hygiene that he had discovered the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus. According to Koch's colleague, Paul Ehrlich, "At this memorable session, Koch appeared before the public with an announcement which marked a turning-point in the story of a virulent human infectious disease. In clear, simple words Koch explained the aetiology of tuberculosis with convincing force, presenting many of his microscope slides and other pieces of evidence." At the time of Koch's announcement in Berlin, TB was raging through Europe and the Americas, causing the death of one out of every seven people. Koch's discovery opened the way toward diagnosing and curing tuberculosis.

In 1982, on the one-hundredth anniversary of Robert Koch's

presentation, the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD) proposed that 24 March be proclaimed an official World TB Day. This was part of a year-long centennial effort by the IUATLD and the World Health Organisation (WHO) under the theme "Defeat TB: Now and Forever." World TB Day was not officially recognised as an annual occurrence by WHO's World Health Assembly and the United Nations until over a decade later.

In the fall of 1995, WHO and the Royal Netherlands Tuberculosis Foundation (KNCV) hosted the first World TB Day advocacy planning meeting in The Hague, Netherlands; an event they would continue co-sponsor over the next few years. In 1996, WHO, KNCV, the IUATLD and other concerned organisations joined to conduct a wide range of World TB Day activities.

For World TB Day 1997, WHO held a news conference in Berlin during which WHO Director-

General Hiroshi Nakajima declared that "DOTS is the biggest health breakthrough of this decade, according to lives we will be able to save." WHO's global tb programme director, Dr. Arata Kochi, promised that, "Today the situation of the global TB epidemic is about to change, because we have made a breakthrough. It is the breakthrough of health management systems that makes it possible to control TB not only in wealthy countries, but in all parts of the developing world, where 95 per cent of all TB cases now exist."

By 1998, nearly 200 organisations conducted public outreach activities on World TB Day. During its World TB Day 1998 news conference in London, WHO for the first time identified the top twenty-two countries with the world's highest TB burden. The next year, over 60 key TB advocates from 18 countries attended the three-day WHO/KNCV planning meeting for World TB Day 1999.

Experts seek appropriate circular solutions to plastic pollution

By Aimable Twahirwa

Experts agree that African economies need to develop innovative approaches to deal with plastic production, which is set to double in 20 years - adversely impacting rural communities.

They were speaking in Kigali, Rwanda, on the sidelines of the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF).

As a result of current global efforts to spur Africa's transition to a Circular Economy at the country, regional and continental levels, official estimates show that the transition to a fully circular economy could generate \$4.5 trillion in economic benefits globally by 2030.

Government representatives, researchers, civil society activists, and strategic partners launched an initiative, the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastics Pollution, on the sidelines of WCEF to end plastic pollution by 2040.

"The issue of plastic pollution has reached crisis levels, and it is time polluters to be held to account," Zaynab Sadan, the Regional Plastics Policy Coordinator for Africa at World Wildlife Fund (WWF), told IPS.

According to experts, the key to a circular economy in Africa is to eliminate open dumping and burning of waste on the continent and promote the use of waste as a resource for value and job creation.

The latest estimates by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) show that approximately 7 billion of the 9.2 billion tonnes of plastic produced from 1950-2017 globally has become plastic waste, ending in landfills or dumped.

Environmental experts argue that this pollution has altered habitats and natural processes and reduced ecosystems' ability to adapt to climate change, affecting millions of people's livelihoods, food produc-



Female workers sort out plastic bottles for recycling in a factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh. New initiatives were launched at the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) to reduce plastic pollution.

tion capabilities, and social well-being, mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Experts unanimously agree that plastic consumption and production have reached unsustainable levels over the past 30 years, reaching 460 million tonnes between 2000 to 2019.

The 2022 Global Plastics Outlook report by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) indicates that much of this growth is mostly driven by massive increases in the production of single-use plastics for packaging and consumer goods, which accounts for half of the plastic waste generation.

To address this growing phenomenon, Sadan insists on the need for African countries to integrate the informal sector into recycling and waste management.

"There is a pressing need to improve in waste collection services and management at landfills," the fierce conservation activist told delegates at the launching of the new High Ambition Coalition to end plastic pollution.

Official projections indicate that by 2060, the use of plastics could almost triple globally, driven by economic and population growth.

It said that plastic leakage to the environment is projected to double to 44 million tonnes (Mt) a year, while the build-up of plastics in aquatic environments will more than triple, where the largest costs are projected for Sub-Saharan Africa, whose GDP would be reduced by 2.8% below the baseline.

Kristin Hughes, the director of the re-

source circularity pillar and a member of the World Economic Forum's executive committee, told delegates that if current trends continue, billion metric tons of plastic waste will be in landfills or the natural environment by 2050.

"Embedding science and evidence-based approach are key to end plastic pollution in Africa," Hughes said.

During various sessions on the forum's sidelines, Rwanda has been hailed as a role model in Africa toward managing waste from banning plastic bags in 2008, has made great steps forward, and has established the e-waste recycling facility in 2018.

Reacting to this achievement, Rwandan Minister of Environment Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya stressed the need for the

country to strengthen existing mechanisms to have a carbon-neutral economy by 2050.

"Despite these achievements, there are still shortcomings that are exposing the country to severe impacts of improper waste management, including hazardous wastes," Mujawamariya told delegates.

Terhi Lehtonen, Finnish Vice Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, is convinced that eradicating plastic pollution requires a systemic approach since plastic pollution is not simply a consumer issue.

"The plastic pollution is increasing at an alarming rate [...] African countries need to adopt a holistic control strategy at both production and consumer level," she told delegates. The newly-established global mechanism, the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastics Pollution, is committed to developing ambitious international and legally binding instruments based on a comprehensive and circular approach that ensures urgent action and effective action interventions along the full lifecycle of plastics.

Erlend Haugen, Norway's coordinator of the Global Initiative, said the new treaty must establish provisions for plastic waste minimization and environmentally sound collection, sorting, and preparation for reuse and recycling of plastic waste to re-enter recycled plastics into the economy and avoid leakage to the environment.

But activists are convinced that communities also have vital knowledge and experience that can help combat the scourge of plastic pollution.

"Countries should also adopt a gender-sensitive approach to tackle plastic pollution," said Sadan.

According to her, the youth could also play a very influential role in plastic waste control by raising awareness about its negative impact.

By Ignatius Banda

It's a typical story in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second-largest city. With the failure to provide services such as refuse collection by the local municipality, township residents dump garbage wherever they fancy, and with time, dumpsites become "official."

For 56-year-old Mariyeti Mpala, however, a community dumpsite on land that belonged to the local municipality a stone's throw away from her residence presented an opportunity to turn what had become an accepted eyesore into a thriving greening project.

She purchased the land in 2006, and it is here on a section of the former dumpsite where she has grown indigenous wild fruit trees at the one-hectare piece of land and runs a thriving vegetable garden.

She rotates planting tomatoes, peas, cabbages, onions and lettuce, with aquaculture being the latest addition to her project.

"I have put up three thousand bream fishlings," Mpala said as she explained her long-term ambitions for the local community.

"I decided to apply for this piece of land as it was clear no one imagined the land was of any use as it was being used as a dump site," Mpala told IPS.

While she may not be aware of it, Mpala's project fits snugly into the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation's Green Cities initiative, which among other

Greening the city gets community treatment in Zimbabwe



Mariyeti Mpala (56) runs a thriving vegetable garden on a former dumpsite and its proceeds assist the community in creating incomes of their own.

things, "focuses on improving the urban environment, ensuring access to a healthy environment and healthy diets from sustainable agri-food systems, increasing availability of green spaces through urban and peri-urban forestry."

"Urban agriculture is, therefore, an important part of the

urban economy contributing significantly to urban food and nutrition security as the produce is less subject to market fluctuations," said Kevin Mazorodze, FAO spokesperson.

And now, as more and more people in the country require food assistance, Mpala's project comes as a relief for members of

her community.

"I especially cater for the elderly who have no source of income and cannot fend for themselves," Mpala told IPS.

"I sell some of the produce at low cost to those elderly women who buy in bulk so they can sell at a markup, so they raise funds for their own private needs," she

said.

FAO's Green Cities Initiative seeks to promote more such activities, said Mazorodze.

"Urban and peri-urban agriculture is one of the key pillars of the initiative through which FAO intends to foster sustainable and climate-resilient practices and technologies to improve local food production," Mazorodze told IPS.

Mpala sunk a borehole powered by solar energy in a country where abundant sunlight has been touted to promote clean energy.

Her work has not gone unappreciated by locals.

"She is a hard worker and has always looked out for us old people," said Agnes Nyoni, a 70-something-year-old granny who lives not far from Mpala's green project.

"I first knew her a few years ago when she collected our names to register for food parcels that included mealie meal, cooking oil and beans," Nyoni told IPS.

Mpala's work has also reached city offices, with the local councillor lauding her contribution towards uplifting the lives of the poor and food insecure.

"We actually need more of such initiatives being done by Mrs. Mpala as she is uplifting the lives of our people," said Tinevimbo Maphosa, the local councillor.

"I understand she has also set up a fisheries project which I see as a sign of her community-building commitments. People need to be productive and stop complaining all the time about the situation in the country, and Mrs. Mpala's work is part of what we need to see happening in our communities," Maphosa told IPS.

The city already has nu-

merous community gardens dotted across the city, with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) supporting the municipality through the Green Cities Network.

The food she grows is organic, Mpala says, and local nutritionists believe at a time, food is becoming more expensive, and where people now eat whatever is available, consumers need healthier diets.

"Food grown in such nutrition gardens as that run by Mrs. Mpala is encouraged because it is fresh straight from the garden, and the elderly people she caters for certainly need healthier diets," said Mavis Bhebhe, a government hospital nutritionist.

"What is required is to encourage such initiatives to spread the variety of the food they grow so that consumers get the most out of locally grown foods," Bhebhe told IPS.

These sentiments come at a time when humanitarian agencies have raised concerns about levels of malnutrition across Africa as some parts of the continent battle acute food shortages.

In a country such as Zimbabwe, where formal jobs come far in between, homegrown initiatives such as the Dingindawo Gardens offer hope for young people seeking opportunities to take idle time off their hands, Maphosa believes.

"There is too much crime and drug abuse here, and with more projects from individuals like Mrs. Mpala, we could solve the community's many problems," Maphosa told IPS.

IPS UN Bureau Report

Generation and self-consumption, the path to clean energy in Argentina

By Daniel Gutman

With large projects held back by the economic crisis and lack of infrastructure, Argentina seems to be looking at an alternative path towards a more sustainable energy mix involving small renewable energy projects, promoted by environmentally aware industries, businesses and private users.

The initiatives are aimed at covering their own consumption, sometimes with the addition of so-called distributed generation, in which user-generators who have a surplus of electricity can inject it into the national power grid and thus generate a tariff credit.

Distributed generation initiatives have just surpassed 1,000 projects already in operation, according to the latest official data.

At the same time, this month saw the inauguration of the largest private solar energy park in the city of Buenos Aires, an initiative of the Argentine Rural Society (SRA), the traditional business chamber of agricultural producers.

The park was installed in the exhibition center the SRA owns in the capital of this South American country, to supply part of its consumption with an investment of almost one million dollars and more than 1,000 solar panels.

"Small private renewable energy projects and distributed generation will be the ones to increase installed capacity in the coming years, because the electricity transmission and distribution system sets strong limits on large projects," Mariela Beljansky, a specialist in energy and climate change issues, told IPS.

Beljansky, who was national director of Electricity Generation until early 2022, added: "Otherwise there will be no way to meet the growth targets for renewable sources set by Argentina, as part of its climate change mitigation commitments under the Paris Agreement."

Argentina presented its National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan, which includes 250 measures to be implemented by 2030, at the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) on climate change held by the United Nations in the Egyptian city of Sharm El Sheikh in November.

The National Secretariat for Climate Change estimated the total value of the plan's implementation at 185.5 billion dollars, four times more than the debt Argentina incurred in 2018 with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which has generated a sharp deterioration of the economy since then.

According to the data included in the plan, the energy sector is the largest generator of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the country, generating 51 percent of emissions.

Although renewable sources (with wind projects in first place and solar in second place) reached a record in October, supplying 17.8 percent of total electricity demand, the energy mix continues to be sustained basically by oil, natural gas and large hydroelectric projects.

Furthermore, the country has not decided to slow down the development of fossil fuels. The main reason is that it has large reserves of shale natural gas in the Vaca Muerta field in the south of the country, which has been attracting the interest of international investors for years. The climate change plan sets the goal of using natural gas as a transition fuel to replace oil as



Aerial view of the 5000 square meter roof full of solar panels, in one of the pavilions of La Rural, the busiest fair and exhibition center in Buenos Aires. It is the largest private solar park in the capital of Argentina and required an investment of almost one million dollars.

much as possible.

The plan also includes the objectives of developing a variety of renewable energy sources (wind, solar, small hydro, biogas and biomass) and also distributed generation, "directly at the points of consumption" and connected to the public power grid, at the residential and commercial levels.

Large renewable projects experienced strong growth between 2016 and 2019, on the back of an official plan that guaranteed the purchase of electricity at attractive prices for investors, but since then there have been virtually no new initiatives.

Consumption subsidies "In Argentina's current situation, where there is practically no financing, and there are restrictions on im-

porting equipment, high inflation and economic uncertainty, it is difficult to think about large renewable energy parks, and small projects become more attractive," Marcelo Alvarez, a member of the board of the Argentine Renewable Energy Chamber (Cader), told IPS.

Alvarez pointed out that what conspires against small private and distributed generation projects are the subsidies that the Argentine government has been providing for years to energy consumption, including those families with high purchasing power that do not need them.

"Artificially cheap electricity rates and the scarcity of credit discourage the growth of renewables," Alvarez said. "The proof of this is that

more than half of the distributed generation projects in operation are in the province of Cordoba (in the center of the country), where electricity prices are three times more expensive than in Buenos Aires and there is a special line of credit from the local bank (Bancor, which grants 'eco-sustainable loans') for renewable equipment," he said. Indeed, according to data from the Energy Secretariat, there are 1,051 user undertakings that generate their own electricity and inject their surplus into the grid and 573 of them are in the province of Cordoba.

Argentine state energy subsidies totaled 11 billion dollars in 2021 and this year, up to October, they already exceeded seven billion dol-

lars, according to data from the Argentine Association of Budget and Public Financial Administration (Asap).

As for sources of financing, there is a line of credit endowed with 160 million dollars from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Banco de Inversión y Comercio Exterior (Bice), financed in part by the Green Climate Fund, which is aimed at renewable sources and energy efficiency projects for small and medium-sized businesses. However, most companies are unaware of its existence.

View of photovoltaic panels in a private neighborhood in Pilar, some 50 kilometers from Buenos Aires. Solar panels have become part of the landscape in the

suburbs of Argentina's capital city. CREDIT: Courtesy of Utorak

Private ventures On Dec. 15, the Rural Society inaugurated the largest private solar park in Buenos Aires, in the 42,000 square meter covered area where the country's most important fairs and exhibitions are held. The investment reportedly amounted to almost one million dollars.

"We have 42,000 square meters of roofs in our pavilions. It is a very important flat surface for the placement of solar panels, so we had been thinking about it for several years. We had done a pilot project in 2019, but then everything was delayed by the pandemic, which forced us to close the venue," Claudio Dowdall, general manager of La Rural, told IPS.

"At this stage we used 5,000 square meters of roofs, on which we placed 1,136 photovoltaic panels, with a total power of 619 kW. This is equivalent to the average consumption of 210 family homes and, for us, it is between 30 and 40 percent of the electricity we use," he added.

Andrés Badino, founder of Utorak, a company that has been dedicated to renewable energy for families and companies for more than five years, confirms that consultations and demand are growing in the sector.

"People's interest has been growing because of increased environmental awareness and, also, because of what can be saved on electricity bills for residential users and for educational institutions and healthcare centers as well," Badino said.

"Argentina has a national industry for the production of solar thermal tanks, but not for the manufacture of panels, inverters or batteries, despite the fact that the country has one of the largest reserves in the world, the main component. But we are confident that international prices will go down and drive demand," he said.

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 KIPIMA JOTO 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 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

Women demand gender budgeting to promote gender equality

By Correspondent Daniel Mshana

WOMEN rights organisations and coalitions have demanded gender budgeting in all government ministries to ensure that women's economic programmes are implemented annually and effectively.

Although budgets appear to be neutral instruments which do not in particular mention males and females, they very much affect the lives of men and women, boys and girls in a different ways in both rural and urban areas.

The rationale for gender budgeting is straightforward, in seeing to it that parliamentary committees identify gender issues when budgets are forwarded to them, thus targeting gender allocations specific to various sectoral budgets such as industry, trade, energy, agriculture, education and so on.

A good example is how the Ministry of Energy has targeted clean cooking as a way of promoting the use of gas and electricity in cooking so as to abandon firewood and charcoal which depend on cutting down trees, bushes and forests.

The call was made recently by the founder of Women Fund Tanzania-Trust (WFTT) Mary Rusimbi when speaking at the 15th WFTT anniversary held at the new library of the University of Dar es Salaam. She was flanked by the co-founder MarijeTeRiele from the Netherlands.

The function was attended by more than 700 women from all over the



Gender equality is a human right. Women are entitled to live with dignity and with freedom from want and from fear.

country, including Zanzibar administrative regions.

WFTT, launched in 2008 has empowered financially various local women groups and enabled them to execute varied economic projects, provide leadership training, carry out campaigns against sextortion and gender based violence.

They have similarly provided legal aid services and media advocacy to women and enhance their capacity building.

Speaking at the function, Rusimbi suggested that it was

high time the government seriously begins to embrace gender budgeting, adding that it would enhance the country's reputation on the sixth phase government led by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, a dedicated woman leader.

Parliament should establish specialized committees on gender budgeting which include MPs from all political parties so that development projects that touch women agenda would be given top priority. Over the past ten years

Tanzania has experienced fast economic growth but when you look into the national data of the fastest growing sectors such as construction, only about five percent of its employees are women. That is why it is crucial to review gender budgeting, labour allocation and the like.

Theo Sowa, a Ghanaian national and former managing director of the African Women Development Fund graced the occasion, commending WFTT for having tremen-

dously helped the growth of a strong feminist movement and networks in Tanzania, mainly through grant making.

She expressed the hope that WFTT under its new executive director Rose Marandu will focus on funding more projects, bolstering autonomous women's movement building.

"This anniversary is important as few similar organisations have registered an impact like WFTT," she said, urging that more financiers

give more grants to WFTT to develop a larger number of groups and coalitions. There were cheers and ululations with representatives from Ireland and Canada, the main funders, also in attendance.

UN Women country representative Hodan Addou said WFTT has been an important partner since 2013. "We are so proud of our partnership and coalition," she said, assuring WFTT of continued collaboration.

Ambassador Getrude Mon-

gella, chairperson of the United Nations Conference on Women in Beijing back in 1995, expressed joy in attending the anniversary, noting that since its inception the fund has sought her advice in numerous meetings and for other women development agenda issues.

With such commitment the fund would lead the pack in gender mainstreaming and support for women participation in leadership spaces, she added



Freight Management Co. Ltd, sales and marketing manager, Stephan Sungi, takes fellow staff through ABCs on efficiency logistics service delivery during a brief capacity building seminar for freight workers held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM-based Logistics Company-Freight Management Company Ltd has announced a new and comprehensive plan to provide high quality transport and logistics services in the country.

"We want to take the country's logistics sub-sector to the next level by providing best local and international air freight transport and logistics services," said freight management

Dar firm unveils plans to boost logistics sub-sector in Tanzania

Chief Executive Officer Witness Panga in an exclusive interview in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

While acknowledging reforms made by the sixth phase government, she said her company was

committed to supporting government plans and initiatives to boost service delivery in logistics and other related sub-sectors in Tanzania.

She described the logistics sub-sector as a key pillar in stimulating

the anticipated growth of business and investment and in boosting the national economy and development.

"Positive results in our economy will improve living standards of or-

inary Tanzanians," said FMCL CEO, adding that "since we are part of this society, our contribution to these developments is vital and inevitable."

She said her company has a well-established network of partners, al-

lowing it to provide reliable and cost-effective logistics solutions to esteemed customers.

Among other services, the company provides air freight services, which include air freight forwarding, air freight consolidation, air freight transshipment and air freight chartering.

"We also offer a wide range of sea freight services, including freight forwarding, consolidation, and chartering, besides offering various value-added logistics services such as cargo inspection and customs clearance," she noted.

In addition to logistics services, the company also provides clients with comprehensive consultation and analysis services. "Our experienced staff can provide clients with the best solutions for their supply chain needs."

In its operations, FMCL combines intercontinental air and sea freight with comprehensive value-added logistics, services and supply chain solutions. The range of supply chain solutions varies from simple transport or storage to complex operations.

Basically, FMCL is well-equipped to handle any kind of shipment, from small parcels and pallets to large containers. Our experienced members of staff are dedicated to ensure our clients' shipments arrive on time, safely and on budget.

"We also take pride in facilitating the movement of goods between countries, offering our clients the most efficient routing options, the best rates and the highest level of quality service. Our logistics services include customs clearance, packing and repacking, warehousing and storage, distribution, inventory management and transportation."

BY HUMBERTO MÁRQUEZ

Management of protected areas is Latin American priority for 2023

The environmental priority for South America in 2023 can be summed up in the management of its terrestrial and marine protected areas, together with the challenges of the extractivist economy and the transition to a green economy with priority attention to the most vulnerable populations.

This management “must be effective, participatory, and based on environmental and climate justice, with protection for the environment and environmental and indigenous activists,” biologist Vilisa Morón, president of the Venezuelan Ecology Society, told IPS.

Latin America and the Caribbean is home to almost half of the world’s biodiversity and 60 percent of terrestrial life, and has more than 8.8 million square kilometers of protected areas, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

It is thus the most protected region in the world, with the combined protected area greater than the total area of Brazil or the sum of the territories of Argentina, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia and Paraguay, from largest to smallest. The leaders in percentage of protected territory are the French overseas departments and Venezuela.

The second great environmental challenge in the region for 2023 and the following years lies in the extractivist economies, which run counter to the region’s responsibility to the planet as a major reserve of biodiversity.

The extractivist economy involves the mining of metals in the Andes region, the Guyanese massif and the Amazon rainforest, and the exploitation of fossil fuels in most South American countries and Mexico.

Extractivism, plus the pollution in urban areas and in rivers and other sources of fresh water, weighs like a stone on the region’s transition towards a green economy that would rethink the management of these areas as a challenge, says Morón.

Other difficulties for the defense of the environment in the region are the destruction of the habitat, livelihoods and cultures of indigenous peoples, and the murders of environmental leaders and activists.

A view of a gold mining camp next to a river in the territory of the Yanomami, an ancient people who live in the extreme south of Venezuela and north of Brazil. Extractivism in search of precious minerals and hydrocarbons is a severe problem in the Amazon rainforest. CREDIT: Rogério Assis/Socio-Environmental Institute

Deforestation, a key issue

A major problem in Latin America, and particularly in South America, is deforestation of land for agriculture and livestock, or as a consequence of mining.



Deforestation, along with fires, reduces the region’s forests, expands the agricultural frontier, shrinks the habitat of indigenous peoples and wildlife, destroys water sources, and brings more diseases to populated areas.

According to the report “Amazonia Viva 2022” by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), 18 percent of the Amazon rainforest has been completely lost, another 17 percent is degraded, and in the first half of 2022 the damage continued to grow.

The loss of the Amazon jungle can directly affect the livelihoods of 47 million people who live in that ecosystem which forms part of eight nations, including 511 different indigenous groups (totalling more than one million individuals), as well as 10 percent of the biodiversity of the planet, said the WWF.

At the fifth Amazon Summit of Indigenous Peoples, held in September 2022 in Lima, the Amazon Network of Georeferenced Socio-environmental Information (RAISG) presented “Amazonia against the clock: A Regional Assessment on Where and How to Protect 80% by 2025”.

For this reason, environmentalists around the world breathed a sigh of relief on Jan. 1, when moderate leftist Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva took over as president from the far-right Jair Bolsonaro, who turned a deaf ear to calls to curb deforestation and favored the expansion of the agricultural frontier.

Brazil “has shown that it is possible to reduce deforestation by implementing clear policies,” said researcher Paulo Barreto, co-founder of the Amazon Institute of Man and the Environment (IMAZON), based in the northern city of Belém do Pará, from which he spoke to IPS.

Barreto has faith in the environment minister appointed by Lula, Marina Silva, who already held that position when Lula was president, between 2003 and 2008.

Among the necessary policies that challenge the environmental agenda, according to Barreto, is the application of protective laws and, at the same time, addressing the

social and economic issue represented by half a million smallholders in the Amazon and the Cerrado ecosystem.

The Cerrado is a more open forest, extending over 1.9 million square kilometers to the east of the Amazon basin.

According to the expert, policies aimed at reforestation and forest recovery “can be part of the solution in generating jobs and income, if, for example, payment is made for avoiding deforestation,” an initiative that he sees as positive in terms of bringing in foreign aid.

Barreto welcomed Colombian President Gustavo Petro’s launch of a new fund and new cooperation programs in the region to save the Amazon rainforest, based on extensive accumulated experience.

Program (UNEP) says the restoration of 20 million hectares of degraded ecosystems in the region could generate 23 billion dollars in benefits over 50 years.

Peruvian biologist Constantino Auca said that “in our countries and in general in the world there is a lack of political will to protect and recover our natural areas. More action is needed and fewer words,” he told IPS from New York, where he is staying temporarily.

In November Auca received the Champions of the Earth award, the highest environmental honor given by the United Nations, in recognition of 35 years of work to restore the high Andean forests in 15 nature reserves in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru.

The Association of Andean Ecosystems that he heads has led the planting of three million trees in Peru and as many in neighboring

countries, but Auca insists that “much more is needed. Climate change is coming hard and fast and the Andes are already facing severe problems.”

“Enough egos, we need honest leaders who do not allow their heads to be turned by power. In some countries in our region a mining permit is granted in three weeks while studies for a protected natural area take five years,” he complained.

Unregulated illegal gold mining in southern Venezuela, eastern Colombia and northern Brazil is another major environmental challenge in the region, which combines the destruction of the natural environment - the habitat of native peoples - with the contamination of water and soil, Morón said.

Another problem is the presence of irregular armed actors, such as groups of garimpeiros (illegal miners) from Brazil, criminal “syndicates” from Venezuela or remnants of the guerrillas and other illegal armed groups from Colombia.

Morón stressed that illegal mining, bolstered by weak institutions in the region, as well as the oil industry that is active in most South American nations, is a constant source of environmental and social liabilities.

Drought, crime and indigenous people

In Argentina, three years of drought in most of the country have severely hit the indebted economy and public accounts, along with more than 6,700 fires that affected some 2.3 million hectares in the same period.

It is an urgent issue for Argentina, a global agricultural powerhouse whose economy depends on food exports to its clients, mainly Brazil, the United States and East Asia.

In addition, a serious regional problem is the murder of human rights defenders, including activists for the environment and the rights of indigenous peoples.

Of the 1,733 murders of environmental activists documented between 2012 and 2021 around the world, 68 percent were committed in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Colombia was the most dangerous country for them between 2020 and 2021, accounting for 33 of the 200 murders documented in that period by the Global Witness organization.

In this sense, the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as the Escazú Agreement because it was adopted in that Costa Rican city in March 2018, has a key role to play.

The agreement, signed by 25 countries and ratified by 14, seeks to ensure “adequate and effective measures to recognize, protect and promote all the rights of human rights defenders in environmental matters, including their right to life, personal integrity, freedom of opinion and expression.”

The sources interviewed also agreed on the need to give priority to indigenous peoples and local communities in all pending environmental management in the region, since their habitat is directly at stake in the short term.

The Escazú Agreement also provides an effective way of taking care of the territory and paying attention to the social debt that has accompanied the many decades of environmental degradation.

Words and mining

The United Nations Environment



Indigenous people protest in the state of Pará, in northern Brazil, against companies that expand the agricultural frontier to produce biofuels, to the detriment of the lands that have been occupied by native peoples from ancient times.



RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 7:10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09.20 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09.30 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09.40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09.50 AM HABARI NYEPESI 10.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.20 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.25 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.30 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.35 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.40 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.45 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10.50 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11.00 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11.05 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11.15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11.20 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11.25 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11.30 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11.35 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11.40 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11.45 AM YALIVOMO 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Thursday 23 March 2023

WB vitalises private sector's role in sustaining economic growth

By Francis Kajubi

THE World Bank (WB) is confident opportunities as the government focuses that Tanzania has all it takes to on collaborating with the private sector," sustain and even realise further said Betele.

growth of its macroeconomic with He said the World Bank has been work- the current government's investment in pub- ing hand in hand with the government to lic goods that in turn facilitates the private sec- set a stage for the conducive business dor- tor's businesses.

Nathan Betele, WB country director, told terms of regulations and investment ob- journalists in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday even- ligations alongside regular consultations ing at the CEO Roundtable of Tanzania en- between the two sides.

agement meeting that ongoing mega projects "The private sector therefore has to are promising for a bright future economic initiate responsible actions in terms of es- growth with expansion of energy access in re- tablishing strong businesses, creating high lation to affordable costs, infrastructure devel- quality jobs, creating value addition with- outment and a vibrant transport sector. in the country as well as to ensure that

Betele commended the government's move there is open access for those willing to towards sustaining its economic growth at the come and invest in Tanzania," said Betele.

CEOrt monthly engagement meeting themed CEOrt Chairman David Tarimo said the "Tanzania's outlook: A World Bank Perspective" recently released WB report states that that brought over 100 business executives. for Tanzania to achieve a GDP growth of 6

The government is currently financing the to 7 percent there must be reforms in the implementation of mega projects such as the country's laws related to business and the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project (JNHPP) private sector as a whole.

at a tune of 6.5trn/- targeting at generating "The central aspect is to sustain the cur- 2,115 megawatts, the Standard Gauge Railway rent economic growth with great focus on (SGR), and connecting the whole country with the private sector as the engine in driving this growth," said Tarimo.

"We are very positive about the economic According to him, the private sector has a



David Tarimo, CEOrt chairman.

sponsibility to come to table and discuss policy and regulations to fast track issues such as timely payments to contractors and VAT refunds to manufacturers.

"The country's population is growing fast and if we are to realize real per capita

growth then we should regularly discuss improvement of issues related to the private sector prosperity," said Tarimo.

Tanzania's economy has shown resilience and recorded a modest post-pandemic recovery with gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 4.6 percent in 2022, according to the recent issue of the Tanzania Economic Update, a biannual report published by the World Bank.

The report highlights a number of key matters that are a priority in the short- and medium-term to maintain the country's economic status.

These include strengthening capacity to further build resilience, supporting inclusive growth through the Private Sector, and enhancing the investment climate to attract both domestic and foreign investors.

With a substantial role to play in driving sustainable development and in light of the findings in the World Bank report, business leaders have unique insights to help frame ongoing efforts of improving the business environment to propel economic growth.

The thought leadership session is part of the CEOrt's monthly engagements that incorporate valuable dialogue on topics

critical to sustainable development, not just for the private sector but the nation as a whole.

The 18th edition of the Tanzania Economic Update advocates for provision of water supply, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH) to reduce Tanzania's economic losses.

Beyond these recommendations, the CEOrt dialogue touched on opportunities for harnessing development funding to drive private sector growth, formalisation of the informal sector with insights on lessons learnt from parallel developing economies, strengthening of the dollar resulting in increased inflationary pressures and what it means for Tanzania as it relates to trade, trade financing and sovereign debt.

However, the role of the World Bank in supporting the government through prioritisation and harmonisation of policies for enhanced private sector competitiveness within the region and across Africa.

The CEOrt is keen at facilitating monthly engagements between business leaders and development partners to drive collaboration aimed at championing Tanzania's prosperity.

By Banker Reporter

World Water Day: Davis & Shirliff calls for solarised water pumping to address drought

AS Tanzania joins the rest of the world in marking World Water Day, water and energy solutions firm Davis & Shirliff is calling for more investments in solarised water pumps to help the country build more resilience by creating a strong resistance to shifts in rainfall caused by climate change or unreliable seasonal patterns.

Tanzania and the Horn of Africa are staring at a record 6th year of drought, threatening the region's food security with reports indicating Horn of Africa rainfall totals in 2022 were the lowest in 70 years, effects of which Davis

& Shirliff says could be averted in future through technology that helps in sustainable pumping, water harvesting, treatment and recycling.

"Solarized water pumping has proven to be operationally, financially, and environmentally sustainable, bringing the cost of access to clean and safe water down tremendously for both household and industrial use including importantly farming," said Davis

& Shirliff's Edward Davis. Millions of Tanzanians still live with limited access to water with many communities relying on hand pumps or electric water pumps that are costly to maintain.

"Before, the major hindrance to acquisition of solar power was definitely cost, but in recent years the cost of solar technology has dropped tremendously making them more accessible. In addition, these pan-

els last around 20 years, requiring little maintenance throughout their lifetime," Davis added.

With a population of 59 million people, Water.org reports about 16 million people (28% of the population) lack access to safe water, and 44 million people (73%) lack access to safely managed household sanitation facilities. People living under these circumstances, spend a significant amount of time

traveling long distances to collect water. And other challenges like population growth, and extreme weather events due to climate change create challenges for those living in poverty. Now more than ever access to safe water at home is critical to families in Tanzania.

World Water Day 2023's focus is on accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis. Celebrated annually on 22

March, World Water Day raises awareness and inspires action to tackle the water and sanitation crisis. World Water Day became a UN observance day in 1993. It seeks to focus attention on the global water crisis.

The Davis & Shirliff Group is the leading supplier of water related equipment in the East African region. Founded in 1946, our business activities are focused on seven principal product sectors - Water



Pumps, Boreholes, Swimming Pools, Water Treatment, Generators, Solar Equipment and Irrigation. The group has definitive

presence in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Rwanda, South Sudan, DRC, Zimbabwe and a partnership in Ethiopia.

NAIROBI

Absa Bank Kenya is set to re-enter the custodial services business nearly 13 years after it sold a subsidiary that was engaged in similar operations to rival Standard Chartered Bank Kenya.

The return is part of the lender's move to grow and further diversify its revenue streams.

"We got our custody license last year and are now at an advanced stage of launching it. We have recruited the teams, invested in them and are putting processes behind it before launching," Absa interim managing director Yusuf Omari told the Business Daily.

Absa has been diversifying its operations away from just lending with its business lines increasing by four-fold to cover new avenues including securities brokerage, fixed trading and investment banking advisory as it seeks to become a fully-fledged financial services provider.

"The main revenue line for the custody business is from the fee you are charging, but when you are able to go offshore and bank those clients, that means that you are able to earn foreign exchange as part of the custodial business," said Mr Omari.

The custody line in-

volves financial institutions such as banks holding customers' securities including stocks and bonds—for safekeeping.

Beyond safekeeping, custodial banks can manage customers' accounts and transactions, manage the settlement of financial transactions and aid clients in tax compliance.

In 2010, StanChart acquired the custodial services unit of Absa, which was then trading as Barclays Bank of Kenya. Absa said it booked Sh3.544 billion as net income from the transaction.

The deal was part of a wider acquisition of Barclays' custody businesses across the continent including units in Botswana, Ghana, Mauritius, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe by units of UK-based multinational Standard Chartered Plc.

The decision to dispose of the custody business was largely seen as a group decision made by its then-parent firm Barclays Plc headquartered in the UK.

Absa, which has completed its separation from the British bank, has over the past three years made new strategic decisions aligned with the growth ambitions of its new South Africa-based parent firm Absa Group.

Absa re-enters custodial business after the sale of unit to StanChart



Absa Bank Kenya Chairman Charles Muchene (Centre) Interim Chief Executive Officer Yusuf Omari (right) and Interim Chief Financial officer Moses Muthui (left) during the Bank's 2022 full-year financial results investor briefing at Villa Rosa Kempinski Nairobi last Wednesday.

This has emboldened Absa to venture into new areas including increased lending to small and medium enterprises and the launch of digital lending products such as Timiza.

Just last week the bank raised its dividend payout to a record of Sh1.35 per share or a total of Sh7.3 billion as interest income boosted its earnings in the year ended Decem-

ber. The lender declared a final dividend of Sh1.15 per share to be distributed on May 25 to shareholders on record as of April 28. This is in addition to an interim payout of Sh0.2 which was disbursed last year.

The total dividend for the review period has been raised 22.7 percent from Sh1.1 per share in the

year before. "The bank's Return on Equity grew to 23 percent in the period under review, having improved from 19.3 percent the same period last year," the bank said in a statement.

"The improvement in returns and profitability supported a total dividend per share of Sh1.35, an increase of 23 percent

over the previous year." Absa joins other Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed lenders like Standard Chartered Bank Kenya and Stanbic Holdings in raising shareholder payouts to record levels in the review period.

Absa reported a 34.2 percent net profit growth in the year ended December, largely supported by increased lending with

net interest income growing ahead of non-funded income by 27.7 percent to Sh32.3 billion.

By comparison, non-interest income grew 17.7 percent from Sh11.7 billion to Sh13.7 billion with foreign exchange trading income hitting Sh6.6 billion in the period.

Absa has credited the growth in net interest income to increased lending to small and medium enterprises against what the lender terms as a tough operating environment.

Its loan book in the year was up by 21.1 percent at Sh283.6 billion from Sh234.2 billion previously.

The bank's deposit base was likewise higher, expanding by 13.1 percent to Sh303.8 billion from Sh268.7 billion.

"We are pleased with this outstanding financial performance, which was achieved in the face of an unprecedented and complex operating environment characterized by significant events such as the general elections, drought, and persistent Covid-19 pandemic impacts," said Absa Bank Kenya Interim Managing Director Yusuf Omari.

Combined, Absa has seen its total operating income hit Sh46 billion in the 12-month period from Sh36.9 billion previously

with income growing ahead of overall operating costs which were up by 17.3 percent at Sh25.1 billion.

The rise in costs was primarily driven by a 38.3 percent rise in loan-loss provisioning costs to Sh6.5 billion which the lender attributes to one-off releases booked in 2021.

Absa's non-performing loans ratio nevertheless sits below the industry average at 7.3 percent even as gross non-performing loans increased to Sh22.5 billion from Sh19.8 billion previously.

The slower growth in costs has been partly driven by increased automation with the bank now reporting that 92 percent of its transactions are now taking place outside the branch.

During the review period, the bank has reported receiving Sh6.1 billion in additional capital from its parent firm to support the expanding balance sheet and meet strategic investments in new business lines.

The bank is betting on continued revenue diversification including the launch of new business segments/lines to maintain its growth momentum which has seen its asset base near the half-a-trillion mark at Sh477.2 billion.

MORTGAGE MARKET AND ITS CHALLENGES IN TANZANIA-2

IN last week's article, I discussed the first of three challenges that affect mortgage financing in our country: The government's financial role. I have discussed the importance of the Government being clearly defined in supporting the growth of housing finance through developing the secondary housing market. I have mentioned the Government initiative to address that concern by establishing the Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company Limited (TMRC) in 2010 and its positive impact on our mortgage market. In addition, I mentioned that the government working hard to develop capital markets so they can support the development of mortgage finance through local currency long-term financing and the development of a secondary mortgage finance market. We have seen the efforts to raise capital that are starting to yield results such as the establishment of the Watumishi Housing investments fund and NHC joint venture policy. That is where we ended.

Before we discuss the remaining two challenges that affect our mortgage finance growth, let's look at the current state of the mortgage market accord-

ing to the last Tanzania Mortgage Market Update report of September 30th, 2022, published by Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company (TMRC), the total mortgage portfolio balances amongst banks stood at TZS 522.95 billion equivalents to \$ 225.46 million as compared to TZS 509.99 billion equivalents to \$ 220.23 million reported on June 30th, 2022. This means the mortgage market in Tanzania grew by 2.54% in the value of mortgage loans as of September 30th, 2022 compared to the 1.24% growth recorded in the previous quarter (i.e., June 30th, 2022).

The report also highlighted that as of September 30th, 2022, thirty-two (32) banking institutions were offering mortgage loans, and the mortgage market was dominated by five top lenders, who commanded 64% of the market. CRDB Bank Plc was a market leader commanding 37.07% of the mortgage market share, followed by Stanbic Bank (8.11%), Azania Bank (7.34%), NMB Bank Plc (7.25%), and Exim Bank (4.50%). In this week's article, I will discuss the remaining two challenges that affect the growth of the mortgage finance market and the roles of the government and private sector to address those challenges;



Kelvin Mkwawa,

- Issuance of Titles/Collateral Securities - In Tanzania, less than 20% of the land is surveyed, with about 1 million parcels registered with corresponding certificates of rights of occupancy (CROs) and certificates of customary rights of occupancy (CCROs) issued according to the Tanzania Five Year Development Plan 2016/2017-

2020/2021. It is widely known in financial institution circles that Tanzanians have a culture of defaulting and this is why banks give priority to unmoved collaterals whenever they lend money. This is because of a lack of borrowers' credit risk information that lending institutions could rely on lien of collaterals. This is the same with mortgage lenders, they will only lend to people with unmoved properties that are in surveyed land as collaterals. This is hindering the ability of people to qualify for housing finance as mortgage lenders require land to be surveyed and to have a land occupancy certificate as most Tanzanians own properties but in unsurveyed lands.

- High-Interest Rates - High-interest rate is a critical challenge to the growth of housing finance. Even though the interest rates have improved from levels of 22-24% in 2010 to 15-20% offered today, but they are still relatively high for the majority of Tanzanians. High-interest rate increases the cost of housing finance thus making it not affordable to a large number of the

population. The Government can play a crucial role in reducing the interest rate further by extending long-term funds to local developers of housing - National Housing Corporation (NHC) and Watumishi Housing Corporation (WHC). Subsidies to these developers will help lower the costs of building houses hence enabling them to sell them at prices that most Tanzanians can afford. Furthermore, this initiative will help facilitate the growth of the housing secondary market which will increase competition among the lenders hence lowering the cost of financing.

To summarize, with support from the Government in developing sound policies, reduced interest rates that make housing credit affordable, and a faster process of issuing land titles, housing finance will become affordable in Tanzania and this will accelerate the country's mortgage finance market.

**Written by Kelvin Mkwawa, MBA Seasoned Banker
Email address: Kelvin.e.mkwawa@gmail.com**

Mining reforms generates billions to national coffers

By Correspondent-Emmanuel Onyango

TANZANIA, mining reforms introduced in 2017, have brought some positive changes in the mining industry according to the Minister for minerals. This seems to be a milestone development for the mineral sector in the country.

The reforms made by the government led to the establishment of at least 44 gold trading centres as well as other 70 minerals trading centres created in some districts across the country which have all helped to stop smuggling of minerals outside the country.

These centres have made trading become easier for small scale miners, reduced transport costs and ensured taxes are directly paid to the government coffers.

Certainly, with the reforms made in Mining Act in 2017 about six years ago, has enabled about Tshs. 7.2 trillion earned through the sale of different minerals, most importantly what has boosted the business is the establishment of local minerals markets.

The Minister for Minerals Dotto Mshaka Biteko, made this revelation recently at a stakeholders' meeting saying that, the government's decision to establish local mineral trading hubs in the country's mining centres has to a large extent helped to eliminate illegal smuggling and tax evasion exercises.

In the past three years, Tanzania has strived with much efforts to establish mining trading hubs in different regions and towns, a move which has to a great extent simplified and facilitated buying and purchasing processes of all types of minerals in the country.

The Minister said that, "Since the establishment of the facilities, sellers and buyers have been easily conducting their businesses more smoothly and without external interference".

In view of this however, stakeholders are safe, more secured and optimistic that the sector will continue to grow further and employ more people.

Apart from increasing trade activities, also the mining trading centres have helped bring to an end smuggling and theft that had become rampant as people now feel safe to take minerals to shortest distance possible and sell their gemstones through local markets.

Unlike before whereby investors as well as business people were busy looking for markets in far flung areas and even outside the country, it was too discouraging and so dangerous to the extent that it opened up loophole for uncontrollable prices that occasioned losses to government coffers due to tax evasion and smuggling.

Tanzania government expects to see more value-added activities of the ongoing business in the country which includes smelting and processing of minerals. As of the year 2020, two model gold smelters were built in Lwamgasa and Katente wards located at Bukombe District, Geita Region.

Also at Mirerani in Arusha region 28



Dotto Biteko, minerals minister

markets and 25 mineral centers have been established and this has enabled to curb smuggling of the unique tanzanite gemstones which before the introduction of these, mineral smugglers used the loophole of transferring gemstones to neighbouring Kenya.

This is a one stop mineral processing and export center aims at strengthening of mineral control and reduction of smuggling due to construction of a 24.5 km perimeter wall around the mining site.

The wall which was constructed in 2018 at a cost of about Tshs. 6 billion by Tanzania people's defense forces soldiers, has played a crucial role to prevent smuggling out of the mining site, which before the construction of a barricaded wall smuggling was so rampant.

The construction took place following reports that uncovered huge loss of the gemstones issued in 2017 which was conducted by special commission formed by president to investigate minerals in the country.

The controlling measures of barricading the wall taken by the government has enhanced the availability of levy that are attained out of the business done for those minerals. Tanzanite is a unique gemstone which are not found in any other country in the world except Tanzania.

Trade statistics recorded by National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows that, before the construction of the wall, the production was 1,964.75 kilograms per year during 2018/2019 compared to currently 3,398.65 kilograms being produced between 2021/2022 trading periods. This is an increase of 94 percent rate.

Since 1998 when the country first explored its minerals, an investments was made followed by contracts that were signed to accomplish the deal.

But since then up to 2017, Tanzania had been losing a lot from the mineral concentrates being exported outside for smelting.

When the fifth phase government discovered that there was a secret in this business which was full of cheating, the late President John Magufuli ordered the interception of a number of 200 containers which had mineral concentrates from being transported outside the country through Dar es Salaam port.

Later after being impounded, the government formed a commission to investigate the matter and came up with the results which later on forced the investors to pay for the damages caused.

In recent years, mineral exploration has increased in several parts of the country. The sector has attracted substantial new foreign investment in mineral development exploration, with local investment surpassing Tshs. 2.3 trillion (US\$ 1 billion).

According to the central bank report, other minerals which contributed to a significant increase in exports in the reference period are diamonds and gold.

During the period under review, diamond exports increased to 62.5 million US dollars from 8.7 million US dollars in the corresponding period in 2022, owing to the resumption of production at Williamson Mines.

Gold exports also increased to 2,904 million US dollars from 2,655.8 million US dollars on account of both volume and price effects.

The Geological Survey carried out in Tanzania has discovered that, is a land rich in minerals. Mining makes up more than 50 percent of the country's total exports, of which a large part comes from gold. The country has gold reserves of 10 million ounces, generating revenue of over US\$ 1

billion

Diamonds are also found in significant amounts. Since it was opened in 1940, the Williamson diamond mine has produced 19 million carats (3,800 kg) of diamonds.

Others are metals (gold, iron ore, nickel, copper, cobalt, silver), industrial minerals (diamonds, tanzanite, ruby, garnet, limestone, soda ash, gypsum, salt, phosphate, gravel, sand, dimension stones and graphite), and fuel minerals (coal, uranium).

Under the leadership of Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, the government of the United Republic of Tanzania has vowed to work on newly introduced reforms to ensure that the mining sector contributes at least 10 percent of the GDP by 2025 from the current 6 percent.

Mining is a leading industrial sector in Tanzania with the value of mineral exports constantly increasing for the past several years. The sector is comprised of both small- and large-scale operations.

Mining in Tanzania includes metals (gold, iron ore, nickel, copper, cobalt, silver), industrial minerals (diamonds, tanzanite, ruby, garnet, limestone, soda ash, gypsum, salt, phosphate, gravel, sand, dimension stones and graphite), and fuel minerals (coal, uranium).

Tanzania is also home to many rare earth and critical minerals that are currently in the exploration stage. Geita Region has 40 percent of the country's gold exports due to largest deposits. It was later on rolled out across the country to have an overall control of other mining sites.

The Tanzania mining industry remains attractive to investors, given the next few years of significant diversification to the mining of nickel, uranium and coal. There is also availability of investment incentives and supply chain opportunities in the mining sector.

Nickel minerals whose excavation starts in 2025 in Ngara district will be mined by Kabanga Nickel Ltd which has agreed to introduce a new technology once its operation kicks off. The government is optimistic with this technology that it will help curb smuggling.

The firm which has been contracted in October 2021 for mining nickel, has agreed to build a hydrometallurgical processing technology which is under construction in Ngara, that is more cost efficient with significantly lower environmental impact than a smelting firm.

The gemstones to be mined at Kabanga in Ngara district will be processed in the country instead of being exported outside. Nickel is the world's largest developed grade nickel sulphide used to manufacture motor vehicle batteries that are easily converted into electricity systems.

Treasury saves Sh32bn on lower debt repayment

NAIROBI

The National Treasury has projected savings of Sh32.13 billion in debt repayment costs due to a lower budget hole and continued replacement of expensive borrowing with concessional loans from external lenders.

This has seen Treasury cut the budget for servicing debt to Sh1.36 trillion from Sh1.39 trillion.

Treasury says the cut is largely due to a lower budget deficit forecast of Sh849.2 billion by William Ruto's regime compared with Sh863 billion that had been projected by his predecessor's administration.

"The debt service has been revised downwards due to lower than the projected budget deficit," the Public Debt Management Office director-general Haron Sirima told the Business Daily via text.

"There is also the continued substitution of domestic borrowing (short-term) with (long-term) external concessional borrowing. Note that domestic debt service through T-bills mature within a fiscal year, while concessional loans mature over 15 years and beyond."

The lower budget hole of 5.8 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) - a measure of national economic output - as opposed to the 6.2 percent forecast by the previous administration is, however, largely pegged on higher growth in economic activity than earlier projected.

The Ruto administration sees nominal GDP - which has not been adjusted to inflation - growing 14.02 percent this fiscal year to Sh14.5 trillion, higher than the previous regime's 9.93 percent to Sh14.0 trillion.

Net domestic borrowing between September and December last year - the first three months after President William Ruto took power - increased by Sh40.16 billion or 1.01 percent, provisional Treasury data shows, bringing the total to Sh4.0 trillion.

Borrowing from multilateral lenders, on the other hand, rose from \$1.6 billion (about Sh208.29 billion under the prevailing official exchange rate) to \$17.94 billion (Sh2.34 trillion).

The multilateral loans were largely contracted from the World Bank Group which grew \$447.35 million (about Sh58.30 billion) to \$11.27 billion (Sh1.47 trillion) while borrowing from International Monetary Fund increased by nearly half at \$949.53 million (Sh123.74 billion) in the three-month period to \$2.92 billion (about Sh379.92 billion).

Kenya turned to the multilateral institutions for concessional loans in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic ravaging the revenues and limiting access to commercial loan markets.

The country had kept away from direct budget funding from institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank during former President Mwai Kibaki's administration, with most of the funds coming in the form of project support.

Pension assets post muted growth amid weak markets

NAIROBI

PENSION industry assets under management (AUM) grew at their slowest pace in seven years in 2022 after an erosion in the value of equities, property and offshore investments in the period.

The Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA) industry report for December 2022 shows that total assets rose by just two percent or Sh28.8 billion to Sh1.576 trillion last year.

This is the lowest annual expansion since 2015 when the assets rose by Sh25.9 billion or three percent to Sh814.1 billion.

The lethargic appreciation of the value of pension-saver assets was mainly due to a Sh39.4 billion contraction in the valuation of listed equities on the books of pension funds to Sh215.24 billion.

Last year, the stock market was hit by sustained foreign investor selling as capital flowed from smaller markets to the safety of the US due to global economic uncertainties partly caused by the Russia-Ukraine war.

High inflation in the West, which



forced central banks to raise interest rates, also contributed to the capital flight from emerging and frontier markets, with a globally strengthening dollar also devaluing the returns from these smaller markets.

Volatility in the second half of the year due to the general elections also slowed down the performance of the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), which saw investor wealth

fall by Sh600 billion in the period.

Pension funds are among the biggest institutional investors at the NSE, holding billions of shillings' worth of shares in large listed companies such as Safaricom, KCB and Equity Group.

"The marginal growth of the assets during the period is partly attributed to a slow rebound of the financial market after the adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic;

the uncertainties surrounding the 2022 presidential elections; and the Russia-Ukraine war," said the RBA.

Government securities investments remain the biggest asset class for pension funds, growing by Sh15 billion to Sh722.04 billion in 2022.

The valuation of bond holdings was, however, negatively affected by rising yields in the secondary market, which rose as inflation also hit Kenya hard.

Bond yields in the secondary market show the rate that investors would be demanding for a similarly tenured instrument were it to be issued anew on the day.

If yields rise, the prices of existing bonds tend to fall as investors tend to push to sell in order to invest in the new high-paying issuances.

Property investments saw a drop of Sh6.1 billion to Sh248.4 billion, while offshore assets eased back by Sh5.3 billion to Sh14.1 billion.

The funds instead pumped cash into guaranteed funds and fixed deposits in a bid to protect returns, raising the investments into these asset classes by Sh38.2 billion and Sh14.4 billion respectively to Sh298 billion and Sh42.2 billion.

Their cash holdings also rose in the period, from Sh9.5 billion to 16.8 billion, indicating that some funds opted to slow down on investing while awaiting more favourable market conditions.

Pension industry assets under management shrank by Sh33.4 billion in the six months to June 2022 on the back of paper losses on equities and government bond holdings, representing the first half-year decline in retiree assets in 19 years.

The Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA) said the contraction in the assets by 2.16 percent to Sh1.514 trillion was due to volatility in the financial markets and the political campaigns ahead of August's general elections.

The value of government bond holdings by the industry fell by Sh16.6 billion to Sh690 billion, while that of listed equities retreated by Sh48.5 billion to Sh206.1 billion in the first half of the year.

Property investments in the period also dropped by Sh10.8 billion to Sh243.7 billion.

"Investments in government securities, quoted equities, offshore and Reits recorded a drop during

the period due to the dampened performance in the financial markets, unfavorable macroeconomic conditions, and the global uncertainties owing to the Russia-Ukraine conflict," said the RBA.

"Investment in immovable property also dropped during the period partly due to disposal of property by some of the schemes to meet the statutory limit."

The paper value of government securities holdings has fallen in tandem with rising yields on the back of investor flight to western markets due to global economic uncertainties

Bond yields in the secondary market show the rate that investors would be demanding for a similarly tenured instrument were it to be issued anew on the day. If yields rise, the prices of existing bonds tend to fall as investors push to sell to invest in the new high-paying issuances.

Global shocks, including the Russia-Ukraine war and high inflation in the West, have also been to blame for the uncertainty in the market which has pushed rate demands higher.

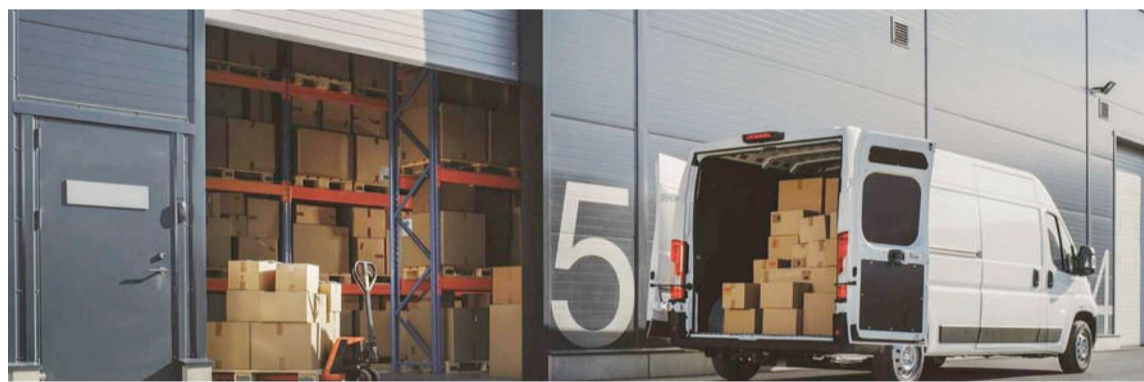
Seventh Kenya tech start-up goes under on lack of funding

NAIROBI

ANOTHER tech start-up, Zumi, an e-commerce platform dealing with non-food commodities, has shut down after funding dried up, adding to the growing list of tech firms that have collapsed in recent months hurting Kenya's dream of becoming Africa's Silicon Savannah.

In a LinkedIn post, the firm's co-founder and CEO William McCarren cited difficulties in fundraising that undermined sustainability saying that the move will result in at least 150 employees being laid off.

"With a heavy heart, I share the news that Zumi will be closing its doors. The current macro environment has made fundraising



Zumi, an e-commerce platform dealing with non-food commodities, has shut down after funding dried up.

extremely difficult, and unfortunately, our business was not able to achieve sustainability in time to survive," wrote McCarren.

Crunchbase records show that Zumi has since its inception in 2016 raised more than \$920,000 (Sh120 million) in funding with McCarren saying the firm achieved over \$20 million (Sh2.6 billion) in sales and had 5,000 customers within the period.

Zumi, which started as a women-focused digital magazine, bowed out of the media venture to pivot to e-commerce after struggling with low digital advertisement revenue.

The firm's exit forms part of a continuing trend where promising tech startups have been on a shutting spree with most of them citing difficult market conditions as well as funding hitches.

This is now the seventh Kenyan-based tech start-up after Kune Foods, Notify Logistics, WeFarm,

BRCK and Sky-Garden who closed shop in the last year, resulting in hundreds of job losses.

On its part, Senny shut down its retail and supplier trading platform known as Senny Supply and cut 20 percent of its workforce in October.

Anza Now CEO Bobby Gadhia, whose initial tech firm PC World Limited collapsed in 2016 after being in the game for 21 years, credits the rapid collapses to founders' failure to visualise ideas that provide unique solutions to tangible problems.

"Tech is a very tricky space. Unless you have a unique solution that solves real problems, you cannot survive. People usually have emotional connections to their ideas but when you analyse closely, there is no substance to what they are offering," says Mr Gadhia.

"Another emerging problem is that some entrepreneurs are

focused on building businesses for valuation and hoping for big buyouts. The days for that kind of operational model are long gone."

On the concerns that rogue entrepreneurs could be running a fraud syndicate scheme to milk money from donors and divert it into unintended use, Gadhia dismissed it as far-fetched asserting that "no entrepreneur would tarnish their reputation by engaging in such behaviour."

The funding drought for startups in developing economies has revealed a lacklustre tendency by venture capitalists, especially from the developed world, to push forth investments due to fears of recession and interest hikes.

The continued bullish strengthening of the dollar against the local currency has also had devastating effects on local companies that have been competing for talent with giant multinationals such as Meta, Google and Microsoft.

CBN admits weak links in cash withdrawals and raises policy rate

LAGOS

AMIDST the continued scarcity of cash under the Naira redesign policy the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, has admitted failures in the online payment channels that have frustrated banks' customers in the past two months.

Meanwhile in its bid to rein in inflationary pressures the apex bank has raised its Monetary Policy Rate, MPR by 50 basis points to 18%, from 17.5%, the fifth consecutive raise in the past nine months.

Speaking to journalists at the end of the Monetary Policy Committee, MPC meeting in Abuja yesterday, CBN Governor, Godwin Emefiele, said the apex bank is aware of the limitations of cash withdrawals with frequent downtime in bank transaction channels and urged online payment platforms to urgently overcome the challenges quickly in the interests of the banking public.

Fielding questions from the journalists, he stated: "I must apologise, yes, online channels failed. But no doubt it is as a result of the deluge of online transactions that hit the banking industry."

"But it is being resolved. On a daily basis, our Payment System Management Department monitors the online payment platforms so as to make sure that when there is a downtime, they are quickly resolved so that transactions can go on smoothly."

As at yesterday, most banks across the country were still cash strapped while the online payment platforms were epileptic in consummation of payment transactions.

On the overall Naira redesign policy, Emefiele said the implementation "has resulted in the reduction in currency outside the banks, indicating expected improvement in the potency of monetary policy tools."

His words, "At the beginning of the Naira Redesign policy we said that there was about N3.23 trillion in circulation out of which only N500 billion was held in the banking system, while N2.73 trillion was outside the banks."

"It was published yester-

day that currency in circulation is close to N1 trillion CBN continue to pump the newly redesigned currency into the market. The truth is that at some point we will need to re-assess to know whether the currency in circulation has attained an optimal level so as to put in place measures to ensure that we don't go to the level where we were when people kept money outside the banking system for their own benefits".

MPR rate
In arriving at the decision to further tighten the monetary rate, Emefiele said, "MPC examined the impact of possible further rate hike on the stability of the banking system and was convinced that a further rate hike would not have a negative impact."

According to him, the MPC focused on its attention not only on the inflationary trend in most economies of the world but also on the reported impact of policy rate hikes aimed at reining in inflation and financial systems stability in the global financial system.

His words, "Following new risks of financial contagion emerging from the scenario of failed banks in some advanced economies, members (of the MPC) examined the possibility of shocks in the Nigerians banking system and concluded that Nigerian banks remain considerably insulated from such likely contagion."

Subsidy removal risks
Speaking further on the inflationary pressures in the economy, Emefiele stated that the planned removal of petrol subsidy could exacerbate inflationary trend in the months to come, therefore further justifying a tightening position.

He said, "The MPC observed the continual upward risks to price development around the expectations of the removal of the PMS (Premium Petroleum Spirit) subsidy, rising prices of other energy sources, continued exchange rate pressure and uncertain climatic conditions. These, in the view of members, provided a compelling argument for an upward adjustment of policy rate, albeit, less aggressively."

Export earnings grow by 38.9 percent

KAMPALA

EXPORT earnings grew by 38.9 percent in January compared to the same period last year, largely due to higher returns from commodities such as maize, coffee, tea and tobacco.

According to the Ministry of Finance performance of the economy report, released at the weekend, during January 2022, earnings from maize exports stood at \$6.76m but grew to \$35.01m in January 2023 due to "easing of non-tariff barriers in Kenya and the opening of the Uganda-Rwanda border".

Similarly, earnings from coffee increased by 13.1 percent due to growth in exports to meet the reduced supply from major exporting countries such as Brazil and Vietnam.

The growth saw Uganda record an increase in the value of exports to \$404.46m up from \$371.81m during the period.

The East Africa Community remained the leading destination for Uganda's exports, accounting for 63 percent.

Kenya, South Sudan and DR Congo were the top three destinations of Uganda's exports to EAC, taking up 36.3 percent, 23.5 percent and



20.3 percent, respectively.

However, the value of the import bill increased by 11.3 percent in January on account of higher volumes of private sector imports resulting from an increase in economic activity.

Imports that registered a significant increase included electricity, prepared food stuffs, beverages and tobacco and animal and animal products.

In January, Asia was the largest source of imports, accounting for 47.5 percent. Of the total imports from Asia, 70.1 percent were from China and India. Asia was followed by the Middle East and EAC,

accounting for 21.4 percent and 14.1 percent, respectively.

The report also noted that within EAC, the top three sources of imports were Kenya, Tanzania and DR Congo, contributing 78.8 percent, 11.4 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively.

Uganda's export receipts to Kenya have continued rising despite trade blockades, with the latest November earnings hitting \$62.7million (Shs231b), the highest in over three and half years.

According to a monthly Bank of Uganda (BoU) report, in this period in review, the country's exports to Kenya registered a 25 percent

increase from the \$46.8million (Shs173b) earned the previous month of October.

BoU records further indicate that the November revenue was the highest since May 2019 when the country exported goods to Kenya worth \$72m (Shs266b).

Responding to this performance, Dr Fred Muhumuza, an economist and lecturer at Makerere School of Economics, said: "This is a good trend, but we now need to see its mirror image from Kenya. How much are we importing? Also check the actual imports and exports across the border."

Cumulatively for the last four years, the export trend has been on an upward trajectory.

Looking at the BoU statistics for the period December 2021 to November 2022, the country recorded \$568m (Shs2.1 trillion). This was higher than the \$533m (Shs1.9trillion) the country earned the previous year in review (Dec 2020-Nov 2021).

In the same way, the record further show that in the cumulative period 2019-2020, the country earned \$447m (Shs1.6 trillion) which was higher than \$428m (Shs1.5trillion) the country earned in 2018 to 2019 respectively.

WORLD

Israeli govt lifts ban on return to West Bank settlements

JERUSALEM

THE Israeli parliament on Tuesday paved the way for Jewish settlers' return to four settlements in the occupied West Bank by amending a 2005 law that ordered their evacuation, a move condemned by the Palestinian Authority and the European Union.

The repeal of certain clauses in a previous disengagement law would allow Jewish residents to return to four West Bank settlements they were ordered to vacate in 2005 on condition of approval by the Israeli military.

Yuli Edelstein, head of the Israeli par-

liament's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, hailed the move as "the first and significant step towards real repair and the establishment of Israel in the territories of the homeland that belongs to it".

Since the 1967 war, Israel has established around 140 settlements on land Palestinians see as the core of a future state, where more than 500,000 settlers now live. Besides the authorized settlements, groups of settlers have built scores of outposts without government permission.

Most world powers deem settlements built in the territory Israel seized in the



This Jan 30, 2023 photo shows a general view of the West Bank Jewish settlement of Efrat. (PHOTO / AP)

1967 war as illegal under international law and their expansion as an obstacle to peace, since they eat away at land the Palestinians claim for a future state.

The parliamentary vote, one of the first major steps by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hard-right coalition, came days after Israeli and Palestinian officials agreed on moves to curb violence and incitement amid escalating tensions. The Palestinian Authority swiftly denounced the decision.

"This is a condemned and rejected decision and it is contrary to all resolutions of international legitimacy," Nabil Abu Rudeineh, a spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, told Reuters.

Washington was "extremely troubled" by the move, deputy State Department spokesperson Vedant Patel told reporters, reiterating the US position that "advancing settlements is an obstacle to peace and the achievement of a

two-state solution."

"Coming at a time of heightened tensions, the legislative changes announced today are particularly provocative and counterproductive to efforts to restore some measure of calm as we head into Ramadan, Passover, and the Easter holidays," Patel said.

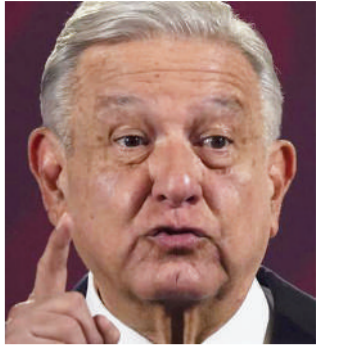
US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman conveyed Washington's concern over the legislation in a meeting on Tuesday with Israeli ambassador to the US Michael Herzog, the State Department said.

In its own condemnation on Tuesday, the European Union said the Knesset decision was "counter-productive to de-escalation efforts" and "a clear step back" from a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We call on Israel to revoke this law and take actions that contribute to de-escalation of an already very tense situation," an EU spokesperson said in a statement. **Agencies**

Mexican president calls US 'liar' after rights report

MEXICO CITY



MEXICAN President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Tuesday forcefully rejected criticism of his government's record on human rights, describing reports of official abuses made in a new US State Department study as "lies."

The report issued on Monday said there were credible reports in Mexico of unlawful or arbitrary killings by police, military, and other officials; forced disappearance by government agents; as well as torture and inhuman treatment by security forces.

The report also stated that "impunity and extremely low rates of prosecution remained a problem for all crimes, including human rights abuses and corruption," and criticized violence against journalists in Mexico.

Asked about the report at a news conference, Lopez Obrador dismissed it, saying, "they're lying," and noted the US "believes it's the government of the world."

"It's not worth getting angry about, that's just how they are," said Lopez Obrador, who is due to meet with former US Secretary of State John Kerry in Mexico later on Tuesday. The report "is not true, they're liars."

State Department acting spokesperson Vedant Patel, speaking at a news briefing, rejected criticism that Washington was acting like "the government of the world" and doubled down on the findings of the human rights report.

"As it relates to Mexico, the reported involvement of members of Mexican police, military and other government institutions in serious acts of corruption and unlawful arbitrary killings remain a serious challenge for Mexico and that's why they were highlighted in our report," he said.

Lopez Obrador has pushed back against recent US criticism of his record on security, which has come under increased scrutiny since the abduction of four American citizens in northern Mexico earlier this month. Two of them were later found dead.

The leftist president has argued his country is safer than the US - despite a much higher murder rate - and criticized US efforts to prevent dangerous drugs from entering the United States.

UNECA chief urges African governments to swiftly implement people-centered strategies

ADDIS ABABA

ACTING Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Antonio Pedro has urged African governments to swiftly invest in and implement people-centered strategies to mobilize financial resources and accelerate continental economic recovery.

Opening the ministerial segment of the 55th Session of the ECAs Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development Monday, Pedro said Africa was at the center of global sustainability transitions, such as decarbonization of production systems, electrification of transportation infrastructure and accelerated use of renewable energy, which he said should underpin Africa's recovery from the multiple crises.

"We need to adopt measures to mitigate the economic and social vulnerability, reduce economic inequality, foster inclusive and resilient growth and accelerate poverty reduction in Africa," Pedro told participants.

He stressed that Africa needs a people-centered development model that integrates poverty and inequality reduction into national and regional development strategies.

The theme of the Conference is "Fostering recovery and transformation in Africa to reduce inequalities and vulnerabilities," which, according to Pedro, was timely against the background of overlapping crises that have eroded achievements in Africa.

He said the continent needs to strengthen its macro-economic fundamentals and access adequate financing to promote structural transformation. "We must de-risk investment on the continent for both domestic and foreign investors," Pedro said, calling for the development of bankable projects that can yield maximum socioeconomic impacts.

Pointing out that the African Continent Free Trade Area was an opportunity to bridge the inequality and vulnerability gap while fostering recovery and transformation in Africa, he stressed the need to accelerate its implementation to support Africa's economic recovery.

In addition, he underscored that raising funding for long-term development needs multiple approaches, such as boosting domestic and regional financial markets and engaging in the carbon credit market, which could unlock 82 billion U.S. dollars for Africa that could drive sustainable industrialization and economic diversification. **Xinhua**

Xi, Putin agree to deepen partnership

MOSCOW

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Tuesday held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin in Moscow. They had sincere, friendly and fruitful talks on the bilateral ties and major regional and international issues of mutual interest, and reached new, important common understandings in many fields.

The two sides agreed to follow the principles of good-neighborliness, friendship and win-win cooperation in advancing exchanges and cooperation in various fields and deepening the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era.

In the refreshing weather of March in Moscow, Xi arrived at the Kremlin in a motorcade. He was welcomed by the Kremlin's horse guards and greeted by the Kremlin Commandant at the alighting point.

Putin held a solemn welcome ceremony for Xi at the St. George's Hall. Accompanied by the majestic welcome music, Xi and Putin walked in big strides on a red carpet from the opposite ends of the hall to meet each other in the center. They had a firm handshake and took photos together. The military band played the national anthems of China and Russia.

The two presidents held small-group talks first and then large-group talks.

Xi pointed out that China and Russia are each other's biggest neighbor and that consolidating and developing long-term good-neighborly relations with Russia is consistent with historical logic and a strategic choice of China, which will not be changed by any turn of events.

Since his first state visit to Russia 10 years ago, China and Russia have enjoyed mutual respect, mutual trust and mutual benefit, Xi said, adding that relations be-

tween the two countries have grown from strength to strength, showing the features of being more comprehensive, more practical, and more strategic.

Xi said that during this visit, he saw many ordinary Russians in the street waving their hands at the Chinese motorcade in a demonstration of goodwill. He sees clearly that China-Russia relations have strong public support.

No matter how the international landscape may change, China will stay committed to advancing the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era, he said, adding this state visit to Russia is a journey of friendship, cooperation and peace. China is ready to work with Russia to build on past achievements, enrich the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era, bring more benefits to the two peoples and make greater contribution to human progress.

Xi noted that changes unseen in a century are evolving faster and the international balance of power is undergoing a profound shift. As permanent members of the UN Security Council and major countries in the world, China and Russia have natural responsibilities to make joint efforts to steer and promote global governance in a direction that meets the expectations of the international community and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

The two sides should support each other on issues concerning each other's core interests, and jointly resist the interference in internal affairs by external forces, he said, calling on the two sides to enhance communication and coordination on international affairs, especially in the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS and other multilateral frameworks, practice true multilateralism, oppose hegemonism and power



Chinese President Xi Jinping (left) and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands after jointly signing a Joint Statement of the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation on Deepening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Coordination for the New Era and a Joint Statement of the President of the People's Republic of China and the President of the Russian Federation on Pre-2030 Development Plan on Priorities in China-Russia Economic Cooperation in Moscow, Russia on Tuesday. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

politics, contribute to global post-COVID economic recovery, advance the trend toward a multi-polar world, and promote the reform and improvement of the global governance system.

Xi and Putin heard reports by the leading officials of the relevant government departments of the two countries on cooperation in various fields.

Thanks to joint efforts, China and Russia have enjoyed deepening political mutual trust, convergence of interests, and understanding between the peoples, Xi said, adding that their cooperation in such areas as the economy and trade, investment, energy, people-to-people and cultural exchanges and at the subnational levels have made continued progress. There are a growing number of areas and an even stronger consensus for cooperation.

China is in the first year of fully implementing the guiding principles set forth by the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, and it will foster a new development para-

digm at a faster pace, promote high-quality development, and advance Chinese modernization in all respects, he said.

Noting China-Russia cooperation enjoys significant potential and space and is strategic, reliable and stable, Xi said that the two sides need to strengthen overall coordination, boost trade in traditional areas, such as energy, resources, and electromechanical products, continuously enhance the resilience of industrial and supply chains, expand cooperation in such areas as information technology, the digital economy, agriculture and trade in services. They should step up cooperation in areas of innovation and facilitate cross-border logistics and transportation, he added.

The two sides should cement the cornerstone of people-to-people exchanges, he said, calling for efforts to encourage more interactions between sister provinces/states and between sister cities, ensure the success of the Years of Sports Exchange, and facilitate the personnel movement

between the two countries.

Putin once again extended Russia's warm congratulations on Xi's reelection as President of China by unanimous vote and the formation of a new government in China. He said that Russia-China relations are developing very well, and that good progress has been made in all fields of bilateral cooperation.

Noting exchanges and cooperation are active between the governments, legislative bodies, at different levels and in different areas, Putin said that amid a complex environment, such as the spread of COVID, Russia-China trade bucked the trend and realized growth.

He expressed hope that the two sides will make full use of their existing channels of exchange and work for new progress in practical cooperation in various fields, including the economy and trade, investment, energy, space and cross-border transportation and logistics, and bring people-to-people and cultural exchanges in sports and tourism and at subnational levels to new heights.

Russia firmly supports China in upholding its legitimate interests on issues related to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Xinjiang, Putin said, adding Russia congratulates China on helping to successfully bring about historic outcomes from the talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran in Beijing, which fully demonstrates China's important status and positive influence as a major country in the world.

Russia appreciates China for consistently upholding an objective and impartial position on international affairs, supports the Global Security Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative. China has put forward, and stands ready to further enhance international coordination with China, he said. **Xinhua**

Ron DeSantis sharpens attacks on Trump's 'daily drama'

FLORIDA

FLORIDA Governor Ron DeSantis has reportedly taken a swipe at Donald Trump's "daily drama", sharpening his attacks on a top White House rival.

In an interview, DeSantis (pictured) said "stay tuned" on his rumored presidential ambitions, while taking a shot at his fellow Republican's legal woes.

He levelled veiled criticism of the "underlying conduct" behind Trump's alleged affair with a porn star.

The rivals have been shadow-box-

ing ahead of the 2024 White House race.

On Tuesday, Trump allies slammed DeSantis' latest remarks. Most Republican party figures have voiced support for the legally embattled Trump.

A grand jury in New York is currently considering whether to recommend charges against the former president over a 2016 payment to an adult film actress to keep quiet about their alleged affair.

In an interview with Piers Morgan Uncensored that airs on Thursday, DeSantis vowed that if he runs for the White House he could defeat



President Joe Biden.

Previewing his interview, the Fox Nation host said that when he asked DeSantis to contrast his style with Trump's, the Florida governor said: "The way we run the government I think is no daily drama, focus on the big picture and put points on the board."

Asked about Trump's nicknames for him, including "Ron DeSantimonious" and "Meatball Ron", he said: "To me, it's just background noise."

"It's not important for me to be fighting with people on social media. It's not accomplishing anything

for the people I represent."

On the topic of a former Trump fixer's hush money payment to porn star Stormy Daniels, DeSantis said there had been "a lot of speculation about what the underlying conduct is".

"That is purported to be it, and the reality is that's just outside my wheelhouse. I mean that's just not something that I can speak to."

On Monday DeSantis angered Trump supporters by saying: "I don't know what goes into paying hush money to a porn star to secure silence over some type of alleged affair."

On Tuesday night, a spokesman for Trump said the latest criticism proved that DeSantis has "terrible political instincts".

"While the entire conservative movement is united against the unjust indictment of President Donald Trump, Governor DeSantis is choosing to go off half-cocked and take shots on some low-rent vlog," tweeted Taylor Budowich.

Donald Trump Jr, the former president's eldest son, accused Mr DeSantis of "pathetically" attacking Trump "on orders" from the Republican "establishment". **Agencies**

India resists calls for more air access in drive to be global aviation force

NEW DELHI

INDIA dampened foreign airline hopes for more access to its airports on Tuesday, with its aviation minister urging domestic carriers to fly long-haul and help establish new hubs as it seeks to recapture control of Indian travel from foreign rivals.

It is also asking aerospace companies to step-up local production and will soon finalize rules to safeguard rights of lessors on repossession of jets, in a bid to level up with major global aviation markets, Jyotiraditya Scindia told Reuters.

"India is now at that inflection point," Scindia said during an interview at his office in New Delhi.

"We are going to see an explosion of air traffic in India in the years to come," he said, adding he wanted domestic carriers to look at international expansion with greater focus.

The South Asian nation is one of the fastest-growing aviation markets in the world where demand for air travel is outstripping the supply of planes, but the bulk of international traffic is captured by global carriers with efficient hubs.

Now, India wants to harness these economic gains for itself by boosting growth of its airlines and airports.

Air India last month placed a record order for 470 jets and is making an aggressive push in the international market. Domestic rival IndiGo is also in talks for a new order of more than 500 planes. Reuters reported earlier this month, even as it waits to take delivery of the same number from an older order.

Scindia said India was not looking at increasing air traffic quotas with Gulf states and instead wanted Indian carriers to offer non-stop long haul flights on larger planes. He said Air India's widebody plane order and IndiGo's twin-aisles to some destinations were signs that "transition" had begun.

India is also mobilizing to handle the transportation needs of its population of 1.3 billion by building new airports in the country's remotest parts and expanding capacity at major ones.

Domestic and international passenger traffic through six major metro airports is expected to more than double to 420 million over the next five years and India's fleet is set to grow to over 2,000 planes from 700 today, Scindia said.

He is working with some airlines and Delhi airport to create a hub and spoke model in the capital that will allow seamless transition of passengers hopping off domestic flights and on to their international connections and vice versa.

"Today my hubs are in either the eastern border of my country or the western border of my country. With the scale that I have, I must create a hub within India," said Scindia.

But even with hundreds of new planes on order, and India's history of airline failures such as Kingfisher and Jet Airways, Scindia said he was not concerned this would lead to any oversupply because the country's economy, rapid urbanization and underpenetrated air travel market would support growth.

"Earlier, airports and airplanes would only go to those cities that presented a great economic growth story to make the rationale for that investment. Today, it is airports and airlines that are determining economic growth," said the 52-year-old minister.

"That whole paradigm has changed."



An IndiGo Airline passenger aircraft prepares to take-off from the Anna International Airport on the occasion of the International Day of the Air Traffic Controller, in Chennai on Oct 20, 2022. (PHOTO / AFP)

Sri Lanka receives first tranche of IMF bailout

COLOMBO

SRI LANKA has received the first tranche of an IMF bailout programme, President Ranil Wickremesinghe told parliament yesterday.

The crisis-ridden island nation was scheduled to receive a \$330 million tranche, the first part of a nearly \$3 billion bailout approved by the International Monetary Fund on Monday.

"This sets the stage for Sri Lanka to have better fiscal discipline and improved governance," Wickremesinghe said.

The IMF bailout is expected to catalyse additional support to the tune of \$3.75 billion from the likes of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other lenders. It clears the way for Sri Lanka to rework a substantial part of its \$84 billion worth of public debt.

State finance minister Shehan Semasinghe said in an interview that Sri Lanka is ready to engage in restructuring talks with bilateral and private creditors to recover debt sustainability as "soon as possible."

This was the 17th IMF bailout for Sri Lanka and the third since the country's decades-long civil war ended in 2009.

Wickremesinghe said that the receipt of the IMF credit facility is a step towards building a better future for the youth and uplifting the country.

"We are now starting a new journey. We must introduce many economic reforms throughout the process," he said.

Some of these reforms have already been proposed and implemented through the interim budget of 2022 and the budget for 2023, the president added.

Agencies

How western sanctions against Russia affect world economy

By Nikolai Petrov

THE world economy continues to suffer visible losses from total cutting down of the US and their allies' trade, economic and investment ties with Russia. They also try to force other countries to do the same. Key international analytical centers - the IMF, the World Bank, some UN institutions - following the trend prefer to ignore those losses. Their focus is on inflation, financial policies, debts, war in Ukraine, climate change and COVID-19.

Nevertheless, the negative impact of anti-Russian restrictions on the global economy is recognized by the majority of experts. According to the IMF, the sanctions have led to disintegration and fragmentation of the world economy. In future this fragmentation accompanied by new restrictions on cross-border movement of capital, work force and international financial transactions can only deepen. A telling example is the increasing attention of "Western democracies" led by the United States to friendshoring - concentration of significant industries in ideologically close countries and closing supply circuits on them (in the framework of this policy the microelectronics production is being shifted to the US and EU).

Current tendencies already create obstacles for multilateral cooperation in creating global social benefits and undermine collective efforts to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

If we proceed from the IMF evaluations, the biggest negative impact sanctions have on their sponsors. The annual GDP growth of the developed countries slowed down by half in 2022 and amounted to 2.3% and will not exceed 1.2% in 2023 (while those indicators for the developing countries are 3.9% and 4% respectively).

The UK - a leader by the number of sanctions - is in the most depressing state. Growing energy prices and ineffective measures of the Government make it the only G7 state with the negative GDP growth prediction for 2023. Besides, the limited access to credit resources, high inflation in the absence of state support will lead to the increase of bankruptcies of SMEs. This will raise unemployment up to 5% in 2023 and may bring about another wave of social unrest.

Production indexes are going down in the EU "economic locomotive" - Germany too. The production volume decreased by 0.6% in 2022. Serious decrease is observed in chemical, metallurgical and manufacturing industries. In fact Germany is entering a period of recession with the GDP growth prediction at 0.1% in 2023 (comparing to 0.3% in heavily sanctioned Russia).

The economy of the Federal Republic is under heavy pressure as a result of the massive exodus of German business from the Russian market. The relevant losses of WintershallDea - an oil and gas company - amounted to Euro 5.3 billion in 2022, Siemens - Euro 1.1 billion, Linde AG - Euro 0.9 billion, RWE - Euro 0.7 billion, Daimler - Euro 0.7 billion, MunichRe - Euro 0.7 billion, Allianz - Euro 0.6 billion. BASF lost Euro 1.1 billion of investments in the Nord Stream-2 gas pipeline. The German Government estimated expenses on saving the gas giant Uniper reaching Euro 29 billion.

Finnish maritime navigation equipment company Wartsila sold its assets in Russia to the local management with Euro 200 million losses. As a result of leaving the Russian market the Danish brewing company Carlsberg will lose about \$1.18 billion, Maersk - \$0.6 billion, Grundfos and Danfoss \$111 million and \$78.5 million respectively.

The Swedish clothes retailer H&M loses SEK 2 billion as a result of closing down its stores in Russia. French companies suffer losses too: Renault - Euro 2.3 billion, Danone - Euro 1 billion.

Losses for the US companies are quite substantive too. For example McDonald's decision to leave Russia cost it \$1.3 billion, Microsoft estimates its losses at \$126 million.

All in all the Russian Centre for Strategic Studies estimates the losses of foreign business resulting from sanctions at \$240 bn.

Western companies cede their positions on the Russian market to competitors from other countries, first of all Chinese. The import of cars, lorries, building machines and equipment, mobile phones from China is booming.

De facto freezing of a considerable part of the Russian gold reserves has encouraged many countries to re-evaluate their strategies in this field. Those who prefer to stick to a policy independent from the West have been actively going back to the gold bullion. According to the IMF, 2022 witnessed a new record in central banks buying up gold - 1136 tonnes.

The Turkish central bank became the biggest buyer of gold in 2022. The gold reserves of Turkey increased by 148 tonnes and amounted to 542 tonnes - the biggest in its history. China, Egypt, Uzbekistan, India and Qatar have been actively increasing their gold reserves. Reducing the share of US dollar and Euro is envis-



aged by the Bank of Israel's new reserve management strategy published in April 2022. In June 2022 the People's Bank of China in cooperation with the Bank for International Settlements declared the creation of a reserve Yuan system with participation of Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Chile. Each of them will contribute Yuan 15 billion to the arrangement common fund. Argentina and Brazil are working on a bilateral monetary union that can be further expanded to other Latin American countries. Discussions about an international reserve currency based on the BRICS member states' national currencies are underway.

The US Treasury bonds were actively sold during 2022. From 28 February to 31 December 2022 the general volume of foreign investments into treasuries went down by \$400 billion especially because of the decision of China to reduce its investments by 15.7% or \$161 billion. Japan, Brazil, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Norway, Israel and Indonesia are actively getting rid of their assets too. Turkey actually brought its investment in the US treasuries down to zero.

The share of alternative currencies in international transactions is growing. The weakening of the Euro positions as well as its specific volume in SWIFT is especially visible. Countries like Turkey, India, Indonesia, the UAE have been taking measures to switch to national currencies in their trade. In 2022 Saudi Arabia and China has started negotiations on paying for oil in Yuans.

Several countries are working on projects of cross-border use and convertibility of digital currencies of central banks (multi-CBDC), for example the mBridge project of China, Hong Kong, the UAE and Thailand providing for higher confidentiality in foreign trade without risks of blockage from the West.

Uncertainty characterises the world energy market. The rise of volatility and the sharp increase of prices on hydrocarbons have started long before the Russian military operation in Ukraine. It was brought about by the short-sighted macroeconomic and energy policy of the Western countries. The energy crisis was provoked by such factors as pumping up economies with cheap money, unjustified prioritization of renewable energy sources accompanied by underinvestment in the oil and gas sector. Sharp fluctuations of demand during the COVID-19 pandemic also played a negative role. After falling to their historic minimum of \$25 in April 2020 oil prices went up to \$78 per barrel by December 2021. Gas prices

skyrocketed from \$200 to \$1950 per cubic meter during 2021. At the same time investments in the oil and gas sector dropped from \$886 billion to \$794 billion between 2017 and 2021. During the same period the volume of investments into renewables, much of which included elements of subsidizing or high procurement prices, increased from \$326 billion to \$446 billion.

Starting from February 2022 the Russian energy complex has been a prime target for Western sanctions. Among other areas restrictions affected equipment supplies and services. Under direct pressure from their Governments some energy companies had to stop their work in Russia.

In June 2022 the European Union decided to put a ban on import of Russian oil delivered by sea. Contrary to its traditional "free market" rhetoric the West led by Washington introduced a "price cap" on Russian oil. Actually this mechanism is aimed at involving third countries interested in stable energy supplies from Russia in the Western anti-Russian campaign. This mechanism includes the ban on freight, insurance and port services for the vessels carrying Russian oil if its price is higher than \$60 per barrel. Moscow adopted retaliatory measures banning any contract on oil sales that includes the price cap mechanism.

The current situation brings about deficit and increase of prices on oil products in the EU. The European countries still have to buy Russian fuel but at higher prices from foreign traders.

The regulation measures on gas prices that the EU has introduced from February 2022 and the creation of the system of collective procurement show that cutting ties with Russia in the gas sector has a very negative effect on the European economy.

One can speak about a threat of deindustrialization in Europe due to its decreasing competitiveness.

In their effort to substitute Russian gas supplies (40% of the EU consumption in 2021) the Europeans in fact try to reorient global supply chains inflicting direct and indirect (sharp increase of freight prices) losses on importers in developing countries. For ten months of 2022 LNG supplies to Europe rose by 64% (from 64 to 105 cubic metres) comparing to the same period of 2021.

Bloomberg estimates that the LNG consumption in the EU will rise by almost 60% by 2026 in comparison to 2021 amounting to 120.3 m tons a year. To a large extent at the expense of developing markets. The forecast on LNG supplies to India for 2025 has been

decreased by 6.4 m tons to 24.4 m tons, Pakistan by 6.7 m tons to 10.8 m tons.

Another problem for developing countries - the strengthening of the US dollar which makes them choose between buying energy and paying debts. In their turn, suppliers have to bear in mind a risk of default in some developing countries. As a result Bangladesh and Thailand had to drop efforts to sign contracts on supplies from new LNG terminals in Qatar and the USA. In October 2022 Pakistan failed to achieve a six-year agreement on LNG supplies. Its efforts to agree upon short-term supplies were unsuccessful too. The Philippines had to postpone again the launch of their first regasification terminal. Vietnam considers decreasing the capacity of the planned gas power stations.

In other words by introducing more and more sanctions against Russia the USA openly hits and robs their European allies who, in their turn, using their concept of green development, try to put the burden on developing economies.

Climate cataclysms, the pandemic and massive anti-Russian sanctions have gravely affected world agriculture markets. High energy prices caused by the Western efforts to force the transition to renewable energy sources brought about sky high transportation costs. Fertilizers now cost three times more than in 2020 because of high gas prices and sanctions against Russia. Fertilizer production in Europe mostly stopped and that may cause global recess in agriculture sector and food shortages in 2023.

Russia has managed to compensate for the actual closing of Western markets to its products by expanding its foreign trade contacts in the world's fastest growing regions. Russia's 2022 foreign trade increased by 8.1% to \$850 billion. Export rose by almost 20% with imports declining by 11.7%. The trade balance surplus was \$332 billion, or 70% more than in 2021.

The West sanctions policy aimed at punishing Russia has failed but it continues to hit the world economy bringing more problems to developing countries.

Nikolai Petrov is the Director of the Center of the study of the Russian-African relations

Syria says Israeli air strike hit its Aleppo airport vicinity

AMMAN

AN Israeli air strike hit near Syria's Aleppo airport early Wednesday, causing "material damage" and shutting down operations there, Syrian officials said, while regional intelligence sources said the attack hit an Iranian arms depot.

Israel has for years carried out attacks against what it has described as Iran-linked targets in Syria, where Tehran's influence has grown since it began supporting President Bashar al-Assad in the civil war that started in 2011.

In the third attack on Aleppo airport in six months, Israel launched "a number of missiles from the Mediterranean Sea, west of the coastal city of Latakia, at 3:55 am", the Syrian defense ministry said in a statement on state media.

The strike put the airport out of service and teams were working on repairs,



In this file photo taken on June 15, 2022, a plane is pictured at Syria's Aleppo airport after flights were diverted from Damascus airport following an Israeli strike. (PHOTO / AFP)

Bassem Mansour, the head of Syria's civil aviation service, told local media outlet Sham FM.

An Israeli military spokesperson declined to

comment.

Two regional intelligence sources said the strike hit an underground munitions depot linked to the nearby Nairab military airport, where

missile systems delivered on several Iranian military planes had been stored.

In the last year, pro-Iranian militias have expanded their influence in Syria's

northern Aleppo province, where they maintain several major bases and extensively support local paramilitary groups that operate there, the two sources added.

Nairab military airport has been used regularly for Iranian arms deliveries and the movement of troops, the intelligence sources said. They declined to be identified because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Iran has increased the use of the airport to deliver more arms during the past month, taking advantage of heavy air traffic as cargo planes offload relief aid following February's deadly earthquake, three Western intelligence sources say.

An Israeli strike on March 7 that knocked Aleppo airport out of service blew up an Iranian arms cargo shipment hours after it was delivered by a plane that Damascus said was carrying aid, the Western intelligence sources say.

Syria has said the strikes, which have been condemned by its biggest backer, Russia, and Iran, were disrupting much-needed aid for quake victims.

Damascus denies allegations that Iran, whose top military officials frequently visit Syria and have signed deals to supply advanced weapons, has an extensive military presence in the country.

Israel has intensified strikes on Syrian airports and air bases in particular to disrupt Iran's use of aerial supply lines to deliver arms to its allies, including Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah, which has also deployed fighters to back Assad.

Fighters allied to Iran, including Hezbollah, now hold sway in vast areas in eastern, southern, and northwestern Syria and in several suburbs around the capital.

Agencies



Tanzanian athlete Joseph John puts his skills to show in a 100m hurdles race's training, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. The runner is shaping up for this year's National Championships slated for May at the stadium. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Safety fears force Azam FC to cancel friendly against Gor Mahia

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Azam FC's international friendly tie against Kenya's Gor Mahia has been cancelled after Monday's mass action demonstration in Nairobi, the former's officials confirmed.

The friendly game was initially scheduled to be played at Nyayo stadium, Nairobi on Sunday.

Kenya's opposition leader, Raila Odinga, on Thursday, announced a program of mass action, including civil disobedience and demonstrations to take place every Monday and Thursday.

The demonstrations aim at protesting alleged fraud in the 2022 elections that propelled President William Ruto into power and demanding electoral reforms ahead of the 2027 polls, causing security concerns in Tanzania's Northern neighbouring country.

Azam FC issued a statement, pointing out: "We have cancelled our trip to Nairobi, Kenya to play with Gor Mahia this Sunday, due to security reasons. Gor Mahia invited us for the friendly international game scheduled for Nyayo Stadium in the city."

The 2013/14 Mainland Premier League champions had intended to use the friendly to keep them busy this weekend as the league is on a break due to FIFA international week.

Following the cancellation of the game, Azam FC has turned its focus to another friendly match against Zanzibar's JKU which was scheduled to be played yesterday evening at the Azam Complex Stadium.

"Our game against JKU of Zanzibar, scheduled for Wednesday at the Azam Complex Stadium will go on as planned," the Dar es Salaam-based club added.

The NBC Premier League club has four players on national duties for Tanzania, Kenya, and Comoros.

Football agents' exams set for next month

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) will, mid-next month, administer FIFA players' agents' examinations.

Clifford Ndimbo, TFF Media and Communication Manager, said the exams will be held on April 19.

FIFA has re-introduced the player agents examinations which were scrapped in 2015.

Ndimbo called upon those interested to become FIFA-acknowledged players' agents to apply individually through the world football governing body online portal.

"Individuals that are interested in becoming players agents should apply now through the FIFA portal, the date for the examinations is April 19," part of the TFF press release disclosed.

The federation did not issue qualifications and conditions for one to be eligible to apply for the players' agents.

The TFF press release noted the federation has names of individuals who have already applied for the examinations and also said the exams will be held twice a year, with the second examination having been

Forward Abdulhamis Suleiman 'Sopu' and defensive midfielder So-speter Bajana are part of Tanzania's Taifa Stars squad which is set to take on Uganda in the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier in Egypt on Friday.

Kenyan international midfielder Kenneth Muguna also left the club's camp for Harambee Stars duty, as the squad will lock horns with Iran in an international friendly.

Goalkeeper Ali Ahamada has joined the Comoros team preparing for an uphill battle against Ivory Coast in another 2023 African Cup of Nations qualifier.

As is the case with last season's domestic top-flight, Azam FC has been caught up in a fierce battle to finish third against newly promoted and ambitious Singida Big Stars.

With five games to go before the end of the league season, Azam FC finds itself sitting one point behind third-placed Singida Big Stars.

Next up is a crucial Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) quarterfinal home game pitting Azam FC against Mtibwa Sugar immediately after the international break.

In a related development, the Tanzania Premier League Board announced three NBC Premier League games have been rescheduled as a result of the Federation Cup quarter-final draw.

The Ifehu SC versus Simba SC league game has been rescheduled for April 10 in Mbeya because the two sides are set to meet in the ASFC quarterfinal three days earlier.

Kinondoni Municipal Council FC will now host Geita Gold FC on April 11, three days after the visitors come up against Young Africans, alias Yanga, in the ASFC quarterfinal tie at Azam Complex Stadium.

Yanga will also host Kagera Sugar in an NBC Premier League clash at the same venue on April 11.

slated for September 20.

The local football governing body also said those who will pass the FIFA players agents' examinations will be issued with a FIFA license which will enable them to operate World wide

The federation will continue administering the exams for locally recognized players' agents.

FIFA scrapped the players' agents' examinations as there was an increase in cases concerning player transfer disputes.

In its press statement, the world football governing body said individuals who want to be players' agents will have to take 20 questions in the examination and pay an agents fee amounting to 600 US dollars.

FIFA said at its council meeting, which was held in Doha in 2022, the Football Agent Regulations (FFAR) were approved.

"Following a very robust and open consultation from FIFA, the process, carried out by FIFA since 2018 and involving all key international football stakeholders, approved the regulations," the statement from the world football governing body noted.

The new FFAR regulations introduce basic service standards for football agents and their clients including a mandatory licensing system.

Why the Conakry first encounter ought to have alerted Horoya AC technical bench

By Correspondent John Kimbute

IMMEDIATELY as this season's CAF Champions League Group C match between Simba SC and Horoya Athletic Club ended with the former's fans celebrating in a moment of paroxysm, or at most tinged with disbelief since the score was far too high for anyone to have imagined, it was hard to find a starting point.

How did it happen that Horoya Athletic Club was unprepared for that encounter in such a manner?

Some suggested that there may have been background mischief if they accepted to be received, accommodated, and food bills paid by the hosts, etc.

Outside that sort of speculation, it seemed useful to look into the background mood of the first match between the two sides in Conakry and preparations for the return encounter.

There were likely to be signs of what to expect, or at least what knowledgeable pundits would have seen of the first game, and could project for the second encounter.

The math did not seem to match up, though it was not exactly strange as Vipers SC lost 5-0 to Raja Casablanca, the biggest rout in Group Stage games.

Estimations of projections were fairly neutral, implying that no one saw that Simba SC had a clear edge over Horoya Athletic Club, partly because the side has a more credible track record in the CAF Champions League.

Predictions tended to be neutral but some bold predictions, and not just local pundits, thought Simba SC would win, for instance, SoccerPunter.com said Simba SC 'never won against Horoya Athletic Club in their past one meeting', but that Simba SC is expected to defeat Horoya Athletic Club. It looked a bit bold.

Simba SC head coach Roberto Oliveira was quoted as emphasizing the need to ad-



Tanzania's Simba SC midfielder, Sadio Kanouté (L), outfoxes Guinea's Horoya Athletic Club midfielder, Amadou Wonkoye, when the two outfits faced each other in a 2022/23 CAF Champions League's Group C clash which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Simba SC won 7-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

dress defensive errors that went unpunished in the previous meeting, though this statement was not optimistic enough if the record of the previous match is taken into account.

That was what solved the riddle of results in the subsequent encounter, but one had to dig deep to figure it out.

CAFOnline.com said Horoya Athletic Club held its nerve for a slim 1-0 win over Simba SC, implying that they more or less repeat their home encounter. Not a bad prediction but rather unrealistic, still.

There was some reason for that optimism if one goes with the summary that CAFOnline.com gave for the first match, that striker Pape Ndiaye scored and missed a penalty as the Guinean champions held on to beat Tanzania's Simba SC 1-0 in Conakry.

They affirmed that this win put the Conakry side on a good footing to pursue the qualification, it looked that way.

Someone sniffed that Simba SC was putting up keen preparations, as a non-local website, telecomasia.net said Simba SC commenced the match with a defeat against Horoya Athletic Club and had since suffered another setback at home, definitely the rout in the clash against Raja Casablanca.

ferent matter as it appeared to discount just Raja Casablanca, having an edge over Simba SC and Vipers SC.

Still, the chronicle said that "Horoya Athletic Club's supporters had to live the last quarter of an hour on the edge of their seats, especially after Ndiaye missed his penalty as Simba SC mounted pressure on them."

Horoya Athletic Club looked assured in their home game as they led with Ndiaye nodding home a header from the far post off a well-delivered corner from Amadou Djibo at 18 minutes.

The chronicler said they were dominant and should have gone to the break two up but they could not bury the chances that came their way. Things were not that straightforward in the second half.

"Five minutes into the second half, they had another golden chance when a deflected cross found Djibo at the back post, but he could not land his header on target with a gaping goal-mouth."

On the other end, Simba SC had a chance when Clatous Chama curled in a freekick, but the keeper turned it behind for a corner.

In the 72nd minute, Horoya Athletic Club should have closed out the game from the spot after Simba SC's Joash Onyango had handled inside the box, but Ndiaye saw his penalty saved by Aishi Manula." That shows clearly the talent, the pressure, and the ability.

"From then on, Simba SC mounted the attack with Chama striking the ball over from close range in the 75th minute before substitute John Bocco dinked the ball wide while one on one with the keeper."

Again, "Horoya Athletic Club keeper Moussa Camara made a brilliant save with seven minutes left to keep out a header from Sadio Kanoute before Bocco had another chance blocked from inside the box."

As noted above, the last quarter hour was especially bad for Horoya Athletic Club, and at 'Estadio Lupaso,' they lost the game tempo as Simba SC scored, indeed, twice, the former's coach had no Plan B.

Zone Five Handball Championships preparations in top gear

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Handball Association (TAHA) has revealed preparations for the coming International Handball Federation (IHF)-sanctioned Trophy Africa Zone V Championships, slated for April in Dar es Salaam, are at an advanced stage.

The championships, slated for April 24-30, will involve U-17 and U-20 teams and will be staged at Benjamin Mkapa Indoor Stadium and Ngome grounds. The hosts will be represented by the national women's handball team.

Michael Chibwala, TAHA president, pointed out in an interview they are happy with the preparations.

He, however, called upon sports stakeholders in the country to help TAHA secure materials and funds to successfully host the championships.

Chibwala said IHF will take care of all visiting teams' accommodation and articles to and from the country.

The TAHA president said they need 64,167,000/- for the 39 players constituting two national teams (U-17 and U-20), four coaches, two matrons, a team doctor, and two team leaders.

The association, Chib-



Some of the handballers that battled it out in the 2021 National Inter-Secondary Schools Games (Umisseta), which took place in Mtwara, are pictured during one of the matches. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA HANDBALL ASSOCIATION

wala added, is moreover in need of 39,080,000/- for the tournament preparations and other essential requirements.

The two national teams, Chibwala stated, are expected to enter the residential camp in Dar es Salaam early next month.

The TAHA president noted: "Preparations for the Zone Five Handball Championships are going on very well, I'm sure

with the ongoing preparations, we will successfully host the championships."

"Our national teams enter camp on April 1, as I'm speaking to you (Tuesday night) I'm coming from Mwalimu Julius Nyerere International Airport to collect materials IHF has sent for the championships," he said.

He said IHF and Confederation of Africa Handball

(CAHB) will send official representatives, namely Peter Kovacs from Hungary, and Zambian Victor Banda respectively.

Chibwala mentioned international officials that will officiate the championships as Angolans Antonio Escurinho and Gomes Elvio, Algerians Ghol Maheddine and Chergui Oussama, and Togo's Aduay Sentowu and

Aduay Tonkomabu.

Other international officials for the championships are Mostapha Hossein and Kedis Mostapha from Egypt, and Tunisians Haggui Sahara and Huggui Roua.

To promote the sport in the country and see to it there are qualified officials, Chibwala noted, TAHA has arranged an IHF-recognized course for coaches and umpires.

The TAHA president mentioned Kenyan George Asimeto and Coulibaly Nanga from Algeria as instructors for the coaches and umpires course.

The national teams' players come from Zanzibar and Mainland Tanzania. They were selected during the last year's National Inter-Secondary Schools Games (Umisseta) and National Inter-Primary Schools Games (Umitashumta).

The national teams' four coaches are Kombo Ally Kombo, Phillip Makumbi, Daudi Martin, and Moshi Ally.

Zone 5 countries are Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and the host Tanzania.



Messi mania in Argentina as soccer star now mobbed at restaurant

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

A STEAKHOUSE in the trendy Buenos Aires neighborhood of Palermo was mobbed by hundreds of frenzied soccer fans late Monday night when word spread that Lionel Messi was inside having dinner.

People rushed to the exclusive Don Julio restaurant eager to get a glimpse of the man who led Argentina to its third World Cup title. Messi eventually needed a police escort to leave.

Fans on the street corner chanted "Messi, Messi" and sang the words to "Muchachos," which became the unofficial anthem for the Argentina squad that beat France in a thrilling final in Qatar.

The scene witnessed in the neighborhood of Argentina's capital known for its bars and restaurants illustrates how Messi has now become like the late Diego Maradona, who led Argentina to its second World Cup trophy in 1986, and he can no longer walk through Argentina's streets without being mobbed.

It wasn't always this way.

The man who is now cheered wherever he goes once used to suffer the indifference and even apathy from many Argentina fans who blamed him for the country's failings in previous championships. All that vitriol led the man who is often called the best soccer player in the world to even quit the national team in 2016, although he later backtracked.

All of that now seems to be forgotten as Messi fever has decidedly taken over, recalling what happened with Maradona 36 years ago after he raised the World Cup in Mexico. The then-captain also had to deal with fans who chased him wherever he went in the hopes of getting a photograph or an autograph.

On Monday night, the multitude was so great that police officers had to arrive at the restaurant to accompany the 35-year-old Messi to his vehicle while keeping fans at bay.

Images and video posted on social media showed the furor of the fans who seemed willing to do anything to greet and touch the Paris Saint-Germain player. "Messi I love you" and "Thank you, Leo" were just a few phrases that could be heard as he was escorted out of the restaurant.

"Thank you for looking at me captain, I can die in peace," one user wrote on Twitter accompanied by a video that showed a smiling Messi being escorted as people shouted "I love you!"

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni celebrated the Messi mania that has been unleashed in Buenos Aires and across the country.

"What Leo is experiencing is beautiful because he deserves all that love, him and all the players who are here," Scaloni said at a news conference Tuesday. "Leo also needs to see that people love him and what happens when he comes here. I think it's beautiful, it will stay with him forever."

Messi arrived in Argentina on Monday to celebrate the World Cup title with a friendly match against Panama on Thursday in Buenos Aires. The 63,000 tickets sold out in a flash.

Security officials are not revealing any details about how the team will travel to the stadium out of fear that fans will block roads and ultimately block the passage of the players. There are rumors the players could travel via helicopter.

After winning the World Cup title in December, a planned celebratory open-top bus ride throughout the city had to be cut short as millions of fans made it impossible for the bus to advance.

The adulation that Messi is receiving comes at a time when his future at PSG remains uncertain and is in sharp contrast to the anger that many fans of the French team feel toward the Argentine player. Shortly before he was cheered in Buenos Aires, the World Cup champion was whistled by PSG fans who blamed him for the team's 2-0 loss against Rennes.

Messi has yet to say what he will do after June 30, when his contract is set to expire.

For now though, he'll enjoy the adoration of Argentine fans as the team will play another friendly match against Curaçao on March 28 in Argentina's central Santiago del Estero province.

AP

Mancini looking for answers before Euro qualifying opener with England

NAPLES, Italy

ROBERTO Mancini is wondering where the next generation of Italian talent is going to come from as the Azzurri begin their Euro 2024 qualifying campaign today with the visit of England.

Italy coach Mancini is in the process of another rebuild after the European champions missed out last year's World Cup following a second straight disastrous play-off defeat.

The euphoria of beating England at Wembley in the Euro 2020 final had well and truly dissipated by the time North Macedonia stunned Italy last year.

And while the rest of the world's top teams prepared for Qatar, Italian football was again pondering its place in the world, with Mancini lamenting a lack of young players in a country which used to be a conveyor belt of world class talent.

Italy has three clubs in the Champions League quarter-finals for the first time since 2006, with three more in the last eight for Europe's other two competitions, but Mancini is not hailing a rare continental success story for Serie A.

"They (Napoli, AC Milan and Inter Milan) have seven or eight Italians in the team between them... This is the reality and we need to do something different," Mancini told reporters on Monday.

"Italian football hasn't been reborn... If there were 33 Italians on the pitch, maybe, even half of them being Italian



Gareth Southgate



Roberto Mancini

would be enough."

Mancini has lamented in particular a lack of forwards and used Leeds United winger Willy Gnonto as an example of how young talent is overlooked by Serie A clubs.

However he has also been criticised for some of the selections in his 30-man squad for the Thursday's match in Naples, which includes a first call-up for Argentina-born Tigre striker Mateo Retegui.

Udinese defender Destiny Udogie, who will move to Tottenham next season, Juventus midfielder Nicolò Fagioli and Lazio pair Mattia Zaccagni and Nicolò Casale are the omissions which have most baffled fans.

- Strength in depth -

Zaccagni has scored nine times for Lazio this season, including the winner in Sunday's Rome derby, and him missing out while Federico Chiesa was selected -- before succumbing to yet another injury -- has raised eyebrows.

Italy will face both England and North Macedonia in Group C, a reminder of both the highs and lows of Mancini's reign, which began in 2018 with uncharacteristically swashbuckling football before falling into the same pit of despair which led to him being hired in the first place.

Making the Nations League final four while also relegating England from the top tier was a welcome plus but failed to change a general feeling in Italy

that the national team is on another downturn.

Mancini and England boss Gareth Southgate will be rivals again on Thursday but both their sides will be favourites to take the two qualifying spots available in the five-team group which also includes Ukraine and Malta.

Southgate too has said he is concerned about strength in depth despite a host of talented young players coming through to England's senior squad in recent years, echoing a similar sentiment expressed by Rudi Voeller when he was made the new director of Germany's national side in January.

"You'd love to have that depth, but we are shorter than the other big nations on depth of selection. I'm happy with the quality we have to pick from, but in certain positions we are short of depth," Southgate said last week.

"Those numbers are deteriorating rapidly in the Premier League, it's not a concern for me in the next 18 months but in four of five years time, we have to be really careful on that."

Meanwhile, England's quest to win a first major tournament since 1966 starts afresh on Thursday as the Three Lions' Euro 2024 qualifying campaign begins with a testing trip to champions Italy.

After taking time to consider his future following a World Cup quarter-final exit to France in December, Gareth Southgate

will remain in charge as England boss for a fourth attempt at glory.

Southgate has overseen a transformation of his country's fortunes on the international stage.

But after reaching a quarter-final, semi-final and final in their last three major tournaments, anything less than ending a 58-year trophy drought in Germany next year will be seen as a disappointment.

Southgate might have sounded a warning this week about the declining number of England-qualified players playing regularly in the Premier League, but he admitted that is a worry for the long term given the array of talent available to him currently.

Arsenal winger Bukayo Saka and Borussia Dortmund midfielder Jude Bellingham proved themselves to be two of the brightest young talents in world football in Qatar.

Harry Kane's next goal for his country will make him England's leading scorer in history, while Marcus Rashford's potential is finally being realised under Erik ten Hag at Manchester United.

An injury to Rashford means he will miss the opening two qualifiers against Italy and Ukraine this week, but Southgate is not short of options with Manchester City duo Phil Foden and Jack Grealish set to battle it out for a place in the side.

For all the progress made

under Southgate, though, victory over Germany in the last 16 of Euro 2020 remains his only knockout win against one of the major nations in international football.

The Three Lions outplayed France for much of their meeting in the quarter-finals in Doha three months ago, but still came up short when it mattered.

"These are the sorts of games where we have to show we can go to these places and win," said Southgate on the prospect of facing Italy in front of an intimidating atmosphere at the Estadio Diego Armando Maradona in Naples.

"That is the next step for us as a team."

England fell short on penalties against Italy in the Euro 2020 final on home soil and failed to beat Roberto Mancini's men in two clashes in the Nations League prior to the World Cup.

The Three Lions did not win a single game in their Nations League campaign but were still able to bounce back close to their best once the World Cup came around.

And Southgate is wary of another drop off in standards during a qualifying process with little jeopardy for the major nations thanks to the expansion of the European Championship to 24 teams.

The top two from a group also containing Ukraine, North Macedonia and Malta will automatically qualify.

"That is the big challenge we have got. To go to a World Cup, everyone wanted to be there and the fight for places was immense, the hunger was there and it was clear. Now you have to start again," added Southgate.

"I know exactly where our most senior players are with that challenge: they are ready. The (Jordan) Hendersons, the Kanes, they set the tone for that sort of mentality that is going to be needed."

AFP

Tottenham manager candidates express similar concerns as Antonio Conte

BY MATT LAW

DANIEL Levy has difficult questions to answer over the running and direction of Tottenham Hotspur as he attempts to identify a long-term successor to Antonio Conte.

Tottenham are expected to agree to Conte's departure this week as Levy weighs up his short-term and long-term options, following the Italian's criticism of the club's squad.

Conte flew to Italy on Monday and was not at Tottenham's training ground on Tuesday with just a handful of players who are not on international duty reporting for rehabilitation and recovery sessions.

Ryan Mason could be put in charge until the end of the season if Conte departs during the international break, while more long-term options include Luis Enrique, Thomas Tuchel and Mauricio Pochettino, who are all out of work, together with Celtic's Ange Postecoglou and Eintracht Frankfurt's Oliver Glasner, Brighton's Roberto De Zerbi and Brentford's Thomas Frank.

But Levy is understood to be aware he does not face a straightforward task in replacing Conte with a top manager, with the 53-year-old laying bare the problems that he believes exist within the club and the squad.

It is understood that a number of Tottenham's potential candidates to replace Conte share similar concerns to those he raised so publicly after the 3-3 draw with Southampton in which Spurs squandered a 3-1 lead.

There is a feeling from outside the club that Conte over-achieved in his first season at Spurs by clinching Champions League qualification and that this campaign is more reflective of the level of the squad and the ambition of the club.

Managers are also said to have reservations over the running of the football operations at Tottenham, particularly given the doubts over the future of managing director of football Fabio Paratici.

Paratici has been far less visible since being hit with a ban in Italy as part of an investigation into alleged malpractice at Juventus and has mainly watched matches from the directors' box, rather than from behind the dug-out.

The uncertainty surrounding Paratici could

be further complicated by an Italian court case that is scheduled for next Monday, March 27.

Paratici was handed a 30-month ban from Italian football as part of the sanctions imposed on his ex-club Juventus by the Italian Football Federation, which could still be applied across the globe.

On March 27, a preliminary hearing of a criminal investigation into the capital gains and salary manoeuvres of Juventus and individuals who worked at the club, in which Paratici has been named among the defendants, will take place to decide whether or not a trial should go ahead.

Questions have already been asked over whether or not Paratici himself will still be at Tottenham next season.

Midfielder Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg became the first Tottenham player to respond to Conte's criticism on Tuesday while on international duty with Denmark.

Hojbjerg claimed Conte had not communicated his anger to the squad in the dressing-room at Southampton before publicly accusing the Tottenham players of being "selfish" and suggested the Italian should explain his comments.

"He didn't tell us what he wanted to say at the press conference," said

Hoibjerg. "But it is clear that you work with each other every day, you want the best for each other and you want to be successful together. And sometimes the waves go high in football."

"I understand that if you want to be successful as a team, you need 11 men who are committed to a project and a culture. But I think he has to elaborate on how he feels before you as a player can start measuring and weighing."

"The coach has not been satisfied, and that is what I will take with me. You do what you can to please him. What I do know about myself is that I am an honest player. I am a player who

always gives 100 per cent of myself for the team."

Asked on the view of the entire Squad, Hojbjerg said: "We've all seen it. [It was a] very honest and very open press conference he gave. It is because he is not satisfied. You don't do that if you've reached the quarter-final of the Champions League and if you're in the semi-final of the FA Cup."

"It comes from the fact that, unfortunately, we did not get the results we as a team and club wanted. We are still where we want and need to be in the Premier League. But yes, it's hard, I should say."

THE TELEGRAPH



SPORT

Mancini looking for answers before Euro qualifying opener with England

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Amrouche happy with Taifa Stars players' response in training



Tanzania's Taifa Stars players are pictured engaging in a training session in Egypt yesterday in preparation for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers' Group F clash against Uganda penned for tomorrow in Ismailia. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Michael

Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Taifa Stars head coach Adel Amrouche is happy with the way the players are shaping up in training ahead of the back-to-back 2023 African Cup of Nations qualifiers' ties against Uganda.

After the last batch of players arrived in Egypt, Taifa Stars completed a grueling training session in Cairo on Tuesday evening in preparation for Friday's encounter with Uganda's Cranes.

Every member of the 31-man squad has been involved in the fitness sessions and tactical work.

Amrouche is happy with his players' application to the tasking session during training.

He roped in several new players into his squad and he is happy with the way they are blending in with the old players.

The Belgo-Algerian noted: "All players in good shape and morale. There is happiness in the group. From the training session, I saw and felt the positive wave in the team, the players are ready for these two games. They are happy and ready to represent Tanzania."

Amrouche pointed out: "We have talented, youthful players with good mentality in the team and with this positive thing I think we can go far. In my life, I don't look at negative things."

"I focus on the positives,

we have the team, players who are here and to manage them is a game like every other game," the coach noted.

Amrouche, former Burundi and Kenya national teams' head coach, is unfazed by the timing of the two games which has forced both teams to camp in Egypt and will have to make the long journey to Dar es Salaam for Tuesday's reverse tie at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The gaffer noted: "I am not going to complain or cry about the time. We are here,

we must make decisions. I am the coach, we got the team, we got to play and do our best to make people happy and proud in Tanzania."

Taifa Stars are expected to leave Cairo for Ismailia today ahead of tomorrow's game.

Uganda's Cranes are playing their home match from Ismailia, Egypt, because the only decent stadium in their country, St. Mary's Kitende Stadium, failed to meet CAF required standards to host the game.

Tanzania is positioned

third in Group F, staying level on one point with bottom-placed Uganda but above the latter courtesy of goal difference.

In Cranes' two ties, the team lost 2-0 to Algeria and then managed to register a 1-1 draw with Niger.

Uganda's Cranes have four victories over Taifa Stars in the previous five meetings but Amrouche would take confidence in the fact that his team won the most recent tie, garnering a 1-0 win in an international friendly played in Libya in October 2022.



Fiston Mayele. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

US Monastir coach keen on signing Mayele

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TUNISIA US Monastir's head coach, Novic Darko, has expressed his desire to sign Tanzania's Yanga marksman Fiston Mayele that has displayed his prowess in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup.

Darko eyes the July registration window as the perfect fit to land Mayele as a priority if the gaffer is given the chance to sign a striker next season.

The tactician made the statement after the majority of his players went on a short break and others joining their countries' national teams for CAF and FIFA calendar matches.

US Monastir is still reeling from a 2-0 loss to Yanga when the two clubs took on each other in a CAF Confederation Cup Group D tie played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on March 19.

The Serbian revealed that he has been following Mayele for a long time and has admitted that the Congolese forward, now boasting of three goals in the continental competition, is a striker who will fit in his team.

Darko pointed out: "Mayele is a fantastic striker, from his ball movements to positioning himself without the ball is phenomenal, scoring three goals in the competition out of five matches shows how good a striker can be, adding him as my weapon in the team is fantastic and very ambitious to add more goals in Monastir."

He stated that he believes if the striker continues to work hard, he will scale great heights because of his competence in scoring goals and creating opportunities.

The gaffer added: "Many players from East and Central Africa have been better, if you look at the last game against Yanga they were a threat, but Mayele was the biggest threat, as he was able to push away my defenders from their natural position."

As per the football market's trend, it will be difficult for Yanga to retain Mayele next season due to his great form, which attracts African teams with financial muscles now looking for attackers.

Last season, Mayele finished second with 16 goals in the NBC Premier League, showing his ability to score in prominent matches, including the Community Shield.

The marksman has notched three goals against Simba SC in two seasons, in which Yanga commanded a 1-0 victory in 2021 and a 2-1 win in 2022.

Mayele leads this season's NBC Premier League golden boot race with 15 goals and has also notched three goals in the CAF Confederation Cup.

The goal-getter earned a call-up to the DR Congo national team for the 2023 AFCON qualifying matches, seeking to make it to the finals scheduled to take place in Ivory Coast.

Simba SC stars dominate CAF Champions League Team of the Week

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

FOUR Simba SC players have been included in the 2022/23 TotalEnergies CAF Champions League Team of the Week for matchday five which was played last weekend.

The outfit, nicknamed 'Wekundu wa Msimbazi', thrashed Guinea's Horoya Athletic Club 7-0 in a Group C tie at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday to thunder into the quarterfinals of the TotalEnergies CAF Champions League in style.

Midfielder Clatous Chama scored a hat-trick with forward Jean Baleke and midfielder Sadio Kanoute scoring two apiece as Simba SC made it into the last eight for the third time in five years.

They cemented their hold on the second spot in Group C as they moved to nine points, five ahead of third-placed Horoya Athletic Club and four behind the group leader, Morocco's Raja Club Athletic, who picked a point in their 1-1 away draw against Uganda's Vipers SC in Kampala.

Simba SC was in a must-win situation heading into the last weekend tie and they were off to a fast start.

Just 10 minutes in, they broke the deadlock when Chama whipped in a brilliant freekick from the edge of the box.

They made it 2-0 after 32 minutes



Tanzania's Simba SC midfielder, Clatous Chama (2nd L), beats Guinea's Horoya Athletic Club players as the clubs faced each other in this season's CAF Champions League Group C tie which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

when Baleke reacted quickest after the Horoya Athletic Club keeper spilled a Dennis Kibu shot.

They made it 3-0 after 34 minutes from the penalty spot, Chama putting the spot kick away after a Horoya Athletic Club defender's handball inside the box.

They kept the tempo in the

second half and they made it 4-0 nine minutes after the restart when Kanoute placed a brilliant shot into the top right corner after being set up by Chama off a brilliant cutback from Ntibanzokiza.

Baleke completed his brace in the 65th minute when he beat Horoya Athletic Club's keeper one on

one after pinching the ball off a defender at the edge of the box.

Chama then added his third and Simba SC's sixth with a sublime finish inside the box from a Sakho cutback.

Kanoute then put the icing on the cake with the seventh four minutes to time

with another brilliant shot from outside the area after being teed up by defender Shomari Kapombe.

Following the drubbing, Chama who is now sitting on four goals in the competition was named one of the best players of the week, alongside teammates Baleke, Shomari Kapombe, and Kanoute.

Chama and Kanoute are also in contention for the player of the week award which is voted for by fans online.

The rest of the team was made up of Mamelodi Sundowns' goalkeeper Ronwen Williams, Al Ahly's duo of Percy Tau and Mahmoud Kahraba, and Wydad's central defender, Arsene Zola.

Others include Belouizdad's duo of central midfielder Zakaria Draoui and center-back Mouad Haddad and AS Vita's Varel Patou Ebunga Simbi Saoulé.

Next up for Simba SC is a trip to Morocco to face Group C leaders, Raja Club Athletic, on Friday next week in the final Group Stage match.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

OUR VILLAGE IS SO SMALL THAT WE DON'T HAVE A VILLAGE DRUNK, SO WE ALL TAKE TURNS

